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Convicts' Silent Language.

Prison messages were mentioned in recent case at the Old Bailey, London, England.

Talking is not allowed in prisons. Here are, however, several ways in which convicts communicate with each other without talking.

Most of these silent conversations take place during exercise, especially on mornings after a session, when news of crimes and sentences is soon over the yard.

In a short while every new-comer, who has been "in" before, tells all the news of his offence and of the length of his sentence. Those who know the code send long messages to each other when they are in the workshops, where they hammer in such a way as to produce long and short sounds.

Generally, the first signal a man makes tells the crime he has been convicted of. He puts his hand to his mouth and brings his jaws together. He has been passing counterfeit

money. If he has been picking pockets he crosses his wrists in front of his body; if he is "in" for burglary he turns an imaginary key in a lock. If he has only been committed for trial and is awaiting his sentence, he counts off twelve on his fingers, thus meaning "jury."

After a prisoner has told of his crime he signals his sentence. A common slang term for three months imprisonment is a "carpet bag;" the pantomime of lifting a bag is gone through by the sentenced one. "A moon" signifies a month. The prisoner will look up at the moon and extend as many fingers as months of confinement to be endured.

The signs for any number of years are very simple. The news of one year's imprisonment is communicated by pulling the left ear; two years, pulling the right ear twice; five years, touching either ear with all the fingers of one hand extended; ten years, pulling both hands to the sides of the face and drawing them downwards.

"Have you any tobacco?" is asked by popping a finger into the mouth and then touching the side of the nose. One cough means "Listen!" Two coughs mean "Look out!"

Germany Holds Up Treaty.

Refusal to Sign Protocol Ominous -- Government and People Oppose Reparation -- Senatorial Resolution for a Break With Mexico -- Lady Astor Warned by Speaker.

GERMANY SHOWS HER HAND.

PARIS, Dec. 3. Germany has decided not to sign the protocol presented her by the Allies as condition for putting peace into effect, the Peace Conference has been notified. It was learned only to-day that Baron Kurt Von Lersner, head of German delegation here, called on Secretary Dulles, of the Conference on Monday and told him that Germany had made such a decision.

This attitude is taken as confirmation of the reports of a sharp reaction in Germany within the last fortnight. Trained observers of German developments have expressed to members of the Peace Conference the view that there has been a complete transformation of the situation in Germany brought about in their opinion by the failure of the United States Senate to ratify the Peace Treaty. These observers declare that while a vast majority of Germans before the Senate's adjournment desired the Peace Treaty ratified as soon as possible, they are now supporting the Government's attitude in resisting the demands of the Allies for indemnity for the sinking of the German fleet at Scapa Flow, recompense for which was provided for in the protocol. The question upon which German representatives here, however, appear most sensitive is insisting upon the delivery of German officers accused of commission of crimes in France and Belgium. Thus far, it is stated, no indications have reached Paris of any disposition on the part of the Germans to modify their attitude.

NOTE OF PROTEST BY SUPREME COUNCIL.

PARIS, Dec. 3. The Supreme Council to-day addressed a note to Germany protesting against the increase of Germany's armament contrary to the provisions of the Peace Treaty.

MEXICO SAYS SITUATION "VERY DIFFICULT."

MEXICO, City, Dec. 3. The solution of the difficulties arising out of international affairs with the United States were entrusted to President Carranza without legislative intrusion by the Senate at a secret session held yesterday. Relations with the United States were declared during the session as being "very difficult."

MEXICAN SITUATION GRAVE.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 3. President Wilson was requested in a resolution introduced to-day in the Senate to sever diplomatic relations with Mexico. The resolution was offered by Senator Fall, Republican of New Mexico, who, as chairman of a sub-committee investigating the Mexican situation, declared evidence had been found which would astonish the world. It was also asked that the President withdraw recognition of the Carranza Government. Senator Fall boldly charged that the Mexican Embassy, the consulate Generals in New York and San Francisco, and the consulates along the border, with the knowledge and consent of President Carranza, have been actively engaged in the spreading of Bolshevik propaganda in the United States. Evidence it was said, would be forthcoming to bear out the charge by this resolution which was sent to the foreign relations committee of the Senate for consideration. To-morrow the whole Mexican problem, admittedly grave in view of the refusal of the Carranza administration to release Consular agent Jenkins from the penitentiary at Puebla, will be put before Congress.

BOLSHEVIKI OCCUPY CRIMEA.

LONDON, Dec. 3. The occupation of Crimea by the Bolsheviks is claimed in a Moscow wireless message received here to-day. General Makhno's troops carried out the movement. During the taking of the Crimea, two steamers containing explosives blew up, the despatch asserts.

LADY ASTOR'S DEFENCE.

LONDON, Dec. 3. Lady Astor, first woman member of the House of Commons, had her first experience on being called to order last evening when she innocently transgressed one of the canons of the House. She was returning to her seat after voting on a measure and stopped to chat with another member "within the Bar," where nobody is allowed to stand. The Speaker called order, but Lady Astor, unaware she

was addressed, continued talking. Thereupon the Speaker raised his voice and repeated his warning. Lady Astor turned quickly, realised her offence, stepped quickly beyond the Bar, and continued her conversation through.

PROUD OF THEIR SON.

LONDON, Dec. 3. One who was present at the banquet given by the King at Buckingham Palace in honor of the return of the Prince of Wales, says the occasion was the first when the King had heard the Prince make a formal speech. The King himself concluded his remarks by saying, "His mother and I are proud of him."

OSTRACISING A COUNT.

BUDAPEST, Dec. 3. Count Michael Karolyi, former Hungarian Premier, has been debarred from the National Casino on a charge of having committed a treasonable offense.

SPANISH CABINET WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE.

MADRID, Dec. 3. Members of the Cabinet unanimously agreed to-day to remain in office, and Minister of War, Covaro, whose resignation precipitated the crisis, concurred with the colleagues and will retain portfolio.

MASSACHUSETTS CITIES FAVOR LIQUOR LICENSES.

BOSTON, Dec. 3. A marked feature of the municipal elections in twenty Massachusetts cities to-day was the fact that every one of them cast a majority of votes in favor of granting liquor licenses. It was well known to voters that in view of the coming of National Prohibition, balloting was a mere formality. The State legal authorities, however, had ruled that as State option law had not been repealed, the question must appear on the ballots. The vote on the license question was very small.

HAS OTHER IMPORTANT WORK.

PARIS, Dec. 3. Captain Heuteaux, a French aviator, whose work during the war was most spectacular and who was elected to the Chamber of Deputies last month, has resigned from the army.

AND MEAT SO DEAR.

MEXICO, City, Dec. 3. By an overwhelming vote the Mexican chamber to-day passed a bill restoring bull fights throughout the republic and repealing the presidential prohibitive decree of 1915. The Senate which is said to favor the restoration will vote on the measure to-morrow.

THE AMERICAN EXCHANGE.

LONDON, Dec. 3. The break on American exchange to \$3.88 while considered serious from a trade viewpoint is due to the same conditions previously prevailing, the huge indebtedness of Great Britain to the United States and the large amount of cotton still to come from that country. No official action has been taken to meet the situation and in market circles the opinion is expressed that the rate will go still lower. To-day's decline unsettled continental exchanges which move against this country.

THE "MAILS" NEW EDITOR.

LONDON, Dec. 3. A paragraph in the London Daily Express says Sir Campbell Stuart has been appointed managing editor of the Daily Mail.

WILL FIGHT A DUEL.

PARIS, Dec. 3. The theatrical world is stirred by the prospect of a duel between Alphonso Frank, manager of the Gynase Theatre, and Ernest Charles, a dramatic critic. Frank objected to an

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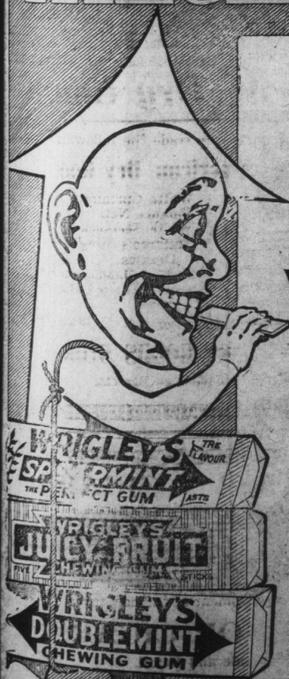
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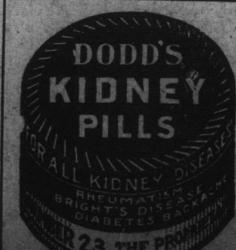
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article written by Charles and despatched to him as his seconds Joseph Renaud, author and distinguished swordsman, and M. Fontanes, manager of the Chatelet Theatre. Charles selected two authors to represent him, Henry Kistemackers and Paul Marquerite. Both Frank and Charles profess to be in deadly earnest and declare that the duel will not be a stage success.

NEW CABINET ANNOUNCED.

IRKUTSK, SIBERIA, Dec. 3. The new cabinet, of which the Omisk Government bases hopes for a reconciliation with the social revolutionists, the Zemstvos, the Czecha, and the Cosacks, was announced to-day. Victor Fepellaff will be Premier and also retain the Ministry of the Interior. Serge Tretakoff is Vice-President of the Council, and also acting foreign Minister, while P. A. Bourishlaine will take the Finance Portfolio.

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