

"NEXT!"

By W. E. Hill

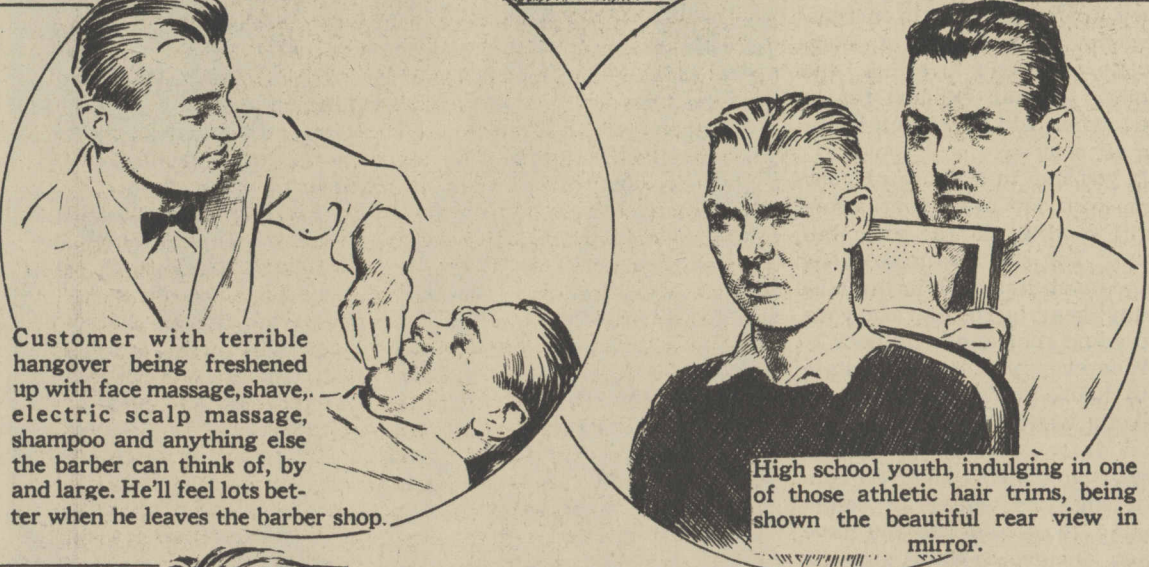
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"Honey, I didn't mean that. You know I didn't!" This is the fourth phone call from the same party for Harry, on chair number four, and business in the small town barber shop is temporarily at a standstill.



Babe is waiting for grandma to have a hair trim. In the good old days grandma waited for Babe.



Customer with terrible hangover being freshened up with face massage, shave, electric scalp massage, shampoo and anything else the barber can think of, by and large. He'll feel lots better when he leaves the barber shop.



The silent customer and the barber who wants to talk. The barber has tried everything. Baseball, weather, war scares, devaluation of the dollar, WPA, and horrible illnesses, but it's no go. Just can't make any headway.



Marty, the small town hot number, keeps the barbers and customers in stitches when he comes in for a hair trim. Knows all the latest wisecracks (from the radio) and all the new stories. The kind that start, "Jever hear the one about the old maid and the Irish paper-hanger?"

"H'ya, Mary. H'ya, Bessie," showing boss barber, at chair near door of country barber emporium, passing the time of day and anything else with friends on the outside.

France Keeps What She Gets!

The Story of World Empire

(Continued from page one.)

French were "a gay people, fond of dancing and light wines." As a major premise the statement was misleading. The French are a tough race; dramatic, but militant and acquisitive.

Their first great dramatic spree was the French revolution, brought on because a spendthrift government couldn't avoid deficits. They came out of it fighting all Europe, and willingly.

Napoleon understood the French. He stood before a starving army of 37,000 at the start of his brilliant career and informed them that victory, supplies, wealth lay across the mountains in Italy. When victory was achieved he looted Italy of her art treasures and forced on Austria a treaty that guaranteed to France the territories the revolutionary armies had won.

When, by good fortune and the force of genius, he seized power, Napoleon formed a new aristocracy. Its members were men of ability, and he guaranteed their loyalty to himself by making them rich. He took the lands of his enemies and set kings over them. Bonapartes occupied the thrones of Holland, of Spain, of Westphalia. Murat the innkeeper's son became king of Sicily. Much of Italy itself was attached to the Napoleonic empire and governed directly by prefects sent out from Paris.

Never since the days of Charlemagne had there been such an empire as Napoleon governed in 1810. It was too great, too cumbersome. The man at the top was inadequate. He wasted his resources in men and money striving to conquer the far-spreading steppes of Russia. Fortune deserted him, and he was on Elba in 1814. A year later the hundred days and Waterloo ushered him to St. Helena. Napoleon was gone for good.

The great empire shrank until it was no larger than it had been in the days of the unlucky Louis XVI. Once again the lesson had been rubbed in—conquered lands must be retained by force.

At the close of the Napoleonic wars France had little in the way of colonies. Her only African possession was the tiny trading post of Senegal. North Africa was ruled by the Barbary pirates. She did have a discoverer's claim on Madagascar, but had made no movement to occupy and pacify that island, larger by itself than the homeland. Canada had been seized by the British long before, and St. Pierre and Miquelon were the tiny slices she held in North America. In the West Indies she owned Martinique and Guadeloupe.

Five cities that make up French India had been occupied only a few years. France was occupied by internal troubles and exhausted by the Napoleonic ventures. The Bourbon king who had been restored, Louis XVIII., was weak and barely able to cope with the dissatisfaction of his subjects. Charles was no better.

But France rose courageously when the dey swatted M. Deval. Algeria was a difficult assignment. Frenchmen fought for years under the broiling African sun to impose their will on the natives. The job was far from complete when King Charles was deposed in 1830 and succeeded by Louis Philippe.

This Louis Philippe was the son of the duke of Orleans who had helped stir up the revolution and had voted for the beheading of Louis XVI. (the duke also was guillotined). He promised to rule constitutionally after the mobs which had driven Charles out agreed to let him have the throne.

Drab as he was, the new king could not relinquish the African adventure without loss of honor. The situation was serious. The French held the coast towns, but an able leader, Abd-el-Kader, had preached a holy war against the invaders.

In the end 115,000 soldiers were sent out under General



(Acme photo.)
Modern Algerian troops—part of France's colonial army—on parade in Paris.

Bugeaud to conquer the Algerians. The final surrender did not occur until 1847. It was too late to add much prestige to the reign of the citizen king, as he called himself. The next year the Parisians were again on the barricades battling the Orleans soldiery and the king had to abdicate and flee to England. He lacked the touch of drama that the French demand. He carried an umbrella!

Three kings in thirty-three years had added only Algeria to the possessions of France. That country was, of course, a great prize. It was close to home and capable of producing great agricultural wealth—a million and a quarter square miles in which 7,000,000 persons, including 500,000 French, now live.

The second republic, which followed Louis Philippe, had a short and precarious existence. France didn't quite know what she wanted, and a new Bona-

parte, clever, unprincipled, and inordinately ambitious, appeared on the scene. Prince Louis Napoleon was the name. He was the son of Louis, the brother whom the great Napoleon had seated on the throne of Holland. His mother was Hortense de Beauharnais, daughter of Josephine, the first Napoleonic consort. He was 40 when the second republic was proclaimed.

For years he had been an exile in Germany, Switzerland, and England. "Napoleonic liberty," he insisted, was what the French needed. He even found writings of the bigger Napoleon to prove that there had been liberty under the old empire.

Prince Louis Napoleon became a real nuisance in 1836 when at Strasbourg he tried to incite the garrison to revolt against Louis Philippe. The attempt failed, and he was arrested and sent to America. He returned to England and went on with his plots.

When he led a comical expedition across the channel in 1840 he was locked up in the fortress of Ham, where he remained until his escape six years later. The Napoleonic legends were reviving and a romantic seemed to the French a needed contrast to the stuffiness of the last king. Louis Napoleon ran for president of France and received three-fourths of all the votes.

Less than three years later he threw off the democratic mask and proclaimed himself the Emperor Napoleon III. He surrounded himself with an unprincipled body of advisers. One was his half-brother, the Duc de Morny, illegitimate son of Hortense and an army officer. Another was St. Arnaud, a general who had won a reputation for bravery in Algerian campaigns. Military power prevented Napoleon's expulsion.

This usurper, who was faintly ridiculous even to his subjects (they called him Moustachu, a comment on his whiskers), remained for twenty years the most important figure in European politics. He stuck his nose into every quarrel. He negotiated and plotted officiously. He made several little wars, and one fairly large one in the Crimea, from which he escaped creditably. By aiding Cavour in the unifying of Italy he obtained Nice and Savoy for France.

On the old Napoleonic model he established a court, magnificent but not quite real. Its habitués were men and women with backgrounds of family service with Napoleon I. Legitimate European royalty recognized it, but shied away from it in a social sense. The emperor was refused a princess allied to a throne for a bride. Eventually he married Eugénie de Montijo, a tall, red-haired lady of the minor Spanish nobility.

She dressed spectacularly. She set the modes for Europe in the days of the huge hoop skirts. The French dubbed her Queen Crinoline. Together she and the emperor governed more royally than real royalty could have done it. They even felt that they had assured a dynasty to France when their one son, the prince imperial, nicknamed Lou-Lou, was born.

In the beginning Napoleon III. was successful in his foreign ventures. His armies aided in quelling a revolt against Turkey in Syria. The Suez canal was started by De Lesseps under his patronage. His soldiers engaged in an informal war with China in 1860 and on the way home took over and occupied Cochinchina, first of the great Asiatic dependencies of France.

But an ambitious attempt to give Mexico the status of a French possession ended dismally. The little Napoleon decided to seat a puppet emperor on the Mexican throne and persuaded the Archduke Maximilian of Austria to take the place. Then he sent an army with Maximilian and his "empress," Carlotta, to Vera Cruz. The British and Spanish governments had collaborated at first, but withdrew when they understood Napoleon's real aim. The original idea was they were only to collect debts from the Mexicans.

If the United States hadn't been busy with the Civil war the bold plan would have been squelched at once. As it was the French conquered a part of Mexico and set Maximilian in Chapultepec. But Juarez and his army kept up their resistance.

When the Civil war was over the United States sternly recalled the Monroe doctrine to Napoleon's attention. He recalled his troops. With them went Carlotta; Maximilian remained to hold on to his imperial dignity.

In Paris poor Carlotta, knowing what his fate would be, tried to get Napoleon to keep his pledges. He would not or could not. The Mexican empress went on to Rome to beg the pope for aid. He was kindly but could promise nothing, and Carlotta went quite mad in the Vatican. She never recovered. Maximilian was captured and executed in Queretaro.

Napoleon's popularity waned after that. His physical and mental powers became enfeebled with age and he fell more and

more under the domination of the empress. She judged incorrectly that the empire, if it was to endure much longer, had to make a spectacular success. She guessed incorrectly that the French could go to war with Prussia and win.

Bismarck, the chancellor of Prussia, had much better information. He knew that his government had built up a magnificent army. He knew, too, that Eugénie was a tyro in politics and the French army was ill equipped for modern warfare. The empress wanted to whip Germany and save her throne; Bismarck wanted to humble France to make his country, with the rest of the German lands incorporated, the first power on the continent.

A dispute arose over the succession of the crown of Spain. Prussia had a candidate, and so had France. Artfully Bismarck arranged things so that the fading Napoleon, listening to Queen Crinoline's advice, declared war in July, 1870.

The campaigns that followed were swift. In early September the emperor, with more than 100,000 men, surrendered at Sedan. Napoleon was sent into Germany as a prisoner, and the empress strove to carry on a regency for her 14-year-old son. France would have none of this and deposed Napoleon.

German successes continued. Paris fell after a long and terrible siege. King William of Prussia, in the palace of Versailles, imposed a harsh peace. The provinces of Lorraine and Alsace, with a population of 1,500,000, were taken from France and incorporated in Germany, and the French were compelled to pay an indemnity of a billion dollars.

So the second empire ended. Napoleon went to England, where he died a few years later. Lou-Lou was killed while fighting with the British against the savage Zulus in 1879. The Empress Eugénie, like a historic ghost, lived on until 1920.

The French were only defeated in 1870; they were not destroyed. The indemnity was paid in an unbelievably short time and the Germans removed their army of occupation. But the war was not forgotten. It can be said that French national consciousness for nearly half a century was dominated by the belief that the defeat of Napoleon III. must be avenged.

The third republic was born of strife. With the Germans still in the country, in 1871, there was a civil war. Reds revolted against the national assembly and fortified parts of Paris. They were attacked and after sharp battles defeated by the assembly's armies. Before they gave in the Reds executed many prisoners, including the archbishop of Paris, and burned the Tuilleries, the library of the Louvre, and other buildings.

After that the new government functioned with a fair degree of success. It had many problems. Not the least of them was the necessity of combating plots to bring back a monarchy, with Bourbons, Orleanists, and Bonapartists impartially offering themselves as candidates.

But France was never again to endure despotic rulers. Once more she had learned that a nation's land must be protected by her own armed power. One of the first acts of the government was to establish universal military conscription, the system under which the admirable

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