

CANTON IS NOT THE WICKEDEST IN THE NATION

Many Other Small Cities Like It, and All of Them Are More or Less Like It, Very Probably

BLOW WELL AIMED With Civic Government Contaminated, Underworld Struck at Second Agency Orderly Society

By ROBERT T. SMALL (Copyright, 1926, by The Advance) Canton, Ohio, July 24.—Canton is not the wickedest city in America; it is but a way station, or possibly what railroad men would call a division point on a national highway of crime.

If the recently organized National Commission for the Study and Prevention of Crime would quit its headquarters in New York and come to Canton it would get some really valuable information. It would get a first hand view of crime in the rough. It would find itself at an outpost or a cross road of criminality. It would learn that the study of crime will be satisfactory if centered only in cities like New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and San Francisco. Canton which has sent a red glare into the national skies these last few days, has proved that vice and crime have their bony-handed clutches on the smaller cities and even the villages, and only the most sweeping arousal of public sentiment will be able to break the sinister hold.

And worst of all, time here in Canton has struck at the very agency of public sentiment. Crime has boldly attempted to intimidate the Nation's press; has said that he who would turn the complacent hand of justice against the vice ring must pay for his temerity with his life, his all.

It has been well said in connection with the slaying of Don Mellett, the Canton editor, that the first agency of an orderly society is government. The second agency, or possibly a corollary agency, is the newspaper, for without the newspaper to guard and guide public opinion, government would be deprived of its greatest, its essential support. That is why the newspapers of the country regard this Canton case as one calling for the focusing of a public opinion which will not be satisfied until the "underworld" has been shown that it can neither control nor silence an agency which supports government and stands between the people and anarchy.

The "underworld" must be made to understand that where the police sleep, the press is awake and alert; that where courts promise with crime, the press stands as warden for the even hand of justice.

Crime Well Organized Canton is evidence that crime in America is a sort of chain store affair. It is indeed a vicious circle. Canton is not an isolated ulcer. Crime here is but the outcropping of an infected blood stream poisoning the life of the nation. Crime today is a highly organized affair. It is unfortunately better organized than where the police system, or rather its system of co-operation, functions on a better scale. Communities and commissions are too prone to regard crime as local. It is far from that.

The vice ring in Canton links up with other rings in Akron, in Cleveland, Youngstown, Pittsburgh, and from these neighboring cities on out through the length and breadth of the nation. The peddler of dope in Canton is a brother and ally of the peddler in San Francisco or Los Angeles. They belong to a criminal fraternity. They guard and protect each other.

There are certain recognized centers for criminals. Canton is one of them. The "yegg" who peddles a "deal" in Cleveland can come here and be covered up. The skulking hired assassin who shoots to death a public-spirited editor in Canton finds refuge in any one of half a dozen cities which can be quickly reached in the "high powered car," always the agency of escape in a criminal outrage.

Police departments everywhere are cognizant of the rising tide of crime. In virtually every American city today pleas are being made for a larger and better paid police force. New York recently added something like 3,000 cops. Pittsburgh has been demanding at least 600 more Bluecoats.

Washington, but recently convinced Congress of the need of several hundred additional men. Canton perhaps has been more complacent than some other communities. That is what stirred Mellett to action. That is what made him prefer charges against the chief of police and have him suspended, only to see him restored through political influence. The chief of police in turn sued Mellett's paper, the Canton News, as a party in the news league for \$50,000 libel.

Fight With Police At the height of the quarrel be-

FINAL B A SEBALL PENNANT BATTLE TO OPEN MONDAY

Elizabeth City and Hertford to Fight It Out on Basis of Best Four Out of Seven Games

PLAY MAINLY HERE Clashes on Local Diamond Scheduled for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; Remainder Uncertain

The first three games of the Carolina League post season championship series between Hertford, winner of the first half, and Elizabeth City, which captured the second half, closing this week, will be played in Elizabeth City on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, it was announced today.

In stead of playing a post season series of five games, as had been decided upon originally, it is announced that the two nines will fight it out on the basis of the best four out of seven games. Present indications are that Thursday's game will be played in Hertford, and the subsequent games in this city. The games here will begin at 5 o'clock.

The decision to play virtually all the games here was prompted by the fact that Hertford fans apparently attend games in this city better than at home.

It is understood that Edenton's baseball team will be disbanded at once, but that Colerain will continue to play, probably with Ahoskie and other clubs on the other side of the Chowan River. In preparation for the series beginning here Monday, Hertford has taken over Edenton's star pitcher, Johnson, confident that with him in the line-up, they can win the cup. Elizabeth City, too, is reported to be carrying on negotiations for one or more pitchers, though members of the baseball associations were reticent on the subject today.

Reports Interstate Rates Are Unjust

Washington, July 24.—On complaint of the State Corporation Commission of Virginia, Paul O. Carter, Interstate Commerce Commission examiner, has tentatively found to be unjust the mileage class rates and classification ratings on traffic from certain points in Virginia to destinations in North Carolina.

In his report which the commissioner must pass upon the examiner declared that the present arrangement resulted in undue preference to shippers in North Carolina. A new scale of interstate mileage class rates and classification ratings was recommended. Reasonable ratings suggested on interstate traffic were those contained in the current southern classification recently ordered by the commission.

Carolinian Injured In Holland Accident

Concord, N. C., July 24.—H. Wayne Blanks, director of the Concord Young Men's Christian Association European Tours, was seriously injured in an accident in Amsterdam, Holland, Friday, according to a message from Mrs. Blanks. No details were given. More than a dozen North Carolina cities are represented in the personnel of Blank's party.

Between Mellett and the Canton police, Mellett is murdered. The chief of police comes out with the statement that Mellett wanted to be the "political dictator" of Canton. The police, accused by Mellett of collusion with the "underworld" were not friendly to the editor.

Perhaps that is why both county and state authorities have taken further investigation of the shocking crime out of the hands of the police. Today a separate and distinct "headquarters" was set up for the outside investigators working under direction of the county prosecutor, stirred to action by the indignation of the leading citizens of the community. Almost every train into Canton brings some new "under cover" operative, including special agents of the government at Washington.

It is small wonder Canton has called for outside help. The police blotter here show there have been 48 murders in the city in the last five years, which is going rather strong for a community of 100,000 souls, even in a nation brimming over with crime. Thirteen murders have been convicted but not sent to the electric chair. In approximately half of the cases no arrests were made. Two murders preceded the Mellett case this month. Canton has become all too accustomed to the ring of the shot from the dark.

Judith Prefers Elizabeth City



Miss Judith Milburn returned to Elizabeth City today after spending some time in Asheville with relatives. She expects to make Elizabeth City her permanent home now and to be a prominent member of the firm of which her Daddy is the head and her Mother is First Aid. That knowing smile she wears, being interpreted says, "Oh, Asheville is all right, I suppose, but I much prefer Elizabeth City. As for the Neighbors and Their Wives, they did not and still do not worry me. I knew all the time that everything was coming out all right. After all, wasn't I the real reason that everything did come out all right?"

Police Seek Negro After Attack On Young Woman

Police are continuing a quiet investigation in quest of an unidentified negro charged with having attacked Mrs. Peter Brinson, living on Third street, this city, Wednesday night at about 10 o'clock, as she was on her way home from a neighborhood store with her two year old baby in her arms.

Mrs. Brinson states that she had nearly reached home, when she heard footsteps close behind her, and suddenly two hands were placed about her neck, as though to choke her. Turning about, she discerned her assailant, a negro. She screamed to the top of her voice and he released her, and fled.

Police, notified promptly, arrested a young negro who had been seen to leave the store immediately behind Mrs. Brinson, and carried him before her for identification. She failed to recognize him as her assailant, and he was freed. The officers are now on the trail of other suspects, and hope for an early arrest.

From Cal to Al!



Here is the pike that President Coolidge caught and gave to Governor Al Smith of New York for breakfast. But Governor Al is so tickled he says he will have it mounted instead, and put in a museum.

Miss Luna Moon To Be Honor Guest Country Club

Rumor is busy with reports concerning coming events at the Country Club Vacation Party Tuesday night, but committed members insist that the best has not been told. While the touch of mystery adds piquancy to the interest and anticipation, no secret, however, is made of the fact that it is to be a summer-time affair.

It has been suggested that guests wear sport-clothes, or any cool and comfortable garb desired, as this manner of costume will be entirely in keeping with the entertainment afforded. Some ticket buyers have even hinted that they may decide to appear in bathing suits, so it would be well for the life guards to be at their posts early in the evening.

Miss Luna Moon, possibly the most popular summer-time guest ever entertained in this city, has promised to be on hand and enjoy things in her usual bright way. So well liked is this lady that her habit of casting reflections is not only forgiven her, but even highly admired by all.

ROBERT SCOTT NOW SAYS HE FIRED SHOT

Chicago, July 24.—The celebrated case of Robert and Russell Scott, convicted murderers, which has spectacularly surged its way through the courts here for many months, came into public attention again today with the statement by Robert that he fired the shot that slew Joseph Mauer, drug clerk.

Robert recently was sentenced to life imprisonment when he pleaded guilty to the murder but denied on the stand that he fired the fatal shot. In a statement to the papers he declared, "I lied to save my neck." Russell is now awaiting death on the gallows in October.

What Was It They Never Knew?

Just Tell Us and Win a Dollar The title of the uproarious serial by Tom Sims to start in The Advance August 2 is "They Never Knew."

AMERICAN STARS ITALIAN SCENES RESULT IS ART

This Is the Arrangement, Whereby Italian Film Industry Will be Re-organized for Big Pictures

GLORIES OF ROME Pictures Will Naturally be Italian, But Will Afford Numerous Advantages for Americans Too

By JOHN GUNTHER (Copyright, 1926, by The Advance) Rome, July 24.—Americans are said to be pending whereby a big American film company will cooperate with a new Italian organization for the production of pictures in Italy, using American stars but Italian back grounds, labor, directors and technical equipment.

In other words the long effort to resuscitate the Italian film industry which before the war was the most brilliant in the world, now is reaching a climax with the understanding by Italian directors that they cannot succeed except by the aid of American stars.

This is the gist of an interview given the writer by Commendatore Enrico Guazzoni, newly appointed president of the Federation of Italian Moving Picture Producers, who, as director of the old "maschietti," "Quo Vadis" and "Messalina," is regarded as the most eminent motion picture authority remaining in Europe.

The Fascist Government gave Guazzoni leadership of the national industry when he returned from America a short time ago. If the new arrangement for American cooperation goes through, it is significant that the first big picture attempted will be based on some episode or series of episodes in the history of Imperial Rome, probably on the lives of Augustus and the Caesars. Thus it is hoped the film will cash in on the present popularity of historical costume movies.

Also, by pointing back to the glories of Imperial Rome it will emphasize the fact that the projected "rebirth" of the Italian film industry must necessarily have national Italian interests. The film, it is assured, will be an important item of national propaganda.

Signor Guazzoni declines to reveal at present the details of his arrangement with the American company whereby he will import the necessary American stars. In demonstrating the advantages of the scheme however, Signor Guazzoni said: "Americans should find in Italy a real opportunity for cooperation. We have sun light 350 days in the year. We have unrivaled natural settings and scenic back grounds. We have first rate technical equipment quantities of cheap labor and able directors—but no stars."

He added that American enterprise would help not only by furnishing stars but by furnishing a market for the pictures in America "without which any picture nowadays must perish."

Signor Guazzoni denied that the Fascist government was exercising any censorship over foreign films in Italy aside from the ordinary precautions toward the elimination of undesirable sex pictures.

FOUR BURNED TO DEATH

Muskegon, Mich., July 24.—Paul Christie, prominent Muskegon business man, his wife and two children were burned to death early today when their home in North Muskegon was destroyed by fire.

The origin of the fire which was discovered about 2 o'clock this morning has not been determined. The body of Christie was found near the front of the house, indicating that he was trying to get out of the burning structure.

"Pandora" Up To Expectations, Proving Musical Treat Of Year, But Heat Kept The Crowd Away

The musical treat of the year received a reception that was not calculated to enthrall last night in the presentation of the first opera, "Pandora in Lillie Time," by a cast of Norfolk singers and dancers headed by two New York stars at the new high school here.

"Pandora" attracted the hand of Elizabeth City folks, who braved the heat to attend it. And, as a matter of fact, it was not so comfortably hot in the school auditorium. A fairly liberal estimate placed the crowd at 25, or just about a fourth as many spectators as performers.

Clifford Cunard, an Epimetheus, the sculptor, and Edna Fox, in the role of Pandora, demonstrated that they were real artists, even in the face of a reception that must have weakened for them that inspiration which is the soul of artistry. Mr. Cunard has a lyric tenor voice of remarkable clarity and beauty, and Miss Fox, a dramatic soprano, left nothing to be desired in the way of an effective rendition of her part.

The dancers, big and little, were a revelation of the training which the Puritan Club is affording its amateur players in Norfolk. Among the very best of them all was little Betty Zober, aged 5, who did several specialty numbers amazingly well, even without allowance for her tender years.

Going from here to Seattle, Washington, the producers of "Pandora in Lillie Time" will doubtless be back as far as Chicago two weeks hence. Everywhere but in Elizabeth City, they say, they have been accorded an enthusiastic reception, 25,000 persons attending the show in Kansas City, for instance.

Many of the most popular operatic numbers of the past twenty years were included in "Pandora," and those in the audience revelled in reminiscence during much of the show. The electrical effects were exceptionally good, particularly in such numbers as the long, popular Firefly Dance.

The company of "Pandora," about 100 strong, journeyed here from Norfolk yesterday afternoon, arriving in time to give several entertaining specialty numbers by the younger performers at the close of the baseball game. They came in automobiles, and returned home after the close of the show.

While here, members of the Puritan Club in development, amateur talent which has promise, and in giving such talent an opportunity for re-education. They expressed the hope that Elizabeth City people would later avail themselves of the chance to develop their budding operatic stars through the medium of the Norfolk club.

After acting in romances on the stage and in the movies, Ruth Courtney is, of Cedar Rapids, Ia., decided to get a little romance in real life. So she eloped to Iowa City and married Merle Plummer, musician and childhood sweetheart.

HURT AS VENTILATOR FALLS ON HIS HEAD

Samuel Belanza, of this city, employed as traveling salesman for a Richmond, Virginia, concern, was painfully but not seriously cut across the head Friday on the afternoon northbound Norfolk Southern passenger train from Raleigh to Norfolk, when a ventilator fell upon him, evidently having shaken loose from its fastenings. The accident occurred shortly before the train reached Greenville, and he was given first aid treatment there, continuing on the train to this city.

Upon his arrival here, Mr. Belanza was met at the train by Dr. H. D. Walker, physician for the railroad company, and his injury was dressed again. Several pieces of glass were removed from the wound. He was reported recovering rapidly Saturday.

Green Suspended As Dry Official

Washington, July 24.—Ned M. Green, San Francisco prohibition administrator, who says publicly that he has been giving "parties" with confiscated liquor, was suspended from office today by Acting Secretary Winston of the Treasury.

His suspension will remain effective pending investigation into formal charges of misconduct by Green now being conducted by the district attorney at San Francisco.

A report on Green's activities was presented to Mr. Winston today from the head of the special intelligence unit of the Internal Revenue Bureau on the Pacific Coast.

SWIM 50 YARDS ANY STROKE Fort Benning, Ga., July 24.—The soldier at Fort Benning in compulsory attendance at swimming school who would avoid military classes must learn to swim fifty yards any stroke, and to cover sixty feet carrying a ten pound weight.

Compulsory attendance at swimming classes has been made the rule of all combatant troop units of the garrison and only soldiers who have demonstrated their ability to withstand the tests are relieved.

COTTON MARKET New York, July 24.—Cotton futures opened today at the following levels: Oct. 17.59, Dec. 17.47, Jan. 17.55, Mar. 17.76, May 17.87. New York, July 24.—Spot cotton closed steady, middling 19.10, an advance of 25 points. Futures, closing bid: Oct. 17.72, Dec. 17.62, Jan. 17.62, Mar. 17.77, May 17.98.

BIG NEW DAIRY IS SLATED FOR ELIZABETH CITY

New Yorker Completing Negotiations for Farm of Nearly 300 Acres; to Build Modern Plant

LIKES THIS SECTION Visitor Praises Albemarle District Highly; Came at Instance of Chamber of Commerce

A new enterprise of considerable proportions for Elizabeth City is virtually assured through the successful outcome of preliminary negotiations of a New York dairyman for the lease or purchase of a farm of nearly 300 acres, within two or three miles of this city. A thoroughly modern, large scale dairy, according to Secretary Job, is to be established there, assuring this city an abundant supply of pure milk.

Through the fact that final negotiations for the property have not been completed, the name of the dairyman is withheld temporarily, though far have been carried on largely with the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce.

The New York dairyman carried on a long correspondence with the Chamber, according to Mr. Job, and recently paid a personal visit here, examining soil maps and other data, and viewing the country first hand. It happened that Representative Lindsay Warren recently had supplied the Chamber with a liberal supply of new Federal soil survey maps, and Mr. Job was able to give the visitor most of the data he wished.

After a trip through the surrounding country, the dairyman expressed himself as delighted with conditions. He was impressed especially with the corn fields, declaring he never before had seen the crop grow so luxuriantly. He stated also that he would not have to build barns as expensive as those required in New York State, because of the far milder winters here.

When he had completed his investigation here, the visiting dairyman made a trip to State College, in Raleigh, and there obtained much additional information on the types of soil in the section around Elizabeth City; the crops which could be grown here successfully; and the climate and weather conditions prevailing at various seasons.

Returning to this city this week, the New Yorker carried his original negotiations to the point where only the final signing of the papers is required to complete the deal. While in this part of the State he also visited Wilson, but gave assurance that Elizabeth City struck him as a far better location for the enterprise he had in mind.

With steadily increasing public recognition of the importance of using milk handled and marketed on strict sanitary principles, the news that Elizabeth City is to have a new dairy of the size indicated by the New York dairyman's negotiations is hailed with keen interest here. It is understood unofficially that his plant will represent an aggregate investment of close to \$100,000 at the start, with the probability that it will be expanded later.

ASSOCIATION HONORS ELIZABETH CITY BOY

High honor has been accorded William H. Weatherly, Jr., member of the firm of W. H. Weatherly & Company, wholesale candy manufacturers of this city, in his election to the North Carolina vice presidency of the Southern Wholesale Confectioners' Association, in annual convention in Chattanooga last week.

Mr. Weatherly motored to Chattanooga, accompanied by his wife. On their return, they stopped over in Asheville for several days. Although just a youngster, Mr. Weatherly won recognition in the Confectioners' Association through his untiring energy and interest in the problems confronting candy makers in the South. He has attended the conventions of the association regularly for several years.

FREDERICK S. HARVEY IS NAGS HEAD VICTOR

Nags Head, July 24.—Frederick S. Harvey, of New York City and a descendant of John Harvey of Revolutionary War fame, who is spending some time visiting the section where his noted ancestor was buried, arrived Thursday to spend some time at the Lefroy Cottage.

To Attend Clinic Dr. J. H. Barkwell and family of Weaueville will leave Sunday for Sucka. Dr. Barkwell goes to attend the Southern Pediatric Clinic. Mrs. Markwell and daughter Miss Annie Sarah, will visit Asheville and other points of interest while away. They expect to return about August 9.

AT THE ALKRAMA TODAY "Thunder," the marvel dog, in his latest and what is claimed to be his greatest picture, "His Master's Voice," is the feature attraction at the Alkrama Theater today. An unusually fine cast of favorite film players enact the leading roles with Mary Carr, the famous mother of the screen, George Hackathorne and Marjorie Daw at the head of the list.