

Dreyfus, Martyr and Hero

History of One of World's Greatest Wrongs Righted After Twelve Years

How the "Syndicate of Treason," Which Condemned an Innocent Man to Devil's Island and All but Wrecked the French Republic, Was Follied at Last by the Men Who Sacrificed Themselves to the Cause of Justice

THREE conditions prevailing in France in 1894 led to the accusing and condemning of Captain Alfred Dreyfus for treason in the alleged selling of military secrets to the German government, says the New York World.

The first and underlying cause was a violent agitation against Jews.

The second was the discovery that somebody was furnishing information about army plans to Colonel Schwarzkoppen, the German military attaché.

The third was the personal unpopularity of Captain Dreyfus among his associates of the general staff.

These things, combined with a ready unscrupulousness on the part of certain officers to manufacture evidence to bear out their prejudiced theories, led to a concentration on the brilliant Jewish officer, his accusation, his quick trial and his deportation to a horrible imprisonment.

The mills of justice grind slowly, but they grind sure. They have taken twelve years to formally establish an innocence in which the world at large long has believed. If it is any satisfaction to the suffering man he can look back upon the wreck of administrations and aspiring politicians, the convulsion of the whole French nation in violent disturbance, the disgrace of army officers of high rank and even

city of Paris. Between a file of men Dreyfus, in uniform and carrying a sword, was marched before General Darras. The verdict of the court martial was read. An adjutant seized the captain's sword and broke it across his knee. Then the insignia of rank were stripped from the condemned man's uniform, and the general pronounced the words of degradation.

"Viva in France!" cried Dreyfus in a loud voice. "You have degraded an innocent man. I swear I am innocent."

Around the square they marched him to parade his ignominy. His last cry was:

"Tell the whole of France that I am innocent."

For more than four years Dreyfus was buried from the world—a prisoner on Devil's Island, where he managed to survive horrible hardships, solitary confinement, chains, fever and his worst fear of all, insanity.

His Life on Devil's Island.

In later years Dreyfus himself furnished the following description of his prison: "The stone hut destined for my use measured about thirteen yards square. The windows were grated. The door was of latticework, with simple iron bars. This door led to a little hallway, six feet square, entrance to which was closed by a solid wooden

possible for me to go out. I cannot work at my English, and I cannot think. The Dreyfus family began systematic work in establishing the convict's innocence. His brother, Mathieu Dreyfus, spared no money in the great undertaking. It was slow and disappointing at first. Everything was hidden in the secret archives of the German embassy. The campaign began with the rousing of public opinion, and within a year France began to be torn by bitter controversy that embroiled the government itself.

In 1905 the case was taken up by the intelligence office in the person of Lieutenant Colonel Picquart, one of the youngest and most brilliant men in the army. One day the same German attaché, now believed to have been torn up and another sent in its stead.

New Trailor Revealed.

Instantly there was revealed a new traitor in the French army camp. Esterhazy was the traitor, not Dreyfus. He had spent most of his time in Paris instead of at his post in Rome. The captured letter became known as the "petit bleu," being written on the blue stamped paper of the army, but immediately every. At first Picquart did not connect Esterhazy with the Dreyfus affair, but one day, securing some of the major's handwriting, he was struck by the similarity between it and the writing on the "bordereau" on which Dreyfus was accused. The more he investigated the more he became convinced that Esterhazy was the traitor and Dreyfus an innocent man.

He examined the "dossier," or envelope, containing the documents supposed to incriminate the captain. One of them was a letter of Schwarzkoppen referring to "that excellent D." The army clique had asserted that D. stood for Dreyfus. Picquart found that D. stood for Dubois, a poor scribbler, who was not in the army. This and the "bordereau" now believed to have been written by Esterhazy, were its only contents.

But when Picquart innocently communicated his discovery to his superior officers, the corps and the same who had brought about the condemnation of Dreyfus, he met with little encouragement. The clique determined to stand together. It was decided that Picquart should be sidetracked. He was sent off to Tunis, whence few officers returned. It would never do to have the army exposed.

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Erverone is most cordially invited to attend the Woodmen picnic to be given in the grove at Barrington on Wednesday, Aug. 1st. Good music, races and athletic sports of every description; in fact, so many prizes have already been assured that there will be no lack of inducements for contestants. Prizes will be in abundance for pretty girls, homely fellows, and the meekest looking bum, etc. Come one and all to Barrington on August 1st and enjoy a pleasant day's outing with the Woodmen boys. They'll make you feel at home.

To the Republicans of the Eighth Senatorial District.

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for re-election to the General Assembly, subject to the action of the Senatorial Convention of this District.

Inasmuch as it was the intention of the Legislature that each voter should vote for one candidate for Representative, so that in Districts like the Eighth, each County should have a member in the General Assembly, Lake County at present having the Senator.

I therefore ask the votes of the Republicans of Lake and Boone Counties at the primaries to be held August 4, 1906, and request that those who wish to vote for me mark a cross in the square opposite my name on the official ballot.

Respectfully,
Frank R. Covey,
Belvedere, Ill.

Notice to Tax Payers.

Public notice is hereby given that the Lake County Board of Review is now in session in the Supervisor's Room in the Court House at Waukegan, Illinois.

Complaint will be received for the revision of assessment until August 10th, 1906.

All those having complaints to make will file same before above date, after which none will be considered.

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ALFRED DREYFUS.

upon the corpses of suicides that strewn the path over which his "cause célèbre" has slowly dragged to final vindication.

Two Heroes in the Cause.

Alongside of Dreyfus, the martyr, have stood two heroes whose name deserve to be indelibly linked with the love of truth and justice.

One of them is Emile Zola, most noted of modern French novelists, now, alas, dead and unable to join in this final triumph. For simple love of truth he dared to take up the cause of a condemned man and defy government and army in his famous letter beginning "I accuse." For that he was sentenced to heavy fine and imprisonment and the loss of his Legion of Honor button. He fled into exile.

The other man is Colonel Picquart, a rational and extravagant found difficult entrance into my brain. Oh, what a breaking down of all my beliefs!

"Since I landed a month ago I have remained locked in my pen, with closed blinds. I saved times I all but went crazy. I had congestion of the brain.

"And then I have never any news of wife and children. Yes, I know that since the 29th of March, nearly three weeks ago, there have been letters for me at Cayenne. I have had France for news in my dear ones. There is no answer.

"My days are interminable, every minute of every hour a long drawn out weariness. I am incapable of any considerable physical exertion. More over, from 10 in the morning until 3 in the evening the heat makes it im-

The Famous "Bordereau."

Mme. Bastien, a scrubwoman in the embassy, was under pay of the intelligence office to save all scraps of paper, which she placed together by Major Henry. One day in the summer of 1894 she turned in a piece of paper which afterward became known as the famous "bordereau." It was alleged to have been found in Colonel Schwarzkoppen's wastebasket and read:

"Being without information as to whether you desire to see me, I send you nevertheless, monsieur, some interesting information, viz:

"A note concerning the hydraulic brake of the 120 and the way the gun is managed. A note upon the troupes de couverture; some modifications will be carried out according to the new plan. A note concerning a modification in the formations of artillery. A note relative to Madagascar. The proposed manel der del of the field artillery.

"This document is exceedingly difficult to get hold of, and I can only have it at my disposal for a few days. The minister of war has distributed a certain number of copies among the troops, and the corps are held responsible for them. Each officer holding a copy is required to return it after the maneuvers.

"Therefore if you will glean from it whatever interest you and let me have it again as soon as possible I will manage to obtain possession of it, unless you would prefer that I have it copied in extenso and send you a copy. I am just starting for the maneuvers."

Searching For Author of Letter.

General Mercier, minister of war; General Boisdorff, chief of the general staff; Colonel Sandherr, head of the intelligence department; Major Henry, his assistant; and other high officers began a search to discover the author of this treasonable letter. They compared many handwritings and finally suspicion pointed to Dreyfus, merely because some of the writing resembled his style.

Dreyfus was not a dashing army officer. He was more the brilliant student. He was a Jew. He spoke with a German accent. He had a haughty demeanor and associated little with his military companions. He was keen, studious, exceedingly reticent in manner, a tremendous worker and exceedingly precise. More than this, he was wealthy and rather too self confident.

There was something so otherworldly about Dreyfus that this similarity in handwriting, but, blinded by prejudice, all the chiefs, from Mercier down, were ready to pronounce him guilty immediately. More than this, the unscrupulous Henry was ready to secretly forge additional documents whenever needed in emergency, and his associate with the comic opera name of Major Du Paty de Clam joined in schemes of inquisition.

It was Paty de Clam who arrested Dreyfus after getting him to write sample letters through a subterfuge. It was Paty de Clam who conducted the searches of papers and formulated the evidence for the trial. He secured the noted criminologist and expert Bertillon to make comparisons of handwriting and decide that Dreyfus wrote the original bordereau. But all the scientific knowledge of the great Bertillon and his handwriting tests in this case are now thrown into the dust by the revelations of simple truth.

It cannot be said that there was a preconcerted conspiracy to entrap and convict Dreyfus. But when the suspicion against him arose the men in the army staff who disliked him were only too ready to condemn him.

Wave of Anti-Semitism.

The wave of anti-Semitism then agitating France helped pile prejudice upon his head. The arm of the letter overjoyed that the traitor in their midst had been "caught." Many of the Paris newspapers shrieked for vengeance. The victim's conviction was a foregone conclusion. His family tried hard to save him and Dreyfus valiantly maintained his innocence, but to no purpose. The secret court martial, on Dec. 29, 1894, condemned him for life to Devil's Island.

The German embassy was in an embarrassing position. It knew that Dreyfus was not the officer with whom dealings were had, but, being guilty of no crime, it was unable to say anything. The most that could be done was to publish semi-official notes in newspapers that Germany had taken no part in the affair. On the other hand, the French army officers could not proclaim their source of information, for that would reveal how the torn scraps of paper were stolen from the embassy.

The case of South America, poor Dreyfus was sent, and there he suffered tortures designed to quickly end his life. In the meantime in France truth

Henry's Forgery.

In his absence Henry forged a letter purporting to be written by the Italian military attaché to the German attaché and found in the same old wastebasket. It read as follows:

"I have just read that a deputy is going to ask several questions on the Dreyfus affair. If they request any new explanations at Rome, I shall say I never had any dealings with this Jew. That is understood. If they question you, make the same reply, for nobody must ever know what has happened to him."

This was to strengthen the army case against the prisoner in the view of the risings in the public indignation and the demands in the chamber of deputies for investigation.

From the summer of 1897 onward France was torn by discussion of the Dreyfus affair. It became involved in political maneuvers and in court proceedings. Picquart accused Esterhazy. Picquart was disgraced and imprisoned by the army clique.

Zola Writes Letter of Accusation.

Things began to look dark for the cause of justice, when Zola suddenly launched his public letter of accusation, declaring Dreyfus innocent and Esterhazy guilty, acquitted to screen the wrong. France blazed with agitation. Zola was tried and condemned to one year's imprisonment and fined 10,000 francs (\$160,000) for slander. He fled to England, but the Dreyfus cause was revived.

In August, 1898, another conscientious army officer, Major Jaurès, moved for comparison of documents that the alleged letter from the Italian military attaché to the German attaché was evidently a forgery.

Major Henry was called before officers of the war department and questioned. He admitted the truth and sought sympathy from the generals who had formerly accepted the Esterhazy forgery. But public sentiment was beginning to make itself felt. The generals sat rigidly silent. Henry was ordered to prison. The following day he cut his throat with a razor. That was the turning point. It was only a question of time when the agitation in favor of Dreyfus would succeed in bringing about a new trial.

In 1899 the courts ordered the prisoner brought back to France for re-trial. The session began at Rennes in August before a court of seven officers, presided over by Colonel Jouart.

The prisoner, Major Jaurès, from the first made a bold, unfavorable impression. Labor, his lawyer, made a brilliant case and won great fame. Dreyfus was free, but not rehabilitated. He refused to accept the judgment final. He must have complete vindication and be restored to the same plane of innocence on which he stood before the accusation of 1894.

In the Theatrical Market.

There is a great scarcity of plays nowadays that are suitable for actresses who, to put it bluntly, are no longer the best thing of their youth, says Vanity Fair. "What we want," said a woman the other day, "is a part for ladies whose hearts are still young but whose waists are verging on thirty-two."

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