

Seven Keys To Baldpate

By EARL DERR BIGGERS

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Suddenly from the other side of the steps a black figure rose, a fist shot out and Mr. Magee went spinning like



Magee Wrenched the Package From His Hand.

a whirling dervish down the snowy path to land in a heap five feet away. The next instant the mayor of Reuton and the black figure were locked in terrific conflict.

For fifteen seconds, muttering, slipping, grappling, the two figures waltzed grotesquely about in the falling snow. Then the mayor's feet slid from under him on the treacherous white carpet, and the two went down together. As Mr. Magee swooped down upon them he saw the hand of the stranger and the mayor's pocket and draw from it the package that had been placed there in the office a few moments before.

Before that gentleman realized what had happened Magee had wrenched the package from his hand, thrown him back on the prostrate form of the highest official of Reuton and fled up the steps. Quickly the stranger regained his feet and started in pursuit, but he arrived at the great front door of Baldpate Inn just in time to hear the lock click inside.

Safe for a moment behind a locked door, Mr. Magee paused to get his breath. The glory of battle filled his soul. It was not until long afterward that he realized the battle had been a mere scuffle in the dark. With no thought for Mr. Bland, bound in his uneasy chair, Mr. Magee hurried up the broad staircase of Baldpate. Now came the most gorgeous scene of all—a fair haired lady; a knight she had sent forth to battle; the knight returned. "You asked me to bring you this, my lady," business of surprise and joy on the lady's part, business also perhaps of adoration for the knight.

At the right of the stairs lay 17 and the lady at the left a supposedly uninhabited land. As Mr. Magee reached the second floor, blithely picturing the scene in which he was to play so satisfactory a part, he paused, for halfway down the corridor to the left an open door threw a faint light into the hall, and in that light stood a woman he had never seen before. In this order came Mr. Magee's impressions of her—fur coated, tall, dark, handsome, with the haughty manner of one engaging a chauffeur.

"I beg your pardon," she said, "but are you by any chance Mr. Magee?"

The knight leaned weakly against the wall and tried to think.

"I—I am," he managed to say.

"I'm so glad I've found you," replied the girl. It seemed to the dazed Magee that her dark eyes were not overly happy.

"I cannot ask you in, I'm afraid. I do not know the custom on such an occasion. Does anybody? I am alone with my maid, Hal Bentley, when I wrote to him for a key to this place, told me of your being here and said that I was to put myself under your protection."

"Delighted, I'm sure," he murmured.

"I shall not try to impose on you," she went on. "The whole affair is so unusual as to be almost absurd. I have come here to get something—and I haven't the least idea how to proceed. I came because I must have it—so much depends on it."

Prophetically Mr. Magee clutched in his pocket the package for which he had done battle.

"I may be too late." The girl's eyes grew wide. "That would be terribly unfortunate. I do not wish you to be

injured serving me"— She lowered her voice. "But if there is any way in which you can help me—in this difficulty—I can never be grateful enough. Downstairs in the safe there is, I believe, a package containing a large sum of money."

Mr. Magee's hand closed convulsively in his pocket.

"If there is any way possible," said the girl, "I must obtain that package. I give you my word I have as much right to it as any one who will appear at the inn. The honor and happiness of one who is very dear to me are involved."

With the eyes of a man in a dream Mr. Magee looked into the face of the latest comer to Baldpate.

"Hal Bentley is an old friend and a bully chap," he said. "It will be a great pleasure to serve a friend of his." He paused, congratulating himself that these were words, idle words. "When did you arrive, may I ask?"

(To be Continued.)

MEDIATORS SIGN PROTOCOL.

NIAGARA FALLS CONFERENCE OUTLINES TERMS OF PEACE.

Agreement Provides That Settlement of Mexican Affairs Shall Be Left to Representatives of Huerta and Carranza Who Will Be Brought Together by Mediators.

Niagara Falls, June 24.—Terms for composing all international differences between the United States and Mexico have been concluded. The conditions under which diplomatic relations will be resumed were embodied in a protocol signed tonight by the ambassador from Brazil, the ministers from Chile and Argentina and the American and Huerta delegates.

The character of the settlement is not expected to arouse opposition from the constitutionalists, who would participate in it, and to a large degree it would mould the adjustment of all internal disputes.

When a new provisional government is established to succeed that headed by Gen. Huerta the result of mediation—recognized as a triumph for Pan-American diplomacy—will become effective.

Coincidentally with the action taken tonight it was announced that the actual selection of a provisional president and the organization of the new government will be left to an informal conference of representatives of the constitutionalists—Luis Cabrera, Rafael Zubaran and Jose Vasconcelos—and the Huerta delegates to the mediation conference.

No formal adjustment of mediation will be taken but there will be no sessions while representatives of the two Mexican factions endeavor to agree on the personnel of the new government, agrarian and educational reforms and other internal problems.

It was decided by the mediators and delegates to postpone consideration of the exact date when American forces shall be withdrawn from Vera Cruz. This, as well as the personnel of the new provisional government in Mexico, will be protocolized after the conferences between the constitutionalists and Huerta delegates adjourn.

While the informal conferences are in session, Ambassador Da Gama of Brazil, and possibly Minister Suarez of Chile, will take a short vacation. Assurances that the constitutionalists would be represented at the informal conferences came direct to mediators today from Luis Cabrera, confidential representative of Gen. Carranza in Washington.

Tonight's formal session of mediators and delegates prepared the way for the complete settlement of differences between the United States and Mexico growing out of the failure of a Huerta officer at Tampico to salute the Stars and Stripes.

The single outstanding proviso in the protocol is that the international differences shall be adjusted on the establishment of a new provisional government. The protocol sets forth:

That the United States and Argentina, Brazil and Chile—the mediating countries—shall recognize the new provisional government and that therefore diplomatic relations between the United States and Mexico shall be resumed.

That the United States demands no indemnity and does not further exact satisfaction for any of the incidents connected with the patrol of Mexican waters and invasion of the country.

That a commission shall be appointed to adjust private claims following the revolution and international incidents.

The protocol was drafted early today and its phraseology telegraphed to Washington for approval. At 9 o'clock tonight word came from President Wilson and Secretary Bryan authorizing the American delegates to sign it.

The effort to finish work on international points in peace plan so that all might be completed before the convening of informal meetings of constitutionalists and Huerta representatives has been in progress since Friday. Then President Wilson informed Minister Naon in Wash-

ington that the American government desired to have the constitutionalists and Huerta government compose their differences as a previous condition to the settling of the international problem.

The result of the mediators' work tonight places the issue now squarely before the representatives of the two warring factions. On them will rest the responsibility for failure or success of the peace plan as a whole. Luis Cabrera, Rafael Zubaran and Jose Vasconcelos, the constitutionalist delegates, are in Washington and should arrive here in another day or two. The sending to Washington of Fernando Ingles Calderon, who, it had been expected, would head the constitutionalist delegation, caused some confusion in plans, but it was believed tonight that Calderon's mission to the capital merely was to substitute for Zubaran during his absence from Washington. Cabrera and Vasconcelos originally were designated by Gen. Carranza to attend the mediation conferences.

There was little said here tonight about Gen. Villa's attitude towards the sending of delegates, but it was believed he was in thorough accord with the proposition. Reliable information has come that he is ready to accept the result of the conferences and it is not unlikely that he will be kept informed of its progress.

At the close of the conference Ambassador Da Gama gave out a statement embracing the protocols signed tonight. He announced that three articles of the peace plan had been protocolized and that these related only to the international side of the Mexican problem.

"We deemed it advisable," he said, "to invite the constitutionalist party to send delegates to discuss with the Mexican delegates the internal aspects of the problem."

The protocols signed are as follows:

"Article 1. The provisional government referred to in the protocol No. 3 shall be constituted by agreement of the delegates representing the parties between which the internal struggle in Mexico is taking place.

"Article 2. (a) Upon the constitution of the provisional government in the city of Mexico, the government of the United States of America will recognize it immediately and thereupon diplomatic relations between the two countries will be resumed.

"(b) The government of the United States of America will not in any form whatsoever claim a war indemnity or other international satisfaction.

"(c) The provisional government will proclaim an absolute amnesty to all foreigners for any and all political offenses committed during the period of civil war in Mexico.

"(d) The provisional government will negotiate for the constitution of an international commission for the settlement of the claims of foreigners on account of damages sustained during the period of the war between the sections as a consequence of military acts or the acts of national authorities.

"Article 3. The three mediating governments agree on their part to recognize the provisional government organized as provided by section 1 of this protocol."

"Protocol No. 3 referred to was signed two weeks ago and set forth merely that a provisional government to be constituted later as provided shall be recognized on a certain date to be agreed on subsequently and from that time forward shall exercise governmental powers until the inauguration of a constitutional president.

At the opening of the conference tonight a formal statement, the same that was shown to President Wilson by Dr. Naon last Friday, was read and incorporated in the minutes.

"The internal question of Mexico constitutes an essential difficulty in the way of the full solution of pending conflict with the United States. We so understood when we extended to all the parties interested the tender of our good offices towards the peaceful settlement of this conflict.

"Unfortunately circumstances did not permit the constitutionalist party, notwithstanding its acceptance in principle of our tenders, to participate in the conferences of the mediation under the conditions which we considered as indispensable. Notwithstanding this we, the mediators, understand that it is our duty to remove all obstacles which might stand in the way of attainment of the purposes which promoted the tender of our good offices.

"The study we have made of all the circumstances connected with the conflict has shown us that its settlement is dependent, at the present moment, on the solution of the internal question between the contending parties, and that it is the duty to whom peculiarly belong the right and the authority to solve it. It is for this reason that we have thought it our duty to invite, as we have, both the representatives of the constitutionalist party and of the government of Gen. Huerta to meet at a place near



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that where the mediation conferences are being held, in order to discuss and agree between themselves on the basis of an arrangement whereby the political participation of the country could be consummated.

"In this manner, and if an unprejudiced and compromising spirit could prevail at said conferences, we trust that Mexican patriotism will remove, by itself and without outside interference, the cause of the sorrowful situation in which the country finds itself at the present time."

No Demagogue.

From the speeches of the four candidates of St. Matthews and Orangeburg one is forced to the irresistible conclusion that there is less of the demagogue in Lang Jennings' make-up than any of them.—Lancaster News.

Says the Washington Herald: "The trouble with a good many men is that when they have nothing to say they insist on saying it." The worst part of it is they think they have said something.—Wilmington Star.

Candidates' Cards.

Announcements of candidates will be printed in this column until the close of the campaign for \$5. No cards accepted on credit.

The Senate.

I hereby announce that I am a candidate for election to the State Senate from Sumter County, subject to the rules of the Democratic party.

R. D. EPPS.

House of Representatives.

Believing that my four years experience and my study of the State's affairs have put me in a position for effective service, I am a candidate for re-election to the House of Representatives, subject to the rules of the Democratic primary.

R. B. BELSER.

I am a candidate for the House of Representatives from Sumter County, subject to the rules governing the Democratic primary.

A. K. SANDERS.

For Supervisor.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of County Supervisor subject to the rules governing the Democratic primary.

W. S. THOMPSON.

I am a candidate for re-election to the office of County Supervisor, subject to the rules of the Democratic party.

P. M. FITTS, Supervisor.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Supervisor for Sumter County, subject to the rules of the Democratic party.

L. E. WHITE.

County Superintendent of Education.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for re-election to the office of County Superintendent of Education of Sumter County and pledge myself to abide by the rules of the Democratic primary.

J. H. HAYNSWORTH.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of County Superintendent of Education for Sumter County, subject to the rules of the Democratic party.

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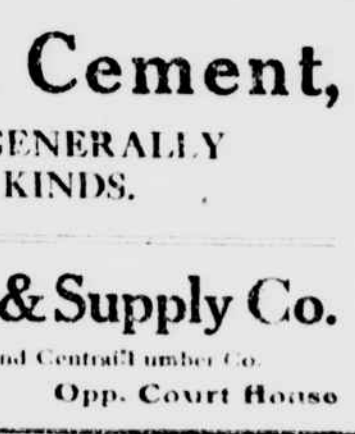
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