

BEGIN FIGHT TO CURB DRUG TRADE

New York Police Commissioner Says International Drug Ring is Operating in America.

New York, March 24.—Opening of a fight to curb the traffic of an international drug ring, said to be headed by business men of Germany, Japan and England, was announced here today by Dr. Carleton Simon, special Deputy Police Commissioner.

Declaring officers of steamships plying between New York (an Mediterranean and South American ports have been transporting drugs to this country, Dr. Simon said many raids are planned and developments of a startling nature are expected. The crews of six steamships now are under surveillance.

Dr. Simon says the leaders of the ring have been identified, but that action

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these drugs have been transported to America, China, Japan and Italy.

Trade in New York Virtually Broken.

Special Deputy Simon declared he had virtually broken the back of the illicit drug trade in New York city, in a four month's drive, in which more than 1000 arrests have been made and millions of dollars' worth of drugs seized.

Dr. Simon asserted the work of his bureau is not only to continue here, but is to be enlarged to meet the problems in other big cities in America and abroad.

By means of an international bureau of criminal records, now being established, all data concerning drug crooks is to be ready for cities where "leads" pointing to New York might be discovered, the commissioner said.

Recently he added, Antwerp police had requested information concerning an alleged leader of the international ring. It was shown by means of information furnished by New York that the man had police records in London, Paris, Brussels and New Orleans, and had served prison sentences at various places aggregating 20 years.

"We made more arrests these last four months than in any 24 months heretofore," said Dr. Simon, who was selected to direct the drive because of

his medical training. Every wing of the metropolitan police department was coordinated, working in conjunction with the Federal agents. In consequence, "the fear" has been spread through the army of vendors.

Amazing Trade Was Uncovered.

Before he assumed his job, Dr. Simon said traffic in drugs in New York had reached an amazing stage. His first move was to see to it that New York, then aid in solving the drug vend problem in other cities—a resultant evil of the situation here.

and of men were spread to all parts of the greater city, expert men

being picked to patrol the lower East Side, where vendors were even using school children as "go-betweens" to supply addicts.

Constant watch was kept on incoming ships, where alleged smugglers were resorting to all manner of tricks to "smack" the narcotics into this country. Arrests of persons on the docks revealed drugs hidden in artificial arms and limbs, in sausages and clothing. Once the anti-narcotic forces were working systematically and arrests became frequent, the situation soon gave evidence of being cleared up.

The almost daily raids in the city reached a climax recently in Brooklyn, when agents entered an apartment, arrested several persons and seized drugs worth thousands of dollars. The great majority arrested were "curbstone" vendors.

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A meeting of the house committee of the General Public Hospital was held at the hospital yesterday afternoon and the recommendations of the report of the previous commissioner for the month, J. King Kelley, were dealt with. Some matters concerning the internal care of the building were taken up and disposed of. The committee will report at its next regular meeting of the board of commissioners. The commissioners make a tour of the building.

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MUTT AND JEFF—JEFF GETS AN EARFUL OF CHEERFUL NEWS

By "BUD" FISHER

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CERTAINLY I'LL ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR INCOME TAX REPORT. FIRST:—WHAT WAS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF YOUR SALARY IN 1920?

NOT A CENT! I DIDN'T WORK!

ANY INTEREST FROM LIBERTY BONDS, SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, DIVIDENDS FROM STOCK, AND SO FORTH?

NO, NOT A CENT. NOW THAT YOU'VE GOT THE DOPE WHAT'S MY TAX GONNA AMOUNT TO?

NOTHING, OF COURSE. YOU'RE EXEMPT!

I AM?

GEE, THIS IS THE FIRST PIECE OF LUCK I'VE HAD FOR A LONG TIME!