# **The Vale of Aragon**

#### **By FRED McLAUGHLIN**

Author of "The Blade of Picardy" Copyright by Bobbs-Merrill Co. (WNU Service.)

#### THE STORY

In the city of New Orleans, in 1821. Loren Garde, recently an officer under General Jackson, is surprised by the appearance of three figures, in ancient Spanish costume, two men and a woman whose beauty enchants him. Re-senting the arrogance of the elder of the two men, Garde fights a duel with him with swords, and wounds him. He learns his opponent is Adolfo de Fuentes, colonel in the Spanish army in Venezuela. Garde overhears a plot to overthrow Spanish rule in Venezuela. Discovered, he fights, but is overpowered. Garde finds himself a prisoner on the Santa Lucrecia, ship bearing arms and ammunition for the Venezuelans. On board are the conspirators, the lady of his love, her brother Polito, and De Fu-entes. From the girl, Garde learns her name is Dulce Lamar-tina. He loves her, but does not reveal his love. The vessel is wrecked and Garde reaches the Venezuelan shore, alone. He en-counters a stranger and sees Dulce with De Fuentes and Po-lito. Learning his history, the stranger, who is Captain Mona-han of the British legion under Bolivar, urges Garde to join the Venezuelans, but his mind is set on again seeing Dulce. Monahan directs him to friends in Caracas. There Garde, supplied by Mona-han with the secret sign of the patriots, is welcomed at the rev-olutionary headquarters.

## CHAPTER IV—Continued

Clever rogue! He knew that the encircling loiterers, most of whom were doubtless Spanish sympathizers, must be appeased, so he had delivered the task of lying over to me. Now Pedro Carrizal broke in again: "Yes, Senor Frenchman, tell us where you saw our amiable Manuel, and tell us why he dislikes the flavor of your fist."

"Assuredly," said I, mixing mendacity and truth; "we had some words at La Guaira, and Manuel's knife, by chance, was slower than my fist; therefore my lungs are still intact, while his teeth, as you might see, are hardly company front."

The swarthy sailor offered a sour smile at this, and the crowd, laughing, went back to card games and drinks again.

Manuel turned to Carrizal and bestowed another wink. "I would speak with this fellow sailor privately, Pedro." Whereupon the bartender ushered us through a massive door and closed it after us; and Manuel, standing with his back against it, drew a gleaming knife from his belt.

"How come you here, Senor? I

to Colonel Adolfo de Fuentes, military aide of La Torre." "Name of G-d!"

"The truth," said Manuel ; "it catches you-no?" He grinned. "How will your efficient fists take care of such a situation; will you push over the big cathedral, or-?"

"We can, at least, Manuel, go to the wedding."

"Madness, Senor! Surely you would not do so wild a thing !"

"Why not? Is not the wedding public affair? I have taken care of myself for many years, Manuel, and expect to do so many more. If you hesitate to accompany me, or fear that evil might befall-"

"Not at all," he cried, in high good humor now; "I wouldn't miss it for the finest ship in the Indies!"

As we entered the soft gloom of the cathedral my heart was beating a swift tattoo against my ribs, my breathing was the labored breath of the spent runner, and my body shook in the palsy of arrant fear. I had begun to cherish a faint hope that a portion of the Senorita's love had been bestowed upon me. She had come to my prison, had tried to save me; she had sought me out in the fury of the storm, and the light in her eyes when she had found me . . . ah! But who was Adolfo, what had he

done to win her? Why should she marry this drunken Spaniard, whose loves were legion? When I had saved her, and brought her to those in the lifeboat, Adolfo had tried to kill me. A wild rage possessed me. De Fuentes would never marry her; I would throw myself upon him at the altar, I would put my fingers around his throat and hold them there until he died, and all the powers in the great cathedral would not stop me. I would tear . . . A quieting hand was laid upon my

"Careful, my friend," he whispered; "such malignant looks ill become a wedding. If you would conserve your life you must control your face." I had come to realize at last that, behind the unfavored face of the swarthy and clever Manuel lay thoughts most beautiful and profound; and I wondered vaguely what manner of man might be this Bolivar, the father of the revolution; wherein lay

his hold upon his people. Francisco had said to me: "If Venezuela had a thousand men like you, Senor, she would win her independ ence out of hand." Well, why not; could this game we call life offer to me any more fascinating sport? And if Bolivar were half the man that his amazing power over the people of Venezuela seemed to indicate, then service under him would be a glorious thing.

The swelling murmur of the throng was stilled with startling suddenness, and a silver thread of music filled the air. It deepened into the slow harmony of a march and, in time with it, came a muffled sound of footfalls. I bowed my head, for I dared not look. They were coming down the aisle beside us.

After an interminable wait the priest's deep voice filled the cathedral with toneless sound. I heard nothing of what he said; I could not even raise my eyes. She was marrying him, marrying that craven Spaniard. Wherein had I failed; had I followed her for this-to sit idly while she gave herself in marriage to Adolfo, to wait in muted impotence while another man . . . ?

I lifted my head at last and looked at them. They stood before the tall, serene, black-robed priest; Adolfo in the brilliant uniform of his rank, with his arm free now, and she in white, as fair, and as pale, as a lily. Pollto, garbed as a lieutenant in the service of his majesty, Ferdinand VII, stood beside her, his head swathed in a bandage and other around his throat.

My mad worship drew my eyes to her downcast face and held them there. I saw again the tender curve of her cheek, and the sweetly pointing chin, which trembled, else my eyes were playing me false; tiny black curls touched an ear and caressed her neck, and her bosom rose and fell in an emotion beyond her control. The incongruous thought came to me that she seemed just like a little girl about to cry.

I looked and looked, filling my soul with her beauty; I gripped the carved bench in front of me and held myself rigid, concentrating every faculty into the intensity of my regard. Polito offered something to the colonel-a ring, I supposed. The calm father spoke to the Senorita and she extended one slender hand. It raised slowly, as though it were lifting the weight of the world, and her eyes came up with it.

I searched her face eagerly now,

Now I realized that the Senorita

Dulce had found my eyes. She was

looking past the colonel's shoulder:

her lips were parted, her eyes wide,

color came and went in her face, and

With outstretched hand pointing in

my direction she pushed past the pros-

pective bridegroom and started down

the carpeted aisle toward me. She

seemed like one who moves in a

trance, her eyes unseeing, her arms

Before she had taken two steps I

With a childlike sigh she snuggled

was on my feet and, in three strides,

stood before her, catching the sway-

into the protection of my arms.

"Senor Moon-wraith," she whispered

in a tiny voice that was drowned in

the swelling lamentations that filled

the cathedral. She raised a hand,

wonderingly, and touched my dark-

ened hair. "Is it the Senor? I

"None other . . . what have I done,

"Hasten," said a rasping voice at

"Save thyself, Manuel, good friend,"

Now the crowd was upon us in an

overwhelming flood. Polito-his face

as black as a thunder-cloud-tore the

precious burden from my arms, sol-

diers barked orders, women screamed

and children cried shrilly. Thrusting

bodies propelled me swiftly toward

the wide doorway, out of which we

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

tumbled in a scrambling heap.

I said; "nothing they may do to me---"

my elbow; "you must escape."

extended as though in supplication.

a deep sigh escaped her.

ing figure as it fell.

would-"

Senorita?"

great plantations.

# **News Review of Current Events the World Over**

Cuban Revolution Collapsing After Bloody Battle at Gibara-Oil Wells of East Texas Are Closed Down.

#### By EDWARD W. PICKARD

Menocal and Col, Carlos Mendieta were captured by the Cuban government troops and locked up in Cabanas fortress, it appeared to observers on the island that the revolution had collapsed. Indeed, President Machado started off the week with the

Gen. Menocal. announcement that the revolt was over, that the rebels were surrendering everywhere and that there would be peace throughout Cuba within a few days. The most important of the remaining leaders were said to be in Santa Clara province with rather small bands of followers. Aviators were sent out to fly over rebel territory dropping leaflets announcing that Machado would grant amnesty to all who surrendered immediately.

But the revolutionists had not yet reached the end of their resources. A filibustering expedition landed men from half a dozen countries and quantities of arms and ammunition at Gibara, near the eastern end of the island, and that port was captured and fortified. The government immediately moved against this force, and there followed one of the bloodiest battles ever fought in Cuba. The gunboat Patria destroyed the Gibara fortress and a land army inflicted a crushing defeat on the rebel troops and the filibusters. Meanwhile planes dropped bombs on the town, which was badly shattered. It was reported that about 500 revolutionists were killed and that the federal casualties

were heavy. Lifting of the censorship revealed that the rebels also had suffered severely in fierce engagements in Santa Clara province.

Despite these defeats, the revolutionary leaders still at large were insistent that their cause was not lost. General Menocal managed to smuggle out of his cell a proclamation urging his followers to continue the struggle, and there were indications that Machado's troubles were not over by any means. In Washington, though the State department would make no comment on the situation, it was the general opin-

WHEN Gen. Mario | lican nomination. Mr. Rosenwald is too ill to be interviewed but his intimate friends admit the truth of the story and uphold the purity of the financier's motives in thus seeking harmony within the Republican party.

Mr. Smith, at his residence in Dwight, said:

"I did not issue the statement for political purposes. If I intended to use it for such, I would have used it in my two campaigns for the senate and again last year. I issued it because others saw fit to write a book

about the case and because they did not give the people all the facts.

"As to my future action politically. I shall be governed by conditions." If Smith should file for the senatorship nomination, he will have Senator Glenn as his opponent in the Republican primaries. He was defeated for renomination in 1927 by Glenn in the upheaval which also retired former Governor Small,

THERE cannot be any general revival of prosperity until the nations of Europe settle their political disputes and the German reparations have been revised. Such is the opinion of the Wiggin committee of international bankers at Basel which was appointed to study Germany's financial needs and capabilities. The Gery man government was greatly encouraged by the report, and one of its officials said that a new conference on finances, politics and reparations must be called immediately and that all Europe hoped it would be called by President Hoover.

 $R^{\rm ECURRING}$  reports that President Hoover would call a special ses-

sion of congress to deal with the unemployment situation were declared at the White House to be without foundation. The President feels, too, that it is unnecessary to call congress earlier than December to organize in time to consider the reparations-war debt plan. He believes this can be handled in the regular session.

The President appointed Walter S. Gifford, president of the American Telegraph and Telephone company, head of a national organization which will be charged with the task of mobilizing national, state and local relief agencies of every kind in meet-

in the business world and the wide variations of collections in times of prosperity and in times of depression.

While both corporation and individual income taxes were cutting a deep swath in government revenues, miscellaneous taxes showed only a small loss despite the business slump.

All tobacco taxes for the fiscal year amounted to \$444,276,500, a decrease of but \$6,062,500. Of this total cigarettes accounted for \$358,915,100, representing a reduction of \$901,086.

The government stamp tax figures emphasized the extent to which business slumped in the stock market and commodities exchanges. Collections on capital stock sales and transfers dropped from \$46,698,226 in 1930 to \$25,519,900, representing a decline of \$21,178,200.

The figures for the produce markets indicated that sales for future delivery had been cut more than half. The taxes on sales of products on exchanges were given as \$1,682,600 for 1931, as compared with \$3,599,875 during the previous year, when business conditions were better.

Notwithstanding the lowered collections, the government found that if cost more proportionately to gather the smaller taxes than it had during the years of prosperity.

QUITE recently Rafael Largo y Herrera, noted Peruvian political leader and former minister of foreign affairs, arrived from Lima by airplane. He has now been nominated for the presidency of Peru by the Economist party, and it is



said stands an excel-Rafael Largo. lent chance of being

elected. So Senor Largo started back home the other day to participate in the elections, and again he traveled by the air route. He thus was the first passenger to make a round trip by plane between Peru and New York. During his brief visit to this coun-

try he spent a day or so in Washing. ton, where he has many friends and admirers.

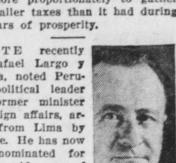
JOHN E. BAKER, American relief expert and adviser to the Chinese railway ministry, sends word that the flood in the Yangtse valley is China's most terrible disaster in the present century. About thirty million people have lost their homes and a third of them are destitute. The loss of life, already terrific, was increased when a great dike protecting part of Hankow gave way and several hundred persons were drowned. Typhoid, cholera and dysentery are epidemic, and industry is paralyzed. All foreigners were reported safe.

The Chinese government has made an offer to the federal farm board for part of its surplus wheat to help feed the refugees, and the idea is favorably drinking in her loveliness. I would ion of officials that the only way ing the unemployment crisis during the considered by officials in Washington.

#### THE CENTRE REPORTER, CENTRE HALL. PA.







saw you fall into the sea."

"The sea was kind to me. Manuel. as well as the wind-and that knife you hold might still be slower than my fist."

"Your life is forfeit in Caracas, Senor Garde. When that dye has been removed the Colonel Fuentes will be pleased to see you, for he loves you not at all; neither will the cause of revolution suffer in your passing."

'And when I tell him of my masquerade as San Isidro in New Orleans. and what I saw and heard?"

Manuel swore, and then laughed. "Your interest, I think, is not with Venezuela, nor with Spain."

"Never Spain, Manuel, for I have looked upon the dead city of Tucayan."

He replaced his knife in the scabbard at his belt. "I have heard of what Morales did to Tucayan; it is merely one of the many payments that we will have to make to purchase freedom. But freedom, at any price, is cheap."

My heart suddenly warmed to this earnest patriot. "I met an Irish soldier on the road," I said, "Captain Monahan, one of the British legion, who offered me his trust. He helped me change the complexion of my face and hair, and he referred me to Tomas Carrasco and the Cantina Merida."

"And the sign of the Sociedad Patriotico-?"

"He gave me that as well."

"Your life in this city, Senor, will not be worth a silver real when Fuentes finds you out. He has little cause to love one who, in the space of an hour, vanquishes him with the sword and steals the heart of his lady."

"How can you know that, Manuel?" I cried hopefully,

"A mere matter of logic, a simple thing indeed. New Orleans was filled, one brilliant moonlit night, with the hue and cry of the chase, and the quarry was a tall, hatless, fair-haired man who had stabbed the noble Colonel Fuentes during the course of a duel in the Place d'Armes. We found, hiding in the apse reserved for San Isidro, such a man, who afterward refused to leave the Santa Lucrecia at the safe port of Coatzacoalos. Besides, the lady came to see him in his prison, and sought him out again in the fury of the storm. The lady jour; neys to Caracas and the Viking dyes his hair and beard and face and follows her, only to put his foolish head into a noose.'

"Until the noose tightens, then Manuel," I said, "my foolish head is safe. It is a long way from Spain to the cathedral, and I intend-"

The sailor gave himself over to bolsterous laughter. "But the cathedral has been reached, Senor, the journey ended, for the Senorita Dulce Lamartina will be married today at high noon-which is within the hour-

#### "Senor Moon-Wraith."

came to me: "Do you shake the roof from the building, fool? One is watched here . . ."

As we moved slowly down the wide aisle I could see that the spacious chamber was filled. An usher seated us less than twenty feet from the altar; we thanked him and, settled at last, listened to the suppressed murmur that went up from the waiting crowd.

"Yonder," said Manuel, pointing a prudent thumb, "is Morales, who acts for La Torre."

I studied the cold dignified man who bore with evident pride the gaudy trappings of his rank. Had I never seen the city of Tucayan I should have disliked this cynical Spaniard whose face was set in a mask of cruelty and whose eyes were veiled by heavy lids half closed as though to conceal his crafty thoughts.

This man, then, with the power of Spain at his call, had laid his hand upon a city, and had destroyed all the life it held. It hadn't been a gesture of war, I remembered, for not a man in Tucayan was armed. A deed of senseless brutality-no less-this destruction of a helpless town and the slaughter of its people. If Morales represented Spanish methods in Venezuela the cause of Bolivar, I reasoned, was just.

Hot anger burned within me, the racing blood pounded at my temples and, falling to trembling again, I gripped my fingers and ground my teeth in a fury of impotence. The glorious Lamartina was marrying the alde of this monster, and the colonel's emulation of the Butcher had earned for him already a reputation as infamous as that of his chief.

Now Manuel touched my arm.

### Eastern Nations First in Use of "Fireworks"

The origin of pyrotechny is un- | pendence, John Adams, in a letter to known, but the art was early practiced in the East. Although inflammable compositions (known as Greek fire) were used in European warfare before gunpowder had become known among the western nations, fireworks, in the modern sense of the word, became known to them about the middle of the Fourteenth century and record

is found of their having been used as an accessory of public pageantry in the year 1588. The early development of fireworks in Europe was due to the Florentines. Fireworks have been associated with the Fourth of July from the beginning. At the time of the signing of the Declaration of Inde-

his wife, said : "It (Independence day) ought to be solemnized with pomp and parades, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward for evermore."

#### Virtue of Little Moment

I cannot praise a fugitive and cloistered virtue, unexercised and unbreathed, that never sallies out and sees her adversary, but sinks out of the race, where that immortal garland is to be run for, not without dust and heat .-- Milton.

Machado can prevent renewed uprislive this love of mine during the minings is to enact speedily the reforms ute or two that she might still remain along democratic lines that his adminthe Senorita Lamartina, and thenistration promised. Certainly the free of Caracas-I would seek forget-American government hopes he will fulness in arms under the banner of Bolivar, for I could never go back again to the peace and quiet of the "Dios," said Manuel In an anxious less developments bring on a state of whisper, "she has seen thee !" virtual anarchy there.

adopt this course, for it has no desire to intervene in the affairs of the island republic and will not do so un-

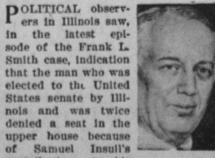
TEXAS has taken its stand beside Oklahoma in the fight against ruinously low prices for crude oil, and it was expected that Kansas also would adopt measures for curtailment of production. The net result, it was believed, would be higher prices for midcontinent crude oil and possibly the stabilization of the American oil

industry. Following action by the legislature, Gov. Ross S. Sterling ordered the complete shutdown of the 1,600 producing oil and gas wells of the great east Texas area, and then sent about a thousand National Guardsmen into four counties to enforce the order, martial law being proclaimed. No resistance was met, the larger companies closing their wells before the soldiers arrived.

Governor Sterling, himself an oil man, predicted higher crude prices and estimated the Texas and Oklahoma shutdowns would take about one million barrels a day off the market. He said martial law in east Texas will not be lifted until the state railroad commission has issued proration orders.

Governor Murray of Oklahoma, who originated the idea of dealing with overproduction by declaring martial law, sent a message of congratulation to the Texas executive.

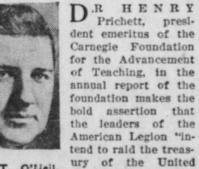
Most of the operators in the oil regions planned to care for employees during the shut down period. Drilling was continued as usual for there was no ban on bringing in new wells provided they were shut down immediately.



contributions to his F. L. Smith. campaign fund, might seek again to represent his state in

the senate. What has happened is that Mr. Smith has made public the fact that Julius Rosenwald, Chicago financier, between the primary and the election of 1926, offered him stock in Sears, Roebuck & Co., then worth

coming winter. Jouett Shouse, executive chairman of the Democratic national committee, came out with a statement demanding of President Hoover "more positive action and less theoretical investigation." He asserted that the President is spending more time ascertaining how many persons will be out of work next winter than he is in taking measures for their relief.



R. T. O'llell. States." And he questions the patriotism of war veterans who ask pensions or bonuses when uninjured. Under the subheading "Patriotism, Pensions and Politics," Doctor Prichett says:

"There has come about in our country a complex of patriotism, bonus seeking, and politics the like of which can be found in no other nation on earth. Organizations that started in pure patriotism have lent themselves to pension lobbying on such a form as to demoralize both the veterans and congress."

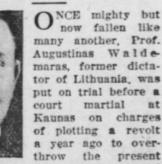
"Erroneous and unfair" is what Ralph T. O'Neil, national commander of the American Legion, says of the Prichett statement, adding:

the past or, in my opinion, never will in the future, ask anything that is unfair or that will place an unjust financial burden on the country."

He says the real objective of the veterans' organization has been to get disability compensation, but that it never has asked a pension for ablebodied men.

FROM a preliminary treasury statement is derived the unpleasant information that the government suffered a drop of more than \$600,000,000 in internal revenue collections during the fiscal year 1931, the first full year during which taxes were effected by the economic depression and the falling stock market. Total collections for that year were \$2,428,228,700. Income taxes yielded \$1,800,040,400, a decline of \$550,000,000, while miscellaneous internal revenue accounted for collections of \$568,188,200, a drop of \$61,698,246. Corporation income taxes netted the

government \$1,026,292,699, a decline of \$237,021,700, and individual taxes \$833,647,700, a decrease of \$313,196,-\$555,000, to withdraw from the Repub- 900, reflecting the depressed conditions



many another, Prof. Augustinas Waldemaras, former dictator of Lithuania, was put on trial before a court martial at Kaunas on charges of plotting a revolt a year ago to overthrow the present joint dictatorship of

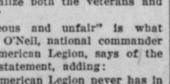
M.Waldemaras President Anthony Smetona and Premier Jonas Tubelius. Twenty-four of his followers were his fellow defendants. The plot was betrayed to the authorities by several of Waldemaras' adherents, all members of the Iron Wolf organization, and it was expected their testimony would result in severe sentences for those accused. Professor Waldemaras, who returned to Kaunas from his place of exile near Memel to attend the trial, said the charges were exaggerated, which sounds like a weak defense. There won't be any sympathy for him in Poland, for when he was in power he was the bitter foe of that country and of its dictator, Marshal Pilsudski.

D EVELOPMENTS in the New York legislative investigation of the administration of New York city may bring about a political feud between Governor Roosevelt and Tammany Hall that would have a decided effect on the governor's chances for the Democratic Presidential nomination. Some of his friends believe a break with Tammany might help rather than hinder his cause in that matter and would bring him support from other states where the leading Democrats have been holding aloof from the Roosevelt boom because of fear that he was too closely allied with Tammany. These friends think that even if Tammany should turn hostile, Roosevelt could carry New York state against Mr. Hoover unless there should be a great improvement in the economic situation within a year.

Leading members of Tammany would not discuss for publication their attitude toward Roosevelt because the Tammany policy apparently is to avoid an open break with the governor so long as he has the state patronage at his disposal and remains a decided Presidential possibility.

GOING back to Illinois for a mo-ment : Newton Jenkins of Chicago has announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for United States senator on a platform of opposition to the repomination of President Hoover. Mr. Jenkins, who is fortyfour years old, an ex-service man and a lawyer, has twice before been a candidate for senator.

(d) 1921. Western Newspaper Union.)



"The American Legion never has in