

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. As he entered the port he received secret code instructions advising him that Marshal Henri Philippe Petain already had begun negotiations for an armistice with the German Army. He was ordered to Martinique before the armistice was signed and the gold seized.

Canadian authorities came aboard to tell Batet that a special train, guarded by troops was waiting on the dock to take the gold to Montreal. Batet stalled for nearly two days. Finally he is reported to have threatened to shoot his way out of the harbor.

He got away five days before the armistice was signed. Eluding British warships which followed him that night, the Bertin docked in Ft. de-France on June 22. On June 24 the armistice was signed—but the gold was stored away under Ft. de Saix's guns.

The Bertin 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

gold, even under the original armistice terms. The gold would still permit France to fight again, if she had to, without becoming an auxiliary force of any other power, a sort of French Foreign Legion at the service of another nation, they say. The gold, it was told, has been one of the essential factors in Marshal Petain's recent resistance to excessive German demands.

The United States, it is understood, has expressed its concern that the gold might be shipped to South America for the purchase of war materials or for propaganda purposes, or back to Europe, and thus aid Germany in her fight. When the American delegation led by Admiral John W. Greenleaf visited Martinique on Nov. 1 to discuss all Martinique problems, Admiral Greenleaf was taken to Ft. de Saix and shown the gold. Since 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.

Finally a general agreement concerning the airplanes, gold and warships in the French West Indies was reached with the United States. The agreement was reached just in time for the first load of American flour arrived in Martinique four days after bread had run out. A few minor fights and demonstrations, which might easily have developed into riots, marked those four days when there was no bread.

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 82d St. and Road 31 at 1:35 p. m.
4. A Buick driven by Mary Willis, 4430 N. Meridian St., taken from 38th and Illinois Sts. at 1:45 p. m.

Police were told 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 B. 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. Trunk, both of Washington. He was a World War flyer and was born in New Albany, Ind.

SCHOOL 28 WAS 1ST TO FLY FLAG

Friendly Argument With
Building 32 Settled by
Search of Records.

By EARL HOFF

School buildings and postoffices are easy to spot in strange neighborhoods.

They're all marked by large American flags floating atop tall flagpoles.

But that wasn't true until the middle 20s when a State law was passed requiring each school to display an American flag every school day.

Before that time flags appeared at school only on special days and pupils on their way to class could know immediately that it was Washington's Birthday, Lincoln's Birthday or Discovery Day.

The present practice grew out of a good-natured feud at the turn of the century that is commemorated by a bronze plaque now on the front of School 28 at 931 Fletcher Ave.

Plaque Marks Feud

The plaque, erected in May, 1923, proves that the school was the first in the City to display an American flag.

School 32 at 2110 N. Illinois St. had claimed the honor, but a search of records revealed that on Jan. 22, 1891, when Mrs. Mary Mather Dittmers was principal, School 22 first displayed an American flag.

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 having 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 did 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.

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 yesterday 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."

Urges 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."

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.

OFFICERS INSTALLED BY RELIEF CORPS 44

Officers have been installed at the Maj. Robert Anderson Relief Corps No. 44.

Mrs. Flora Hays of Los Angeles, Calif., and Mrs. Nellie Pfeffer of Indianapolis have presented the Corps with five American flags which were accepted by Mrs. Edith Pauley.

Officers installed were: Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, president; Mrs. Stella Rariden, senior vice president; Mrs. Hazel Spacke, junior vice president; Mrs. Grace E. Hoffmeyer, secretary; Mrs. Nellie Pfeffer, treasurer; Mrs. Nellie Priller, chaplain.

Mrs. Maud Clayton, conductor; Mrs. Evelyn Kosavech, guard; Mrs. Clara Belle Bottorff, patriotic instructor; Mrs. Grace Van Sickle, assistant conductor; and Mrs. Ann Starr, assistant guard. Mrs. Harry Haley was named press correspondent.

"MIDDLE-AGE" WOMEN

HEED THIS ADVICE!!

Thousands of women are helped to go smiling thru distress caused by this period of a woman's life (38 to 52) with Lydia's Pinkham's Vegetable Compound—a famous remedy for over 60 yrs. Try it!

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 VapoRub. Just a few drops up each nostril. Right away you can feel VapoRub stimulating Nature's own cold-fighting defenses. Used in time, it actually helps to keep many colds from developing.

Also use VapoRub for swift relief from the suffocating stuffiness and congestion of a head cold.

If a Cold Develops

(Some colds get by all precautions)

Thoroughly massage throat, chest, and back with Vicks VapoRub, then spread on a thick layer of VapoRub, cover with a warm cloth, and go to bed. VapoRub brings wonderful relief and invites restful sleep. VapoRub stimulates the skin like a warming poultice, while its medicinal vapors are breathed into the cold-irritated air passages. Often when morning comes, most of the cold's discomforts are gone.

Now Be Prepared—Get a bottle of Vicks VapoRub 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 303 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

★ Wasson's Does Not Sell Seconds Nor Substandards ★



Women's and Half Sizes

DRESSES

Made to Sell for \$4.98

★ Rayon Ribs!

★ Rayon Alpaca!

★ Rayon Matelasses!

\$3

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

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

JANUARY SALES

Juniors', Misses' and Women's
SPORT COATS
\$7.88

Smart Tweeds and Reversibles in broken sizes and colors! A marvelous value at this low sale price!

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

(5) Fur-Trimmed Coats \$5

Were \$10.95. Broken sizes.

(22) Fur-Trimmed Coats \$10

Were \$16.95. Broken sizes.

(12) Fur-Trimmed Coats \$15

Were \$18.95. Broken sizes.

\$1.15, \$1.29 Sweaters . . . 79c

All wool sweaters in slip-on and cardigan styles . . . Tyrolean effects and simulated hand knits! Pastel colors! Also dark colors and whites! Sizes 24 to 30.

\$1.98 All Wool Skirts . . . \$1.29

All wool flannels, all wool tweeds and all wool crepes in colors! Also navy, wine, brown, plum and green. New styles! Sizes 24 to 30.

1/2 Price Sale! SLIPPERS 59c

Hard leather or padded leather soles! Many styles to choose from! Women's house slippers at less than half price! Broken sizes!

Short lines of Children's \$1 SLIPPERS! 3 or 4 styles! Sizes 11 to 2. 39c

\$1.25 . . . New Spring HATS \$1 Ea.

New dressy and casual styles in Fuzzy Felt, Smooth Felt and Fabric! Many new styles in charming Spring colors. Headsizes 22 and 23.

Rayon Taffeta SLIPS Ea. 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! Teasore 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, 1/2 bed size and twin bed sizes!

Oil Silk Drape Sets

\$1.99

Pair

Just arrived! Lovely "Fond Lilly" design oil silk drape sets! 54 inches long and 54 inches wide (the pair)! Ruffled style in all wanted colors! 666 Ft. Shower Curtains (to match) . . . Each \$1.99

10% Down Pillows

\$1.98

Each

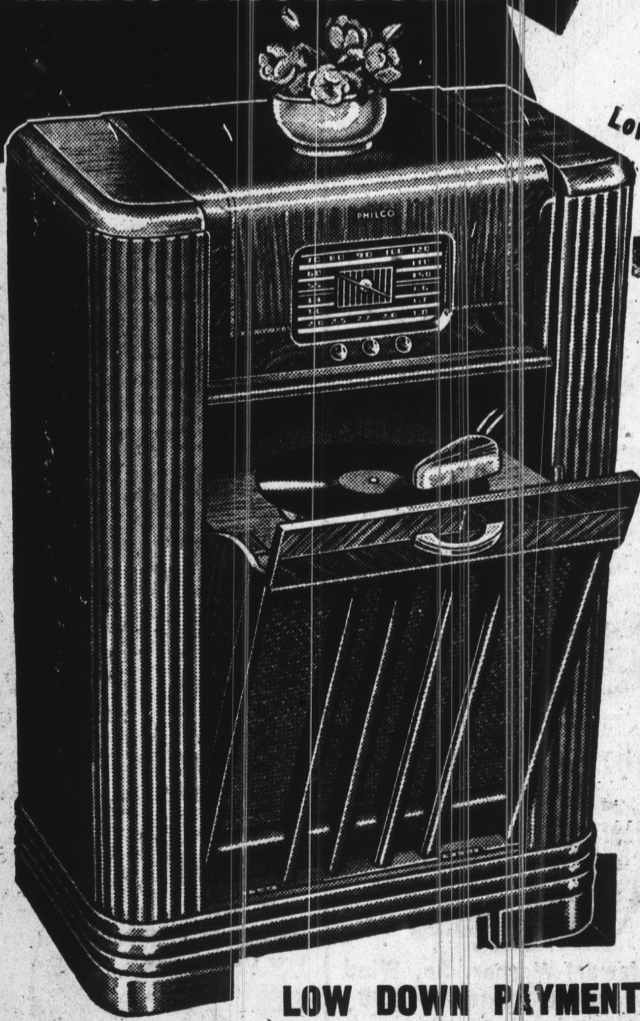
Just arrived . . . a new lot of quality 21x27-inch down pillows with corded edges and feather-proof ticking! Filled with 10% down and 90% small duck feathers!

Bedding! Slip Covers! Yard Goods!

Odd lots! Some counter-soiled!

24 only	Rubber Button, Taped Seam Mattress Covers	\$1 Each	65c Each
16 only	70x90 Solid green 25% Wool Blankets	\$2.99 Each	\$2 Each
121 yards	50-Inch Imported Drapery Damask	\$1 Yard	75c Yard
18 only	Knitted Sofa Covers	\$4.98 Each	\$2 Each
29 only	Odds and Ends of Chenille Bath Mats	\$1-\$1.59	59c Each

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- NO NEEDLES TO CHANGE. The floating jewels lasts for over 30,000 playings . . . 8 to 10 years of normal use.
- RECORDS LAST 10 TIMES LONGER. Play favorite records as many as 700 times without fear of wear.
- NEW TILT-FRONT CABINET of lovely Walnut woods. No lid to lift . . . no dark, awkward compartments. Simple, convenient.
- GLORIOUS NEW PURITY OF TONE. NEW OVERSEAS WAVE-BAND. Gets Europe 5 times easier, 5 times stronger and clearer.
- BUILT-IN AMERICAN AND OVERSEAS AERIAL SYSTEM.
- MANY OTHER NEW FEATURES.

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