

## NEW YORK CONVICTS ITS NO. 1 GANGSTER; FIRES BAD JUDGE

THAT America's advocacy of democracy as an international doctrine is taken seriously by some of its citizens in their domestic affairs, was indicated in two recent developments in New York. The first concerned the conviction of James J. Hines, leader of Tammany Hall, New York's chief political organization, on a general charge of organizing and protecting illegal lotteries. The highest penalty for the offense was 27-years imprisonment. Hines was prosecuted by District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey, who disclosed that New York's No. 1 political-gangster had conspired with the operators of an illegal "policy-game" which involved the not-small sum of U. S. \$20,000,000.

The other case which attracted even greater attention involved the activities of Judge Martin Thomas Manton of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The late President Wilson first appointed Judge Manton to the District Court in 1916 and two years later elevated him to the Circuit Court. Formal legal action has not yet been brought against Judge Manton, but sensing the growing storm he resigned early in February. District Attorney Dewey was also the hero in this case as his report on the corrupt practices of the federal judge, which had been sent to the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, was directly responsible for Manton's resignation. A further and potent element in the case was the publication of charges against Judge Manton, in the New York *World-Telegram*, alleging that he had accepted bribes amounting to approximately U. S. \$500,000.

It was alleged that Judge Manton, in the course of his 23-years on the Federal Bench had received U. S. \$150,000 in salary and U. S. \$500,000 in bribes. Some of the largest concerns in the country were listed among those which had dispensed the bribes in return for judicial

favours. An *Associated Press* dispatch from New York on Jan. 29 listed the following companies as having participated in the bribe-giving: Dictograph Products Corporation, \$77,000; American Tobacco Company, \$250,000; John L. Lotsch, banker, \$57,000; Harry Warner of Warner Brothers Pictures, \$50,000; and numerous sums of \$10,000 paid by insurance brokers and others concerned with bankruptcy proceedings. Of special interest was the alleged bribe of \$250,000 paid by the American Tobacco Company, which was being sued by a stockholder for the sum of \$10,000,000 who sought recovery of bonuses paid to officers of the tobacco company. During the course of the trial, the well known Lord and Thomas Advertising Agency in Chicago made a "loan" of \$250,000 to Judge Manton and companies in which he was interested. Later, according to District Attorney Dewey's report, Judge Manton cast the deciding vote in favor of the tobacco company. The bribe of Warner Brothers Pictures was also made in the form of a "loan," all but \$10,000 of which was repaid, according to Dewey's report.

The newly-appointed Attorney-General, Frank Murphy, late Governor-General of the Philippines, also had considerable to do in exposing Judge Manton's activities. Immediately after assuming his position in President Roosevelt's Cabinet, Attorney-General Murphy ordered an investigation of Judge Manton's activities by the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives.

There was further evidence of the workings of a "democratic" conscience in another large city—Kansas City—where the county grand jury issued more than 90 indictments, in the first move against the so-called Tom Pendergast political machine, last remaining organization of the kind in the country's metropolitan centers.

In Chicago, "Big Bill" Thompson, former mayor, under whose administration Al Capone and other gangsters grew up, was overwhelmingly defeated when he tried to stage a come-back.

In the House of Representatives at Washington an attempt to impeach Miss Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, America's first woman Cabinet officer, failed. The judiciary Committee unanimously ruled there were no grounds for impeachment involved in her refusal to approve deportation proceedings against Harry Bridges, Australian-born labor leader and head of Pacific Coast longshoremen. Another committee in Congress, investigating un-American activities, had demanded his deportation on the ground he was a communist. Miss Perkins also reversed a deportation order against General Nicholas Bogomotetz, former officer in the imperial Russian forces. The former general is now a maker of shoes in Hollywood. His deportation was demanded on grounds of "moral tergitude," in connection with his relations with Ann Zaporachuk, whom he later married. Of more serious import was a charge that while leading imperial troops in Siberia he had fired on American soldiers in 1918. This he denied.