

The Indianapolis Times

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MONDAY, APRIL 3, 1933.

THIS BANK DESERVES HELP

IT is to be hoped that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation will find some way to help the Fletcher American bank. Indianapolis has been exceptionally fortunate during the recent banking troubles. This is not altogether a matter of luck. It is due in a large measure to the conservatism and devotion of the local bankers.

There is no point in denying that the Fletcher American is suffering from temporary embarrassment. There has been a good deal of loose and nonsensical gossip about condition of this institution, but the facts are plain.

It has a large block of frozen assets which congealed despite anything the bank's officials could do. Its vaults contain assets of enough value to take care of depositors. The trouble is in turning those values into cash.

That is where the Reconstruction Finance corporation enters the picture. It can, if it chooses, discount those assets for money.

A very practical reason why it should do so is that the depression now gives every evidence of receding. As general business conditions improve, the Fletcher American's assets are becoming more liquid by natural process of economic law. All that Indianapolis asks is that the federal government stimulate this process.

The bank has played an outstanding role in the building of industry and business in this community. It bears the name of a distinguished family of Indiana.

It has extended a helping hand to many a distressed and struggling individual and corporation in the years that have seen the city grow to one of the most important in the nation.

Now that it is itself in temporary difficulty it has earned the right to help from the city and state which it aided in building.

THIS IS TOO MUCH, JIM

THE causes of the condition into which the nation has fallen may be baffling to some people, but they are not to former Senator James E. Watson. Speaking at the Columbia Club a few nights ago, he outlined them as follows:

The election of United States senators by the people.

The direct primary instead of nomination by party caucus.

The fact that these two liberal measures finally were won after generations of bitter experience and struggle means not one whit to Jim Watson. It is nothing short of amazing that this was all he could think of to explain the difficulties of this troubled republic.

There is something magnificent about an intellect, the stony surface of which never has cracked even a fraction of an inch to let one ray of liberalism creep in. Wars may beat about it, nations may fall and others rise in their place, depression and starvation may sweep the world, yet there stands Jim Watson's granite dome, impervious to the tempests, with the names of McKinley and Mark Hanna still graven upon it.

Tears came to our old eyes when we heard this voice from the past. We remembered a quieter world when we were a mere toddler, carrying an election eve transparency for Teddy Roosevelt, days when grandfather took us driving in his smart buggy, when the whole town turned out to see a free balloon ascension at the fair grounds and when the good Calvin Coolidge was an obscure mayor of an obscure New England town. Jim Watson is still back in those days.

But the world has moved on. Balloons are archaic. The buggy is a curiosity. The social, political, and economic beliefs of yesteryear have given place to new ideas and ideals. Nobody has broken the news yet to our erstwhile senator.

Perhaps he could be persuaded to accept a post as curator of a natural history museum, where he could putter about the bones of the mastodons and mammoths. Or he might open an antique shop. But we do hope he won't speak any more. It breaks our heart.

MORE POWER TO THE I. C. C.

EFFORTS of enemies of the Interstate commerce commission to curb its power are not apt to get far. In more ways than one, President Roosevelt has indicated his appreciation of the invaluable public service of this independent governmental agency.

The fact that Commissioner Joseph Eastman has been called in as one of the President's closest advisers in the continuing railroad rehabilitation conference is especially reassuring.

The movement against the I. C. C. is camouflaged usually under the larger tenets of economy and reorganization. But the I. C. C., like the federal trade commission, saves the government and the public many millions of dollars more than its relatively small appropriation.

Its duties recently were increased by the emergency bankruptcy law, which gave it wide powers over reorganization of railroads. The product of forty-six years of successful evolution in government regulation, it possesses the expert knowledge and experience in the transportation industry which the government needs so much today in other business fields, especially banking and investments.

To propose that the I. C. C. be merged with the commerce department and come under a political official is entirely to miss the most important point regarding the commission's work; namely, its quasi-judicial function.

Consolidation of the I. C. C. with any cabinet department would not make for economy, unless its work were reduced.

A better plan, and one which the President is likely to adopt, is to widen the scope of this agency of demonstrated efficiency and of large public savings.

It can take over regulation of transportation other than railroads, and also of communications. That would be a move for economy and efficiency in government reorganization.

tion other than railroads, and also of communications. That would be a move for economy and efficiency in government reorganization.

GOLFERS WANT FEES CUT

A VIGOROUS public demand is rising for reduction of playing fees on public golf links of the city.

A petition containing several hundred names has been presented and petitioners will be given a hearing this week.

It is a matter deserving of thorough study by both the park board and the petitioners. If the several courses can be kept up to the standard prevailing last year, without a deficit resulting, it would seem only fair that the fees be cut. If not, it is doubtful whether the reductions would be pleasing to a majority of the city's golfers, who have been benefited by the high plane of excellence reached in upkeep and improvement of the courses in the last two years.

There is some agitation to maintain a 50-cent fee on the Coffin course and cut the price at South Grove and Pleasant Run. This, the better players contend, would serve to keep the duffers on the lower-priced courses and give the low scorers a better "break."

However, an element of discrimination would enter here which the park board members would like to avoid.

The budget for city golf courses has been cut appreciably this year, by lowering salaries instead of lopping employees off the pay roll. The resultant saving may make a fee reduction feasible and still keep the courses self-maintaining as a whole.

A survey of other cities shows that the majority of them charged higher fees than was the rule here. Some were double the price prevailing here. Milwaukee was one outstanding example of a lower schedule, with 20 cents for nine holes and 35 cents charged for eighteen.

Several of the cities checked have announced reductions for this year, city officials say, but they believe that the majority still will have rates as high or higher than Indianapolis now has.

If the park board can evolve a plan that will make the courses pay and still grant a reduction, its members will perform a real service for the thousands who find the public golf course their main source of recreation.

CHILDREN SHOULD COME FIRST

THE depression has brought no more acute problem to this community than the undernourished child. An adult may starve for a few months and be restored to perfect health by proper feeding and medical care. This is not true of children.

Malnutrition during the years of growth brings with it lifelong and irreparable damage. Rickets, caused by improper diet in childhood, all too often means tuberculosis and childbirth complications in adult life. To enumerate the evils of undernourishment in children would require a volume.

A few days ago Beatrice Burgan, Times woman's page editor, told of a group of Indianapolis women, headed by Mrs. E. William Lee, who are working to combat this evil. They now are feeding seventy-five children a day. Surely there is no charitable work in the city more deserving of support than this effort.

The depression is temporary, but its results to starving children are permanent.

TO THE COLONEL!

FOR most of those who go out with the tide of the experiment noble in motive there will be no moaning at the bar. For Colonel Amos W. W. Woodcock's going we shall drop at least one tear.

The colonel was much, much better than his job. Unlike some of his predecessors and many of the rank and file of his army, he had a code. He didn't mind a dash of wire-tapping, but he couldn't stomach stool pigeons and informers.

He stopped the gentle practice of using ladies as decoys for wet sinners. He once fired for brutality an agent who boasted that he used his fists in preference to his brain.

He preferred as his dry agents those of "the intelligent, well-trained, and gentlemanly type." He even frowned upon the long-accepted prohibition formula of shooting suspects in the back.

As long as we must have a prohibition director—that is, until the thirty-sixth state ratifies repeal—it is well to have a man of the Woodcock type.

CONSIDER THE CHILDREN

ADVOCATES of "cut till it bleeds" in the matter of school budgets would do well to consider a report given to the school board at its last meeting.

School 87, at 2402 Paris avenue, was branded insanitary, a firetrap, a menace to health that rapidly is growing worse. In this building 391 pupils are getting their early education. According to parents, the rate of illness is excessively high because of the bad condition of the building, many pupils missing days and weeks from their studies as a result.

The fire hazard is extreme, say several parents, in their plea for improvement.

The school board has taken the matter under advisement. If there is any way to provide for repair of the school building, the unthinking clamor for economy and more economy should be disregarded and health and lives of the pupils be safeguarded.

TIME ENOUGH

SOME congressmen complain that the administration hasn't been giving them enough time to deliberate on legislative proposals.

No such complaint could lie against the Roosevelt farm relief bill in the senate. Its agriculture committee, whose Democratic chairman has been trying practically to kill the entire measure except for the relatively unimportant cotton plan he wrote and had included, has held hearings on the bill, discussed it for days, all to no decision. Finally, the committee members were called to the White House.

We hope Mr. Roosevelt then reiterated what he told congress when he proposed the farm relief bill as the third step in his rehabilitation program—that speed is the essential thing.

He already has met the complaints of some by pushing ahead the farm mortgage legisla-

tion. He had moved to unify farm credit agencies.

But these two actions should be accompanied, we believe, by a governmental attempt to raise prices and curb production, a governmental attempt to give us a planned agriculture.

There has been enough deliberation. The senate agriculture committee should report out the Roosevelt farm relief bill, so it may be enacted without further delay.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WITHIN three or four weeks, practically all of forty-four state legislatures meeting this year will fold their tents. Already a half-dozen have adjourned. Unless these state bodies speed their tempo, they will leave the bulk of their work undone.

To repeal the eighteenth amendment, at least thirty-six states must provide for state conventions. Only twenty-three states have set up the necessary machinery. The legislatures of three states, Georgia, Kansas and North Dakota, have adjourned without taking action.

Also, if beer sales are to reap the maximum revenue, many more than the present twenty-three states permitting beer sales under the federal law must fall into line.

Relief of unemployment is quite as much up to the states as to the federal government. Federal aid will be forthcoming, but states can not lean too heavily on Washington.

Nor can the job of economizing be left up to Uncle Sam only. The biggest tax leaks are in state and local governments, now spending two-thirds of the American tax dollar.

Legislatures can relieve local burdens by providing for reorganizations to cut down on local duplicating units, wasteful practices, overstaffed public pay rolls, and graft.

To take out of shop, factory, and mine the 2,000,000 child workers, who are unwilling causes of adult unemployment, the states should ratify the child labor amendment and pass local protective measures. Only ten states have ratified.

To prevent degradation of the aged poor, every one of the remaining states should pass old age pension laws. Only seventeen of the forty-eight have done so.

Only Wisconsin has adopted a work security law, while thirty-six states are considering compulsory unemployment insurance bills.

To protect the principle of collective bargaining, the states should pass labor's model bill, framed after the Norris-La Guardia federal anti-injunction statute.

These and many more matters remain as the states' unfinished business. Governors and legislatures must get busy if reconstruction is to go forward.

President Roosevelt and congress can not do it all.

PROTECTING THE INVESTOR

THAT President Roosevelt's plan to institute strict governmental regulation over all new security issues will meet with strong public support goes without saying.

It is possible that that would not have been the case a few years ago. We weren't ready, then, to admit that investors need federal protection from those who are trying to get their money.

We were riding on the crest of the wave, and the mere suggestion that any but an important percentage of the new stock and bond issues could cost buyers their shirts was looked upon as perverted and unpatriotic.

Since then, though, we have had our fingers burned; and we shall emerge from the depression with our whole machinery for handling money, loans, investments, and the like on a much sounder basis than ever before.

Canadian law limits advertising time in broadcasting to 5 per cent of total time. Bet the Old Counselor couldn't even have read off the list of the Insull affiliates in that time!

M. E. Tracy Says:

THE electoral college should be abolished. It represents only so much more clutter to get around. It has not performed the service for which it was intended since 1804.

Any attempt to preserve it through tinkering or modification would be worse than useless. Our forefathers had an idea that the President should not be chosen by popular vote. However and over again they debated the subject. Some of them thought congress ought to do it, some wanted it done by the Governors of the states, and some by state legislatures.

The confused and clumsy method finally adopted is traceable largely to the fact that our forefathers did not realize how quickly political parties would develop or what a powerful influence they would exercise.

The electoral college was based on the theory that a select body of representatives should be chosen by the various states, and that this body would meet and select the President, with each elector voting his personal preference.

That theory broke down at the very outset, and for 128 years presidential electors have served no purpose but to act as rubber stamps for the various parties which they represented.

THE notion that we could improve this moth-eaten institution by so arranging matters that its vote for President would reflect the percentages of votes cast by various parties might as well be dismissed as just some more nonsense. Where a single office is the issue, and only one person can be chosen to fill it, the minority vote simply does not count.

Take Mr. Hoover's case, for instance, and what good would it have done if the electoral college actually had revealed the percentage of votes he received? Not a bit, since Roosevelt would have been elected just the same.

In legislative bodies, where a large number of persons can be elected to office, it is possible and it may be desirable to give minority parties representation in accordance with their strength, but nothing of the sort can be done where a single office is involved.

UNDER existing conditions, the electoral college is merely a nuisance, and it is hard to see how any change or modification would make it otherwise. Its real danger lies in the fact that it might result in the election of a President against the popular will.

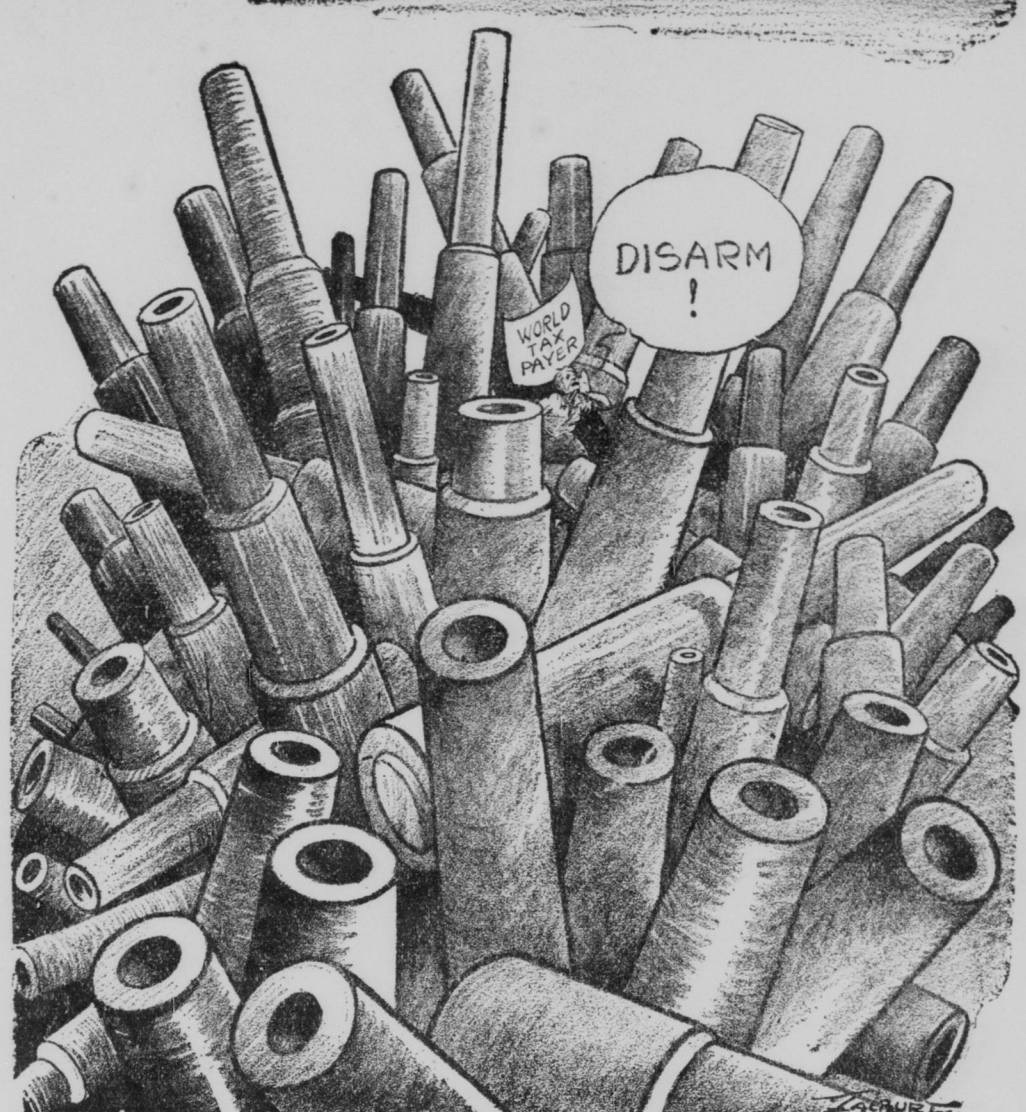
As a matter of fact that happened in the case of Tilden and Hayes. The sensible thing is to get rid of it and permit the people to vote directly, as they actually do and actually have since Jefferson's time.

The present scheme of compelling 40,000,000 people to vote for a crowd of unknown electors, when they really are voting for a presidential candidate, and when such method only complicates the process, is not consistent with common sense much less with the most elemental conception of efficiency.

We put up with the electoral college for about the same reason that we put up with outmoded blue laws and antiquated statutes.

Sometimes it seems that we are so obsessed with the idea of filling up statutes and regulations that we can not bear to discard them, no matter how obsolete, ineffectual, or unworkable they may have become.

A Voice Crying in the Wilderness!



The Message Center

(Times readers are invited to express their views in these columns. Make your letters short, so all can have a chance. Limit them to 250 words or less.)

Treat All Alike

By A. Dub.
 IN all the clamor for reduction of golf rates, there seems to be a feeling that the duffers should be crowded off the better courses and forced to play on other links, where they will not discommode the so-called experts.
 As I understand the purpose of the municipal golf courses, they are conducted for recreation of citizens, not to produce a race of super-golfers in our midst. The man who goes around in 110 probably gets as much fun out of his round as the fuming, squirming nervous "expert" who gets home and beats his wife every time he fails to break 90. All of us duffers naturally will be glad to get our golf at a cut rate if we can, but we do not see why we should be segregated as though our presence would contaminate the player who can go ten strokes in ten strokes less than we need.

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consistent, why do they not also demand a ban on Hitlerism, the Fascism of Mussolini, the tyranny of Machado in Cuba, and misrule in many other nations of the world?

Why pick on Russia, just because they do not happen to like the rule of Stalin? I am not a Communist; in fact, I am just a plain Hooper who voted for Roosevelt. But I do not see why thousands of American men should be deprived of the work which trade with Russia would bring, just to satisfy a so-called "principle" of the American Legion, the decayed D. A. R. and other organizations.

I think William Green, the capitalist-loving head of the American Federation of Labor, also might find some better way of helping jobless union men.

A glance at history will show that many other governments in history have been tyrannical and unjust. How about the Russia before the revolution, with its bloodthirsty array of Alexanders and Nicholases? Still, we were glad to be on good terms with them and have close diplomatic relations with them.

It seems that the organizations which have decided to fight recognition could find some better way to help America along the road to recovery.

Daily Thought

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. —Thessalonians 5:14.

HE that can have patience can have what he will.—Benjamin Franklin.

Mild Spray Best for Keeping Nose Clear

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEN

This is the first of four articles by Dr. Fishben discussing diseases and care of the nose.

ACTUALLY there is not much to the nose itself. It is composed of some small bones and cartilages and certain soft tissues which go to surround the two cavities.

Of equal importance with the nose and inevitably to be considered with it are the nasal sinuses. These sinuses are cavities in the bones in the head which connect with the inside of the nose by means of small openings.

There are, of course, nerves which take care of the motor and sensory functions of the tissues and which may be involved in any condition affecting the nose.

The most important of the structures in the nose from the point of view of disease is the mucous membrane, or tissue which lines the cavities. It is one of the most sensitive tissues in the body, and when bruised or hurt in any way responds with considerable trouble for the possessor.

Not infrequently, minor infections

now are generally available all sorts of mild sprays of inert oils and small amounts of camphor, eucalyptus or menthol, which serve this purpose conveniently.

Under no circumstances should such materials be put in the nose under high pressure. If a spray is not convenient, the simplest method is to drop one or two drops into the nose.

An infection in the lining of the nose manifests itself by redness, swelling, discomfort and pain, which increase steadily. The tip of the nose becomes swollen and sometimes the swelling may extend even up to the eyelids.

In the presence of any serious swelling involving the nose, it is well to have an inspection by a physician, who will determine the presence or absence of a localized spot of infection such as a boil or pimple, who can arrange to cause the infectious material to be released, and who will provide suitable dressings of warm antiseptic or saline solutions tending toward recovery.

Next: Nose injuries.

A Woman's Viewpoint

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

DO the sad ghosts of all the boys who died to make the world safe for democracy now regard with pale sorrow an earth where dictators thrive? I wish that, long ere this, they had begun to haunt us.

For it is obvious that their dying was in vain. All dying ever done in any wars that may occur in the future will be in vain. Because, although differences once may have been settled in this blunt fashion, they again can never be so arbitrated.

In the slow cycles of time, humanity some day surely must reach a level when war will be unthinkable. The ethics of civilizations change, or those civilizations fall.

And certainly for us now to depend upon war in any fashion to help men to a better state is to confess to a stupidity that is even greater than the stupidity of a nation that depends upon armaments for its security.

In 1914 we sowed the wind; today we reap the whirlwind. And when you ponder miserably upon this depression, which was a bit late in

getting around to us, ponder yet more upon the immeasurable folly of its origin—the World War.

Questions and Answers

WE are blind indeed if we do not see that out of its bloody hatreds and its murdering demon of wrath issued most of the woe and pain and sorrow we now endure. The universe still is regulated largely upon the plan that effect follows cause, and there is no way for us to evade that inevitable sequence.

And the war itself was not vicious enough for us. After its destructions had been accomplished and its dead buried there still was vengeance to claim her due. And her due has been almost as terrible and deadly as the price we paid for war itself.

Reparations, debts, reprisals, all the barbaric tactics of "getting even" have plunged us into a veritable abyss of financial and moral disaster. Our great-grandchildren to the fifth and sixth generations will be paying for our racial hatreds, our lying propaganda, our greed, our bitter crimes of nationalism.

Today it is no longer a question of country being set against country. It is humanity against war. Upon which side will you enlist?

It Seems to Me

BY JOE WILLIAMS

(Battling for Heywood Brown)

NEW YORK, April 3.—Instead of a swimming pool, as the New York News suggests, the citizens ought to pitch in and buy President Roosevelt a bicycle. He delivered his seventh message to congress this week. Any man now the White House may be expected to appropriate the slogan, "Don't write; telegraph."

In his latest message the President's extreme radicalism reached a new and staggering high when he suggested to the distinguished statesmen that it might not be a bad idea to police the gambling halls of the financial district.

Of course, the President, in demanding federal supervision of the brokerage business, did not directly characterize the places as gambling halls, but he made it very clear that, whatever the game, the play was not always on the level.

As a matter of fact, the President would have been guilty of libel if he had bracketed the two fields of speculation, and I am quite sure that Col. E. R. Bradley and Tom Shaw, who will lay you even or odds on almost anything, would have been quite offended, if not shocked deeply.

It was inevitable that sooner or later the government would get around to keeping tab on the stock gamblers—and why not? They have enjoyed a big edge for years, operating openly and with no legal discipline, while the humble card and dice hustler have had to do the sneak in crummy hotels and over-smelly garages.

The Boys Got Greedy

THE trouble seems to be that the boys in the Street couldn't let well enough alone. The normal house percentage wasn't enough. Some of them began to wire the wheel and phony the cubes. The sight of flocks of innocent lambs, with wide trusting eyes, pleading to be seduced, is not always easy even for saints to resist.

A grown man couldn't jump over all the millions that were tossed away in the market these last few years, and by now everybody knows that a very substantial part of it went to white-collared crooks, euphemistically captioned financiers.

To me the most amazing thing about this slaughter of the suckers was the unwavering credulity with which they accepted every glib promise of golden profits. By comparison the crooks who used to be the Brooklyn Bridge were men of vast shrewdness and wisdom.

There must have been some persons who gambled in Kreuger & Toll who don't yet know where Sweden is, and probably more who brought Peruvian bonds in the belief that these had something to do with a stomach elixir.

Colonel Bradley's place in Palm Beach is one of the finest gambling layouts in the country, and this being so, it practically follows that it is one of the squares.

Yet, if the Colonel were to attempt to set his wheel up downtown, next to one of those investment-security houses, he would find himself smacked into the stir, or worse, by the police. But the Colonel will even lay down a punt.

We'll Get a Fair Roll

DO not make the claim that there aren't some places in the Street just as fine and as honorable as Colonel Bradley's joint down there under the palms, because I am quite sure there are. But, even so, I believe the Colonel still is a little out in front of all his competitors.

I never heard of the Morgans or the Whitneys giving a customer a car after the last stack of chips was gone. But the Colonel will do that for you, even if you live in Paris. There is only one provision. The next time you are in Palm Beach you will oblige the Colonel by staying far, far away from his place.

The President warns the trade that he can not guarantee profits even when he puts his own policemen in charge of the house games. This is fair enough. All the trade ever asks is assurance that the dealer is on the square and the machinery hasn't been tampered with too much.

Up to now the trade has had no such assurance, but that hasn't stopped the action. It seldom does.

A Load of Character

IT goes without saying that when you are in a business that is highly speculative in nature, such as dealing the bank or trading in industrial issues, it is not only advisable, but imperative, that you build a name of first-rate character for yourself.

If you fail to do this, it will be long before old Jonathan Law comes around to see you, with a pained look on his pan, just as he has done in hundreds of modest gambling halls all over the country and just as he is preparing to do in the world's greatest gambling street.

Homemakers