

# NEEDY MARTINIQUE 'SITS ON FORTUNE'

Guards More Than 945 Million in Gold but Can't Spend Any of It Because of Frozen Credits in U. S.—Cash Had Wild Odessey.

By PETER C. RHODES  
United Press Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—Martinique today, short on food, clothing and other necessities because French credits in the United States are frozen, is sitting on a "mountain of gold"—\$945,232,344 worth.

That gold represents a large slice of the Bank of France gold reserves. The French Government, anxious to keep it out of German hands during the military collapse, sent the gold first to Canada, and then to Martinique. It is locked away in the Ft. de Saix at Ft. de France Martinique, guarded by all the available power the French have been able to muster.

United States observers regard the gold as a source of danger, because any of the present belligerents might regard it as more valuable than a military victory.

## A Wild Odessey

The gold had a wild odessey before coming to rest in Martinique. It was loaded aboard the fast cruiser Emile Bertin at Brest on June 12 as the French armies cracked on the Somme. Commander Robert Batet was ordered to dash to Halifax and turn it over to French and Canadian authorities there. He arrived June 18, received the gold, and then American representatives have been allowed to make periodic checks to be sure the French are living up to their word not to send that gold away. The American naval patrol keeps its eye open for anyone trying to get it.

"Sitting on Fortune"

The gold is likely to stay in Martinique until some final settlement is made with France—perhaps until the end of the war. Its presence probably accounts for the reinforced measures of defense taken on the island in recent weeks.

Sitting on this fortune which is almost all that France can still call its own money, Martinique almost starved in the first few months after the armistice. The British blockaded the island for a month, and then the United States put on an unofficial blockade. The U. S. Treasury, by freezing some millions of French dollar credits in American banks, prevented food and supplies from being bought for Martinique as well as France.

The British brought 14,000 sacks of gold coin and bullion, each weighing 132 pounds. All were marked with the stamp of the Le Puy branch of the Bank of France, where France's gold reserve had been stored at the outbreak of war.

## Important to France

That gold, the men in charge of it say, is almost as important to France as the French fleet and the French colonies. If it had fallen to British hands in Halifax, they say, it might have gone into war purchases without further accounting to France. If it were shipped piecemeal on freighters to North Africa either the British blockade patrol or German raiders might seize the ships.

The French in Martinique insisted that Germany had no lien on this

## School News

### Reminder of a Feud



Seven-year-old Jo Anne Osborne, School 28 pupil... looks at the bronze plaque that commemorates a good natured feud in 1891.

### 4 Cars, 4 Thefts, And Nary a Clue

OWNERS OF HIGH-PRICED and new automobiles had a bad time of it here yesterday. Four cars were stolen within two hours and 15 minutes and the police are practically without clues.

The stolen auto roundup:

1. Cadillac driven by Mrs. F. A. Preston, 3529 Central Ave., stolen from 38th and Illinois Sts., at 11:30 a.m.

2. A Buick driven by Robert Lawson, of the Community Motors Co., stolen from 38th and Pennsylvania Sts., at 1:15 p.m.

3. A Buick driven by John Downey, 5510 Central, stolen from 32d St. and Ross St., at 1:35 p.m.

4. A Buick driven by Mary Williams, 4430 N. Meridian St., taken from 38th and Illinois Sts., at 1:45 p.m.

Police were to do two men were seen at 54th and Illinois Sts. driving north in a car answering the description of that of Mr. Lawson. That's all they had to work on.

### NEW ALBANY COLONEL DIES IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9 (U. P.)—Lieut. Col. Otto J. Trunk, 49, died of a heart attack while visiting at the Army Air Corps' Bolling Field, Col. Trunk, who was chief of the information section of the Export Control Administration, is survived by his widow, Mrs. Carrie Marshall Trunk, and a daughter, Joan C. Roth of Washington. He was a World War flier and was born in New Albany, Ind.

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## THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

### MODIFIED MERIT PLAN URGED FOR JUVENILE COURT

Good Workers Should Have Security, Bradshaw Tells Women.

Some form of a modified merit system for the Juvenile Court staff was suggested by Juvenile Court Judge Wilfred Bradshaw in reviewing his two years on the bench at a luncheon of the Indianapolis League of Women Voters at the Columbia Club.

"Judges will come and judges will go," he said, "and that's probably the way it should be."

"But there should be some sort of security of tenure for those in the court who make good, not so much for the benefit of the individual as to keep the gains made through experience."

#### Urge New Survey

Judge Bradshaw said he felt "we honestly have made some progress" in the first half of his term, but he suggested that the League or some other group make a new and independent survey of the court "so we'll know just where we are."

He renewed his objections to the present physical surroundings of the Juvenile Court—in the dingy, dismal basement of the Court House—and added that "I believe no judge ever will be able to go much farther in building a good court until those conditions are corrected."

The court, he said, should not be housed in the same building as the Criminal and other courts, "and the time is coming soon when citizens ought to think the problem over carefully."

#### Doesn't Mention Suit

No direct reference was made to the pending suit to enjoin the removal of the Juvenile Court and Juvenile Detention Home to unused space in the Children's Guardians Home in Irvington.

In reviewing the court's progress in the last two years, Judge Bradshaw said 438 juvenile delinquency cases were before the court last year, a decrease of 140 under the first year of his administration.

"Frankly, we don't know the significance of this," he said. "We are studying it carefully. It might mean that, with the aid of such organizations as this League, we are making definite progress in reducing delinquency. Again it might mean merely a change in our policy of deciding which cases to accept and which to refer to other organizations."

#### Asks New Jurisdiction

The Marion County Juvenile Court is understaffed in comparison with the courts of other counties of similar size, he said, citing Louisville, which he said has less population and twice as much money in its budget.

Discussing pending legislation, he supported proposed bills giving Juvenile Court jurisdiction over adopted children and children born out of wedlock. These changes, he said, would make necessary some increase in personnel of the courts.

Judge Bradshaw was introduced by Mrs. Perry Lesh, chairman of the Citizens Committee formed by the League a decade ago to work out certain reforms in the court. Mrs. Thomas D. Sheerin presided.

It was presented to the school by pupils. A few months later School 32 acquired a flag and the feud started.

That was before the days of Parent-Teacher Associations, but each school had a group of very staunch patrons. They fought for the honor of saying their school was first to display a flag in the city.

#### Records Won for 28

The records won the case for School 28.

The pride of patrons of School 28 could hold no bounds. Maybe, they speculated, their school was first in the nation to display a flag.

In 1923, when the P. T. A. was preparing to erect a commemorative plaque at the school, Miss Jane Graydon, then principal, wrote to Congressman Merrill Moores.

Back came the reply that the national honor belonged to an unnamed log school in western Massachusetts where a flag first was raised in May, 1812.

Only then were the School 28 patrons set back. But a few staunch supporters still wouldn't give in. They wouldn't believe the records.

AND SOME PEOPLE HERE DON'T LIKE 'EM

LONDON, Jan. 9 (U. P.)—A 14-pound bag of onions, held by the postoffice since before Christmas because the address tag had been lost, brought 70 claimants after officials advertised for the owner, it was disclosed today. Onions now are a delicacy in Britain.

### BEWARE OF COLDS NOW!

Contagious Colds are Spreading Take These Time-Tested Precautions

Keep out of crowds as much as possible. Get plenty of rest and sleep. Eat simple food. Drink plenty of water. Keep elimination regular. Don't take needless chances. Don't experiment with untried medications. And be sure to have these two time-tested home-approved treatments on hand, ready for use.

#### At the First Sign of a Cold

Be ready to help prevent many colds from developing. At the first warning, sneeze, sniffle, or irritated feeling in your nose—use Vicks VA-TRO-NOL. Just a few drops up each nostril. Right away you can feel Va-tro-nol stimulating Nature's own cold-fighting defenses. Used in time, it actually helps to keep many colds from developing.

Also use VA-TRO-NOL for swift relief from the suffocating stuffiness and congestion of a head cold.

Now Be Prepared—Get a bottle of Vicks VA-TRO-NOL and a jar of Vicks VAPORUB today and take the above precautions. They may save you a lot of sickness and worry. Be sure to read package enclosures for complete, helpful directions for use.

### STOUT FORESEES U. S. ENTRY BY SUMMER

TORONTO, Ont., Jan. 9 (U. P.)—Rex Stout, American author and friend of President Roosevelt, predicted here today that the United States would be in the war by next summer.

"I've talked to Mr. Roosevelt three times in the last year," he said. "If

I could talk to him again I think I could tell you just about when United States warships will start to convoy British freighters across the Atlantic and as a result, just about when the United States will enter the war."

Mr. Stout said he was not making any predictions, but if he wanted to make some money on it "I'd give you 20-to-1 odds that we'll be in it, say probably by summer."

### ALTER 'THEFT' REPORT

Police yesterday reported that the offices of Seaboard Co., 303 Security Trust Bldg., were robbed some time Tuesday night. They later corrected their report to show that Seaboard Co. has offices instead at Room 30 in 108 E. Washington St. Bldg. and that the robbery took place there instead of the Security Trust Bldg.

### FRIDAY BARGAIN DAY IN WASSON'S BASEMENT

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### Women's and Half Sizes DRESSES

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Special! 7 Misses' Formal in broken sizes and color assortments... each \$3

### JANUARY SALES

### Juniors', Misses' and Women's SPORT COATS

\$7.88

Smart fashions for spring now are featured in the Women's and Half Sizes groups... lovely flatters trimmed with pins, clips and necklaces. Fashion approved materials in mostly blacks and a few colors!

### Specials in COATS Save 1/4, 1/3, 1/2 & More

(5) Fur-Trimmed Coats Were \$10.95. Broken sizes. \$5

(22) Fur-Trimmed Coats Were \$16.95. Broken sizes. \$10

(12) Fur-Trimmed Coats Were \$19.95. Broken sizes. \$15

Just 5 FUR COATS

Sizes 12 to 18!

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Beautiful grey Squirrel Dyed Coney coats with the new York back! Fully lined! Broken sizes for Misses only!

4 Ways to Pay for Your Choice  
1. Wasson's 30-Day Charge Account Plan!  
2. Wasson's Famous Layaway Plan!  
3. Wasson's Deferred Payment Plan!  
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### \$1.25... New Spring HATS

\$1 Ea.

New dressy and casual styles in Fuzzy Felt. Smooth Felt and Fabrics! Many new styles in charming Spring colors. Headsize 22 and 23.

### Rayon Taffeta SLIPS 34c

A limited quantity of fine grade first quality rayon taffeta slips. All are sleek beauties in lace trimmed or tailored styles with adjustable straps! Tearose in sizes 34 to 44.

### 63x108, 72x99 and 63x99

### Famous "HOPE" SHEETS and Cases

88c

Famous "Hope" Sheets and Pillowcases guaranteed for 4 years of ordinary use! Torn to size, with deep hems and positively no dressing! Large twin size, % bed size and twin bed sizes!

### Oil Silk Drape Sets

\$1.99

Pair

Just arrived! Lovely "Pond Lilly" design oil silk drape sets! 54 inches long and 54 inches wide (the pair)! Buffed style in all wanted colors! 6x6 Ft. Shower Curtains (to match). Each \$1.99

### 10% Down Pillows

\$1.98

Each

Just arrived... a new lot of quality 21x27-inch bed pillows with corded edges and feather-proof ticking! Filled with 10% down and 90% small duck feathers!

### Ship Covers! Yard Goods!

Odd lots! Some counter-soiled!

24 only	Rubber Button, Taped Seam Mattress Covers	\$1 Each	69c Each


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