

## SAYS CRIMINALS MADE, NOT BORN

Sir Basil Thomson Says that "Playing to Gallery" and "Sporting Chance" are Causes.

New York, Dec. 28.—Declaring a popular belief that the criminal is "born, not made," Sir Basil Thomson, former head of the Criminal Investigation Department of Scotland Yard, gave the love of play to the gallery and the fascination of taking a "sporting chance" as the chief incentives to crime, in an address in the Waldorf-Astoria.

"What makes the professional criminal," asked Sir Basil in a talk arranged by the National Society of United States Daughters of 1915, "in England we made a census of prisoners in every penal institution, and found that 80 per cent. of them began their career of crime before reaching the age of 21. Furthermore, drink is not, as popularly supposed, a chief cause of crime, which generally starts in the child's love of histrionics, a desire for applause. The criminal father is not so much to blame as the criminal elder brother. Given older the criminal plays to a gallery of fellow-criminals. It is untrue that he is born, not made. It's the sporting chance that makes crime—the same thing that makes the railway traveler willing to ride on a train—he is sure that he will not be the only one out of a million people to be killed in an accident."

An astonishing excess of murders in the United States over those in England, said Sir Basil, was revealed in figures he had obtained from the American Bar Association, showing that in this country one in every 12,000 persons is murdered in a year, in England one in every 412,000.

"Your rise in crime began in the '60s," he continued, "and increased progressively since then. Your burglaries increased 1,200 per cent. in the last ten years. Strange to say, although your country seems to have more violent crimes than any other, you have less than the rest of dishonest and unclean crimes. You are very violent and very clean. How do you account for that?"

"The gun is also responsible for much of your adolescent crime," said Sir Basil later in his address. "In England no dealer dares to sell a gun to any one without a license, and no licenses whatever are given to private persons. That is why our London detectives almost never carry revolvers. The criminals have to get them from the United States, where they are sold openly. The English boy tempted to stage a hold-up refrains because he knows he'll have his head cracked, but if he had a gun he'd probably try it."

"A Sullivan law is not of much use in New York when a man can go to New Jersey and buy a gun. You need a nation-wide law against firearms, like ours, which punishes the seller along with the buyer and possessor."

Other suggestions of Sir Basil's for the lessening of crime in this country were quick trials and sure sentences, no bail for convicted criminals awaiting appeal, and a provision for amending

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ing indictments pending trial. He declared that predictions of a post-war crime wave here and in England had proved unjustified, and that increase in crime was less in the years 1916 to 1922 than it was in the period of 1910 to 1916.

Police Commissioner Richard E. Enright introduced Sir Basil and praised his achievements as a criminologist. The English expert in return congratulated the New York police on their efficient handling of traffic congestion, which was far worse, he added, than that in London.

Among invited guests were the resident Consul General of Great Britain, Italy, Rumania, China, Belgium, Japan and the Netherlands and delegates from various British societies and patriotic orders in this city.

The U. S. Government has collected more than \$5,000,000 in royalties from oil and gas lands in western states.

### WANTS MONEY BACK FOR SONGLESS BIRDS

Canary Jasse Bought for His Wife, Pronounced "Old Maid Bird" by Expert.

New York, Dec. 28.—Six weeks ago Emil Jasse, a retired able seaman, decided that the most appropriate Christmas gift for his wife would be a singing canary. He learned that the proprietor of a downtown bird store was offering birds with the sweetest notes for \$3.75. Jasse told Magistrate Jacob Kilperin in the Tombs Court that he visited the place and selected a canary that just couldn't stop singing all the time he was there.

He explained that he wanted to surprise Mrs. Jasse with the gift and arranged to have the bird boarded with the owner until he called for it. Last Friday he paid the man \$1.25 for the board, he went on, and then hurried home with the canary in a little wooden cage, which the man had thrown in the bargain.

There was not a note from the canary that evening, and when it became evident to him and his wife that there was no song in the canary, he brought it to a bird expert who told him that it was "an old maid bird," and that only males had song in them. Then he went to the bird store and demanded his money back or a real singing bird, he said, but was refused both.

"I want a summons for that man,"

continued Jasse, "as I feel that he defrauded me in selling me this bird."

"I am sorry that I can't help you in this matter," the magistrate replied. "You will have to sue him in the Municipal Court."

### ONTARIO'S REVENUE FROM AUTOMOBILES GROWS

The Ontario provincial exchequer will benefit to the extent of close on \$5,500,000 from automobile fees for the year ended October 31.

The exact revenue from this source is \$5,477,490, which is over \$800,000 in excess of the receipts of 1921, which totaled \$2,446,960.

There is also a considerable jump in the number of motor vehicles. It is estimated that passenger cars up to the

end of the calendar year will number 210,000 in Ontario, as compared with close to 182,000 in 1921, and commercial vehicles 20,000 compared with over 10,000 cars, showing the great growth of the automobile traffic.

It is noteworthy that in 1920 there were only 220 passenger cars, and that since 1916, when the number was 61,882, there has been an increase of about 150,000. It is also noticeable that the number estimated for this year, 210,000, is 28,000 over 1921, which shows that the increase is well maintained alongside previous years.

Commercial cars, which numbered 2,618 in 1916, are computed at 28,000 this year, so that there are eight times more numerous than six years ago. The revenue from motor vehicles in 1916 was \$659,987, about one-fifth of what it is today.

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