

She Cut Red Tape And Got What She Wanted

When American Girl Thought She'd Been Given Raw Deal by Italian Jewelry Firm She Wrote to Mussolini Addressing Him as "Dear Ben" and Oh My

By ROBERT T. SMALL
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New York, Nov. 28.—Some-where in Federal law or musty precedent it is written that no individual citizen of the United States shall treat with a foreign government, shall make claims or demand redress for wrongs real or imagined. All such matters are reserved for diplomatic treatment through the regular channels which start in Washington and reach out to all quarters of the globe. This was the wish of the forefathers of the republic. All of which, however, has meant nothing at all in the life of a Jersey girl who decided recently to cut all red tape and become her own envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary in adjusting a little matter which concerned herself and certain matters of fair dealing in which she felt the Royal Italian government had a very real interest.

The amateur diplomacy has been vastly successful. Nothing has been filed away in the archives of Rome or Washington to gather dust and await further representations until some time in the dim and distant future. There has been direct action, stern and uncompromising, and better relations with Italy have been engendered in at least one American community.

The feminine direct actionist is Miss Margaret L. Johnstone, an artist of Glen Ridge, New Jersey. The friends who have heard her story have marveled at her audacity. It seems that last spring Miss Johnstone was a visitor in Rome. While there she was stricken with typhoid fever and spent weeks in a hospital. Throughout her illness she was attended by a nurse who proved exceptionally capable and kind. The American girl wished to make her a substantial present in addition to the usual compensation and just before leaving Rome she went to one of the more prominent jewelry stores and selected a very handsome necklace. Much pleased with her choice she started for New York, having left careful directions as to the sending of the necklace to the nurse.

Arriving home in Glen Ridge, Miss Johnstone thought little or nothing more about the matter until one day a letter arrived from the nurse. It was couched in most casual terms. The necklace

had arrived and had been a very thoughtful remembrance. The tone of the acknowledgment, however, was not in keeping with the value of the necklace. There was evidence of disappointment. Miss Johnstone smiled a rat. She promptly wrote to the nurse and asked her what sort of necklace she had received. When the reply came the trouble was evident. The jeweler had delivered an article far inferior to the one purchased. Miss Johnstone was outraged. She wrote a burning letter to the jewelry firm. She got no reply. She cabled. Still no attention. Miss Johnstone was calling multitudes down on the entire Italian people.

Then a brilliant thought came to her. The paper had been full of Mussolini. She had read of Mussolini this and Mussolini that. Evidently Mussolini was the cat's pajamas in all things Italian. Miss Johnstone looked further into this Mussolini matter and decided to find whether he was a myth or a master. She learned his first name was Benito and she promptly sat down and in her best handwriting dashed off a letter to "Dear Ben" that she felt he would remember for most of his fascist days; she told him that America admired him and had always been friendly disposed toward Italy.

However, she an American citizen, had been treated like a dog, she had been cheated and robbed and she demanded that something be done. Otherwise she was sure diplomatic relations would be broken; that all tourist trade with Italy would be ended. No American tourist could feel himself safe in a shop at Rome. What was Mr. Mussolini to do about that? For three weeks after the dispatch of this ultimatum nothing happened. Then came a polite, stricken letter from the jeweler, oh how chagrined they were. What could they do? Please enable them and also please cable Mr. Mussolini. The government was threatening to revoke their license and put them all in jail.

Wouldn't the beautiful American lady accept one million apologies and such a necklace would be sent to that dear nurse as no ministering angel ever had received before.

Miss Johnstone smiled in triumph and serenity. She has not heard directly from Mussolini yet. May he show won't. It isn't at all necessary. The "incident" is just about closed.

Harlem Lottery Business For Time Being Is Poor

Killing Set for Last Saturday for Players Turned Into Killing for "Bankers" and Hungry Fish Saddened by Experience Slow to Take Old Bait Again

By C. G. MARSHALL
Copyright, 1924, By The Advance
New York, Nov. 28.—Harlem went back to its zapping dominion Wednesday. Lottery agents, or "bankers" as they style themselves, were open for business at the old stand, but customers for the big drawing next Saturday were scarce. The big killing set for last Saturday did not come off. It didn't come off because something went wrong with the plot to doublecross the bank but it almost succeeded at that. Too many persons were playing the winning number or what appeared to be the winning number—for it to be merely a coincidence, and instead of paying off bets Saturday night as usual, the bankers held up payment until Tuesday. In the meantime it developed that 261 was not the winning number at all but that 623 were the numerals that brought home the bacon.

So instead of having to pay off a sum estimated at near \$300,000 the bankers had to separate themselves from only about \$25,000. It was the bankers and not the players who made the killing.

When the disappointed ones found out that there had been a mistake and that they were not to be paid off, they began bombarding with abuse the newspapers which printed the incorrect numbers and also the clearing house officials. The latter maintained that the correct figures had been posted on the board and in support of this contention, they recited the fact that some of the newspapers had the correct figures. But they could not explain how it was that all four of the newspapers which printed the incorrect figures had obtained them through different agencies. They said it was hardly possible that the figures had been changed after they had been written on the slate in the lobby but to prevent such a thing being done in the future they have given orders to move the slate out of reach of any one standing on the floor.

There have been rumors of a bribe fund of \$1,500 raising last week among certain Harlem gamblers to assure the "fixing" of the figures but apparently it was not made clear even to the contributors how this was done.

Meantime there is much moaning in Harlem and the lottery business for the time being is poor.

ELECTROCUTION IS FIRST THIS YEAR

Raleigh, Nov. 28.—As Governor Morrison declined to intervene yesterday, Vance Morgan, 23 years old negro, will be electrocuted today. This will be the first electrocution in North Carolina in 1924.

Marion Pays Its Respects to Former "First Lady"



The little city of Marion, O., sorrowfully turned out to pay its respects to the memory of Mrs. Warren G. Harding. Not since the death of her illustrious husband, the late president, had there been such a display of genuine grief in Marion. Hundreds filed past the flower-banked bier in the home of Mrs. Frank J. Longshore, niece of the former "First Lady."

HONOR ROLL FOR SECOND MONTH

Names of Students in City Schools Making Good Record This Session are Given Today.

Following is the honor roll for the graded school for the month ending November 7:

Fourth Grades: Miss Brockwell, teacher—Elizabeth Griffin, Herbert Ferrell, Kenneth Sawyer, Miss Newby, teacher—Lenora Bundy, Sadie Griffin, Marion Munden, Margie Meekins, Betsey Wright, Mrs. Skinner, teacher—Pauline Anderson, Willie Hill, Blanche Riggs, Dorothy Raby, Doris Hopkins, Selma Chambers, Sadie Wood, Flowers Alcock, Clyde Ambrose, Charles Berry, Harold Belanga, Wesley Taft, John Watson, Miss Bunch, teacher—Mildred Mann, Eleanor Goodwin, Marguerite Sawyer, Minnie Cartwright, Hazel Pendleton, Charles Toxey, Leonard Pritchard, Mills Bell, Thomas Sawyer, James Price, Miss White, teacher—Eleanor Aydlott, Lillian Dozier, Leslie Mae Jennings, Margaret Kramer, Nannie Reid, Love, Edith Midgett, Maxine Morrisette, Elizabeth Munden, Marjorie Pritchard, Inez Puckett, Margaret Seymour, Doris Wilkins, Louise Willey, Kathleen Bray, Howard Bright, Campbell Conner, Blades Foreman, Larry Davis, Francis Jennings, Richard Thompson, John Peche, Billie Lester.

MUTINEERS ATTACK MILITARY HOSPITAL

Cairo, Egypt, Nov. 28.—Two platoons of the Eleventh Sudanese at Khartoum today mutinied and attacked the military hospital, killing a British doctor.

Two Syrian doctors also were killed.

The British troops fired on the mutineers who suffered severe casualties.

Twelve more persons were taken into custody today and the police expect to detain 25 in all as a precautionary measure.

London, Nov. 28.—The Egyptian embassy in London said today that they regarded the outbreak among the Egyptian troops at Khartoum as not due to any influence outside the battalion involved and not connected officially with the trouble in Cairo.

SIX MONTHS IS PHELPS TERM

Former Member of Police Force Convicted of Bootlegging in Recorder's Court Friday.

Six months on the roads was the sentence imposed upon Grandison Phelps, former member of the Elizabeth City police force who has been a reputed bootlegger for the last 12 months but on whom the police up to last Sunday had been unable to get any tangible evidence, when a recorder's court jury brought in a verdict of guilty of selling liquor against Phelps Friday morning.

Last Sunday Police Officers Twiddy and Bassnacht before daylight stationed themselves in a vacant house near the Phelps residence and caught a customer putting liquor from the house, a dark-skinned, Leonard Blount, colored, was nabbed at half past 6 o'clock before he got well off the premises when he was just in the act of placing the bottle to his lips for his first nip from the pint he had purchased. Leonard was the third customer who had been waited on that morning, according to the police.

The liquor was delivered to the customers by Doc Phelps, 14-year-old son of Grandison Phelps, and the defense, admitting the sale by the boy to the negro Blount, denied the State's evidence to the effect that there was another sale and contended that in the one sale made the boy was selling a pint that he had "found" out by a neighbor's house and that the father knew nothing of the transaction. After nearly two hours' deliberation, however, the jury accepted the State's version of the affair and found Phelps guilty of aiding and abetting in the transaction. The police who have been trying to get evidence on Phelps for the last six months claim that he delivers a keg of liquor to the house of 15 to actually deliver his liquor because of the fact that if such a boy is caught he can not be dealt with other than in the juvenile court.

Police Officers Twiddy and Bassnacht said that they took up their positions in the unoccupied house at about 5:30 o'clock, and Twiddy testified that shortly thereafter he saw two negroes come to the house and thump on the wall.

"Doc! Doc! Doc!" Twiddy testified that he heard the father call.

A few moments later, according to Twiddy, the boy appeared at the door and made a sale, apparently of liquor, to the two negroes.

Bassnacht, who was in another room and who testified that he too had heard the call of "Doc," came into the room where Twiddy was at about the time that the sale to Blount was being made. He had not actually seen the first sale because his view of the back of the house was cut off from his first point of observation.

"Two have already got liquor and here comes another one," said Twiddy to Bassnacht as the latter came up to Twiddy's post of observation.

Both officers then watched the transaction, saw the boy pick up a bottle somewhere on the back porch, wash it at the spout and disappear with it in the house. Within two minutes he was back to pass out a full bottle. Blount gave the boy some money and Doc again disappeared in the house and came back with change. Blount testified that he gave the boy two one dollar bills and that the youngster shortly changed him, bringing back a nickel and a quarter, when he should have brought back 59 cents.

"I don't think he meant to do that," said the witness. "I didn't notice it till later."

An Leonard turned the bottle up to his lips when passing through the garage at the back of the premises he was placed under arrest by the two police officers and his liquor taken from him.

Asked why he had gone to the Phelps house to get liquor, the negro testified that people in the neighborhood had told him that whiskey was to be had from Phelps and that once he had asked Phelps about it.

"I haven't got any now," was Phelps' reply, according to Blount. "Sometimes I have some. When I have, you can get it."

This was the first time, according to the negro, that he had put the white man's statement to the test.

The jury took the case at 11:30 and brought in a verdict shortly before 1 o'clock.

Meantime the case against Paul Harris on a charge of reckless driving, of operating an automobile while under the influence of liquor and of illegal possession, another trial by jury, had been taken up and in this case a verdict was brought in about 2 o'clock of guilty as to the other two charges. This jury was out less than an hour, the session of court Friday morning running until well past one o'clock.

The charges against Mr. Harris, young Corinth section farmer, grew out of an automobile accident on the Weeksville road last Sunday afternoon when a closed Ford driven by Harris ran into a Ford roadster driven by Guy Mann, bursting a tire and other damage, considerably damaging the roadster. Striking the roadster from the rear, Harris' car skidded 40 to 60 feet and stopped in a ditch on the left side of the road. Harris excused himself for the collision by saying that Mann's car stopped suddenly as he was following along behind it and that he struck it before he could turn aside for it. The occupants of Mann's car testified that they did not stop but were driving along slowly when they were hit. The conflict in testimony on both sides throughout was striking.

As soon as the roadster was struck, according to the State's witnesses, Mann and Miss Hettie Sanderlin who was out riding with him, got out and going over to Harris' car noted a strong odor of liquor. At this time, Mildred Dozier, who lives nearby and was walking along the road at the time, ran out and said she had seen Harris throw something

Chowan River Bridge To Reclaim Lost Provinces

And That's One Reason Why Secretary Job of Chamber of Commerce and Other Proponents of Project Hope for Statewide Support of Bill to Build It

Over in the western part of the State, beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains, North Carolina has what for many years have been known as the "Lost Provinces," a group of counties that have railroad connections with Tennessee and Virginia but none with their sister counties to the eastward in the Old North State.

They have in the Northeastern corner of the State, however, is another set of "Lost Provinces," lost in that they have no ready communications with their sister counties to the west and south of them either telegraphic or by highway. These provinces—six in number—lie beyond the Chowan River and Albemarle Sound. They have railroad communications with the counties to the southward and with the State capital, but there is no highway over which they can travel to either northward along the Virginia border and telegraphic and telephone communication must come through Norfolk—telegrams being relayed both at Richmond and Norfolk.

Representative "Tom" Howie got his "Lost Provinces" railroad bill through the State Legislature for the benefit of the Northwestern "Lost Provinces." Now the Northeastern "Lost Provinces" have started a determined effort to get highway connections with the remainder of the State and to bring about a closer economic relationship with the more favorably situated sections.

At a meeting held here on Monday night, representatives from chambers of commerce and other organizations of a number of counties north of Albemarle Sound discussed the situation. Members of the Legislature from the various counties have pledged themselves to work for the construction over the lower Chowan River of a bridge as a part of the State Highway system. Senator P. H. Williams of Elizabeth City is committed to the project and Senator J. H. McMullan of Edenton was elected primarily to work for it. A bill therefore will be introduced at the January session of the General Assembly looking to the construction of the bridge and behind it will be thrown the power of the business men and others of the sound counties.

The meeting held here was called by Secretary Job of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce. It was called for the purpose of arranging to collect data and arguments regarding the necessity of the lower Chowan bridge. In sending out his call for the meeting the secretary recalled that there are many historic points among the counties north of the Albemarle Sound. This, he argued, would attract tourists' travel of a convenient means of egress to the southward is provided.

The meeting of the Route 39 Coastal Highway Association at New Bern on December 3 has been taken as a favorable occasion to present the merits of the Chowan bridge as a Coastal Highway project to representatives of all the coast counties of the State and it is hoped that strong friends may be won for the measure at this meeting.

Those expecting to attend the New Bern meeting are invited to hand in their names at once to Raymond Shelly, Aubrey McCabe, or Secretary Job of the Chamber of Commerce in order that pull-man reservations may be made well in advance.

While interested in better communication with the State capital and in bringing tourist trade through this section, Elizabeth City is even more interested in the Chowan bridge project as a means of extending its trade territory south of the Albemarle Sound.

MANY ATTENDED CHURCH SERVICES

Regular Sunday crowds attended the Thanksgiving services at Elizabeth City churches, according to all reports reaching The Advance.

Thanksgiving attendance by some of the years past has been meager, housewives feeling that they had to cook dinner, while Dad and the boys just naturally were inclined to loaf.

But this year many families expressed their thankfulness by attending church services and making their annual offering to the orphans.

Of course, a large number of people were out of town for the holiday and some went on all day hunting or auto trips. Otherwise, the attendance would doubtless have been even larger.

HE'S OFF BOOZE IT BLINDED HIM

New York, Nov. 28.—Willard Mack, playwright and actor, has been temporarily blinded in one eye for a week and is now able to see only fairly with his other eye as the result of drinking wood alcohol, he revealed today.

Mack promised today "to kiss and pin a rose on" the next person who sees him take a drink.

President Will Consider A Most Unusual Document

Man's Record for Truthfulness Urged as Reason Why He Should Not be Held Guilty of Crime of Which He Pleads Innocence but Was Convicted in Courts

By L. C. OWEN
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San Francisco, Nov. 28.—"Truth is the gate of justice," one of our ancient philosophers tells us. The reputation for truthfulness established through two decades of political power by "Petey" McDonough, deposed San Francisco underworld king, ball bond broker, and alleged bootlegger, may be the means of bringing to him a Presidential pardon. Behind the pardon plea is probably the most remarkable document that a head of the nation ever was called upon to consider. It is an attestation by hundreds of leading men of a great community to truthfulness and a declaration by those who have aligned it on their belief that McDonough not only is guiltless of the offense of which he was convicted, but that he was convicted upon "framed up" evidence.

Appended to the document which is in the form of a petition to the President, are the names of Mayor Ralph of San Francisco, several judges of the Superior Court here, of jurists from other higher state benches, of many of the city's most prominent business men and bankers, and of scores of "just plain citizens."

For more than 20 years, McDonough has been one of San Francisco's most colorful figures. As czar of the old Barbary Coast he not only carried thousands of underworld votes in his vest pocket, but likewise always received credit for all that was unethical or evil in local politics. If ballot boxes were stuffed, or "honest" candidates counted out, it was always McDonough who was charged with it. If gambling or civic graft or anything was sort of singular was suddenly uncovered, it was McDonough who received the blame.

In the hey day of his political power, however, he always was credited with one outstanding trait. His word, once given, was always a thing to be counted upon. He never evaded the truth. If ballot boxes were stuffed, McDonough might not admit it, but he would not seek refuge in a false denial. Even to his bitter political enemies he bore the reputation of "a man who would not lie."

Ever since his arrest, McDonough has contended his innocence of the bootlegging charge upon which he was convicted. The evidence against him was so strong, though a millionaire, he personally sold three gallons of whiskey to three men who admitted in court that they never saw him before.

The object of the alleged "frame up" he contended, was to take away from him his lucrative ball bond business, which his political enemies are said to have coveted.

San Francisco has always taken McDonough's conviction with a grain of salt. It has refused to believe that a wily politician, of the deposed boss' acumen, would do anything so stupid. Like those who have signed the petition for his pardon, a large proportion of the population believes that there should be something in even a political boss' record for integrity and that as the ancient philosopher opines, "truth in this case may be the gate of justice."

ZEPPELIN SERVICE ACROSS THE SEAS

London, Nov. 28.—A weekly mail Zeppelin service between the United States and Europe will soon be started, Dr. Hugo Eckener, director of the Zeppelin Company, said today.

The Zeppelin-Gondolf combination does not intend to establish passenger service for the present, he indicated, but believed one Zeppelin each way weekly carrying half a million letters at 20 cents each would be a business success.

ELIZABETH CITY LOSES THURSDAY

Grimes Battery, Portsmouth football team defeated the local team here Thanksgiving afternoon 12 to 6.

THURSDAY NIGHT

The roof and one room of the home on Fifth street occupied by John Trip burned Thursday night. The fire company called out at 7:30 saved the rest of the house from going up in flames.

BISHOP DARST HERE ON SUNDAY NIGHT

Rev. T. C. Darst, D. D., of Wilmington, Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina of the Episcopal Church, will preach and administer the rite of confirmation in Christ Church Sunday night, at 7:30 o'clock. Bishop Darst is one of the great preachers of the Episcopal Church and always brings a message worth while.

ONE OF OLDEST COLORED CITIZENS DIES HERE

Francis Turner, 519 Green Street, one among the oldest colored citizens of Elizabeth City, died Wednesday at the age of 82 years and seven months. He leaves one son and one daughter, and a host of relatives. Funeral services will take place at St. Lebanon Church, Sunday at 2 o'clock, conducted by the pastor, Dr. D. S. Blackwell and Rev. Mr. Pettigrew from Edenton.

COTTON REPORT

New York, Nov. 28.—Futures opened Friday morning at the following levels: December 23.75; January 23.88; March 24.19; May 24.56; July 24.4.

New York, Nov. 28.—Spot cotton closed quiet with a 40 point decline. Middling 23.85.