

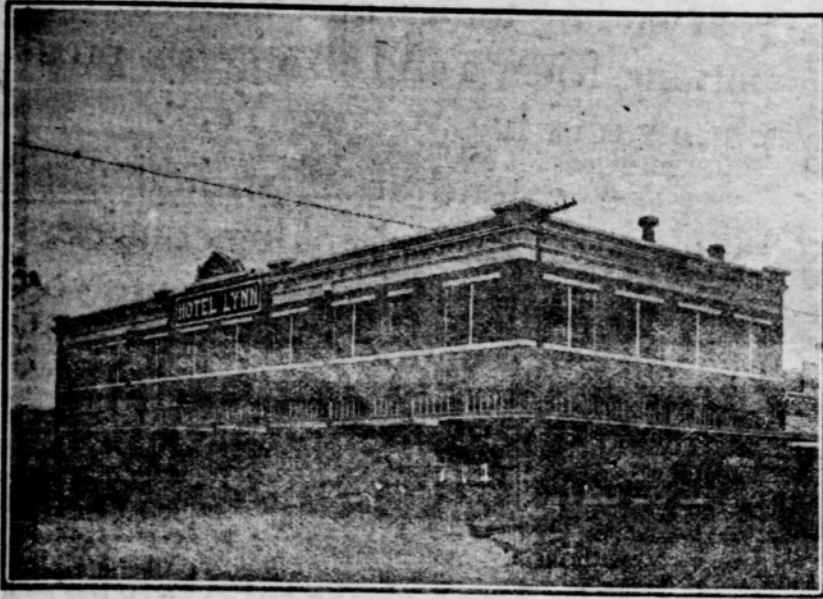
LYNN COUNTY NEWS.

VOLUME 12

TAHOKA, LYNN COUNTY, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1915.

NUMBER 13

\$16,000 HOTEL AND FURNITURE STORE DESTROYED IN DESTROYED IN YESTERDAY'S \$35,000 BLAZE



Fire Wipes Out One-Third Tahoka Business District

The tiny flame of an oil heater, a blowing curtain, a blaze, and where stood thirteen business firms representing an investment of between \$40,000 and \$45,000, at nine o'clock Thursday morning, at noon there lay a heap of twisted iron and smoking ashes on the north side of the public square of Tahoka.

About nine forty-five it was discovered that the rooms occupied by the Hinton family in the east Wise building on the north side of the square were in flames. It is believed that a partition curtain in the room blew against a lighted oil heater and thus originated the blaze that wiped out a third of the business section of the town. When discovered by Mr. Hinton, the buildings were doomed, and the order went forth to gut the buildings of their contents. Owing to the prompt action of the exchange of the Western Telephone Co., every available fighting man in the town was on the ground by the time the roof of the Wise buildings burst into flame.

At this stage of the blaze, hope for the Lynn Hotel building was abandoned, and by orders of the owners, the volunteers were led into the building and began stripping it of its

furnishings, also men commenced the removing of the stock of furniture of Ed. Meyers' in the south end of the building.

Up to the time the second floor of the Lynn Hotel began to fall thru and further work there was impossible on account of the heat, interest had centered there, but driven from this building the crowd promptly recognized the fact that the buildings across Main street were certain of destruction. Nevertheless the fronts were covered with wet quilts and blankets and the fighters stuck to their posts until the front burst into flames.

Besides some of their best jewelry, and a few odds and ends, Parkhurst saved only his insurance papers and records, which by the way represented the insurance of the burned district.

The meat market simultaneously burst into flames, and rescue work in Cain's office was only of a few minutes duration. Sumner Clayton retrieved most of the furnishings of the front room of his shop, and the furniture from the Shook real estate office was removed, as was also most of the furniture and fixtures from Shed Weathers' tailor shop, owned by Mrs.

Wade Ray. Thomas Bros. lost heavy in fixtures and stock.

A valiant fight in the face of almost overwhelming odds was put up for the Stokes Hotel, across the street west of Thomas Bros. In the end the building was saved, tho repeatedly the roof caught fire. The windows were demolished in this building and some loss sustained in breakage to the furniture, which was almost entirely removed.

The First National Bank building, altho brick, occupied a perilous position for a while, as did also the west side of the square. Stocks as far south as Goree's were partially moved, and it is believed that a sudden switch of the wind from north of east to southeast is all that ultimately saved the entire business section.

The sparks were sufficient to set the grass in Walter Slaton's yard two blocks west of the burning district, and the fate of the McAdams Lumber Yard hung in the balance of chance for half an hour.

As near as can be ascertained, Thursday night as we go to press, the loss is computed as follows, beginning at the extreme east end of the burned district and following the course of the fire to where it was finally checked:

Keever building, north-east corner square, box and strip	\$ 500
Busy Bee Cafe, in above building	350
Three Wise buildings, adjoining on the west	1,500
Bargain Land Co., furniture damage	25
Hinton Bakery, total loss	1,000
St. Clair, gents furnishings and tailor—part of stock	500
Lynn Hotel, \$16,000 valuation, total loss except one third of the furniture	14,500

Ed. Meyers, furniture stock, loss and breakage	2,000
Shook, buildings occupied by Parkhurst, meat market, Cain, Claton, and office	2,100
Parkhurst Broken \$ Store	1,000

Ketner, general merchant, plate glass front and wood work, and stock damaged by moving and water	600
Jones and Post Office buildings, fronts partially demolished	500
Innon & Turrentine, sanitarium, breakage by moving	100
County Attorney Cain, library and furniture	750
Sumner Clayton barber shop, bath room and furniture	200
Shed Weathers tailor shop owned by Mrs. Wade Ray	100

Thomas Bros., buildings occupied by Prul Miller's cotton office, Sheds tailor shop and Thomas Bros. Drug Co. and stock	5,500
Dr. Callaway office furniture	150
Western Telephone Co.	1,000
Total	32,375

There was insurance to the amount of \$15,000 carried by Shook, Thomas Bros., Meyers, Parkhurst and Cain.

Parkhurst and Keever Bros., have stored their goods in the Parkhurst brick, just north of the Star Theater, and Thomas Bros., have their drug store housed in the brick just north of the Parkhurst building. Ed. Meyers has his stock of furniture disposed of in the Jones building. A. D. Shook took care of the furniture from the Hotel Lynn in the large barn at his

residence in east Tahoka. The fixtures from the Weathers Tailor Shop and Clayton Barber Shop have been disposed of at different places, and Clayton will open up in some place until a new shop can be built. St. Clair, carried his stock to his home in east Tahoka. The Hinton family are housed in the Christian church south of the square; they have nothing to take care of, having lost everything with the exception of a trunk belonging to Mrs. Hinton, who was in Lubbock. The Busy Bee Cafe is open and doing business in the Larkin & Lewis wagon yard southwest of the square, and will move to the Larkin building on the south side of the square as soon as Mr. Larkin finishes his new building and moves in.

The meat market is in operation, Parkhurst will be as soon as his insurance is adjusted. Meyers and Thomas Bros. will be open too in as short a time as possible. The Western Telephone Co. ordered 500 feet of cable and 1,000 feet of messenger wire to come by express, that will get in today or tomorrow.

Rebuilding will be the order of the day in Tahoka for the first half of the coming year, and ere another harvest time rolls around Tahoka will be a better built, better appearing city. The country is a coming portion of the state and the best town in the section cannot be long in recovering from even such a staggering blow as was dealt our fair city Thursday.

Art. 1. Be it ordained by the City Council of Tahoka, Texas, that the following named blocks in the City of Tahoka, Texas, as shown on the original plat of Tahoka, to-wit: Blocks 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 20, 21, 22, 23, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41, be declared within the fire-limits of Tahoka.

Art. 2. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to erect within the above described fire-limits any wooden building or to move any wooden building from one place to another within said limits, or to move any wooden building into said fire-limit.

Art. 3. It shall be unlawful to repair or add to any wooden building within said limit, without permit from the Council.

Art. 4. It shall be permissible for any person or persons to build within said fire-limits any building whose walls are made of brick, stone concrete, tiling or other fireproof material, and whose roof shall be made of tar and gravel and shall have standard firewalls above the roof.

Art. 5. Any person desiring to build within the said fire-limit shall first secure a permit from the city council of Tahoka.

Art. 6. Any person guilty of any violation of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$500.

Art. 7. A public emergency existing, this ordinance shall take effect on and after passage.

Passed and approved on this 30th day of December 1915.
J. E. STOKES, Mayor,
H. M. LARKIN, Clerk.

FOR RENT—A large business house on a corner of the square Address Box No. 233, Tahoka. 16-17

WANTED—A job on a ranch. Good experienced hand. Wife to cook if needed. Write P. L. Fuller, Tahoka, Texas. 15-18p

STRAYED: From Cleveland's pasture one bay fillie colt; roach mane, some white on foot. Finder please notify H. M. Larkin or W. L. Tunnell and get reward. 17-18p

FOR SALE—Corner lot south side of the square. Cash or terms.—Address, Owner, box 86, Tahoka, Texas. 17

LOST—Open face watch, "Lewine & Levinske, Waco, Tex." on dial. Please return to Thomas Bros. for reward.—S. S. Ramsey. 18tf

THE CITY COUOCIL CREATES FIRE LIMITS.

Thursday night, December 30, 1915, the City Council of Tahoka met in called session, by call of Mayor Stokes. Mayor Stokes and councilmen Ramsey, Edwards, Larkin and Rogers were present, and the following action taken: S. S. Ramsey made a motion that a fire-limit be established in the city of Tahoka for the purpose of safeguarding the town against calamity by fire. An ordinance was drafted to read:

An ordinance creating and prescribing a fire-limit of the city of Tahoka for the purpose of safeguarding against calamities of fire and to prevent the erection of any wooden building, or moving into the limits of any wooden building, or additions to or repairing any wooden building, or moving any wooden building from one point to another within the said fire-limit.

Art. 1. Be it ordained by the City Council of Tahoka, Texas, that the following named blocks in the City of Tahoka, Texas, as shown on the original plat of Tahoka, to-wit: Blocks 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 20, 21, 22, 23, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41, be declared within the fire-limits of Tahoka.

Art. 2. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to erect within the above described fire-limits any wooden building or to move any wooden building from one place to another within said limits, or to move any wooden building into said fire-limit.

Art. 3. It shall be unlawful to repair or add to any wooden building within said limit, without permit from the Council.

Art. 4. It shall be permissible for any person or persons to build within said fire-limits any building whose walls are made of brick, stone concrete, tiling or other fireproof material, and whose roof shall be made of tar and gravel and shall have standard firewalls above the roof.

Art. 5. Any person desiring to build within the said fire-limit shall first secure a permit from the city council of Tahoka.

Art. 6. Any person guilty of any violation of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$500.

Art. 7. A public emergency existing, this ordinance shall take effect on and after passage.

Passed and approved on this 30th day of December 1915.
J. E. STOKES, Mayor,
H. M. LARKIN, Clerk.

EXPERT IN COOKERY



Mrs. Jesse Hardy MacKaye of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, has been responsible for the thousands of articles explaining "the cause," sent out by the organization in the past two or three years. But she is not only known as a specialist in publicity. In suffrage circles she is famed as a cook. She explains: "I am my own cook, not only because I enjoy it, but because I believe that, as in the nation, conservation in the home is the corner stone of preparedness."

In appreciation of the noble work done by the fire fighters Thursday for the town in general, and the Stokes Hotel in particular, the management of that institution served a complimentary dinner to all fire-fighters who would come, at two-thirty.

Paul Miller, manager of the dining room, and Judge Joe Stokes, son of the proprietor, Mayor J. E. Stokes, drove among the crowd in a car and extended the invitation to all. The management announced that they could not give their usual service owing to the damaged condition of the establishment, but such as they had, they gave freely: They fed two hundred and forty guests.

In as much as it is possible to express it in words, we take this method of voicing our appreciation for the valient services rendered us in Thursday's fire, by the men who assisted in saving what was possible of the furniture and fixtures of our establishment.

HOTEL LYNN,
A. D. SHOOK, PROP.

For up-to-date construction and quick work—any and all kinds of building: See S. S. Ramsey; who knows how. Prices moderate. 52tf

HAPPY NEW YEAR



WE DO NOT HAVE TO "BLOW OUR OWN HORN." THE UP GRADE HARDWARE WE SELL AND THE LOW DOWN PRICE WE SELL IT FOR, SPEAK FOR US.

BUT JUST ONE THING WE WILL SAY--WE CAN LOOK EVERYONE WE'VE DEALT WITH LAST YEAR SQUARE IN THE EYE. WE HAVE TREATED HIM RIGHT IN THE PAST. WE WILL NOT CHANGE OUR SYSTEM.

TAHOKA HARDWARE CO.

BIG HAUL FOR "CRIPPLE"

This Beggar Kept Record of Receipts—Gives Police Hard Battle.

Allentown, Pa.—William Newbecker, a perfectly healthy man, who can twist his arms so that he looks crippled, did such a prosperous business begging in Allentown that he went on a spree and he was locked up, giving the bluecoats a fight before they landed him in a cell.

At court it was found out that he had a roll of several hundred dollars. Newbecker, who covers the entire East, kept a book showing his daily receipts. His best day here brought \$14.50, and the average for some time past was \$10 a day. He was fined \$5 for drunkenness and told to leave Allentown.



The Two Chinamen Are Surprised to See the Mystic Ring on Elaine's Finger.

Lynn County News

Published every Friday by
H. C. CRUE & CO. TAHOCA
J. CRUE, ED. & MGR.

One Year \$1.00—Strictly in Advance
Advertising Rates on Application

Entered as second-class matter, July
10, 1906, at the post office at Tahoka,
Texas, under the Act of Congress of
March 3, 1879.

PROFESSIONAL

C. H. CAIN
Lawyer
Office in old First National Bank
Building

Tahoka Texas

M. M. HERRING
Lawyer and Abstractor
Office over Postoffice

Tahoka Texas

DR. J. R. SINGLETON
DENTIST
Permanently Located

Tahoka Texas

Drs. INMON & TURBENTINE
Physicians & Surgeons

Tahoka Texas

Dr. J. H. McCoy
Physician and Surgeon
Office over Tahoka Drug Co.
Office 3 Phone Res. 108

Drs. Hutchinson and Peebler
J. T. HUTCHINSON, M. D.
Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat
O. F. PEEBLER, M. D.
General Medicine and Surgery
Rooms in 1st Nat'l. Bank Bld'g.
LUBBOCK, TEXAS

Willis Meeks Cline Thomas
Meeks & Thomas
Painters & Paper Hangers
Estimates Furnished Free
Let Us Show You Work We Have
Done For Others
Live and Let Live Prices

GEO. ALLEN
The House Reliable
Oldest and Largest PIANO
and MUSIC HOUSE in
Western Texas. Latest Sheet
Music. MUSIC TEACHER'S
Supplies, etc., etc. Catalogue
and BOOK OF OLD TIME
SONGS FREE for the asking.
Established 1896. SAN ANGELO

Deafness Cannot Be Cured
by local applications, as they cannot
reach the diseased portion of the ear.
There is only one way to cure deafness,
and that is by constitutional remedy.
Deafness is caused by an inflamed con-
dition of the mucous lining of the Eusta-
chian Tube. When this tube is inflamed
you have a rumbling sound or imperfect
hearing, and when it is entirely closed,
deafness is the result, and unless the in-
flammation can be taken out and this
tube restored to its normal condition,
hearing will be destroyed forever. Nine
cases out of ten are caused by Catarrh,
which is nothing but an inflamed con-
dition of the mucous surface.
We will give One Hundred Dollars to any person
who will certify that our remedy cures
Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circular, free.
F. J. CLEMENT, 1209, Toledo, Ohio.
Sold by Druggists. Do not take cheap imitations.
Tahoka Health Family Pills for constipation.

The Exploits of Elaine

SYNOPSIS.

The New York police are mystified by a series of murders and other crimes. The principal clue to the criminal is the warning letter which is sent to the victims, signed with a "clutching hand." The latest victim of the mysterious assassin is Taylor Dodge, the insurance president. His daughter, Elaine, employs Craig Kennedy, the famous scientific detective, to try to unravel the mystery. What Kennedy accomplishes is told by his friend Jameson, a newspaper man. After many fruitless attempts to put Elaine and Craig Kennedy out of the way the Clutching Hand is at last found to be none other than Perry Bennett, Elaine's lawyer and the man she is engaged to marry. Bennett flees to the den of one of his Chinese criminals. The Chinaman forces from Bennett the secret of the whereabouts of \$750,000. Then he gives the lawyer a poison which will suspend animation for months. Kennedy reaches Bennett's side just after he has lost consciousness and supposes him dead.

SIXTEENTH EPISODE

THE CRYPTIC RING.

Kennedy had been engaged for some time in the only work outside of the Dodge case which he had consented to take for weeks.

Our old friend, Dr. Leslie, the coroner, had appealed to him to solve a very ticklish point in a Tong murder case which had set all Chinatown agog. It was, indeed, a very bewildering case. A Chinaman named Li Chang, leader of the Chang Wah Tong, had been poisoned, but so far no one had been able to determine what poison it was or even to prove that there had been a poison, except for the fact that the man was dead, and Kennedy had taken the thing up in a great measure because of the sudden turn in the Dodge case which had brought us into such close contact with the Chinese.

I had been watching Kennedy with interest, for the Tong was always make picturesque newspaper stories, when a knock at the door announced the arrival of Dr. Leslie, anxious for some result.

"Have you been able to find out anything yet?" he greeted Kennedy eagerly as Craig looked up from his microscope.

Kennedy turned and nodded. "Your dead man was murdered by means of aconite, of which, you know, the active principle is the deadly alkaloid aconitine."

"There are several treatments for aconite poisoning," ruminated Kennedy. "I would say that one of the latest and best is digitalin given hypodermically." He took down a bottle of digitalin from a cabinet, adding, "only it was too late in this case."

Just what the relations were between Long Sin and the Chong Wah Tong I have never been able to determine exactly. But one thing was certain: Long Sin on his arrival in New York had offended the Tong, and now that his master, Wu Fang, was here the offence was even greater, for the criminal society brooked no rival.

In the dark recesses of a poorly furnished cellar, serving as the Tong headquarters, the new leader and several of his most trusted followers were now plotting revenge. Long Sin, they believed, was responsible for the murder, and, with truly Oriental guile, they had obtained a hold over Wu Fang's secretary.

Their plan decided on, the Chinamen left the headquarters and made their way separately uptown. They rejoined one another in the shelter of a rather poor house, before which was a board fence, in the vicinity of a fashionable apartment house. A moment's conference followed, and then the secretary glided away.

Wu had taken another apartment uptown in one of the large apartment houses near a parkway.

There Long Sin was now engaged in making all possible provisions for the safety of his master. Anyone who had happened to glance up at the roof of the tall apartment building might have seen Long Sin's figure silhouetted against the sky on the top of the mansard roof near a flagpole.

He had just finished fastening to the

flagpole a stout rope which stretched taut across an areaway some twenty or thirty feet wide to the next building, where it was fastened to a chimney. Again and again he tested it, and finally with a nod of satisfaction descended from the roof and went to the apartment of Wu.

There, alone, he paused for a few minutes to gaze in wonder at the cryptic ring which had been the net result so far of his efforts to find the millions which Bennett, as the Clutching Hand, had hidden. He wore it, strangely enough, over his index finger, and as he examined it he shook his head in doubt.

Neither he nor his master had yet been able to fathom the significance of the ring.

Long Sin thought that he was unobserved. But outside, looking through the keyhole, was Wu's secretary, who had stolen in on the mission which had been set for him at the Tong headquarters.

Long Sin went over to a desk and opened a secret box in which Wu had placed several packages of money with which to bribe those whom he wished to get into his power. It was Long Sin's mission to carry out this scheme, so he packed the money into a bag, drew his coat more closely about him and left the room.

No sooner had he gone than the secretary hurried into the room, paused a moment to make sure that Long Sin was not coming back, then hurried over to a closet near by.

From a secret hiding place he drew out a small bow and arrow. He sat down at a table and hastily wrote a few Chinese characters on a piece of paper, rolling up the note into a thin quill which he inserted into a prepared place in the arrow.

Then he raised the window and deftly shot the arrow out.

Down the street, back of the board fence, where the final conference had taken place, was a rather sleepy-looking Chinaman, taking an occasional puff at a cigarette doped with opium.

He jumped to his feet suddenly. With a thud an arrow had buried itself cutvering in the fence. Quickly he seized it, drew out the note and read it.

In the Canton vernacular it read briefly: "He goes with much money." It was enough. Instantly the startling news overcame the effect of the dope, and the Chinaman shuffled off quickly to the Tong headquarters.

Long Sin was making his rounds, visiting all those whom the glitter of Wu's money could corrupt.

Suddenly from the shadows of a narrow street, lined with the stores of petty Chinese merchants, half a dozen lithe and murderous figures leaped out behind Long Sin and seized him. He struggled, but they easily threw him down.

The half dozen Tong men seized the money which Long Sin carried and deftly stripped him of everything else of value.

It was the day after he return from Aunt Tabby's that Kennedy called again upon Elaine to find that she and Aunt Josephine were engaged in the pleasant pastime of arranging an entertainment.

Jennings announced Craig and held back the portieres as he entered.

"Oh, good!" cried Elaine as she saw him. "You are just in time. I was going to send you this, but I should much rather give it to you."

She handed him a tastefully engraved sheet of paper which he read with interest:

Miss Elaine Dodge requests the honor of your presence at an Oriental Reception on April 6th, at 8 o'clock.

"Very interesting," exclaimed Craig enthusiastically. "I shall be delighted to come."

He looked about a moment at the library which Elaine was already rearranging for the entertainment.

"Then you must work," she cried playfully. "You are just in time to help

me buy the decorations. No objections—come along."

Among the many places which Elaine had down on her shopping list was a small Chinese curio shop on lower Fifth avenue.

They entered and were greeted with a profound bow by the proprietor. He was the new Tong leader, and this uptown shop was his cover.

Elaine explained what it was she wanted, and with Kennedy's aid selected a number of Chinese hangings and decorations. They were about to leave the shop when Elaine's eye was attracted by a little showcase in which were many quaint and valuable Chinese ornaments in gold and silver and covered with ivory.

"What an odd looking thing," she said, pointing out a nobbed ring which reposed on the black velvet of the case.

"Quite odd," agreed Kennedy.

The subtle Chinaman stood by the pile of hangings on the counter which Elaine had bought, overjoyed at such a large sale. Praising the ring to Elaine, he turned insinuatingly to Kennedy. There was nothing else for Craig to do—he bought the ring, and the Chinaman proved his ability as a merchant.

From the curio shop where Elaine had completed her purchases they drove to Kennedy's laboratory.

We were in the midst of planning the entertainment when a slight cough behind me made me start and turn quickly.

There stood Long Sin, the astute Chinaman who had delivered the bomb to Kennedy and had betrayed Bennett. We had seen very little of him since then.

Long Sin bowed low and shuffled over closer to Kennedy. I noticed that Elaine eyed Long Sin sharply.

"I am in great trouble, Professor Kennedy," began Long Sin in a low tone. "You don't know the Chinese of this city, but if you did you would know what blackmailers there are among them. I have refused to pay blackmail to the Chong Wah Tong and since then it has been trouble, trouble trouble."

Kennedy looked up quickly at the name Chong Wah Tong, thinking of the investigation which the coroner had asked him to make into the murder. He and Long Sin moved a few steps away, discussing the affair.

Elaine and I were still talking over the entertainment.

She happened to place her hand on the desk near Long Sin. My back was toward him and I did not see him start suddenly and look at her hand. On it was the ring—the ring which, unknown to us, Long Sin had found in the passageway under Aunt Tabby's garden, of which he had been robbed.

Long Sin decided to recover the ring by stealth.

Elaine was still talking enthusiastically about her party, when Long Sin turned from Kennedy and moved toward us with a bow.

"The lady speaks of an Oriental reception," he remarked. "Would she care to engage a magician?"

Elaine turned to him surprised. "Do you mean that you are a magician?" she asked, puzzled.

Long Sin smiled quietly. He reached over and took a small bottle from Kennedy's laboratory table. Holding it in his hand almost directly before us, he made a few slight-of-hand passes and, presto! the bottle had disappeared. A few more passes, and a test tube appeared in its place. Before we knew it he had caused the test tube to disappear and the bottle to reappear. We all applauded enthusiastically.

"I don't think that is such a bad idea after all," nodded Kennedy to Elaine.

It was the night of the reception. The Dodge library was transformed. The Oriental hangings which Elaine and Kennedy had purchased seemed to breathe mysticism. At the far end of the room a platform had been arranged to form a stage on which Long Sin was to perform his sleight of hand.

Almost everybody had arrived when Elaine turned to the guests and introduced Long Sin with a little speech.

I shall not attempt to describe the amazing series of tricks which he performed. His hands and fingers seemed to move like lightning.

He had finished and every one crowded about him to congratulate him on his skill. His only answer, however, was his inscrutable smile.

"This is wonderful, wonderful," I repeated as I happened to meet Elaine alone. We walked into the conservatory while the guests were crowding around Long Sin. She seated herself for the first time during the evening.

"May I get you an ice?" I suggested. She thanked me, and I hurried off. As I passed through the drawing room I did not notice that Long Sin had managed to escape further congratulations of the guests. Just then a waiter passed through with ices on a tray. I called to him and he stopped.

A moment later Long Sin himself took an ice from the tray and retreated back of the portieres. No one was about, and he hastily drew a bottle from his pocket. On the bottle was a Chinese label. He palmed the bottle, and anyone who had chanced to see him would have noticed that he passed it two or three times over the ice, then, lifting the portieres, entered the drawing room again.

He had made the circuit of the rooms in such a way as to bring himself out directly in my path. With a smile he stopped before me, rubbing both hands together.

"It is for Miss Elaine?" he asked.

"I nodded.

By this time several of the guests

Greetings:

We desire to express herein our appreciation for the patronage of the year ending today and wish for our patrons, friends and all others a prosperous and happy New Year.

We extend to all an invitation to transact their banking business with us during 1916 and assure you every accomodation consistent with sound banking.

The First National Bank
Of Tahoka

P.S. We thank those who rendered us assistance in yesterday's fire and are thankful that their efforts saved us from any damage.—F. N. B.

who were fascinated with Long Sin gathered about us. Long Sin fluttered open a Chinese fan which he had used in his tricks, passed it over my hand, and in some incomprehensible way I felt the plate with the ice literally disappear from my grasp. My face must have shown my surprise. A burst of laughter from the other guests greeted me. I looked at Long Sin, half angry, yet unable to say anything, for the joke was plainly on me. He smiled, made another pass with the fan, and instantly the plate with the ice was back in my hand.

Meanwhile Kennedy had been moving from one to another of the guests seeking Elaine. He had already taken an ice from the waiter and was going in the direction of the conservatory. There he found her.

"Won't you take this ice?" he asked, handing it to her.

"It is very kind of you," she said, "but I have already sent Walter for one."

Kennedy insisted and she took it. She had already started to eat it when I appeared in the doorway.

Kennedy laughed, rather pleased at having beaten me.

"Never mind, Walter," he said with a smile, "I'll take it. And er—I don't think that Elaine will object if you play the host for a little while with Aunt Josephine," he hinted.

Kennedy, however, was not alone. Back in the palms in the conservatory two beady black eyes were eagerly watching.

Chatting with animation, Kennedy tasted the ice. He had taken only a couple of spoonfuls when a look of wonder and horror seemed to spread over his face.

He rose quickly. A cold sweat seemed to break out all over him. His nerves almost refused to respond.

He took only a few steps, began to stagger, and finally sank down on the floor.

Elaine screamed.

We rushed in from the library and drawing room.

He had fallen near the fountain and one hand drooped over into the water. As he fell back he seemed to have only just enough strength to withdraw his hand from the fountain. On the stone coping, slowly and laboriously, he moved his finger.

"What's the matter, old man?" I asked, bending over him.

There was no answer, but he managed to turn his head, and I followed the direction of his eyes.

With trembling finger he was tracing out, one by one, some letters. I looked and it flashed over me what he meant. He had written with the water: "Digitalin—lab!"

I jumped up and almost without a word dashed out of the conservatory, down the hall and into the first car waiting outside.

"To the laboratory," I directed, giving the driver the directions, "and drive like the deuce!"

Fortunately there was no one to stop us, and I know we broke all the speed laws of New York. I dashed into the laboratory, almost broke open the cabinet, and seized the bottle of digitalin and a hypodermic syringe, then rushed madly out again and into the car.

Meanwhile some of the guests had lifted up Kennedy, too excited to notice Long Sin in his hiding place. They had laid Craig down on a couch and were endeavoring to revive him. Someone had already sent for a doctor, but the aconite was working quickly on its victim.

to become more normal.

The antidote had been given in time. Kennedy was considerably broken up by the narrow escape which he had had, and, naturally, even the next morning, did not feel like himself.

In the excitement of leaving Elaine's we had forgotten the bottle of digitalin.

Kennedy looked rather wan and peaked, but insisted on going to the laboratory as usual.

"Do you remember what became of the bottle of digitalin?" he asked, fumbling in the closet.

"Mechanically I felt in my own pockets; it was not there. I shook my head.

"I don't seem to remember what became of it—perhaps we left it there. In fact, we must have left it there."

"I don't like to have such things lying around loose," remarked Kennedy, taking up his hat and coat with forced energy. "I think we had better get it."

Elaine had spent rather a sleepless night after the attempt to poison her which had miscarried and resulted in poisoning Kennedy.

To keep her mind off the thing, she had already started to take down the decorations.

The telephone rang and Elaine answered it. Her face showed that something startling had happened.

"It was Jameson," she cried, almost dropping the receiver, overcome.

They all hurried to her. "He says that Mr. Kennedy and he were visiting that Chinaman this morning and Mr. Kennedy suffered a relapse—lying there, in the Chinaman's apartment. He wants us to come quickly and bring that medicine that they used last night. He says it is on the taret in the library."

It was only a matter of minutes when they pulled up before the apartment house where Wu had taken the suite from which Long Sin had telephoned the message in my name. Together Elaine and Aunt Josephine hurried in.

Kennedy went directly from the laboratory to the Dodge house.

I don't think I ever saw such an expression of surprise on anybody's face as that on Jennings' when he opened the door and saw us. He was agast. Back of him we could see Marie. She looked as if she had seen a ghost.

"Is Miss Elaine in?" asked Kennedy. Jennings was even too dumfounded to speak.

"Why, what's the matter?" demanded Kennedy.

"Then—er—you are not ill again?" he managed to blurt out.

"Ill again?" repeated Kennedy. "Why," explained Jennings, "didn't Mr. Jameson just now telephone that you had had a relapse in the apartment of that Chinaman, and for Miss Elaine to hurry over there right away with that bottle of medicine?"

Kennedy waited to hear no more. Seizing me by the arm, he turned and dashed down the steps and back again into the taxicab in which we had come.

In Wu's apartment Long Sin was giving his secretary and another Chinaman the most explicit instructions. As he finished each nodded and showed him a Chinese dirk concealed under his blouse.

Just then a knock sounded at the door. The secretary opened it, and Josephine and Elaine almost ran in. Long Sin rose and bowed with a smile.

"Where is Mr. Kennedy?" demanded Elaine.

Long Sin bowed again, spreading out his hands, palms outward. "Mr. Kennedy? He is not here." Then, straightening up, he faced the

Continued on next page

Colorado Field Fence

DISTANCE BETWEEN BARS INCHES	
11 BARS	55 IN
10 BARS	47 IN
9 BARS	39 IN
8 BARS	32 IN
7 BARS	26 IN
6 BARS	20 IN
5 BARS	15 IN
4 BARS	11 IN
3 BARS	8 IN
2 BARS	5 IN

The Drawing Tells The Story Better Than Words. For sale by

A. G. McAdams Lumber Company,
Complete Line Building Material, Windmills, Fencing
Posts, Paint and Glass in Stock

Exploits of Elaine

Two women squarely. "You have a ring that means much to me," he said quickly. "The only way to get it from you was to bring you here."

Aunt Josephine was standing with her back to the door leading into another room. She happened to look up and saw the secretary, who was near her and half turned away. From where she was standing she could see the murderous dirk up his sleeve.

She acted instantly. Without a word she summoned all her strength and struck him. The secretary stumbled. "Elaine," she cried, "look out! they have knives."

Before Elaine knew it Aunt Josephine had taken her by the arm, had dragged her into the back room, and, although Long Sin and the others had rushed forward, managed to slam the door and lock it.

The Chinamen set to work immediately to pry it open.

While they were at work on the door, which was already swaying, Aunt Josephine and Elaine were running about, trying to find an outlet from the room.

There seemed to be no way out. Even the windows were locked.

"I don't know why they want the ring," whispered Aunt Josephine, "but they won't get it. Give it to me, Elaine."

She almost seized the ring, hiding it in her waist. As she did so the door burst open and Wu, Long Sin and the other Chinamen rushed in.

A second later they had seized Elaine and Aunt Josephine.

Kennedy and I dashed up before the apartment house in which we knew that Long Sin lived, leaped out of the car and hurried in.

It was on the second floor, and we did not wait for the elevator but took the steps two at a time. Kennedy found the door locked. Instantly he whipped out his revolver and shot the lock in pieces. We threw ourselves against the door, the broken lock gave way and we rushed in through the front room.

No one was there, but in a back room we could hear sounds. It was Elaine and Aunt Josephine struggling with the Chinamen. Long Sin and the others had seized Elaine and Aunt Josephine was trying to help her just as we rushed in. With a blow Kennedy knocked out the secretary, while I struggled with the other Chinamen who blocked our way.

Then Kennedy went directly at Long Sin. They struggled furiously.

Long Sin, with his wonderful knowledge of jiu jitsu, might not have been a match for six other Chinamen, but he was for one white man. With a mighty effort he threw Kennedy, rushed for the door and, as he passed through the outside room, seized a Tong ax from the wall.

Afraid of the wonderful jiu jitsu, I had picked up the first thing handy, which was a taboret. I literally broke it over the head of my Chinaman, then

turned and dashed out after Long Sin just as Kennedy picked himself up and followed.

I caught up with the Chinaman and we had a little struggle, but he managed to break away and raised his ax threateningly. A shout from Kennedy caused him to turn and run down the flight of stairs, Kennedy closely behind him.

In the main hall of the apartment house were two elevator shafts facing the street entrance, some twenty-five or thirty feet away. Through the street door the janitor and two or three other men were running in. They had heard the noise of the fighting above.

Escape to the street was cut off. We were behind him on the flight of stairs.

Long Sin did not hesitate a moment. He ran to the elevator, the door of which was open, seized the elevator boy and sent him sprawling on the marble floor. Then he slammed the door and the elevator shot up.

Kennedy was only a few feet behind, and he took in the situation at a glance. He leaped into the other elevator, and before the surprised boy could interfere shot it up only a few feet behind Long Sin.

It was a wild race to the roof. Long Sin had the start, and as the elevator reached the top floor he flung it open, dashed out and through a door up to the roof itself.

A second later Kennedy's elevator stopped. Craig leaped out and fired his last shot at the legs of Long Sin as he disappeared at the top of the flight of stairs to the roof. He flung the revolver from him and followed.

Without a moment's hesitation Kennedy threw himself at Long Sin. They struggled with each other. Finally Long Sin managed to wrench one arm loose and raise the Tong ax over Ken-

REVIEW OF THE GREAT WAR AND OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS OF THE YEAR 1915

European Conflict Develops Into a Struggle to the Death, With Deadlock on Eastern and Western Fronts—Serbia Overrun by Teutons and Bulgarians—Trying Period for the United States—General Carranza Recognized as President of Mexico.

THE EUROPEAN WAR

The year 1915 has been so distinctive from a historic viewpoint that in all the ages to come it will stand apart from those that have preceded it and from those which are to follow. During its entire length, the greater nations of the European continent have abandoned themselves to a policy of bloodshed which has fallen little short of delirium. To the neutral onlooker it has been a revival on a huge scale of the irrational and murderous activity which characterized the earlier ages of mankind. It has been the complete overthrow of all the pacific theories which had apparently gained so strong a foothold at the time of the firing of the first gun in the present conflict.

At the beginning of the year, it was evident that it was to be a struggle to the death. It was plain that the Teutonic plan to force a speedy settlement by dint of superior armed preparedness had failed. Six months had elapsed and the Teutonic allies were still faced by three great nations, their strength unbroken and their determination inflexible. Austria had been driven repeatedly by her Russian invaders and twice the Serbs had routed Austrian armies sent against them. On other fields, also, Teutonic efforts had been futile. Thus far Turkey had been of little assistance and the holy war had failed to come into being. German Southwest Africa had been lost and German influence in Asia had been smothered by the Japanese.

As an offset, the Germans still held practically all the conquered territory which had fallen into their hands. Their lines still held firmly in Poland, in Flanders and in France. It was apparent that as yet the Teutonic combination showed no sign of weakening, and a war of attrition seemed inevitable. Both in the east and in the west the military operations of the early part of the year were practically without decisive result. The fighting in Poland had resolved itself into a complete deadlock. In January, the French-English combine made three attempts to break the Teutonic hold on French territory, but accomplished little. The German unsuccessful drive at Warsaw and the rout of the Austrians in Galicia left a slight balance in the January fighting in favor of the allies.

Kennedy dodged back. As he did so he tripped on the very edge of the roof and went sliding down the slates of the mansard.

Fortunately he was able to catch himself in the gutter. It was the opportunity that Long Sin wanted. He started across the rope, which he had stretched from the apartment house to the building across the court, with all the deftness of the most expert Chinese acrobat.

By this time I had reached the roof, followed by the janitor and the elevator boys. Kennedy was now crawling up the mansard, helping himself as best he could by some of the ornamental ironwork.

Long Sin had reached the roof on the opposite side as we ran across in the direction of the taut rope.

A moment later he turned and bowed at us mockingly, then disappeared behind a skylight.

Kennedy did not stop an instant. "You fellows go to the street and see if you can head him off that way," he cried. "Stay here, Walter."

Before I knew it he had seized the rope and was going across to the other building hand over hand. It was a perilous undertaking.

Kennedy had almost reached the other roof when suddenly from behind the skylight stepped Long Sin. With a wicked leer, he advanced to the edge of the roof, his ax upraised. I looked across the yawning chasm, horrified.

Slowly Long Sin raised his ax above his head, gathering all the strength which he had, waiting for Kennedy to approach closer. Kennedy stopped. Swiftly the ax descended, slashing the rope at one blow.

Like the weight of a pendulum Kennedy swung back against our own building, managing to keep his hold

From a strictly military viewpoint, February was a promising month for the Teutonic allies. By the middle of the month, German troops were advancing all along the front from the Vistula to the Niemen, and thus, seven months after the breaking out of the war, German soil was practically cleared of its Russian invaders. The deadlock on the western front was still unbroken.

Scene Shifts to Dardanelles.

With the advent of March, there came a sudden and dramatic change in the war situation. The scene of military activity was shifted to the Dardanelles. By the third week of the month, Rome, Athens, Sofia and Bucharest were centers of great political activity. The surrender of Przemysl, March 22, was the most stirring victory for the allies since the battle of the Marne. The German assertion that the military power of Russia had dwindled into insignificance was disproved at once and the allied cause gained instant strength in all the neutral capitals. One of the greatest strongholds in Europe had been taken by the Russians.

The disaster to the allied fleet at the Dardanelles, which occurred during the third week of March, put an end to the expectation of forcing the straits by naval means alone. German prestige advanced perceptibly and the difficulty of the task undertaken by the allied fleet was now understood. In this month, also, the British won the bloody battle of Neuve Chapelle after a bloody fight.

In April the French made a bold offensive stroke against the German position between the Meuse and the Moselle—the famous St. Mihiel wedge—which resulted in a tremendous loss of men on both sides, with small advantage for either. Nowhere had the allies made appreciable gain in territory. The invader held his own stubbornly and with success. About the middle of the month, Zeppelins made their appearance over English towns, inspiring great interest and not a little apprehension, but doing comparatively small damage. About this time also the attempted submarine blockade of the British coast proved to be ineffective. In the closing days of the month, the British won a tremendous shattering of glass.

The rope had been just long enough to make him strike a window and he had gone crashing through the glass three floors below.

I dashed down the stairs and into the apartment. Kennedy was badly cut.

"Help me, quick, Walter," he urged, moving toward the elevators.

Meanwhile Long Sin had quickly dived down into the next building. A few moments later he had come out on the ground floor at the rear.

Gazing about to see whether he was followed, he disappeared.

Back in the apartment Elaine and Aunt Josephine were just about to run out when the two Chinamen who had been knocked out recovered. One of them threw himself on Elaine. Aunt Josephine tried to ward him off, but the other one struck her and threw her down.

Before she could recover they had seized Elaine.

With a hasty guttural exclamation they picked her up and ran out. Instead of going downstairs they crossed the hallway, slamming the door behind them.

As Kennedy and I reached the ground floor we saw the janitor and one of the elevator boys on either side of Aunt Josephine.

"Elaine! Elaine!" she cried.

"What's the matter?" demanded Kennedy, leaning heavily on me.

"They have kidnaped her," cried Aunt Josephine.

Kennedy pulled himself together.

"Tell me, quick—how did it happen?" he demanded of Aunt Josephine.

"It was the ring," she cried, handing it to him.

Kennedy took the ring and looked at it for a moment. Then he turned to us blankly.

All the rooms were empty. Elaine had been spirited away.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Honesty Is The Best Policy Besides being right

We could not afford to misrepresent, in the slightest degree, anything that we sell, because we realize that every permanent success is based upon the principle that— "Honesty is the Best Policy"

EDWARDS BROS.

Grain, Hay, Coal, Salt, Cotton and Cotton Seed Products ONE BLOCK NORTH OF DEPOT WAGON YARD IN CONNECTION

of the month another great Teutonic offensive swept against the allied lines in Belgium, thrusting the enemy back upon Ypres, with great loss of life on both sides.

In May the Germans sent their best troops to the aid of the hard-pressed Austrians. By the middle of the month they had worked a startling change in the situation. Przemysl was retaken, the Russian campaign in Galicia was shattered and the czar's armies were soon back where they started out in the previous September. Russia had suffered the greatest disaster in the war. A new German military hero had been revealed in the person of Mackensen, who was now held with Hindenburg in popular esteem.

In the last days of the month, Italy joined forces with the allies against Austria-Hungary.

Fall of Warsaw.

The campaign in the West was strangely quiescent. The allies kept to their trenches and the outside world wondered. Up to June 15 there was no claim of progress by the allies. The Teutonic claim that its side was still engaged in successful warfare on all fronts was not disputed. The splendid resistance interposed by the discredited Turks came as a surprise to the world. Russia was unable to rally her badly demoralized forces to make a winning defense of Lemberg. Once that point had fallen, Warsaw became the main objective. It was not until August 6 that German troops made their triumphal entry into Warsaw, capital of Russian Poland.

September marked a decided change in the Teutonic campaign in the East. Vilna fell on September 9, but immediately afterward the Russians won a series of successes over the Austrians, capturing 40,000 prisoners. The escape of the Russian armies from the net planned by the German strategists was complete. The great Teutonic drive was brought to a halt and in December the Germans withdrew slightly and entrenched for the winter.

The month of October marked a decided revival of military activity on all fronts. After a long period of comparative quiet in the West, a desperate offensive movement was made by the allies. The French drive in Champagne was one of the bloodiest attempts yet made to pierce the German lines. After three weeks of incessant gunfire, the French troops left their trenches, September 25, and rushed the whole of the first German line. Nearly 20,000 German prisoners were captured, and upward of a hundred field guns, thus far the greatest single capture by the French during the war. But the Germans were not compelled to relinquish any great amount of territory. In Artois the allies did not succeed in breaking through the German lines, but secured some coveted positions at an appalling cost.

This brief period of allied success was followed by an unexpected turn of political affairs in the Balkans. For a second time the Greek king showed his lack of sympathy with the allies. In the spring he had prevented Venizelos, his premier, an avowed supporter of the allies, from sending troops to the Dardanelles. Now, when the allies were depending upon the Greeks to hold the Bulgarians in check, Constantine declined again to act.

Serbia is Overrun.

Bulgaria announced her intention to cast her lot with the central powers and the latter opened a campaign having Turkish relief for its apparent objective. On October 10 the Germans crossed the Danube and proceeded to advance southward, every step contested furiously by the outnumbered Serbs. France, England and Italy declared war on Bulgaria. All at once the center of military activity was transferred to the Balkans.

In November both the long-expected allied offensive in the West and the

Continued on Back Page

See WILSON LUMBER CO. Wilson, Texas

For high class building material of all kinds: Paints, oils, varnishes, builder's hardware, implements, wagons, wire, posts, windmills, and windmill supplies of all kinds.

First Class Lumber Always In Stock

See our stock and let us figure with you: We have satisfied others, Why Not You?

Wilson Lumber Company, Wilson, Texas



Round Trip Excursion

Fares to All Points

Account Xmas and New Year Holidays. Ask J. L. Heare, Agt.

GAMBLE GARAGE

Open Day and Night, All Work Guaranteed Free Air, Gasoline and Oil Located On the South Side of the Square Tahoka, Texas

A carload Pekin wagons Just arrived—Second growth hickory apokes and axles. Also line of Wetter Stoves and Heaters "Best Stoves on Earth"

Auto Casings and Tubes—Dry Cell Batteries G. L. Williams

Hardware, Harness, Saddles—South Side of the Square in Sho Uder Shoe and leather Repair Expert Workman Work done Satisfactorily

Exhilarating Ideal Refreshment
Energy Builder EdMate As Fountain 5c

Why Not? Use Medicated Salt Before You Lose Any More Yearlings From The Blackleg. If You Need Any Medicated Salt Or Feed Remember That D. T. ROGERS Sells It.

P. H. Northcross

Miss Bertha Bauder, Manager

G. E. Lockhart

West Texas Abstract Company

ABSTRACTING A SPECIALTY

Five Years Experience In The Abstract Business Enables Us To Give You The Best Service Obtainable. Work Entrusted To Us Will Be Treated Strictly Confidential

Your Business Will Be Appreciated

Office In Court House, Tahoka, Texas

REVIEW OF THE GREAT WAR AND OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS OF THE YEAR 1915

Teutonic drive in the East came practically to an end. The allies failed to break the stubborn German lines and only achieved a possible moderate success in Champagne and Artois at tremendous cost. By the middle of the month military operations in Russia were practically at a standstill, the Germans having failed to accomplish the object of their campaign. At that time the big German drive to the Golden Horn began to monopolize the attention of the public. The preliminary invasion of Serbia by the Teutonic allies—now including Bulgaria—was begun with notable promptness. In fact, as early as October 27, the invading armies met in the northeastern part of the kingdom, by November 1 Krágujevatz, the chief Serbian arsenal, had fallen, and by November 6 the Bulgarians were in Nish, Serbia's provisional capital and railroad center. By November 15 it was announced that the invading armies held four-fifths of Serbia, and toward the close of the month Germany declared officially that the campaign was over. By the middle of December the Franco-British forces had been driven out of Serbia. They fell back to Saloniki, which, with the consent of Greece, they prepared to defend.

Since May 24, when the Italian army crossed the Austrian frontier, the fighting has been continuous, especially along the Isonzo front. The strongly fortified and stubbornly defended town of Goritz was the Italian objective for weeks. In October the Austrian aeroplanes dropped bombs upon Venice, destroying art specimens and damaging a church. The Italian liner Ancona, bound for New York, was sunk by a submarine flying the Austrian flag on November 9. More than a hundred passengers were killed, including several Americans. The United States made a vigorous demand on Austria to disavow the act and punish the commander of the submarine.

On December 15 the British war office announced that Gen. Sir Douglas Haig had superseded Field Marshal Sir John French as British commander in France and Flanders.

WAR AND THE UNITED STATES

Strictly neutral as has been the policy elected by this country, the government has been brought face to face with many serious problems which have arisen from the conduct of the European war. One of these was the seizure and detention by Great Britain of vessels carrying American goods to neutral ports in Europe. A protest was made by Washington and on January 10 Great Britain replied by offering reasonable redress for any mistake of that nature.

Early in February, Great Britain decided to seize grain and flour shipments to Germany even if intended for noncombatants, and, two days later, Germany declared the waters around Great Britain and Ireland to be a war zone, and announced her purpose to destroy every enemy merchant vessel discovered therein. Neutrals were warned of the danger sure to follow. On February 6, the Atlantic liner Lusitania made the passage from New York to Liverpool flying the American flag as a protection against hostile submarines. On February 10, the United States sent notes to Germany and Great Britain concerning American shipping in the war zone. Germany was warned against committing a breach of the rules of naval warfare and Great Britain was reminded that serious consequences might follow the use of the American flag by British vessels. On February 16, Germany offered to withdraw from her crusade against British merchant ships if the British would permit the sending of food to the civilian population of Germany. On the same day, the British government seized the American ship Wilhelmina, bound for a German port with wheat for civilian consumption.

The German note in reply to the American protest against the submarine blockade disclaimed all responsibility. Great Britain affirmed its intention to send the Wilhelmina to a prize court. In replies to inquiries from the Washington government, neither Germany nor Great Britain showed any disposition to recede from the positions already announced. On April 11, the German ambassador protested to the state department against the attitude of the United States toward the shipment of war materials and British treatment of American trade with Germany. On May 1 the American oil carrier Gulfight was sunk off the Scilly Islands by a German submarine.

Destruction of the Lusitania.
On May 7, the big transatlantic liner Lusitania was sunk by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland, with a loss of nearly 1,200 lives, including upwards of a hundred Americans. On

May 13 the United States protested against the German submarine policy and declared its intention of maintaining the rights of American citizens. On May 25 the American steamer Nebraskan was seriously damaged by a torpedo off the south coast of Ireland. On May 28 the German reply to the United States note of protest in regard to the submarine policy in the so-called "war zone" was received. Final statement of the German position was reserved until a common basis of fact as to the status of the Lusitania should be established. On May 31 Germany made official announcement that the Gulfight had been sunk by a German submarine whose captain failed to recognize the American flag.

On June 8 Secretary of State William J. Bryan resigned his office to avoid signing a second note of protest to Germany against submarine interference with merchant ships. On the following day this note was sent and assurances were asked that in future American ships and lives should be safeguarded. On June 22 the British government sent an official note to the American ambassador explaining efforts made to protect neutral shipping. On June 28 the British steamer Armenian was destroyed by a German submarine off the coast of southern England and a number of Americans in the crew lost their lives.

On July 8 Germany replied to the second Washington note regarding the submarine war against merchant ships, promising safety to United States ships in the war zone if specifically marked, and suggesting that the American flag be placed on four hostile steamers for the safe transportation of American passengers.

More Diplomatic Notes.
On July 21 the United States sent a third note to Germany, with the statement that the German reply to a former note had been "very unsatisfactory," and that a repetition of the acts complained of would be regarded as "deliberately unfriendly." On August 3 several notes from Great Britain concerning interference with American trade in the war zone were made public, in which it was claimed that Great Britain was doing nothing in violation of international law. In the case of the William P. Frye, an American ship sunk by the Prinz Eitel Friedrich, January 23, Germany agreed to furnish indemnity, and the United States accepted the offer and proposed that the matter be referred to The Hague court.

On August 19 the British liner Arabic was torpedoed by a German submarine and several Americans were drowned. A lively diplomatic controversy followed, and the tension in the United States was at the breaking point. On September 7 the German government notified the United States that the captain of the submarine had torpedoed the Arabic in self-defense, believing that she was about to ram him. On September 9 the United States asked Austria-Hungary to recall Doctor Dumba, its ambassador, charged with being active in a movement to cripple American manufacture of munitions. On October 5 the German government disavowed the act of the submarine captain who sank the Arabic. At this time it was announced that the pending French-British loan of \$500,000,000 had been oversubscribed.

The United States secret service, October 24, arrested a young man who called himself Robert Fay and declared that he was a lieutenant in the German army and came to America to destroy merchant vessels of the allies and American munition plants. Early in December, the Washington government demanded the recall of the German attaches, Boy-Ed and Von Papen, on the ground of pernicious activity. They were recalled by the kaiser.

Dr. Carl Buecz, managing director of the Hamburg-American line, and two employees of the company were convicted in New York in December of conspiracy to deceive the government in sending vessels with supplies for German warships.

THE CIVIL WAR IN MEXICO

In the early part of the year it was evident that Francisco Villa had the ambition to become the political Warwick of the republic of Mexico. On January 7 he deposed the provisional governor, Gutierrez, and installed General Garza in his place. He was still master of the situation at the City of Mexico, and Carranza still maintained his stand at Vera Cruz. Meantime, the fighting went on uninterruptedly, with varying results, but none decisive.

In June the situation on the border and elsewhere became so irritating that the United States government felt compelled to give official warning to the factional leaders that failure on

their part to come to some agreement would necessitate intervention. Despite this intimation, the forces of Villa and Carranza continued to keep revolution aflame, and by midsummer the Mexican situation seemed to be more inexplicable than ever. Villa's star waned perceptibly. A new military influence, General Obregon, took the center of the stage. He assumed the leadership of the Carranza faction, and his military successes were considerable. In July General Gonzales, another Carranza supporter, fought his way into Mexico City, displacing General Zapata, who held the place in the Villa interest. Later, Gonzales was driven out and the situation was so threatening to life and property in the capital that, in August, American battleships were ordered to Vera Cruz, but were not put into action. In this month, also, an appeal signed by Secretary of State Lansing and the representatives of South and Central American governments asking all warring elements in Mexico to get together in an attempt at pacification was sent to the various leaders. During September the fighting on the Mexican border grew more desperate. There were many fatalities before United States troops gained control of the situation. On October 19, nine of the principal governments of the American hemisphere, headed by the United States, recognized the de facto government of Mexico of which Carranza is the chief.

OUR LAWMAKERS

The Sixty-third congress came to a close on March 4, its final act of special importance being the adoption of a resolution to strengthen the powers of the president in the enforcement of neutrality laws. Both branches agreed to the conference report on the naval appropriation bill calling for two new battleships, six destroyers and eight submarine tenders. The president's nominations for the promotion of army and navy officers connected with the building of the Panama canal were confirmed by the senate, so that Colonel Goethals and Brigadier General Gorgas became major generals.

On January 23, the West Virginia legislature decided to submit a woman suffrage amendment at the 1916 election. Two days later, in Tennessee, the house passed a bill for a referendum vote on woman suffrage, already passed by the upper house. Arkansas declared for prohibition. In Iowa, prohibition again becomes effective on January 1, 1916. Both Idaho and Utah adopted prohibition bills.

March 5, the North Dakota legislature passed a bill abolishing capital punishment. South Dakota had taken similar action January 30. March 10, Rear Admirals Fletcher, Howard and Cowles were made admirals, a new naval grade established by the last congress. March 18, Governor Spry of Utah vetoed the state-wide prohibition bill. April 7, the Alaska house passed a measure submitting prohibition to the voters. A week later, it agreed to the senate bill abolishing capital punishment. June 3, the government plea to have the United States Steel corporation dissolved was denied by the United States circuit court for New Jersey and the defendant was held to be a lawful enterprise.

Resignation of Bryan.
June 8, William J. Bryan resigned the office of secretary of state, declaring himself out of sympathy with the president's policy toward the European war. On the following day, President Wilson appointed Robert Lansing, counselor for the state department, to take charge of the office. Mr. Lansing was made secretary of state June 23. State-wide prohibition became operative in Alabama on July 1. On July 22, the interstate commerce commission permitted advances in express rates and on August 11 it allowed increases in carload freight rates on 41 railroads in the middle West. On the following day, it ordered reductions in freight rates on anthracite coal. August 24, the Eastman Kodak company was declared to be an illegal combination and ordered dissolved. September 10, the members of the constitutional convention of New York state adopted the proposed constitution, but it was overwhelmingly defeated at the polls November 2. State-wide prohibition triumphed in South Carolina, September 14, by a decisive majority.

President Wilson announced, October 6, his intention to vote for woman suffrage at the special election in New Jersey on October 19. At that election, the proposed constitutional amendment was defeated by a majority of 50,000. November elections were held in eight states. Four of these—Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts and Mississippi—chose governors. In three states—Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania—woman suffrage was rejected by large majorities. In Ohio, a state-wide prohibition measure was defeated by a majority of 35,000. Changes in the national house of representatives reduced the Democratic majority to twenty-five. The Sixty-fourth congress opened December 6. Senator Clarke of Arkansas was elected president pro tem of the senate and Champ Clark was re-elected speaker.

POLITICS IN OTHER LANDS

February 12, the protocol of the anti-opium convention was signed at The Hague by representatives of the United States, China and Holland. March 5, Gen. Vilbrun G. Sam, leader of the revolution which overthrew Davilmar Theodor, was elected president of Haiti. March 7, the popular minister of Greece, Euletherios Venizelos, resigned, his policy of active participation in the war on the side of the allies not meeting the approval of King Constantine. A new ministry was formed, with Demetrios Gounaris at its head, but he was soon succeeded by M. Skouloudis.

April 23, the Danish diet passed a constitutional amendment giving the ballot to women. Before it can become law this measure must also pass the next diet. May 4, Italy repudiated her alliance with Germany and Austria, declaring that Austria's invasion of Serbia constituted a sufficient cause. May 25, the British Liberal ministry was reorganized on a coalition basis, Ex-Premier Balfour, Bonar Law, six other Unionists and a Labor party man accepted portfolios. May 29, Theophile Braga was elected president of Portugal. June 5, the new Danish constitution was signed by King Christian. One of its most important features is the extension of the suffrage to women. July 21, the voters of Alberta, western Canada, carried prohibition by a large majority. In the latter part of the month, a new revolutionary movement broke out in Haiti and the president, General Sam, was killed. The United States cruiser Washington landed marines to stop further carnage. Juan Luis San Fuentes was elected president of Chile on July 25, and Dr. Jose Pardo was inaugurated as president of Peru on August 15.

September 16, a treaty between the United States and Haiti was signed at Port au Prince, providing for American supervision of the finances and police regulation of that republic. General Dartigueuave was recognized as president. In November, it was announced that a majority of the Chinese provinces had voted unanimously for the restoration of the monarchical form of government with President Yuan Shih-kai as emperor, and on December 11 he announced his acceptance of the throne. The Japanese mikado, Yoshihito, was crowned at Kioto November 10.

INDUSTRIAL AGITATION

Early in the year, the meetings of the industrial relations commission, held in New York city, attracted much attention on account of the prominence of some of those who were called to testify. The chief purpose of the investigation was to obtain the opinions of well-known capitalists and employers on the present relations of capital and labor. January 19, guards in a factory near Roosevelt, N. J., fired on a group of striking workmen, killing one man and wounding several others. April 16, in Chicago, 1,600 carpenters went on strike for an increase in wages. June 14, motormen and conductors on the surface and elevated railways of Chicago, 14,000 in all, struck for higher wages and a complete tie-up resulted. The dispute, however, was settled by arbitration after two days of business paralysis. The carpenters' strike in that city, which had crippled the building industry for several months, was ended by a compromise wage agreement July 10. Ten days later, a strike of 60,000 garment makers in New York city was averted by a wage increase of from 12 to 15 per cent.

In July the employees of the Standard Oil plant at Bayonne, N. J., went on strike and serious rioting followed. During the lawlessness which prevailed, two strikers were killed and many policemen and onlookers were injured. After a week of disorder, a wage increase was obtained and the strikers resumed work. July 22, a strike for higher wages and shorter hours at the Remington Arms works, Bridgeport, Conn., resulted in a victory for the employees. August 4, a threatened strike involving 60,000 workers on woman's garments, in New York city, was prevented by an increase in wages.

In September, the long and not infrequently violent dispute over industrial conditions at the mines of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company was brought to an end. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., made an extended visit of investigation to the property and as an outcome suggested a plan for adjusting differences which was accepted by the miners in a formal referendum vote. An agreement was signed to maintain the present wage scale and the eight-hour day until January 1, 1918. The demand for union recognition made by the miners was not granted, but many concessions were made by the company in favor of the employees.

In July a miners' strike practically put a stop to the great Welsh coal industry. After several conferences between Mr. Lloyd George, the Brit-

ish minister of munitions, the colliery owners and representatives of the miners, the trouble was settled July 20, and the men went back to work. Further strikes and lockouts were prohibited by law.

As early as June 30, the state of American foreign trade showed a balance of exports over imports of more than \$1,000,000,000. This was a new experience for the United States.

The yield of wheat for the year, according to the latest reports, exceeds 1,000,000,000 bushels, the largest on record. A corn crop of 3,090,000,000 bushels, at current prices, makes it the most valuable ever harvested in the country. The American oats crop is also one of the most bountiful on record.

LAND AND SEA DISASTERS

A seismic horror which recalled the Messina earthquake of seven years ago, occurred January 13. A large district in central Italy, east of Rome, was laid waste and nearly 30,000 lives were lost. At Avezzano, 96 per cent of the population was destroyed and the property loss was more than \$100,000,000.

February 10, earthquake, hurricane and an accompanying tidal wave visited the American Samoan group and caused great destruction on the Manua islands. In the latter part of June, severe earth shocks were felt through the Imperial valley, in southern California. July 7, a violent storm swept over Missouri, Illinois, Ohio and Indiana and left wide destruction in its wake. July 14, southern China floods destroyed 80,000 persons. Some parts of Canton were ten feet under water. August 3, a cloudburst at Erie, Pa., flooded a large area of the city, drowned 25 persons and caused great damage to property. August 11, an earthquake shock was felt in Italy, and Vesuvius, Etna and Stromboli became active. August 16, a tropical storm which developed into a hurricane struck the Texas coast and raged violently for two days. Nearly 200 persons were the victims of its fury and the property loss was computed in millions. September 29, a hurricane dashed over the lower Mississippi valley and gulf coast, destroying

300 persons and a great amount of property.

January 21, a boiler explosion on the armored cruiser San Diego of the west coast of Mexico resulted in the death of six American sailors. March 2, there was an explosion of gas in a mine at Leyland, W. Va., in which over 100 men were killed outright. March 25 was the date of the shocking submarine accident which resulted in the sinking of the United States boat F-4 during maneuvers in Honolulu harbor. Her entire crew of 31 was drowned. April 3, a Dutch steamer, the Prins Mauritz, foundered off the Virginia coast and 59 persons lost their lives.

On the last day of April, a big fire at Colon, Panama, destroyed 22 blocks, killed 11 persons and entailed a property loss of \$3,500,000. May 23, the land experienced the most considerable wreck in the history of its rail way system. More than 150 persons, mostly soldiers going into quarters, were killed near Carlisle.

Steamer Eastland Horror.
The most conspicuous horror of the year for Americans was the overturning of the excursion steamer Eastland at her pier in the Chicago river, July 24. In broad daylight, a few feet from the shore, 852 persons, largely women and children out for a holiday, were drowned.

A tornado of huge proportions swept over parts of Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and Kansas, November 10, destroying much property and causing the death of a dozen persons. October 28, a parochial school at Foxbody, Mass., which was unprovided with fire escapes, was burned and girls lost their lives. A factory fire in Brooklyn, N. Y., November 4, resulted in the death of 12 persons. On November 10 the gun plant of the Bethlehem Steel company burned with a loss of \$3,600,000, and next day there was a million-dollar fire in the war material plant of the Robbins Sons company at Trenton, N. J. Flames destroyed much of Avila, Catalina island on November 29. The same day an explosion in the DuPont Powder company plant at Wilmington, Del., killed 31. On December 9 the DuPont powder town of Hopewell, Va., was burned down.

Copyright, 1915 by the McClure News

O'DONNELL HOTEL

A. B. YANTIS, Proprietor.

Clean Beds 35 and 50 cents. Best Meals the market affords 35 cents. Especial attention given to Commercial Travelers and Ladies. Located on the Santa Fe, O'Donnell, Texas

Happy New Year To All!



RESOLVED: To get more pleasure out of life during 1916 by spending a few minutes each evening at the



THEATER

10 Cents--ADMISSION--10 Cents

Wilson Mercantile Co.

Wholesale and Retail Dealers In

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Including Hardware, Implements, Harness and Leather Goods

Largest Stock on the South Plains

No Matter How Far You Live You Can Save Money From Us. Nothing Misrepresented

WILSON, on the Santa Fe, Lynn County, Texas

We Treat You Right

Every time you buy Groceries and Dry Goods, Either in Large or Small Quantities S. N. McDaniel, the West Side Merchant, Tahoka, Texas

J. N. JONES

Dealer in

Furniture and Undertaker's