

U. S. Is Fouled By Billboards, Says Pennell

6,000 Beautiful Cities Each Made a Vulgar Horror by "Ad" Men. He Tells Artists in Convention Here Declares Press Stifled

The even tenor of the course that the eleventh annual convention of the American Federation of Arts has pursued since it started at the Metropolitan Museum on May 19 was jolted yesterday by the introduction of the question of signboard art and of Joseph Pennell into the august proceedings of the body.

Immediately thereafter the proceedings lost all their augustness. Mr. Pennell dwelt at length upon billboards, present day Americans and the press. The first he said were atrocious, and that was the kindest word he used.

He added that the press was "stifled" and "blackmailed." When Thomas H. Porter Advertising Association, attempted a reply, he was hissed savagely.

Mr. Pennell in the course of his attack compared the devastations wreaked by the ad man to those caused by prohibition.

"There were the prohibitionists," he said, "they worked and we woke up to find the country dry. I woke one morning to find the roads, the rural towns, the mountain sides and the hill slopes in the hands of the business man and the ad man. Instead of 6,000 beautiful cities, every one of them has become a vulgar horror, the prey of the American business man and ad man."

"From the roadside, the hillside, the house-top the ads shriek by day and by night and each yells in the most blatant, crude, vulgar fashion—the only way to appeal to the ignorant illiterate savages who have overrun this country."

After dwelling at length upon the alleged horrors committed by signboard painters and their employers, Mr. Pennell remarked:

"We have our preachers like Billy Sunday and Oliver Goody, and our hours for us Hart, Schaffner & Marx, our clothing; the 'Ladies' Home Journal' our reading, and the signs, our art."

Justice Says Mrs. Fonda's Acts Constituted Fraud Court Announces Opinion on Facts in Will Litigation and Asks for Briefs

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Girl's Story in Contrast To Sordid Tale of Murder

Concetta Conti, Nine, Innocently Describes Killing of Her Mother by Maria Tucci, While Woman Witness Declares Slayer Acted to Save Honor

Never was a contrast between sordidness and innocence more markedly drawn than in the Court of General Sessions yesterday, when a small girl took the stand before Judge Nott and a jury and gave her version of the scene her baby eyes encountered when she awoke one night to find her mother lying slain beside her, and her mother's sister kneeling on the bed, a smoking pistol in her hand.

She was Concetta Conti, nine, principal witness for the prosecution at the trial of twenty-year-old Maria Tucci on an indictment charging the murder of Mrs. Angelina Conti early on the morning of March 8 last in their home at 99 West Houston Street.

Courtroom All Attention Concetta, garbed in middy blouse and blue skirt, her brown hair in a pigtail down the center of her forehead, roving in wonderment from judge to jury to counsel, held the courtroom in transfixed attention for nearly an hour.

She started to cry, and her narrative in English, sometimes through the Italian interpreter, she said: "My mother was already in bed when I got up. She said, 'Come to bed with me; I want to talk to you.' 'No,' I said, 'I'm sleepy' and I went to sleep."

"When I woke up I saw Maria with a revolver. The first shot just woke me up, but I heard the second shot. A candle was lighted on the window by the bed and I could see black smoke coming from the pistol."

Then Concetta, in pantomime of her aunt, placed her knee upon the witness chair, outstretched her right hand and striking her index finger, illustrated the ten days in which she said Maria pulled the trigger.

Italian Woman Testifies That was one side of the picture. The other was presented by Mrs. Rose Zingale, a swarthy woman, fellow tenant in the house at 99 West Houston Street. To understand the story, she told in court, it is necessary to recall that when Maria Tucci was arrested, her first explanation of her act was that she killed her sister in order to save herself from being forced into a life of dishonor.

Mrs. Zingale related having rushed downstairs to the Conti apartment at 11 a. m. about ten days before the shooting, having been aroused by noise of a quarrel between Angelina and Maria.

"When I went in," she said, "Maria was screaming and I asked what was the matter. Angelina said Maria would not do anything she told her."

"I am the older sister," said Angelina, "and she tried to do as I asked. What the trouble was and Angelina answered it was a family affair."

Whisky Traffic Abates, Say Revenue Men; Prohibition Agent Held in \$10,000 Bail; 15 Brooklyn Arrests

There is a slight statement in whisky movements in New York, according to Henry A. Mildeberg, Assistant United States District Attorney. Gin is commencing to come into vogue. For the first time since the Volstead act went into effect revenue agents have fallen athwart gin.

A search warrant yesterday brought to light 530 flasks of it at 1 West 136th Street. The alleged owner of it, Morris Pevill, was held in \$250 bonds by United States Commissioner S. H. Hitchcock.

Julius Schloss was also held by Commissioner Hitchcock in \$250 bonds to explain the possession of four quarts of gin, two barrels of wine, four gallons of whisky and six five-gallon cans of alcohol found in his premises, 518 Lexington Avenue, by revenue agents.

While the revenue agents were searching for the hiding places of liquor James Wadde, one of the chief officers under James S. Hays, Director of Prohibition Enforcement, walked into the automobile sales store of Prince and his partner, at 2126 Broadway.

Prince had furnished \$10,000 bonds for being held in jail at Hart Island, Conn., for transporting three barrels of whisky from this city to Torrington, Conn. He and Thomas F. Howe, automobile chauffeur, were arrested last Tuesday morning in Connecticut by Revenue Agent Harold B. Dubbs, of this city.

Wadde was arrested by revenue agents almost as soon as he stepped into Prince's store and Prince was also taken into custody. Dubbs claims the three barrels of whisky were obtained at Prince's shop, at 2126 Broadway, Assistant United States District Attorney, filed a complaint yesterday against Prince, charging him with having delivered to Howe three barrels of whisky obtained on an altered permit issued by United States Commissioner S. H. Hitchcock held Prince under \$10,000 bonds for hearing next Friday.

Nathan J. Wadhams, motor car salesman, of 1170 East Fourteenth Street, Flatbush, was arrested yesterday by Revenue Agent John C. Hays, and held in \$10,000 bonds by Federal Commissioner for examination next Friday on a charge of conspiracy to obtain quantities of liquor, United States District Attorney, Levoy W. Ross, of Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island, declares Wadhams is only one of many persons engaged in wholesaling liquor in Brooklyn.

Sister Denies Baroness' Gems Were Seized

Mrs. Treadwell Here, Says De Mumm's Wife Never Owned Much Jewelry; Lawyers Have Property Story Is News to Her

Mrs. Josephine Treadwell, of Paris and Seneca, Kan., arrived here yesterday on the White Star liner Adriatic with the body of her sister, the Baroness de Mumm, who died from the effects of an operation for appendicitis in a hospital at Neuilly on May 3.

Soon after the Adriatic left Cherbourg, where Mrs. Treadwell embarked with her sister's body, cable messages were sent to this city saying that the French authorities had located the vessel and had taken from Mrs. Treadwell a quantity of jewels worth 1,000,000 francs, which were part of the estate of her dead sister.

When the Adriatic came into Quarantine yesterday Mrs. Treadwell expressed surprise that such information had been cabled to this country. She brushed it as false.

"The first I heard of these reports," said Mrs. Treadwell, "was when I read them in newspapers that came aboard the ship here in Quarantine. To the best of my knowledge and belief my sister never owned jewels of any great value, and what few she had were never in my possession."

"I had heard and never had anything to do with the estate of my sister. It is entirely in the hands of her lawyers in France. I arranged to bring her body home for burial, and the report of this jewelry seizure cabled from France is a great mystery to me."

"I had booked passage on the Adriatic six weeks before the vessel sailed. My sister's death was also expected. Before the operation she was living in a hotel in Paris."

"When I took possession of my sister's body for shipment to this country I turned all her effects over to the lawyers who had been attending to her business. I sailed for this country with no jewelry or property in my possession. The few articles of jewelry she possessed were not seized."

The Baroness de Mumm before her marriage to the Baron Walter de Mumm, a French wine grower of Seneca, Kan. When the world war started her husband renounced his French citizenship. Through an act of Congress she was restored to American citizenship. Leaving her five-year-old daughter Mary with relatives in Seneca, Mrs. de Mumm returned to France to fight in the war.

After the drawing up of the peace treaty it was apparent that the French government intended to cling to the property of all Germans seized within the borders.

Mrs. de Mumm sought a divorce. This could not be granted by the French courts as she was still a German subject, being the wife of a German citizen. She said that she could not bring divorce proceedings in the courts of Germany, as the government was disposed to regard her as guilty of treason, having served as a nurse with the enemy forces.

In an effort to safeguard or protect from confiscation her two-fifths equity in the big estate of her husband, Mrs. de Mumm came to this country in October of last year. Through an act of Congress she was restored to American citizenship. Leaving her five-year-old daughter Mary with relatives in Seneca, Mrs. de Mumm returned to France to fight in the war.

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Case of the Defense

It is understood the defense will contend that Maria borrowed the gun from Louis Mescahi to protect herself against some men her sister desired her to be intimate with; that Mrs. Conti was accidentally shot during a struggle for possession of the weapon.

Louis Mescahi testified he accompanied Maria and Concetta to Montclair, N. J., where her two brothers lived, a few hours after the shooting. From there she went to Atlantic City, and several nights later walked into a police station and gave herself up.

Santo Mescahi told of hiding the revolver in a rat hole in West Houston Street barber shop, where he is employed. He recovered it for the police after he had been apprehended as a French spy and Maria had been taken into custody.

The defendant is of slight stature and is more than ordinarily pretty, and is a noticeably serious cast of countenance. She is wearing a black tulle dress, black straw hat and black veil.

The trial will be resumed Monday morning and may last several days.

Mayor Calls for Gas Oil Inquiry; Famine Threatens

Hylan Instructs O'Brien to Prepare for Any Emergency; Nixon Ridicules Move as Coming Too Late

Scouting another attempt on the part of the Public Service Commission to aid the public utility corporations, Mayor Hylan yesterday instructed Corporation Counsel O'Brien and Nicholas P. Hayes, Commissioner of Water Supply, to make an investigation of the gas oil situation.

The gas companies contend they are unable to get this oil in quantity sufficient to supply gas at the present rates.

The Mayor's instructions were prompted by the statement Thursday by Chief Engineer Merrifield of the Public Service Commission that the city may be facing a gas famine within the next few months. The Mayor pointed out in his letter to the Corporation Counsel that Mr. Merrifield formerly was employed by the Consolidated Gas Company and was appointed by Commissioner Lewis Nixon to "an exempt place."

"As I understand it," said the Mayor, "this is a fight between the Standard Oil Company and other independent oil companies, as well as a desire on the part of the gas companies to hold up the people of the city for an increased gas rate. Make a thorough investigation of this matter, so that you may be prepared to meet any emergency that may arise."

The Mayor instructed Commissioner Hayes to put in charge of his investigation "some one whose sympathies are not entirely with the gas companies."

When Commissioner Nixon's attention was called to the Mayor's statements he said: "Any investigation which the Mayor may begin is welcomed by me. I have been investigating the gas oil situation for several weeks, and keenly appreciate the seriousness of the situation in New York. There is no question that there is a gas oil shortage. I believe it is bound to grow worse. I am informed that the city has decided to change the design of some of its furnaces to be constructed for gas. Staten Island run from oil burners to coal burners because of the probable inability to obtain sufficient fuel oil."

"Ordering investigations after the damage is done is nothing more than holding a post mortem examination," continued Eisman. "Mr. La Guardia, as usual, is forty-eight hours late with his letter. It is unnecessary for me to dignify Mr. La Guardia's statement with a denial. Public Service Commissioner Nixon was and is in close touch with the situation so far as my company is concerned."

The statement closes with the assertion that within the last twenty-four hours a movement has been on foot to bring all the facts in the case before Governor Smith.

Local Forecasts.—Cloudy to-day; to-morrow fair, gentle to moderate shifting winds.

Local Official Record.—The following of local records shows temperatures during the last twenty-four hours, in comparison with the corresponding dates of last year.

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JOHN WANAMAKER Significant News of the Day

Wool prices drop 10 to 20 per cent. * * * Wholesalers predict steady fall in prices * * * Manufacturers offer cooperation "with all sensible efforts to reduce prices of commodities" * * * London newspapers print long cablegrams.

The Significant Action of the National Association of Manufacturers

at its annual meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York, representing 5,400 manufacturers, employing 6,000,000 people, stating

"That we are in hearty accord with all sensible efforts to reduce prices of commodities, and to that end we urge our members to co-operate in all reasonable efforts to bring about that result,"

is one of the outstanding developments in the nation-wide movement to lower the cost of living and put the country on a peace-time footing.

Each day sheds new light and brings new encouragement to go forward.

It is our belief that there are many thousands of storekeepers who will stand together firmly against any further encroachments upon the purses of their patrons by the raising of prices.

We must reach the apex and we cannot even stand upon it. We must find our way out through a downward door.

Labor must find the way to put through a larger production of articles of every kind or we must put an embargo on American manufactures leaving the country in order to stop the cry of scarcity.

We can bring on good times speedily if we work together for it.

(Signed) John Wanamaker

May 22, 1920.

From the N. Y. TIMES Prices of Wool drop in Boston Auction Sales; buyers agree peak of high prices has passed

Boston, May 20.—The price of wool slumped today, a break from 10 to 20 per cent. occurring at the auction sales conducted here under the auspices of the British Government. Only seven mills took part in the bidding and but 30 per cent. of the wool offered for sale was disposed of. Buyers are agreed that the peak of high prices for wools has passed.

From the N. Y. EVENING SUN Wholesalers now see lower prices coming

Chicago—Big wholesale houses here today began preparing for a general drop in the cost of living and the restriction of credit by banks, by restricting credit to their own customers.

Marshall Field & Co., reputed the biggest wholesalers of dry goods in the country, have urged retailers to cut their stocks to the bone, and have begun calling in the "slow boys," customers who are back on their bills.

Butler Bros., one of the largest general jobbing houses in the West, predicted today, through their city credit department, a steady fall in prices for the next two years.

"By that time prices will be back at their pre-war levels," said an official of the credit department.

Wholesale buyers said that fur and silk prices already are well on the down grade.

"Cotton and wool will be the next to go, and that will be shortly. When that comes there will be a general fall in prices," one buyer for a large wholesale house said.

New York: The wholesalers are the latest to join the crusade against the high cost of living. Cancellation of orders by retailers has forced a reduction by wholesalers, and this is expected to have an immediate reaction on the manufacturers.

From the NEW YORK SUN & HERALD The mid-monthly business review of the Irving National Bank of New York reported as follows:

"Not a few capable observers believe we are about to experience a decline in prices. Events in the stock market, which may easily be misleading, lend some support to this view. While Bradstreet's index number of May 1 was one-tenth of 1 per cent. higher than on April 1, this could be attributed to the railroad strike. Such congestion was bound to put up prices. Bradstreet's index number stood February 1, at \$20.8699, the highest yet; March 1 at \$20.7959, April 1 at \$20.7124, but rose again May 1 to \$20.7341 at a season when it was reasonable to expect a further decline. As the price situation in all countries is similar, it is worth noting that the index number of the London Economist showed for April a fall of prices in England.

"Bankers, business men, economists and others have been dimming it into the public ears that thrift, as well as greater production, is necessary to economic rehabilitation.

"The policy of one of the most successful and best known American merchants, owner of stores in New York and Philadelphia, in inaugurating a widely advertised sale of all goods at reductions of 20 per cent. from original markings, has attracted general attention and greatly stimulated buying. All these things have created at least a psychological foundation for lower levels."

From the N. Y. TRIBUNE Price slash here alarms Britain—fear of slump in imports and relief to Europe is expressed.

London, May 20.—It is believed here that a great deal of the goods now being thrown on the American market at low prices were destined for this side of the Atlantic. This gives rise to fears here of an increasing shortage in importations of the necessities of life.

There also is fear that the changing economic situation in America will make that nation more than ever disinclined to assist in European relief. Several of this morning's newspapers print long cablegrams concerning the wave of price cutting in the United States.

Our Entire Stock Offered at 20 Per Cent. Off

Applying to EVERYTHING in the Wanamaker Stores except certain price-restricted articles and our catalog stocks

The White Sale Everything Twenty per cent. off MUSLIN LINGERIE—300 envelope chemises, petticoats and drawers; fine quality batiste and nainsook in flesh or white, trimmed with lace or embroidery; \$1.95 each—less 20 per cent. PETTICOATS—200 cotton and heather-bloom in all the street shades, \$2.45—less 20 per cent. COTTON CREPE KIMONOS—a new shipment of 500; variety of colors, trimmed with crests and floral designs; \$3.75 each—less 20 per cent. HOUSE FROCKS—lawn dresses with dainty organdie collars and cuffs, and voile dresses in darker shades. \$5.50 and \$9.75—less 20 per cent. BRASSIERES and BANDEAUX—800, in a wonderful assortment at \$1—less 20 per cent. Third floor, Old Building.

Good morning! Women's Wraps of highest quality Reduced one-fourth to one-half. And from these low prices you will deduct 20 per cent. at time of purchase. There are eighty wraps. The lowest-priced is \$65. It was \$85. With the 20 per cent. off the cost to the purchaser comes down to \$52. The highest-priced is \$495. It was \$595. With the 20 per cent. off the cost to the purchaser comes down to \$396. Women's Coat Salons, Second floor, Old Building.

For Miss 14 to 20 Reductions 75 skirts of sports silks, crepe de chine and Georgette crepe; were \$25 to \$45, at \$19.75 to \$35—less 20 per cent. 25 beautiful evening and afternoon dresses; were \$72.50 to \$215, at \$49.50 to \$145—less 20 per cent. Special purchases Fouled frocks, special at \$39.75—less 20 per cent. Frocks of printed chiffon combined with taffetas, special at \$52.50—less 20 per cent. Also—Another shipment of our much praised wool jersey suits at \$29.50 and \$39.50—less 20 per cent. New gingham frocks at \$10.75 to \$59.50—less 20 per cent. Dotted swiss frocks—very charming—at \$29.75 and \$49.75—less 20 per cent. Second floor, Old Building. (Teach street)

900 Boys' Suits At Twenty per cent. off Regular prices are \$16.75 to \$42.75. With the 20 off they will be \$13.40 to \$34.20. And marked price-reductions, too. We have taken a number of boys' suits that were \$40 and \$42.75 in our stocks and reduced them to \$34.75— from which, of course, you will deduct 20 per cent., making the cost to you \$27.80 each. We have also reduced some boys' suits from \$35 to \$29.75. Twenty per cent. off brings the price of these down to \$23.80. Sizes 7 to 18 years in both groups. Third floor, Old Building.

Close-ups 2,000 Suits, \$50 to \$100. 600 Topcoats, \$45 to \$115. 6,000 pairs Shoes, \$7 to \$18. 25,000 Shirts, \$1.95 to \$18. 10,000 Neckties, 65c to \$5. 5,000 Straw Hats, \$2.50 to \$5. Suits made to measure. Shirts made to measure. Flannel Trousers, \$20. All Less 20 per cent. Burlington Arcade floor, New Building.

83,000 pairs of Women's Shoes At twenty per cent. off Walking shoes, pumps and oxfords, evening shoes and slippers, house slippers, and high and low shoes for sports wear. Price range, \$2.25 pr. for tennis sneakers to \$35 pair for riding boots—all 20 per cent. off. First floor, Old Building. No goods sold to doctors. None C. O. D. No goods on approval. Nothing returnable.

10,000 yards of Silk Remnants Were \$4.50 to \$8.50 yard. To go, today, at the rate of \$3.25 yard. Twenty per cent. off this makes \$2.60 yard. Hundreds of weaves and styles. Plain and fancy colors, and black. Main floor, Old Building.

Children's Annual Dance Carnival In the Auditorium today at 2:30 Under the direction of Mrs. Grace Johnson Ewart. First Gallery, New Building.

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