

State Has Failed Make Out Case In Ward Murder Trial

Prosecution Has Its Theory of the Crime but Evidence in Support of It Has Been So Sketchy Hardly Believed Jurors Will Return Verdict of Guilty

By ROBERT T. SMALL
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White Plains, N. Y., Sept. 25.—It appeared today that the mystery of the Ward slaying case may never be solved.

The prosecution has its theory of the crime, but its main testimony at the trial of the young felon of the Ward baking millions, has been so sketchy it is doubtful if the jury of farmers and small business men sitting in judgment on the man who confessed to the killing of Clarence Peters have been able to follow it.

The prosecution appears to have sketched the crime rather than to have proved it. It has been attacking Walter Ward's story that a gang of blackmailers sought to hold him up on a lonely road and that he shot one of them in self defense. The theory of the state was that Ward himself was in the blackmailing plot and that the millionaire father was to be the victim.

Ward has said that the "gang" made him demand something like \$100,000 from his father. What was the secret behind that \$100,000 demand? This is what a crowded court room has been waiting for, and there was every reason today to believe that the secret will not out. It is known that young Ward led a "double life." His home was in New Rochelle. He has a flat in New York. The state has been able to unearth many things about the glided past of the fast spending young millionaire, but these facts, sordid though they are, have tended to throw little if any light upon the killing of Peters.

Nor was Ward's double life, to all outward purposes, any different from that of many thousands of other young men in New York. Certainly there was nothing about it to warrant a \$100,000 black mail plot. When the men preying upon pretty Dorothy King, thought of placing John Kearsley Mitchell, of Philadelphia, on the black mailers' gridiron, they had only \$50,000 in mind. Yet the sweetheart of the pretty Broadway butterfly had more millions back of him than the Ward family has ever dreamed of.

Young Ward made no attempt to conceal his movements in the night life of New York. The police have learned, however, that his companions were not of the best. He did not rate the company of the real "heavy sugar Papas" of the metropolis. He spent money freely but he did not patronize the places where a \$5 bill has the relative value of a nickel. How Ward came into association with such men as young Peters and the other characters he has described, but who have never been found, is an element of the mystery surrounding the case.

The undeniable roughness of Ward's companions away from home is strongly contrasted every day of the trial by the delicate gentleness and refinement of his wife. That she has won the admiration of every one who has followed the case goes without saying. Even the prosecution feels that her constant attendance in the court room at the side of her erring husband has greatly strengthened the position of the defense. She has been an appealing figure—never more so than when she was called unexpectedly to the stand as a witness for the state. Faced by the bristling array of opposing counsel she appeared as a dove among a lot of mastiffs. But she held her ground and went through the brief grilling with but a moment's loss of composure.

The fight of the lawyers over Mrs. Ward's testimony was more interesting than the testimony itself. The defense sought to have Mrs. Ward as a witness for the state, tell all that her husband told her the night of the killing, just after he came home. They sought to get the story of the defense before the jury from the mouth of the state's witness, whom the state would hesitate to attempt to discredit. But the shrewd move was not a success. The state objected to the hearsay testimony and the court sustained the objection.

The case has been a legal wrangle from the very beginning. The Ward lawyers have fought well. The witnesses for the state have not been able to fight the keen wittedness and surprising maneuvers of the Ward attorneys and the impression left upon the jurors unquestionably has been unfavorable to most of the state's testimony.

It has been realized from the first that the state had a difficult task before it and the unfolding of the case has proved this to be true.

The impression prevailed about the court house today that while the Ward case has proved that a rich

Community Tire May Locate Here

Paul System Community Tire Factory Marks New Step in Tire Industry

Word has been received that The Paul Rubber Co., of Salisbury, originators of The Paul System Community Tire Factories, may select this city as one of the several points in which they will establish local plants in this state.

The Paul System Community Tire Factory marks a new step in the Tire Industry. A great tire engineer of Akron, Ohio, working with the cooperation of The Paul Rubber Co., has perfected a small plant for building tires which turns out a product said to be equal in every respect to the product of the largest factories. These small Community Factories will be established in every state. Each factory becoming a unit of the nation wide system and each plant licensed to make the famous Clover Leaf Cord Tires which The Paul Rubber Co. will continue to advertise nationally.

The Paul Rubber Co. will supply all materials to these plants at low prices, install all machinery, furnish trained men, and in fact co-operate in every possible way to insure the largest success. And yet each plant will be completely owned and operated by local people.

These Paul Community Tire Factories require a total investment of only \$7,500 to \$15,000, says the management "and the local maker has a market right at his door that will greatly exceed his capacity. The advantages to the car owner in buying locally made tires are quickly appreciated. One can see his tires made, get fresh new stock with the full life of the rubber in every tire, have adjustments made fairly and quickly, and, of course, obtain the finest tires at lower prices.

"At the same time the investment will be most attractive to the local tire-maker. His small plant will turn out 20 to 40 tires a day, and on the comparatively small investment required, surprisingly large profits can be earned."

A. J. Armstrong of Raleigh is in the city on business.

HARBINGER BRIEFS

Harbinger, Sept. 26.—Rev. H. M. B. Jones, pastor of South Street Baptist Church of Portsmouth, Va., is now holding a revival at Powell's Point Baptist Church.

The Sunday School Reunion at Point Harbor was quite a success despite the hard rains, especially Miss Irene Melson of Duck is visiting Miss Hilda Owens of this place.

N. B. Sawyer is lighting his house with the Deleo Light System.

Rev. Jim Lee filed his appointment Sunday afternoon at Powell's Point Christian Church.

Mr. and Mrs. N. T. Ash of C. H. Beach and Dr. J. H. Taylor of Elizabeth City were the week end guests of Mr. and Mrs. N. B. Sawyer of Harbinger.

Mrs. Carrie Baum of Aydlett has been visiting friends at this place and attending the revival.

Mrs. Sarah Doxey of Aydlett has been the guest of her cousin, D. S. Forbes for the past week.



Announcement

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We have opened a Branch Store at 502 Matthews Street, between Poindecker and Water Streets, carrying a full line of Men's, Women's and Children's Shoes, Hats, Caps and Clothing of all kinds at the lowest prices.

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