

The "low" (knowing the force of public opinion) "barks not when he would steal the lamb." In these days any business venture which flirts with the public opinion is open to natural suspicion.

# SECRET EVENING NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1905. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

FIFTY-FIFTH YEAR.

PART TWO.

## The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.

### DEAD CHARLATAN WHO DUPED CZAR.

Remarkable Career of Occult Humbug Who Completely Deceived Russian Ruler.

### HELPED MAKE WORLD HISTORY

Feeless Adventurer Who Had Served Time in French Prison Lodged Like a Lord in Imperial Palace.

### Special Correspondence.

PARIS, Sept. 15.—Almost unnoticed there has just died at St. Julien l'Archeve, in the department of the Rhone, a remarkable man who, through his pretensions to the possession of marvelous occult powers, for a considerable period exercised an influence over the czar of Russia greater, probably, than that wielded by any other human being. He was during that time the power behind the throne of the autocrat, Philippe Landau, the name of this modern Cagliostro, but for reasons intimately connected with various shady transactions and a term of imprisonment in a French jail, the memory of which he desired to efface, he dropped his surname and for several years has been known to his dupes as M. Philippe.

### ORIGIN A MYSTERY.

His origin is veiled in mystery. He claimed to be a Frenchman, but according to the report of the secret police who hunted up his record at the time several influential folk in Russia were trying to destroy his ascendancy over the czar, he was the son of a Turkish czar, he was born in a Constantinopolitan harem. His father, feeling his own position none too secure, sent the boy to Paris, when a mere shaver, to be educated and trained in the ways of western civilization. Before he was well out of his teens his father vanished—a victim to one of those mysterious disappearances which are of common occurrence in the domains of "Abdull the damned." The lad was turned adrift to shift for himself and developed remarkable resourcefulness in obtaining a living, though for a time his wits brought him little else.

### BUTCHER'S ASSISTANT.

For a short time he was a butcher's assistant. Then he set up as a teacher of languages and dabbled in journalism. After that he was successively an insurance agent, a railway clerk, an assistant manager of a hotel and then a speculator on the bourse. At that latter game he lost what little money he had accumulated. As a race track gambler he met with little better success. At one time when his fortunes were at a low ebb, he picked up a few francs as an artist's model. Later on he obtained a job as doorman and attendant to a professional hypnotist and medium. The man took a fancy to the versatile Philippe and finding that he was well equipped to play the roguish part of a medium, he instructed him in the mysteries of his art and taught him how to impersonate various spirits and to produce the most remarkable resourcefulness in obtaining a living, though for a time his wits brought him little else.

### HIS UPS AND DOWNS.

Still he did not prosper. Fortune had better things in store for him than luring messages from the dead to poor folk at a franc a head, but he was to undergo many ups and downs before he found his opportunity to fly to a much higher game. When he was almost penniless he obtained a situation as valet to a Russian nobleman and in that capacity spent several years in Russia and became proficient in the language. Later he opened a school at St. Petersburg for teaching boxing, dancing and fencing. Though he was adept at each of these arts he could not make his school pay.

### BACK TO PARIS.

He returned to Paris and opened a saloon. Here he practiced mediumship, hypnotism and added intraculous healing and astrology to his occult stock in trade. For a brief time he made money, but adversity again overtook him. Reduced to penury he became a waiter in a Boulevard cafe. After a few months he found a better bet as a billiard marker in a fashionable Paris club. But he could never hold any job long. He was soon adrift again and picked up a precarious living as a hotel tout at railway stations. Then he fell into the hands of the police. He was arrested on the charge of stealing several hundred francs from

the proprietor of the hotel, convicted and sentenced to three months' hard labor.

### WENT TO ST. PETERSBURG.

That experience sickened him of Paris. When he was released he made his way to St. Petersburg where he gave exhibitions of his hypnotic powers at private parties and entertainments. It proved the turning point in his career. The fickle lady whom he had wooed in so many guises without success smiled upon him. He attracted the attention of the Grand Duke Vladimir, uncle of the czar, and of his wife, the Grand Duchess Marie Pavlovna. They introduced him to the czar after witnessing his powers.

### PLOT BEHIND IT.

According to the story which finds credence in the highest circles in Russia there was a plot behind this of which several great noblemen in Russia were cognizant. The czar being of a weak and emotional nature with strong leanings towards mysticism, it was calculated that a man of Philippe's seductive, cunning and strong personality, aided by his mediumistic pretensions, would soon obtain an ascendancy over the effeminate ruler of Russia. Then when this goal had been achieved it was proposed to spread broadcast stories of how Nicolas II was dominated thereby rendering him ridiculous in the eyes of the powerful bureaucracy and weaken his influence with the nation generally, which would redound to the advantage of the reactionary clique.

Philippe was well fitted for the role. In this ignoble intrigue, for which—known to himself many assert, though others declare he was well paid for—it had been selected. A big, iron-bearded man, with piercing black eyes, handsome if somewhat sensuous features, and impressive manners, he well filled the popular conception of the magician who can summon spirits from the vasty deep and bend the powers of darkness to his will. The unstable and timorous czar took to this strong, burly man who claimed such wondrous powers, just as the weak little boy at school attaches himself to some big boy who can protect him. Perplexed by many counselors and incapable of relying on his own judgment, he jumped at the chance of obtaining guidance from his predecessors and others of the mighty dead, which Philippe offered him. He said that after witnessing various displays of Philippe's undoubted hypnotic powers, the czar consented to let Philippe hypnotize him several times on the promise that he would place the czar "in rapport" with the spirits who would be able to communicate with him. Thus he established a complete ascendancy over the weaker will of the ruler of all the Russians.

### WALLOWED IN LUXURY.

It was not long before the unscrupulous opportunist had been well and hard put to it to obtain a square meal, found himself fairly wallowing in luxuries, with a suite of rooms reserved for him in each of the czar's palaces, and a staff of royal domestics to wait upon him. He had his own carriages and horses and was frequently driven about in state under the protection of the imperial bodyguard. At the czar's family and state affairs. On these occasions the ex-laid bird often went into trances and gave utterance to messages which purported to emanate from the spirits of former czars and famous Russian statesmen. To such Nicolas II attached far greater weight than he did to the advice of his alert ministers. Their influence over him was small compared with that exercised by the charlatan. The climax of his power was reached when he convinced the czar that he had caused the ghost of Alexander II to appear at one of their seances.

### EYE ON MAIN CHANCE.

Philippe was not the man to neglect such magnificent opportunities to feather his own nest. The czar loaded him down with costly presents. Meanwhile those who were in the plot busied themselves circulating reports of how the czar was being duped and his mighty authority degraded. To discredit him among the ignorant peasantry it was stated that he had been bewitched by a sorcerer, who was in league with the devil. Friends of the czar, on the other hand, exerted themselves to break the spell under which he had fallen, and emancipate him from the control of the hypnotist. Through the secret police of France they obtained Philippe's record in that country and by enquiries similarly conducted learned of the various methods by which he had earned a livelihood in Russia. The report was laid before the czar. Soon afterwards Philippe returned to France. It was hoped that the sinister influence over the czar had been dispelled. But after a few months he was reappearing at the Russian court, and was received with every mark of former favor. How complete was his ascendancy was shown by the fact that a Russian police official who had been instrumental in turning him up in his Russian record was summarily dismissed. Just what caused Philippe to again return to France, after he had received conclusive proof that the czar's faith in him was unshaken, is not known. But it is strongly surmised that it was due to threats that if he remained he would not long survive to enjoy his ill-gotten gain. He had accumulated money enough from his royal duties to keep him in comfort for the rest of his days and settled down near Lyons where he purchased a country mansion and lived in the style. The full story of the extent to which he helped to make Russian history will never be known.

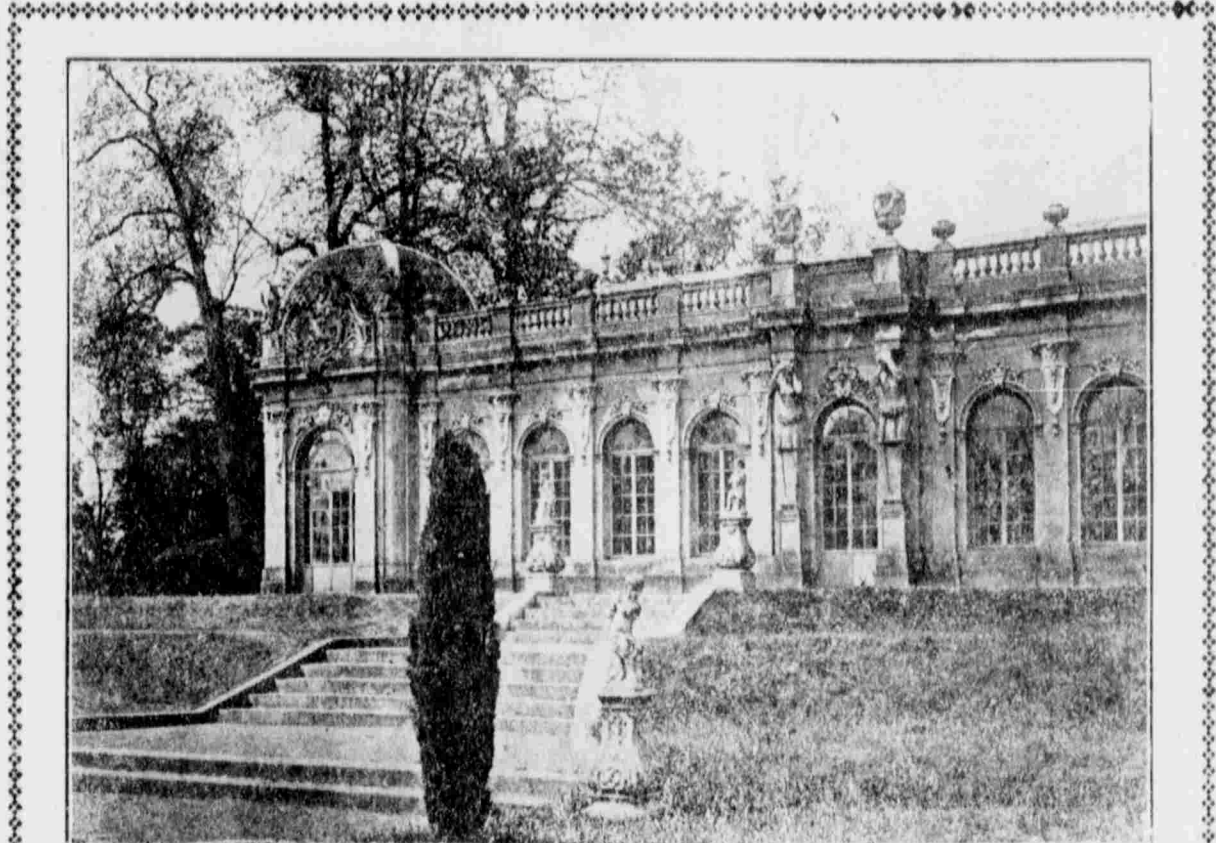
### FABLE OF GIRL THEORIST.

There once lived a girl who was a great theorist. She had theories on housekeeping, diet, education, dress and love, which she took great delight in expounding to her family and friends. Now, it so happened that, during a journey in a distant city, she met a young man who became enamored of her and whose affection she was inclined to return. But as she had a great theory concerning engagements, she withheld a definite answer to his entreaties that she become his wife, and said: "I love you. I cannot answer you in the affirmative until your theory on engagements has been tested. From what you have told me of your theory, how, then, can you be sure that your love for me will endure? There, I leave you for a month, during which time no communication shall pass between us; associate with other

girls as much as possible and if, at the end of that time your heart is still true to me I shall have yours for all time." The young man protested and pleaded with all the ardor of love, but the theorist remained firm in her decision. Finally the lover made her a reluctant assent, and was off to keep the compact. The weeks went off by and the end of the month came. The theorist, who by this time had become exceedingly homesick for the nice young man, attired herself in her most becoming frock and awaited with fluttering heart his coming. A bounding step was heard on the porch. The theorist sprang to the door. A messenger boy handed her a telegram. It read: "Test successful. Am engaged. Girl said yes at once. Has no theories." Moral—A bird in hand often flies out of the window—Blanche Goodman in Smart Set.

### American Ambassador's Magnificent Home

Whitelaw Reid's English Country Residence One of the Finest Habitations in All England—A Scene of Beauty That it Has Taken Centuries to Produce—No Other Diplomatic Palace Can Equal It.



THE ORANGERY AT WREST PARK.

### Special Correspondence.

LONDON, Sept. 15.—So far as social splendor and luxury can be made to contribute to diplomatic success, it is evidently Ambassador Reid's intention to spare no expense on Uncle Sam's behalf. When he secured Dorchester House in Park Lane as a town abode, a London paper said of it, "Most of us would prefer it as a residence to Buckingham Palace." Its occupation made him the most sumptuously housed representative of a foreign power in the land. But for those who undertake to live in style a town house necessitates a country one. In West Park, leased from Lord Lilford, Mr. Reid has secured a country residence that matches well with the more artificial magnificence of Dorchester House. It is admittedly by far the most beautiful of Bedfordshire's country homes, though Woburn and The Hoo are perhaps more widely known. With Dorchester House and West

parks and gardens mean to the country districts of England, we should be inclined to think that as a whole, West Park would teach him rather more than any other.

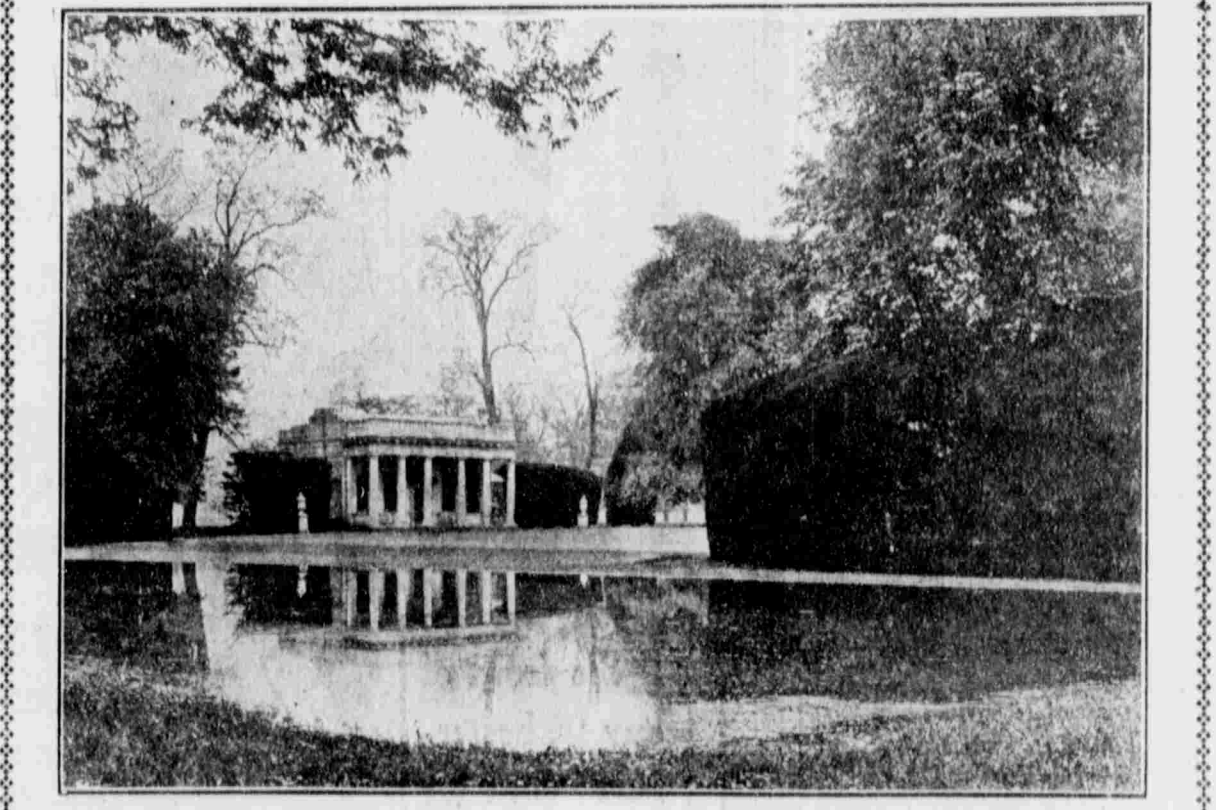
### A SCENE OF BEAUTY.

Situated within 40 miles of town, the contrast which it presents to the surrounding region greatly enhances its attractions. The land round about is quiet and comparatively featureless—just plain rural, with few woods or streams, or even pretty cottages. Then, without encountering any preparatory hint of the impending change, one suddenly emerges upon a far-reaching scene of entrancing beauty—stately parks, lawns of the tenderest green, such as are found only in England, magnificent woods, groves and walks, avenues lined by grand old trees, exquisite gardens, ponds, canals, statues, monuments, terraces, bridges, and pavilions. It is a veritable earthly paradise in which art has been made to blend with nature with such rare taste that they seem to have sprung from the soil together. The domain is an extensive one, but every portion of it seems endowed with a beauty of its

kind. In the center of the orchard is a hoary statue of old Atlas. On the terrace appear gay little white marble figures, engaged in every form of frolic.

### OF WARM STONE.

The house is built of a warm colored stone, and the window panes are not pointed, but eeked, which gives to the whole a peculiarly bright and gay appearance, however as it is in the deep greenery of a very humid climate, for the great area of grass and trees at West, lying for the most part in a shallow depression among low hills and watered by canals and ponds fed by an everlasting spring, attract and retain moisture. The result is seen in the wonderful growth and magnificent foliage of the trees. Their age is uncertain, but their size gigantic, and the regularity of their growth a source of constant wonder. The finest ash trees in England are in the park, and these are beeches which shoot up 40 feet without a branch, as round as flutes and as thick as the pillars of Baalbek. A spruce fir which measures 17½ feet around the trunk and towers to a gigantic height is credited with being the largest in England. The age is guessed at being at least two centuries and a



BANQUETING HOUSE AT WREST PARK.

Park at his disposal. Mr. Reid has the satisfaction of knowing that no other diplomatist here has such ample facilities for maintaining his country's reputation for dignity, munificence and hospitality.

### MONEY COULDN'T DO IT.

No multi-millionaire could create a place like West Park. It is a job that has taken Nature, judiciously and generously assisted, centuries to perform. In that period there have been three great houses at West, the present one dating from 1836—but in all that time the grounds have been growing in beauty. The house itself is a commodious and sumptuous one, handsomely furnished and well supplied with those important accessories which are dubbed modern conveniences. But money might duplicate it anywhere without much trouble. It is its old-world setting, which no amount of money could reproduce—for time will not be hurried in such matters—that constitutes its wondrous charm. An English writer, who is well acquainted with all of the "stately homes of England" has well said of it, "If it were desired to let a stranger of more than average taste learn for himself what the great country houses and their

own. The walks are seven miles in length. There are two parks—one for deer and another grazed by cattle. The place appears never to have suffered from neglect. Generations of owners have devoted the most jealous care to it. The combined results of their labors it would require a vase to describe adequately. The gardens are among the most famous in England. The chief and central one is the Italian garden, which extends for the full width of the house front. This is flanked on either side by a raised turf platform running at right angles to the facade of the house, and on the smooth turf in the center stand two rows of arbutus trees. Near by is the rose garden. Very properly it depends for its main adornment on the roses, which, besides, except that in the center is a group of mermaids supporting a vase. Another garden is known as "my lady's garden." Then there is a series of formal, walled gardens. Beyond them are wide lawns, pleasure grounds, great trees, walks, orchards, garden houses, conservatories and an orangery. Scarcely the house and on the smooth turf in the center stand two rows of arbutus trees. Near by is the rose garden. Very properly it depends for its main adornment on the roses, which, besides, except that in the center is a group of mermaids supporting a vase. Another garden is known as "my lady's garden." Then there is a series of formal, walled gardens. Beyond them are wide lawns, pleasure grounds, great trees, walks, orchards, garden houses, conservatories and an orangery. Scarcely the house and on the smooth turf in the center stand two rows of arbutus trees. Near by is the rose garden. Very properly it depends for its main adornment on the roses, which, besides, except that in the center is a group of mermaids supporting a vase. Another garden is known as "my lady's garden." Then there is a series of formal, walled gardens. 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