

PEOPLE I HAVE KNOWN

Sacco and Vanzetti, Dead, But Still on Trial.

By ELIZABETH GLENDOWER EVANS

EDITOR'S NOTE—Elizabeth Glendower Evans gave the best part of seven years to an effort to save Sacco and Vanzetti from execution for a crime she was convinced they had not committed. Her conviction was based on what I believe was the most thorough and complete knowledge of the case possessed by any one of the great numbers of well known public spirited citizens who became interested at various stages of the trial and thereafter did all in their power to prevent miscarriage of justice.

It happened that Mrs. Evans became interested in the case at the very beginning. She sat through the thirty-six days of jury trial and was satisfied that the verdict was the product of anti-alien hysteria, that two non-English speaking Italians, one an industrious shoemaker, the other a fish peddler, had been made the victims of prejudice and hatred arising out of the world war. From that hour until the end came, Elizabeth Evans fought without rest to stay the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti.

Before their death she hoped and believed that the proof of their innocence must be forthcoming; since then she has felt that though too late to save the lives of the misjudged men, revelations of their innocence and proof of who did commit the murder for which they died would be of tremendous value in abolishing capital punishment and in prevention of recurrence of the misery and sacrifice suffered by Sacco and Vanzetti.

The Outlook investigation has renewed Mrs. Evans' belief that Sacco and Vanzetti will be ultimately vindicated of the crime for which they were electrocuted and that they will not have died in vain.—
B. C. L.

SACCO and Vanzetti are dead. But they are not forgotten. Now their case is reopened, and in an unexpected quarter. The Outlook and Independent, a journal of conservative standing, has published two articles, one under the date of October 31, entitled **VANZETTI WAS INNOCENT**, and the other the week following, November 7, entitled **CHECKING UP THE VANZETTI STORY**, which together would seem to knock the prop from under the State's case which climaxed in the execution of the two men.

It will be remembered that when Sacco and Vanzetti were brought to trial for a double murder at South Braintree which occurred on April 15, 1920, Vanzetti had been already found guilty of an attempted payroll robbery the previous December, and that this earlier conviction, although never referred to explicitly in his second trial, nevertheless played large in securing the verdict of guilt for both him and Sacco. I have long known that a criminal named Frank Silva, alias Paul Martini, could clear Vanzetti of the Bridgewater crime, if he would speak, and many others have had the same knowledge. Now, tardily Silva's silence has been broken. It happened in this wise.

Bent Finds New Evidence

SILAS BENT, a man of literary standing in New York City, has a friend named Jack Callahan who likewise has standing in the literary and the newspaper world. Callahan in his youth had a criminal record which, however, he has since abundantly lived down. Somewhat less than a year ago, in the course of a powwow with Bent about literary matters, the Sacco-Vanzetti case came up and Callahan said that in the underworld it was generally believed that they had been framed; and he went on to give cogent reasons why it was his own belief that this was so. Bent thought this conversation of sufficient importance to take it to Francis Rufus Bellamy, Editor of The Outlook. Many consultations ensued, until finally Callahan was given the task, by The Outlook, of trying to find Silva and see if he could be gotten to talk. Accordingly, Callahan went to Boston to review certain underworld connections.

From there he went to Providence, to New York, to Philadelphia, to Baltimore, back to Philadelphia, and then back to Boston.

Many months passed. Finally he was brought into touch with a man named James Mede, who told him the following story. The crime, he said, had been planned in his boot-blacking and taxi-stand which was used as a hangout for a criminal gang. The crime was suggested by Silva. It was planned that Mede should drive the car, and he went to Bridgewater several times to look the place over. But before the deed was done, he, Mede, was arrested and sent to state prison. Some time later, Joe San Marco who had been one of the gang, came to the prison, and from him Mede learned of the Bridgewater holdup. San Marco said that besides himself, Silva, Doggy Bruno and Guinea Oates had been the participants. Mede told Callahan that he had not seen these men since he had gotten out of prison. But he would see what he could do. Presently he located Silva, to whom he introduced Callahan.

Outlook Exonerates Vanzetti

AT FIRST Silva would not talk. But presently he grew confiding, and he confirmed Mede's story. Finally, he went with Callahan to New York and made a confession for which he was to be paid at the expiration of one month—provided investigation showed the facts to be as he related. His story and the various check-ups which were made were submitted to competent lawyers. "The result," in The Outlook's opinion, "is the complete exoneration of Vanzetti from any part in the Bridgewater hold-up for which he was sentenced for fifteen years, and which led, directly, to his conviction for the Braintree crime and subsequent execution."

Just a few of the data on which The Outlook relied in making its so certainly expressed opinion, are as follows: Silva drove Bent and Callahan over the route to Bridgewater, and rehearsed the doing of the crime. On reaching the spot Silva said that there had been a trolley line down the street when he did the job, and none was there. Later, he said: "Once when we were down here looking things over Doggy Bruno and I played pool right there. But that ain't the building." (He was pointing to the Bridgewater Post-office). Later still he said: "That is where we got our breakfast that morning." The only restaurant located there had been made into a private club. But inquiry showed that there had been a trolley line down the street some eight years ago; there had been a pool room where the post-office now stands; and there had been a public dining room where Silva said that he and his pals breakfasted.

Physical Facts Don't Lie

NOW men may be mistaken in identifying another man, they may lie or be mistaken about where they were at a certain day, but physical facts do not lie. Car tracks do not lie; a brick post-office does not lie; a restaurant does not lie," said The Outlook investigators. More than this: there was Silva's marked agitation when he reached the scene of the crime; he was so excited that he almost stuttered. And there was his fear of recognition by the man from whom he said he had stolen the number plates used on the auto—eight years before! It was facts such as these and others which it is impossible to state without much explanation, that led The Outlook to affirm in big letters on its outside cover—**VANZETTI WAS INNOCENT**.

Further, there are photos of the gang which Silva said attempted the holdup and also of Vanzetti which afford a demonstration to be seen at a glance. Vanzetti was described at the trial as the bandit who carried "a sawed-off gun." He was described as having a "cropped moustache" and dark hair which stood up straight, almost an inch high, "like a pompadour," said one witness. His photograph shows a very large flowing moustache and soft, thin hair, not very dark, which lies flat, whereas the photograph of Doggy Bruno, whom Silva said carried a "sawed-off gun," corresponds in every particular with the above description of the

bandit. Judge for yourself which picture the description fits.

Beginning To Open Up

THE most damning spot in the whole story is that which implicates Alvin T. Fuller, the Governor of Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts State Police. William G. Thompson, the eminent attorney who defended Sacco and Vanzetti in the latter stages of their case, got in touch with Mede as matters drew toward a crisis, and he wrote the Governor a letter urging an interview with Mede, and explaining the importance of the information which Mede would give. After some difficulty, the interview did come off. But the Governor treated Mede with marked hostility, so Mede reported to Mr. Thompson to whose office he went directly after his interview with the Governor, and nothing was done by the Governor to follow up his statements. Nevertheless, Mede's conscience so troubled him that he took his statement to the office of the State Police, risking the revocation of his boxing license by so doing. He went there accompanied by two lawyers. The captain of the State Police refused to receive the statement: "I think it might be damned embarrassing to me." No urging would move him. "I can't take it and I won't," he had said. Only those who have experienced the bitterly hostile attitude of Massachusetts courts and police, and other officials, can realize the obstacles encountered by those who attempted a rehearing in the famous Sacco-Vanzetti case.

"This case is closed," said the present head of the L. Q. White Shoe Company, when he was asked to release one of his employes from obvious instructions not to talk. "No, it is not closed," retorted The Outlook investigator, "it is just beginning to open up."

SUNSHINE CLOTHING

The Bureau of Standards has just completed a study of the transparency of various cloths to the valuable ultraviolet rays of solar radiation. As a result of their activity, it is expected that a large percentage of children's clothing will hereafter be made from materials which let the maximum amount of ultraviolet solar radiation reach the body. The health giving qualities of these rays are now so well established that their value is no longer open to question.

The Bureau's scientists found that open-weave cloth lets more ultraviolet rays through than close-woven material. They also discovered that there was a high transmission of the rays through bleached white material. Dyed stuffs held back the rays and woolen goods were only about half as transparent as cotton.

"Thin as a rail" is an old expression and most of us imagine that it means thin as a rail fence. Wrong. The reference is to the bird known as a rail which lives, feeds and raises families among the thick reeds of semi-swamps. The rail is fine eating and when the ancient hunters used to see this bird escape by squeezing himself between reeds no more than an inch or so apart, although he was 10 to 12 inches long, they said he must be "thin." Hence "thin as a rail." There are seven or eight families of rail in the United States but the Carolina rail of the southern states is the best known, because he is so tender to human palates.

Wyoming hunters claim that their state is the last hunting paradise in the United States, although they admit that paradise extends across the line a bit into Idaho. Moose, elk and bear are still plentiful, especially in the Tetons, which are called the "Alps of America" and are unsurpassed for rugged and grand mountain scenery. The state is full of "guide ranches," where rich easterners are taken in and guided on hunting expeditions. Many of these ranches advertise in eastern newspapers and magazines and most of them guarantee a bear to every guest.