Freed After 11 Years in Exile

Innocent Convict Ordeal Ends of Retrial by Court

$200 COMPENSATION

Evidence in Murder Case Led to Fresh Investigation

Paris.—A dramatic scene occurred at Havre recently when a former Marseilles hairdresser who had been sent in chains to Devil's Island (the notorious French penal settlement) in 1915 on a charge of having betrayed his country, stepped from the ship a free man, completely rehabilitated by the highest courts of France after having been kept a prisoner for eleven years.

The man, Henri Bellon, now aged 34, was the victim of an incredible drama every bit as strange as that of Captain Dreyfus, one of the most notorious instances of a miscarriage of justice ever known.

NEW TRIAL.

In the case of Henri Bellon the establishment of his innocence is due to a murder trial in Paris that had no connection with the hairdresser's alleged offence. It was evidence obtained at this murder trial that secured for Belon a new trial which ended in his acquittal.

Bellon's case is one of the most extraordinary in the history of military and civil jurisprudence. He had been invalided out of the army in 1914 seriously wounded, and resumed his profession of hairdresser and wigmaker. He went to Geneva to buy women's hair-nets. There he met a naturalized American named Stanley Mitchell, a Pole by birth, who was working in Switzerland for the French counter-espionage service.

Bellon helped Mitchell to write his reports in French. One day Mitchell was suddenly arrested by the Swiss police as a foreign spy and expelled. Mitchell reported to his chief that Bellon had denounced him.

TREASON CHARGE.

When Bellon returned to France he was arrested on the charge of treason, tried before a court-martial at Marseilles in the latter part of 1915, and on Mitchell's testimony, which was entirely hearsay, was sentenced to Devil's Island for life.

Bellon protested his innocence, and wrote hundreds of letters of appeals to the League for the Rights of Men in Paris but the War Minister refused to authorize a new trial.

Years passed, and one night in the autumn of 1925 Bellon was reading a three months' old copy of the Paris "Matin" by candle light in his hut in the penal settlement. As his eyes glanced down the columns of the newspaper a cry escaped him. He was reading about the trial of a Paris caretaker, Lazare Tissier, for the murder of a bookmaker named Bellay in his cellar in the heart of Paris. The murderer afterwards took the body to the Bois du Boulogne.

PERFECT CASE.

The police case against the caretaker was perfect except that they had not the slightest evidence to show how the body had been taken to the Bois. At a critical point in the police investigation Stanley Mitchell, who had a long police record in France, suddenly appeared and declared that he had seen the caretaker hauling the body in a pushcart. Mitchell stated that he had been released from prison the previous day, had spent the night in Montmartre, and then had gone to the Bois, where, waking up early in the morning, he saw the caretaker passing with the body.

When Mitchell told his story at the trial he was under a warrant of expulsion and made such an unfavorable impression that he was driven from the court by the judge. He was allowed to remain in France some months after that, and then finally expelled.

In consequence of Mitchell's role in this case, Bellon was granted a new trial by the French civil court in 1926. The Public Prosecutor announced that there had been a judicial error, and asked for Bellon's complete rehabilitation. This was granted, and he was given damages amounting to £40. This sum, however, was not sufficient to pay the passage of both himself and his wife to France, so he returned home alone.

Growing Minds

We are endowed with minds which never, strictly speaking, grow up at all. They retain a certain blessed quality of youth, the more active they are they retain it all the better. I should be very sorry for any man or woman who thinks that their education is achieved, is a thing finished and done with. At seventy and a good deal more, I am learning things which perhaps I ought to have learned at seventeen. But I am exceedingly thankful that I did not learn them at seventeen, beause it has left me a chance of learning them all through life, and in the evening of life especially.—Sir Alfred Ewing K.C.B., F.R.S.

Knowledge

There is no difference between knowledge and temperance; for he who knows what is good and embraces it, who knows what is bad and avoids it, is learned and temperate; but they who know very well what ought to be done, and yet do quite otherwise, are ignorant and stupid.—Socrates.

Man-Made Plant May Prove Rich

Experiments Being Carried on in West of England are Promising

BIG MEN BACK IT

Would Upset Silk and the Newsprint Markets—May Be Patented

London.—If the hopes of its backers come true "brotex"—a man-invented plant like the seedless orange and the loganberry—may give an entirely new and paying crop to the British farmer, and revolutionize the artificial silk industry.

Brotex is the result of long work on a 200-acre farm in the west of England which has been carefully fenced off and which has for a long time excited the wonder and curiosity of neighboring farmers. It is a plant evolved by a very complicated series of graftings and blendings, possessing the rapid growing qualities of tropical vegetation and yet capable of being grown even in a comparatively cold country like England. It grows from seed and matures rapidly, within 18 months attaining a height of from 8 to 10 feet and a stem circumference of from 8 to 10 inches.

Its inventors claim that the seed makes a rich oily cattle food. From the bark is obtained a fibre fit for all kinds of textile purposes similar to those of flax and jute. From the core of the plant is obtained a cellulose for paper making.

It is claimed that an acre of these plants will yield 3,735 pounds of fibre ready for hackling in a textile mill; 12,030 pounds of material ready to be made into paper pulp and 5,250 pounds of seed for cattle feed.

BIG MEN BACK IT.

A company has already been formed for its promotion in England. On its advisory council are such prominent men as Sir Robert Horne, former chancellor of the exchequer, and the Earl of Selborne. The corporation now has two big questions before its patent lawyers:

First, whether it is possible to patent the plant itself, so that all and sundry may not grow it.

Second, the question of patenting chemical processes and machinery specially designed to utilize brotex products for textiles and paper making.

If the plant itself can be protected by patent or license it can then be grown only with the permission of the company. If this cannot be done, the company still expects to make big revenue out of brotex by pushing the patents of the special chemical and mechanical processes involved in making it useful in industry. A subsidiary company may shortly be formed in Canada.

BIG FIELD.

If the plant does all its owners claim for it, there is a big field for development. In many textile products now manufactured flax and jute now form an important part.

So far the experiments with brotex cellulose have shown it capable only of being made into a fine quality of paper. So far no work has been done showing whether it is useful and economical in the making of newsprint paper.

The promoters do not claim it can be made into newsprint. They content themselves by saying they are hopeful that further experiments may show possibilities in that direction.

Rum-Running a National Disgrace

Toronto Star (Ind.): The intimation appearing in a Toronto morning paper that Ottawa has reached an agreement with Washington that will enable the United States to deal a death-blow to rum-running would be gratifying, if true. Unfortunately, it is far from the truth, and unless the Government of the country takes more seriously its responsibility for coping with the scandalous conditions existing along the border the neighborly relations between Canada and the United States may become impaired.

Civil Service Salaries

Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (Lib.): The question of salaries in the service is an important one for the whole country. Governments come and go, but the greater part of the actual work of running the public services is done by the permanent staffs. The efficiency of this army of workers is a matter of moment to every citizen and probably counts for just as much in the life of the country as the party stripe of the Government in office. To underpay employees is certainly not the way to secure diligent and faithful work form them.

Provincial Surpluses

Halifax Herald (Cons.): We hear a great deal about surpluses in the other provinces of the Dominion, but it is seen that without the proceeds of the sale of liquor, all the provinces have deficits, some of them very heavy. This is a fact to be remembered when provincial finances are under discussion.

Stout woman (to little boy)—"Can you tell me if I can get through this gate to the park?" Little Boy—"I guess so; a load of hay has just gone through."

It Is Sports Like This That Will Take Our Half-breds

IT TOOK PLENTY OF PUSH TO WIN THIS RACE

Pinehurst, N.C., society got lots of amusement from this novel wheelbarrow race when couples raced on horseback to one end of the field, the man pushing his partner back in a wheelbarrow. The United States offers a great market for our saddle horses.

Find Bones of 10-Ton Monster

Largest Animal Known Discovered in Gobi Desert

London.—Life in the Gobi desert, in Mongolia, millions of years ago, and the discovery there of the bones of the largest animal known to science—a monster weighing ten tons—were described to a reporter recently by Roy Chapman Andrews, the explorer.

Mr. Andrews, who has just returned from his fourth expedition in the desert, said:

Our greatest discoveries this year were fossils. The bones of this new mammal, which lived eight or nine million years ago, show that it was 25 ft. long and 14 ft. high to the shoulders. It was as big as a freight car.

TOO BIG TO PACK.

We have the bones of about eight or ten of these monsters and one skeleton is so huge that it was found impossible to pack it, but we hope to recover it next year. This animal will not be named until it reaches the American Museum of Natural History.

We also found a giant mastodon—a prehistoric elephant—with a jaw eight feet long shaped like a coal scoop. The front of its face is unlike anything we have seen before. It lived about 6,000,000 years ago.

Among other finds were four Titanothere skeletons—animals that are something like the rhinoceros. These have only been found before in America, and this proves the migration that must have taken place in early times from Asia to America.

Another strange find was the skeleton of an animal—a new type—with a skull shaped like a stock saddle, the pummel, or its nose, pointing straight up in the air and its mouth underneath. What it had in front of its face no one knows.

We have always thought that traces of human life would be found in Central Asia, but so far we have not found anything very definite on the human side.

We came across remarkable specimens of stone age culture, and there were traces that people lived there at least 20 or 25 thousands years ago. We found that they lived there in millions, and on the plateau there was evidence that they must have lived largely on birds and frogs.

Mr. Andrews said they could only judge by the implements they found that human life existed there because no sign of caves was found.

The New Factor

London Daily Mail (Ind. Cons.): We doubt whether it is generally realized that when the Flappers come on the register nearly half the electors in this country will be between the ages of 21 and 35, or just of that age which is most likely to be attracted by the new prolitical evangel. "Youth has always been with Labour. . . . Labour may well look to doubling its last general election vote," the Committee of Industrial Women's Organizations has reported. This is the new factor that is about to come into play, and it will have a vast and decisive influence on the future if the Socialists are right.

He—"Why did you faint?"
She—"I thought you were going to kiss me."
He—"But, darling, I didn't."
She—"That's why I fainted."

Few, if any, of the rights of the people guarded by fundamental law are of greater importance to their happiness and safety than the right to be exempt from all unauthorized, arbitrary or unreasonable inquiries in respect of their personal and private affairs.—Mr. Justice Butler.

Nurse: "Bobby, what would your father say if he saw you'd broken that branch off?" Bobby: "He'd say trees are not so well made now as they were before the war."

Toronto's Food Well Guarded

Care Taken by Health Department Should Interest Outside Places

OF VALUE TO HEALTH

First—Toronto's milk supply, from the standpoint of quality and safety, is second to no other on the continent. Every quart of milk that has been sold in Toronto for the past ten years at least has contained the necessary proportions of butter fat and of total solids to constitute a whole milk as obtained from the cow. In addition to this, 99¾ per cent. of the milk supply is scientifically pasteurized and then put into sterilized bottles which are capped, all by machinery, so that the human hand cannot come in contact with the milk from its pasteurization until it reaches the consumer. ¼ of 1 per cent. that is not scientifically pasteurized is certified.

Second—All waiters and waitresses in restaurants in Toronto, and those engaged in the kitchen preparing food, are required to furnish to the Department of Public Health a certificate from a legally qualified medical practitioner, that they are not suffering from any communicable disease, and also to certify that they have not been suffering from any communicable disease in their homes or in the homes in which they oard or lodge.

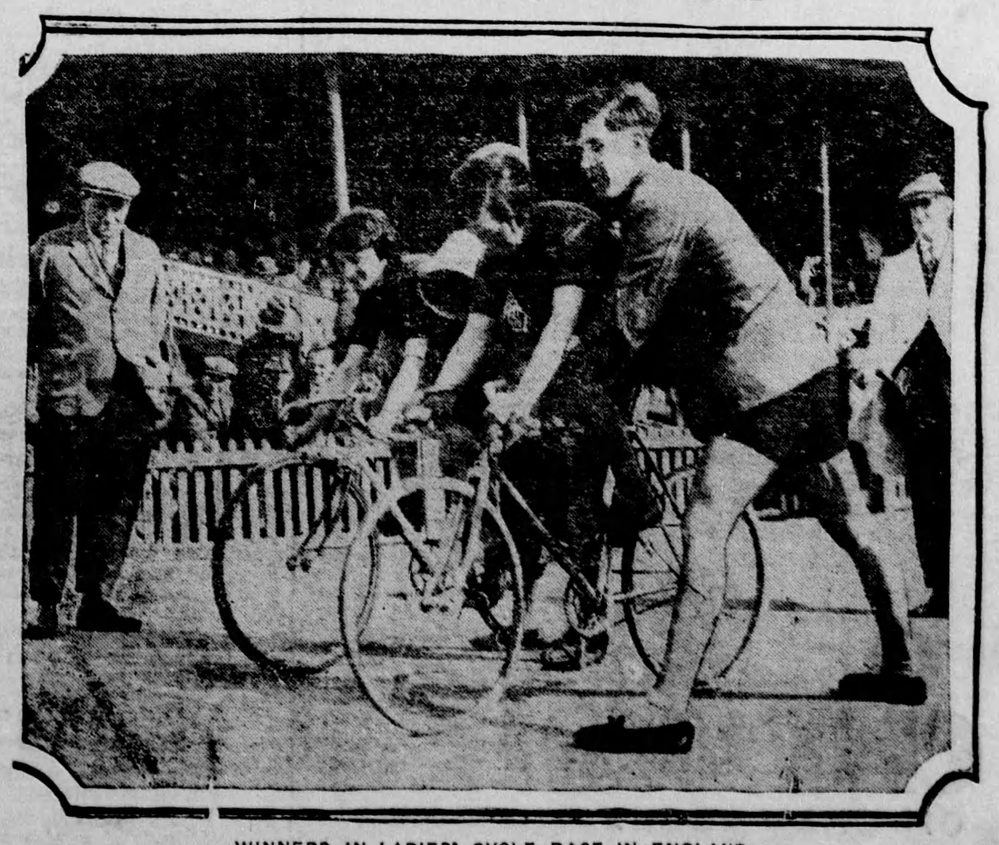
Third—Toronto's perishable foods are carefully safeguarded at every point by a rigid system of inspection, from the producer to the consumer.

Fourth—All foods that are not protected by a peel, or that are not going to be submitted to a temperature sufficient to destroy all disease-producing germs before being eaten, are required to be efficiently protected from dust, dirt, human and animal contamination.

The current Mexican war seems to be creating about as much impression on the hard-boiled world as the recurrent comic opera affrays in China.

A junior clerk was "on the carpet," and at the conclusion of his wigging, he was told to get rid of the supercilious air. Next morning, he appeared at the office with his hair cut.

Sport Again Becoming Popular in Motherland



WINNERS IN LADIES' CYCLE RACE IN ENGLAND

Miss E. Armstrong, winner, and Miss Bennett, runner-up, in the ladies' race which was a feature of the Marlborough A.C.'s Easter Monday race meet at Herne Hill.

Interesting Angle On Public Health

In discussing the question of the need for full-time healt hservice in rural as well as urban areas there are some phases of the problem which one is likely to forget. One realizes, of course, that theoretically certain diseases, for example, typhoid fever and diphtheria, are definitely preventable and that with proper attention to children many of the ailments of later life may be prevented. One often forgets, however, the part that the physician must play in this and the training he must have if he is to be completely effective.

Past generations of physicians have been trained in the school of curative medicine; and in spite of the knowledge which makes them effective in the curative sphere, too frequently, if not generally, their attitude has been in accord with that of the general public. The public wait to consult a physician until incipient disease has become serious. And the doctor waits for the serious disease to come to his office, making little or no effort to revent it.

The physician of the future will pay greater attention to prevention, and in prevention the health officer must be a specialist, trained by special departments to do special work; and, when the physician trained to do this special work graduates from his medical school, there must be adequately paid and responsible positions ready for him. Otherwise he will not desire to take the special training which is essential if he is to carry on in a career which will mean much to the community in which he does his life work.

Dr. J. G. Fitzgerald, Professor of Hygiene and Preventive Medicine in the University of Toronto, pointed out in a recent interview the significance of this phase of the question. At present in spite of the work of great philanthropies, such as the Rockefeller Foundation, in founding special schools for the teaching of hygiene and preventive medicine, the prospective health officer has little ahead of him to encourage him to embark in a public health career. Training he can get, if at the end of his medical course there is nothing but a position in Ceylon or China available for him, it is little wonder if he hesitates to depart from the conventional ways pursued by previous generations. It is not too much to say that if the county health unit scheme is successful the stimulus given to the teaching of preventive medicine will be immediate and the number of medical graduates prepared to pursue a public health career will be increased. Within a reasonable time the effect on the average health of our citizens will be far more striking than most of us imagine.

A Blunder?

Slowness of Britain's Latest Warships Causes Consternation

London.—Attention has been called in naval circles here to the relatively slow speed of some of the new ships which, it is alleged, will be far outdistanced by comparable foreign ships. It is understood that the new flotilla leader Codrington and eight new destroyers of the "A" class are designed for 35 knots. The Codrington will be a ship of 1,520 tons, standard displacement, carrying five 4.7-inch guns. She will thus be practically identical with the Scott class of ten years ago, except for the fact that the designed speed will be 1.5 knots less.

The destroyers will be two knots slower than similar boats constructed some years ago.

Naval experts are alarmed at this retrogressive program, pointing out that the new French flotilla leader Guepard has made 38.45 knots in full power trials. Italy's new scouts of the Condottieri class will steam at 37 knots. The new British ships will go to the Mediterranean when they are commissioned, and will face Italian cruisers which could outdistance them and blow them from the water.

The naval corresondent of the Western Independent, a Plymouth paper, says that attitude of the British naval designers in regard to the speed factor is causing something like consternation.

American Capital in Britain

Glasgow Herald (Cons.): While America is blamed for attempting to obtain control of British concerns it would perhaps be well to examine the cause of the present situation before imputing or apportioning blame. If this be done it will probably be found that the root of the trouble lies in the gambling mania which has spread over the continents of Europe and America during the past year or so, and has done much to hold up trade development in this country. . . . Arbitrage dealing is an essential part of stock market business, but it will be very unfortunate if its unrestrained use should be instrumental in antagonizing the relationship of American capital and British trade.

When bridge work is mentioned now you have to wait and see if it's teeth, cards, or viaducts.—Dallas Journal.

The Jones brothers—Wesley and Davy—are making life for the rum-runners just one thing after another—Washington Post.