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"THIS" LEAGUE

In a letter from General Barnett,
former commander of the marine
corps, to Colonel John H. Russell,
commanding officer of the marines
serving in Haiti, is this:

Practically indiscriminate killing of
natives in Haiti has gone on for some
time. I was beyond expectation to
know that it was at all possible that
such possibly could be performed so
badly by marines of any class.

This letter was prompted by evi-
dence brought forward at the court-
martial of two marines charged with
the illegal execution of Haitian
bandits. General Barnett ordered an
investigation of the most thorough
character, which has since been made.
The finding has been in the hands of
Secretary Daniels since last March. It
ought to be made public, and, of
course, the guilty men—if there are
any—should be punished. The in-
vestigation was approved by former
Secretary of State Lansing, and, of
course, by the navy department.
They only want coal for the people of
Indiana at a fair price. This they in-
tend to have if there is power vested
in them under the law to require the
operators to furnish the coal.

The Governor spoke of the operators' complaint that too much pub-
licity had been given their affairs.
Business is no longer conducted under
cover. If the production costs of
operating coal mines are legitimate,
the operators should be glad of the
opportunity to publish their costs.
This should prove their case, and
show the people that the prices fixed
by the commission are too low. In-
stead, the attitude of the operators
has been against publicity, against
investigation, against regulation,
against everything the commission
has tried to do. Governor Goodrich
and members of his family have been
financially interested in coal mining
properties and it may be assumed
that he spoke with full knowledge
of the facts, and he certainly spoke
against what must be supposed to
be the interest of his friends.

SAY DIVORCES

Judge Moll has called attention, in a
communication to The News, to a
divorce case trial at Jeffersonville in
which—if the circumstances have
been reported correctly—there seems
little doubt that the law was violated.

The statute providing that no divorce
case should be called for trial until
sixty days after the complaint was
filed, was aimed at two evils. The
first was collusion, the result of which
was the filing of a divorce complaint,
waiver of defense, a hurried trial and
the granting of the decree. Investigation
showed that subsequent to many such
trials the person to whom a decree was
granted was remarrying either the same
day or within a few days thereafter.
The second evil was ill-considered
action on the part of the plaintiff in
divorce actions.

Many divorce cases in Indiana are
not brought to trial for the reason
that they resulted from quarrels,
misunderstandings or the abrupt decision
that husband and wife could not live
together. Sixty days' wait before
presenting evidence to the court has
resulted many times in the suits being
dismissed.

The results of the investigation
ought by all means to be made public.
The good name of the marine
corps and of the American people as
well as at stake. There is always
great danger that troops engaged in
such service become demoralized. It
is a service that calls for the highest
degree of self-restraint in the face
of provocation. The American people
will be sorry to learn that there has
been, on the part of the marines, any
such failure as that spoken of by
General Barnett. But if there has
been, they want to know it.

TRANSPORTATION INSURANCE

According to a statement issued by
A. H. Smith, president of the New
York Central Lines, in the four weeks
ending August 25, the railroads of the
United States loaded 2,853,822 cars,
the greatest number ever loaded in
a like period in the history of the
country. This achievement is the
source of satisfaction to the roads.
It shows that they are responding to
the demand for increased transportation
facilities to the full extent of
the equipment and plaintiff's
witnesses makes a farce of the obligation
the law imposes upon him.

As the resolution speaks in general
terms of employees it is taken to
include teachers as well as super-
intendents of departments, janitors and
others. The theory of the school sys-
tem is that it is for the benefit of all
the people regardless of their political
beliefs. In theory, at least, the school
board is out of politics, and should
at all times hold itself aloof from
partisan activities. Employed should
observe the same regulations. No at-
tempt has been made to prevent
teachers or other employees of the
board from registering and casting
their votes on election day, but it is
felt that if they do their full duty to
the schools they will have no time to
be active partisans.

BUSINESS BY TORCH

These southern cotton growers, who
are spending their evenings burning
cotton gins whose owners pay less
for cotton than the planters believe
to be a fair price, are extremely
shortsighted. Their idea of the cotton
market is that it ends at the gin.
By burning a few gins, according to
this line of reasoning, they will ter-
rorize the local cotton buyers, who
will close their doors and somehow
or other cause the price to rise again
to 40 cents a pound or better.

Georgia seems to be the center of
the gin burning orgy. Georgia which
recently nominated Tom Watson for
the United States Senate. Watson has
been preaching regulation by violence
so long to the people of Georgia that
many of them have come to believe
in him, although during the war his
newspaper was so violently sedition-
ary that the government was compelled to

suppress it. Watson is not charged
with complicity in the gin burnings,
but he is partly responsible for the
childish reasoning back of them. It
is not surprising that people who
would nominate Watson for the senate
would resort to the torch to make a
fictitious market for their products.

The present activities of the night
riders constitute another phase of
the south's restlessness. The negro
uprising in Arkansas, in which hun-
dreds of negroes participated under
the leadership of fanatics, believing
that they could seize the state very
much as the Bolsheviks seized Russia,
was born of the same kind of thinking.
The southern lynchings are also
manifestations of an imperfect ap-
preciation of civilization as exemplified
in this country. These outbreaks
are not dangerous to the country,
but they are a burden to the south
and a challenge to southern leaders
of conservative views and sound
strength.

AMERICA AND HAITI

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The resignation of Dan W. Simms,
special assistant attorney-general of
the United States, in the prosecution
of the case of the government against
the coal operators and officers of the
mine workers, accused of conspiracy,
will cause a general prickling up of
the ears on the part of the public.
Mr. Simms in politics is a Democrat,
and presumably therefore not anti-
administration, but above that he is a
lawyer, and was chosen as such.
Now he receives a mysterious letter
from Attorney-General Palmer, which
gives instructions as to how the case
in court is to be conducted. Mr.
Simms immediately resigns and says
that the attorney-general has "brought
the heart out of me in the case." He says
not that he has no knowledge of an
"understanding" that Attorney-
General Palmer refers to. Evidently
here is a case in which the public
would be glad to know more.

The Atlantic City judge who be-
lives failure to read the newspapers
should be a cause for divorce probably
realizes, also, that those who fail to
read the papers are divorced from
all the bargains.

Having several employees to keep
out of politics, the Indianapolis
school board doubtless is willing to
set the example.

Maybe those "armed bandits" in
Haiti come under the general military
classification of live targets.

The most surprising thing about
the Chicago whisky ring is the length
of time it took to discover it.

Reduction of the price of coal from
\$1 to \$2 a ton by Chicago dealers
might be used by Indiana operators
as an additional reason why the Indiana
commission should allow higher
prices for coal at the mines.

With sugar at 10 cents a pound
there's no real reason why your
heart's desire should not make a
plate of fudge occasionally.

One of the sad things about every
political campaign is that the fellow
who always is demanding to know
this or that hardly ever finds any-
body who will pay any attention
to him.

Judging by Brigadier-General
George Barnett's report on the work
of the American marines in Haiti, the
surviving armed bandits in Haitian
territory policed by the marines
might as well look up the immigration
laws in Mexico.

THE PIG UNIT OF VALUE

No matter what the political orators
say, whether they are spouting the
faith that it is in them, or reciting ac-
cording to board-of-strategy specifica-
tions, normalcy will still be in the
distance until lunchroom pie is what
it used to be. Apple pie—with
fresh, canned or evaporated filling—
may be regarded as the unit of pie
value. Before the war, when not
many pieces were cut from the pie
to testify. A small fee is given the
prosecutor for such appearances.
Often he makes no effort to find the
defendant, asks few if any questions
of the plaintiff and plaintiff's wit-
nesses and makes a farce of the ob-
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THE POLICE UNIT OF VALUE

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The coal men's argument that if
the coal business is subject to fixed
prices, all other business should be
subjected to the same treatment, is
probably based upon their conviction
that the coal business has recently
been conducted solely with a view to
delivering plenty of coal at a reason-
able price.

The Polish-Rod aristocracy does not
become effective till Monday, giving
the Foles time to dispose of a few
beds who have been particularly an-
noying.

When retail dealers are able to
obtain a normal supply of coal com-
modities, they will no longer make unfair
retail profits. —Frederick E. Matson,
attorney for the Indiana Retail Coal
Merchants Association.

And yet the day of the little green
cards is not so far in the past.

The Governor's experience in the
coal business makes what he says
about the padded accounts of coal
companies and the salaries of some of
their officials especially interesting,
and more convincing than such
things usually are. But he'll never
make the coal men believe 'em.

Nor does Governor Coolidge neglect
to call it the "Wilson league."

The people have been rather indif-
ferent to the coal men's notions dur-
ing the recent pleasant weather, but
when the predicted cold wave comes
they are likely to take more interest
in the situation.

imperative needs of the country. The
suggestion invites serious considera-
tion because of its simplicity and its
fundamental soundness.

THE GOVERNOR ON COAL

Responsibility for the law creating
the Indiana special food and fuel
price commission was placed squarely
at the door of the coal operators in a
speech Governor Goodrich made at
Leopold yesterday. Subsequent actions
of the operators, he said, "have settled
beyond all question the fact that neither
the coal operators nor any other group of
men can safely be intrusted to deal fairly with the
public when the fixing of prices is left
entirely in their hands, as is the price
of coal at the present time."

The Governor charged that some
mining companies, for the purpose of
avoiding federal taxes, had padded
their payroll and were now charging
salaries of \$30,000 and \$40,000 against
coal production costs when the same
men who now draw these salaries were
merely content with \$5,000 or

\$10,000. "I don't think Penna or any
one else connected with the Operators'
Association wants the inside facts
told before the people of the state," the
Governor added. Continuing:

If the operators, as Penna indicates,
want to pursue the policy of one faith
of another faith is not a new
political move but the system has
been brought to a higher state of de-
velopment in the present campaign.
The country must go back to the
Lincoln-Douglas days for real politi-
cal debates. Nowadays the candi-
dates travel at a high rate of speed,
expounding their own doctrines and
leaving the other side work out its
own method of attack or defense.

The Democrats are surprised at the
belief that the name of Roosevelt
would have some weight with former
Progressives. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
their candidate for Vice-President,
swung through the west, preaching a
radical revolution, destroying what already
exists for the sake of the new.

Considered as a project in states-
manship, the Harding program is
solid and decent, and not con-
trary to the people's welfare.

It is impossible to interpret this
other than as a complete and
final rendering of the nations
and as a definite plan of
action to be taken by the
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At the same time, Mr. Harding
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of the American people.

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