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MONTREAL

HOW RASPUTIN SERVED THE KAISER

William Le Queux, the well-known sensational novelist has never imagined anything more sensational than the recital of facts he is laying before the English people through the columns of the Illustrated Sunday Herald. He has come into possession, apparently, of the contents of a safe owned by Rasputin, and the treasure trove consists largely of correspondence carried on between Rasputin and various other German agents. It tells of plots to murder Brussloff and Kornloff, of instructions to stop Russian advances, of the release from Russian prisons of German agents who had been detected, besides revealing the ramifications of Rasputin's blackmail scheme. He had letters from various prominent persons, mostly women, which he intended to use to protect himself if ever his power was threatened. Fortunately he did not have time to call upon his victims for protection, as he was murdered out of hand by a group of loyal Russians.

Brussloff Betrayed.

One amazing letter was written to Rasputin from Berlin, in a secret German cipher, and was dated August 29, 1916. It was written at the time when it appeared that Brussloff would have effected his great offensive between Pripet and the Roumanian frontier. The signature, scribbled in blue ink, was that of Steinhauer, chief spy of the Kaiser, and controller of the whole German secret police throughout the world. The letter began by saying it was a matter of great urgency that the Brussloff drive should be stopped and the battle turned into a German victory "as promised us in your despatch of July 1." Rasputin was accused of not keeping faith, and he was reproached with the fact that Premier Stuermer was inciting the Russians to victory in his speeches. "His triumphant telegrams to Mr. Asquith must cease. They only serve to encourage the Allies," warned the chief German spy.

Blowing Up Munitions Plants.

He goes on to complain that a couple of ammunition factories had not been destroyed as ordered, and protested that Kartzoff, a clock-maker, who had blown up explosive works at Viborg, in which 400 lives were lost, had been arrested and shot, together with a woman named Raevsky, whose father was in the Department of the Interior, under Petropoff. Rasputin had informed his German paymasters that the pair had fallen in love, and that it was better they should be executed for fear they might become dangerous. The apology seems to have been somewhat churlishly received, and the note proceeded to give Rasputin instructions to secure the release of three or four other prisoners, awaiting trial for similar outrages. The letter went on to specify certain ammunition works which were to be destroyed, named the agents who were to be entrusted with the various tasks, and also the amount of money he was to pay out in each case. In parenthesis it is to be noted that in the Rasputin dossier were found one hundred advice notes of German money paid to the monk through the most unsuspecting channels.

Plot to Murder Kornloff.

He was instructed with considerable particularity how he should arrange the murder of Kornloff. He was to be removed by the accidental explosion of a hand-grenade "in the same manner in which Gen. Khukovsky was removed in March last at Pultusk." The chosen assassin was to be a soldier named Paul Krizhlysky, who as a despatch rider had access to headquarters. He was to pretend to be examining a bomb, "a pineapple one in preference," and release the pin by accident. For this service he was to get 18,000 roubles. The attempt was made upon Kornloff ten days later. The general's horse was killed on the spot, but Kornloff escaped with a cut on the face. What happened to the soldier is not known, nor is it explained how it would be possible for a man to give an air of realism to an accident with a bomb which killed somebody else and spared the bomb dropper. Unless the thing could be made to appear like an accident, what good would the 18,000 roubles be?

Tried to Poison Brussloff.

Brussloff was to be removed by other means. Rasputin was instructed to send to a certain doctor, who would provide him with poison. The next step was to have permission granted to one of Brussloff's body servants to invite a friend in another regiment, the latter being a German agent, to visit him at Brussloff's headquarters. The friendly assassin, being provided with the poison which was guaranteed to produce tetanus, was to introduce it into the general's food. It turned out that the poison was dropped into some coffee that was drunk by another officer, who died in a few days. The price for this job was set down at 25,000 roubles, but payment was to be withheld until

the murder had been committed. Whether the Le Queux revelations are a fake, we cannot determine. So many amazing things have happened in Russia that they may be true. And, by the way, there is no record of any fancy price being set on the head of Kerensky.

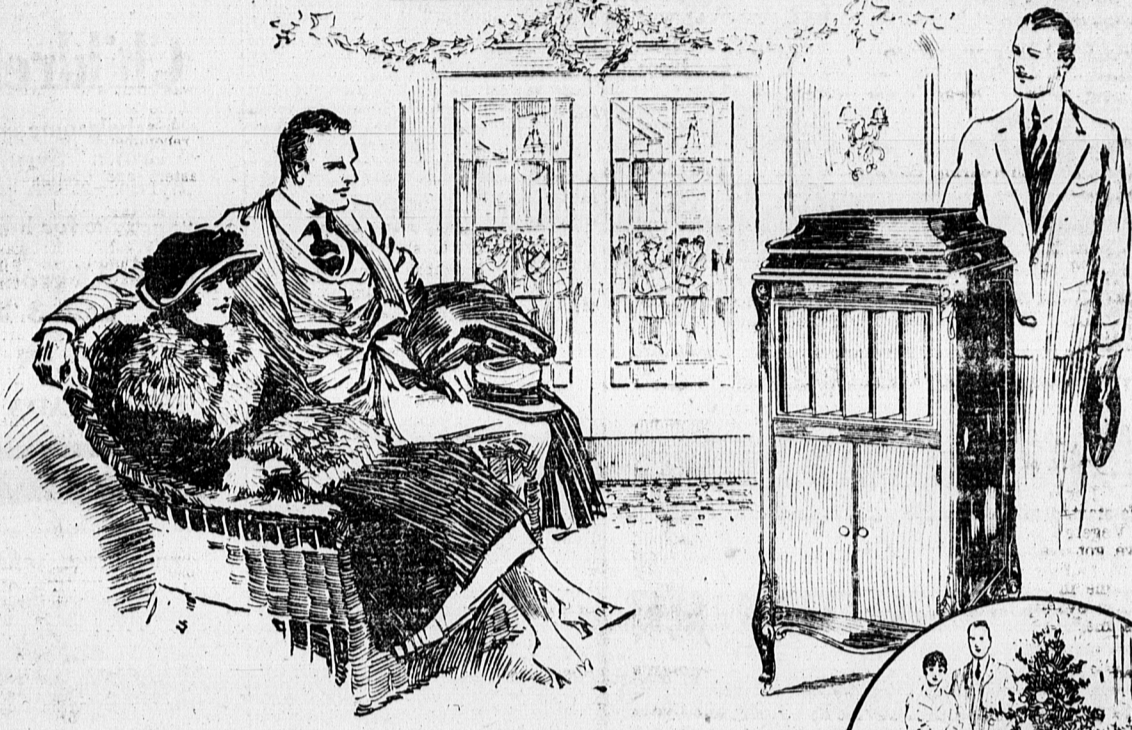
WAR STOPS DRUNKENNESS

High Cost of Drinking Conducive to Its Decline

A gratifying decrease of drunkenness is noted. Not only are arrests for habitual intoxication at a minimum, but the records of magistrates' courts, the emptiness of alcoholic wards in the hospitals and the lessened business of the farms treating the ebriety all testify to a prevalence of sobriety unusual for New York.

And not less interesting than the fact of these changed conditions is their cause. They are not due to prohibition or to any lack of liquor; the reserve accumulated to tide over the drought, resulting from grain conservation in war is ample. No doubt the higher cost of drinking is conducive to its decline. But the all-important cause, as experts agree, is work. The demand for labor being constant, "when a drinking man loses his job he can now get another as soon as he sobers up," and this is against habitual drunkenness. According to a Bellevue Hospital surgeon, cases of delirium have almost disappeared. The improvement is the main thing, regardless of the agency by which it has been effected. But that the agency should be work and that the war should have supplied that work is not the least remarkable aspect of the change. Industry has thus proved a more powerful factor. New York World.

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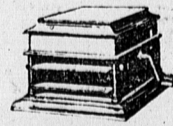
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