

## NATION'S ROADS TEEMING WITH POOR, HUNGRY

Huge Peace-Time Army Is  
Causing New Problems  
of Social Disorders.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance  
WASHINGTON, Oct. 2.—A great  
migratory peace-time army, of tens  
of thousands of homeless men,  
women and children, has been let  
loose upon America by the depression,  
to create menacing problems in  
dependency, sickness, crime and  
social disorder.

Drifters—hoboes, "bindle-stiffs,"  
hitch-hikers, "flivver tramps" and  
even whole families turned vagrant  
—are storming towns and cities in  
numbers heretofore undreamed of.  
They are begging for jobs, falling  
which, for food and shelter. Many  
are being driven to crime. Com-  
munities, bewildered by their num-  
bers, pass them on to other com-  
munities.

Conditions among this aimless,  
drifting multitude, recently were de-  
scribed by Robert Whitcomb, a  
writer for Atlantic Monthly, who  
was forced into what he called "the  
new Odyssey" as "a monstrous  
nightmare of dull horrors." And  
stories coming into the President's  
Gifford committee headquarters  
bear out this description.

### Faint With Hunger

One man tells of a farmer's whole  
family from drought-stricken North  
Dakota crawling out of a box car in  
Chicago, stiff with cold and faint  
with hunger. A Utah civil engineer  
counted ninety-two persons—in-  
cluding three women, one of whom  
carried a baby—on one freight train.

President John S. Pfeatt of the  
Denver & Rio Grande, is quoted as  
saying that there are from sixty  
to 200 "dead-heads" on every freight  
train and from six to twelve on  
every passenger train. In July,  
another officer of this road says,  
11,000 persons were carried on its  
freight lines. Many, weak from loss  
of sleep or lack of food, fall from  
the moving trains to be killed or  
crippled. When thrown off by train-  
men the ragged horde gathers in  
hobo camps.

### Highways Swarming

The highways swarm with hitch-  
hikers, travelers report. These are  
augmenting the usual migration of  
casual workers that swings around  
the great national circle from the  
northwest wheat belt southward to  
the cotton belt and thence west-  
ward to pick fruit.

This year are seen many families,  
dispossessed in the cities, traveling  
toward sunnier climates in Florida,  
Texas and the Pacific coast. Calif-  
ornia and Florida are the worst  
sufferers. Reaping fruits of years  
of climate boosting, California now  
harbors more than 100,000 stran-  
gers, its river banks, valley towns  
and railroad rights of way infested  
with thousands of disillusioned  
easterners. Its cities pressed with  
the task of feeding new mouths.

St. Paul, Detroit, Chicago, Bir-  
mingham, New Orleans, Florida  
towns, Texas oil cities and the en-  
tire Pacific coast feel the brunt of  
the problem.

### 200 SCHOOL MEN MEET

Clay Pigeon Shoot Features Outing  
of City Club.

Clay pigeon shooting featured the  
outing of the Indianapolis School  
Men's Club at the Boy Scout  
reservation Wednesday afternoon.  
Approximately 200 were present.

Leaders in the pigeon shoot were  
W. A. Hacker, director of social  
service, Russell Willson, president of  
the board of school commissioners,  
and Paul C. Stetson, superintendent.  
Dinner was served in the scout  
field house. At the meeting held  
after the meal, W. S. Barnhart,  
head of the commercial department  
at Manual Training high school and  
president of the club, presided.

### WARN IN LICENSE WAR

Hiner Serves Notice on Florida for  
Jailing of Driver.

Ward B. Hiner, Red Ball truck-  
man, has served notice on Florida  
officials that he will launch a drive  
against all Florida licensed cars in  
Indiana unless they release one of  
his drivers now being held in jail  
at Jacksonville for having Hoosier  
license plates.

In a letter to the press Hiner  
charges that the war on truck  
licenses is backed by the railroads  
to prevent cheap hauling.

Hiner is backed in his stand by  
James W. Carpenter, Indiana license  
commissioner.

It is said that there are 11,896,  
780 different hands possible in the  
game of bridge.

## INSURE GUNMEN? NEVER Lead Poisoning' Risk Too Great



They all wanted insurance . . . but they were all turned down flat. . . . Al Capone, upper left, Legs Diamond, upper center, and Johnny Scacco, lower center, were all refused. . . . Joe Aiello, right, and Mickey Duffy, lower left, have already demonstrated what poor risks they would have been, if accepted . . . both having been later murdered.

BY DEXTER H. TEED  
NEA Service Writer

NEW YORK, Oct. 2.—Big  
time gangsters and racketeers and all the smaller fry,  
wealthy though many of them  
may be, are entirely out of luck  
when they try to get life insur-  
ance.

Even if they are robust and  
healthily their susceptibility to  
"lead poisoning" makes them poor  
risks.

And now, although it means loss  
of policies, aggregating millions of  
dollars, the great insurance com-  
panies of America have agreed  
unanimously to refuse life insur-  
ance to all racketeers.

It is a cold business proposition,  
and their judgment has been vin-  
dicated.

Behind the scenes in this strug-  
gle to prevent gangsters from ob-  
taining insurance is the story of  
anonymous investigators who are  
risking death and injury to ferret  
out the true status of underworld  
characters who apply under as-  
sumed names and give false occu-  
pations.

Such notorious figures as Al Capone,  
Legs Diamond, Joe Aiello, Mickey Duffy and Johnny Scacco  
have tried in the past to take out  
policies that would assure their  
heirs of plenty of insurance  
money. All have failed.

\*\*\*

In the case of Duffy the good  
judgment of several com-  
panies was proved. Duffy, shot  
down in a luxurious suite in an  
Atlantic City hotel, went the way  
of many of the "big shots" in  
gangdom.

Today mention of his name causes  
a prickling up of ears.

Friends in Indianapolis occasion-  
ally had advanced his name in  
governorship talk, but such mention  
was received lightly.

\*\*\*

It is known that he has pledged  
himself to support Frank Dailey for  
the nomination and even has gone  
so far as to tell this to Paul V. Mc-  
Nutt, outstanding contender.

Yet through fortuitous circum-  
stances of time and place, his defi-  
ance of the state tax board and paid  
lobbyists for organizations demand-  
ing tax slashes, his name is now  
to the fore when nominations in  
1932 are being considered.

For this alone politicians now  
praise him.

\*\*\*

He pointed out that unless real  
estate is relieved of at least 50 per  
cent of its present burden, the small  
owner is faced with confiscation.  
The statement alone won for him  
the regard of the Indiana farm  
bureau, with its more than 50,000  
members; the independent home  
owner and real estate dealers.

Then Sullivan showed that the  
presence of water and light com-  
pany representatives on the Cham-  
ber of Commerce budget-slashing  
committee is worthy of a horse  
laugh, because the companies they  
represent collect millions from the  
city government for light and wa-  
ter and yet they desire to cut every  
item but that which affects them.

\*\*\*

This attack on the commerce  
committee also is a ten strike, be-  
cause all classes of Indianapolis  
citizens are tiring of the attitude  
taken by this special committee.

But the proposal of a one-day's  
session of the general assembly to  
pass an income tax bill and lift the  
burden on real property is of es-  
pecial interest, because public opin-  
ion over Indiana is asking that Gov-  
ernor Harry G. Leslie convene the  
legislature to devise some method of  
improving the situation.

Accepted does not detract from the  
fact that he is the first important  
public official in the state to describe  
the situation frankly and suggest a  
possible solution.

For this alone politicians now  
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\*\*\*

Even well-fed Al Capone, fat  
and robust and well-protected, can  
not get a cent of insurance.

Though he is the dominant  
figure in Chicago's gang life, none  
of the great insurance companies  
will take a chance on him.

Probably Legs Diamond, New  
York's most publicized gangster,  
couldn't have passed a physical  
examination anyway, but he never  
tried. He didn't get that far when  
he applied.

\*\*\*

Since 1927 he had been applying to  
a score of companies for \$100,-  
000 life insurance and was invariably  
turned down.

Little Joe Aiello, before his career  
as a racketeer, won funds to his career  
with machine gun bullets, had applied  
for life insurance under an assumed  
name.

He is determined and died without benefit of life in-  
surance.

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