

JUSTICE CROPSEY'S PHONE WIRE TAPPED

Discovery Leads to Breakdown of Nassau County Ring's Grapevine.

PLANT TO LIFT LID OFF

One Official Reported to Be Missing as Result of 'Threatened Squel.'

DECOY MESSAGES USED

Confirmation of Phone Tapping Said to Have Been Confirmed by Them.

The atmosphere of suppressed excitement that has marked the abode of officialdom in Nassau county since County Detective Carman Plant pleaded guilty Friday to a charge of receiving stolen property and threatened to reveal the names of others of the Nassau county "corruption ring" was not abated over Sunday.

Plant is to appear to-morrow before the Grand Jury, and has intimated that he will lift the lid off a brewing pot of scandal that will startle Long Island from one end to the other. One well known Nassau county official said to be involved in the disclosures Plant will make was reported missing yesterday, and it was said he had gone on an intensive hunt for legal advice and a frantic foraging for counsel fees.

Whetting of Curiosity.

Yesterday the discredited County Detective mediator in the Mineola jail about his own experiences of the past. He has left friends knowing that he feels keenly what he believes amounts to a desertion of himself in time of trouble by persons who have sought assistance in looking for material assistance. Just whom and how many of these Plant intends to involve in his contemplated "squel" is what is whetting the curiosity of Nassau county.

The credit for breaking down the intelligence system seems by common consent to go to Justice Cropsey and District Attorney Weeks. It was Justice Cropsey, it was said yesterday, who discovered that the confidential communications issuing over the telephone wires between his office and that of the District Attorney were not as confidential as they should have been. He made the discovery the second day of his investigation of Nassau county affairs at Mineola and let it be known last Friday while he was in the County Jail.

There is no privacy here, Justice Cropsey said. "Even the walls have ears. The so-called underground system of the New York Department doesn't equal the system here."

Proof that the telephone wires of both the Justice and the prosecutor have been tapped was said to have been furnished through the cooperation of a member of the ring hater skelter on wild goose chases.

Cautious Procedure.

It was said yesterday, however, that these underground channels had been tapped in vain since Friday if effort had been made to learn what the extent of Plant's forthcoming revelations is likely to be. If Mr. Weeks and Justice Cropsey have discussed a possible policy in the light of information expected to come from Plant and to be given to the Grand Jury they have been careful not to do so over the telephone. Their exchanges have been more carefully conducted.

Plant is alleged to have had a connection with a ring of automobile thieves on Long Island that did a brisk and profitable business in stolen cars. The ring is said to include taxicab chauffeurs and expert drivers whose particular function it was to steal a car and drive it to the garage which was the headquarters for the "fence." There the car was dismantled, painted, engine number changed and otherwise completely changed and sent on to another member of the ring, who saw to its final disposition or sale, preferably to some one from New Jersey, Connecticut or even further away.

Just how much Plant knows of the identity of the "men higher up" in the automobile thieves' ring and their connection with the gambling and bootlegging rings is what is interesting Nassau county at the moment. There are some who declare that Plant is hinting at a lot about which he has no real information or not enough to prove of value to the police.

PIGEON SHOOTING ATTACKED.

Move in Britain to Outlaw This Form of Sport.

LONDON, May 15.—English public opinion is being stirred by a concerted attack by the press against pigeon shooting, and as a result, a bill has been introduced in Parliament which would make this form of sport illegal. The storm arose over a contest recently at Chatham, where live birds were released from traps for a shooting competition. Support for the proposed anti-shooting measure is promised by the Government and is being warmly given by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

SCHOOL ELOPEMENT RECORD.

MADISON, May 15.—Four elopements within two months from the Madison High School, which witnessed weddings in Rockford of four pretty girl students since February, the latest recruit is Miss Lorraine Stensrud, senior, who has forgotten the privilege of graduating with her class in June to become the bride of Raymond Prindiville, clerk in Madison.

SOLDIER BONUS SHARKS LOSE BY THEIR OWN GREED

Ruling of Adjutant-General Makes Void Discharges From Army That Have Been Transferred—Original Holder May Get the Money.

* Almost on the eve of the distribution of the State soldier bonus it has become known that a coterie of loan sharks in Brooklyn and up-State counties, who, imitating the pension discounters of civil war days, have been doing a thriving business with the ex-soldiers, now stand to lose thousands of dollars. The grand "clean up" which they had been planning has been made impossible by a ruling of the State Adjutant-General, which voids a discharge once it leaves the hands of the person to whom it was issued.

Soon after the bonus had been voted by a State wide referendum last autumn the loan sharks got busy. They found that thousands of former soldiers were out of work and needed money. Fencers were sent out, and soon the veterans began to appear prepared to accept almost anything the money lender was willing to give him. Men who had served from seventeen to twenty months and are entitled to from \$170 to \$200 would surrender their discharge to the loan shark for \$150.

It was the plan of the loan shark to gather in as many discharges as possible and harvest when the bonus was distributed. The soldiers, under the scheme, were to make application, receive the money and then turn it over to the lender, but it now develops that the discharge is made void by the transfer. That does not mean that the former soldiers will not get his bonus, but does mean that the lender loses the harvest he had been reckoning on.

HYLAN IS TO DELVE INTO SCHOOL AFFAIR

All Departments of City Government re Subject to Legislative Probe.

While the legislative committee for the investigation of the Hylan administration has seized records so far only from those departments which have had such unsavory publicity as to indicate the possible existence of matters worthy of the committee's attention, the committee will seek data from all the other city departments just as soon as its organization is perfected. Senator Schuyler M. Meyer, chairman, announced yesterday.

Senator Meyer expects the work to be going full head very soon. The committee will move into its quarters at 28 Park Row to-day and begin the assembling of a staff. The Senator expects public hearings to begin about the middle of June, by which time former Senator Elton R. Brown, counsel, will have cleared up his private business.

The departments visited to date by committee representatives are the Police Department, the office of the Commissioner of Accounts and the office of the Borough President of Queens, all of which have been in the line through the activities of investigating bodies or officials of one sort and another.

Where the committee will turn next is a question which is interesting more than one city department head. Should the committee follow the course set so far, it would appear not unlikely that the next move may be in the direction of the Hylan appointed Board of Education, the Finance Department, the City Chamberlain, or perhaps the Board of Aldermen. Regarding all of those departments there has been talk of inefficiency and wilful overstepping of authority in the spending of public money, and the Board of Aldermen recently has been made conspicuous through the investigations of the Lockwood committee.

The intimate connection of Leonard M. Wallstein with both the Lockwood and the Meyer committees led yesterday to the suggestion that an excursion by the Meyer committee into Aldermanic conditions may be in the near future. The charges and counter charges which have passed between the Board of Education and Comptroller Charles L. Craig, and between the Comptroller and the City Chamberlain, none of which has been sifted by an investigation, are expected to occupy the attention of the committee.

It is reported that whether the Comptroller anticipates or hopes for such a move he holds in the archives of the Finance Department a great mass of documentary data which the committee probably would be permitted to scrutinize without the necessity of a raid.

GIRL KILLED BY A TRAP GUN.

Workmen Afterward Too Superstitious to Raze Building.

HARBOR SPRINGS, Mich., May 15.—The steamer America, with a full scowload of wreckage from the resort hotel at Beaver Island, has arrived here. This hotel has been razed by the Ottawa Lumber Company to protect its lien on the building.

About two years ago a caretaker on the island became annoyed at the hotel being frequently entered and set a gun so that any one opening the door would cause it to discharge. Miss Cole, daughter of Garret Cole, with friends, for a walk, started to enter the hotel and received the contents of the shotgun in the abdomen, the wound causing her death two weeks later. Bloodstains were still on the threshold.

The lumber company attempted to secure men among the islanders for the work of tearing down the building, but being of a superstitious nature, not a man among them would enter the building. It was necessary to take a crew of men from Harbor Springs for the work.

OLD CROW BRINGS \$2,000.

Winner of Raffle Opens Case and Finds Rooster.

CHICAGO, May 15.—Prohibition enforcement officials were stirred to activity when they learned that the members of a prominent secret organization had raffled off a case of "fine Old Crow." Investigators were sent out and after due inquiry returned to headquarters considerably crestfallen.

So well and so secretly had the raffle been advertised that the proceeds amounted to \$2,000, which is a considerable figure, even in these days, for a case of "Old Crow." The Government men learned that the holder of the winning ticket, but being of a superstitious nature, not a man among them would enter the building. It was necessary to take a crew of men from Harbor Springs for the work.

BRITONS CRITICISE 'SEX FRENZY' FILMS

Protest American Screens Showing White Women in Semi-Nude State.

RACIAL PROBLEM ENTERS

Fear Effect on Black and Red Races—Saturnalia, One Writer's Epithet.

Archduke Escapes Mob After Palace Is Stoned

VIENNA, May 15.—Archduke Rainer of Hapsburg was the recipient yesterday of unpleasant attentions on the part of workmen when his presence in the palace at Hertenstein, near Vienna, became known. Stones were thrown through the windows and his expulsion was demanded of the authorities. Meanwhile the Archduke made his escape disguised as a workman.

The London critics, who heretofore have been amused, now write warnings with information that these films are going to countries for which England is responsible where the people are not white. Benjamin Hampton, writing in the Pictorial Review, says that the producers stage these scenes under the guise of "reform" and "uplift," and adds: "To put over a play simply filled with sex appeal under the guise of uplift drama is the furthest point north in motion picture strategy."

Major Charles Moss, writing in the Sunday Times, says: "I know something of the Indian temperament, and, while not wishing to pose as a moralist, I can readily see that the filming of semi-nude white women in India can only create an entirely adverse opinion of the white race and have a demoralizing effect upon the minds of the native population. Surely, the responsible authorities can see that good, wholesome British films should be shown instead of the trash American stuff to which attention has been called."

Another critic, George A. Lewis, sees a deeper American plot in it all. He says: "Another aspect of the question which has come up in view of the present trouble in India is the possibility of these productions being designedly shown for the purpose of undermining British influence in that country by reason of the bad impression created in the native mind regarding our morals."

LESS BEGGING NOW, BUT MORE THEFS IN FRANCE

Crime Among Women and Children More Than Doubled.

PARIS, May 7.—There is 50 per cent. less begging in France than before 1914, according to police statistics, but theft has increased in about the same proportion. The police explain this phenomenon by saying that the temptation constantly held out to the gaily inclined to enjoy themselves appeals to those who cannot afford it as well as to those that can.

Criminality among women and children has notably increased. Among a hundred persons found guilty of crime before the war there were twelve women and five minors; there are now thirty women and fourteen minors in every hundred convicted. Besides the temptation to have a good time, the police say, sensational moving pictures have had a great deal to do with the development of crime among women and children.

Cases of assault and battery and other offenses which are largely credited to alcoholism have decreased. This is attributed to the suppression of absinthe and the abstemious habits acquired when war time restrictions made it impossible to drink at all hours of the day.

FOSTER FATHER AND SON QUIT.

Desert Their Wives, a Mother and Her Daughter.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 15.—Romance dawned simultaneously in the lives of Mrs. John W. Rider and Mrs. John Pagan, mother and daughter, when, after a week and neck courtship, they married John W. Rider and his foster son, John Pagan, July 3, 1919. The four bought a house and started house-keeping.

The last chapter was written to both romances when Mrs. Rider and Mrs. Pagan both obtained divorces. Desertion was the charge in both cases. According to the testimony Rider and his adopted son wedded simultaneously to matrimonial cares and left home together February 29, 1920. They have not been back, their ex-wives testified.

LONG CRIME CAREER REVEALED BY DEATH

Bandit Succumbs to Wound Inflicted by Chief of Police of Washington, Pa

WANTED IN COLUMBUS

Robbery, Burglary and Automobile Theft Charged to Him and Other Gangsters.

WASHINGTON, Pa., May 14.—The death here to-day in a hospital from gunshot wound of James Edward McLaughran of Columbus, Ohio, one of the three bandits who conducted a running battle with the police last Tuesday in which fifty shots were exchanged and in which Constable Milton Owens was wounded, brought to an end a notorious yegg's long career, according to Columbus, Ohio authorities.

McLaughran died from a wound inflicted by Otto Luellen, Chief of Police. All three bandits were identified as members of a gang who were wanted in Columbus for highway robbery, burglary and automobile theft.

McLaughran came of a well established family in Columbus, and two of his sisters were with him when he died. He refused to name the criminals for which he was wanted in Ohio, telling the officers that he would "die in the dark."

Columbus police assert that McLaughran was a widely known "two gun" man, and that Paul Kelley, one of his companions, who is still at large, was the brains of the expedition which resulted in the street fight here. They bear out statements that the trio went to Pittsburgh to get a supply of whiskey. Following their failure to "connect" with the "whiskey gang" the trio in a stolen automobile came through Washington on their way back to Ohio.

Chief Luellen has not been arrested because of McLaughran's death, and a coroner's jury is expected to return a verdict of justifiable homicide.

EX-GOV. GLYNN STARTS ON HOMEWARD VOYAGE

Praises Lloyd George's Oration in Parliament.

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Martin Glynn of New York, who left London for Havre, from which port he will leave Europe aboard the steamship Savolo for home, said he was present in the House of Commons when French Premier Lloyd George made his speech defending the German reparations settlement.

"Lloyd George is a great parliamentarian," Mr. Glynn said. "His easy agility of mind, his ready comprehension of what others are trying to do in debate and his handsome command of language, all make him one of the greatest men in such an assembly I have ever seen."

BURGLAR KIT FOUND ON RAILS

Workmen on Frisco Track Discover Fine Set.

LEBANON, Mo., May 15.—The unearthing of a kit of burglar tools by workmen on the Frisco railroad tracks may have thwarted a robbery on a big scale planned for last night.

The workmen accidentally dug into a hole which contained three revolvers, more than 100 cartridges, twelve eight inch fuses with caps, razor steel punches, drills and bits, twenty-five or thirty skeleton keys, small saws, bolts, vaseline, half a pint of nitroglycerine and a roll of cloth. The bolts found are said to be used in jarring locks after drilling into safes.

The articles were found about a quarter of a mile west of the coal chute, where most of the passenger trains stop for coal, and it is thought the burglars might have been prepping to hold up a train.

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