HEIRS OF LOUIS F. MEISSNER

APRIL 19 (calendar day; APRIL 28), 1926.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MEANS, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1897]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1897) for the relief of the heirs of the late Louis F. Meissner, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

The facts are fully set forth in House Report No. 168, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session, which is appended hereto and made a part of this report.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Certain coupon bonds formerly belonging to one Louis D. Meissner, now deceased, were reported stolen in 1907, and although there was reason to believe they had been destroyed, no evidence tending to prove such destruction has been furnished. However, since the bonds are still outstanding according to the department records, and no coupons later than those which matured October 1, 1906, the Secretary of the Treasury will interpose no objection to the granting of the relief sought, and your committee recommends favorable consideration of the bill. The Government is fully protected in the filing of a bond in the penal sum of double the amount of the bonds lost.

Attached herewith is the correspondence from the Treasury Department, which is made a part of this report.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, January 20, 1926.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I have received your letter of January 9, 1926, transmitting for report a copy of H. R. 1897, a bill for the relief of the heirs of Louis P. Meissner, deceased, on account of the theft of United States coupon bonds Nos. 76978 to 76981, inclusive, for $100 each of the 4 per cent funded loan of 1907.

In compliance with your request, there are inclosed herewith copies of papers on file in the department concerning this case.
As to the merits of the claim, the department has no information before it except that contained in the inclosed papers. These show that the bonds were reported stolen in 1907, and that although Mr. Meissner later stated that he had reason to believe they had been destroyed, no evidence tending to prove such destruction has been furnished. However, since the bonds are still outstanding according to the department records, and no coupons later than those which matured October 1, 1906, have been paid, and since Mr. Meissner and his heirs are the only claimants which have appeared, the department will interpose no objection to the granting of the relief sought.

A copy of this letter is inclosed.

Very truly yours,

A. W. Mellon,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. Charles L. Underhill,
Chairman Committee on Claims,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, May 19, 1924.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I have received your letter of May 12, 1924, transmitting for report a copy of H. R. 9117, a bill for the relief of the heirs of Louis F. Meissner, deceased, on account of the theft of United States coupon bonds Nos. 76978 to 76981, inclusive, for $100 each of the 4 per cent funded loan of 1907.

In compliance with your request, there are inclosed herewith copies of papers on file in the department concerning this case.

As to the merits of the claim, the department has no information before it except that contained in the inclosed papers. These show that the bonds were reported stolen in 1907, and that although Mr. Meissner later stated that he had reason to believe they had been destroyed, no evidence tending to prove such destruction has been furnished. However, since the bonds are still outstanding according to the department records, and no coupons later than those which matured October 1, 1906, have been paid, and since Mr. Meissner and his heirs are the only claimants which have appeared, the department will interpose no objection to the granting of the relief sought.

A copy of this letter is inclosed.

Very truly yours,

Garrard B. Winston,
Acting Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. G. W. Edmonds,
Chairman Committee on Claims,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Committee on Claims,
Washington, D. C., May 12, 1924.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

Sirs: Inclosed herewith I hand you copy of bill (H. R. 9117) for the relief of heirs of Louis F. Meissner now pending before this committee.

Kindly cause to be forwarded, for the use of the committee, all papers, or copies of same, on file in your department relating to this claim, with your opinion as to its merits, and oblige.

Yours very truly,

G. W. Edmonds, Chairman.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, April 28, 1924.

MY DEAR CONGRESSMAN: I have received your letter of April 14, 1924, concerning coupon bonds Nos. 76978 to 76982, inclusive, for $100 each of the 4 per cent funded loan of 1907, alleged to have been stolen from Louis F. Meissner, now deceased.
The department records show that in 1907 Mr. Meissner notified the department of the theft of these bonds from his store, and later advised that one of the bonds, No. 76982, had been recovered by him.

Mr. Meissner was informed that no relief could be given by the department on account of the theft of the four unrecovered bonds, and that the only way in which he could secure relief would be by means of a special act of Congress, not less than 10 years after the maturity of the bonds, if they were not presented by a bona fide owner within that time. For your information, there is inclosed extract No. 17 from the regulations of the Treasury Department with respect to United States bonds and notes, which sets forth the policy of the department in regard to coupon bonds and notes reported lost or stolen. As you are undoubtedly aware, sections 3702-3705 of the Revised Statutes, which are set forth in extract No. 16 from the department regulations, also inclosed, provide for relief on account of lost, stolen, destroyed, or defaced registered bonds, and destroyed or defaced coupon bonds. However, there is no provision of law for relief on account of lost or stolen coupon bonds, either before or after their maturity.

In 1917, in compliance with the request of former Senator William M. Calder, the department prepared a form of bill to be introduced for Mr. Meissner's relief on account of the theft of the four unrecovered bonds, and a bill following this form was introduced in the Senate but was not passed. A similar bill, which was passed by the Senate in 1923, was not passed by the House of Representatives.

Since these bonds are still outstanding according to the records of the department and no coupons later than those which matured October 1, 1906, have been paid, and since Mr. Meissner and his heirs are the only claimants which have appeared, the department will interpose no objection to the passage of a bill for the relief of such heirs, provided Congress is satisfied as to their identity. However, a somewhat different form of bill from that prepared in 1917 is now preferred by the department, and a suggested redraft of the bill has therefore been drawn up and is inclosed herewith, for use if it is desired to introduce another bill in this case. As the names and addresses of such heirs are not known by the department, a space for their insertion has been left in this redraft. If it is desired that the beneficiary of the bill be a lawfully authorized representative of the heirs of Louis F. Meissner, rather than the heirs themselves, the name of such representative should of course be inserted in the bill, together with a statement as to the capacity in which he is acting for the heirs, who should also be named.

A copy of this letter is inclosed, together with a copy of the redrafted bill.

Very truly yours,

A. W. MELLON,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. Edgar R. Kieß.
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON PRINTING,
Washington, D. C., April 14, 1924.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

Washington, D. C.

My Dear Sir: I am writing you with reference to some Liberty bonds that were stolen from Louis F. Meissner, Germania, Potter County, Pa., on February 13, 1907. The numbers of the bonds, which were coupon bonds, are as follows: 76978, 76979, 76980, 76981, and 76982.

Bond No. 76982 was presented at a bank in Elmira, N. Y., in 1907 for payment. The bank, however, having been notified that bonds had been stolen did not pay it and this bond was returned to Mr. Meissner. The issue of these bonds was of No. 1877. The other four bonds have never been presented for payment within the knowledge of Mr. Meissner. I would like to be advised whether in view of the fact that these four bonds have not been cashed, whether it is within the power of the Treasury to refund the amount of the bonds in cash to Mr. Meissner, or his estate. The bonds were for $100 each.

Mr. Louis F. Meissner died in 1922, but his heirs believe that the bonds should be made good, inasmuch as they have been missing 16 years or more and have not been redeemed. They would be perfectly willing if necessary to give bond before they receive the money from the government. I will appreciate it if you will advise me whether anything can be done in the premises.

Very respectfully,

Edgar R. Kieß.
Mr. Louis F. Meissner,
Germania, Pa.

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 17th instant, you are advised that it is true a bill was introduced in Congress on August 2, 1917, for your relief on account of coupon bonds of the funded loan of 1907 alleged to have been stolen, but the department has not been advised of the passage of the bill or of its status at the present time. Upon request on March 4, 1918, from the chairman of the Committee on Claims of the United States Senate, copies of all correspondence in your case on file in the department were forwarded to that committee. Whether or not final action has been taken by Congress the department is not aware.

Respectfully,

Wm. S. Broughton,
Chief Division of Loans and Currency.

The Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

Sir: Inclosed herewith I hand you copy of bill (S. 2722) for the relief of Louis F. Meissner now pending before this committee.
Kindly cause to be forwarded, for the use of the committee, all papers, or copies of same, on file in your department relating to this claim, with your opinion as to its merits, and oblige,

Yours very truly,

Joe T. Robinson, Chairman.
HEIRS OF LOUIS F. MEISSNER

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

MY DEAR SENATOR: By direction of the Secretary, receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 25th instant and in response to your request there are inclosed copies of the correspondence in the case of Louis F. Meissner, of Elmira, N. Y., and the draft of a bill for his relief on account of the loss, by theft, of certain coupon bonds of the 4 per cent funded loan of 1907.

Sincerely yours,

Oscar T. Crosby,
Assistant Secretary.

Hon. William M. Calder,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES SENATE,

MY DEAR MR. CROSBY: Referring to my letter of the 6th instant and to your reply of the 13th relative to the loss by theft of certain coupon bonds owned by Mr. Louis F. Meissner, of Elmira, N. Y.; I would be glad if you will prepare a bill providing for his relief and also send me copies of the correspondence in the case.

Very truly yours,

Oscar T. Crosby,
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, July 13, 1917.

MY DEAR SENATOR: By direction of the Secretary, receipt is acknowledged of your communication of the 6th instant, inclosing a letter from Mr. Louis F. Meissner, of Elmira, N. Y., relative to the loss by theft of certain coupon bonds, and asking whether legislation along the lines he suggests would have the support of the department and, if so, that a bill be prepared providing for it.

The files of the department show that on February 16 and February 20, 1907, Louis F. Meissner wrote from Germania, Pa., that his place of business there had been burglarized on the night of the 13th of February and that coupon bonds of the 4 per cent funded loan of 1907, Nos. 76978, 76979, 76980, 76981, and 76982, for $100 each, with coupons attached dated April 1, 1906 (and subsequently), had been stolen and he asked that payment be stopped. Being bearer bonds, the department could not stop payment, but a memorandum was entered and Mr. Meissner advised that, in the event of the presentation of the bonds at this department, he would be informed of the name and address of the person or firm presenting them, but that no other relief was possible in the case of lost or stolen coupon bonds.

Later Mr. Meissner recovered bond No. 76982 and it was redeemed in his favor, but the other bonds are still outstanding and it is supposed that he has not recovered them for at various times since the reported loss he has inquired of the department in regard to them. In reply to one of his inquiries he was informed that sometimes, after a lapse of many years from the maturity of coupon bonds, Congress, by special act, authorizes their redemption in favor of the claimant provided they have not already been presented for redemption and provided no other claimant has appeared, and at another time he was told that Congress might afford relief to persons who are the owners of coupon bonds which have been lost or stolen when a sufficient time has elapsed after the maturity of the bonds to make it apparent that they have been destroyed, but that it was not likely he could secure such relief within 10 years of the date of the maturity of his bonds and this is probably what he refers to in his letter to you of the 5th instant.

It will be noticed that Mr. Meissner stated that coupons dated April 1, 1906, and subsequently, were attached to the bonds when stolen; the records of the department show that the last coupon received for filing from each of the bonds is dated October 1, 1906. The interest periods of this loan were the 1st day of January, April, July, and October, the interest ceasing at the maturity of the loan on July 2, 1907.
There is no evidence of any kind on file with the department in this case and
the department knows of no reason for supporting legislation for the relief of
Mr. Meissner on the facts so far submitted. That the bonds in question have
not been presented since their alleged theft in 1907 and that there has been no
claim made on account of them, so far as the department is aware, other than
by Louis F. Meissner, is, of course, in his favor and should you so desire a bill
will be prepared in this office providing for his relief and copies of the corre-
spondence in the case will be forwarded you upon request. Mr. Meissner’s
letter is returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

Oscar T. Crosby,
Assistant Secretary.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, D. C., July 6, 1917.

My Dear Mr. Secretary: The inclosed letter addressed to me by Mr.
Louis F. Meissner, of 933 College Avenue, Elmira, N. Y., explains itself.
Will you kindly look into the matter, and advise me whether legislation along
the lines he suggests, would have the support of the department; and if so,
will you do me the favor of having prepared a bill providing for it?

Believe me, sincerely yours,

William M. Calder.

Hon. William G. McAdoo,
Secretary of the Treasury.

933 COLLEGE AVENUE,
Elmira, N. Y., July 5, 1917.

Hon. William M. Calder,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: I beg leave to ask you for a favor and hope you can help me in the
following matter:
I was for many years a resident of Germania, Pa., and while residing there on
the 13th day of February, 1907, five United States coupon bonds, $100 each,
issue of 1877, series F, Nos. 76978, 76979, 76980, 76981, and 76982, were stolen
from me, No. 76982 was presented at a bank in this city in 1907 but was not paid
to the party presenting it, and returned to me, I had notified all the banks in
the vicinity of the theft. The bonds were due in July, 1907. I received redemp-
tion on the No. 76982 bond from the Government with interest due on it.
I notified the Government at once at the time the bonds were stolen from me,
and was advised by it that if the bonds are not presented for redemption within
10 years after they are due I could then by a special act of Congress get payment
for them. Upon inquiry at the Treasury department recently, I was advised
that the four bonds of the above numbers were not yet presented for payment,
so I want to ask you kindly to apply to Congress for passage of a special act to
empower the Government to pay me the amount due on the four bonds not
redeemed, with interest due on them, which is $3 on each bond.

Trusting that you will be able to help me in this matter so that I will get the
money belonging to me, I thank you for an early reply,

Very respectfully yours,

Louis F. Meissner.

Treasury Department,
Washington, February 17, 1917.
The records of the department show that in February, 1907, you reported that there had been stolen from your place of business coupon bonds belonging to you of the 4 per cent funded loan of 1907, Nos. 76978, 76979, 76980, 76981, and 76982, for $100 each. (Later you reported bond No. 76982 as recovered.) You were advised that a memorandum of the loss had been made and that in the event of their presentation for redemption or exchange you would be informed of the name and address of the person or firm presenting them, but that no other relief could be afforded in the case of lost or stolen coupon bonds, they being payable to bearer and passing from one owner to another by act of delivery.

Repeated letters of inquiry from you have been answered in practically the same way as above and at no time has the department told you that after 10 years, or any number of years, would these bonds be redeemed in your favor unless presented by you, for there is no existing law under which this can be done. Your only basis for such a belief is that you were informed that Congress could pass a bill for the relief of a person who was the owner of coupon bonds which had been lost or stolen when sufficient time had elapsed after the maturity of the bonds to make it apparent that the bonds had been destroyed and that it was not likely that you could secure such relief within 10 years of the date of the maturity of your bonds. No special act of Congress has been passed for your relief, and, therefore, you can receive no payment for the bonds in question unless you recover and present them. The department does not take the initiative in the matter of relief on account of lost or stolen bonds.

The coupon bonds referred to herein are outstanding at this date and up to the present time no other person has made claim to payment on account of them. If they should be presented you will be promptly advised.

Respectfully,

Wm. S. Broughton,
Chief Division of Loans and Currency.

933 College Avenue,
Elmira, N. Y., February 4, 1917.

To Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Please advise me if following United States bonds were presented at the United States Treasury for redemption: Nos. 76978, 76979, 76980, and 76981, issue of 1877, series F, $100 each, due July 1, 1907.

These bonds were stolen from me on February 13, 1907, at Germania, Pa., where I then was located and had been there for many years. I reported the loss at the time to the Treasury Department and was advised that I could recover payment on them after 10 years if they were not presented at the Treasury during that time for redemption, and if they were I would be notified. As I have until now not received any notice from the Treasury, I presume they were not presented and ask you to kindly inform me what steps I must take in order to get payment from the Treasury for the bonds. Thanking you for an early reply, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

Louis F. Meissner.

Treasury Department,
Washington, January 27, 1913.

Mr. Louis F. Meissner,
Germania, Pa.

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 24th instant you are informed that United States coupon bonds, funded loan of 1907, Nos. 76978, 76979, 76980, and 76981, for $100 each, have not been presented at this department for redemption.

A memorandum stands against the above-described bonds so that you will be notified in case they are presented by any person other than yourself.

Respectfully,

C. N. McGroarty,
Acting Chief, Division of Loans and Currency.
To Treasurer of the United States,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Please inform me if the following United States bonds have been presented for redemption, issue of 1877, Series F, Nos. 76978, 76979, 76980, 76981, as these were stolen from me some time ago, and oblige.

Yours truly,

Louis F. Meissner.

UNITED STATES SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,  
March 8, 1912.

Hon. A. Piatt Andrew,  
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary: I have yours of 6th instant, returning correspondence from Mr. L. F. Meissner, relative to certain bonds alleged to have been stolen, and duly note the contents thereof.

Thanking you for your attention, I am,  
Yours truly,

Boies Penrose.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, March 6, 1912.

Hon. Boies Penrose,  
United States Senate.

My Dear Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant inclosing correspondence concerning certain United States 4 per cent coupon bonds, funded loan of 1907, alleged to have been stolen from Mr. Louis F. Meissner, of Germania, Pa.

In reply to Mr. Meissner's suggestion that the Treasury Department pay him the amount due on the bonds on his giving a bond of indemnity to be used in case the alleged stolen bonds should be presented by an innocent party, I have to say that there is no authority of law for such action by the department.

Mr. Meissner's letter and inclosures are herewith returned.

Respectfully,

A. Piatt Andrew,  
Assistant Secretary.

UNITED STATES SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,  
March 4, 1912.

Hon. A. Piatt Andrew,  
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant inclosing a further communication from Mr. Louis F. Meissner, of Germania, Pa., concerning certain United States 4 per cent coupon bonds of the funded loan of 1907, alleged to have been stolen.

In reply to your question as to whether, in view of the additional information contained in Mr. Meissner's letter, the Treasury Department would favorably recommend legislation for his relief, I have to say that there is no additional in-
formation given of value and that the department can not recommend legisla-
tion for Mr. Meissner's relief because the evidence submitted seems to show
that the stolen bonds are probably in existence and that they may be in the
hands of an innocent holder.

Mr. Meissner's letter is herewith returned.

Respectfully,

A. PIATT ANDREW,
Assistant Secretary.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
February 26, 1912.

Hon. A. PIATT ANDREW,
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I have your letter of 21st instant in reply to mine of
February 19, returning the communication from Mr. Louis F. Meissner, con-
cerning certain United States 4 per cent coupon bonds of the funded loan of 1907,
alleged to have been stolen, and duly note the contents thereof.

Thanking you for your attention, I am,

Yours truly,

BOIES PENROSE.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
February 19, 1912.

GERMANIA, PA., February 15, 1912.

Hon. BOISE PENROSE,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Yours of the 10th instant inclosing a letter from the Treasury De-
partment to you, I received.

From what the department says, I infer that if I could bring evidence now to
show a reason for my opinion that the bonds were destroyed or that would indicate
by whom they were stolen, the department would favor a special act of Congress
to pay me the money for the bonds now, and below give you some points and
facts in regard to this.

In January, 1908, two fellows were arrested in Tioga County, Pa., who were
residents of that county, for burglary. One of them turned State's evidence and
said that the other induced him to go with him on two occasions; on the second he
objected to go, but he was forced by the other to do so; they both have families.

He told the sheriff and also me that the other fellow told him some time before
that he made a good haul in Potter County some while ago, and that he has some
United States bonds; his pal said to him, "Why do you not sell them at a bank?" he
said the banks are all notified that these bonds are stolen. This fellow
was identified while in jail after he was tried and found guilty and sentenced to nine
and one-half years to penitentiary by the cashier of the bank to whom he presented
the bonds I recovered, as the man who presented the bond; but when the sheriff
and I spoke to him and asked him about the other bonds, after he had been identi-
fied, he claimed that he did not have the bonds, and that the cashier is mistaken
about him being the one presenting the bond.
HEIRS OF LOUIS F. MEISSNER

This fellow grew up here on a farm about 1 mile from our town, and was familiar with conditions of the town and my store, and it is believed that he has been the perpetrator of many burglaries committed in the section where he resided and surrounding country for several years.

I understand that the United States Government has a charge against him for robbing a post office, and will arrest him as soon as he had served his present sentence.

I think I could get the parties who were sheriff and deputy of Tioga County at that time, and also the fellow who turned States evidence, and the cashier of the bank where my bond was presented as witnesses to testify or make affidavit, if necessary.

This fellow is an inmate of the Eastern Penitentiary now. The sheriff and myself also found that this fellow had inquired of the railroad station agent in the place he resided where he could sell United States bonds, and matters pertaining to them.

It seems that if it can be shown that this fellow has stolen my bonds, and proved that I am the owner of them, it ought to be evidence enough for asking a special act to be passed by Congress. As in my opinion the Government could make it known that these bonds were stolen and are canceled when paying me for them.

I assume that you are acquainted with J. Newton Peck, of Philadelphia. I have been acquainted with him for years before he went to Philadelphia.

Please advise me if you think that under the circumstances anything can be done now in regard to the bonds, or if you would advise me to wait some time yet; if so, about how long? It is now five years since the bonds were stolen from me. Awaiting your reply, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

Hon. BOIES PENROSE,
United States Senate.

SIR: By direction of the Secretary I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, with inclosure, relative to certain United States 4 per cent coupon bonds, funded loan of 1907, belonging to Mr. Louis F. Meissner, of Germania, Pa., and requesting some intimation from the department as to its probable attitude respecting a bill for Mr. Meissner’s relief.

In reply I have to say that it appears that the bonds enumerated by Mr. Meissner were stolen by burglars, and in the absence of any proof submitted by him showing the probable destruction of the bonds the presumption that the bonds still outstanding are held by somebody who may present them might lead the department to render an unfavorable report at this time, it having heretofore been customary for the department to suggest that a longer time than the four and one-half years which have elapsed in this case be allowed to elapse before a bill for their redemption be enacted.

As requested by you Mr. Meissner’s letter is returned herewith.

Respectfully,

A. PIATT ANDREW,
Assistant Secretary.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
February 7, 1912.

BOIES PENROSE.
DEAR SIR: As per inclosed printed notice you will see that five United States coupon bonds were stolen from me in February, 1907, the burglar breaking into my store and getting them out of my safe.

You will notice that one of the bonds was recovered, without the bank at which it was presented paying the party presenting it, the money for it. I received this bond back, and it was redeemed by the Treasury. The four remaining bonds, I was advised only last month by the Treasury, have not yet been redeemed.

I am advised that through a special act of Congress I can get payment for these bonds, and want to ask you if you will kindly look this matter up, and assist me in getting payment for them.

I have reason to believe that these bonds have been destroyed, and if necessary will give you particulars why I think so. Kindly let me know if you will assist me, and if you can do anything to help me to get payment of the bonds, and how I must proceed.

Thanking you for an early reply, and hoping that you can do something for me, I am

Very respectfully yours,

Louis F. Meissner

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, January 16, 1912.

Mr. Louis F. Meissner,
Germania, Pa.

Sir: Replying to your letter of the 12th, referred to this office by the Treasurer of the United States, you are informed that the coupon bonds of the loan of 1877 mentioned by you have not been presented for redemption and are still outstanding.

Respectfully,

A. T. Huntington,
Chief, Division of Loans and Currency.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Germania, Pa., January 12, 1912.

UNITED STATES TREASURER,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Please advise me if the following United States Government bonds of $100 each of 1877, coupon, Series F, numbers 76978, 76979, 76980, and 76981, due July 1, 1907, have been presented for redemption at your department, and if so kindly give me the name of the party who presented them, as these bonds were stolen from me on February 13, 1907. Thanking you for a prompt reply, I am

Very respectfully yours,

Louis F. Meissner

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Mr. Louis F. Meissner,
Germania, Pa.

Sir: In reply to your inquiry of the 23d instant you are informed that all of the United States coupon 4 per cent bonds, funded loan of 1907, mentioned by you are still outstanding.

Respectfully,

C. D. Norton,
Acting Secretary.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, February 24, 1909.

Mr. Louis F. Meissner,
Germania, Pa.

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 15th instant relative to your lost coupon bonds, addressed to the Attorney General of the United States and referred by
him to this department, you are informed that in such cases where relief has been afforded to persons claiming ownership of lost or stolen coupon bonds Congress has authorized such relief when sufficient time has elapsed after the maturity of the bonds to make it apparent that they have been destroyed. This is your only method of relief, as coupon bonds are payable to bearer and title thereto passes by delivery. It is unlikely that such relief could be obtained within 10 years after the date of maturity of your bonds.

The four bonds claimed by you as your property are still outstanding.

Respectfully,

L. A. Coolidge,
Assistant Secretary.

GERMANIA, PA., February 23, 1910.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Please inform me if the following United States bonds, of $100 each, issue of 1877, series F, Nos. 76978, 76979, 76980, 76981, matured in July, 1907, have been presented at the Treasury for redemption, and if so by whom and when.

I have reported the bonds as having been stolen from me on February 13, 1907, and was advised at the time by your office that there was a memorandum made. Thanking you for an early reply, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

LOUIS F. MEISSNER.

GERMANIA, PA., February 19, 1910.

C. D. Norton, Acting Secretary.

To the ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: On February 13, 1907, my store was broken into and five United States coupon bonds of $100 each, due July, 1907, were stolen from my safe. I recovered one of the bonds some time afterwards, being it was presented at a bank for redemption, but the person presenting it was not apprehended, as when he was told it was a stolen bond he immediately left the bank without saying anything or getting the money on it, taking the bond with him. Until now the four other bonds have not been presented at the United States Treasury for redemption, I am advised.

I want to ask you to kindly inform me if there is any way in which I could get the money from the Treasury for these bonds; and if so, what steps must be taken in order to get it. I had held the bonds for almost 18 years at the time they were stolen.

Thanking you for an early reply, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

LOUIS F. MEISSNER.

GERMANIA, PA., February 14, 1910.

To the ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: There were some United States coupon bonds, that were due in July, 1907, stolen from me by burglars, on February 13, 1907, and until now, from what I know, were not yet presented at the Treasury for redemption.
Will you kindly inform me if there is a way in which I can receive payment on these stolen bonds from the Treasury; if so, please explain what I will have to do in order to realize on them, I have the numbers of the bonds and reported them to the Treasury at the time they were stolen.

Thanking you for an early reply, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

LOUIS F. MEISSNER.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Mr. LOUIS F. MEISSNER,
Germania, Pa.

SIR: In reply to your inquiry of the 11th instant, you are informed that coupon bonds numbered 76978, 76979, 76980, and 76981 for $100 each, funded loan of 1907, have not been presented at this office for redemption.

Respectfully,

BEEKMAN WINTHROP,
Assistant Secretary.

To SECRETARY OF TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Kindly inform me if any of the following bonds were presented at the United States Treasury for redemption, as they were stolen from me February 13, 1907, of which I had notified your department at the time.

The bonds were coupon bonds of $100 each, issue of 1877, maturing in 30 years, check letter F. Nos. 76978, 76979, 76980, 76981, maturing July 1, 1907. Thanking you for an early reply, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

LOUIS F. MEISSNER.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, July 2, 1907.

Mr. LOUIS F. MEISSNER,
Germania, Pa.

SIR: In reply to your inquiry of the 29th ultimo, you are informed that each denomination of United States bonds, both coupon and registered, has its own series of numbers. Each series begins with No. 1. There is, therefore, only one coupon bond of a certain denomination having the No. 76982.

The department has been writing you letters about your stolen coupon bond for several months. You are again told that a memorandum has been placed against the numbers of the bonds which you claim to have lost, and, in the event of their presentation for redemption, you will be duly advised of the name and address of the person presenting them.

Respectfully yours,

J. B. REYNOLDS, Acting Secretary.

GERMANIA, POTTER COUNTY, PA.,
June 29, 1907.

Mr. Geo. B. Cortelyou,
Secretary of Treasury, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Yours of the 26th I received. I do not quite understand your letter. What I wish to know is, are, or were there, any United States Government coupon 4 per cent bonds issued, of date of July 1, 1877, due July 1, 1907, that have the same letter and number on them, but are two different issues or kinds? For example, is there a bond marked "series F, No. 76982" and one marked "F, No. 76982" of above kind, issue and date, or is there only one bond of this letter, number, and date issued?

Thanking you for an early reply with full explanation, I am,

Yours truly,

LOUIS F. MEISSNER.
HEIRS OF LOUIS F. MEISSNER

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, June 26, 1907.

Mr. Louis F. Meissner,
Germania, Pa.

Sir: Replying to the inquiries contained in your letter of the 22d instant, you are informed that all of the United States 4 per cent coupon bonds of 1907 bear date of July 1, 1877, and that the check letters A, B, C, etc., which appear thereon were merely intended to designate the particular plate from which each bond was printed, and have no other significance.

Respectfully yours,

J. H. Edwards, Assistant Secretary.

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GERMANIA, POTTER COUNTY, PA., June 22, 1907.

Mr. Geo. B. Cortelyou,
Secretary of Treasury, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Will you kindly inform me if there is an issue of United States Government coupon bonds of 1877 due July 1, 1907, that is marked "series F" and one that is marked with check letter "F" only, both issues having the same numbers, or numbers among them that are identical? Or is there only one issue of that year and date; and if so, is this issue marked "series F" or simply with the letter "F"? Thanking you for an early reply, I am,

Very truly yours,

Louis F. Meissner.

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GERMANIA, POTTER COUNTY, PA., April 4, 1907.

Mr. George B. Cortelyou,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Referring to my recent letters regarding the United States coupon bonds that were stolen from me, I wish to ask you if under the law there is a limited time in which such bonds must be presented for redemption, after they are due? If so, please state how long, and if they are not presented during such time by anyone, if I could in some way get payment for them from the Government? Thanking you for an early reply, I am,

Yours truly,

Louis F. Meissner.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, April 6, 1907.

Mr. Louis F. Meissner,
Germania, Pa.

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 4th instant you are informed that it is customary for Congress to issue a bill for the relief of persons who are the owners of coupon bonds which have been lost or stolen when a sufficient time has elapsed after the maturity of the bonds to make it apparent that they have been destroyed. It is not likely that you could secure such relief within 10 years of the date of maturity of your bonds.

Respectfully yours,

A. F. Statler, Assistant Secretary.

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GERMANIA, POTTER COUNTY, PA., March 23, 1907.

Mr. George B. Cortelyou,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Yours of the 14th instant I received. Will you kindly advise me if under the law the party who presents the United States bonds that were stolen from me, referred to in my letter of the 12th, to any bank or subtreasury or at the United States Treasury for redemption, can be held for having stolen property in his possession, or in any other way, and the bonds also held and not paid out by
the institution to which they are offered? If so, in what way would the proceed-
ings have to be in order to hold such party and the bonds?
Thanking you for an early reply, I am,
Respectfully yours,

Louis F. Meissner.

Treasury Department,
Washington, March 25, 1907.

Mr. Louis F. Meissner,
Germania, Pa.

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 23d instant, you are informed that the depart-
ment does not stop payment of United States coupon bonds alleged to have been
lost or stolen from the original owners. As to your rights under the law, where
the bonds are in possession of some person, you must consult your lawyer.
Respectfully yours,

A. F. Statler, Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Louis F. Meissner,
Germania, Pa.

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 12th instant relative to the United States
coupon 4 per cent bonds of 1907 which have been stolen from you, I have to say
that they will probably not be paid at any subtreasury, but if they are they will
be immediately forwarded to this department, where a memorandum of their
loss has been retained. If they should appear this department will promptly
advise you of the name and address of the person in whose favor they have been
redeemed.
Respectfully yours,

A. F. Statler, Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Geo. B. Cortelyou,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Referring to my letters of the 16th and 20th ultimo to your prede-
cessor, regarding five United States coupon bonds of the issue of 1877, series F,
of $100 each, the numbers of which I gave in my letters, which were stolen
from me, I wish to ask if they are payable at any of the United States sub-
treasuries, and if so if it would be necessary for me to notify all the subtreasuries
of the theft of the bonds? If so, kindly give me the names of the cities in which
subtreasuries are located, or are they payable only at the Treasury at Washington?
Yours truly,

Louis F. Meissner.

Treasury Department,
Washington, February 23, 1907.

Mr. Louis F. Meissner,
Germania, Pa.

Sir: In compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 20th
instant, a memorandum of the loss by theft of United States 4 per cent coupon
bonds, funded loan of 1907, Nos. 76978, 76979, 76980, 76981, and 76982, for $100
each, has been made on the records of this office, and in the event of their presenta-
tion either for redemption or exchange, you will be advised of the name and ad-
dress of the person or firm presenting them.
Respectfully yours,

A. F. Statler, Assistant Secretary.
Mr. LESLIE M. SHAW,
United States Treasurer, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Replying to your letter of the 18th instant regarding the United States coupon bonds I wrote you on the 16th instant, that were stolen from me on the 13th instant, they were five bonds of $100 each, issue of 1877, Series F, maturing July 1, 1907, Nos. 76978, 76979, 76980, 76981, 76982, coupons from April 1, 1906, were attached to them when they were stolen. Kindly make a memorandum against them on the books of the department, and in the event of their presentation kindly advise me of the name and address of the person presenting them, as you say in your letter.

Should there be any other way besides this one that you can suggest, in which I might be able to ascertain who has the bonds, or be able to recover on them, in the meantime, will you kindly advise me of it? I will thank you very much for doing so.

Very truly yours,

HEIRS OF LOUIS F. MEISSNER

Mr. Louis F. MEISSNER,
Germania, Pa.

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 16th instant reporting that certain coupon bonds were stolen from you by burglars, you are informed that if you will advise this office as to the denominations of the bonds in question a memorandum will be made against them on the books of the department, and, in the event of their presentation, you will be advised of the name and address of the person presenting them. This is the only relief that can be afforded in the case of lost or stolen coupon bonds. They are payable to bearer and pass from one owner to another by the mere act of delivery. The department can not, of course, issue new bonds in place of those stolen.

Respectfully yours,

GERMANIA, POTTER COUNTY, PA., February 16, 1907.

Louis F. MEISSNER.

NOTICE

On February 13, 1907, five United States Government coupon bonds of $100 each, issue of 1877, series F, Nos. 76978, 76979, 76980, 76981, and 76982, maturing July 1, 1907, were stolen from the undersigned. On May 23, 1907, one of these bonds, No. 76982, was presented at the Merchants' National Bank, Elmira, N. Y. Upon being told by the cashier it was a stolen one, the man left quickly, leaving the bond without the money.

A reward of $15 is offered for the recovery of the other four bonds.

LOUIS F. MEISSNER,
Germania, Potter County, Pa.