

Rain tonight and Thursday. Increasing westerly winds reaching gale force tonight.

CANTON TRAGEDY THROWING LIGHT ON BOOTLEGGING

Prominent Citizens Afraid to Fight Underworld Because They Have Helped to Make It Prosperous

OTHER CITIES TOO

Canton No Different From Any Other Town Including National Capital, But Where's the Remedy?

By ROBERT T. SMALL (Copyright, 1926, by The Advance)

Canton, Ohio, July 28.—A neglected phase of this Canton murder mystery which has a truly national significance is the reluctance of some of the prominent citizens of Canton to step forward and speak their mind or to loosen their purse strings in the hunt for the slayers of Don Mellett.

The reason is plain. These men of affairs have patronized the "underworld." They have brought liquor—many cases of it—from the bootleggers who are hand-in-glove with all the other shady characters of a "jungle" which thus far has offered ample shelter for its beasts of prey.

The plight in which these prominent men of Canton had themselves at this time because of their war belief in prohibition is no different from that which might arise in any American city of substantial size today.

The sale of bootleg whiskey is going forward by day and by night. Bootleggers, it is admitted everywhere, are welcome in some of the "best homes" of America. Business and professional men continue to speak with pride of "My bootlegger." Bootlegging as an art, and the advantageous purchase of "good liquor" from illicit sources are subjects of chat, comment and congratulation in clubs, at social gatherings, and even in business meetings.

Somehow or other it doesn't seem to appear so bad to the average American until tragedy stalks abroad, as it has here in the case of Don Mellett, and the shot which kills comes from the hands of those same bootleggers and their allies—the dope peddlers, the yeggs, and the men who live on the evil deeds of the underworld, taking their tithe even of the bitterly earned pay of the wistful-eyed women who are reluctant dwellers in that shadowland down the hill.

Canton citizens are held up to scorn for the liaison between the underworld and the cellars of the rich and the powerful. Conditions surrounding the sale of liquor here differ in no respect from conditions in other cities. The capital of Washington is just as open and unabashed in its trafficking with bootleggers as Canton, or Akron, or Youngstown, or Cleveland, or Pittsburgh, or Chicago. The same spirit prevails all across the land.

Former Gov. James M. Cox of this state, owner of a string of papers which includes the Canton News, during a recent visit to New York took occasion to denounce the hypocrisy of those capitalists of industry who preach prohibition for the working man, and stock their own cellars high with illicit liquors. Mr. Cox was not moralizing in favor of prohibition; he was uttering a cry of protest against the smugness of certain violators of the law. He said that existing conditions were all but hopeless. He did not pretend to be wise enough to suggest the exact remedy, but he felt that something should be done.

In Canton today, as elsewhere in the United States, there is no longer a mere theory about prohibition; there is a condition to be dealt with. Men rated as good citizens, men high in business and in the real problem of prohibition enforcement. The bootleggers are not to blame. They could not exist an hour without the demand for their wet goods. The law of supply and demand is just as inexorable with liquor apparently as with any of the staple commodities. The problem of prohibition enforcement lies with the so-called "good citizen." Not until he makes up his mind, or is prevailed upon, to give up liquor will the illicit traffic under existing law be ended and the chief source of underworld income be shut off.

In the days before prohibition, Canton, like other industrial communities of the East and Middle West, was infested by agents of the "black hand." In most cases they never had heard of or seen a samarra.

But nevertheless, they laid a

Old Man Handle



Mr. Handle is the father of Miss Pearl Handle, who is affianced to Jimson Wood, born of "They Never Knew," which starts in The Daily Advance Monday.

WORK FOR TERM EIGHT MONTHS

Department of Education Leaves Fund Raising Method to Legislature

Raleigh, July 28.—Regardless of any proposition which has arisen or may arise, the Department of Public Instruction is still working and intends to continue its work for an eight months minimum school term for every school child in North Carolina.

Such is the emphatic statement of Superintendent A. T. Allen. "My department is working to show the need of the eight months' school term," someone has declared. Mr. Allen here today, "The methods of financing the project we are leaving to the General Assembly which is the body for that purpose."

"I think the matter ought to be determined aside from any scheme of taxation and on its own merits. That is, I believe an eight months' school term is a more fundamental proposition than the method of financing it. Each General Assembly has power to change financing methods if first plans do not work out."

Mr. Allen asserted the issue of an eight months' school term too often is linked with that of a method of taxation and immediately the main issue is forgotten.

"Taxes always are unpopular," he declared. "Whenever the argument is raised for an eight months' school term, someone starts talking about the financing of such a proposition. Then the taxation issue is hopped upon for people love to ease taxes—and the main issue—equal educational opportunity—is entirely forgotten."

"I would like to see the matter submitted as a referendum. Then the people could pass upon whether they want the eight months' school term."

Mr. Allen continues to believe that the lengthened school term will mean a great deal for the children of the State. He also is convinced that it is the duty of his department to work for the eight months' school term from the standpoint of education and let the General Assembly work on the matter from the standpoint of providing the funds.

Then sentiment of the people, he believes, is crystallizing behind his department and a majority favor the lengthened school term. While there may be setbacks in working out the plan he is confident that in the end it will be given full approval. He also believes that the facts on school conditions which the department has been assuring for the past several months have been read and studied by the people and have had a good effect from the standpoint of the proponents of better educational opportunities.

Every pay day an affrighted foreigners working in the steel and iron mills. Then prohibition came, and the "art" of bootlegging was organized. The "black hand" was all but forgotten. The secret "agents" found liquor selling so much more remunerative than the huckling that they never went back to the old game.

Arguments of prohibition advocates and enforcement officials that virtually every case of liquor illicitly laid down at the door of a bootleg patron had found its way through a trail of human blood, have had but little effect. Usually the shodding of blood has been between rival gangs of bootleggers or between bootleggers and their natural enemies, the hi-jackers, or else between bootleggers and "receivers," and little heed has been paid.

Here in Canton the underworld has claimed a prominent victim. The good people of the city are outraged. Men and women, too, who have patronized the bootlegging are, for the first time, beginning to worry.

Young Negro Jailed After Indignity To Little Girl

Taken speedily into custody after he had attempted personal indignity toward the seven year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh Griffin, living on Cedar street, Fred Moore, colored boy about 14 years of age, is in jail in default of \$200 bond pending a hearing before Clerk of the Court E. L. Sawyer in Juvenile Court tomorrow afternoon.

According to Mr. Griffin, who is employed in the office of the Crystal Ice & Coal Corporation, the little girl was playing in the yard in front of her home Tuesday afternoon between 3 and 4 o'clock when a young negro rode up on horseback. He offered her a dime to show him where someone lived in the neighborhood, and asked that she go around to the back of the house to direct him.

The little girl did as requested, and had come out through the gate to the edge of a field of soy beans, growing almost as high as her head, the negro had ridden around there, too. Without dismounting from the horse, he offered her a dime to let him kiss her. She declined. He gradually raised the offer to a dollar, and when she still refused, he started back to alight from the horse. She ran into the house, and he climbed back on the horse and rode hurriedly away.

Mrs. Griffin telephoned her husband of the occurrence, and immediately began a search for the negro, with the aid of police. The boy finally was located on the farm of Martin Pritchard, in the Fork neighborhood, and upon being taken back to the Griffin home, was identified immediately by the child.

Coming on the heels of an attack on Mrs. Peter Brinson near her home on Third street last Wednesday night by an unidentified negro, this latest occurrence has stirred a rising tide of popular indignation.

Many To Attend Masonic Picnic

All roads will lead to Murfreesboro Thursday, upon the occasion of the annual Masonic picnic, for many years one of the leading summertime events in this part of North Carolina. For several years past the Masons have held these picnics at Colerain Beach, on the west shore of Chowan River, and in moving it to Murfreesboro this summer, they were impelled by a desire to introduce the people of the State to Chowan College, situated there.

The picnic will be held on the college campus, under wide spreading elms more than a century old. The speaker of the day will be Representative John H. Kerr, of Warrenton, former Superior Court Judge, and one of the State's best known and most popular orators.

Besides the address and various other entertainment features, a big dinner will be served the crowd, the proceeds to go to the Masonic Orphanage at Oxford. Thousands attend the Masonic picnics each year, and preparations are under way to entertain a record throng at Murfreesboro tomorrow. A number of Elizabeth City people are planning to go.

FARMERS AND WIVES BEGIN CONVENTION

Raleigh, July 28.—Thousands of farmers and their wives, many of them bringing members of the family, too, continued to arrive at State College this morning for the twenty-fourth annual session of the North Carolina Farmers and Farm Women's Convention which was formally opened yesterday but which did not get into full swing until today. Indications were that attendance would be at least 5,000 if not more.

The chief matter of interest today is the formal dedication at 4:30 this afternoon of Polk Hall, but recently completed, and which will house the animal husbandry department. The hall is named in honor of Colonel L. L. Polk, a former Confederate soldier, and first Commissioner of Agriculture, serving from 1877 to 1885.

BROTHERS CHARGED WITH JOINT ATTACK

Hearing of a case in which John and Richard Lee, colored, are charged with assault and battery on Lee Edward Cabarrus, also colored, was continued to Saturday morning in recorder's court here today. The defendants are brothers.

Police state that one of the brothers had an argument with Cabarrus Friday at the Southern Roller Stave and Heading Company, at which they were employed, and that the two brothers waylaid Cabarrus Monday morning in Pritchardtown and gave him a severe beating.

LIQUOR DEATH TOLL NOW THIRTY-SEVEN

Buffalo, July 28.—Police agents and police today made six more arrests in the Niagara from their poison liquor case, the death toll in which stands at 37. This action followed statements of authorities that James C. Voelker, alleged leader of the distribution game, stood ready to make full confession, naming those higher up in the "good" alcohol traffic. He is to answer the charge of first degree murder.

Baseball Games For Dare Event

Baseball in abundance, along with other entertainment including bathing, boating and dancing is promised the throngs of returning sons and daughters of Dare who visit Roanoke Island during Home Coming Week. Beginning Monday, August 16, there will be a baseball game at Manteo each day during the week except on the 18th, when Virginia Dare Day will be celebrated. The baseball promoters figure that there will be sufficient entertainments that day without adding baseball.

Dare County has had an up-and-coming baseball league this summer. Manteo, Wanchese, Stumps Point, Mann's Harbor and the South Banks have maintained strong teams, and many games have been played. Manteo is at the head of the league, with 20 games won out of 23 played up to Wednesday.

The league was organized in the early summer. It probably will disband after the week of the Dare celebration, according to advisers from Manteo.

Many dances, picnics and other entertainment events are promised also during Home Coming Week, not the least of which is a movie show each night. The Lost Colony film will be shown at intervals through the week, in order to afford all the returning one full opportunity to view it.

CONDUCT SERVICES NAGS HEAD CHAPEL

News Head, July 28.—The Nags Head Chapel, "St. Andrew's of the Sea," situated in the valley between Engagemont and Elfrinton Hills, was opened for divine service Sunday at 10:30 a. m., by the Reverend Dr. Robert Brent Drane, of Edenton, who preached a sermon appropriate for the day, the Festival of St. James, the Apostle, on the text St. Math. 29: 22: "But Jesus answered and said: 'Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They say unto Him: 'We are able.' Despite the rather inclement weather of the morning there was a good attendance at the service.

Unfortunately Dr. Drane will be unable to continue the Sunday services at the chapel because of former engagements and there has been arranged in his place a very able minister of the Gospel, Rev. Walter B. Clark, of Kirtree, who has conducted an occasional service on his visits here during the past two or three years and who thinks a great deal of Nags Head. Dr. Clark will take charge of the chapel during the month of August at the end of which the chapel will be closed for the year. He is expected to arrive during the latter part of the week.

TRIAL OF CRANFORD IN ITS FINAL STAGE

Albemarle, July 28.—The State today began its final barrage of testimony in rebuttal and the beginning of arguments of counsel was expected late today in the trial of Nevin G. Cranford, charged with murder of two negro convicts.

Jess Ballard, who has served three prison sentences, was called as a witness for the State. He told the jury Cranford whipped John Baker, white convict, for an attempt to file his shackles off and said that on another occasion the foreman whipped Baker because of complaining that he found a fly in his bread.

Beginning tonight evening sessions are planned in the effort to speed up the trial. Indications are that the case will go to the jury tomorrow.

Another Chance to Win "They Never Knew" Prize

HUGGESS PRIZE, North Road street, is today's winner of \$1 in the snappet "They Never Knew." It's this:

"They were terribly unpopular but They Never Knew they had Halitosis."

Here are some more good ones: "They put a mouse in the teacher's desk but They Never Knew that tomorrow was a holiday."

"The stalwart fishermen didn't get a nibble, but They Never Knew they were fishing in the Dead Sea."

"They sat on the bank of the river to gaze upon the beautiful moonlight scene but They Never

CURRITUCK ROAD PROJECT ENTERS CLOSING STAGES

Elizabeth City and Courthouse to be Linked by Hardsurfaced Highway by Middle of August

WORK MOVING FAST

Chowan Bridge 10 Per Cent Completed, and Should be Ready by Jan. 1; Busy on Approaches

The construction of improved highway in Northeastern Carolina is proceeding rapidly these days. Forces at work on the concrete road from this city northward to Currituck Courthouse have completed all but about a mile of the highway, and are expecting to finish that in about ten days. The paving of North Carolina's end of the George Washington Highway, from the State Line to South Mills, is going ahead satisfactorily, and should be finished this fall.

The highway from here to Currituck Courthouse, generally termed the Sligo Road, has been hardsurfaced from this city to a point near Corner Gum, not far from the mouth of the river, and is now being paved northwardly beyond Sligo. The Roberts Paving Company, of Maryland, contractors in charge of the work, expect to have it completed by August 7. In that event it will be opened to traffic about two weeks later.

The Sligo Road is regarded here as one of the most important projects undertaken in this section by the State Highway Commission, since it connects the three northernmost counties with dependent highway facilities. Heretofore, the counties to the east of Elizabeth City have been cut off completely from highway access to this city for many weeks each winter—literally by a barrier of mud.

Assurance that work would be begun immediately to repair the "Floating Road," from this city eastwardly to the Camden County mainland, and constituting the first link in the Sligo Road, was given yesterday by Buck Taylor, bridge maintenance engineer for the State Highway Commission, who arrived to make a survey of the road.

This road was built as an experiment by the State Highway Commission on the theory that a concrete highway, spread over a sufficient area of swamp land, would have sufficient displacement to keep it afloat. Within a few months after its completion, the fallacy of that theory was demonstrated conclusively. The road began to sink, and has been sinking steadily ever since.

While here, Mr. Taylor indicated that the State Highway Commission in repairing the road would bridge the worst swamped sections of the road, and put the remainder into the best possible conditions. It is anticipated that work on it will be begun in the next few weeks.

Grading and construction of bridges on the State highway from Sligo to the Virginia line near Moyock, connecting with hardsurfaced roads leading into Norfolk, on the one hand, and into Elizabeth City, on the other, is 70 per cent completed, according to members of the State Highway Commission forces here. This road link is about 14 miles long. Contract for hardsurfacing it is expected to be let in September, in which event it probably will be completed by next summer.

The Chowan Bridge, near Edenton, to link the Albemarle district with the remainder of the State, is declared to be 40 per cent complete, with every indication that it will be finished by the first of the year. It is the longest structure of the kind in North Carolina, and one of the longest in the world over navigable waters. When completed, it will have cost close to half a million dollars, and brought back cement.

"They can produce cement in Russia, ship it to this country, and sell it cheaper than the American product," Mr. Bell commented, in telling of his trip.

While in this city, Mr. Bell visited his mother, Mrs. J. K. Parker, on North Road street. He left Wednesday, he found it necessary to delay persistent rumors that he contemplated annexing a bride while here. He was uncertain whether his forthcoming joint overseas would be to England or to Russia.

MEXICAN CHURCHES BE CONTROLLED BY MAYORS

Mexico City, July 28.—The Government today issued orders by which it refuses to permit Catholic churches to be used as a place of refuge for political refugees, and to be used as a place of refuge for political refugees, and to be used as a place of refuge for political refugees.

Mr. Hill said, "We have been running these buses in North Carolina and Virginia since May 19." Mr. Hill said, "and we have sold more than a million and half dollars worth of property since that time. We expect eventually to run buses as well as trucks, which they cease to function at midnight Saturday to turn over their churches to the committee of Catholic laymen appointed by them for each church."

Instead the government has ordered the churches, placed in charge of committees appointed by the mayor of each town or city.

PALM BEACH COUNTS UP COST OF STORM

West Palm Beach, July 28.—After 18 hours battling with hurricane winds which cut off communications with the rest of the world, the city and Palm Beach early today began a check-up of the storm's damage, which conservatively authorities place will above \$1,000,000.

Food in the city had subsided and the water supply, a rising barometer indicating that the force of the gale had been spent. The landscape was dotted with sprouts of palms and other trees, and the main streets of Palm Beach were inundated.

Residents along the coast of Upper Florida, Georgia and South Carolina are now today, too. The count West Indian hurricane which was moving up the coast of Florida after hitting the southern borders of that state yesterday and last night.

Harry Greenleaf Takes Post Here

Harry G. Greenleaf, formerly of this city, and for the last seven years connected with the National Bank of Commerce in Norfolk, has accepted a position as cashier of the Industrial Bank here. It was announced today by W. P. Duff, president of the latter institution. Mr. Greenleaf will succeed Graham W. Bell, cashier of the Industrial Bank since its formation in 1923, who has accepted a post in the bond sales department of the Guaranty Title & Trust Corporation.

Mr. Greenleaf is expected to take over his new work on August 19. Through his long connection with the National Bank of Commerce, declared to be the largest commercial bank in Norfolk, and by reason of his personal popularity here, news of his return to this city and entry into local banking is received with much interest.

Until he accepted a position with the Norfolk bank, Mr. Greenleaf had spent his life in Elizabeth City, except for an extended period of service in the World War. He is a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. G. Greenleaf, Sr., and has many relatives here, including three sisters, Mrs. E. B. Outlaw, Jr., Mrs. W. D. Glover, and Mrs. Catherine Dean.

ADOPT POINCARÉ'S FINANCIAL MEASURE

Paris, July 28.—The finance committee of the chamber of deputies today adopted in principle Premier Poincaré's financial bill and passed on by discussion of each article separately. The vote was 27 to 12.

STOP ALL EXPENSES OF ILLINOIS PRIMARY

Chicago, July 28.—Senator William B. McKinley decided to stand all expenses of his bid for re-nomination in the recent Illinois primary. Henry L. Green, Illinois senator-at-large, testified today before the Senate campaign funds committee.

In line with this policy, McKinley who was defeated by the Republican Senatorial nomination by Frank L. Smith, accepted no outside contributions, Green said. It was disclosed yesterday that the campaign cost McKinley \$450,616.72.

"HONEY" BELL LEAVES FOR OVERSEAS CRUISE

Having returned last Sunday from a three months' cruise to South African and European ports, E. S. Bell, formerly of this city and known to his friends here as "Honey" Bell, left again Wednesday for another trip about the world.

On his last trip, Mr. Bell visited Oran and Bizerte, in North Africa; Constantinople, Turkey, one of the world's most picturesque cities; and the Soviet Russian parts of Batum, Odessa and Novorossisk, on the Black Sea. The Bushville carried a cargo of farming implements to Russia, and brought back cement.

"They can produce cement in Russia, ship it to this country, and sell it cheaper than the American product," Mr. Bell commented, in telling of his trip.

While in this city, Mr. Bell visited his mother, Mrs. J. K. Parker, on North Road street. He left Wednesday, he found it necessary to delay persistent rumors that he contemplated annexing a bride while here. He was uncertain whether his forthcoming joint overseas would be to England or to Russia.

MELON RIND HURLED IN TRUCK KNOCKS GIRL SENSELESS

Tragedy almost followed the hurling of a melon rind into a motor truck, in which a party was enjoying a boy ride last night at 10:20 o'clock, when the party was passing the courthouse green, on which a lawn party was in progress. Miss Dora Jordan, a member of the group in the truck, was struck above the heart, and was knocked unconscious.

Edward Lee, who was driving the truck, declared the melon rind was thrown by some half a dozen young boys, in a group in front of the courthouse. He stopped the truck, and gave chase, but lost the trail after several blocks.

Miss Jordan was taken hurriedly to the hospital at the Southern Hotel corner, and Dr. T. S. McMillan, who lives there, was called out to administer first aid. He received her in a few minutes.

Melon Rind Hurled In Truck Knocks Girl Senseless

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Miss Jordan was taken hurriedly to the hospital at the Southern Hotel corner, and Dr. T. S. McMillan, who lives there, was called out to administer first aid. He received her in a few minutes.

In dispensing the incident today, local physicians declared that a hard blow above the heart, such as the girl sustained, might readily have resulted fatally. Miss Jordan was reported recovering, for Mrs. R. Jordan, and lives with her parents on East Garrison street.

Police were investigating the episode today, and several early arrests were expected.

ORPHANS COMING TO GIVE CONCERT

The singing class of the odd Fellows' Orphanage at Goldsboro, boys and girl entertainers whose annual visit to this city is looked forward to with keen anticipation, will give a concert at the new high school auditorium here Friday night at 8 o'clock, in the course of a tour of the State. No admission will be charged, although a free will offering will be asked to the course of the evening. Tickets will be sold at 10 cents, and 50 cents for a party of four.

Goldboro Entertainers at High School Auditorium Here Friday Night

The singing class of the odd Fellows' Orphanage at Goldsboro, boys and girl entertainers whose annual visit to this city is looked forward to with keen anticipation, will give a concert at the new high school auditorium here Friday night at 8 o'clock, in the course of a tour of the State. No admission will be charged, although a free will offering will be asked to the course of the evening. Tickets will be sold at 10 cents, and 50 cents for a party of four.

The concert will comprise a carefully selected and well-balanced program of songs, readings, quartet selections and orchestral numbers. In the company are six boys and six girls, together with Miss Maude Dunn, music teacher at the orphanage. Mrs. Margaret Cheek, principal of the high school here, and John Stanford, of Goldsboro, a graduate of the orphanage who is serving as driver of the motorbus in which the tour is being made.

The concert class left Goldsboro in the middle of May, touring the western part of the State as far as Cherokee County before coming East. In this section, the class has given concerts in Edenton, Manteo, Wanchese, and Belcross. Its members will entertain in Poplar Branch tomorrow night.

After the entertainment here, the class will go to Coahque to give a concert Saturday night and remain over the weekend. The tour will be completed about September 1.

LEAVE HERE FOR MOREHEAD BLUFFS

A group of 22 people from Elizabeth City and Edenton left early this morning on the Hill and Sharrer bus for a two day visit to Morehead Bluffs, Eastern Carolina's most far-famed water resort.

Those leaving from Elizabeth City included Miss Marion Nelson, Mrs. Clyde Hayes, Dr. and Mrs. H. E. Nixon, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Sawyer, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Mellett, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Mellett, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Mellett, Mrs. H. S. Overman, Mrs. M. H. Simpson, Mrs. T. B. Cooke, P. C. Cohoon, and T. T. Nelson.

While at Morehead Bluffs the Elizabeth City and Edenton party will be the guests at Morehead Villa, declared by many to be the most beautiful hotel in North Carolina. It was constructed in 63 days at a cost of \$500,000. They will arrive there about four o'clock today. After dinner they will be taken on a moonlight cruise on the Bogue Sound. They will be shown places of historic interest. The party is expected back in Elizabeth City on Thursday evening about nine o'clock.

Mr. Hill of Raleigh, member of the firm of Hill & Sharrer, general sales agent for Morehead Bluffs, is still in the city planning for subsequent trips to be made from this section.

"We have been running these buses in North Carolina and Virginia since May 19," Mr. Hill said, "and we have sold more than a million and half dollars worth of property since that time. We expect eventually to run buses as well as trucks, which they cease to function at midnight Saturday to turn over their churches to the committee of Catholic laymen appointed by them for each church."

Instead the government has ordered the churches, placed in charge of committees appointed by the mayor of each town or city.

COOLIDGE SEES MORE OR LESS, HE BELIEVES, THE LAWS OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND AND COMPETITION WILL BRING SETTLEMENT

More or Less, He Believes, the Laws of Supply and Demand and Competition Will Bring Settlement

COOLIDGE SEES ADJUSTMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE

More or Less, He Believes, the Laws of Supply and Demand and Competition Will Bring Settlement

CHEAP PRODUCTION

Europe Devising Ways and Means of Competing With American Manufactured Products; Wages Lower

By DAVID LAWRENCE (Copyright, 1926, by The Advance)

Although official announcements indicate President Coolidge's desire not to be pinned down specifically to one solution as against another in the adjustment of world trade conditions in America, for some time outside observers, particularly abroad, have criticized the American position as illogical, because on the one hand the United States insisted on payment of war debts with gold and at the same time kept European countries by a tariff wall from penetrating to the American consumer with cheaply made products. It was argued that the United States either must buy more of Europe or else consent to a slower payment of war debts.

As between the two policies, namely forcing down the tariff wall and getting quicker payment from Europe or keeping it high and accepting long-term adjustments of foreign debts, President Coolidge has not publicly said a word, but his adherence to the protective tariff principle has been reiterated again and again as a sufficient answer. Mr. Coolidge never checks the injury to American prosperity that a lowered tariff would be offset to any considerable extent by the payments on war debts. In other words, he regards the tariff structure as an economic fact so important to American wealth that the payments from abroad which would be accelerated seem as if they were a drop in the bucket in comparison.

There is, on the other hand, a constant pressure to make the protective tariff wall to a certain extent so as to permit European goods to come into competition in some instances with American goods. It is every now and then petitioned to let the wall be reduced so as to affect the producers who are making the prices to American consumers almost as high as the tariff wall because they know the tariff protects them from competition. But Mr. Coolidge is urged by the defenders of the system not to permit any tinkering because it is argued that American working men are being sustained at a high level of wages because of the high prices which it is possible to charge the consumer and that any reduction in such prices forced by European competition would mean a deflation of labor costs.

The significant thing is that even though America is not touching the tariff law, Europe is desperately overcoming some of the obstacles by devising cheaper methods of production and by the drop in wage standards abroad produced by the diminishing value of foreign currencies in terms of the American dollar. America's imports are rising despite the tariff.

So it is more or less the President's conjecture that the laws of supply and demand and the never-ending economies that competition forces on rival producers will enable the United States to buy more goods from Europe despite the tariff and that as a consequence much of the money needed to pay war debts will be realized by Europe.

FEDERAL TROOPS ON GUARD MEXICO CITY

Mexico City, July 28.—A detachment of Federal troops has been ordered to guard the chamber of deputies for the purpose of preventing clashes which are feared between rival political groups which are bitterly contesting control of the next Congress.

COTTON MARKET