

# Strangers in Paris are Meat for the Rumor-Mongers

## THEY'LL BELIEVE ANY WILD TALE THE FIRST TIME

(Continued From Page One.)

"How do you know?" "I'm not at liberty to state," answers Brown, looking around him furtively and lowering his voice still more. "But I may tell you this much; the information came originally from a high authority!" That settles it. Who is there to dispute a high authority? Something like a groan is in the deep sighs of the eight firm friends, and the silence is broken by the harsh, hoarse voice of Dooftab, saying "Leggo o' my coat." For Dooftab, a jolly disposed fellow, from his round face, and full of many a merry quip and jest, is now pasty, and can't breathe.

"It's those Judas Russians!" comes a hollow voice from near the end of the table. White, with all the gold teeth, and he has lines each side of his nose which were not there when he dropped off the train in Paris, and looked around for the war.

Russia! Terrible, menacing Russia! Tense faces and strained eyes turn anxiously toward White, and Brown, releasing his hold on the wrinkled lapels, pushes in on the plush bench beside little Dingbat. What more can White have heard about the bolshevik since noon?

All Russia is united!" explains White. "They've been drilling for months under German officers! They've assassinated all the allied representatives in Moscow and Petrograd! They're murdering everyone who refuses to take up arms and join them. By the time they reach the German frontier there'll be four million of them; and—"

The waiter brings the soup to a table which is cold and clammy and tensely silent. The eight sit like statues. They do not utter a syllable in the presence of this little man with the down-drooping black mustaches. He may be a spy! and their information is secret, confidential, valuable.

"— and goodnight!" finishes White, as the waiter moves away.

"And you have this from a good authority?" pipes up little Dingbat. His upper lip seems to be shrink-

## Doings of the Duffs

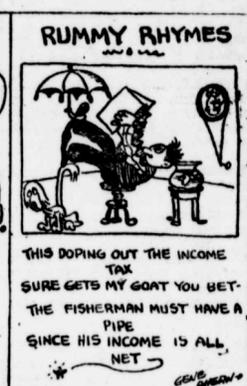


## IT FLOWS LIKE WATER



By Allman

## Squirrel Food



Poker Chips Is the Ammunition for Those Kind of Larks.

By Ahern

ing away from the six hairs of his little mustache, leaving them to stick straight out, alone and unsupported.

"High," affirms White in awe; "a— a man connected with the army!"

"By George!" Jones slams his fist on the table so hard that the soup in the plates jumps into little peaks, and Dingbat spits his wine ordinary as all turn feverishly to the redhead. "Now I believe it! Boys, a man told me something this morning, in strict confidence, which I couldn't swallow, in spite of the fact that the thing came almost directly from a high authority; but now that I know this Russian situation I see that he was right! The Italians have secretly ceded to the Germans all their territory down to, and including, Rome! And the canal is to be completed cutting across below Rome, which will leave the whole southern part of Italy an island, under the protectorate of the German Empire, with the capital at Naples!"

"My God!" voices little Dingbat tremulously. "I have my steamer tickets for the twelfth, and I hope, I only hope, that Paris will be safe until then."

"Well, I'm here and I'm going to stick!" declares Jones, his freckles becoming more intense, as his good jaw squares.

There is a general reflection of the spirit of Jones on every face, except that of little Dingbat, who clings tenaciously to the fact that he hates to die.

"Maybe the British can keep them out," suggested Brown. "They did, you know."

"The British?" Gray looks around at the boys meaningly, and they turn pitying eyes on Brown.

"Haven't you heard about the British?" inquires Smith, shocked that there should be such ignorance in Paris. "Tell him, Gray!"

"Oh nothing," says Gray, affecting an extreme nonchalance of manner. He's a rough sort of citizen, is Gray, the kind who wears a soft collar and a fuzzy hat, and speaks hard and laughs loud, and conveys a general impression with his shoulders of being ready to fight at any and all times, and is always dragging sick cats home.

"Scarcely anything, Brown! Only this: all that remained of the British army was wiped out at Cambrai! There's nothing left of it but the officers—you see in London and Paris. They're going to form themselves into a regiment, and go up there for the honor of the British nation, and all be killed off in one last forlorn-hope dash, next Tuesday at 2:15 p. m.!"

"Brave fellows, the British," observes Jones, with the solemnity of a church, and his sentiment is reflected on every face except Dingbat's, who is too much shocked to have any expression.

"It's rough that we don't get the truth at home," Dooftab pours the wine from the big tilting magnum with a firm hand, though his face is still pasty. "However, we're in this thing, and we're in it to stay, and, by thunder, we'll do something! We're overlooking the fact that our fine husky United States soldiers are ready to go into action, and hunrrr for it!"

back home, but without our picturesque amplifications by the festive war correspondent.

The newly arrived American sees that paper, and says he: Aha! The censor! He is keeping back from me the lurid descriptions with which at home I sweetened my coffee! What else is the censor withholding besides the gaudy details to which I am accustomed, and to which I have an inalienable right? Aha!

It is then that he falls a prey to the wild rumor and the hoarse whisper.

These all emanate from one mysterious source; and if the police ever succeed in locating him,

they'll swing Mr. High Authority from a lamppost, for he is a German agent, either by design or accident.

He must be a wondrous creature, this High Authority, whom no eye hath seen, but whom every ear hath heard.

He sits in some damp cellar, and does nothing but read between the lines until he is full of poison, whereupon he whets his stinger and sallies forth.

Beneath the new arrival's tender skin he inserts his subtle virus, and instantly, violently, violently, that new arrival starts into ever widening circles, peeped and yelping.

When the new arrival becomes a seasoned dweller in Paris, when he has been here long enough to discover to his amazement that the sun still rises in the east and sets in the west, and that night still succeeds the day in unaltered alternation, he is immune from the virus of High Authority, because he has been stung before, and is inoculated.

By this time, moreover, he has the great big idea about this war which he was all along trying to get, and that big idea turns out to be plain, individual duty! so he tells the hoarsely whispering confidant of High Authority to go to hell, because he's busy hustling potatoes out to the front line trenches!

As for the Frenchman, he only shrugs his shoulders at the buzzing of the rumor bug. He has no time for such feverish frivolity as the consideration of what might possibly happen next Friday, if something else, which never does, might possibly happen on Thursday.

He's been busy with this war for three and a half years, and he has reduced its conduct to three cardinal principles.

FIRST, it is the duty of the soldier to go out and stand in the spot assigned to him, and with the same sublime courage of those who have died for his cause and the cause of France, which is the cause of civilization, fight until that sacred cause is accomplished;

SECOND, it is the duty of the civilian, besides holding intact the economic and domestic institutions of the country, to send the soldier to the front, feed him there, keep him clothed, put a gun in his hand, and supply that gun with endless bullets;

THIRD, it is the duty of every purveyor of pessimism, every bearer of depressing tales which might weaken enthusiasm, every disseminator

of grotesquely terrific mabe-sos or might-happens which would tend to interfere with steadfast purpose, every rumor-monger, in fact, to hand himself over to the military authorities, and be shot for the traitor which he undoubtedly is!

It's a grand little idea, come to think it over for any nation which is sending its sons to the war.

Tomorrow—A Kiss for the Children of Gallant France.

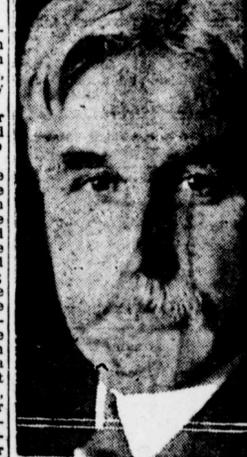
MAKES APPEAL TO SHIPYARD WORKERS

DR. CHAS. A. EATON

The Rev. Dr. Charles A. Eaton of the Madison av. Baptist church, New York city, is touring the country as a National Service speaker, appealing to the patriotism of shipyard workers in an effort to accelerate work on ships. He is formerly John D. Rockefeller's pastor in Cleveland.

J. S. Kean Furniture Co.

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## Checks and Spots Popular



Down at Palm Beach and other "points south" the fair maids and matrons of the social world are exchanging t h'e "social swim" for the real surf bath and spending the intervals with the familiar knitting bag and the same old feminine—well—feminine chat.

And the busy fash'ion reporters are following them about with their little note-books and jotting down items to delight us stay-at-home folk who are doing our spring planning—our noses buried in the Spring Fashion Forecasts while dad peruses the seed catalog 't'other side of the fire.

One of these intrepid reporters for Fashion Art followed two ladies to this tete-a-tete on the lawn and discovered that the lady behind the parasol has excellent taste in checks. Her skirt is of radiance silk in white whose original intention was to be simple white — but which now demonstrates that large plaids from little checklets grow.

The knitting lady frankly displays a skirt of baronet satin with blooming circlets of amazing size, and considers the effect so good that she repeats it on the inevitable knitting bag. Both blouses are white silk, of course.

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## Liberty Theater

TODAY

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