## French Crook Wants to Be King, So Gets Turkish chain. Himself Elected Ruler of Russ Kingdom

Asks Wrangel's Aid.

by France) aid and protection from

General Wrangel, not yet then

Wrangel, grasping at every local recognition (a nameless village or

well worth while) sent encouraging

replies to Prince Vitanval, called

King of Transcaucasia-Vitenvalia.

(What did Wrangel know? The king

was introduced to him by Malakoff)

And these encouraging reports from

Wrangel served as basis to obtain

new recognitions from parties know-

ing none too much about the busi-

ness-or their own. And it was done

by mail. Laforge, it must be remem-

bered, has an erudition and a readi-

to that of the specialists of any

Refuse to Ridicule. A desk full of stuff from the

A big portfolio of correspondence

(says Baron Pursell) from our own state department at Washington!

The more the French sleuths dis-

large category of Laforge's "dupes,"

be they American tourists, French

business men, or Near East fishers

The French papers carefully re-

frain from ridiculing them; and in

case of our fellow countrymen (and

women) they mention them by ini-

tials, like "Mr. G-, connected with a

consulate;" "Dr. Y-, American dentist;" "Sir X-, banker of Tol-

enjoy transformations, local color

being introduced by adding "off" or Regine, the Corsican from

New Orleans, is Baron Reginenski Suter, "agent for American agricultural implements," is undersecretary of state for wireless-Count Suter-

For that matter, all citizens of

Transcaucasia-Vitanvalia, whether

resident or nonresident, become no-

ble on payment of their chancellery

Institutions Set Up.

the sale of the first popular loan of

the kingdom of 250,000 roubles-the

And it is the duty, even, of all cit-

izens and nobles to co-operate in the

building of the capital on the banks

Among other institutions set up

Pennsylvanian Duke.

that of the king. One is Count

secretary-whom Pursell says is George Dakin "of Erie County,

Strange, how petroleum smells,

Baron Pursell was in France with

the A. E. F. in a welfare capacity.

He considers, still, that the plain,

work; but in Rome he does as the

caucasia is not lost in the shuffle

when the soviets fall, it will be due

Joker in Pack.

"She was a sales girl in a depart-

to Leon Laforge, Prince Vitanval!

"The queen?" I said,

- and her two daugh-

Pennsylvania.

near and far!

"Mrs. W-

In all, two names stand out, beside

rouble royal being valued at £2.

All have right to participate in

chancellery of Europe!

League of Nations!

in troubled waters.

off, on the books.

"sky."

Makes Americans 'Nobles' and Sets Up Former Shop Girl as Queen; He's in Jail, But No One Will Prosecute Him.

By STERLING HEILIG.

Nice, French Riviera, July 30 .- A most astonishing alleged crook plot, which took in a number of American visitors to the Riviera as well as French and other Europeans of all classes, has been going on for months here before local police or French state department detectives learned a word about it.

And even now that Leon Laforge, Prince Vitanval-old-time usurper of noble titles and functions-is under arrest as king of Transcaucasia, his "nobles" have such firm belief in the political secrets which he confided to them that there has not been a single complaint made against him. The police simply cannot obtain witnesses.

Constituted Monarchy.

Here is a man who not only con stituted a monarchy under their Laforge got together a quantity of noses, elaborated a constitution and Georgian refugees, contract workingmade regular application for admis- men, disbanded soldiers from the sion to the Society of Nations, but Russian contingents, adventurers, traced out the great economic ques- and even petty nobles-by whom he tions which must occupy the skill of had himself proclaimed hereditary his nobles, ministers and state sec-retaries; and he had so captured tically the same boundries as these their confidence in the roles they oil concessions. would be called upon to play that "not to compromise the cause," the This done, Laforge demanded faithful silence which, absolutely, (through the intermediary of Amevery mother's son and daughter of them maintained, from three to six representative of Russia recognized months past, is not yet broken!

King and ministers were in correspondence with half the chancel- beaten, to deliver his kingdom from leries of Europe-and the State De- the bolshevist domination! partment at Washington! They had deposited models of the postage stamps of Transcaucasia with the two gained, in those days, counting Universal Postal union at Berne.

Russ Ambassador Backer.

The king, in fact, could prove that he had the backing of the last regular representative of Russia in France, the Ambassador Malakoff. Transcaucasia-Vitanvalia is a country actually under the dominion of the soviets; and in view of a coming restoration millions of francs' worth of orders for robes, court mantles and diadems had been accepted by ness in these things probably equal the well-known houses of Redfern and Mappen & Webb.

And neither the local police of Nice nor French state department detectives knew anything about it! Leon Laforge, it must be admitted. is a wonderful man and a man of power because he almost believes

Makes Self Conspicuous. As early as 1901, in Paris, I had they think they understand. And

to write about him, when he raised the more they understand, the less they varitable fortune in "chancellery they despise the intelligence of a fues" as Dom Leon, Prince Laforge de Vitanval, Roman prince and sovereign chief and grand master of the pontifical order of St. Leon and chevalier of the crown of Italy. For months, the chevaliers of his creation lit up the streets of Paris with their bits of colored ribbon. In gold-faced dress-coat of his own Heraldic academy, he made himself conspicuous, at the receptions of the French white house, even, not to mention the various ministries, shaking hands with President Loubet, ters of Philadelphia." Many names ing hands with President Loubet, patronizing high functionaries, conducting ladies whom he did not know to the buffet, and offering his "protection" right and left. One day, President Loubet asked: "Who is that encumbering person?"

The question was passed on to the famous old prefect of police Lepine. A week later, the Prince de Vitanval was languishing in jail, six months, for swindling. It was those "chan-cellery dues" which he got out of people-not the calling of himself prince-which got him into trouble. In France, anyone can call himself prince-if he doesn't do business on

Invited to Receptions.

A year later he was again about Paris, getting invited to receptions. (In France, anyone can get invited to receptions.) When invited officially to cease wearing the "diplo- of the Khanis Tzkali river-if only matic" costume of his own heraldic by the sale of its municipal bonds, academy, he replied by letter to the on which there is a generous comforeign office, threatening to com-plain to the king of Italy, whom he called "my illustrious friend and are: ugust cousin."

They thought they had him, now; but Dom Leon slipped out of it, as one-third women members. he has always done.

"I have a right to call the king of Italy so," he said. "The Italian air service. protocol gives me the equivalent rank of a cardinal!"

And it was so! They could not stock is to become "guarantee for contest his being a chevalier, of the extensions"—whatever the phrase crown of Italy. It seems that, in his outh, he wrote a book on Mac-Mahon. Having sent a copy of it to the easy-going old King Hum--bert, the latter was pleased to find it speak so well of Italy, and, de Yavorsky, secretary of state, the motu proprio, dubbed its author other Duke Dokondowsky, under

chevalier Ceases to Be Chevalier. But Dom Leon-so ready to collect chancellary dues from others-

had not paid his own chancellary dues to Italy, the which, in every land, is sine qua non to clinch, perfect, hog-tie and definitively vest all untitled American is nature's noblest such beautiful distinctions. So, he ceased for a time to be

Romans do. Never completely idle in the inters are all three countesses," he tervening years, devoted feverishly says, "as real as the majority at to genealogical studies and curious Nice. The king has been acclaimed details of dying princely houses and by more real Transcaucasians than obscure governments, Laforge might any other claimant to the territory. have earned a fine living as heraldic He has fought for his people beexpert and booster of new-rich fore the league of nations, counci-families in the ancestral sense. In- of ambassadors and international stead, he craved always to set up Red Cross. He has lodged claims kingdoms of his own. and protesets with the chancelleries of Europe and the State Depart-ment at Washington! If Trans-

Somebody has to set 'em up! Shows Parchment.

Thus, the origin of the grand af is as follows: Laforge began, about a year ago, by wing a parchment written in Engand authenticated by great seals granting him the concession of certain petroleum fields in trans-Caument store." snapped the Kansas casian territory. Take note of this. City lad. "Does that disqualify her? ain petroleum fields in trans-Cau-A veritable princess of the Caucasus, it is claimed, hopes by these manket girl of Constantinople, and the euvers to save her own bacon. According to Baron Pursell (of Kansas of Cleveland, O. They ought to be



bassador Malakoff, still technical

Before The Queen Was Queen! Clementine Faroppa The Department Store Sales: Girl On The Beach Of Nice

"But the king is in jail?" I said. The Kansas City man blew smoke ings from his cigaret and stared into the sky. Slowly he fetched out a big, black portfolio from his inside

glad to get some brains on those

"Here is the joker of the pack," he said. "Before the soviets fall this lady and her friends will have this lady and her friends will have is being donated by townspeople the king at liberty to make his claims, all right, all right!" is being donated by townspeople and farmers residing nearby. The money necessary was raised by sell-

faced, oriental-looking lady, in fash- ers to 20 swims.

ionable lingerie blouse and big gold Witnesses Silent. "The Princess Caria," he said with

reverence. "She is a born princess of the Caucasus. Behind her is the local pull. The territorial bosses trust her. Up in Paris she has got the pull of wewstern capital to defend the little kingdom.

"Vitanvalia," I murmured.
"Why not?" he s napped. "It's got to have a name. It's got to be marked off from all those crooks around its borders. And it needs a bunch of western boosters." As I said at the beginning, Vitan

val is a wonderful man. During six months his newly appointed nobles had such confidence in the political secrets which he whispered to them that not a word about the kingdom leaked out to the French police. Today, with Vitanval in jail, it impossible to obtain witnesses!

Fremont Financier

Fremont, Neb., July 30.—(Special.)—L. M. Keene, banker and philanthropist, has donated to the lief committee, is as follows: city of Fremont, through the American Legion, a monument dedicated to the sons of Fremont who died in the world war. The memorial will cost \$5,000 and is to be dedicated on Armistice day, November 11.
The monument will be 22 feet in height of highly polished marble, with tablets inscribed with the names of Fremont soldiers who died. The main shaft will be topped by an American eagle, standing with wings outstretched. The memorial will stand in the city park directly the feeding, medical aid and clothing areas. The relief organization has opposite the Lincoln statue dedicated last Memorial day to the Lincoln highway, donated to the city by L. D. Richards.

Pawnee City Churches

Prepare for Revival Pawnee City, Neb., July 30.—(Special.)—A series of prayer meetings to be held at the homes of church members have been planned as a preparatory program for the coming revival meetings here. The services will be union in character, all churches uniting, and will be held

Swimming Pool Is Built In Hildreth City Park

Hildreth, Neb., July 30 .- (Special.) A swimming pool, 100 feet long and 50 feet wide, is being constructed in the town park here. Work It was the photograph of a strong- ing tickets for \$5, entitling the hold-

# Russians Agree To Release All

Acceptance of Ultimatum of Hughes Contained in Reply to Offer to Aid Famine Sufferers.

(By The Associated Press.) Riga, July 30.-The offer of Herbert Hoover to aid Russia in reliev-

ing suffering due to famine en condition that All Americans now held could begin 48 hours after Amerprisoner in Russia be released has been accepted by the Russian authorities, who suggest immediate Secretary Hoover said today. There negotiations in order to realize could be no assurance that the speedy assistance, according to a Americans had been released, he dispatch from the Rosta News added, until they were out of Rus-

Donates War Memorial agency of Moscow, received here to-day.

The text of the reply, made in the name of Leo Kameneff, head of the nonpartisan, nonpolitical famine re-

"The Russian government, upon Herbert Hoover in the name of the American Relief association, finds them quite acceptable, including the question of the release of American citizens.'

Want Aid Immediately.

ers it necessary to fix as soon as posof the million children and invalids. been at work continuously in Europe For this purpose the Russian government considers it useful that Director Brown or any other nerson au- work on short notice, he said. thorized for the negotiations should

expects a quick reply, stating the place and time for the negotiations.

(Signed) "M. KAMENEFF." The principal difficulty the relief

Maxim Gorky, and to the soviet mission in London for delivery to the local bolshevik legation.

Was No Surprise.

The acceptance by Russia of the demand for the release of the Amer-U. S. Prisoners demand for the release of the American prisoners did not come as a surprise to the local soviet authorities, notwithstanding the outspoken criticisms of the United States for raising the prisoner question in a time of famine. The soviet officials are understood to believe that their acceptance will not only bring the needed famine relief, but also open channels of future relations between Russia and America.

Can Begin at Once.

relief for starving Russian children icans imprisoned or detained in Russia were released and out of Russia,

Mr. Hoover still was awaiting detailed reply to his offer of aid, transmitted through Maxim Gorky and the State department had received no answer to Secretary Hughes' recent demand that the prisoners be released.

Handled From United States. With the Americans out of Russia, Mr. Hoover said, the American Relief association would be willing to send a representative to Riga to take up with the Russian authorities de-"The Russian government consid- tails of food distribution. There are relief warehouses in Riga and Dansible the exact conditions on which zig, and it would only be a question the immediate relations are to begin. of transportation for the supplies to "Its humane intentions guarantee start rolling into Russian famine so that a sufficient personnel could be mobilized at Riga to handle the

Famine relief in Russia, immediately come to Moscow, Riga Hoover said, would be handled directly by the American Relief asso-"The Russian soviet government cialing through the co-operation of

Hoover thought, would be a breakdown in the Russian transportation system. Food distributed would be limited to those areas to which transportation was available, he said

Police Serve Warrants On 3 Men in Hospital

Police served warrants on the three young men convalescing in Methodist hospital as a result of the automobile accident on "death curve," in which Margie McWilliams, 504 North Twenty-fifth street, was fatally injured.
The warrants charge the three

with joy riding, a state charge, Washington, July 30 .- American which calls for three months in jail. The three, Fred Keitz, 5011 Underwood avenue; Robert Swan, South Sixteenth street, and Cliff Russell, Fiftieth avenue and Cuming street, will be removed from the hospital to jail tomorrow, according to police.

They were driving the car of B. Pred at the time of the accident. The county attorney's office announced yesterday that no inquest in the death of Miss McWilliams

R. B. Howell Asks Ticket to

Europe on Public Business R. B. Howell, general manager of the Metropolitan Utilities district, apolied yesterday in federal court for passports for himself and his wife to Europe. He gave his reason for

going as "public blusiness." Mr. Howell is going to Budapest. Hungary, to investigate operation of a wireless telephone system. He is interested in installation of such systems here. Mr. and Mrs. Howell will also visit other sections of Europe.

Neligh School Instructors

The entire corps of instructors of the writ of habeas corpus before some Neligh public schools has been se- friendly judge. lected. Supt. E. C. Nyrep returned last week from a six weeks study at the summer school of the state The principal difficulty the relief university and is now making prep-M. Kameneff's reply was sent to association would encounter, Mr. arations for the coming year's work. September 12.

Small to Inspect State Highways

Illinois Governor to Transact Business From "Capitol On Wheels."

Chicago, July 30 .- For an indefinite period Governor Small will maintain a "capitol on wheels." He will tour the state, inspecting the highways on which a \$60,000,000 bond issue is to be expended. According to friends, he plans to transact public business from the various county seats and a corps of traveling secretaries will journey back and forth from Springfield, carrying out the governor's orders on state business. Heads of variout state departments will meet him at designated points on the tour and will consult him by long distance telephone when necessary.

The governor declares his tour of inspection has nothing whatever to do with his indictment.

The governor's attorneys returned to their homes at various down state cities last night, but neither of the three would make any comment on the Chicago conference.

"There is nothing to do but wait." said Sheriff Mester, at Springfield. "We are in n hurry. We have until September to produce the governor in court and he is sure to return to the capital before then. I expect him to come in this week and give

Prosecutor Mortimer says that i Governor Small surrenders to Chief of Police Fitzmorris of Chicago or to any other officer outside Sanga-mon county, he will order his re-lease. Attorney General Brundage Been Employed for Year is also prepared to combat any of-Neligh, Neb., July 30 .- (Special) -- fort of the governor to obtain a

> The seventh annual national exposition of chemical industries will be held in New York the week of

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-Furs, which are made of the richest pelts obtainable, purchased under favorable conditions, and priced for regular selling in strict accordance with these low purchase costs, are offered now during the Burgess-Nash August sale at a straight reductions of 25%, which is to be deducted from the marked price at the time of purchase.

-These are quality furs. We ask comparison-as to prices based on quality, for behind each garment bought stands the quality and standard assured in the name: Burgess-Nash.

-Earliest possible choice is advisable. If immediate payment is not convenient, make a small deposit at the time of purchase.

-All furs bought during the August Sale will be stored free of charge in our New Cold Storage Vaults. We are the only retail firm in the city of Omaha to operate our own cold storage vaults in our own building, and under our own direct supervision.

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