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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

U. S. Leads In Crime

The most lawless land in the world is America. This unpleasant fact comes as a shock to us whenever the truth is brought home with a fresh compilation of crime statistics.

Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman, the Prudential Life Insurance Company's statistician, has published the new edition of his annual analysis of the homicide records of 141 American cities with a total population of 38,000,000.

It shows that the rate of death by violence has doubled in thirty years. The average rate of homicides in 1929 was 10.5 to 100,000. That compares with the latest figure for England and Wales of 0.5. We are more than twenty times as lawless as the English.

Why?

Prohibition is an important factor, according to Hoffman:

"By common consent, the enforcement of prohibition has brought into existence an organization of crime and criminals such as no other country on the face of the globe ever has known. Enforcement of the law itself has created a large number of violent deaths classified as homicides."

Drys, of course, do not like to face this fact. Nevertheless, no amount of denial can obscure the truth, of which there is common and constant evidence, apart from this and other statistical studies, that prohibition is a major factor in our high homicide rate. To be sure, it is not the only factor.

But what the other causes are is very difficult to determine.

A frequent explanation of American lawlessness is our "frontier" mentality and habits. Whatever validity such explanation may have had in the past, it has little or none today. Anyway, the point of the Hoffman figures is that homicides today are double the rate of 1900, when we were nearer the wild west era.

A second common explanation is the melting pot. Recent incomplete studies, however, show that immigrant groups furnish less rather than more of their proportionate quota of American crime.

Again, if this were a major factor, the crime index should have been going down since immigration restriction, while, in fact, it has gone up. Finally, Canada, with a larger immigration ratio to population than ours, has a homicide rate of only 1.3 compared with our 10.5.

A third explanation is our Negro population. The ten cities with the highest homicide rate were all southern, ranging from Memphis, with a rate of 66.8, and Birmingham, 51.3, to Covington, with 28.8, and Houston, 27.

Hoffman explains this high southern average "is to be found in the habit of gun toting"; for instance the proportion of homicide deaths by firearms was 76.8 per cent in Memphis and 72.6 in Birmingham, compared with 48.1 Boston.

Admitting for the sake of argument that the Negro population raises disproportionately the southern homicide rate, there are several reasons why alleged Negro lawlessness can not be the major factor in the national crime average.

For one reason, American cities with negligible Negro populations have much higher crime rates than comparable foreign cities. For another reason, northern American cities having higher than average proportion of Negro population, such as New York, have a lower homicide rate than the average city.

Thus we are driven to conclude that of the many causes responsible in small or large measure for America's barbarous homicide rate, prohibition is the major cause most apparent.

Cuban Dictatorship

Cuba's one-day general strike follows a long reign of Fascist terror by the Machado dictatorship. The facts of that terror have been established by investigators of the American Federation of Labor and other American and foreign observers who are nonpartisan so far as Cuban internal politics is concerned.

Machado's latest plan is an order dissolving labor unions because of alleged connection with Moscow. This is an old and transparent ruse of reactionary dictators everywhere, but unfortunately there is not much left of a Cuban labor movement which can be destroyed by Machado—his regime long since has killed or driven into exile most of the union leaders.

Considering the terror, it is remarkable that all the Cuban labor organizations—with the exception of public utility and railway workers, who stayed on the job for public service reasons—clad to join the general strike yesterday.

Of course the Cuban government does not stop with victimizing labor. It also is lawless toward American citizens. Refusal of Machado to settle the Barlow property claims, despite Cuban court decrees and United States senate intervention, is a notorious case in point.

And Cuba, it will be recalled, is a protectorate where the United States has a treaty obligation to guarantee protection of life, property and liberty. But instead of the United States interfering in Cuba to permit the pledged representative government, Machado interferes in American domestic affairs through a paid sugar lobby.

Why the Washington government continues to support the Machado dictatorship is a question no official will answer, and no one else can.

More Germs of Civil War

We wrote an editorial a few weeks back under the head of "The Germs of Civil War." It stated that if the fanatics on both sides of the prohibition question continued to oppose a reasonable and practicable solution of the liquor question, we stood in very real danger of a repetition of the events of 1861, when we drifted into civil war over the slavery issue.

Many dries exploded over this suggestion. They denounced the editorial in vigorous terms as an alarmist bugaboo. Some accused us of dragging a red herring across the trail of law enforcement. Now a great meeting of dries in Boston comes forward to prove the point. A United Press dispatch thus describes the sentiment at this gathering:

"A willingness to go to war, if necessary, to enforce prohibition was voiced by more than 1,000 dries at a meeting here last night."

Tremendous applause greeted the declaration of the Rev. Dr. William Bartlett of Chicago, that "if it means civil war to uphold prohibition, what better cause is there?"

"And when the speaker asked, 'Are you willing to go to war for prohibition?' there was another wave of enthusiastic applause and enthusiastic shouts of 'Yes! Yes! Yes!'"

Only a few weeks ago a wet gathering in Boston

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

Neither Prohibition Nor Prosperity Has Lessened Crime in This Country; Neither Poverty Nor Hooch Has Increased It in England.

WHILE we face the task of building more prisons, England finds it possible to do with fewer.

Right now she is preparing to abandon three important institutions.

Not only that, but she has abandoned not less than twenty-eight during the last sixteen years.

And not only that but her prison population has decreased from 20,000 in 1904 to 7,000 in 1929.

During the same period our prison population has increased.

At present, there are at least four times as many Americans in jail to 1,000 population as there are Englishmen.

Whatever may be concluded from the comparison, it certainly smashes some of our pet theories.

Neither prohibition nor prosperity has lessened crime in this country.

On the other hand, neither poverty nor hooch has increased crime in England.

What is equally significant, England seems to have accomplished far more with a slow, steady program of improvement than we have with our sudden half-baked innovations.

These challenging facts bear very directly on the whole notion of human progress and the increase of human well-being. Science, applied in the field of preventive and curative medicine, has enabled us to eliminate or combat the older forms of disease.

Science, applied to modern technology, has created industrial and urban life. This begets a great crop of new diseases much more difficult to check and handle than the old physical disorders.

We give New York a pure water supply and thus do away with typhoid fever. At the same time we create industrial and living conditions in the same metropolitan center which produce mental and nervous diseases that now outnumber all other types of illness in this progress?

Mental hygiene, which is the science of man's adjustment to life conditions, will do much to help offset the disastrous by-products of our evolving civilization. But it will not be able to win the victory unaided.

It can point out the bad effects of unemployment. Yet it hardly can reconstruct the economic system and limit the birth-rate, so that unemployment will cease. It can indicate the evil mental and nervous effects of the contemporary factory, but it scarcely can uproot the machine era and the factory system of production. We shall need the co-operation of all the sciences of man and society.

Alone and Broke: Dead

James Britt was alone, friendless and broke, so he is dead today.

He died in the electric chair in Michigan City prison Thursday night for murder.

Advocates of "speedy justice" should be satisfied. But they might blend with their satisfaction this thought: Why was James Britt, alone, friendless and broke, the only man to die in the state's electric chair since April 10, 1928?

Murder convictions in the state in 1929 numbered 101. One man pays the extreme penalty. Most of the slayers had either money, influence or friends—many had all three.

James Britt had none of these. Did he die because he was alone, friendless and broke? There seems to be but one answer.

Prohibition Blamed

LIKE many others, Dr. Hoffman believes that prohibition has increased crime in this country.

"By common consent," he says, "the enforcement of prohibition has brought into existence an organization of crime and criminals such as no other country on the face of the globe ever has known."

One can agree with all that and still realize that there are other factors to be reckoned with because our crime record was not only worse than that of England, but worse than that of any other civilized country before prohibition came into existence.

Put any construction you like on it, and the situation in America still is a mystery.

By comparison, we are the most prosperous people on earth, get more for our work, have more cash with which to satisfy our desires, and more leisure in which to do what we like.

We consider ourselves rather hard hit because of the present shortage of work, but the proportion of unemployment in this country today is not as great as it has been in England ever since the war.

Yet England finds it possible to send down prisoners, while we face the necessity of enlarging them.

Panaceas Fail

PROHIBITION, prosperity, parole systems and all the other panaceas in which we trusted have failed to produce results.

In spite of all our boasted wealth and progress we have not made a good record in the field of law and order.

We keep telling ourselves that this is due to mechanical defects, and that all we need is some clever invention to correct the trouble.

Our thoughts run largely to such remedies as a new kind of parole board, a new method of obtaining pardons, a new statute with regard to habitual criminals, a new type of cell, or a new bill of fare in the dining room.

In off months, we wonder if baseball, a band, or a debating society wouldn't help.

One day we sob for "mutual welfare leagues," and the next we pronounce them a curse.

In one case we demand that the jury be merciless, and in the next we howl for compassion.

First we choose a Governor because he promises to be liberal in the matter of pardons and paroles, and then we choose one for precisely opposite reasons.

It would have been a good thing if Literary Digest had postponed the taking of its wet and dry poll until the Canadian government could have voted on the proposition of stopping the importation of booze into the United States.

If the poll goes wet, you will find Canadians citing that fact as a reason why the booze should continue to flow.

SENATOR BORAH makes a mistake not to accept the last \$2,500 salary raise which gave senators and representatives \$10,000 a year, for a man can't live decently in Washington on one cent less.

If our senators were paid according to what their services are worth, some would receive much while others would have to sell a few pencils on the side.

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We Anticipate a Few Census Questions



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Children Differ in Learning to Talk

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygeia, the Health Magazine.

WHEN a child first begins to talk it uses single words to express itself, often repeating the word several times.

As it grows older, more and more words are joined together to make sentences which may be incomplete in that they lack either subject, object or verb, but which gradually become complete, although the child may not realize the meaning of a complete sentence.

At the age of 18 months, children will use sentences having subjects and verbs. Up to the age of 4½ years complex and compound sentences constitute a very small portion of all of the statements made.

At the age of 5 or 6 all sorts of involved sentence structures enter into the speech of the child.

A French investigator divided the speech of the child into two types—egocentric and socialized.

At 6 years of age egocentric speech, consisting largely of repetitions and monologues, constitutes 50 per cent of the child's discourse.

Feeble-minded children invariably are retarded in their development of vocabulary and ability to speak.

Practically all investigators have found that girls learn to talk earlier than boys and to better advantage.

Furthermore, the children of families that are well-to-do and educated learn to talk earlier and to better advantage than do those of the laboring and what sometimes are called the lower classes.

Other scientific developments would illustrate the point equally well. In the development of the atomic theory, we find the names of

Roentgen, a German; Becquerel, a Frenchman; Curie, a Frenchwoman; Mme. Curie, a Pole by birth; Thompson, an Englishman; Bohr, a Dane; Rutherford, an Englishman; Millikan, an American, and so on.

It is only the third major planet to be discovered in the last 3,000 years. Accordingly, I think the truant body deserves its front page space, even though it may be pointed out that this is a world which you and I will never see with naked eye or through any telescope to which we have access.

Life, of course, will go on much the same. This new member of the universe is much too far away to affect the price of bread, the course of love, or the rate of federal taxes.

And yet I do not think that we need be indifferent to this fledgling in the family of whirling spheres. "May your orbit never grow less," I say, as I raise my glass in greeting to the little fellow.

To be sure, he isn't so little. According to present estimates, he is a trifle bigger than the earth. But distance being what it is, the new arrival must seem to us a striping.

Five-Star Final

MY mind is hazy as to the exact distance which lies between, but I gather that when it's noon in New York, Babylon has not yet started to fall upon the surface of our distant brother. Out there they don't know yet who won the world series of 1905.

Something must be done about a man, and that immediately. H. I. Phillips of the Sun (I refer to the paper, not the planet) thinks that the only question is whether it should be Amos or Andy. I am wholly in accord with the spirit of the suggestion.

Too long have we allowed astronomers to act as if they owned the universe. From them we can expect nothing but Greek names, and some of them obscure and difficult.

I have no objection to Mars and Venus.