

Woman Cleans Up Cruel Prisons

San Antonio, Tex., Nov. 26.—This is the story of a woman who cleaned up one of the worst prison systems in the country.

It is due, in great measure, to the fact that 34 years ago a Texas ranch girl wanted to be a doctor and couldn't. Her father did not think medicine a modest calling for his daughter. So they compromised on pharmacy, and the girl, now Mrs. J. E. King, went to study it at the San Houston Normal School in Huntsville.

Now Huntsville is the seat of the Texas State Penitentiary—"the walls," they call it, to distinguish it from the 24 prison farms scattered over eastern and southern Texas.

And it was there that Mrs. King, who today is chairman of the Texas Prison Supervisory Board, got her first glimpse of a prison and of prison life.

"The first thing I saw in Huntsville," she says, "was the walls. And they are the last thing I ever shall forget."

"Then I went to Galveston to finish my course. In 1893, Governor Tom Campbell appointed me state pharmacist. And my life was full and busy."

"After a time I married. My husband's chief delight was in spoiling me with attention. For 18 years I led a life of ease. But always in the back of my mind was that prison in Huntsville and those poor men."

"Governor Pat Neff was a warm friend of ours. In September, 1921, when he created the prison advisory board, he put me on it. I wanted to refuse, but my husband said: 'The Lord hasn't given us any children, so we ought to do some service.'"

Needed a Housekeeper.

The other members named Mrs. King—she is "Mother" King to the convicts—the board's chairman. From then on, her life of ease was over.

"I cannot express my feelings on my first inspection trip," she recalls. "The men were sleeping in wooden bunks—there was not an iron bed in the whole prison system. And they had only old dirty and torn mattresses of straw, hay and corn-shucks. I believe there were not 50 pillows in the system."

"In each cell house was an open barrel of water and a common drinking cup. The bunk houses were filled with bedbugs. Flies and mosquitoes swarmed about, for there wasn't a screen or a mosquito net in sight."

"I saw right there what the prisons needed was a housekeeper. Men can't keep house. And 'Mother' King jumped right in. She bought iron beds from the army surplus for 95 cents apiece, and tore out every wooden bunk. She got new mattresses and pillows."

No More Chains.

Then she abolished the dark cell. Locked in one, a man had no light whatever, and no air except what came in through a small pipe in the floor. Fifteen years ago eight negroes were thrown in a dark cell at Revere Farm, and in that little black



"MOTHER" KING

Hole of Calcutta they smothered to death. This is a matter of record recalled by Mrs. King.

"But you can't find any dark cells in Texas prisons now," she declares. And next came the passing of the chains—great log chains that used to hang from the beams in every prison house; those chains with which men were strung up by the wrists until they fainted."

Now "Mother" King has tackled the whipping problem. She has declared herself against the use of the lash. "But as long as such a provision remains in the statutes, the board cannot prevent its use," she says. "We can only recommend the law be changed."

PART OF STANLEY TO PAY FULL TAXES

City Raises Valuation on Portion of Ward Getting All Services.

The City Council yesterday decided to assess a part of Stanley ward at full valuation as the services enjoyed by other parts of the city, water, fire and police protection and street lights, were given the residents of that section.

A communication from the county secretary asking that the city arrange to pay the face of the 1924 warrant to the General Public Hospital was laid on the table and a number of matters of routine were disposed of.

Mayor Potts presided and Commissioners Wigmore, Frink, Bullock and Harding were present.

The committee of the whole recommended that the railway siding at the east of Broad street be repaired at an estimated cost of \$250 and that the invitation of the Board of Trade to attend the dinner to Sir Henry Thornton be accepted. The report was adopted. On motion of Commissioner Bullock it was decided to inform D. C. Clark

LAST DIAMOND GANGSTER TAKEN

George de Sarro, Sought in Murder, Arrested in Italy.

New York, Nov. 26.—George de Sarro, the last of the band that held up and killed two West End bank messengers in Brooklyn a year ago, is in the hands of justice. But, unlike the Diamond brothers and his other associates, de Sarro will escape the chair.

Word of his arrest in Palermo, Sicily, reached police headquarters this week, and under the laws of Italy, which do not permit extradition, he will be tried in the Italian courts. No death penalty is provided for in the Italian code, but de Sarro, if convicted, will face life imprisonment, perhaps solitary confinement.

His capture ended a world hunt. When the police net closed on Morris B. Diamond, his brother, Joseph G. Diamond, young Anthony Pantano, bank clerk, who turned criminal, and John Farina—all since tried and condemned to death—de Sarro slipped through. De Sarro and Farina, according to the evidence at the trials, were the actual slayers of William H. McLaughlin and William S. Barlow on the New Utrecht avenue station of the B. M. T.

The man's record and his description were known to the police within a few days after the killing, but he seemed to have vanished. Morris Diamond, former football player, and "brains" of the gang, was caught. Then his brother fell into the snare. Pantano, a nervous, erratic youngster, came next and then Farina.

Farina Caught in Hoboken.

When detectives burst into a furnished room in Hoboken they expected to find de Sarro as well. Farina. According to the police both were dangerous men and the raiding detectives entered the room with fingers on triggers. Under the covering of a bathroom overcoat they found only Farina dozing in sleep on a cot. He was a prisoner, emphatically saying it was all a mistake, before he could get to the revolver in the pocket of the overcoat. Grilling him failed to give any clue to the missing de Sarro. The Diamonds and Pantano, before and after their trial, could or would say nothing about de Sarro. So the police took up their search by circular. A particularly minute description of the man, coupled with a photograph, was broadcast. Especially numerous were the circulars supplied to the Italian authorities, because it was thought that de Sarro eventually would return to his old haunts in Palermo.

Yesterday, through the Italian Consul, came word to Inspector John D. Coughlin that the Italian Minister of the Interior had been advised of de Sarro's apprehension in Sicily. All of the necessary evidence in the case will be forwarded to Italy for use at the trial. Witnesses may be sent over to testify when the tribunal begins its sessions. The police say they expect to prove that de Sarro was responsible for the wanton murder of the two bank employees.

De Sarro's Police Record.

At police headquarters detectives who combed de Sarro's record said he was arrested for disorderly conduct on Feb. 23, 1911, and discharged. On March 14, 1918, he was arraigned in General Sessions on a murder charge, but was freed by the late Judge James T. Malone. He was next in court on Dec. 2, 1920, when he appeared before Magistrate Max S. Levine on a charge of burglary. He was discharged.

On June 26, 1921, said the police, de Sarro managed the hold-up of the jewelry store of Morris Sapo at Sixth

Beauty

A Gleamy Mass of Hair

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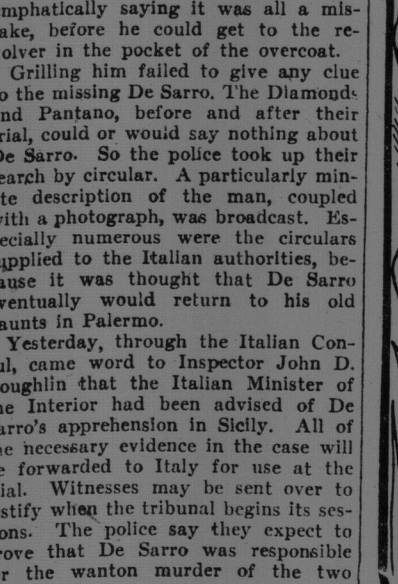
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SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD MEETS

The board of management of the Portland Methodist Sunday school met last night with S. A. Kirk, superintendent, presiding. The opening prayer was offered by Rev. H. A. Goodwin, pastor. Miss Marjorie Trotter, Maritime girls' work secretary, gave a fine address, telling of the C. G. I. T. programme. The meeting appointed A. W. Lingley chairman of the young people's council and Miss Lillian Bromfield, secretary of the council as a committee to secure information regarding the work of the M. R. E. C., and report back to the next meeting. Mrs. A. W. Lingley, who was a delegate at the fifth annual convention of the M. R. E. C., held in Truro recently, gave an interesting and comprehensive report of the proceedings and the report was discussed by various members.

ATTENDS MEETING.

Mrs. G. Wilford Campbell, president of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Y. M. C. A., was able to be out yesterday to attend the regular meeting and was heartily welcomed by the members. The auxiliary voted to send \$75 for the foreign work of the Y. M. C. A. and made plans for the supper for the Juniors of the association, which will take place on Dec. 4. Mrs. Leonard Lingley was appointed convener. The auxiliary undertook to have charge of the refreshments for the New Year's Day reception and of the annual treat to be given to the newsboys.

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Yours for success,
John M. Kane.
(Address on Request)

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