

Indifference To Crime Is At Root Of The Evil

Maudlin, Mawkish Sentiment that Makes Heroes and Martyrs of Criminals are Tendencies that Aid in Making America Most Lawless Nation

By ROBERT T. SMALL (Copyright, 1924, By The Advance) New York, Aug. 19.—Lax enforcement of the criminal laws is not responsible for making the American people the most lawless in all civilization.

This is the opinion expressed today by Judge Alfred J. Talley, of the Court of General Sessions, which deals with much of the criminality of New York City. Judge Talley has taken the liberty of pleading guilty for the American people to the charges laid against them.

The very indifference of the people to crimes and to criminals, the jurist believes, is at the root of the evil. Judge Talley also says that the American murder record, which cannot be approached by any other nation, is but an index to the American crime record in other directions. In burglaries and highway robberies, to say nothing of simple larceny, the United States so far outstrips its sister countries of the world that there is no second.

Maudlin, mawkish sentiment, toward criminals, the tendency to make heroes and martyrs of them, the flocking of women to court rooms to see some handsome young wife-killer—all these tendencies of the American people are credited by the criminologists with helping to make crime attractive rather than repugnant, especially to the young people of the day.

When Judge Talley told one of the new judges on the bench with him a few days ago that he would be heartbroken to find that most of the criminals arraigned before him would be lads of 18 or 19 years of age, he spoke from the wisdom of long experience. In the state of New York all first offenders under 30 years of age go to a reformatory and in spite of this the records show that one half of all the inmates of Sing Sing prison are under 25. Eighty seven per cent of the prisoners are under 30. Judge Talley said today he was very glad none of the American lawyers recently attending the Bar Association meetings in London had been called upon by their English brethren to explain these appalling statistics.

There is no longer a disposition on the part of the students of crime to attribute the present "wave" to the World War. Most of the criminals of today were at their mothers' knees during the period of the war. They were not the "men of the trenches" who had become steeped in the art of crime.

The tendency of today is to search the homes for conditions which lead mere children to the criminal courts. Neglect or contempt of religious training, physical or moral defects, hatred of honest work, a desire for an "easy living," the comparative ease with which children obtain moonshine and other liquors, these and other easily traced causes help in a measure to explain the terrifying growth of crime. The difficulty is that "no one seems to care." The coming campaign will find thousands of spell binders on the stump telling the people what a grand and glorious country they live in. They will recite statistics as to the growth of population and of wealth and of power and of level of our recent achievements abroad, but not one will deal with a problem regarded by the men who come in contact with it as one of the gravest the country ever faced.

President Roosevelt often preached on the subject, however, although in his day the record was not nearly so appalling as it is at the moment. Judge Talley quoted a statement by Chief Justice Taft, made four or five years ago. In it he said: "The trial of a criminal case seems like a game of chance with all the chances in favor of the criminal, and if he escapes he seems to have the sympathy of a sporting public."

Judge Talley said he wanted the people of the country to know that in making his charges about crime he was not indicting New York City. The record here is far better than the average of the country. Although slayings appear common enough on the streets and in the boulevards of the metropolis, the percentage to the population of the greater city is quite small. For the past ten years the homicide rate for the entire country was 7.2 per 100. In New York it was but 6.5. Chicago rate is 13.7. In the popular mind New York and Chicago would be regarded as two of the wickedest cities in the country, but the statistics do not bear out any such strictures. Washington, the capital city of the nation, tops Chicago in the killing line with a rate of 13.3 per 100,000.

Judge Talley's own solution

LOWER COURT HOLDS DANCE NOT RESPONSIBLE

Frank Dance, colored, driver of the Ford touring car that on Thursday ran into and killed John E. Coppersmith, resident of Salem township, was exonerated from all blame in the accident, following his trial in police court Tuesday morning.

"I believe this was an unavoidable accident and that there is no reason to hold the defendant for probable cause."

So stated Prosecuting Attorney Sawyer in police court Tuesday morning, after listening to the witnesses in the trial.

"The taking of life is a serious thing—and that is why I had the warrant issued against Dance. I believe any accident of this kind should be investigated," Mr. Sawyer explained.

On the stand Dance stated that he was driving his car at a speed of about eight miles an hour, that he threw on the brakes as soon as he saw Mr. Coppersmith and that his engine choked down when he put on brakes. The negro stated that he did not see Mr. Coppersmith until the car was within a few feet of him and that after stopping his car he tried to grab Mr. Coppersmith before he hit the pavement but could not. Dance stated that his right fender hit Mr. Coppersmith and that he fell toward the body of the car.

Alfred Sawyer, Salem farmer, and Steve Brothers who lives about a mile from Old Weeksville and Dr. J. H. Barkwell of Weeksville were the State witnesses.

Their testimony was practically the same as that given to a reporter for this newspaper last Friday. They agreed that Dance should not be held responsible for the death of Mr. Coppersmith.

Robert James, colored, for failure to list taxes, paid the taxes and the cost of court proceedings. Heywood Whitehurst, colored, for an assault with a deadly weapon was fined \$15 and costs.

P. V. Hooper, committed to a charge of parking his car on the city streets between 2 and 7 a. m.

WILSON IS SCENE OF TWO SHOOTINGS

Wilson, Aug. 19.—Sam Johnson, negro, was killed last night by an unidentified white man who escaped. Jim Simms, negro, was killed by his brother, Willis, and Willis is in jail.

STRIBLING SCORES OVER JACK STONE

Johnson City, Aug. 19.—Young Stribling scored a technical knockout last night over Jack Stone of New York in the fourth round of an eight round bout after giving him a terrific beating.

Dancing Masters Propose But College Men Dispose

The New Steps in Modern Dance are Set by Collegians In Defiance of Rules and Precepts of the Old Dancing Masters

By ROBERT T. SMALL (Copyright, 1924, By The Advance) New York, Aug. 19.—The dancing masters of the nations have been meeting in solemn conclave here for the past week endeavoring to eliminate some of the old steps and to introduce new ones.

Now that they are through, the "college boy" will go ahead and invent the actual steps that 99 per cent of the dancers will be dancing during the next 12 months. It is a "collegiate" time in which we are living.

Some of the professional reformers who recently made an investigation of the dance halls of the metropolis officially blamed the college students for introducing the steps to which they objected. Not only do the boys devise the foot movements, but they have their own ideas as to posture and where the hands and arms should be held.

It is only fair to say that none of the collegiate notions coincide with those of the dancing masters. Most of the latter are old masters. They reverse the dance which for so long has furnished them with a livelihood. They do not like the ignoring of the waltz. The college influence is responsible for that, too, it would seem.

The modern student is not a dreamy, wishful person. He is a practical man. He wants action and he gets it. He wants action and he gets it. He wants action and he gets it.

Mount Geikie Conquered!



They've done it. These three men have reached the top of Mount Geikie—once called the "unclimbable mountain"—in Jasper National Park, Canada. The mountain is 10,354 feet high. The climbers, left to right, are W. D. Geddes, Calgary, Alberta; V. A. Fynn, St. Louis, and C. G. Waton, Edmonton, Alberta.

SAYS DEMOCRATS ARE ONLY HOPE

Senator Harrison of Mississippi Officially Notifies Bryan of Nomination at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Lincoln, Neb., August 19.—The Democratic party is the only party to which progressive elements can look for direction and leadership, Senator Harrison, of Mississippi, declared tonight in officially notifying Governor Charles W. Bryan of his nomination for the vice-presidency.

Omitting any direct reference to a third ticket in the field, Senator Harrison, who was temporary chairman of the Democratic Convention, declared the national campaign must be contested between a "reactionary" Republican organization and a "progressive" Democratic ticket.

"Whatever independence one may possess and however non-partisan one may be," Senator Harrison said, "he must know that in the coming November election either the Democratic or Republican ticket will triumph. The American people themselves must decide between the Republican and the Democratic Party as to which will control the Government for the next four years."

The Senator assailed the Republican Party as "hopelessly disrupted, without plan or purpose, courage or cohesion," and declared it to be dominated by reactionary leadership. He reviewed the record of the Democratic party and exalted the Davis-Bryan combination as one to which the progressive and independent voters could look to "administer government honestly, protect the rights of the masses and solve the economic problems of the day."

After warmly praising the accomplishments of John W. Davis, the party standard bearer, as a member of the House, as Solicitor General and as Ambassador to Great Britain, Mr. Harrison paid a tribute to Governor Bryan for the "courageous manner" in which he handled Nebraska's coal and gasoline situations, and for his efforts to lower states taxes and to economize in the administration of state affairs.

"The long list of progressive achievements that has filled the pathway of your short administration," he said, "reflects credit upon the common sense and patriotism of your citizenship."

LAFOLLETTE PLANS TO BREAK SOUTH

Atlanta, Aug. 19.—Supporters of La Follette for President last night began plans for an intensive drive to break the "solid South."

FLIER UNINURED WHEN PLANE FALLS

Hanoi, French Indo-China, Aug. 19.—Major Pedro Zanni, Argentine round the world flier, met with an accident while taking off for Canton today, his plane overturning and receiving damages which put it out of commission. Zanni was not injured.

COTTON MARKET

New York, Aug. 19.—Spot cotton closed quiet, Middling 25.05, a decline of 56 points. Futures, closing bid, Oct. 25.75, Dec. 25.20, Jan. 25.16, March 25.45, May 25.65, Aug. 26.25.

LUCIUS HOLLY SENT TO ROADS

Given Sentence of Twelve Months in Superior Court Tuesday Another Judgment Still Unsatisfied.

Lucius Holly, colored, long a reputed bootlegger in Pasquotank, got a sentence of 12 months on the roads in Superior Court Tuesday morning on a charge of possession and transporting.

A retrial, court-suspended sentence of six months on the roads remains suspended, under judgment of the Superior Court Tuesday morning.

Other than a fondness for liquor and a reputation for connection with the handling of illicit liquor in the County, Holly was able to show a good reputation for character and industry. Bishop Baker, appearing from a recorder's court judgment of guilty of operating an automobile while under the influence of liquor and pleading guilty of assault on his wife was found not guilty as to the former charge by a Pasquotank jury toward the close of Monday's session of Superior Court, after the jury had had the case under consideration all afternoon. For assault on his wife he was sentenced to four months on the roads. This was the first jury trial of the term.

Wiley Brown, colored and very much so, was found not guilty on a charge of reckless driving and of assault with an automobile as a deadly weapon by a Pasquotank jury late Monday afternoon. A negro in an Essex car answering the general description of Brown and his car undoubtedly was guilty of the offense charged, but the evidence as to Wiley's being the guilty man was not conclusive enough to satisfy the jury that tried him.

COUNTY TAXES SLIGHTLY HIGHER

County taxes will be slightly higher, while city taxes will remain the same in 1924 as compared with 1923, if the budget filed in the office of City Auditor Snowden is permitted to stand without change at the next regular meeting of the City Council.

The County Commissioners fixed the County levy in special session Monday of this week as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Bridge and poor fund .03 .02, General County fund .15 .15, County road fund .06 .07, County road debt .03 .03, Interest on road bonds .26 .24, School .50 .55, Total property tax.

Table with 2 columns: Special School Tax, Amount. Elizabeth City .05 .04, Salem .30 .30, Nixonton .10 .10, Mt. Hermon .01 .01, Providence .25 .25, Newland .30 .30.

The only changes in the County levy are in the school levy; which is increased from 50 to 55 cents; the bridge and poor fund, reduced from three to two cents; and in the County road fund, increased from six to seven cents.

The County poll tax stands at \$2 as heretofore. The City Council prepared its budget at a meeting held Friday, August 8, and will adopt the budget, as it stands or amended, following a public hearing on Monday night, September 1. The budget as filed, which is identical in every item with that of last year, follows:

The following is the Tax Levy for the year 1924 for the Corporation and the Elizabeth City Grade School District:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. City Budget \$.60, City Budget, St. Labor Poll \$2.00, City Budget, Water Poll .30, Graded School, Graded School, Poll .50, Graded School, Bonds .20, Graded School, Bond Poll .60, Fire Commission .12, \$1.22 \$3.80. On each surface lot, a tax of \$4 is imposed.

FRENCH CABINET VOTES APPROVAL

Paris, Aug. 19.—The French cabinet today unanimously approved the work of the French delegation at the International Conference in London and thanked it for important results it obtained in the interests of France.

PORT SUDAN IS SCENE OF RIOT

Cairo, Aug. 19.—Disturbances took place last night at Port Sudan and martial law was proclaimed, the newspaper Sijyasia declared today. A unit of highland troops was said to be due at Port Sudan today.

THREE KILLED IN A PISTOL BATTLE

Harlan, Ky., Aug. 19.—Two brothers were killed and a third man also in a pistol duel here last night.

FLIERS DELAYED FOR THREE DAYS

Rayjavnik, Iceland, Aug. 19.—The American fliers will be unable to leave Iceland for at least three days owing to damage suffered by both planes in attempting to start yesterday. Lieut. Loewenthal, Indian trail, has accepted the invitation to join the Americans in the hop to Greenland.

CHILD LABOR IS BEFORE SENATE

Upper House in Prolonged Discussion While House Passes Two Measures Monday Night.

Raleigh, August, 19.—The House committee in charge of the Port Commission bill this morning ordered the measure reported favorably to the House.

An amendment to the Blue Sky law repealing the section providing a fee for the insurance commission on certain stock was passed by the Senate.

A constitutional amendment making the terms of sheriffs and coroners four years was defeated in the Senate.

The debate on the Port Commission bill in the House started shortly after one o'clock this afternoon.

Raleigh, Aug. 19.—While the House of Representatives was passing two measures providing for submission to the people of constitutional amendments, the upper branch of the North Carolina General Assembly became involved in a prolonged discussion of the State child labor law last night.

The Senate discussion was not completed when that body adjourned until 10 o'clock this morning. The House adjourned until 11 a. m.

The House received the Port Commission bill from the Senate and Representative Tamm C. Howe, chairman of the House Water Commerce bill, announced that it would be given a committee hearing at 10 o'clock this morning.

The House sent to the Senate the constitutional amendment providing for inviolability of sinking funds and one increasing the pay of legislators.

The Senate adopted and sent to the House a resolution providing for an investigation of the State prison.

MECOY UNBALANCED

Los Angeles, Aug. 19.—Kid McCoy, held in suspicion of the murder in connection with the death of Mrs. Theresa Moss, became mentally unbalanced in his cell today, according to police announcement.

Such is the testimony of Mrs. Bertha Blaneett, America's only woman "dude wrangler," who daily pilots tourists—mostly tenderfoot tourists—over the perilous and near perilous mountain trails of the great Yosemite National park.

For three years now, Mrs. Blaneett has been Yosemite's official dude wrangler and in the interim has played guardian angel to more than five thousand horseback sight seers over the precipitous trails to Glacier Point, Half Dome, Clouds Rest, Inspiration Point, Vernal Falls, the spectacular Pebas Ridge and other high and rarified points of Yosemite interest—trails that furnish even the hardened forest rangers a "kick."

More than half of the tourists were women. "Women may be just as easily frightened as men, but they show it less," she declares. "Lots of times when the going gets close—when you can look straight down out of your saddle for a half mile or more, and the slip of a hoof means perdition—men frequently get off their horses and insist on walking. Women rarely ever quit their horses. Lots of times they shut their eyes, and I imagine, do a lot of silent praying—but they freeze to their saddle like grim death and stick with the processions."

"Women also are less headstrong and more easily managed than men; less inclined to show off. The greatest trouble with male tourists who go horseback riding over the mountain trails is that almost all of them want to run their horses whenever there is no danger. When the trail gets narrow and the edge has a straight up and down vista how-

BRYAN ACCEPTS HIS NOMINATION

In His Acceptance Speech He Praises Party Platform as Broad, Strong, and Progressive.

Lincoln, Nebraska August 19.—Governor Charles W. Bryan of Nebraska in accepting the Democratic vice-presidential nomination here last night praised the party platform as broad, strong and progressive enough to satisfy the principle of "equality before the law," and a fit instrument through which farmers and wage earners might work their will without dividing strength and making possible "the triumph of reaction and selfish interest."

John W. Davis, the presidential nominee, and himself were termed "in harmony with the platform upon which we have been nominated. The Democratic party stands as a unit, "without the intervention of faction, bloc or section," he declared, "free from obligation to either individuals or interests that would prevent it from being used to restore confidence in Government and economic justice to the nation."

His selection as "one from the heart of the great middle west" as the vice-presidential candidate, Governor Bryan hailed as the "most important party recognition of the importance of agriculture as one of the basic industries of the nation."

Political unrest and discontent throughout the country is a protest against the inaction of those in public office, he asserted, coupling the statement with an accusation that "failure of the Republican administration to enforce the law against conspiracies in restraint of trade and illegal combinations of business which stifle competition has unnecessarily, unfairly and dishonestly increased the cost of living and permitted the profiteer to ply his trade without let or hindrance."

Entrance of some states into the field of commerce, in which he and the state of Nebraska were among the leaders, he attributed to "the failure of the national Republican administration to enforce the law against private monopoly." Although, he continued, millions of dollars a year were saved to the people in their coal, gasoline and oil bills, he did not favor such municipal or state competition except when "Government officials become corrupt and the federal government fails to function for the protection of the masses. The alternative result would be I. W. W.'s bolsheviks and anarchy in the community and state, he declared.

Governor Bryan in discussing what he termed "a few of the outstanding issues uppermost in the minds of the people of the great agricultural states," included "women's worth and equality, child welfare, the Democratic party's interest in and support of labor, the needs of the agriculturalist, water power development, law enforcement and the outlawing of war."

The nominee expressed appreciation of the desire of the citizens of Lincoln, where he has made his home thirty years, to have the notification made here. "I am indebted to the people of Lincoln and of Nebraska for whatever success I may have achieved," he said.

For more than 20 years with the publication of "The Commoner," issued by him and his brother, William Jennings Bryan, as having given "an opportunity to apply the principles of equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

"As a business man who has been endeavoring to apply business principles to government and not as an experienced platform speaker, I will give all the support to our national leader that my ability will permit," Gov. Bryan said.

The success of the nation, composed of diverse peoples and activities, requires that the desires and interests of each shall be subjected to the rights and needs of all, with the needs of groups, factions, and organizations restrained to the extent that equal rights of other shall not be impaired, he declared.

The Democratic platform, Gov. Bryan asserted, upholds the ideals of America, demands a return to honesty and equality in government, and outlines the legislative and administrative requirements for such restoration.

"It is the most progressive platform ever promulgated," he declared.

He paid a tribute to his running mate, saying the spirit of unity rose and reason triumphed in the nomination of "that able lawyer, that trained diplomat, that experienced statesman, that champion of the rights of humanity, that progressive democrat, John W. Davis."

He declared.