

FITILE PUNISHMENT FOR MURDER IS SEEN

World's Work Magazine Shows Small Percentage of Criminals Punished

"No person contemplating a crime, on looking about him and seeing what happens to the criminal in this country, would fear the consequences of this act," writes Lawrence Voller, chairman of the Criminal Courts Committee of the Charity Organization Society of New York, who has just finished a comparative study of crime and judicial systems in this country and England for the World's Work magazine.

"Even if it were to contemplate murder, he knows that the chances are three to one that he will never be arrested; twelve to one that if arrested he will never be convicted; and more than a hundred to one that if convicted he will not be put to death.

"The man contemplating murder or deliberate homicide in England knows, while he is deliberating, that if he kills his fellow man, within the short period of six weeks or a little more he will surely die for his crime; consequently, if one may judge by the small number committed, he hesitates before undertaking so hazardous a deed. Contrast this with 'Why-should-I-care?'—Nothing-will-get-me attitude of the potential murderer in the United States.

"Nor is this contrast confined to murders. It is not without significance that robbery is thirty-five times as prevalent in New York City as it is in London; that in Chicago it is a hundred times as prevalent. There is, but one reason for this. In London robbery is punished and punished severely, and punished swiftly and certainly. In New York and Chicago it is seldom punished. Let us examine the exact facts in this country.

"In Chicago in 1923, less than one-half of the defendants tried for murder were punished. Of the also men sentenced to hang, one was put to death—and because he was without financial means to avail himself of the resources that would have enabled him to escape as did the eight others. And many murderers escape arrest. The number of unsolved murder mysteries is steadily growing in all our great cities. This situation is maintained either in Chicago or in Illinois, New York has a somewhat similar record.

"One hundred and forty-six homicides among policy holders cost the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in claims the sum of \$724,000 in one year. It was found that during the last six months of 1923, out of these 146 homicides, including 114 manslaughter or murder cases, only one single individual paid the penalty with his life; 35 went to jail, 1 was paroled, 1 was fined, and the rest—108, or 74 per cent.—either were never apprehended, had been set free, or were awaiting trial at the time this report was made.

"To expect punishment to be deterrent under these circumstances is preposterous. Punishment can deter only when it punishes. And when the criminal can continue in a life of crime and go on his way with perfect impunity (and immunity), why should any one expect the nominal punishments that are enumerated in the statute to act as a deterrent?"

"In New York the penalty for murder is death. Notwithstanding this fact, it appears from the official records that in 1924, although there were 136 convictions for murder in New York State, only 4 persons paid the penalty with their lives; that is, 2.9 per cent. of those convicted of murder escaped the death penalty. It is stated that in New York City a murderer runs only one chance in eight of being caught by the police and convicted.

"In one of our larger cities during one year, felony complaints were filed against about 3,000 persons, of whom only about 100 were served as much as one day in the penitentiary. In Cleveland two thirds of those who commit serious crimes are never arrested. Of the one third arrested, two thirds are never convicted. In that city only one out of eight comes up for sentence. Putting it in other words, in a three-year period, of the persons arrested for murder, almost 60 per cent. escaped punishment of any kind. Nor are these conditions confined either to the Middle West or to the Eastern states. They are to be found equally in Southern cities.

"In Baltimore in 1923 the records show that the felon had two chances out of three that he would not be arrested, and eight chances out of nine that he would not be punished if arrested. In that city the petty felon was caught and punished in one case in twelve in 1923. Last year only 28.5 per cent. of felons were solved by arrest; 73.5 per cent. of those committing felonies went free and were not even apprehended. Out of the reported murderers but 41 out

Nine Die in Flames as Louisiana Hotel Burns



Nine persons lost their lives when trapped on the second floor and about 30 were hurt in escaping from the Johnston Hotel fire at Ferriday, Louisiana. This interesting view of the ruins was taken by an amateur photographer.

of 55 were caught. Of the burglaries but 516 out of 2,442, and of robberies only 182 out of 380.

"An eminent statistician is authority for the statement that out of 19,777 homicides occurring in twelve states in which there is capital punishment, during a period of seven years only 349, or 1.8 per cent. of the murderers were put to death.

"An indication of the trend in this country away from punishment of criminals is found in the number of persons put to death for murder since 1855. In that year there was 1 execution to 16.7 murders, that is the odds in favor of the murderer were 16.7 to one. By 1904 the odds that the murderer would escape the death penalty had increased to 73 to 1. By 1915 the odds had lengthened to 77.5 to one, and by 1918 to 90 to one.

"That punishment, in the rare case when it follows the commission of crime, does act as a deterrent is shown by an incident related by Moorfield Storey, a Boston lawyer, who said recently that what is needed is prompt judgment and certain punishment. When a certain judge took his seat on the bench the stealing of letters from the mails by post-office employees was common, and whenever a man was caught and brought before him, the clerk made a strong plea for mercy on the ground of his family or his dependent mother or his sick father or some disabled relative, and the case was very apt to be 'put on file' and disposed of by a nominal sentence.

"After this practice had gone on for some time the judge announced that thereafter any employee of the government found robbing the mails would be sent to prison, no matter what relatives were dependent upon him. The postal employees tried it two or three times more, but when they found that the judge meant what he said they desisted.

"Well," says a middle aged father, "our taxes are already too high to employ some of the highly educated educators who claim their forefathers did spring from a monkey or ape." My forefathers sprang from the man that God created in His own image. Now highly educated educators, if you still contend that our fourteen

year old boys and girls have not as good a practical and moral education as they had forty years ago at the age of twenty years then you must show me for I am from beyond Missouri. We are spending enormous sums of money and enormous amount of good time in sending our highly educated fourteen year old boys and girls to school nine and eleven months in the year and call-

ing upon the taxpayers of Oregon to dig up \$40,224,751.41 and 41.63 per cent or approximately \$16,900,000 of the above total is devoted to educational purposes alone. No wonder the farmer of Marion county with the deed to 240 acres of land and pays over \$360.00 taxes doesn't know that he is worth a single dollar.

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Wonder if there will be a barrier in either of the major leagues this season, who will out slug Dazzy Vance? It will be remembered that this well known pitcher in the number of games won last season and was the only moundman who pitched a no-hit game during 1923. The Phillies were his victims and September 13 was the date. Note that date.

and that those who stole actually went to prison, stealing from the mails in that district stopped and has not been renewed.

"That punishment for crime, when it is achieved, is efficacious is shown again by the experience of Chicago. Not long ago the stealing of automobiles was one of the main sources of robbery in that community. It was suggested that a special automobile court be instituted to cope with this evil. This was done. The members of the gang were indicted and within three months all the gangs were broken up and their leaders sent to the penitentiary. As a result the stealing of automobiles dropped 56 per cent."

EDITORIALS OF PEOPLE
(Continued from page 7.)

parent, guardian or other persons in the State of Oregon having control or charge of any child or children between and including the ages of nine and fifteen years of age shall be required to send such child or children to the public schools, etc., or pay their fine just as they please. No compulsion on the children, whatever.

I remember one day when I was about thirteen years old (just one year younger than our 8093 and girls that know so much today) I was watching John Flynn very closely sharpening his slate pencil for he was making quite a noise and he was sitting on the end of a log seat by the main aisle. My teacher was sitting to my left and to my rear the first thing I knew the rod of correction came around my back and I almost went over the seat in front of me. I looked back at my teacher and said "I am not doing anything." My teacher said, "that is what I am whipping you for. Now get to studying your lesson."

"Well," says one middle aged mother, "I would not have a brute of a teacher like that to teach my children." Look here, mother, I am the one that received the rod upon my back and so far as the hurt is concerned I would not have known it the next morning, but I want to say right here that then and there J. E. Clark (for that was my teacher's name) taught

me what father and mother were sending me to school for.

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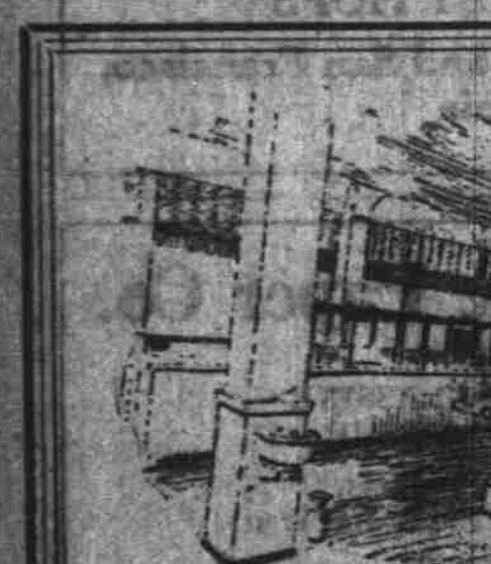
S. B. MILLER,
Aumsville, Ore.

KEEP POSLAM ON HAND FOR BURNS, SCALDS

Accidents will happen, but the first touch of Poslam to a burn, scald, cut or bruise takes out the pain and starts the healing. A Six Box of Poslam is the best you can have for all such accidents. At all drug stores.

To Retain Your Youthful Beauty We recommend the daily use of POSLAM

Which contains 75% of Poslam



The Utmost in Safety

In our new quarters, we have provided a much enlarged Safety Deposit Department with the most modern and new vaults installed to give you the utmost in safety.

Your valuable documents—Bonds, Deeds, Mortgages, Insurance Policies—and other important securities are protected from both fire and theft for about a cent a day.

The United States National Bank
Salem, Oregon

Old Time Fiddlers' Contest
SALEM ARMORY
Friday Eve. 8 O'Clock
Anspices Salem Lion's Club, Benefit Charity Fund. \$50 in Cash Prizes, Many Merchandise Prizes.
Big Program and Old Time Dancing. Everyone come and bring a friend.
GENERAL ADMISSION 50c

NOW IS THE TIME TO WIN

If You Have Any Desire to Win, You Must Get Busy at Once

Work these "Big Vote" days will easily bring success to contestants in The Statesman's Big Gift Distribution. The biggest, unwilling to devote time or thought to the big prizes, however, will reap no reward. This is a campaign for "live wires."

If you are alive, awake to the opportunity now before you, willing to give some of your time and thought to a proposition whereby \$3,000.00 in prizes are at stake—then you should be a candidate in this campaign—a live candidate. You should send in your name today.

You can secure a large, beautiful automobile or hundreds of dollars in a very few days' work. The work is easy—requires no special talent except constant plugging and hammering away during the next few days.

Your opportunity, then, is to win a prize that will repay you many times for your effort is here. Don't lag in the campaign—don't hesitate or be timid about your race. Go right to it and keep right at it. Give your campaign as much attention during your spare time as you would any business proposition. FOR RIGHT HERE IS NO DOUBT THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY THAT WILL COME TO YOU IN YOUR LIFE.

Stop and consider—did you ever before in a few short weeks have the opportunity to cash spare time for \$1115.

Do you think that you haven't a good chance if you enter now? You have every chance. Not one candidate has a lead that cannot be overcome with a few days' work.

The Day of Days - April 10th

What will this day hold in store for you? Will it mean that you will be the proud winner of the \$1115 Dodge Sedan or one of the other cars? Will it mean that you have—by taking advantage of this two-fold opportunity—secured your winning votes to capture the Big Prize? Remember the closing date of this special offer. Saturday night, February 27, at 8 o'clock. Just stop and consider what your efforts can mean to you. The present BIG VOTE period is your ONE CHANCE TO WIN. REMEMBER WHAT THIS CAN MEAN TO YOU!

CAN YOU LOSE?
NO!
EVERY ACTIVE NON-PRIZE WINNER WILL BE 10% CASH COMMISSION

If you really KNEW you could own one of these handsome big prizes which The Statesman will award within the next few weeks, you would pull off your coat, roll up your sleeves and hustle day and night, wouldn't you? But when you have an equal chance with others to own one of them, you hesitate to get busy. Why is it? "Self-Reliance" is all you need. It is what is keeping you from being amotor car owner right this minute. If you had just an ounce of it, some terrible misfortune could only keep you out of the race. Do you want a motor car? Then what keeps you out of this campaign? Hard work now will count for more than all the regrets in the world after the race is over. SO LET'S GET BUSY.

Help Your Favorite NOW!

Statesman readers who wish to help their favorites in the big \$3,000.00 Gift Distribution should give their subscriptions to their favorite now, while it counts for the GREATEST number of votes. Unlike most newspaper campaigns, in The Statesman's "Everybody Wins Something" event, the vote value of a subscription REDUCES instead of increasing as the campaign goes along.

Right NOW a one-year subscription will give a candidate 32,000 votes, a two-year subscription counts 80,000 votes, a three-year subscription counts 144,000 votes and a five year subscription 288,000 votes. This big vote schedule is in effect ONLY until February 27th. It will never be repeated or extended.

Here's your opportunity to get into the race good and strong with one stroke—get four yearly subscriptions and you will receive 400,000 extra votes by sending four of these coupons in

OPPORTUNITY COUPON
Good for 100,000 Extra Votes

Member's Name _____
Address _____

This Coupon and a one (1) year subscription or the equivalent thereof entitles the member to 100,000 extra votes in addition to the regular schedule. Only four of these Coupons allowed any one member.

Help Your Favorite NOW!

FREE VOTING BALLOT

This ballot is good for 100 votes for the candidate in The Oregon Statesman Subscription Campaign whose name is written on it. Do not fold. Trim.

Name _____
Address _____

VOID AFTER MARCH 27th, 1926

Anyone Can Vote For Friends

\$25 FOR A NAME
Nomination Coupon
GOOD FOR 50,000 VOTES
Only One Counted to an Entrant

This Nomination Ballot is good for the person whose name is written thereon.

Name _____
Town _____ H. F. D. _____ State _____

The person nominating the winner of the \$1115.00 Dodge Sedan will be given \$25.00. Send in your name or the name of a friend today.

Why Pay Rent When You Can Own A Home

Suburban Home for Sale

New four room house with breakfast nook.
Best of construction—all city conveniences
Just outside city limits—No high taxes
One-half acre of ground
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