King Tommy

BY GEORGE A. BIRMINGHAM

CHAPTER XIX—Continued

"And I suppose," said Cable, "that when the patriarch of Lystria receives a telegram from his own ambassador in Europe and also from the prime minister and the leader of the Labor party and all the different Liberal parties there are demanding the instant release of Emily's curate——"

"What I want to know," said Cable, "is what's going to happen about my——"

"No," said Troyte, "I don't suppose anybody would give him any information about that. It had not been decided by the Megarian government. I had not been granted by the king of Lystria——"

"He does," said Cable, "and a good deal more than he ought. Emily's curate——"

"Your patriarch," said Cable, "has a curate——"

"But he was right," said the king. "He made such a huge mistake. There are heaps of things I'm curious about, and I suppose I'm being curious. And I suppose he wouldn't have permitted even for moral reasons, of course, to marry two of his subjects, and there was a good deal of trouble. I'm told I wanted to. What I say is that the patriarch has often gone for me without a sign of provocation, and used language——"

"Curate or no," said Cable, "I hope the patriarch has shot him."

"He lies," said Casimir, "in durance vile. This very morning I received from the patriarch a telegram."

He produced it from his pocket. The king translated it for us. It told us that Tommy had been put under arrest.

"That is perhaps the best thing which could have happened," said Troyte.

But it was even on his showing a very bad best. The situation in Lystria was extremely critical. A revolution, carefully planned and organized, had actually taken place. The patriarch and the nobles, the only people who counted in Lystria, were perfectly determined to have a king of their own seated on the historic throne of Wladislawus the Hunter, the founder of the Lystrian dynasty, famous a thousand years ago for his skill in killing bears. They wanted to place on somebody's head the silver-gilt fillet which that monarch had bequeathed to his successors. But if they did anything of the sort every Balkan state would mobilize at once and nothing could avert a war unless England recognized the new king and declared herself ready to support him. That, and the benevolent neutrality of France, might save the situation. But how could England recognize a revolution which had either put no king on the throne or set up some impossible person like Emily's curate?

Troyte explained all that to us slowly and carefully.

"But I thought," said Cable, "that you'd squared the League of Nations and all that lot."

Troyte objected to the word "squared." I dare say the League of Nations would have objected to it too. What he had done, so he said, was to create an atmosphere favorable to the consideration of the claims of an English king to the Lystrian throne.

"Meaning Lord Norbeys?" said Cable.

Troyte nodded. He certainly had not meant his "atmosphere" to envelop Emily's curate.

"In my opinion," said the king, "the best thing for us to do is to leave things as they are."

"Surely," I said, "not exactly as they are. That curate belongs more or less to my sister Emily and she's bent on finding him. There'll be a frightful row if she discovers him lying in a dungeon in Lystria."

"Nobody need ever know," said Cable.

"The English lady who accompanied them," said the king, "must be aware of the facts, and if I judge her character correctly, she will certainly tell what she knows."

"What English lady?" said Cable.

"Her name," said the king, "is Durance Vile. This very morning I received from the patriarch a telegram."

And he dislikes intensely dislikes the archimandrite of Megalia. The Lystrian nobility wish for a king an English king that king is sportsman."

"Emily's curate seems to be that," I said.

"My daughter——" said the king. "I am now speaking very confidentially—my daughter rather liked that young man. I liked him myself. Cashmir liked him. Everyone liked him. My daughter's only objection to marrying him was the existence of a certain Miss Temple. Now it appears that in his case there is no Miss Temple. It is likely—I do not say certain, but very likely—that Cashmir will insist on the patriarch releasing him. She may even suggest that the marriage should take place at once."

Then Norbeys slid back the door which divided the compartment from the corridor.

"Thought I'd look in," he said, "just to see how you're getting on. Viola has dropped off into a doze, and I was feeling a bit lopped with no one to talk to."

He looked around with an amiable smile, as if he were sure of a warm welcome. He got nothing of the sort. Troyte and Cable scowled at him. The king regarded him as an inconvenient outsider. I looked the other way. Cashmir was the only one who spoke. He quoted Shakespeare in allusion to Lady Norbeys' dose.

Sleep that knits up the ravell'd sleave of care.

"Hit it in one," said Norbeys, settling down between Cable and the king. "Well, Uncle Ned, settled up the affairs of western Europe?"

"No," said Troyte.

"Well," said Norbeys, "I don't want to chip in, don't you know. I hate fellows who shove their oars in when not asked. Still, what I always say is this: An ordinary sort of fellow with no particular brains and that kind of thing often gets there, though you don't expect him to. That's why I'm offering to help. It seems to me the position is this—you'll pick me up if I'm wrong about facts, won't you, Uncle Ned? I'm often a bit weak on facts."

"Facts in this case," I said, "are much more like fancies."

"That's just where I come in," said Norbeys. "A fact might have knocked me out, but when it comes to fancies I'm there all the time. Well, now, these Lystrian johnnies seem to want a king. Don't see why they do myself, but there it is. They've got a princess, but that doesn't satisfy them."

"It doesn't satisfy the League of Nations," said the king, "or the Entente powers. That's where the trouble is. The Lystrians would be quite satisfied with Cashmir. In fact, they'd be very glad to have me back again, all of them except the patriarch. But the Entente powers simply won't stand me."

"That comes to exactly the same thing as what I said," said Norbeys. "Well, along comes some fellow we don't know, dropping like a bit from the clouds, and——"

"A deus ex machina," I suggested.

"That's not what I meant," said Norbeys. "I mean a jolly old bolt from the blue. Not whatever we call him, Chamberlain or little tin god, there he is quite ready to take on the job, princess and all. That's the way things stand, isn't it, Uncle Ned?"

Troyte was looking out of the window. Uncle Ned mumbled something about a Daniel coming to judgment. Norbeys went on.

"Well, then, why not let him? That's what I always say. If there's a fellow who'll back in where wanted, then let him back in, so long as he doesn't interfere with us."

"Unfortunately," said Troyte coldly, "you've left out of consideration the League of Nations and the treaty of Versailles and the policy of the Allied Powers."

"What I say about all that," said Norbeys, "is this: What did we fight the war for? I don't know, of course, not so to speak out of my own inside. I just fought because all the other fellows I knew did too. But I do know what you said at the time, Uncle Ned, and it's to me your saying you didn't, for you did. What we fought for was the self-determination of small nations, eh? Well, there you are and you can go back on it now. Lystria is a small nationality, isn't it?"

"Two and a half millions before the war," said the king. "Probably about two millions now."

"Couldn't possibly have a smaller nationality," said Norbeys, "and what I always say is this, Uncle Ned: If you're said a thing, you're jolly well got to stick to it, even if you wish you'd said something else, which of course everybody generally does."

I felt quite sorry for Troyte. He really did talk about small nationalities and self-determination several times during the later years of the war. I dare say he deserved to be twitted with it. But I felt I must speak a word for him.

"You forget," I said to Norbeys, "that you also fought to make the world safe for democracy. Setting up an absolute monarch in Lystria is not democracy."

"When I talk about democracy," said Norbeys, "or rather when other fellows like you, Uncle Bill, talk about democracy—for it's a thing I never mention myself either in a club or anywhere else—I always say that the best thing is to settle. What is democracy?"

We all felt I think that Norbeys had better be left to answer his own question. Troyte, I knew, distrusts the American formula—"By, with, for, to, at, in the people." None of the rest of us had a formula at all.

"Democracy," said Norbeys, "simply means being able to say, 'You go to it,' to any fellow who likes to come it over on you. That's my idea of democracy and you may say what you like, Uncle Bill, that's what most of us jolly well fought for. Though what I always say is this: We were rather let down in the end. Still there is, don't you know, a sacred principle and all that, the sort of thing no decent fellow ever goes back on."

"The Lystrians," I said, "are evidently out-and-out democrats. They go to it," seems exactly to describe their attitude toward the rest of Europe."

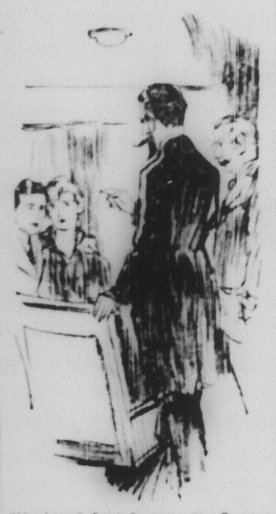
"Well, then, there you are," said Norbeys. "And if you're there, what's the use of worrying?"

The attendant from the restaurant car came along and told us that luncheon was served. Norbeys rushed off to waken Viola. The rest of us staggered along the swaying corridor. Troyte's forehead was lined with a deep frown, always a sign that he was engaged in serious thought. I remembered exactly the same wrinkles when he was bothered over the writing of Greek iambics at school, which were considered in our day a necessary part of the education of an English gentleman.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Scholars on Strike

Strikes are not a modern trouble. One of the earliest and oldest strikes on record is that which took place in Oxford, England, in 1209, when, in consequence of a peculiarly outrageous aggression of town upon gown, masters and scholars to the number of 3,000 "downed tools" and retired in high dudgeon to adjacent centers of learning. The schools were closed, the city was laid under an interdict, and the trouble only ended five years later—in the complete humiliation of the erring burgesses, who were compelled to do public penance and to accord large privileges to the university. When the offended clerks finally condescended to return, these "blacklegs," who had continued to lecture in defiance of the will of the majority, were punished by three years' suspension.



"He Lies," Said Casimir, "In Durance Vile. This Very Morning I Received From the Patriarch a Telegram."

Huge Increase in Taxes Since 1914

United States Pays $7,716,000,000 Annually.

New York.—The immense financial burden imposed upon the principal nations associated during the World war against the central powers is analyzed in a comparative study of taxation in the allied countries made by the national industrial conference board.

Taxation in the United States nearly has more than trebled since pre-war days. The total amount of local, state and federal taxes levied in the fiscal year 1923-24 amounted to $7,716,000,000, as compared with $2,134,000,000 in 1913-14. Taking into account the decrease of purchasing power of the dollar during the war period, this represents an actual increase in the tax burden of two and a quarter times that of the last pre-war year.

Per Capita Tax Doubled.

Per capita taxation more than doubled in both the United States and Great Britain. But Great Britain, 1924, six years after the signing of the armistice, led all allied countries both in amount of taxes levied per head of population and in the proportion of total national income diverted into channels of governmental expenditure. France, Italy, Belgium and the United States follow in order according to the burdensomeness which their respective tax systems imposed upon their people as measured by the relation of taxes to national income.

British per capita taxes, amounting to $37.31 in the fiscal year 1913-14, had risen to $58.40 in 1923-24 in terms of 1913 purchasing power; per capita taxes in the United States, figured on the same basis, increased from $22.23 in 1913-14 to $46.27 in 1923-24. In France, from 124.70 to $205.40; in Belgium, from $11.20 to $17.20; in Italy the per capita tax remained the same, $14.28, taking into account the lower purchasing power of the 1924 currency. Comparative figures for Germany are not available.

Increased Relative to Income.

In both the United States and Great Britain taxation in proportion to national income approximately doubled, in Belgium more than doubled since prewar days.

While taxation in the United States and Great Britain increased in about the same proportion, and these two countries levy the highest per capita taxes among the allied nations, the greater material wealth and productivity of the American nation make its tax burden comparatively lighter than that borne by any of the European allied countries. Net revenues in the United States, moreover, are spent largely for universal education, good roads, public buildings, parks and other reimbursement of the taxpayers' money, the conference board analysis indicates, while the proceeds of taxation in Europe are to a great extent absorbed in paying the cost of past wars.

Lack of Tourists Arouses the Irish

Dublin.—At the Rotary club in Dublin complaint was made that the tourist traffic particularly from America, had not reached expectations this year.

One member who had returned from America said he was humiliated there by the questions asked regarding Ireland, by the doubts expressed as to whether the country was safe for travelers, and by the impression that Ireland was in a backward state of civilization. "With pigs in the drawing room."

P. J. O'Brien, secretary of the Irish Tourist Development association, answering these statements, said that, while there had not been anything in the nature of an American invasion, the arrivals at Cobh totaled more than 1,000 a week and the traffic between Ireland and England on one of the lines imported and services was practically double what it was last year.

The transportation companies concerned were satisfied with both results and prospects.

In Ulster, the tourist traffic is reported in excess of previous years and in several districts has reached the pre-war standard.

PLAN SANITARIUM ON MOUNT POPOCATEPETL

Will Be Erected at Altitude of 17,843 Feet.

Mexico City.—At an altitude of 17,843 feet, near the snow-covered peak of the volcano Mount Popocatepetl, practical use is to be made of the romantic fame of the "mountain that smokes," as Popocatepetl is referred to frequently.

The salubrity of public works makes the announcement that an offer has been received from British capitalists for the construction of a sanitarium above the snow line of the mountain to be used by tubercular patients.

The plan includes the building of an extraordinarily complicated aerial railway for the ascent of the mountain. Part of this line is to be an ordinary funicular or cog-incline railway. This is to reach as high as the grades on the mountain's side will permit. From there on an aerial line cars is to be run on a cable much like elevators dropped into mine shafts will make the farther ascent possible.

The investment is to reach $500,000.

The Popocatepetl crater will not interfere with the plans, it is said, as it is proposed to build the road and terminal on the side of the volcano facing Mexico City, while the subterranean eruptions and smoke clouds that the mountain emits continually make their exit from its internal caldron from an opening on the east side of the mountain facing the city of Puebla, although the smoke spread above the peak is visible from Mexico City.

Forest Fires Cost $38,000,000 in 1924

Washington.—There were nearly 30,000 forest fires in 1924, which swept 7,000,000 acres of public and private lands and did substantial damage exclusive of injury to young growth, watershed protection, wild life and recreation facilities.

The figures, gathered by forest officials, are said to be accurate and to indicate how criminal is the carelessness of those responsible for much of the loss.

Many of the worst fires, it was reported, occurred in several of the southern states and in California.

World War History in Hoover's Library

Collection Endowed by Secretary of Commerce.

Stanford University.—The Hoover war library, endowed by Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover at Stanford university, has received 44,500 books and pamphlets in nearly all languages. Every one bears in some way on the World war.

The largest number, 12,000, are printed in Russian, 10,000 in French, 8,000 in English. The rest are divided among Hungarian, Italian and other languages.

Many of the items, printed or out of print, are irreplaceable. It offers students facilities duplicated elsewhere and paralleled only by the Musee de la Guerre at Paris.

Documents of All Nations.

The program of the institution calls for procuring all important official documents of every nation throughout the war and during the reconstruction period. Three-fourths of this material already has reached the library.

The manuscript collection includes 45,000 reports and communications bearing on conditions in Europe during and after the war. This file is supplemented by copies of private papers of men who were active in world affairs of the time.

Files of Newspapers Gathered.

The library has collected from each country received a file of newspapers in sympathy with the government, together with those of two opposition papers, representing the left and the right.

Mr. Hoover graduated from Stanford in 1896. He is a member of the board of trustees.

Boss Vetoes Pay Boost Voted Him by Employees

Olivet, Mich.—Methods of putting into business the principles of allowing workers to dictate the salary of officials, handling executive business of the company through a council of workers and making the same rules for workers as executives were outlines by William P. Hapgood, president of the Columbia Conserve company of Indianapolis, before the conference of the Fellowship for a Christian Social Order.

Hapgood declared he allowed his workers to decide what his salary should be, had repeatedly refused increases of salary and had protested that his salary was already too high.

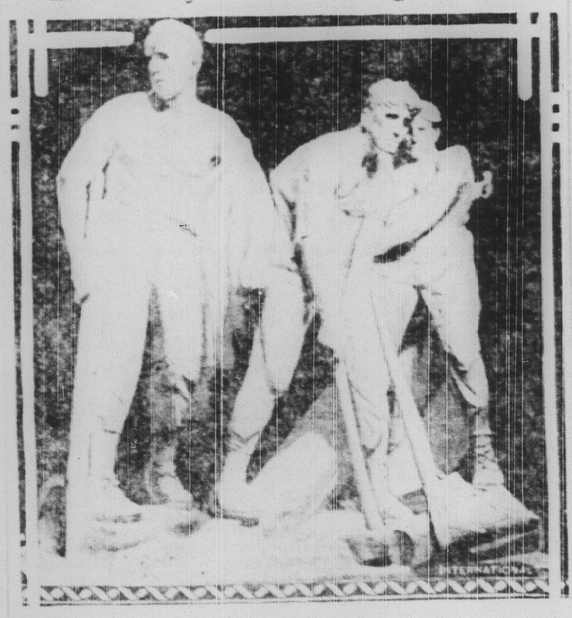
At present, the speaker said, profits are being used to buy out the stockholders. The goal of the workers is complete ownership of the business.

War on Suggestive Movie Titles Bringing Results

Hollywood, Cal.—The fight against suggestive titles to motion pictures has made definite progress during the last six months, Will H. Hays, director general of the industry, declared on his semi-annual trip to the Hollywood film plants.

"The press books for the coming releases of pictures contain only three objectionable titles," Mr. Hays stated. "The open-door policy of the producers and distributors has met with gratifying response all over the country in the shape of letters of suggestion as to the improvement of motion pictures. Further suggestions from the public are solicited."

In Memory of Maine Log-Drivers



This statue is to be erected in Bangor, Maine, as a monument to the old-time Penobscot river log-drivers, now almost extinct. It is known as the Pierce memorial in honor of the donor, Colonel Pierce, who bequeathed $30,000 for it.

BEST OF DRESSERS

Mrs. Joseph Moran, wife of a wealthy Brooklyn ship builder who has been called the "best-dressed woman in the world" by newspapers in Paris and London. But Mrs. Moran, who returned to New York a few days ago, disclaimed the honor. She believes in American-made clothes for American women, and her extensive wardrobe was acquired not in Paris, but in New York. She says she dresses only to please her husband, and succeeding in that, she pleases herself.

WRIGLEY'S

AFTER EVERY MEAL

affords benefit as well as pleasure.

Healthful exercise for the teeth and a spur to digestion. A long-lasting refreshment, soothing to nerves and stomach.

The Great American Sweetmeat, untouched by hands, full of flavor.

SEALED TIGHT KEPT RIGHT

Plan Airplane Survey

Plans are being made for the airplane mapping of portions of southeastern Alaska as a co-operative enterprise between the United States navy and the United States geological survey.

Genuine BAYER ASPIRIN

Say "Bayer"—Insist!

For Colds, Headache, Pain, Lumbago, Neuralgia, Rheumatism

Safe — Accept only a Bayer package which contains proven directions

Handy "Bayer" boxes of 12 tablets
Also bottles of 24 and 100—Druggists

Aspirin is the trade mark of Bayer Manufacture of Monoaceticacidester of Salicylicacid

Rotor Yacht's Trial Trip

The world's first rotor yacht was a feature of the exhibition for aquatic sports held recently at Postdam, Germany. It made a trial trip on Templin lake each day and performed satisfactorily.

GASTRITIS IS DANGEROUS STOP IT QUICK

When your stomach is bloated—when it is so distended with gas that pressure on the heart almost suffocates you

What are you going to do?

Take a chance or get rid of the gas quick?

The one big selling stomach medicine today is Dare's Mentha Pepsin and its mighty power to relieve terrible gastritis, acute or chronic in a blessing to tens of thousands of people who have been unable to get help from any other source.

It's splendid for any stomach trouble—is Dare's Mentha Pepsin.

So when your food won't digest or gas, bloating or shortness of breath cause you to become nervous or dizzy or have a headache always remember that you can get one bottle—of Dare's Mentha Pepsin from your druggist and if it doesn't help your disordered stomach—your money will be returned

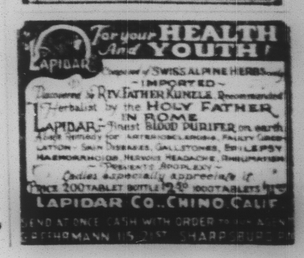
Japs on Salvage Trip

Expert divers will try to salvage the Japanese transport Yasuka Maru, sunk during the war. It had $500,000 in bullion aboard.

Quick Safe Relief CORNS

In one minute—or less—the pain ends. Dr. Scholl's Zino-pad is the safe, sure, healing treatment for corns. At drug and shoe stores.

Dr Scholl's Zino-pads

Put one on—the pain is gone

Don't scratch that rash—it's dangerous! Stop the itching and clear away the trouble by using Resinol