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UNITED STATES NOW STRIVING TO PREVENT THREATENED HOSTILITIES IN SOUTH AMERICA

"MAMMY" PLEASANT LAYS CLAIM TO REAL ESTATE AND JEWELS OWNED BY MRS. TERESA BELL

Attorney Frank M. Stone and Humorist Sam Davis of Carson City Threaten to Bring Sensational Suits Against Widow of Late Capitalist and to Sue the Donohoe-Kelly Banking Company



MAMMY PLEASANT, or Mary E. Pleasant, as she is legally known, is once more to be dragged into the light of day in connection with the estate of the late Thomas Bell.

Attorney Frank M. Stone of this city and Sam Davis, the Carson City humorist, are threatening all kinds of law suits against the estate of Thomas Bell and the Donohoe-Kelly Banking Company on behalf of the aged colored woman who has been in the public eye for these many years past.

Lawyers, as a rule, do not reveal their plans around newspaper offices, but Stone and Davis were busily engaged yesterday in telling "exclusive" stories to representatives of the morning newspapers as to the suits they would bring for Mrs. Pleasant to recover property worth more than \$300,000. The Call received an "exclusive" story at the same time the other newspapers did.

While the lawyer and the humorist were engaged yesterday in drawing up some legal papers asking Judge Trout to remove George R. Eaton as assignee of the estate of Mrs. Pleasant, so that a friendly assignee might file the threatened suits in law, statements were made by Stone that the papers would show that a prominent lawyer and politician in this city would be accused of stealing diamonds belonging to Mrs. Pleasant valued at more than \$100,000.

The amount of mystery that surrounded the work of the lawyer and humorist was denser than the heavy fog that hung over the bay a few days ago. They would give all kinds of hints as to what they intended to do, but when asked for explanations became silent.

Desire a Friendly Assignee.
The petition filed yesterday by Stone for the removal of Eaton as assignee of Mrs. Pleasant's estate was made returnable next Monday by Judge Trout. It is not thought, however, that Eaton will be removed from his position on the mere allegations contained in the petition.

COLORED WOMAN WHO SEEKS TO OBTAIN PROPERTY VALUED AT \$500,000, AND THOMAS BELL'S WIDOW, WHO MAY BE MADE DEFENDANT IN THE ACTION THAT IS THREATENED.

Sam Davis came down from Carson City some time ago and has held many consultations with Attorney Stone and "Mammy" Pleasant. The result of the "councils of war" is that the aged negress claims, through Davis and Stone, that she owns all the property in this city, Sonoma County and Oakland which stands recorded in the name of Mrs. Teresa Bell, the widow of Thomas Bell, who for many years employed "Mammy" Pleasant as housekeeper.

The business relations existing between "Mammy" Pleasant and Mr. and Mrs. Bell are well known in this community. Mrs. Bell allowed her colored housekeeper to attend to all her affairs, and in this way large sums of money passed through the hands of Mrs. Pleasant.

Stone exhibited a lot of old checks yesterday, which he says will go to prove that "Mammy" Pleasant had for years purchased real estate and jewels and that she was very wealthy long before she became the servant of Mr. and Mrs. Bell.

It is well known that Thomas Bell gave his wife very valuable diamonds, and some years ago, when in the throes of litigation, Mrs. Bell had the jewels deposited with the Donohoe-Kelly Banking Company in the name of Mrs. Pleasant. On an order signed by Mrs. Pleasant the jewels were delivered to Mrs. Bell by the bank.

ever were her personal property. The presumptuous claim was made by Stone and Davis, and it is not likely that these worthies will ever come into court to substantiate the assertion that a prominent lawyer and politician stole the gems from the bank.

Those who know the characteristics of "Mammy" Pleasant readily realize that the latest move she is making, with the aid of Stone and Davis, savors of the impetuous mystery that surrounded the "house of mystery," which "Mammy" is claiming.

Mrs. Bell Ridicules Claims.
When Mrs. Teresa Bell was seen last evening and told of the claims made on "Mammy" Pleasant's behalf by Stone and Davis she said:

I don't think that "Mammy" Pleasant will ever dare to come into court and swear to such claims. If she does I will prove that every dollar she has had in the past thirty years she received from Mr. Bell and myself. She never had a dollar to her name before she entered my employ.

It is really amusing to hear of such absurd claims as these men are making for "Mammy" Pleasant. But I really have not the time to waste on such fairy tales. Attorney Blakeman, who represents the interests of Mrs. Bell, said last night: I don't believe that any such suits will ever be filed for Mrs. Pleasant. I don't care to do.

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OFFERS ITS GOOD OFFICES TO REPUBLICS

Chile Ready to Accept, but Argentina Refuses Intervention.

Representatives of Both Nations Profess to Be in Hopeful Mood.

Nevertheless the Santiago Government Fears a Conflict, and Seeks to Buy Warships in This Country.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

CALL BUREAU, 1406 G STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Chile has formally expressed to the United States her willingness that this Government should use its good offices to maintain peace in South America.

Secretary Hay has cabled Minister Lord at Buenos Ayres, directing him to acquaint the Argentine Government with Chile's attitude and to say that under the policy uniformly pursued by the United States, it never tenders an offer of mediation unless assured in advance that it will be accepted.

There is authority for the statement that Argentina will decline to permit the intervention of the United States.

This briefly is the diplomatic situation so far as the United States is concerned. As to the condition of affairs at this moment between Argentina and Chile, Senor Garcia Merou, the Argentine Minister here, has received this dispatch from the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Buenos Ayres:

Argentine Is Hopeful.
"At the present moment there is no reason for alarm. Argentine hopes that the Government of Chile will accept the just claims made by the Argentine republic in the matter of the construction by Chile of roads in territory submitted to arbitration. Argentine thinks that the actual spirit of Chile is as it ought to be, friendly and conciliatory."

Whether peace shall be preserved or war declared will depend upon a conference which will be held to-morrow in Santiago by the Chilean Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Argentine Minister. The latter has been fully advised of the attitude of Argentina. She proposes to obtain from Chile a full explanation and strong assurances that the construction of roads shall not continue, or it is said she will withdraw her Minister. This would be a rupture of diplomatic relations and would greatly lessen the chances of an amicable settlement.

Merou insists that Argentina is fully justified in observing the attitude she has adopted, but he is confident that there will be an amicable outcome. Infante, Chilean Charge d'Affaires, likewise believes that the peace of South America will not be broken, and he regards Chile's announcement that she will willingly accept the good offices of the United States as a complete refutation of the charge that Chile is endeavoring to provoke war and is acting aggressively toward her neighbor.

Efforts to Preserve Peace.
Every effort consistent with American dignity will be made by Secretary Hay to preserve the peace. It was in accordance with instructions made to him that Minister Wilson approached Chile, and it was in response to this suggestion that the Chilean Government indicated a willingness to accept the good offices of the United States.

Argentina has not replied to the intimation made through Minister Lord that this Government is prepared to mediate if both parties to the dispute ask it. It will be something of a surprise to the administration to learn that Argentina is not disposed to permit the intervention of this or any other country. Argentine holds that the dispute between herself and Chile is easy of adjustment if approached in a proper spirit, and she sees no reason for foreign intervention. Chile is absolutely without a friend in South America, while Bolivia and Peru are prepared to lend military and Uruguayan and Paraguayan their moral support to Argentina.

Chile Seeking Warships.
Although she is reported to be making the effort, Chile will not be allowed to purchase American warships now in the possession of the Government or under construction at private shipyards.

Information reaching the Navy Department to-day indicated that Chile was endeavoring to increase her fleet by securing warships in this country. No proposal has been made to Secretary Long by the Chilean Government or any Chilean agent. If it were, it would be rejected. The United States has no intention of selling any of its vessels or of aiding one South American republic in preparing for a conflict with another. It was pointed out to-night that if this Government were to sell a warship to Chile or were to even permit a contractor who is building warships for the United States to dispose of vessels to the Santiago Government, Argentina would draw the natural inference that the United States was supporting her enemy. This would be an unfortunate impression to create, and one which would seriously affect the future

CASHIER FLEISHMAN SPEEDS ON A TRAIN FROM EL PASO TO A SEAPORT CITY OF MEXICO

Los Angeles Acquaintance of the Absconder Meets Him South of the Line and Texas Brokers Identify His Photograph as That of the Person to Whom They Had Sold a Railroad Ticket



EL PASO, Texas, Dec. 12.—It is now certain that H. J. Fleishman, the absconding Los Angeles bank cashier, passed through this city and took the southbound Mexican Central train for the coast. Conclusive evidence of this fact was furnished to-day by David M. Shanks, an old friend of Fleishman. Shanks stated to the police authorities that he met the absconder at one of the small stations south of this city, shook hands with him and spoke to him for a brief time.

Shanks is a prominent citizen of Los Angeles. He has known the cashier for years and the two have had many business dealings with each other. The meeting was purely accidental and Fleishman upon seeing Shanks made a pretense of not recognizing him, but upon the latter's coming to him with hand outstretched the defaulting bank official grasped the proffered hand and chatted with his acquaintance until the northbound train pulled out.

No Mention of Crime.
Shanks was in total ignorance that Fleishman had gotten away with the enormous sum from the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank and no reference whatever was made to the subject. While the two trains were waiting the time was spent in conversation from which Shanks gleaned that everything was not as it should be, and so stated upon joining his wife in the Pullman.

His suspicions being aroused, the first thing he did upon reaching El Paso was to secure a copy of the Los Angeles papers and for the first time he learned that Fleishman had absconded and that he was being sought by authorities all over the United States. "Yes," said Shanks to-day, "I saw Fleishman no later than day before yesterday. There is no question as to my being mistaken, as I have known the cashier for many years and we were on intimate terms. I happened to meet him because of a small wreck below Torreon, where the two trains were delayed at a way station. I was very much surprised to see him in Mexico. At first he did not wish to recognize me and attempted to overlook me en-



ACQUAINTANCE OF THE FORMER CASHIER OF FARMERS' AND MERCHANTS' BANK.

tirely, but when I approached and held out my hand and spoke he responded.

Says He Is Tired.
"I asked what he was doing in Mexico and he replied he was tired out and broken down and was simply taking a vacation. He further said that he was going to Guadalajara, where he would join some friends in the mining business and perhaps be absent from California for quite a while. He did not seem to be in the least disconcerted, although I suspected that there was something wrong."

"One thing that led me to believe that everything was not right was on account of one remark he made. When we shook hands upon parting he remarked:

"If you see any of my friends in California, don't say that you saw me."

"He was well dressed, but evidently had not had a shave for a number of days, as his beard was quite long. As soon as I could get one, I bought a Los Angeles paper and then for the first time found out the truth of the situation."

Abe and Bob Silberberg, ticket brokers according to the latest news he has received Chile and Colombia have signed a treaty of alliance.

and diamond merchants, both fully identified Fleishman's picture to-day as that of the man who purchased a lot of Mexican money and a railway ticket from them Sunday morning. Robert Silberberg waited on the customer.

When he came in Fleishman asked to be given Mexican money for \$400 in United States currency. He did not ask the price of silver nor dicker over the trade at all, but seemed anxious to arrange for his trip into Mexico with as little loss of time as possible. He told Silberberg that he was going to the seaport town of Mazatlan and asked the best route to be taken. It was inferred that he intended to embark on a steamer at Mazatlan for a South American port.

"I told him," said Silberberg, "to go to Guadalajara and thence to Tepic, from which place he could go overland to Mazatlan. I suggested to him that I could sell him a scaper's ticket to Guadalajara in the name of W. T. Meyers. He seemed pleased at the idea that he could travel under an assumed name and bought the ticket without hesitation. Twenty minutes later he must have taken the south-bound Mexican Central train."

FRIENDS ARE RELIEVED.

News of the Bank Cashier's Whereabouts Ends Their Annoyances.
LOS ANGELES, Dec. 12.—Definite information of Fleishman's whereabouts, received from El Paso, has rather discouraged those detectives who insisted that the absconder was still in hiding in this city. But it has also brought relief to certain of Fleishman's friends, who have been subjected to no end of annoyance by having their apartments searched at the most inopportune hours by detectives in the hope of finding the cashier hidden away.

Among these is Mrs. Cunningham, the "beauty doctor," who, despite her repeated assertions that she knew nothing whatever of Fleishman's movements since last Friday, has been called upon many times to tell of her acquaintance with him. Mrs. Cunningham admits that she knew Fleishman, but she says she did not know him any better than she did other gentlemen.

It is merely an offset to another meeting, promoted by the advocates of peace at any price. The buying of ships to take the place of vessels of questionable efficiency, the mobilization of the fleet for maneuvers and the strengthening of relations with friendly neighbors, Colombia and Ecuador, are not regarded here as signs of aggressive intentions on Chile's part, but only as natural precautions evoked by the unexpectedly threatening demeanor of Argentine.

An Alliance With Colombia.
COLON, Dec. 12.—General Follaco, a Colombian Government officer, says that ac-