

# ANARCHISTS DIRECT THE FRENCH BANDITS: More Evidence That a Great ...

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

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## ANARCHISTS DIRECT THE FRENCH BANDITS

More Evidence That a Great Organization Is Behind the Recent Outrages.

### DEATH TO ALL WHO TELL

Public No Longer Looks on Gang Leaders as Heroes — Demanding Prompt Action by the Police.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PARIS, May 11.—The police are still without any clue whatever to the whereabouts of Garnier, Vallet, and Gorodesko, three of the most terrible among the members of the band of automobile brigands who are still at large. However, more information concerning the organization and extent of the criminal association has now been pieced together from the depositions of scores of witnesses, examined every day, and from the scant admissions extracted by the magistrates from suspected persons arrested during the week.

As Maurice Leblanc wrote in his article for THE NEW YORK TIMES last Sunday, there is no doubt that the police are confronted, not with an ordinary Apache gang, but with a vast organization with headquarters in France and branches in the principal cities of the world, and which, under the cover of the ideal of anarchism, constitutes a bond of union among common criminals. According to reliable information given to THE NEW YORK TIMES this week by a responsible person in touch with Anarchist circles, the Anarchist movement in France is far more important than is generally supposed. The number of Anarchists living in Paris alone is estimated as at least 10,000, and there is probably almost an equal number in the French provinces. Most of these belong to various groups, scattered all over the country. The most dangerous of them, however, are the secret societies, which, it is stated, use a system of passwords and cipher codes for communication among themselves. Their members are bound by oaths, involving the death penalty, not to reveal the plans of the chiefs or to disclose to outsiders the names of other affiliated persons.

The crimes which followed the capture and death of Bonnot go to confirm the foregoing information. After the outrage of Lozere, when a man suspected of having denounced Carrouy was fired at several times, fortunately unsuccessfully, by an unknown assailant, a new sensation was provided by the vendetta of the Neuves Maisons, near Nancy, when Charles Bill, a member of Bonnot's band, lured a carpenter on to the highroad and shot him dead. The victim was suspected of giving information which led the police to arrest a member of a secret society.

It is the general opinion that all these crimes bear the unmistakable stamp of anarchism, and a parallel is found between the present "red wave" and the outbursts of crime in 1893, when the Anarchists blew up Very's restaurant, where Ravachol was arrested. The attention of the public is drawn by the press to what is called "intellectual Anarchy," the followers whereof are less harmful than the devotees of the religion of destruction and revolt, and whose societies have as their main object the spread of the doctrines of Bakunin, Koropotkin, Reclus, and other philosophical leaders of the movement. The propaganda is systematically done by means of lectures and lending libraries, in addition to several newspapers, the principal ones in this country being the Libertarian, New Times, Anarchy, Revolt, New Era, Free Idea, and Future Society.

Although, as the events of the last four months show, a majority of the dangerous class of Anarchists are ignorant young men with nothing to lose, it is a fact that many of them possess considerable education, obtained through their own efforts, while the movement has several adherents among the well-to-do grades of society. These

last take only a theoretical share of the work, and chiefly confine themselves to financing the groups and newspapers. They take good care to keep clear of any action that will bring them into relations with the police.

It has also become known this week that the bandits have been in the habit of using the Post Office as the safest means of communication. All their letters, addressed under various initials to the Poste Restante, were collected regularly at the Nancy Post Office by a confederate who acted as Secretary of their association, and whom the police are said to be about to arrest.

Meanwhile the greatest precautions have been taken by the police to safeguard witnesses from possible revenge, the impudence of the gang going so far as actually to threaten them, as happened in the case of Mlle. Bellot, a chief witness for the prosecution, who on Friday received the following postal: "Don't worry, my beauty. Your turn will come."

The greatest curiosity is evinced regarding the public sale, which will take place on May 12, of the furniture and all belongings of Dubois, the man who sheltered Bonnot and was killed with him, but there is now a general revulsion of feeling with regard to the exploits of the bandits. The tendency to make a hero of the elusive Bonnot, which was enhanced by the great display of forces of police and the blowing up of the bandits' refuge as a last recourse, is altogether on the wane. The public is now tired of hearing nothing else but dramatic tales of what, with the exception of the Choisy-le-Roi drama, have been fruitless man hunts with police dogs and harrowing details of crimes committed by phantom bandits, and is now beginning to clamor to have the reign of terror ended once and for all, and with as little theatrical effect as possible.

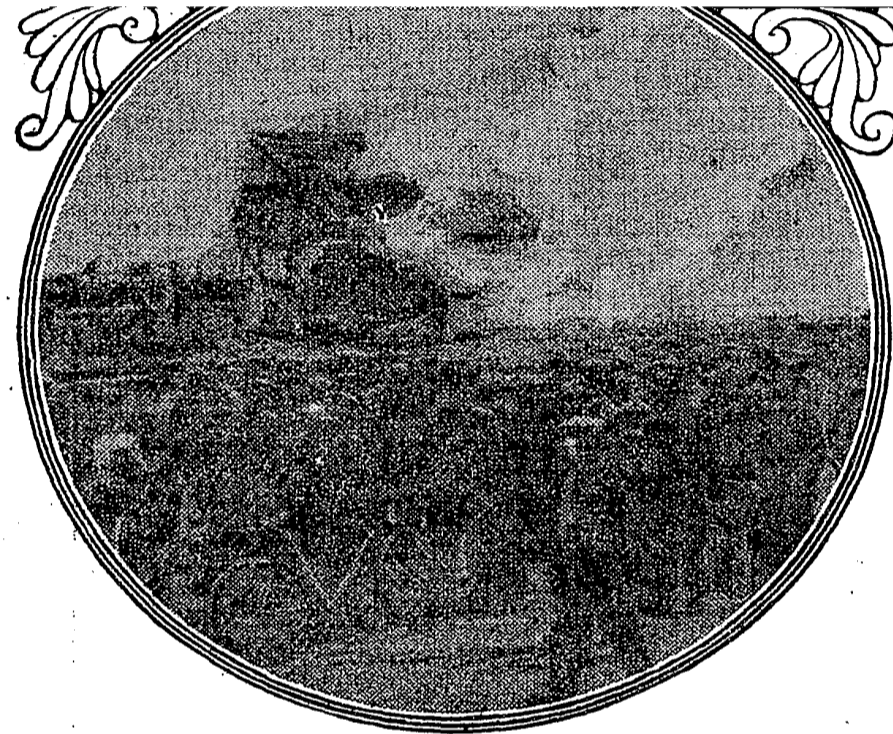
Sociologists do not hesitate to assign a goodly share of responsibility for the present state of affairs to the modern stage, stating that the present-day drama has too great a tendency to throw a glamour over crimes of passion or otherwise, and to draw the sympathy of audiences toward the perpetrators. The famous "Kill her" of Dumas, it is claimed, has made as many victims as the "live one's life" of Ibsen has wrecked lives. Among the reforms urged is greater severity in judging criminals, and, above all, secrecy of judicial proceedings, which are now published by every newspaper, with a wealth of details, even before the examining magistrate has finished with the witnesses. Only when those giving evidence against such dangerous criminals and gangs are assured of complete privacy will they feel safe to speak freely, it is pointed out.

The Anarchists' use of the Poste Restante as a means of communication is considered to add further weight to the recent agitation to have this institution abolished or exercised under strict supervision.

## First Photographs of the Siege of the Paris Bandits at Choisy-le-Roi on April 28.



Republican Guards Firing on the Bandits' Refuge.



The Building After the Explosion.