

PLAIN GIRL'S FIGHT FOR A LIVING

Remarkable Letters at Flat Drama Inquest

"MEN ARE BEASTS"

Mother's Fear Daughter May Suffer If Not Pretty

Remarkable letters were read yesterday at the inquest at Marylebone on Mrs. Maude Olga Keens, twenty-nine, the beautiful woman who, with her daughter, Sheila, aged thirteen months was found shot at their flat in Wyndham-street, Marylebone, the room being decked with flowers.

Mr. Frank R. Keens, of Glasgow, the husband, said he had not heard from her for a year. The last he knew of her was that she was keeping an apartment house in Hove.

He understood that she had £700 when they married in 1922. There were two children. Last year they agreed to separate, as Mrs. Keens said she wanted to go her own way.

She asked him not to communicate with her, but to send the money for the children to a nurse.

FRIENDS' AID DECLINED

Sick Woman Afraid of Becoming Nuisance to Them

Mr. Keens said he offered his wife a home but she thought his means were too small. They had no quarrel, nor was there a third person in the case. It was all a question of money, his wife's fear being that she could not give the children a sufficient start in life.

She had an operation after the birth of the first child. The trouble apparently returned after the birth of the second child, but she never told him about it.

The coroner read the following extracts from a letter which Mrs. Keens had written—

"Dear Sir,—I am committing suicide because of financial troubles from which I see no way out. I am unable any longer to earn enough money to support myself and one child. My husband, from whom I separated, supports one child, while I support the other.

I never feel well. I have friends who would offer me charity, but I am afraid of becoming a nuisance and losing their affection.

I take my little girl Sheila with me because I am afraid she might be neglected if she is not pretty, and I don't think that she is. My husband is fond enough of the boy to see that he does all right, and anyway a boy can always fight his own way in the world better than a girl.

I have found life terrible, and men beasts. . . . They do nothing for me without a motive. . . . so I will not leave my poor little girl to go through it all alone."

WOMAN'S POINT OF VIEW

The coroner also read the following extracts from a letter addressed to the husband—

"If I find no other way out of things I am crossing to Belgium to get bullets to kill Sheila and myself.

I am not able to earn enough money now to keep myself and Sheila. Your money only helps Derek, as you know and that is one of the reasons I am taking Sheila with me.

You can only afford to keep one child, so I have left you Derek, as you always wanted a son, and I believe in your love for him.

Read "Susan Lennox." It will help you to see a woman's point of view.

The coroner said apparently Mrs. Keens was referring to a book. She made various recommendations to her husband as to what to do with the boy.

Mrs. Keens wrote that she would like her boy to wear a certain ring—the ring I have worn with the Latin inscription.

"If he is a boy who thinks sentiment rot and only fit for women, and is unable to think of his mother with any affection, then throw it in the fire," the letter added.

"NOTHING TO KEEP ME"

Mr. Keens explained that the boy had recently undergone an operation.

The coroner said the letter continued: "Now that he is all right there is nothing to keep me. I shall attempt it on Tuesday afternoon because, as a rule, the house is empty on that day."

A constable said that the revolver found in the flat could be folded up and put in a waistcoat pocket, and the coroner said one would scarcely have thought it capable of inflicting mortal injuries.

The coroner said Mrs. Keens had an insane idea that it would be better for her and her husband to live apart.

He referred to two books that Mrs. Keens mentioned in her letters, and read the following marked passages from them—

She said that to be a contented working-girl, to look forward to the prospect of being a working-man's wife, and to have a ten-cent house-keeper, a woman must be born to it—and born with very little brains—must have been educated for it and for nothing else.

Few of us are born with any considerable personality, and what little we have is speedily suppressed by a system of training which is throughout based upon an abhorrence of originality.

A verdict that the mother murdered her child and then committed suicide while of unsound mind was returned.

COLDEST FOR ELEVEN YEARS

So far this month has been the coldest June since 1916. London's temperature has only once reached 70deg., and yesterday it was no higher than 59deg.

TOO MANY TAXIS?

Power Needed to Limit Number of Cabs

BAN FOR "CRUISERS"

That "cruising" taxicabs should be prohibited in certain London streets during the busy hours of the day is one of the recommendations of the London and Home Counties Traffic Advisory Committee.

The Committee suggest that "cruising" should be prohibited in the following streets—

From 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.—Buckingham Palace-road, Kensington High-street (from Royal Palace Hotel to Wright's-lane) New Bond-street, New Oxford-street, Old Bond-street, Oxford-street (from Marble Arch to Oxford Circus), Regent-street, Wigmore-street.

From 8 a.m. to midnight—Charing Cross-road, Coventry-street, Kingsway, Oxford-street (from Oxford Circus to Tottenham Court-road), Piccadilly (east of Stratton-street), Shaftesbury-avenue (from Piccadilly Circus to Cambridge Circus), Strand, Tottenham Court-road, Wilton-road.

Anyone convicted of loitering in these streets, that is, going at a slower rate than he able mechanically propelled vehicles, would be liable to a fine not exceeding £5.

The Committee express surprise that, while there are powers to limit the number of omnibuses, there are no powers to limit the number of taxicabs. Such a position seems illogical.

Cruising cabs, they state, cause congestion and delay to other traffic, and steps should be taken to prohibit or restrict this practice, which does not appear to the Committee a legitimate use of the public highways.

Every inducement, it is urged, should be given to drivers to make use of available cab-rank facilities.

SLID TO HIS DEATH

Wife Sees Husband Slip Along Grassy Slope and Over Cliff

Another tragedy occurred on the Flamborough Head cliffs yesterday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. George Mallinson, of Huddersfield, who were staying in Bridlington for a holiday, sat down on the grassy slope of the cliffs, which are 150ft. high. Suddenly, Mrs. Mallinson said, her husband began to slide down the slope. She called out: "Oh, George, where are you going?" as he disappeared from view.

She went to the lighthouse and gave the alarm. Meanwhile a motor-cole crew saw the man's body floating and took it to the beach. An inquest will be held.

HOAX THAT MISFIRED

Mystery Channel Swim That No One Can Prove

CALAIS, Saturday.

The reported swimming of the Channel by the Czech-Slovak swimmer Spacek is considered here to be a hoax.

No boat has left here to take a swimmer across the Channel in the last few days, and the state of the weather and the temperature of the water would have made any such attempt almost impossible.—Exchange.

An official of the Dover Harbour Board said that the statement that the Mayor of Dover and the port authorities checked the arrival and times was "amusingly audacious."

48 HOURS' AIR RACE

Squadrons of Giant Bombers to Fly Round England

For two days and two nights this week nearly forty giant bombing aeroplanes will be travelling round England.

Their journeys will be a preliminary to the air pageant at Hendon on July 2, and the order of merit of the squadrons will determine the order in which they will "take off" from Hendon Aerodrome.

The squadrons will set out on Tuesday from their aerodromes at 8 a.m., and the flights will continue until 8 a.m. on Thursday.

Built mainly of old aeroplane wings, a barbarian city that is doomed to destruction is being erected at Hendon Aerodrome, where it will play a prominent part in the display.

SCHOOLGIRL REDS

Child Communist Tells How Bell Ended a Strike

FORCE OF HABIT

Schoolchildren made speeches and described their strike efforts at the conference yesterday at Friars' Hall, Blackfriars-road, S.E., of the Communist "Young Comrades' League."

Mr. D. Springhall announced that among those present was the first children's delegation appointed to pay a visit to Soviet Russia.

Miss Goldman presented the report on the year's work. She emphasised the success which had attended the organisation of school strikes and the experience gained in this direction would be, she admitted, "most helpful."

A Scottish girl about fifteen years of age, announced as Comrade Bain, from Glasgow, told how she had assisted in organising school strikes during last year's coal stoppage.

One strike failed, she said. "We got the children out, and just then the bell rang, and whether it was from force of habit or not, most of them ran back into the schoolroom."

One male delegate complained that some suggestions for popularising Communist school games were "bosh and drivel." British children, he said, would not take kindly to a game like "hugging the Tsar."

ROSERAY AND CAPELLA

Dancers' Failure to Arrive Last Night at Folkestone

Roseraay and Capella, the dancers who recently left London for Paris following an objection being taken to their performance at the Embassy Club, were expected at Folkestone last night by the Paris boat.

They have been engaged to appear at the Savoy Hotel to-morrow night, and a representative of the hotel arrived at Folkestone to meet them.

Though he made a thorough search of the boat train, no trace of them could be found.

M. DAUDET'S ARREST

Resistance Continued in Barricaded Offices—Royalist Guard

PARIS, Saturday.

M. Leon Daudet and his aide-de-camp, M. Delest, continued their resistance against arrest throughout to-day in their barricaded offices in the Rue de Rome.

A number of young adherents to the Royalist movement were constantly on guard outside.

A large crowd assembled this afternoon in the neighbourhood, but was quietly dispersed by the police.

It is practically certain that no decision will be taken before the meeting of the Council of Ministers on Tuesday next with regard to M. Daudet's arrest.—Exchange.

30 YEARS IN PRISON

Bomb Thrower's Punishment for Attempt on Mussolini

ROME, Saturday.

The trial concluded to-day before the Special Military Court of Gino Lucetti, the young anarchist who in September last threw a bomb at Signor Mussolini's car.

He was found guilty and sentenced to thirty years' imprisonment with hard labour.—Central News.

Enter says his supposed accomplices were sentenced, Sorio to twenty years and Vattimio to eighteen years and nine months.

BOWLED BY JELlicoe

Admiral Takes Top Scorer's Wicket with His First Ball

A cricket team composed entirely of admirals and headed by Admiral Earl Jellicoe yesterday played Pangbourne Nautical College eleven and retired at 289 for seven.

The College replied with 78 all out. The top scorer, Sidgwick, was clean bowled by Earl Jellicoe with his first ball.

THIS MORNING'S NEWS ITEMS

Woman Flyer's Triumph.—At the Newcastle flying meeting yesterday Lady Bailey won the first race.

Head of the River Record.—In the Cambridge May bumping races Jesus College finished head of the river, and have now occupied that position twenty-one times since 1875.

Dragon Found Shot.—The police are making inquiries concerning the wounding of Trooper Albert Hill, Royal Dragons, Pirbright Camp, who was found in bed shot in the arm.

Wireless Battery Explodes.—Rifleman James Faulkner, 1st Royal Ulster Rifles, was experimenting with a wireless battery yesterday at Aldershot when it exploded, injuring his hand and thigh.

Greyhound Racing Delays.—No definite date has been fixed as yet for the opening of the greyhound racing at the White City, Shepherd's Bush.

Borstal Boy Bolts.—At Portland last night Borstal boys were assisting in the search for one of their number who had escaped from the institution.

Isaac Newton's Prism.—Among the recent additions to the medieval antiquities of the British Museum is the prism used by Sir Isaac Newton for his experiments.

Moslems in London.—English Moslems took part at the London Mosque, Earlfield, S.W., yesterday in the celebration of the Festival of Eid-ul-Azha (Festival of Sacrifice).

LONDON GIRLS AND ARAB SHEIKH

Story of His Offer to Make Them Queens

AEROPLANE PURSUIT

Escape of Actresses After a Journey Into Desert

According to the story told by two young variety actresses—Miss Irene Queenie Speller, of Holland Park, and Miss Winnie Comber, of Shepherd's Bush—they were given a chance of reigning as desert queens.

This, they say, would have been their destiny if they had accepted the advances of a magnificent person whose signature in Arabic was displayed to the *Sunday Pictorial* last night by Miss Irene. Translated into English the signature reads: Prince the Emir Faouz Chalaans. His permanent address appears to be Damascus.

Seen at her home last night Mrs. Speller, in her daughter's absence, told the *Sunday Pictorial* this strange story of Eastern adventure.

CLOTH-OF-GOLD PRINCE

"Queenie," said Mrs. Speller, "was engaged last March with Winnie Comber and some other English girls by a Frenchman, a M. Theron, for a tour abroad in vaudeville.

"We heard constantly from Queenie from Salonika, and Jerusalem, and then from Damascus.

"Last Thursday we were surprised when she and Winnie returned with a wonderful tale.

"It appears that while in Damascus an Arab prince or sheikh took a violent fancy to Queenie.

"He used to come to the theatre with a body-guard of mounted Arabs and he himself was dressed in cloth of gold lined with rose-coloured silk.

"He sent Queenie and Winnie presents of champagne and lovely perfumes and sweets.

"Then he sent messages to them and eventually obtained an introduction. Nothing would please him but that they should go out to his place in the desert and be entertained by him. When their manager agreed to accompany them they consented to go.

ASKED TO BE QUEENS

"It seems that the tent in the desert was a most gorgeous affair, and there were black soldiers 6ft. high everywhere. They went part of the way by motor-car, but completed the journey on beautiful Arab horses.

"Their host, the prince, was splendidly dressed and blazed with diamonds and precious stones, his sword hilt being studded with them.

"As he became pressing in his entreaties for them both to marry him and become his queens the girls grew frightened.

"The Sheikh swore he would follow them all over the world, and the prince, who had returned to Damascus, where they wisely went to the British Consul.

"The Consul advised them to go home, and sent them off to Beirut, but the soldiers of the prince layd them and I believe there was some shooting, but they managed to get back to the Consul's house where they remained all night.

"Next day they were taken safely to Beirut, but the Prince followed them in an aeroplane. He arrived too late, as the boat had just sailed."

"AWFULLY HANDSOME"

At this point Miss Queenie entered the room. She confirmed the story just told in every detail.

"I must say," she told the *Sunday Pictorial*, "the Sheikh was an awfully handsome fellow.

"He was very tall and slim and quite young. He used to sit in his box at the theatre and stare at me in a funny way through his outspread fingers.

"When I met him I asked him why he did this, and he said it was because he did not want people to know which girl he was looking at.

"Winnie and I both speak a little French, and she has a little Arabic.

"The Prince always used to tell me he would shower upon me all the wealth of his principedom if I would accompany him to his desert home, and that he would make me happy if I would become what he called the hily of his harem."

"I love the East, but I have no ambition to become a desert Queen."

Miss Speller was asked if she thought the Prince would follow her to this country, and she said: "Well, I would not be surprised, as he always said that his life would be empty and desolate if I went from his side."

CHAMPION HORN BLOWER

Boy Wins Richmond Competition Open to Coach Guards

At the Richmond Royal Horse Show yesterday the coach-horn blowing competition, open to coach guards only, was won by Clifford Dewdney, aged thirteen, of Newport Market Army Training School, Orpington, the guard of the old Berkeley coach.

Dewdney, dressed in red coat with yellow facings, competed with men three times his age.

HASTINGS FOUGHT AGAIN

The Battle of Hastings was fought again in Hastings yesterday in the course of the pageant celebrating the ninth centenary of the birth of William the Conqueror.