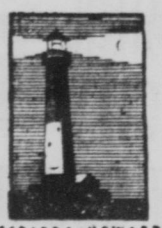


## The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 22, 1933.

## THE CITY'S GAS PLANS

**H**OUSEHOLDERS and manufacturers of Indianapolis are to have cheap natural gas if it can be purchased at a reasonable price. This is a fundamental part of the city's plan for taking over the Citizens Gas Company.

The present gas plant should not be abandoned even though natural gas comes into the community. If natural gas should give out the consumers should be able to fall back on the manufactured product. Also the presence of the plant in actual operation could serve as a threat to keep prices low on natural gas.

Under the plan for municipal ownership the city would obligate itself to pay at least \$500,000 annually for seventy-seven years for the lease which the Citizens Gas Company has on the equipment and mains of the old Indianapolis Gas Company.

Fears have been expressed that in seventy-seven years gas may become as obsolete as whale oil and the city would find itself saddled with an expense running into millions of dollars for which it would receive no return. These fears are apparently groundless. If gas became obsolete the city could default on its lease and invite the owners of the Indianapolis Gas Company to take over their property, which would then be as useless to them as it would be to the city.

There is only one serious flaw in the city's whole plan. That is the secrecy which has been thrown around the true ownership of the Citizens Gas Company. Who are the chief stockholders? How much did they pay for their stock? When, and under what circumstances, did they acquire it?

The taxpayers have a right to know with whom they are doing business when they purchase the gas company.

## SPRAGUE AND ROOSEVELT

**A**N exaggerated importance is being given the resignation of Dr. O. M. W. Sprague, one of the administration's financial advisers. Advisers come and go, but the government goes on.

We say this without any desire to laugh off the growing split in the administration and in the country over the issue of inflation. It can not be ignored; it is too big.

But before taking sides as between the Sprague anti-inflation policy and the Roosevelt reflation policy, it is well to remember that the professor sees the issue only as a technical monetary question, while the President must work out this very difficult problem in relation to the whole complicated recovery program. The Roosevelt monetary moves can not be judged adequately either in a classroom vacuum or through the Wall Street lens of prejudice.

The President's purpose is simple enough. He is trying to manage money to establish a stable purchasing power, an honest dollar. That is no crime, any more than the orthodox and customary effort of government to manage credit. Managed credit proved inadequate during the crisis. Now the President is taking the next step.

Will the President's particular gold-trading method produce the desired results? Nobody knows. It is an experiment—an experiment forced by events. All that we know positively is that the old monetary system broke down. We must seek another way out. We dare not sit holding our hands, chanting hymns to gold. That was what the Hoover administration did, and with dire results.

For a man with a scientific mind, Dr. Sprague's letter sounds rather dogmatic. It would have been more convincing if it had been a trifle less cocksure. After all, Dr. Sprague has been out of sympathy with the Roosevelt policy since last July—according to his own letter—and the end of the world has not come yet. Perhaps it is not as near as the professor fears.

Even so, we are glad that Dr. Sprague is going to carry this dispute to the country openly. Here is an honest difference of opinion on an exceedingly vital policy. Every one is involved in what happens to the dollar. There has been too much secrecy about the matter, too much whispering, too many rumors, too much fighting in the dark.

If the issue can be aired thoroughly between now and January, perhaps congress, which is impatient for action, will act more intelligently when it meets.

Dr. Sprague says he has "reached the conclusion that there is no defense from a drift into unrestrained inflation other than an aroused and organized public opinion." There is a danger of unrestrained inflation. The danger comes, however, not from the President, but from congress.

Nothing the President has said or done justifies the belief that he plans or desires unrestrained inflation. On the contrary, his entire effort is to control inflation. Whether he will succeed in the future will depend chiefly upon congress and upon public opinion, but that he has controlled inflation to date is a fact which Dr. Sprague nor no other critic can deny.

## BUSINESS MEN

**I**N all the talk now current about need for development of a new spirit in American business, it is important that we do not make the mistake of judging all American business men by the spectacle which a very few have made of themselves.

One of the great purposes of the NRA program is to make possible some sort of effective, broad-gauge co-operation among business and industrial units. It is perfectly true that our pre-NRA system let greed go unchecked, and that the unrestrained working of that greed was in no small measure responsible for the depression.

But we could not make a greater mistake

## Make It Smart to Be Legal

An Editorial

**F**OR nearly fifteen years this nation has witnessed the exaltation of the smuggler and the bootlegger.

It has seen otherwise law-abiding citizens, by the million, in protest against a sumptuary law they abhorred, become the patrons and thereby the allies of the smuggler and the bootlegger.

It has seen officials in every path of public life, city, state and federal, corrupted by a vast, illicit, and tax-free industry. It has seen crime, grown rich from liquor, use its riches to broaden its operation into all manner of allied crimes. It has seen racketeering flourish and kidnapping, the most vicious offspring of an ill-conceived reform now repudiated, rise to a stature that has cast its shadow over the entire land.

Not to get liquor back—for liquor has been with us always—but to rid the nation of those evil by-products, was prohibition repealed.

Now, in less than a month, will come the real test. It is this: Can repeal itself be made to succeed?

Can the nation free itself from the smuggler, the bootlegger, the racketeer and all of their criminal kin? Can respect for law be resurrected?

Especially, can the federal government, whose temples of justice were turned into police courts by the contaminating touch of prohibition, again be elevated to the high state once occupied—revered by the law-abiding and feared by the law-breaker? Can we revert to

than to assume that the rank and file of business men should be included in the indictment which properly has been leveled at a comparatively small number.

For example, such men as Wiggins and Mitchell admit to a senate committee that their prime interest all along was to feather their own nests at no matter what cost to others; and Agriculture Secretary Henry Wallace announces that "we need a new type of business man" who is willing to subordinate a part of his own interests for the general good.

True enough. Yet the Mitchells and Wiggins were, after all, the exception. The average business man is as good an American citizen as any one else.

He is not on the job for his health, of course—who is?—but he does have a very definite and strong desire to be something more than just a buyer and seller of merchandise, and his goal is not simply the building of a fat bank balance.

He wants, in fact, what all really public-spirited men want—to be a part of a healthy, co-operative community in which it is possible for men to render a genuine service in return for the money they get.

And let it be said to the honor of American business men that the overwhelming majority have kept this desire in mind through the hard years of the depression.

The senate disclosures about blind greed in high places in the business world have been extremely ugly, indubitably. Somehow we have to arrange things so that the style of the Mitchells and the Wiggins is cramped after this.

But the man who tries to argue that all business men are cut to the Mitchell-Wiggins pattern, the man who says that the business class as a whole stands condemned because of the faults of a few—that man simply does not know what he is talking about.

## GASOLINE RACKETS

**G**ASOLINE tax evasions and frauds are becoming so scandalous that officials of nine eastern states are meeting in New York on Nov. 27 to figure out a way to curb losses. Through smuggling, bootlegging, adulteration and other swindles the states and Federal government are losing an estimated \$200,000,000 a year in taxes.

Leads threaten to become worse as prohibition repeal drives lawless elements into new fields and as the government's experiment in price-fixing raises gasoline prices to the consumers.

The forty-nine varieties of gasoline taxes invite chicanery. Not only are these easy-to-escape sales taxes generally too high. They vary between states. Florida and Tennessee levy a 7-cent-a-gallon tax. In some southern states localities have joined the line and have run the levy up to as high as 10 cents. In fifty cities the average gasoline price is 14.33 cents, the average tax 3.6 cents. Out of \$513,000,000 collected by the states in gas taxes more than \$75,000,000 is applied to relief and uses other than road upkeep.

While prices were sliding, motorists did not notice the tax. Now that prices are on the way up, they may become a real burden and be reflected in lower sales. The federal government will reduce its 1 1/2 cent tax by 1/2 cent when prohibition repeal goes into effect. It is safe to say few states will reduce theirs.

High and chaotic gas taxes should be remedied. Whether or not the federal government should collect all state taxes at the refineries, as urged in the Byrd bill, some co-ordinated and united action should be worked out. We are riding a willing horse to death. Just as high liquor taxes will breed lawlessness and evasions so will high gas taxes defeat their end.

## POLITICS BARRED

**T**HE vast civil works program recently put forward by the administration, under which it is planned to put 4,000,000 men to work before Christmas, is the most ambitious program of its kind ever attempted by any government; and it is encouraging to note that President Roosevelt has declared flatly that politics must have nothing at all to do with the allocation of jobs.

Rightly handled, this program can be of inestimable value. By the same token, it could become a horrible thing if party politics was allowed to be entangled with it.

The slightest suggestion that the directors of the project were trying to gain political advantage from it would be fatal. The administration does well to announce unequivocally that politics is out.

that tradition where the "federal" always got his man, where crook said to crook—"Don't monkey with Uncle Sam."

In every state where, on Dec. 5, liquor becomes legal, the answer is up to those who live in those states. We said we wanted prohibition repealed in order that its attendant evils might be wiped out.

It is now for every person who so expressed himself to prove his sincerity, so that crime may no longer dominate, and decent citizenship once more prevail.

That means—stopping in their tracks the smuggler, the bootlegger, the speakeasy proprietor, and every other trafficker in illegal liquor, by the simple process of no longer patronizing them.

To do that may be somewhat costly in some communities where the disparity in price, due to taxes, gives the bootlegger the advantage.

For the person who buys alcoholic beverages at all, this combination problem in economics and citizenship therefore arises—"Is it better to save a few dollars a year on a luxury by buying from an outlaw, or to do my part by spending those few dollars toward freeing my country from the crime strangle. And, incidentally, contributing my bit to taxation?"

The answer, for the good citizen, should be obvious.

To a nation that likes its slogans we suggest, for and after Dec. 5: "It's smart to be legal."

## ELECTRIFIED AMERICA

**"W**E believe," David Lilienthal, a director of the Tennessee Valley Authority, told a group of lawyers in Atlanta, "that with notable exceptions the rates for electricity throughout the United States constitute a barrier between the people and the great resource of electricity."

This is an agent of the new deal talking, a man who is setting up in the Tennessee Valley the yardstick by which may be measured power rates everywhere.

It is important that he should make such a statement; but more important is the fact that the Roosevelt administration has as one of its aims an "electrified America."

There are two chief ways of attaining this goal. One is to make electric power available to more people by making it cheaper. Power companies can do this by themselves, or they can wait to be forced into lowering rates when people learn more about the cheap rates that are being charged by TVA to towns and businesses in the Tennessee Valley. Another way is to cheapen the costs of distribution to these people of the appliances which electricity operates.

This is the power age. But unless these things are accomplished, the general use of electricity to lighten the burden of human labor and more evenly distribute the comforts of life will be hindered.

This program can not of course be carried out by the government alone. First it must have the co-operation of the people themselves; it must also have the co-operation of private power companies. This latter can be voluntary or forced.

When these three forces are working together—and the government through TVA already has offered to co-operate with the power companies—an "electrified America" will become a reality.

We hear that 125 carloads of whisky passed through Chicago in four days. Which proves that Al Capone still is in America.

## M. E. Tracy Says:

**I**T is getting so that Monday papers look like buckets of blood. This is due, not only to the large number of accidents which usually occur Saturday and Sunday, but to the lack of other news.

As a matter of fact comparatively few accidents or crimes get into any one paper or any one local group of papers. The American people have not yet become conscious of the awful toll which their new system of traffic and new system of rackets are exacting. If they were conscious of it, they would be doing more to correct it.

As a nation we profess to be interested deeply in the preservation of life and health. We support all kinds of drives to cure this or that malady. Just now, we are all excited over the possibility of a cure for cancer, and thrilled by the idea that an honest-to-God anti-tuberculosis germ may have been discovered.

In strange contrast to this sympathetic attitude is our comparative indifference to the multitude of individuals, half of them women and children, killed on our highways every year, or the still greater multitude exposed to less serious accidents.

Since the war, our automobiles have killed five or six times as many people as lost their lives in the war. The same proportion holds good with regard to injuries.

**W**E look upon the war as a rather costly piece of business for this country, but we accept the automobile with complacency. It goes without saying that a certain percentage of deaths and injuries caused by the auto is unavoidable, but that is true of every ill to which flesh is heir, the big point being that we are making very little effort to reduce traffic fatalities in comparison to what we are doing in other lines.

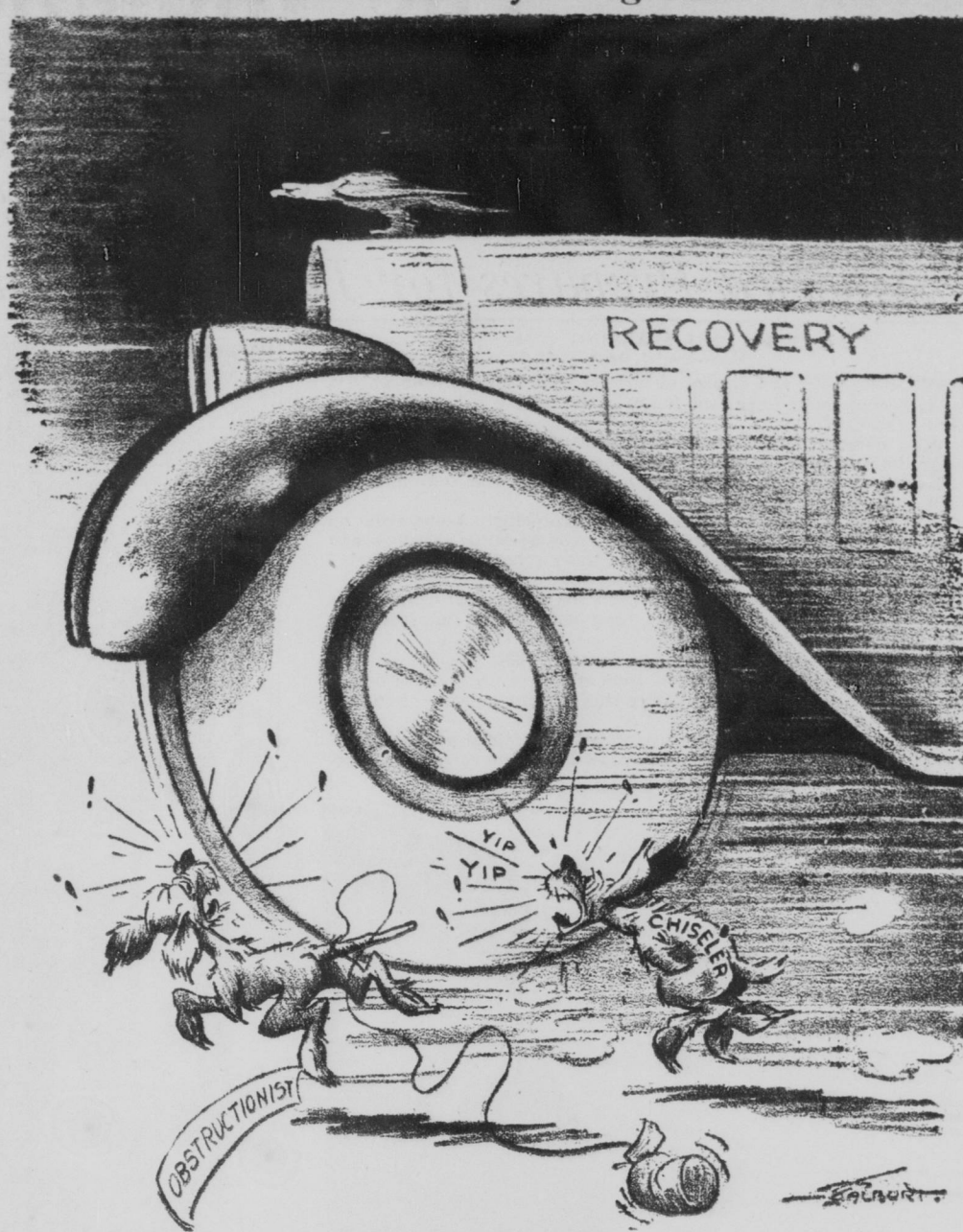
Delight over speed appears to have dulled our realization of what it costs. We find it very easy to forgive negligence or recklessness which results in 30,000 deaths each year and 900,000 injuries. We are content with the fact that insurance companies pay something to overcome the loss, and we look for no day when every car owner will be compelled to take out a policy, so that if mother or Johnny is killed, we can collect \$5,000 or \$10,000, or if we break a leg, we won't have to worry about the hospital bill.

**W**ELL, compulsory insurance would do that much in cases of tuberculosis, diabetes or fractured limbs, but we refuse to accept it as the best answer with regard to them, and we ought to refuse to accept it as the best answer with regard to traffic accidents.

Insurance is all right, but it has its limitations. It simply can not take the place of an affectionate father or a promising child, of whom too many have been crushed to death under joy-riding wheels.

The problem is one of public rather than individual conscience. There is no man or woman who starts out in an auto with the idea of killing or injuring a fellow-being, but when it comes to mass psychology or crowd interest, we run to a frame of mind which seems utterly inexplicable and utterly at variance with the prevailing attitude toward life, health and safety.

## In the Path of Progress!



## The Message Center

I wholly disapprove of what you say and will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire

(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.)

## By A Times Reader.

I wonder if this letter will be published in your paper. I have been a constant reader of the Times for so many years and have read some of the most ridiculous stuff and some that is fair. I have been reading much about unemployed women.

Yes, it is pitiful to see and hear mothers who have reared large families and slaved and toiled so willingly to sacrifice to give them the advantages of life. Then what is the consequence. If by chance this old mother is left alone she is thrown on the world a broken, sick and often crippled from hard work, and has to go anywhere she can.

Now this is the point I would like to bring out. In going down South Emerson avenue you see the old Butler college buildings, now useless. Why doesn't the city, the trustees or some one who can fix that up and give such mothers one or two rooms, and those who are able to work pay as much as they can, or if any are able financially, let them pay what they can for the upkeep of it.

The trustee is supposed to keep such families. The district would not have to be called a slum district, or the inmates would not have to be made to feel like they were dogs and just next to nothing.

Just remember the young of today will be the old of tomorrow and the precious boy or girl you think so sweet and cute some day will think of you as ours do of us today. God help us. What is to become of us? One lone woman with a home, the mother of eight and a constant reader of The Times. I wonder if some more poor mothers will answer this?

## By Taxpayer and Social Worker.

I have been a resident and taxpayer of this city for the last thirty years. I hope what I am writing here will be printed so that Mr. Book, Mrs. Noone, the Governor and all other social welfare workers may be able to read it.

I have been extensively during this crisis with my wife, who is also a welfare worker. From our family of eight, each year there is do-

## Political Crooks

By Ernest C. Phillips.

When Governor McNutt made his speech at Trenton, N. J., and had so much to say about rigorous but not false economy, I wonder if he thought about the \$1 and \$1.50 tax law in Indiana?

We farmers expected Governor McNutt to stand by his platform and quitte playing in the state. We have had several jokes played on us already, and they are about to react.

The thing to do is to take up the political playground and make an example out of every crook. The time is not far off when there will be weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth.

nated to the Red Cross and the Community Fund a sum in the neighborhood of \$100.

We have noticed in other cities the way in which welfare work is carried out and in my estimation, this is the poorest ever. Who ever heard of a charity system telling people what they must and must not eat. Did it ever occur that every one does not like the same thing?

If you are meaning right in the use of appropriated funds, why not allot a certain amount to families according to size, let them go where they choose, not where you designate, and buy what they please instead of having to pick from a list made out by you. Only give them once a week and if they don't have sense enough to pick their foods reasonably, let them be the losers.

While we were shopping Saturday evening, some country people came to the store with their lists made out at home of staple foods well within the bounds of their allotments. On speaking to the clerk, they were given a prepared slip that was not nearly as good as the one they had expected to get.

My wife noticed this and as a colored family started to buy, we asked them to see the two slips. We noticed you have as a fixed cereal, farina. That is something that very few of our own race of people eat, and I doubt that any Negroes at all know of it. They did without a cereal. You suggest soap at 5 cents a bar. They had one brand three for 10 cents.

Why not think, Mr. Book? You

may do better for the poor. Some of your grocers are taking the time they want and telling them to bring back what they don't like. Is that right, I know these poor people will be glad to go back to work. I notice in the paper that there will be approximately 30,000 going to work for wages soon.

## By Charles H. Krause Sr.

Having been born a "near Methodist," I almost shouted "Glory to God!" when I read your editorial of Nov. 7, headed, "Religion and the New Deal."

Now is the time for the churches to redeem themselves from past omission. Will they perceive the signs of the times? Henry George, who was a Christian after the heart of Abraham Lincoln, wrote in "The Land Question":

"I believe that there is in true Christianity a power to regenerate the world. But it must be a Christianity that attacks vested interests and that, in the name of God, defend them. A religion which allies itself with injustice to preach down the natural aspiration of the masses is worse than atheism."

In another book, George writes: "What is the use of a religion, for no matter what it may promise for the next world, it can do nothing to prevent injustice in this? What is the use of a religion that stands faltering in the face of the most momentous problems?"

"Where shall the dignitaries of the church be in the struggle that is coming (now that already is here)? On the side of justice and liberty, or on the side of wrong and slavery? With the delivered when the timbers shall sound again, or with the chariots and the horsemen that again shall be engulfed in the sea?"

They that have the heart of Christ, think of others rather than themselves. For several years past we have been hearing of a coming spiritual revival; may it come quickly!

## Daily Thought

And when ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, be ye not troubled; for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet.—St. Mark, 13:7.

**M**AN is never watchful enough against dangers that threaten him every hour.—Horace.

## Teeth Diseases Are Dangerous

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine.

**N**EGLECT of teeth and gums, resulting in pyorrhea, causes 75 per cent of the loss of teeth that occurs among persons over 35. Obvious signs of teeth which should be saved in almost every case if proper treatment were undertaken in time, competent dentists aver.

Diseases of the gums come on insidiously. They are likely to progress to an advanced stage before the person affected realizes that anything is seriously wrong.

The ordinary condition of the gums surrounding the teeth is one of firmness, with a good pink coloring. The onset of infection is marked by a slight reddening or thickening of the margins of the gums next to the teeth.

In this condition the gums bleed freely under pressure or by use of the toothbrush. Moreover, the color change from pink to bluish-red.

Among the factors likely to lead to pyorrhea are the following: First, neglect of teeth and gums, which permits germs in large numbers to develop in the space between the gum and the teeth.

Second, irregularities of the teeth. These cause food to collect around the irregular places and in this debris the germs will grow. Ordinarily the mouth has self-cleaning action, but when there are crevices which the gums, cheeks and tongue do not control, this does not occur.

Third, tartar forms around the necks of the teeth and, unless removed, causes irritation of the margin of the gums.

Fourth, a toothbrush that is too stiff or hard injures the gums and

forces them away from the teeth. When the dentist examines the mouth in such a case, he finds the condition worse in the left upper jaw with right-handed people and in the right lower jaw with left-handed people.

A fifth cause is the use of artificial plates, bridges and other dentures which are not kept clean or which fit badly. They rub the gums or which permit collection of food and debris around the teeth.

One of the leading dental surgeons of England emphasizes also as causative factors of inflammation the gums the use of a diet which is too soft and the use of a diet which is deficient in vitamins A, C and D, a deficiency of which commonly is related to disturbances of teeth and gums.

We fight but half-heartedly when the men we love are standing with the enemy.

## A Woman's Viewpoint

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

**"A**ERICAN women," says a national club leader, "are not courageous enough."

She was speaking, of course, about our sluggishness in the recovery endeavor and our backwardness in contributing to national and world economic plans.

There is such overwhelming proof of the truth of her statement that to argue against it would be both futile and foolish. But as usual there is an explanation for our behavior.

Women are afraid to put their dreams to test because they fear so greatly the disapproval of men. It is only when a feminine leader overcomes this inherent fear and

sees her task as more important than any man's opinion of it that she succeeds. The first foe to be routed by such great souls as Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, Margaret Sanger and Jane Addams was masculine reproach.

The sneers of doubters have put out the fires of many a splendid dream. And to say that man's sardonic censure smothered like a wet blanket the tiny flame of a hundred humanitarian hopes, is not to exaggerate the matter too harshly. The truth is obvious and can not be disregarded.

The average woman longs for men to like her. She wants to be ad-

mired and approved by them. If she came into the world before 1914 she is apt to have a full-fledged inferiority complex. She honestly believes that man understands more about the management of a nation and a world, and so it is easy to permit his disparagement and criticism to daunt her.

She is afraid of the hostile attitude, the scornfully curled lip, the jeering laugh. And because she dreads above all else to be called a "manhater," many a woman has lowered her banners and bowed her head in a defeat that may not have been truly hers.

We fight but half-heartedly when the men we love are standing with the enemy.

## It Seems to Me

BY HEYWOOD BROWN

**N**EW YORK, Nov. 22.—The Norsemen aimed their frail craft toward the setting sun and came at last to long, white beaches. They called the country Vineland and after a little while departed, leaving small trace behind them.

Columbus and his caravels set out to find a certain somewhere, and even before him the Phoenicians dared to take that fearsome leap over the rim of the horizon. In those days, as in these days, the old men said the world was flat and lay upon the backs of four broad-patient turtles. Beyond the void flew winged monsters waiting to devour mariners who ventured out of their own harbors to seek such magical islands as might swim in the saucer of the blue bowl which jalls us.

From the beginning of time man has been at heart an internationalist. Before the coming of the compass he steered his course by the feeling in his bones and the pricking of his thumbs. It is only the timorous and tired who cry out they would "rather bear those ills we have than fly to others that we know not of."

## Need a New Tune

**A**ND so I do believe that the modern counsel of "stay in your own back yard" is but the passing slogan of a weary world. Soon the nations will awake refreshed. For the brief moment each one will grope in the darkness of his own chamber. There will be the sound of faint cursing and perhaps an agonized "ouch" as some toe bangs violently against a bureau. But then somebody will strike a light and find the telephone. Once again the wires of this grand hotel in which we have our being will buzz with inquiries such as "How is everything with you?" and "Why not drop down to my room and have a highball?"

Not forever can man remain content with such limited concepts as "Italy for the Italians," "Germany for the Germans" provided they are 110 per cent pure Nordic. "Buy American and avoid entangling alliances."

Home is a great institution, but, as many a vaudeville comic has said, "Who wants to live in an institution?"

I will admit that on this particular afternoon nationalism stands at the very top of the stepladder. Even Russia's dream of an international upheaval practically has been compromised out of existence. If the pledge on propaganda means what it appears to mean, the Soviet Union, the German Reich and the United States are all agitators who may be functioning in America are strictly on their own. We have recognized the Kremlin, and in return it agrees to cast no passing nod in the direction of Union square.

I am told that Cordell Hull and Trotsky are still internationalists and both are in exile.

## Too Small a Pasture

**B**UT the top of a stepladder is a precarious perch. Flagpole sitting is an acquired avocation, and once the world can climb no higher in its nationalistic fervor we will soon be done with vertical aspirations and come back to earth and humanity's natural instinct to explore the horizontal potentialities of the planet.

Of course, we may