

MANY ARRESTS BY DRY AGENTS

68,161 PERSONS TAKEN DURING YEAR FOR VIOLATING DRY LAWS.

Washington. — Federal prohibition forces alone made 68,161 arrests for violations of the National Prohibition Law during the last fiscal year, Prohibition Commissioner Haynes reported to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

The figures represent an increase of 1,225 over the number of arrests by the same agents during the previous year, and 25,938 more than two years ago.

Statistics for arrests for intoxication and other infractions of liquor laws made by State and local authorities were not contained in the report.

The 561 general Federal prohibition agents active during the year, dealt with 32,611 cases, arrested 23,552 persons and recommended prosecutions against 22,930.

Federal forces assigned to States reported 44,609 arrests and seizure of 2,779 automobiles and 111 boats used in transporting liquor.

Through collection of taxes, tax penalties, fines and forfeitures under provisions of the National law, \$6,538,114 was turned into the Treasury more than a million and a half dollars more than for the previous year.

Couple Found Dead in A. C.

Rock Hill, S. C. — The final chapter of what is said to have been a romance between Mrs. Frank Simpson, 25, and J. T. (Coon) Cornwell, 38, both of the Ogden section of York county, was written when they were found dead in a Ford roadster parked on the side of the York road about two and one-quarter miles from Rock Hill. The woman had a bullet wound in her left breast that punctured her heart, while her escort's temple was punctured with a leaden missile fired from his 38-caliber Smith and Wesson pistol, which lay on his knee clutched loosely by his right hand.

The gruesome discovery was made by John Kee, rural mail carrier, when he passed the parked car.

A short time before two shots had been heard by persons in the vicinity.

After an inquest the coroner's jury returned a verdict to the effect that the woman came to her death as the result of a gunshot wound inflicted by J. T. Cornwell, and that he fired the second shot into his own brain. While it was shown plainly at the inquest that the dead persons were responsible for the tragedy, no effort was made to uncover reasons for the unfortunate occurrence.

Coolidge Likes Plebeian Train.

Washington. — Having set a precedent in manner of travel, President and Mrs. Coolidge returned to Washington after their visit to the Chicago Livestock exposition.

The executive seemed well satisfied with his economy experiment in the use of regular trains and the usual accommodations rather than special trains or private cars, and members of the party that accompanied him to Chicago declared it would be surprising if on all future trips he should choose to travel as he did on the one just ended.

Railroad officials, however, sighed with relief when the train drew into the union station. Transportation of a presidential party always places the greatest responsibility on the railroad over which the executive chooses to travel, and the trainmen who took Mr. Coolidge to and from Chicago frankly asserted that his use of regular equipment hardly lessened this responsibility.

"Radio Rash" Rages.

Berlin. — "Radio rash" is Europe's newest affliction. It is an eruption of the tender skin of the ears of wireless devotees resulting from the constant pressure of the hard rubber head pieces. Dr. Marcus of Vienna, writing on the subject for The Clinical Review, says the rash, while very annoying, is not serious when attended to promptly.

Rush Hogs to Market.

Chicago. — Receipts of hogs at Chicago this week are by far the largest on record. With tomorrow's arrivals estimated at 15,000 the total arrivals for the week will be around 260,000 as against the previous top record of 334,000 the first week of January, 1916. One of the reasons given for the big marketing of hogs is a prevalent belief that the 1923 corn crop is the smallest since 1908.

Steal Night Payroll.

Gastonia. — Unknown parties entered the mill office of the Mutual Mills, Inc., West Gastonia, and stole the payroll of the night hands, amounting to a sum between five and six hundred dollars.

Superintendent Black had just left the office to attend to some out-of-business. He returned in a few minutes, saw a light on in the office and found the money had been removed from its drawer in a desk.

IN MESSAGE TO CONGRESS PRESIDENT URGES ECONOMY

Coolidge Says Strict Federal Economy Will Enable Tax Cut Later—Urges Farm Aid—Raps League, But Favors World Court.

President Coolidge advised Congress in his annual message that perhaps the most important work it could do at its present session would be to practice such economy as to make possible a reduction of taxes for the next fiscal year.

"The Government can do more to remedy the economic ills of the people by a system of rigid economy in public expenditure," he said, "than can be accomplished through any other action."

Although stressing economy Mr. Coolidge presented a wide range of other recommendations, some new and others reiterated of proposals made a year ago in his first annual message.

Favors World Court.

Most of these related to domestic affairs, but the President went in to the field of international relations to renew his plea for American adherence to the Permanent Court of International Justice; to declare the United States not to be disposed to join the League of Nations; the appeal for support by public authorities and private citizens for the European reparations settlement plan, and to repeat his declaration of opposition to cancellation by the United States of the debts owed the Country by foreign nations.

Two new pronouncements marked the President's discussion of foreign affairs. One touched on reduction of world armaments, and the other had reference to the outlawing of war.

Defers Call For Parley.

"It has been and is my expectation that we might hopefully approach other great powers for further conference on this subject as soon as the carrying out of the present reparation plan as the established and settled policy of Europe has created a favorable opportunity," he said, with regard to armament reduction. "But on account of proposals which have already been made by other Governments for a European conference, it will be necessary to wait to see what the outcome of their actions may be. I should not wish to propose or have representatives attend a conference which would contemplate commitments opposed to the freedom of action we desire to maintain unimpaired with respect to our purely domestic policies."

Proposals to outlaw aggressive warfare, the President asserted, should be carefully studied and sympathetically viewed.

Urges Cut in Expenses

Combining discussion of tax revision with his statement on economy, the Executive said that if Congress at this session kept within the budget he had presented "it will then be possible to have a moderate amount of tax reduction and all the tax reform that the Congress may wish for during the next fiscal year." He declared publication of income tax payments to be "detrimental to the public welfare and bound to decrease public revenues," and urged the repeal of that section of the Revenue Act.

Aside from his declarations relative to economy and taxation, the outstanding recommendations on domestic affairs made by the President included:

Enactment of such legislative remedies for agricultural ills as are worked out by the recently-appointed agricultural commission and exertion of all efforts "by government activity and by private agencies to restore and maintain agriculture to a complete normal relationship with other industries."

Passage immediately of pending legislation based on the reports of the Reclamation Fact-Finding Commission "for the proper relief of those needing extension of time in which to meet their payments on irrigated land, and for additional amendments and reforms of our Reclamation Laws."

Amplification of these portions of the Transportation Act contemplating consolidation of railroads into larger systems to promote more expeditious action by "affording a period for voluntary proposals to the commission (Interstate Commerce Commission) and in supplying Governmental pressure to secure action after the expiration of such a period."

Would Revise Rail Act.

Amendment of the labor sections of the Transportation Act so as to embody a plan "which while retaining the practice of systematic collective bargaining with conciliation and voluntary arbitration of labor differences, could also provide simplicity in relations and more direct local responsibility of employes and managers" and at

Southern Railway After City Road.

Cincinnati. — The Southern Railway system, through its president, Fairfax Harrison, has submitted a definite proposal for the purchase of the Cincinnati Southern railway from the city of Cincinnati, it was learned.

Mr. Harrison, in a letter to the trustees of the Cincinnati Southern railway, said the Southern would invite negotiations leading to the absorption of the only municipally owned railroad in the world. The letter gave no specific plan outlining the possible way of consummating the transaction.

the same time recognize that the public "has a right to be heard when there is danger that the Nation may suffer great injury through interruption of operations because of labor disputes."

Such action as will maintain "the policy of constantly working toward the full treaty strength of the Navy." Enactment of legislation changing the new Immigration Law so as to make the administrative features "a little more humane for the purpose of permitting those already here a greater latitude in securing admission of members of their own families."

Divide Shipping Duties.

Transfer of the Emergency Fleet Corporation of "the whole responsibility of operation of the fleet and other property, leaving to the Shipping Board solely the duty of determining certain major policies, which require deliberative action."

Sale or long-time lease of Muscle Shoals to private interests "under rigid guarantees of commercial nitrogen production at reasonable prices for agricultural use" with a sub-committee of the Senate and House Agricultural Committees empowered to conduct negotiations with the private interests.

Development of flood control on such rivers as the Mississippi, and Colorado, of inland waterway transportation, of navigation from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic by way of the St. Lawrence River, and of improvements generally to harbors on the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts.

Acquisition of the Cape Cod Canal by the Federal Government.

Favors Electoral Reforms.

Extension of the national laws governing the choice of members of Congress "to include appropriate representation of the respective parties at the ballot box and equality of representation on the various registration boards wherever they exist."

Transfer to the Civil Service of first, second and third-class postmasters, and "without covering in the present membership the field force of prohibition enforcement."

Enactment of legislation reorganizing the Governmental Departments.

The President also commended to the attention of Congress the legislative program of the American Legion; urged that steps be taken to accord to the negroes "their full Constitutional rights; that they should be protected from all of these impositions to which from the position they naturally fall a prey, especially from the crime of lynching," recommended prompt payment of the French spoliation claims; approved certain changes in court procedure to hasten the administration of justice; suggested establishment of Federal reformatories for young men and women and first offenders; and of a National Police Bureau; and asked for suitable recognition to the world fairs.

Questions Rate Section.

He opposed procedure under Section 28 or preferential rate provision of the Merchant Marine Act "until Congress can reconsider the entire question in the light of the experience that has developed since its enactment," and also opposed inauguration of any new valuation of railroad property until the results of the present valuation are known and can be considered.

Noting that the Constitution provides that the President shall report to Congress on the state of the Union, Mr. Coolidge said "the present state of the Union . . . is such that it may be regarded with encouragement and satisfaction by every American."

Problems Are Economic.

"Our domestic problems are for the most part economic," he added. "We have our enormous debt to pay and we are paying it. We have the high cost of Government to diminish and we are diminishing it. We have a heavy burden of taxation to reduce and we are reducing it."

The Nation, he said, has definitely relinquished "the old standard of dealing with other countries by terror and force and is definitely committed to the new standard of dealing with them through friendship and understanding."

"I shall resist any attempt to resort to the old methods and the old standards," he added. "I am especially solicitous that foreign nations should comprehend the candor and sincerity with which we have adopted this position."

Brazil Suspends Visas.

Tokyo. — The Brazilian consul has notified the Japanese government that he has been instructed to suspend the grant of visas for intending emigrants to Brazil. The foreign office, taken by surprise, has instructed the Japanese minister to Brazil to make a report on the matter immediately.

Mr. Akamatsu, chief of the immigration section of the foreign office, said: "If this notice heralds an exclusion policy against Japanese the situation presents itself in a decidedly serious aspect to the Japanese nation."

OIL MILL GROUP EXPANDING

Eighty-One Presses in Four States Now Controlled By South Carolinian.

Columbia. — John T. Stevens of Kershaw, this state, already probably the largest operator in cotton seed crushing, has added four Mississippi mills to his chain, which now comprises 81 presses, of which 24 are in South Carolina, 20 in Alabama, 17 in Georgia and 20 in Mississippi.

"As the tendency of the times is toward the merger of oil mill properties under large units of economic, financial and operating control, it is not unlikely that the Stevens interests will continue to grow," says the official bulletin of the Interstate Cotton Seed Crushers' association. "Nor is it unlikely that other large consolidations in the Southeast will soon follow this notable example of enterprise."

Latest additions to the Stevens group are the four Refuge Cotton Oil company plants in Mississippi, which have been leased from their owners. They will be operated under the general supervision of E. T. Allen of Montgomery, Ala., in addition to the former American Cotton Oil company mills at Montgomery and Huntsville, which the Stevens interests own and are operating as the Alabama Cotton Oil company, with Mr. Allen as general manager. The Refuge mills are at Greenville, Rosedale, Vicksburg and Columbus.

Mr. Stevens, as president of Kershaw, Marion and Lancaster units in this state, has been active in the crushing industry for years, and with his able vice president and associate, Fred E. Culvern, has somehow contrived to make money in adverse seasons.

Two years ago Mr. Stevens, with his associates bought the mill properties of the defunct American Cotton Oil company in the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama, excepting some which had already been sold. Those mill remained dormant last year. Under more favorable conditions this season, however, Alabama mills in Montgomery and Huntsville were put into operation again under style of the Alabama Cotton Oil company and Georgia mills in Macon and Augusta were reopened under style of the Georgia Cotton Oil company. Mr. Stevens and Mr. Culvern are president and vice president, respectively. Sam D. Dodds is manager at Macon.

At the Augusta mill, of which Ed A. Eves, formerly of Charleston, is manager, peanut shelling apparatus is being installed. Mr. Eves having given more study to the crushing of peanuts than perhaps any one else in the Southern field. The Augusta mill may crush cotton seed also.

May Ship Carload of Turkeys.

Kershaw. — The turkey crop of Lancaster county is probably larger this year than in any previous year in the history of the county. Markets that have been supplied with our Thanksgiving birds in the past are already overstocked. So many requests have come to the county agents for help in marketing that it has been decided to market a carload of turkeys previous to the Christmas season.

If the response is general, the turkeys will probably be loaded about December 10 or 12 and the loading will likely take place at Kershaw and Lancaster county is probably larger this year than in any previous year in the history of the county. Markets that have been supplied with our Thanksgiving birds in the past are already overstocked. So many requests have come to the county agents for help in marketing that it has been decided to market a carload of turkeys previous to the Christmas season.

New Water Works For Latta.

Latta. — The town of Latta has its waterworks and sewerage system just about completed and expects to have most of the residences of the town connected with the system within the next 15 or 20 days. The work has been in progress for the last few months and a well planned layout has been put in and the character of the work is reported to be excellent.

The system was designed by the Ryan Engineering company of Columbia. The resident engineer is A. Haskell Miller of Columbia, who has been on the job since work began and has had the work under his direct supervision ever day; looking out for the town's interest in the installation.

Bonds in the sum of \$60,000 were voted by the town for putting in the sewerage and water systems but when work was undertaken it was found that several thousand dollars more would be required. The town added about \$15,000 more to the \$60,000 secured from the sale of the bonds, making a total of \$75,000. About \$34,500 has been expended on the sewerage plant and about \$40,500 on the waterworks.

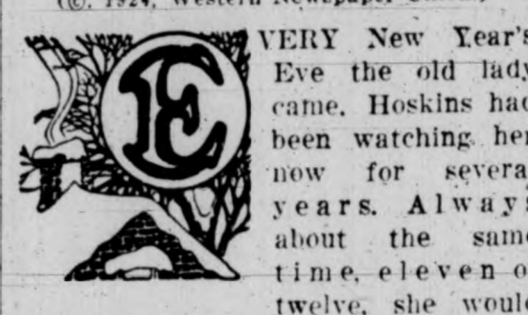
The sewerage system was the first installed and was practically completed before the work began on the waterworks.

Crops of Chester Surprisingly Good.

Chester. — Considering the bad weather conditions through which Chester county's cotton crop has to pass this year a surprisingly bigger crop is being harvested than was at first anticipated. W. F. Marton, the federal government cotton statistician for Chester county, has just announced that up to November 14, 16,443 bales had been ginned, as compared with 20,030 bales up to the corresponding period a year ago. A good deal of cotton is yet to be ginned.

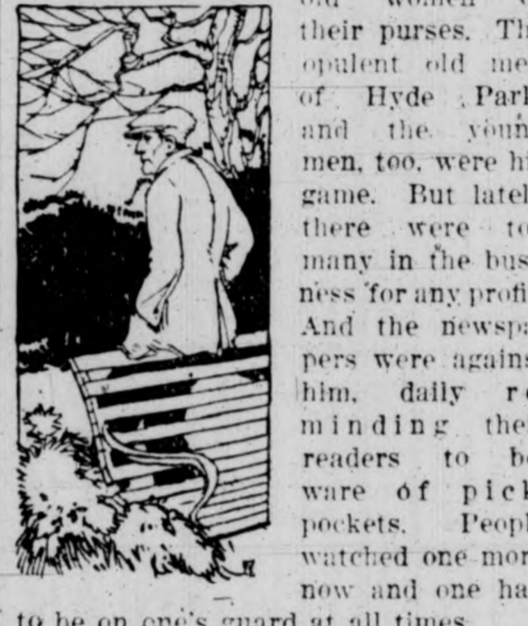
On the Bridge at Midnight
By Marion R. Reagan

(© 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)



VERY New Year's Eve the old lady came. Hoskins had been watching her now for several years. Always about the same time, eleven or twelve, she would come and take her stand in the middle of the bridge looking expectantly down the river. As the "Amalia," an old barge engaged in the Indian trade and scheduled to arrive annually in London on January 1, sailed up the river, she became violently agitated. When it passed directly under her, she shouted loudly in a cracked, hoarse voice, and tossed a purse down to a certain sailor on the deck who greeted her with wild cheers. She would watch the old boat glide easily up the river till it was out of sight. Then quietly she turned toward the south and walked away.

Now Hoskins was a conscientious thief. It was not his policy to rob old women of their purses. The opulent old mer of Hyde Park and the young men, too, were his game. But lately there were too many in the business for any profit. And the newspapers were against him, daily reminding their readers to be ware of pick pockets. People watched one more now and one had to be on one's guard at all times.



Reluctantly Hoskins forsook the old field of his activities and sought other prey. It was a hard year, however. What little he picked up from the Christmas shoppers he already owed to friends. He was facing the New Year almost penniless. Then he remembered the old lady and her fat purse. He despised himself for thinking of it—he, a man of principles—but starvation is starvation, and it was New Year's Eve. Tonight she would come.

He concealed himself in an old crevice in the masonry. It was a perfect hiding place. He could see out easily and not be seen by anyone.

About midnight he heard the slow, heavy step of the old lady. She passed close by him and advanced a few yards. He emerged from his hiding place and followed. About to make a quick spring at her, she turned, and faced him. He composed himself with difficulty, tipped his hat and bid her happy New Year in a weak, strained voice.

"Oh, thank 'ee, sir; the same to you, sir."

"Fine weather we been 'avin'?" "Fine, indeed. And fine for that boy o' mine what's comin' in tonight from them 'ot 'eathen places." The old lady sniffed. Hoskins edged a little closer to her.

"Ain't seen yer boy for some time?" "Only from the bridge 'ere once a year. Ain't seen him 'old in my arms since he was a lad o' twelve.

The hoarse old voice trembled a little—a most

broke down. "An' 'ard life for a lad, that, on 'them ships, and no 'ome, and an 'ard-er life for me what's his lawful mother never to lay an arm on him in all these years."

Here she broke into a heart-breaking sob. "It's a bad 'un I've been, sir. I couldn't let that lad o' mine see his mother was such a miserable old witch. It'd break his heart. I get together all I can in the world and give it to him once a year for his 'oliday. It's the best I can do for 'im. Don't know who he thinks I am. He never troubled to find out. But—Ey, 'ey, there," she shouted suddenly.

The "Amalia" was steaming up the river. It was directly under them now and a little youth in uniform jumped about eagerly on deck, signaling to the old woman on the bridge. She dropped the purse squarely into his hands.

"Ooray for 'er Majesty," called the youth, his gay voice continuing to sound merrily as the barge disappeared up the river.

Finally the old woman turned to Hoskins. "Good night, sir, and God bless you in the New Year," she said softly, and walked away. Hoskins stood motionless, gazing up the river after the small hazy object that was the barge. There was a sentimental look in his eye, and a softness in the droop of his mouth. "God bless them," he breathed. "'Twould 'a been a bad way, that, to begin the New Year."

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Hurry Mother! Even a bilious, constipated, feverish child loves the pleasant taste of "California Fig Syrup" and it never fails to open the bowels. A teaspoonful today may prevent a sick child tomorrow.

Ask your druggist for genuine "California Fig Syrup" which has directions for babies and children of all ages printed on bottle. Mother! You must say "California" or you may get an imitation fig syrup.

No Harm in That

Doctor—I forbid all brain work. Patient—But I am a poet. Doctor—You can go on with that.

Permanent roads are a good investment—not an expense

The High Cost of Postponing Permanent Highway Building

Poor motor roads stifle industry and agriculture; waste huge sums annually in high maintenance costs, and greatly increase gasoline, tire and repair bills.

There is not a state, not a county, not a community, that isn't paying a heavy price for having too few permanent roads.

There are still many sections of the country—even whole states—that are trying to operate twentieth century traffic over nineteenth century roads.

This is costing millions of dollars every year, and will keep on costing millions until we have well developed permanent highway systems everywhere.

Even what we often call the more progressive communities are far behind the demands of modern highway traffic with its 16,000,000 motor vehicles.

From the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Canada to Mexico, we need more Concrete roads—the roads for twentieth century traffic.

Your highway officials want to be of the greatest possible service to you. Get behind them with ways and means that will provide more Concrete roads and streets. Such an investment will pay you big dividends year after year.

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