



MRS. CASSIE L. CHADWICK.

CAREER OF MRS. CHADWICK

Incidents in Early Life of the Famous Woman

In the history of "frenzied finance" in this country, and in the entire world for that matter, no case the equal of that of Mrs. Chadwick has ever been known. Recent disclosures have startled financiers and business men everywhere. How this woman, apparently alone, outwitted shrewd bankers and hard-headed business men and borrowed fortunes on mythical securities and bogus notes seems almost beyond comprehension, but it seems only too true.

Until the suit of Herbert D. Newton, of Brookline, Mass., for the recovery of a loan of \$190,800, and the failure of the Oberlin (O.) national bank, few of her victims suspected she was anything but what she represented herself to be, an extremely wealthy woman. Then as the news of her several transactions became public the history of her life gradually became known, and a most strange and interesting story it is. It is said she began life on a little Canadian farm in Ontario, as Elizabeth Bigley, in 1857. Afterwards she was known as Louise

an organ from E. G. Thomas, of that city, giving her note in part payment. When her note came due she did not meet it, but gave another note, made by the late Reuben Kipp, in security. This proved a forgery and landed her in jail. Her trial took place at the spring assizes in 1879. She was defended by the late Ashton Fletcher, Q. C., and the plea of insanity being made, she was acquitted on that ground. She disappeared from Woodstock then and was not seen again there till 1889, when she came back to town, evidently prosperous.

After her disappearance from Woodstock, in the summer of 1879, there is no record of Elizabeth Bigley's whereabouts for several months. In 1880, however, she was first known in Cleveland. She took up her residence with her sister, Mrs. Alice M. York. In 1882 her trouble with the money lenders of Cleveland began. Her scheme was to borrow money on Mrs. York's furniture. She gave them among other names that of Alice M. Bestedo. Her

was seized with what seemed to be a hemorrhage of the lungs—a clever counterfeiter, however—but she succeeded in enlisting the sympathy of a number of people. She explained that she was a wealthy woman returning to her home in Cleveland, had become unexpectedly embarrassed, and was successful in obtaining a number of small loans. When the Erie people wrote for the return of the money note that the woman who had imposed upon them was dead. In 1885 Elizabeth Bigley appeared again in Cleveland, under the name of Mme. La Rose. She had a sign in her window advertising herself as a clairvoyant. Again she disappeared and it was learned she had married a farmer named J. R. Scott in Trumbull county. She was divorced from Scott in a few months and Scott was minus his farm. In 1886 she returned to Cleveland a third time. It was in this year that the boy now with Mrs. Chadwick and known as Emil Hoover was born.

Her Career in Toledo. There is a break of two years in the history, during which the woman left Cleveland. In 1890 she turned up at Toledo as Mme. Devere. At Toledo her career was as dramatic as it was spectacular. Fifteen years ago she was a familiar figure. She could be seen in the finest of carriages driving about the city, and her entertainments were known as elaborate, the cost of flowers alone being high. Her past history was kept secret, yet by degrees it developed that she was born in Woodstock, Can., and was the daughter of Mrs. Mary Ann Bigley. She began to secure large sums of money from various men. It is asserted that a prominent doctor gave up all and was completely under her control. He is to-day a physical wreck. A bank president, since dead, was deceived, and how much he loaned her will never be learned. Two express officials and a grain merchant are said to have been caught for large sums. One of the stories told by Mme. Devere in Toledo was that of her marriage to a wealthy gentleman near Manchester, England, who was killed shortly after in a runaway, and from whose estate she received an annual income of \$1,000.

Spends Money Lavishly. For years Mrs. Dr. Leroy S. Chadwick's lavish expenditure of money has been the subject of comment in Cleveland. There is not a store in Cleveland of any prominence with which Mrs. Chadwick has not had dealings. At some of them she has spent thousands and thousands of dollars, and has paid spot cash. She tried no trickery with them when she wanted anything. No person with millions at his command ever bought with a more lavish hand than did Mrs. Chadwick, and when she bought she had the money to pay for it. She juggled with no securities, genuine or otherwise, when she made her purchases in the Cleveland stores. The cash with which she paid probably came to her through her ability to make banks and bankers think she was a person to whom a loan, no matter how large, would be a good business investment, but when she dealt with the grocer, the butcher, the jeweler, or the house furnisher she paid him in good coin of the realm, and paid him in enormous sums. There is not a store in town that has not its story to tell.

Just before Christmas several years ago, Mrs. Chadwick walked into a Cleveland toy store and pulled out a written list that, according to the store officials, was two yards long. Nothing but toys was on the list, and when Mrs. Chadwick had finished buying, her bill was in the neighborhood of \$800. Dolls galore were bought, Mrs. Chadwick saying that she wanted something like 100, the price to range from one to three dollars each. Personally she made no selections, leaving that to the clerks who waited on her, but when the bill was presented it was paid at once. The toys were distributed among the orphan asylums and the different children's wards in the hospitals and many a heart was gladdened that Christmas by the benevolence of the unknown person, as Mrs. Chadwick expressly stipulated in buying the goods that the recipients must not know where they came from.

Such, it is said, is a brief history of the mysterious woman whose audacity has staggered the whole financial world. The suit filed by Mr. Newton has led to the unfolding of the mystery, and but for it she might still be continuing her operations.



DR. LEROY S. CHADWICK.

Advertisement for Andrew Carnegie signatures. It shows three signatures: 'Andrew Carnegie' (The Genuine Carnegie Signature), 'Andrew Carnegie' (The Carnegie Signature on Note), and 'C. L. Chadwick' (The C. L. Chadwick on Face of Note).

ALLEGED AND BONA FIDE CARNEGIE SIGNATURES.

Bigley, then as Mrs. C. L. Hoover, Lizzie Hoover, Mary Hoover, Mme. Rosa, Mme. Devere, Mrs. Wallace S. Springsteen, Mrs. J. R. Scott, Lydia Scott, Lydia Clingan, and last of all Mrs. Leroy D. Chadwick.

Begins Strange Career. She was one of eight children, six of whom were girls. Those who knew her father say he was a plain, honest man, who worked industriously and supported his family to the best of his ability. There is no record of eccentricity in the girlhood years of Elizabeth Bigley. In 1878, however, she seemed to have begun the strange career of adventure which she has followed ever since. It is recorded that on November 21, 1878, Elizabeth Bigley called at a barber shop in Brantford, Ont., and asked to have her hair, which was hanging over her shoulders, cut off. This having been done, she asked for a false mustache. When at length she sought to raise money on a gold watch the police were called in. Her father was communicated with and she was taken home. Her peculiarities were soon made more manifest. It became known that she was in the habit of carrying a card on which were the words: "Miss Bigley, heiress to \$15,000." To support this role she made many expensive purchases. She bought \$250 worth of dry goods with a note indorsed by a wealthy farmer near Brantford. She also purchased

brother-in-law forced her to leave his house. Then she became acquainted with Dr. Wallace S. Springsteen, and the marriage of the two took place on December 3, 1883, and within 12 days the doctor applied for a divorce. Dr. Springsteen became suspicious of her and hired detectives to investigate her stories concerning herself, and learned for the first time that she had a sister in the city and the story of her difficulties with the money lenders. He also learned of her birth in Eastwood, Ont., in 1857, and her trial for forgery at Woodstock in 1879, of which charge she escaped conviction on the plea of insanity. Soon after the divorce was granted, which was asked for on the grounds of infidelity, Dr. Springsteen received a letter from a Buffalo attorney informing him that Mrs. Springsteen was stopping at one of the best hotels there, and that she had empowered him (the attorney) to draw \$6,000 on Dr. Springsteen on the grounds that she had submitted to a separation. The doctor immediately denounced her as an impostor.

Known as Mme. Rosa. After her divorce from Dr. Wallace Springsteen Elizabeth Bigley lived in a boarding house in Cleveland. This boarding house was kept by a Mrs. Hoover. Elizabeth Bigley was there known as Mme. Rosa, and also as Mrs. Scott. In 1884 this strange woman was at Erie, Pa., stopping at a hotel. She

she would leave the store, carrying in her muff enough jewels to pay a year's rent of a Fifth Avenue mansion. Mrs. Chadwick was one of its customers at a piano store. One of her small orders one day took the form of eight grand pianos, sent to as many as eight different friends of hers, as a slight token of her esteem and regard. This bill was settled in cash.

Takes Twelve Girls to Europe. There is a firm of jewelers in Cleveland who do a business that would make them rank with Tiffany, of New York. They are not giving to telling what they do for their customers, but here is a story of Mrs. Chadwick's prodigality that is known to almost every clerk in the store. Some time ago she took 12 young society girls on a trip to Europe. Just what happened



MME. DEVERE.

on this trip nobody but those who took part in it knows, and for obvious reasons just now they are not telling. What pranks were indulged in and to what fantastic limits this money mad woman went in order to shower luxury upon the young girls only they themselves know. This much, however, became known when they returned to Cleveland. Mrs. Chadwick went into the private office of the head of the big jewelry firm here and displayed 12 exquisite miniatures painted on porcelain by one of the greatest Parisian artists and had them framed in solid gold.

Buys Store Full of Toys. Just before Christmas several years ago, Mrs. Chadwick walked into a Cleveland toy store and pulled out a written list that, according to the store officials, was two yards long. Nothing but toys was on the list, and when Mrs. Chadwick had finished buying, her bill was in the neighborhood of \$800. Dolls galore were bought, Mrs. Chadwick saying that she wanted something like 100, the price to range from one to three dollars each. Personally she made no selections, leaving that to the clerks who waited on her, but when the bill was presented it was paid at once. The toys were distributed among the orphan asylums and the different children's wards in the hospitals and many a heart was gladdened that Christmas by the benevolence of the unknown person, as Mrs. Chadwick expressly stipulated in buying the goods that the recipients must not know where they came from.

Such, it is said, is a brief history of the mysterious woman whose audacity has staggered the whole financial world. The suit filed by Mr. Newton has led to the unfolding of the mystery, and but for it she might still be continuing her operations.

NORTH DAKOTA NEWS

Remembered the Governor. Governor White was remembered by the capitol employes with a beautiful solid silver service, consisting of sugar bowl, cream jug, coffee urn and tray, as the gift of officers and employes of the capitol, who have worked with the governor during his term of office. The tray was suitably inscribed with the occasion and date of the gift. The day was the 48th birthday of Gov. White, and for some time the movement to celebrate his birthday and at the same time present the governor with a fitting testimonial of the time he has spent at the capitol as executive of the state has been afoot. The fruition of the plan must have been gratifying indeed to those who participated in the gift, as well as to Governor and Mrs. White.

Generous Gift. Mrs. John M. Cochrane has presented to the general library of the University of North Dakota, 2,000 volumes from the general library of her late husband, Justice John M. Cochrane. It is a well known fact that the general and law library of the late justice was by far the most complete in the west, and the volumes that have been presented to the university include works on theology, history, medicine, science, biographies, memoirs and fiction, and every volume has been carefully selected. The gift to the university is a memorial to the late Justice John M. Cochrane, and accompanying the library is a complete index of titles and authors, perfectly arranged.

Nearly Escaped. It was very close to a Libby prison walkout last week when Sanger made his escape from the county jail. He is a small man and squeezed through the hole 10 by 13 inches in the brick wall. The remaining prisoners were puffed up more by the chances of escape, their breakfast or something and were working like beavers to rim out the hole when they were discovered and the whole deal was off. They had wrenched a bar from a door and using this implement, about 18 inches long, had easily worked through the brick wall. The mason who repaired the wall is said to have declared he could dig out of the jail anytime in an hour's work with such a bar.

College Athletics. The trustees of Fargo College have decided to create a position of permanent director of athletics in the college and have taken the necessary action in the case and now only the filling of the position remains. The place has been offered to J. S. Grogan, who so ably coached the football team at Fargo College this last season, and who has demonstrated that he is the fit man for the place. It is not doubted for an instant by the friends of Mr. Grogan and those who know of his connection with the college that he will accept the position. A formal offer of the position was made him by President Morley.

Killed by Pony. The 8-year-old son of A. A. Sache, who lived with his parents on the ranch belonging to Dr. DePuy, near the foot of Jim Lake, Stutsman county, met with an accident that caused his death. The lad was riding a pony, herding cattle, when by some manner he fell off, and his foot caught in the stirrup. The pony dragged the boy for a long distance, and the lad, being unable to free himself, was killed. The parents are only recent arrivals from Minnesota, and much sympathy is extended to them in the loss of their boy. The funeral took place at Piegres.

Land Sales. At the sale of state school lands at Jamestown the highest price paid was \$29.75 per acre for 160 acres in 24-144-64. It was appraised at \$12.50 per acre and two farmers, with land adjoining each wanted the quarter badly enough to pay twice what other good land at the same sale sold for. Swan N. Holm, of Kensai, finally got the quarter at the above price. It was said that one of the bidders offered the other \$400 not to bid before they began.

News Notes. Sheriff Eddy has not yet recaptured Harry Sanger, the prisoner who escaped from the Jamestown jail.

The people of Linton have raised \$800 for a new hall, and it is believed that it will be easy to raise the necessary balance, and the hall will be built.

The hobo season being over, one man has been laid off the police force at Jamestown.

Minor had a \$27,000 fire the other night and there is a demand there for better fire protection.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

For the Week Ending Dec. 23. Eight business houses at Mitchellville, a suburb of Des Moines, Ia., burned, entailing a loss of \$30,000.

Seth Stoddard Wood, well known as a writer on social economies, dropped dead on the street at Passaic, N. J.

There were ten slight earthquakes, followed by one strong shock, at David, Panama. Numerous houses were damaged.

Two children, eight and ten years of age, were burned to death in a fire which destroyed the home of Joe Covey, at Atlanta, Wis.

Mrs. William Gladden shot and killed her husband at their home at Regua gulch, south of Cripple Creek, Col. She says that he abused and beat her.

Nathan Edward Spencer was found guilty at Nashville, O., of the murder of William G. Tanner on August 19. The motive for the crime was robbery.

The John Thompson & Son agricultural machine works and gasoline engine factory, at Beloit, Wis., was destroyed by fire, causing a loss of \$100,000.

Jacob Kuhn, a traveling man, fell from a fourth story window in Evansville, Ind., and was instantly killed. It is believed he was the victim of an accident.

Fire in Columbus, O., destroyed property and stocks valued at between \$150,000 and \$160,000, in the center of the business district. Five firemen were injured.

The Metropolitan club house, the home of the most fashionable club in Washington, was gutted by fire, involving an estimated loss of from \$60,000 to \$100,000.

President Roosevelt accepted an invitation to deliver an address at the Lincoln day dinner to be given by the Republican club, of New York, on the 13th of next February.

The Dedham savings bank, of Dedham, Ia., has been closed and the president, J. G. Caton, who left ostensibly for funds, cannot be found. He is said to be short about \$20,000.

Traveling salesmen have no right to collect funds of companies by which they are employed, and spend the same for their expenses. This rule is laid down by the Illinois supreme court.

After a lingering illness of three years, due to infirmities of old age, Rt. Rev. Richard Phelan, bishop of Pittsburgh diocese, of the Roman Catholic church, died at Pittsburgh, Pa., aged 76.

O. C. Lillie, cashier of the closed First national bank of Conneaut, O., and president and owner of the Marine savings bank, at Conneaut Harbor, which is also closed, has made an assignment.

The factory of the Passumpsic Fiber company and the flour mill of E. T. & H. K. Ide & Co., in the village of Passumpsic, Vt., were destroyed by fire, involving a financial loss estimated at \$75,000.

Prof. J. L. Budd, for 22 years at the head of the horticultural department at Iowa state agricultural college, and one of the most widely known pomologists in the world, died at San Antonio, Tex.

Edward T. Potter, a well-known architect, son of the late Bishop Alonzo Potter, of Pennsylvania, and brother of Bishop Henry C. Potter, is dead at his home in New York. He was 73 years old.

Admiral Sir Francis Ommanney, the "father of the British navy," died at Portsmouth, Eng. He was the last survivor of the battle of Navarino, fought in 1827, which resulted in the destruction of the Turkish fleet.

The conviction of State Senator William P. Sullivan, for soliciting a bribe, was affirmed by the Kansas City court of appeals. In the Cole county (Mo.) court Sullivan was convicted, in August, 1903, and fined \$100,000.

Alderman Hubert W. Butler was haled before the bar of the city council of Chicago and publicly censured as a slanderer by his colleagues for his recent reckless charges reflecting on the integrity of the aldermen.

The police and Cossacks dispersed a demonstration of 3,000 students who had assembled in the principal streets of Moscow and in front of the governor's palace. Three hundred of the students were arrested and 60 were injured.

The Wade Park bank, Cleveland, O., of which Irl Reynolds is secretary and treasurer, together with two branches, has been taken over by the Cleveland trust company, which will conduct the business of the three institutions.

THE MARKETS.

Table of market prices for various commodities including Live Stock, Flour, Wheat, Corn, and Eggs in New York, Chicago, and Milwaukee.