

time. The men concerning whom charges should have been either sustained or thrown out are still simply under suspicion. The governmental machinery of the State also remains under suspicion because either its full power was not exerted to bring out the truth or else it was impotent in that particular.

A Martyr to Duty

WHEN Don R. Mellett was shot down from ambush last July in Canton, Ohio, the crime was not one of individual hatred, but of the vengeance of a criminal group of lawbreakers who had been relying on protection from corrupt politicians. Mr. Mellett attacked their vicious conspiracy mercilessly in his newspaper, and they were both frightened and murderous.

The man McDermott, who has been on trial at Canton, has been convicted by a jury of ten men and two women of murder in the first degree. So much had been said of the power of the Canton gang and their political backers that doubt had been felt whether justice could be done, but the jury took only an hour to consider their verdict; and, although they added a recommendation to mercy, it was probably more because they knew that McDermott was not solely guilty than because the evidence was insufficient.

It is gratifying that public honor has been so far vindicated in Canton. The highest tribute to Don Mellett's courage and defense of decency against graft and gang crime would be to root out altogether and finally the conditions that made his murder possible.

Has It Really Come to This?

SOME little time ago Michael Willner, a farmhand, was shot and injured by hold-up men while he was sorting chickens for his employer, one Samuel Katz, at Newark, New Jersey. On his recovery, Willner brought suit for damages against his employer, and the jury awarded him \$1,792. Katz appealed the case to the Supreme Court.

The case hinged on the answer to the question as to whether the injury grew out of a situation that "should be reasonably anticipated as connected with the employment." In answering this question, the Justices of the Supreme Court went on record as follows: "In these times when such occurrences are of more than daily occurrence, we think there can be but one answer." In other words, liability to robber attacks has come to be a matter of common expectation, in the opinion of the Supreme Court, and the judgment of the lower court was confirmed.

Such a conclusion is a shocking com-

mentary on the lawlessness of the times; but it serves to illustrate anew that the enforcement of law and the support of constituted authority are the concern of all law-abiding people.

The Baumes Laws Upheld

THE Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, sitting in Brooklyn, has unanimously upheld one of the Baumes Laws which requires the sentencing for life of fourth offenders guilty of felony. County Judge Taylor had refused to follow the law as unconstitutional, Justice Lewis had affirmed the validity of the act. It was on appeal of Judge Taylor from the decision of Justice Lewis that the Appellate Division's decision was made. Judge Taylor now announces his purpose to carry the case to the New York Court of Appeals. Upon the final decision will rest the fate of this experiment in dealing with the habitual criminal.

A Head-On Collision

WHETHER the head-on railway collision of two fast express trains on the Southern Railway at Rockmart, Georgia, on December 23, in which twenty persons were killed and many were injured, was due to a misunderstanding of orders or of signals, the lesson is the same. It is the oft-proved fatal danger in relying chiefly on human fallibility. In this case a change in engineers had been made on one of the trains, and apparently the new man mistook the verbal order he received or ran past the switch where he should have stopped.

The need of automatic stops or automatic control of engines is peculiarly strong when a main line carrying heavy express passenger traffic has in whole or part but one track and passing often has to be made by waiting at sidings. The Outlook has more than once reported experiments and actual application of automatic systems by which an engine is physically prevented from passing an adverse signal. In some form this measure is being adopted or has been adopted by important roads, but its general use is still in the future. When it comes, such tragedies as this in Georgia will be fewer and we shall hear less of the "human element" and the individual fault of one employee in causing a frightful casualty.

Porto Rico as a Center for Pan-American Education

GENERAL education in Porto Rico was resuscitated twenty-five years ago by help from the United States. Now, already, Porto Rico is making an

important offering in return. By reason of its position central to the Americas and of its cultural inheritance from Spain, the West Indian dependency of the United States is ambitious to become the converging point of Pan-American economic and scientific development and the meeting-place of Spanish and English culture. Invitations to American interest and aid have reached The Outlook from Porto Rican intellectual leaders.

This Porto Rican vision is definitely coming nearer to realization. The School of Tropical Medicine is jointly operated by the University of Porto Rico, from which it receives most of its financial support, and by Columbia University, for which it serves as a graduate school of medicine. The Porto Rican College of Business Administration is under the honorary direction of Dr. Everett W. Lord, Director of the similar college of Boston University—a factor of co-ordination which permits students to pass from one to the other for any term's work, and thus affords a valuable opportunity to Americans planning business careers in Spanish-American countries. The University's Summer School of Spanish invites Spanish and American teachers to work side by side in courses directed honorarily by Dr. Ramon Menendez Pidal, of the Centro in Madrid, and directed actively by Dr. Frederico de Onis, of Columbia University.

The educational history of Porto Rico since the island was severed from Spain has been exemplary. With no financial aid from the United States (and with 33.6 per cent of its Budget at present devoted to schools), Porto Rico is developing an educational system that the International Institute of Teachers College has recently found comparable to that of New York and Massachusetts. During the past twenty-five years illiteracy has been reduced from 85 per cent to 45 per cent, the number of schools has been increased from 545 to 2,943, and the enrollment has grown from 44,681 to 233,425. The execution of the educational program is not yet complete, for 200,000 children are still not touched by the schools, and 84 per cent of the pupils do not go beyond the third grade. But even in the United States the majority of children go only through the sixth grade. The important factors assuring further advance are the willingness of the country to spend taxes on education, the dynamic enthusiasm prevalent in the schools, and the growing leadership of the University of Porto Rico.

The international culmination of Porto Rico's phenomenal educational growth promises to furnish a greatly valuable contribution to liberal civilization



School of Tropical Medicine, San Juan, Porto Rico

in the Western Hemisphere. The beginning of co-operation on the part of United States institutions is gratifying.

Safety for the Panama Canal

THE Governments of the United States and the Republic of Panama have agreed upon a new treaty for the protection of the Panama Canal Zone. It is now awaiting consideration by the United States Senate and the Assembly of Panama. In consequence of it, some European critics are declaring that Panama is being put in the position of violating her obligations as a member of the League of Nations.

The essential point in the new treaty is that if the United States is involved in war Panama agrees to consider herself also in a state of war. Detailed provision is made for the defense of the Panama Canal, which would be in the hands of the United States. Particularly careful arrangements are planned as regards aircraft and radio defense. From the point of view of certain observers in Geneva, Paris, and London, this constitutes an invasion of the sovereignty of Panama and reduces her independence to a shadow. But the London "Sunday Observer" takes the sensible position. It argues that secure control of the Canal by the United States will give confidence to the world's shipping, and so its effects are likely to be beneficial.

If the United States were at war, it would be under a vital necessity to take every possible precaution to protect the Canal. That would mean action in the territory of Panama. It is far better for Panama to come to an agreement with Washington which recognizes the right of Panama to share in an arrangement affecting her territory than to run the risk of a situation which might call for action without consulting Panama. The United States, in so doing, has emphasized rather than undermined the national integrity of Panama.

Whether or not the new treaty affects the relationship of Panama to the League of Nations is not a concern of the United States. That is a matter between Panama and the League. But the League Covenant specifically recognizes the Monroe Doctrine. Consequently, there does not appear to be any practical reason why the two sets of interests cannot be adjusted without conflict.

A New Trial of Our Policy in Central America

CIVIL war in Nicaragua has faced Uncle Sam with a new problem. Shall he back one side in a Nicaraguan fight while Mexico backs another?

The United States recognizes the administration headed by Adolfo Diaz as the Government of Nicaragua; Mexico recognizes the administration headed by

Juan B. Sacasa. The two parties are at war. Meanwhile the United States and Mexico maintain diplomatic relations of friendship—despite their differences over the status of the land and petroleum rights of citizens of the United States in Mexico. The anomalous situation that so complicates our delicate negotiations with Mexico has arisen in this way:

In January, 1926, General Emiliano Chamorro seized power in Nicaragua, forcing out of office the elected President, Señor Solorzano. Under the terms of the Constitution, the Vice-President, Dr. Sacasa, should have assumed the office left vacant by the President. But both Solorzano and Sacasa were Liberals, while Chamorro was a Conservative. Chamorro offered Sacasa a diplomatic post. Sacasa refused it and fled the country. Chamorro then instituted impeachment proceedings against Sacasa; and a Congress under the domination of Chamorro declared the office of Vice-President vacant, although the Supreme Court alone has authority to rule in impeachment proceedings.

The United States refused to recognize the régime of General Chamorro. This position was in accord with the terms of the Central American agreement of 1923 by which no administration coming into power by violence was to be considered legal. The Central