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### PALE ALE

### Hearst Hysteria at the Sault

By DONALD B. SINCLAIR

UP at Sault Ste. Marie, there is being written a commentary on Canadian morals, manners and justice as seen from the United States point of view. Opinions may differ as to the value of American criticism on Canada as expressed by William Randolph Hearst, the New York yellow journalist man. But the phenomenon of this blatant proprietor of noisy newspapers, invading our peaceful land with all the equipment of a Hearst war—plaintive note, woman writers, sketchy artists and sign board headings is at least quite interesting, and, of course dramatic. Hearst is not on the trail of Reciprocity this time, though we've heard him on that. That subject is rather heavy when the mercury is soaring loftily in the bulb. Besides the excitement of it has been played out—just a trifle. While the Hearst editors were doing Canada on the trade assignment, it is not unlikely they hit on the trail of their latest sensation.

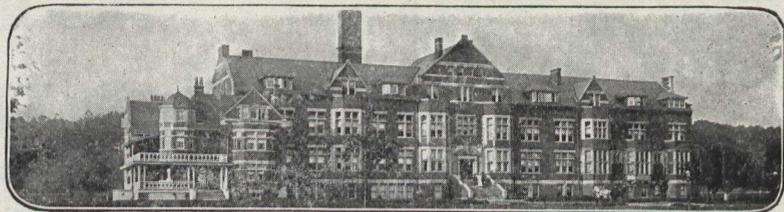
This time it is murder—murder at the Canadian Sault! What does a yellow journalist like to get his hands on better than bloodshed? Not infrequently in death feuds there are sensational features; sometimes such can be added and made very palatable to a morbid hungry clientele of readers.

The Neapolitano case at Sault Ste. Marie is not an edifying spectacle at any point. The bald facts are these: Neapolitano was an Italian labourer at the Sault. He had a wife Angelina, also from sunny Italy. Neapolitano did not prosper very rapidly in Canada. The family exchequer grew small and the numbers of little Neapolitanos increased. One day Angelina Neapolitano killed her husband with an axe. She was arrested; she had a fair trial; twelve men convicted her of murder; a judge sentenced her to be hanged in August. Some sympathy began to be expressed for Angelina Neapolitano immediately after the passing of sentence—on one ground. Clearly she had committed a capital crime against society. But why should she not pay the penalty? Angelina Neapolitano is doomed to the gallows in the middle of August. But in July she will become the mother of a child. It was due to this circumstance that people began to urge clemency in her case.

The Hearst papers have made the most of it. Out of a sordid, disgusting murder among the submerged tenth, they have done their best to evolve a highly dramatic and idealistic narrative. Special writers have gone to the Sault and written their editors pathetic interviews with Angelina in her lonely cell. Artists have idealized her portrait. Angelina Neapolitano has been exploited as a heroine unjustly persecuted by the Canadian people. A story that her husband tried to force her into a life of shame has been told with telling effect. Much speculation has been entertained of the probable verdict which would have been rendered, had Angelina been tried before a jury of women rather than men.

And what have been the results of the comment of American yellows on a Canadian case? The effects have largely been confined to the United States. Down on the Pacific Coast arises the heroic Dr. Tanner, far-famed twenty years ago as the "forty days' faster," who has offered to die in place of Angelina. The doctor has not lost his sense of the dramatic since the time when he kept a whole continent in suspense wondering whether he would survive a month without nourishment. He still seems determined to kill himself. Stacks of petitions have reached Ottawa for Mrs. Neapolitano's release from the United States. Aside from these spectacular incidents, how perverting must be the silent influence of the Hearst maudlinity upon the attitude of the indiscriminating foreign population in America toward British institutions.

Meanwhile, Canadians are taking the matter calmly. The women's organizations of the Dominion, considering Angelina's case, recognize it as a problem in Sociology rather than Hysteria.



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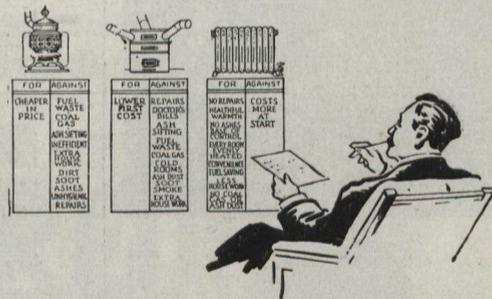
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