

RUTH CRUGER'S MURDER

A Case Which Has Called for a Searching Investigation of the New York City Police Department—Interesting Dissertation on the Now Celebrated Case and Some Advice to Mothers of Young Girls.

Even in the midst of a war like this, when horrors are served to us wholesale every day and when the life of the individual has come to have little more general significance than the life of an insect, such a tragedy as that of the murder of Ruth Cruger attracts more than momentary attention and divides newspaper space with the war news. The explanation is found in the element of mystery in which the case has been involved, in the youth and sex of the victim, and, more than all, in the fact that it relates to social conditions which threaten the recurrence of the same danger and which may carry the same clamor to any home.

One lesson which the case emphasizes is the perils of great cities, especially to the young and inexperienced. It is a familiar lesson, which has been painted in moral and physical destruction in innumerable instances before, but it does not seem to have impressed itself with sufficient force on the guardians of our young people. We grow so accustomed to their going out on the streets and coming back safely, so used to the smooth routine of life, that we forget the moral and physical evils and menaces that necessarily exist in large centres of population, and we permit children to take risks of all sorts that they should not be permitted to run. Our American boys and girls resent supervision of their lives, liberties and pursuits of happiness. They imbibe early the American belief in freedom, and they think their fathers and mothers silly and old-fashioned when they warn them not to go to this or that place alone. In point of fact, fathers and mothers are silly, but they are silly not because they occasionally admonish their youngsters to be prudent, but because they do not hold a tighter rein on them and guard them more carefully.

This sort of chaperonage is as much a duty to the child as providing it with food and clothes. Of course, in the case of a very large number of persons it is difficult or impossible. Many mothers and fathers must devote all their time and energy to making a living for their dependents. And yet even they can make their boys and girls understand the importance of avoiding particular danger zones. But since there are such things as organized vice and organized depravity, there must be an organized system of protection for those who are most liable, by reason of the poverty or straitened means of their parents, to fall victims to the dangers and beasts of prey who lurk in large cities. We have something of the sort already in societies for the prevention of cruelty and immorality to children, but there should be vigilance societies on a larger and more efficient scale. A suggestion to this effect has been made in New York as a result of the Cruger murder, and the task of organizing such a movement may be intrusted to the woman who solved the mystery which baffled the police. It is primarily woman's work, and it should be taken up everywhere by women's clubs and organizations.

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GOVERNOR SUMMONS OHIO COAL OPERATORS

"Can't Send Boys to Front and Let Families Freeze"—Will Seek Facts—Must Protect People Against "Commercial Conspiracy."

Columbus, O.—Declaring that "We can not expect our boys to go to the front and then let their families freeze next winter," Governor Cox today announced that he has called a conference of coal operators for Friday, June 29, for the purpose of working out some improvement in the present situation as to demand and prices of coal.

While the governor does not say what he believes is contributing to high coal prices, he remarked, in a statement, that "people expect the Government to protect them against unnecessary conditions growing out of commercial conspiracy or delinquent service by the railroads."

A. A. Augustus of Cleveland, president of the Cambridge Collieries company of Guernsey county, and a member of the governor's war cabinet, will be chairman of the meeting. Coal operators of the state will attend. In addition, the governor said the following railroad officials are expected to take part in the conference: G. L. Peck, vice president Pennsylvania Lines, Pittsburgh; J. W. Roberts, superintendent of freight transportation, Pennsylvania Lines, Pittsburgh; A. W. Thompson, traffic vice president Baltimore & Ohio railroad, Baltimore; W. M. Duncan, president Wheeling & Lake Erie railroad, Cleveland.

"It is unnecessary to elaborate upon the conditions as to scarcity and price of coal," said the governor in a statement. "There are so many conflicting contentions as to the cause of it all that we deem it necessary to go to the bottom of the whole situation. Industrial plants are very busy, and many of them are operating 24 hours a day, and yet the coal miners many days every month are laid off. The explanation of this is shortage of cars.

"If the state finds itself without authority we will at least be in the position of making a definite recommendation to the Federal Government."

EMPLOYEES GIVEN BONUS.

New York.—More than 3,000 employees of the Sinclair Oil and Refining company will be benefited by a wage bonus of 10 per cent voted today by the directors to those receiving less than \$2,500 a year. The order is effective as of April 1. The bonus will be paid quarterly.

NATURALIZATION REFUSED

By Judge Hollister to One of the German School Teachers That School Directors Schwab, Mitten-dorf and Fisk Are Defending Against the Wish of the Americans of Cincinnati.

Sharply criticizing Albert Blikel, teacher of German at Mt. Airy School, for his failure to answer correctly questions about the constitution of this country during his examination for citizenship last night, Judge Howard C. Hollister, in United States District Court, said the case was a serious reflection upon the public school system of Cincinnati.

Blikel declared he has been in this country 28 years. Court records show that his petitions for citizenship filed in Cincinnati October 26, 1912, and November 3, 1913, were dismissed because he failed to qualify.

Replying to questions of the Examiner, Blikel said he has been in the United States since 1889. He replied also that he was born in Germany.

"What is the constitution?" was the second question asked of the applicant. Blikel hesitated a moment and then admitted to the Court that he did not know of the origin or the purpose of the constitution.

"This lack of intelligence on your part amazes me," said Judge Hollister vehemently. "Your case is a sad commentary upon our public school system, and I recommend that it be given immediate attention by the Trustees of Mt. Airy School. It is a reflection upon Cincinnati to have a man who displays such a woeful lack of knowledge of the principles upon which our great Government was founded, teaching American children in our public schools."

After his application had been rejected Blikel left the courtroom. Subsequently he said he did not understand the question of the Court. He said also that he has been a teacher at Mt. Airy School 13 years. He refused to comment upon the action of the Court in dismissing his case.

Forty-three applicants for citizenship were accepted by the Court last night after they had declared their allegiance to the Government.

UNION GIRLS WIN STRIKE.

Frostburg, Md.—Trade union girls employed at the Parker hosiery mills have won a four-weeks' strike and secured increased wages.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

Toledo, O.—Wage increases that range from \$2 to \$4 a week have been secured by Teamsters and Chauffeurs' union.

Newark, N. J.—Teamsters' Union No. 478 has raised wages \$2 a week, making a total increase of \$5 a week within two years.

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