Georges Quien, Betrayer, Gets New Trial in France

The Betrayer of Edith Cavell on a 20 Year Sentence Secures A Rehearing Through His Jailor

A BROKEN MAN

A correspondent of the U.P. tells of visiting George Quien, the most notorious criminal now in the French Prison at Clairvaux. He goes on to say:

Clairvaux, France—Cringing, cursed as a Judas, an outcast among outcasts, the most despised man in all of France is living out here a 20-year sentence.

He is Georges Caston Quien, 50, convicted betrayer of Nurse Edith Cavell. She died with a smile in 1915 at the hands of a German firing squad.

The look of a beaten dog that comes into Quien's eyes when the name Edith Cavell is mentioned, the broken vehemence with which he denies his guilt of the most dastardly of all crimes, has brought him but short laughs of scorn from all but Director Roc of the Clairvaux penitentiary here where Quien is a convict.

M. Roc is so cinvinced of Quien's innocence, so sure that there has been a miscarriage of justice far worse than the execution of a guiltless man, that he is trying to have Quien's sentence reviewed, hoping at least to have it shortened.

But where could Quien go? He is wealthy, but of what avail would be his wealth except to enable him to hide his identity from other men?

"I am suffering a Calvary," he told United Press. "Mine is a second Dreyfus case."

Even if he convinced the powers that sentenced him, could he convince the world?

Story of Others

Here is the story as it is told by others:

For 40 of his 50 years, Quien has been in almost constant trouble. He had served two prison terms before this one.

Though a Frenchman, a native of the Aisne district, he was not, with other Frenchmen, mustered into the army at the outbreak of the World War. He was serving a term in jail for theft when the German army entered St. Quentin in 1914 and made him a double prisoner.

With other civil prisoners, Quien was taken to Landrecies. There, as a trusty, Quien adopted the name of "Doctor Caduret" and began the illegal practice of medicine.

Among his patients, the false doctor met Jeanne Balligan, who told him of a plan by which hundreds of wounded soldiers were being smuggled to the Dutch frontier and back to their home countries.

According to the original charges against him, Quien succeeded in working his way into the secret committee of 10 that was directing the smuggling.

Posing as a doctor, a lawyer, an army officer, and even as a military attache, Quien made himself trusted by the allied patriots who were risking death a dozen times a day at the hands of such a traitor as he.

Thus Quien met Nurse Edith Cavell, at whose hospital, in Brussels, he took refuge July 8, 1915.

One week later Miss Cavell, Princess de Croy and others operating the "under-ground railroad" were arrested and tried.

Four, including the devoted woman whose name has become a symbol of the spiritually glorious side of war, were sentenced to death by a German courtmartial.

Nurse Cavell made no complaint. She knew the rules of war, and that they were not always softened in mercy to women.

Bravery of Nurse

One morning she walked with serene face and firm step out from her prison cell to face a firing squad of soldiers. With a last defiant message of pride in her country and contempt of death, she awaited the shattering close range volley of her executioners.

A barked command, the crash of fire and Nurse Cavell dropped dead. Hardly had the fumes of smokeless powder curled up from the muzzles of the firing squad's lowered rifles before a revulsion at realization of the full horror of a war to the death went echoing around the world.

Quien soon left Brussels, and wandered through the German prison camps, talking to allied soldiers as a friend. Favors shown him by Germans made the allied prisoners of war suspicious.

In 1916, Quien returned to France. He was arrested immediately and sentenced to six months imprisonment for theft.

At the expiration of his term, Quien was forced to go into the French army. He was sent to North Africa. There, in October, 1918, Quien was arrested as the betrayer of Nurse Cavell.

There was but one possible sentence—death. After two weeks court debate, this sentence was imposed on Quien.

But doubt arose, even despite the natural prejudice against the condemned man because of the stigma that attached to him by the mere accusation that he was guilty of such a crime.

The sentence was changed to one of 20 years imprisonment.

Now, in the prison here, Quien is fighting for freedom.

He has no friends in the outside world. Even his lawyer has deserted him.

Prison Director Roc alone of all people believes in Quien's innocence, and as the press representative sat with him, and he pressed a bell to give orders for Quien to be brought into the office, he said he was pressing the ministers of war and justice to review the case.

Into the little office of M. Roc, the prison director, Quien walked wonderingly—for ordinarily visitors are not admitted to this rigorous penitentiary, immense, forbidding. Once it was a monastery. It was founded in the 12th century by St. Bernard.

Prison Nickname

It was easy to see how Quien had won his prison nickname of "Double-meter"—two yards. He is nearly six feet, six inches tall. He would attract attention anywhere.

Quien responded readily to several questions I asked him. Then I said:

"I want to ask you about Nurse Cavell."

Quien's huge frame seemed suddenly to collapse into a mass of unhealthy flesh. His face blanched. Cowering, he covered his face with his huge hands. Then his story came with a rush of broken sentences:

"I am not guilty! I am not guilty!

"If you knew the real story of my Caviary you would pity me.

"I have sinned often, I regret. But never—never—did I denounce Nurse Cavell."

Alone with his awful thoughts for nearly eight years, Quien appears to have constructed a hole-proof defence.

"I am the victim of judicial errors," he continued. "It is my past history that has convicted me.

"My lawyer tried hard to save me; but he has lost interest. Now I never hear from him and he does nothing to re-open my case.

"I am tired of fighting. I am becoming resigned to my fate.

"But I am not guilty. My life during the war was a drama. I escaped from the occupied territory to Holland, and I carried out numerous missions for the French military attache.

"For collaborating in Nurse Cavell's work I was twice condemned by the Germans, once to six months' imprisonment at Antewerp

"Often I handled important military documents.

"I never was in the pay of the Germans.

"I lost because I had a double, equally tall as I and otherwise closely resembling me. He was named Cavier, and he was a German spy.

"Cavier succeeded in working into the circle that contained Nurse Cavell and others who eventually were shot. It was he who cost them their lives.

"Also Nurse Cavell had a dozen German nurses, anyone of whom might have betrayed her.

"Nurse Cavell had with her too, a German girl she had adopted, a 16-year-old named Pauline. She was a loose-tongued though well-meaning child, who gossiped constantly and could have talked too much.

"It is among those whom I have described that you must look for Nurse Cavell's denunciator.

"I was the victim of a hostile press campaign at a time when passions still were white hot.

"I swear I never touched a penny of German money.

"How unhappy I am!

"My parents have died. They left me their fortune of several hundred thousand francs, but of what good is it to me? I am 50 and I haven't much hope for the future.

"If I could get a good lawyer and tell him my story there would be a scandal."

There Quien broke down. Tears welled in his eyes and he sobbed unreservedly. With his face buried in his hands, he was led back to his cell, to serve his long sentence as dead to the world as the heroic nurse, of whose betrayal he was convicted.

M. Roc has been successful in gaining a rehaaring. It is progressing. Only the future can say what Quien's future will be.

Is He The Betrayer?

HIS LAST CHANCE

The most despised man on earth, Georges Quien, alleged betrayer of Edith Cavel, in a French court denies his guilt. He says a spy who resembled him caused the martyr-nurse's death.

Better in '27 Than in '17

WHAT MEMORIES TO OUR VETERANS!

Neuve Chapelle will recall Gurkhas, Pathan and Sikh to many a Canadian. A memorial to the Army of India was unveiled there recently. The Maharajah of Kapurthala, M. Leon Perrier, Marshal Foch and the Earl of Birkenhead inspected the guard of honor.

The Protection of the Worker

Quebec Evenement (Cons.): (The Quebec Government is improving the conditions of employees' insurance). In the assets of the Province of Quebec the moral courage and the industry of its population counts for a great deal. Legislation which will protect the worker against accidents of his occupation serves the cause of the general public by assuring to the worker more ease of spirit and social contentment. . . . The first to gain by it is the manufacturer, for every act of justice of this kind contributes to the stability of economic conditions. . . . By co-operating with the authorities to help in the application of better laws for workers, our industrialists must realize that they are looking after their own particular interests.

Bilingual Reports

Le Devoir (Ind.): M. Belcourt wrote the other day: "I have always been convinced that the day the English-speaking Canadians realized what Regulation XVII. really meant, the cause would be won. . . ." It will be the same, in our opinion, in the matter of the use of French in Government departments and official documents. The principle is laid down in the Constitution, and few people would dare openly to dispute it. The difficulty is in putting it into practice. There is also the difficulty in the fact that the English-speaking majority, never having to wait for their papers, and never receiving a document written in a different language from their own, do not experience the grievance which the French minority naturally feel.

Great Britain spends three times as much for war pensions as does the United States.

The fiction that a Scot has little sense of humour was destroyed in a certain club recently. One of the members embarked upon a long-winded, funny anecdote which he told very badly. In the end he was rewarded by a few feeble smiles, but a Scot, looking down his nose at the offender, rapped out: "Man, there are several humorous versions of that story. Why don't you learn one of them?"

Kemal Pasha Ends Long Harangue

President Makes Impassioned Appeal to Youth of Turkey

Angora, Turkey.—Mustapha Kemal Pasha, president of Turkey, concluded his eight-day harangue before the National Assembly with an impassioned appeal to the youth of Turkey and future generations.

"Even when all appears lost," he said, "when the enemy occupies the country, when the nation is exhausted, you, youth of Turkey, and future generations, will not forget that your first duty is to defend and preserve the independence of the Turkish republic, and you will find the necessary force in the noble blood running through your veins."

This appeal followed upon a recital of events since September, 1924, which made the republic secure on a firm foundation, and an allusion to social reform, such as abolition of the fez, closure of the schools and convents, adoption of the Swiss civil code, consecration of women's liberty an dthe abolition of polygamy.

East and West

Kobe Herald: The British in the East do not give tongue to their suspicions of the Japanese so freely as do the American and Dutch, but they, as a race, are not outspoken, and, moreover, until recently they were in alliance with the Japanese and considerations of decency doubtless exercise a restraining influence. Had they been without misgivings and fears, however, the scheme for the establishment of the Naval base at Singapore would never have conceived.

"You know, darling, of course, I'm dying for us to get married, but I can't see how we shall ever afford it." "Oh, that's all right, dearest. I have a parson friend, and I'm sure he'll do it for nothing."

Progress Affects "The Bank"

GETTING READY FOR LARGER THINGS

The "Old Lady of Threadneedle Street," the Bank of England, closed her door a few days ago, but only to open a new one. The rebuilding of the bank is progressing while business is still being carried on. The old door had been in use since 1825.

When a girl's complexion goes to pot its usually returning whence it came.

"I look forward every Sunday to the after-dinner nap." "I thought you never slept after dinner." "I don't, but my wife does."

"Jack,' the girl said reproachfully, "you wouldn't marry me for my money, would you?" "Not if there was any other way to get it," he said thoughtlessly.

Italy and the Vatican

Rome Observatore Romano: In spite of the mitigation of the former harshness in the mutual relations between the Vatican and the Italian Government, the disagreements have not yet been eliminated, and they will only disappear when means have been found to assure the whole Catholic world that the Pope has that full and real independence and liberty which should be manifest to, and recognized by all. The Roman question is not only a "national" question, but one which affects all Catholic peoples and nations.

The Sister Provinces

Quebec Soleil (Lib.): It is quite clear that Quebec and Ontario will always be coming together in problems of an economic character. Though ruled by different governments, the two provinces have no real frontiers. From the point of view of agriculture, industry, commerce and finance, they are so closely allied that one cannot adopt a policy on any essential question different from the other, without one of them suffering directly or indirectly.

Franco-Russian Trade

Moscow Pravda: The policy of threats and blackmail has not, and never will have any effect on the Soviet Government. If there are people in France who count on terrorizing the Soviet Republics by diplomatic complications, they deceive themselves and are only depriving French business of advantages which the preliminary treaty which has already been negotiated would have given them.

Dolling Up Ma.

Ralph Conrow of Unadilla has been making improvements on the mother Mrs. Mary Conrow. He has made improvements on the inside and painted the outside.—Bainbridge (N.Y.) paper.

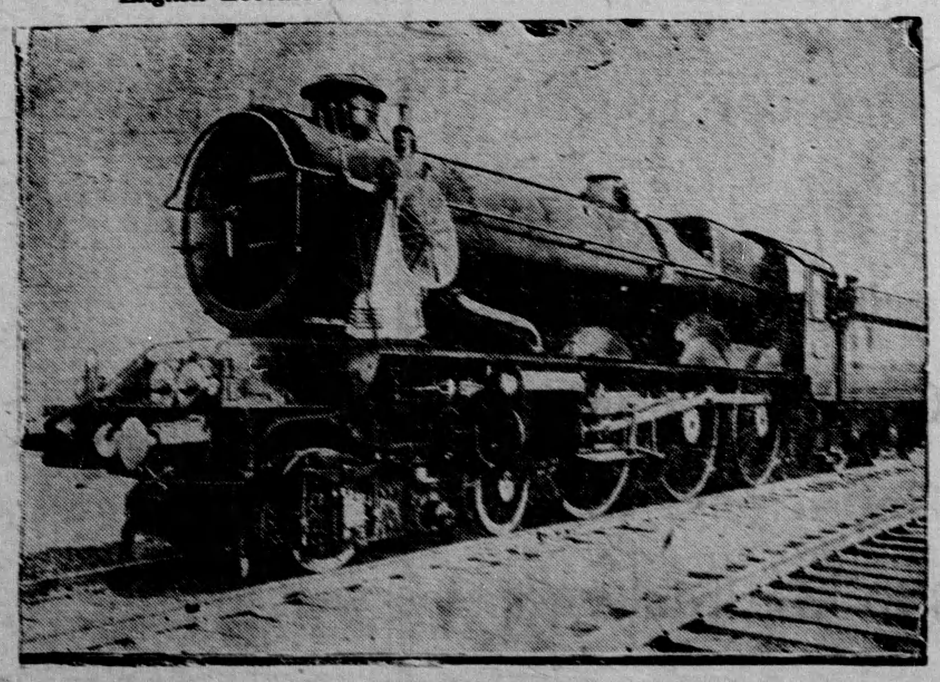
School for Politics.

Mrs. Jenkinson had been to a political meeting, and when she returned home she regaled her husband with her party views.

"We are going to sweep the country, John," she exclaimed.

"Then," remarked her husband, "you had better start with the kitchen, dear!"—Montreal Daily Star.

English Locomotive Goes 76 Miles An Hour on U.S. Road



SPEED MARK SET BY ENGLISH TRAIN

Baltimore.—The fastest and most powerful locomotive in Europe, the "King George V" of England's Great Western Railway, completed a 290-mile test run over Baltimore & Ohio tracks recently and startled officials of that road by hitting a 76-mile-an-hour speed with its throttle only 75 per cent. open.

"Cut that out — ! Pipe down there"—A voice somewhere in the dynamo-meter car, which contained the instruments and dials, said as the speedometer quivered upward. Some one picked up a telephone receiver and the hand dropped back to 60.

Laborers, office workers and motorists along the route from Baltimore craned their necks and struck amusing poses as the lithe whippet of the rails, resplendent in dark green paint and shining brass, swept by with 7 coaches.