

FILE NO. 13—By Emile Gaboriau

Condensation by Isabel Anderson for the Condensed Novel Series

"An exceptionally daring robbery—prominent bank entered—huge sum taken!" were the headlines in a Paris paper.

In following up this extraordinary case the mystery deepened, unheard of crimes were unearthed and thrilling situations occurred which baffled even the celebrated detective, Lecoq. It appeared that upon opening the safe one morning, the cashier startled the clerks by crying out, "I have been robbed!" They gathered about, but strangely enough upon inspection, the safe showed only a scratch, but no sign of having been broken open, although the 350,000 francs were missing that the cashier said he had placed there the day before, in order to pay Count Louis de Clameran, a friend who had been left a legacy by his brother, Gaston. M. Fauvel, the president of the bank, and M. Prosper Bertomé, the cashier, were the only persons who possessed keys to the door and were credited with the knowledge of a word which made up the combination. Although their relations had been like those of father and son, each now accused the other of taking the money.

The clerks were interviewed by the police, and search was made of the apartment over the bank, occupied by the president, his wife, and beautiful niece, Madeline, whose engagement to the cashier had been mysteriously broken off—it was suspected she preferred Mme. Valentine Fauvel's handsome nephew, Raoul Lagors. The president's record was good, but suspicion was directed toward the cashier, as he had been living extravagantly. His arrest followed, although he protested his innocence. During the inspection of the bank and the apprehension of the cashier, he was seen to scribble a line hurriedly and threw it to a clerk. The latter was shadowed to the cashier's apartment and the note procured. It was addressed to Mme. Gypsy, informing her of his arrest and advising her to hide. During the examination at court, Prosper remembered that he had been indiscreet the previous night in saying to Gypsy, when perhaps he might have been overheard by the Count and Raoul, that he had reason for constantly thinking of her at his work, when she accused him of not thinking of her any longer. The word Gypsy opened the case. For lack of sufficient evidence Prosper was released and the case filed in No. 113.

On Prosper's return to his apartment, Gypsy had gone, but a note addressed in small printed letters was delivered to him containing money. The clever Lecoq, now living with Prosper, under the disguise of an old friend of his father's, revealed that the printed letters had been cut from a prayer-book. Surely there was a woman in the case! Later a torn prayer-book was discovered hidden in Madeline's room. Did she love Prosper and think him innocent and in need of money? Yet soon after that, to the surprise of every one, her engagement was announced to the old Count de Clameran. The reason for this was that Madeline, by chance, overheard a conversation between the Count and her aunt. The old count threatened to tell of the family skeleton if she did not consent to the marriage. Madeline appeared and said she would marry him to keep the secret and the honor of the family name. On learning of Madeline's engagement, Prosper, who really had always loved her, became very angry, and thinking there must be a sinister motive for Mme. Fauvel's allowing it, wrote an anonymous letter to M. Fauvel, telling him to watch his wife.

Lecoq noticed that the good-looking Raoul still continued his frequent visits to the house. Did it mean that he was perhaps not the nephew, but the lover of Mme. Fauvel? Disguised, the great detective attended a masquerade ball, and made insinuating remarks to Mme. Fauvel concerning Raoul which caused her to faint, and when he spoke of money matters, Count Louis turned pale. Returning home that night the detective was followed by two men and stabbed, but fortunately, not killed. Lecoq, thinking he recognized the Count and Raoul, decided that they realized that the police suspected them of robbing the bank, and also that

Emile Gaboriau was born in Saujon, Charente Inferieure, Nov. 9, 1833. He died at Paris, Sept. 28, 1873.



The Palais de Justice, Paris, as it appeared in Gaboriau's time. Here he gleaned the ideas for many of his stories, and it figures in most of them.

Holmes, readers with the print- pleasure in a good detective story.

there must be an even greater mystery to unravel than had caused them to become would-be assassins. Records were looked up, and an amazing story came to light.

Lecoq discovered that years ago Mme. Fauvel, then Valentine de Verberie, had been engaged to the count's brother, Gaston. In defending her name at a country inn, Gaston had killed a man and fled to America, although he was thought to have been drowned while escaping. A son was born to Valentine and given away by her mother. Later she married Fauvel, who was told nothing.

The story was never unearthed until Count Louis had squandered the family money and by mere chance had heard of the child's existence from an old nurse. He made inquiries. Not long after this, the count introduced a young man to Mme. Fauvel as her son, to serve his own ends and to extract hush-money. This young man was called Raoul, her nephew and proved to be Raoul Lagors.

The situation became even more complicated. Gaston returned from America immensely rich, not knowing of the existence of his son, but determined to see his old love Valentine once more. Louis, however, realized that for his own ends, Gaston and Mme. Fauvel must never meet. He joined Gaston in the south of France and got into his good graces. Gaston made a will, leaving everything to Louis; then poor Gaston became mysteriously ill and died. Louis returned to Paris rich.

Madeleine seemed to wish to delay her marriage. The court feared she still loved Prosper, so he promised Raoul a large sum if he would in some way ruin the cashier's reputation, thinking thus to hasten his own marriage, as he really was in love with Madeleine. The moment came when Raoul overheard Prosper telling Gypsy he constantly thought of her at the bank. He then went to his mother and said he would shoot himself if he did not have a large sum of money that very night to pay a gambling debt. She got for him the key to the safe. The poor lady had already given him all her money and jewels and had nothing left to bestow. At the last moment she tried to stop him, hence the scratch that was discovered later. When she inquired how he knew the word that made up the combination, Raoul said that Prosper had given it to him and they were to divide the money between themselves.

Owing to the anonymous letter, M. Fauvel intercepted his wife's mail, and one day found a letter from Raoul asking her to go to his villa. M. Fauvel followed, and on entering

GENERAL DENIKEN IS ADVANCING IN RUSSIA

LONDON, Aug. 13.—General Deniken's advance is continuing along the greater part of the southern Russian front against considerable Bolshevik resistance, the war office announced Tuesday.

Kamishin, which was taken on July 28, yielded 11,000 prisoners, sixty guns, 156 machine guns and an immense amount of war material, it was added. Two crack Bolshevik regiments were scattered. Deniken's cavalry pushing toward the Urals-Astrakhan railroad have effected a junction with the Urals-Balkans, who from the left wing of the Kolchak army near Lake Elton says the statement.

There is now a united anti-Bolshevik front along the whole of east and south Russia from the Urals to the northwest corner of the Black sea and only fifty miles Deniken from the Rumanian army troops.

Further south, long the middle Dnieper a Bolshevik force has been routed east of Kremenchuk with the loss of a thousand prisoners. When Poltava was taken the Bolshevik lost 130 railroad engines, two armored trains, 1200 cars, 20 guns and much ammunition. The population of the liberated cities display the greatest enthusiasm over the Bolshevik defeat.

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD CHOKES TO DEATH ON A PEANUT

EUGENE, Ore., Aug. 13.—An eight-year-old boy is dead here, having choked on a peanut.

The boy was Clyde L. Lewis, son of Mrs. Guy Redding. It was at first thought the lad had taken poison. The peanut became lodged in his windpipe.

Use Salts?

Yes, If its The "AMBITION" KIND

Don't use the harsh, unpleasant old-fashioned salts that it's punishment to your palate and stomach to take. Use AMBITION SALTS—the new, pleasant effervescent preparation that tastes so good and acts so quickly. Purify your blood, drive the dangerous uric acid poison right out of your system and you'll feel better right away.

Go to Wettk's Cut Rate Medicine Store today and get a big bottle of AMBITION SALTS for fifty cents. If it doesn't do all we claim for it your money back on the first bottle purchased. Take it for indigestion, biliousness, acid stomach, headache, constipation, rheumatism, gout, liver and kidney trouble. Get your whole system working right and be 100 per cent efficient. —Adv.

"Cut the Retail Cost of Clothes and Depend Upon Increased Volume of Business for Profit."

A Few Fall "Feelers"

Just a few Fall "feelers." The advance guard, so to speak, of what you may expect when the great Fall Stock is all in.

A few "early pleasers" that we coaxed our manufacturers to ship quickly so that we would be able to show the advance Fall Styles to our trade while others were still trying to close out unsold Spring stocks.

These nifty new ones are now showing at Vernon's at prices that will prevail elsewhere, late next Winter, when the other fellows are conducting cut-price, close-out Fall sales.

Much better to buy going into a season than it is coming out. You get a full season's wear from a suit, and now that you know there is no better future price to be had, why wait?

VERNON'S

"Every Inch a Clothing Store"

BEECHAM'S PILLS

When your head aches, it is usually caused by your liver or stomach getting out of order. These "sick headaches" quickly disappear as soon as the stomach is relieved of its bilious contents. Right your stomach and regulate and tone the liver with Beecham's Pills, which rapidly improve conditions and promptly

Help Headache

Directions of Special Value to Women are with Every Box. Sold by druggists throughout the world. In boxes, 10c., 25c.

NEW FALL DRESSES at Special Prices Thursday

SOUTH BEND'S GREATEST BARGAIN GIVERS

ECONOMY DEPARTMENTS 219-221 SO. MICHIGAN ST.

New Duvetine TAMS All colors. \$5 values

3.45

Look Over These Wonderful Bargains We Offer You Here Thursday. Absolute Savings of 15 to 35% on Your Fall Outfit.

Sensational Sale of Plush Coats THURSDAY Just Received for This Sale 500 Plush Coats

With fur trimmings, Muffaloon Collars and Cuffs, Karami trims and plain effects in three-quarter and full lengths. You will wonder at the pretty models we are showing at these prices. Buy your Plush Coat here Thursday and save \$10.00 to \$25.00 now. Coats specially priced Thursday from

\$20 to \$45

NEW FALL PATTERN HATS AT \$4.95

Here is your chance, ladies, to save \$2.50 to \$5.00 on your new Fall Hat. We are making a One Day Special Thursday of 300 New Fall Pattern Hats, just received, at the exceptionally low price of only \$4.95.

Absolute values from \$7.50 to \$10.00 in this assortment.

August Fur Sale Now in Progress at a Savings

SEAL COAT

36 inches long, trimmed with large Marten Collar and Cuffs. Regular value up to \$450.00. Sale price

\$329.00

SMART LEOPARD SPORT COAT

30 inches long, full sweep, with seal collar and cuffs; \$150.00 value. Special

\$98.00

\$11.00 and up.

Fur SCARFS

In the newest styles. Colors are black, taupe, Lucile and Georgette. Extra Special

Seasonable HATS

Our gathering of mid-summer hats includes every good style and weight for wear right now. Light colors—full of "pizzazz" — adding distinction to the wearer.

Choose your hat now.

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