

The Indianapolis Times

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SMITH'S UNSOUND MONEY

ACCORDING to Alfred E. Smith, "the latest fiscal moves of the administration have undermined the public confidence." He uses rather harsh words such as "paper money printers" and "crackpots."

Mr. Smith would get farther with his criticism if it were more restrained and closer to facts.

The administration has not lost public confidence. If Mr. Smith will get out among the people in the country he will find that out.

Not that the general public is particularly sold on the present monetary policy. It does not profess to be an expert in such matters. But the public is willing to give the President a fair chance, knowing that conditions under the new deal are much better than under the Hoover-Wall Street old deal.

If ever the public needed to know both sides of an issue, it is on the question of inflation. But Mr. Smith is not doing himself or his cause any good merely by calling names. The public is apt to assume that he has no better argument to offer.

If Mr. Smith will look at the administration policy calmly, he will see that there is a great deal of difference between the Roosevelt approach and that of the Thomas inflationists. Far from precipitating extreme currency inflation, it was none other than President Roosevelt who blocked it in the last congress. Certainly there is nothing extreme about his gold-trading policy so far.

We share Mr. Smith's fear of uncontrolled inflation. Uncontrolled inflation would be as disastrous as this uncontrolled depression deflation, and would produce equally unsound money. Congress, by all reports, is apt to go to extreme printing press inflation. The only thing that can prevent it, apparently, is success of the Roosevelt deflation to the point of an honest dollar.

What is an "honest dollar" or "sound money" about which the Smith group talk so much? Certainly it is not the March 1, 1933, dollar, which had more than twice the purchasing power of the 1926 dollar. Using the 1926 dollar to represent 100, the March 1, 1933, dollar was at 203. By Nov. 1 the President had helped to bring the dollar down to 146.

What is the sense in charging Mr. Roosevelt with wild inflation when he still has far to go before reaching the Coolidge dollar of 1926?

Sound money would permit the debtor to pay with dollars of the approximate value of the dollars he borrowed. That involves deflation. And that, if we understand the President's policy, is precisely what he is trying to achieve. Whether he can succeed is an open question, but that such money would be sounder than the dishonest 2-for-1 dollar of last March seems to us to be beyond question.

SORRY AFTER-EFFECTS

IT is not an easy thing to get at the human realities lying beneath those statistics which tell the story of depression and recovery.

It is easy, for instance, to say that 2,000,000 men—or 4,000,000, or whatever the number may be—have gone back to work. But it is hard to look behind the figures and see the individuals concerned; hard to get at the human values involved, although they are all-important.

The National Women's Committee of the 1933 Mobilization for Human Needs recently made a survey among leading employers of the country to find out just what the last four years have done to American citizens. Their report makes enlightening reading.

Most employers report that the jobless men who came back to work have been changed deeply by the depression. They suffer from a mental depression not easily dispelled; they worry about the future; they have in many cases lost faith in themselves and in society. They show the effect of long continued nerve strain. Their efficiency as workers is impaired by this.

They show an almost pathetic eagerness to make good on their new jobs. In many plants the accident rate has risen, because the men, although out of practice, are anxious to do as full a day's work as possible. Most of the men returning to work are harassed by debts. Many have family problems brought on by the depression.

In very many cases the returning workers are in poor physical condition, due to continued malnutrition.

A pathetic story comes from Chicago, telling how a large industrial firm found that its new hands were of little value for the first ten days or so—because they could not invariably get stomach trouble from overeating!

A great many newly employed men went without lunches so they could turn more pay over to their families.

Furthermore, those hardest hit by the depression are not being re-employed. In most cases, employers are forced by economic necessity to rehire those men who look physically fit—which usually means that the men who have been out of work the shortest time are the first to get jobs.

Much more could be printed along this line. But this is enough to show that simply restoring jobs does not meet the problem fully.

We owe more than work to these victims of the depression. Somehow we must give them a chance to regain full physical and mental health.

DANGERS OF CHILDBIRTH

IT is a startling report that the New York Academy of Medicine has turned in on maternal mortality rates in childbirth. It has found that two out of three deaths from child-

birth could and should have been avoided; and the finding presents a sharp challenge both to the medical profession and to the public.

It is a challenge to the profession because the report states bluntly that 61 per cent of the avoidable deaths can be laid to the responsibility of the medical profession; and to the public, because of the fact that people in general need to be taught to demand the sort of care that is needed.

For all our pride in our civilization, the maternal death rate is higher in America than in other countries of comparable rank. The challenge presented by the academy's report is one that can not be ignored.

CREWLESS WARSHIPS

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY SWANSON has asked an increase of 5,300 in the strength of the enlisted personnel of the navy, urging that the present strength is not adequate even for peace-time operations.

His request serves as a reminder that maintaining a navy is not simply a matter of having the proper number of ships. You also must have the men to operate them.

Sailors are not made overnight. The finest ship on earth is useless if its crew is poorly trained, so that it neither can maneuver nor fight as it should.

A navy which lacks manpower is just as much below standard as one which lacks mechanical equipment.

If we are going to follow a policy of keeping our navy ready for any eventuality—and apparently we are—we must maintain an adequate personnel. Secretary Swanson's request is not at all unreasonable.

SPOILSMEN IN DEFEAT

THE Tammany braves in high offices are deserting the sinking ship and taking diamond-encrusted life preservers with them. Seventy-five mighty Tammany henchmen in high city positions are asking retirement and pension before the midnight toll of Dec. 31.

Pensions of \$10,000 a year for these bat-tens on public provender will be common—money to assuage and sustain the pampered living to which they long have been accustomed.

Who pays? Why, the same John Public who always pays.

The wholesale retirement on pensions in most cases will be final on Dec. 31. But there are exceptions. Some of the officials, such as Chairman John H. Delaney of the board of transportation and Daniel L. Ryan, his co-commissioner, are retiring early—for a purpose. They will quit Dec. 24.

Messrs. Delaney and Ryan have performed specific services to their city over a long period of time. They merit the high praise of the city as they leave office.

But we are thinking of the Tammany joker accompany their going. The Tammany chiefs, spying out the barren stretches of political swamp and desert stretching four years hence, are ready to seat two Democratic henchmen in the places Mr. Delaney and Mr. Ryan are leaving.

Mr. Delaney's successor would receive a term expiring June 30, 1934; Mr. Ryan's one ending June 30, 1938. And who are being thought of for their places? Eminent transit experts? Skilled, noted engineers? No, those mentioned are largely members of the defeated Tammany administration.

This projected affiliation of the La Guardia transit board with the cast-off timber of a discredited political machine is the most arrogant of Tammany's plans to fasten its henchmen to the new administration's pay roll and to burden its plans with their incompetence.

Will Mayor John P. O'Brien, wishing to retire to a private life of honor and esteem, act as a political tool in last-minute appointments?

Tammany is out to cripple the new administration in every way imaginable while feathering the nests of as many favorites as possible at the expense of the La Guardia administration.

Public protest is the only safeguard. It should be prompt, loud and voluminous.

SEA SERPENTS!

THE first officer of the ocean liner Santa Lucia, according to the New York papers, has a grievance against his fellow-countrymen.

The trouble, it seems, is that the first officer saw a sea serpent, told about it—and discovered that hardly anybody believed him.

The glimpse was vouchsafed to him as the ship was in the straits of San Juan de Fuca, on the west coast. The creature he saw was "a great, eel-like monster," with red and green eyes, seven humps like a camel, and a face like a cow.

It appeared to measure some ninety feet in length, and it gave a great bellow before diving out of sight.

Our sympathies in the matter rest entirely with the mariner. If there are no monsters like this one, there certainly ought to be. A world that can generate such fantastic creatures is infinitely more interesting and exciting than one which can not.

Until some one offers us a good reason to the contrary, we are going to believe the Santa Lucia's first officer, unreservedly.

One of the stratosphere balloonists reported he saw no sign of curvature of the earth. Wilbur Glenn Voliva could have told him that down here.

A two-year-old drought in southeast Australia has been ended. That's nothing to brag about. A thirteen-year drought has been ended here.

Now scientists say the universe is at least 5,000,000,000 years old. Those fellows seem to use big figures so freely, apparently a zero means nothing to them.

Some women treat their husbands as they do their banks. The only interest they have in them is what they can get out of them.

We ought to give our prison inmates all the latest news of the day, so they'll stay satisfied where they are.

Although Professor Sprague is opposed to inflation, he blew up before the President did.

An automobile, with body reversed, was demonstrated in New York. It was designed, presumably, to fool the cops and pedestrians.

THE INSECT MENACE

REALIZATION that among America's very real enemies are its myriads of flying, crawling, boring creatures is stirring leaders at Washington to renewed warfare on insect pests.

Relief Administrator Hopkins announces a campaign to eradicate malarial mosquitoes from fifteen states. What relief work could be more useful than abating a disease that costs an estimated \$500,000,000 annually?

Dr. Henry G. Knight of the United States department of agriculture urges the development of new insecticides less harmful to humans than the arsenicals now used. He suggests rotenone, a remarkable substance many times more toxic than arsenic to insects yet harmless to men and animals.

It is found in a plant called "devil's shoe-string," that can be grown on sandy, infertile soil now idle.

Mrs. Isabella Greenway, Arizona's new congresswoman, urges as a new industry for her western plains the cultivation of pyrethrum flowers, now being imported in costly quantities from Japan for use in household insecticides.

The insect peril is no idle dream. Dr. Knight says that predatory insects annually devour 10 per cent of the value of all growing plants, causing the United States an annual loss of more than \$2,000,000,000! The threat is becoming more serious through a slow spread of the unwelcome guests, through easier transportation across borders and state lines, through a growing insect resistance to the usual insecticides. Damage from Japanese beetles, Mexican bean beetles, European corn borers, citrus red scale and other pests is increasing alarmingly. In view of these dangers the \$100,000 spent annually by the bureau of entomology seems pitifully small.

Insects never may drive men from the planet as some alarmists have predicted. But such a sound expert as Dr. L. O. Howard, former chief of the bureau of entomology, warns that a lapse of vigilance will cost us dear. Insects have dwelt in this world for forty million years, men for only 400,000. They are very much at home and they have proved their staying qualities.

With plenty of idle men and public credit we can now wage a more effective campaign against the insect foe.

THE TERZANI CASE

UNTIL recently the public has shown scant interest in the absurd antics of "General" Art Smith and his Fascist-minded Khaki Shirts. The Terzani case is something different.

Athos Terzani, a young anti-Fascist, faces trial on Nov. 27 for murdering his friend, Anthony Fierro, a student, in a fight last July when the Khaki Shirts ejected anti-Fascists from a meeting in Astoria, L. I.

According to the Terzani defense committee, headed by Norman Thomas, Fierro was shot down while defending a friend from assaults by the Khaki Shirts. Instead of fleeing, Terzani is said to have pointed out the real assailant, also identified by another eyewitness. This suspect was held, but after superficial questioning was released, and Terzani, on Smith's accusation, was held for the murder.

The committee claims that a week later Smith boasted that "we" had killed one radical and sent nineteen to the hospital in the New York riot. Since lodging the charge, Smith and his associates have disappeared.

"General" Smith's Fascist march on Washington, that ended in a mutiny of his "staff" in Philadelphia and his own arrest for fraud, was comic opera stuff. If, as the defense committee claims, this would-be Hitler is trying to use the American courts to punish an innocent man, there is nothing funny about that.

Terzani should be tried quickly and honestly. If this is another Mooney or Sacco-Vanzetti frameup, the quicker it is exposed the better.

New York is going to try psychology in directing traffic, but that's too big a word for New York drivers to understand.

M. E. Tracy Says:

DEPRESSION or no depression, the pioneer instinct drives ahead. While the field has been narrowed in several respects, it has been broadened in others. Some people think that increased knowledge of geography has robbed life of many opportunities of adventure, just as they think that modern machinery has made it miserable for producers. That is a false viewpoint. Every discovery and invention makes room for ten more, just as every improved device for production opens the door to increased consumption if we could only see it.

Some people think we have learned to fly, but we haven't. A thousand things remain to be done before air travel becomes common. Two notable achievements are in the process of making right now—floating docks for ocean-traffic, and devices by which passengers can be dumped out of a stricken plane and sent to earth by parachute in case of accident. You probably have read about the proposed seadromes—great open-work, islands of steel 1,200 feet long and 300 feet wide, resting on sunken tanks which lessen the effect of wave motion.

CRITICS demur at the venture, chiefly because of the \$30,000,000 for a safe, easy transportation system that would bring Europe and America within twenty-four hours of each other. Twice that amount was shot away on a battlefield in the great war, and we called it glorious business.

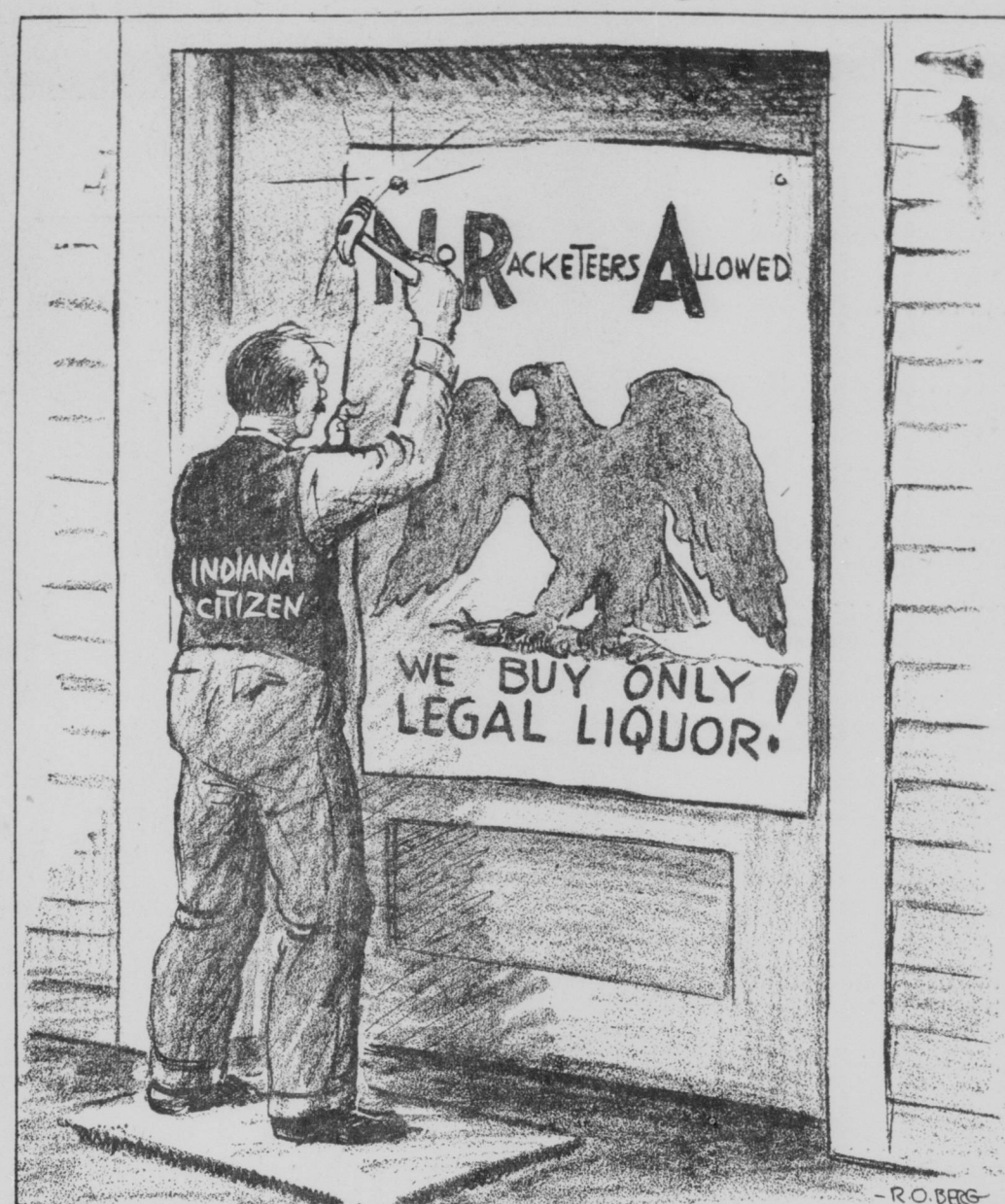
The dumping of passengers from a flying plane, without their knowledge and consent, but with no great danger, contains even more of a kick. They tried it at Roosevelt field recently, however, and with eminent success. Three men and one woman, sitting as quietly as you may be while reading this, suddenly were swung out of the plane through sliding doors and dropped. They remained seated in their chairs while the parachutes opened. They floated down at the rate of nine feet a second without the slightest injury. In one instance, one of them was carried to the top of a grandstand by an unexpected gust of wind and sprained his ankle slightly when he fell off.

IT sounds kind of unreal, doesn't it? But we are dealing with an unreal life as measured by the knowledge and capacities of 100 years ago, and we are going to do many things that our grandfathers looked upon as impossible.

It used to be believed that a human being lost consciousness after falling 200 or 300 feet, but parachute jumpers have fallen 10,000 feet before opening their parachutes. We barely are beginning to understand what men can really do if surrounded and protected by the right kind of devices. So, too, we are barely beginning to understand the latent powers and forces which wait to be defined and controlled.

Young folks should not be discouraged by all this chatter about the death of adventure because of what already has been achieved. There never was a time when life presented such real opportunities for men with a pioneering spirit, or for such triumphs over their limitations.

'It's Smart to Be Legal'



:: 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 G. J. B.
The press states that the Indiana chapter, Sons of American Revolution, opposes Russian recognition. One hundred fifty-seven years ago their forebears adopted a series of resolutions setting out the right of revolution and setting forth the principles of the government under which we now live. This series of resolutions was as foreign to the ideas of government in existence in those days and met with much the same opposition from the governments of Europe as the principles of Fascism and Communism do today.

The people of France in the revolution of 1789, which was based upon the same principles as the American Revolution, drew down upon the government formed by them a complete circle of powerful foes. Now apply the resolutions adopted by the S. A. R. to this government of the French people, which Jefferson and the Republican party in the United States hailed with such enthusiasm. In almost every particular it applies to the revolutionary government of France equally as well as to the Soviet government of Russia. Then why so much fool-deal about recognizing Russia?

From whence comes the propaganda which keeps our so-called patriotic societies from being liberal-minded enough to give these governmental experiments the chance that their fathers fought for and won during our revolution? Can it be possible that the anti-revolutionists fear that the "forgotten man" will learn that Russia has no unemployment, and what food, while scarce, is not reserved for those who have more than it is possible to consume?

By Rufe Gorman.
As to the criticisms of our police in pursuing the Dillinger gang: Why should they even have to be worried with that kind of thing? They had them—once—let McNutt catch them, he turned them out. He should have had to face that gun-fight in Chicago recently with Dillinger alone and without a weapon. We would all have been better off today and I'm a Democrat too, one who was loudly heard during the campaign; so loudly heard that I am now ashamed to face my good Republican neighbors and friends with my whippings.

Our police do wonders considering

It's a Sin

By Another Busybody
I am not daring you to print this, but I and a lot of others would like to see it in print. I have never been out to the walkathon, and furthermore, I am not going, for if ever there was a sinful place, that is it. Why the very idea of some people going out there, sit and laugh at those poor kids killing themselves for a few dollars while the wicked money-changers can horde more gold. "Pillars of salt" I tell you.

the fact that their superior officers and the judges free more than half of the law-breakers they take in. Citizens of this free-for-all city don't seem to realize the drastic conditions under which the little cop (patrolman) works. If they really knew "headquarters" they would hold the patrolman supreme in their minds and wonder how he has the courage and heart to attempt bettering the city. We must be more broad-minded than we are in criticizing our police for by this time we all surely know that money and "so-called friends" among judges and superior officers can sap the little "cop" completely dry.

Not a Crank
I have read in your column several times the suggestion by various people that the Walkathon at the state fairground be stopped by court order as a nuisance.

I must go on record against this movement to stop this great show. What would we do with all these people if they had no uplifting place like the Walkathon to go to?

We must have a place for our morons, idiots and imbeciles to congregate, and as long as they go there we will not be bothered with them elsewhere. The state of Indiana should pad the walk and floors of this building so these mental unfit, the contestants and spectators alike, would not harm themselves.

May I be so bold to suggest that those who patronize this affair are very lacking in gray matter. No, please do not stop this wonderful and awe-inspiring spectacle. My suggestion is to borrow a few kopecks from the Central State hospital and let them mingle with the crowd. They are expert on humoring people and could help in keeping the show going.

If you feel a sudden urge to see a Walkathon, see your doctor at once. It might be the first sign of a serious mental ailment.

What has become of the people of culture and refinement?

By Hollie McBeall.
It is to be hoped that the letter signed "C. D. B." in regard to the alleged different types of meals served to homeless men and visiting clubwomen will be answered by some one in a position to know the true facts of the situation.

As one of the "visiting clubwomen" I can vouch for the truth of one statement in C. D. B.'s letter—that we were served a luncheon of roast beef, brown gravy, brown potatoes, carrot and cabbage salad, chocolate pudding and coffee. Also, generous slices of white bread and milk were served those who did not drink coffee. I distinctly remember that we were told that exactly the same menu as composed our luncheon would be served to the homeless men later that afternoon gratis. Our luncheon was surprisingly good, well cooked and fairly well balanced.

But the menu which C. D. B. claims as having been served to himself (I presume) and the other inmates of the Housing Foundation, is a horrible thing—practically nothing but starch and water. How can a person maintain health and a hopeful outlook on so unpalatable and unbalanced a diet as "plain boiled macaroni, half boiled potatoes, imitation chocolate pudding and cold water"? By "half-boiled" one wonders if the writer meant half-cooked or merely half of a boiled potato. Be that as it may, there isn't much to choose between a badly cooked whole potato and half of a well-cooked potato, if he were really hungry, as doubtless these men always must be since two meals a day are all they ever are given.

There is probably no institution under the sun, charitable or otherwise, which does not have trouble-makers within its own walls, as well as those outside them, and it may be that C. D. B. is of that pestiferous breed. If not, I only can say that I wish he might have had my good meal that day and I, his, if there were not enough for all to share equally.

DAILY THOUGHT

But now we also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication, out of your mouth.—Colossians, 3:8.

THE feelings, like flowers and butterflies, last longer the later they are delayed.—Richter.

Winners in poker games which run a shade too high cut down the indebtedness by saying to some prominent loser: "I'll match double or quits for half the sum, you owe." And if they are wise, they keep on matching until they have the good fortune to lose. When a man owes so much that he can not begin to pay the total, he will probably compromise by paying nothing at all.

Back in the good old days before I forsook all games of chance, I always felt that I would rather get \$10 in cash from a victim than have him owe me \$100. Mortgage holders ought to be as smart as that, but they are not. The tragic thing about evictions is that somebody who wants the place very much is set adrift, and somebody who can't do a thing with the property finds it dropped into his lap.

Couldn't Take a Hint
BUT so far I forgot to mention the third cardinal error in Dr. Sprague's communication. He spoke as if the schism was merely a matter of opinion. He had every reason to know as far back as his return from London in July that he and the President did not see eye to eye. The issue was so clearly drawn at that time that I think it would have been a waste of both Roosevelt's and Sprague's time to have gone into consultation.

Dr. Sprague may be an enervated economist, but I regard him as a gentleman who took an unconscionably long time to find his hat after the party was over.

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Leniency

BY MARGARET E. BRUNER

I found him writhing in a trap one day; A mouse so terrified, and very small.

I pried the wires apart—he frisked away. For freedom is a boon that's dear to all.

And in that moment pity held full sway— Came time to sort and store the summer seed.

I found but husks—I pondered in dismay. Then I recalled a mouse which once I freed.

:: A Woman's Viewpoint ::

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

IF the truth were known a good many matrimonial rifts might be traced directly to the old clothes question. The way to make any husband mad enough to quit you forever is to present to some worthy indigent a disreputable old coat with frayed edges and a sagging lining. If you go up very rapidly, as in an airplane or balloon, the symptoms may come on suddenly. If you go up by easy stages, as in mountain climbing, the symptoms develop more slowly.

One American investigator, who climbed the Alps in 1922, points out that the following changes occur as you go to a higher altitude: First, there is an increase in the rate and depth of breathing with the decrease of oxygen pressure. Second, the number of red blood cells and red coloring matter of the blood increase. Third, the red blood coloring matter, known

as hemoglobin, takes up more oxygen. The symptoms which would occur to you as you went up to a high altitude would include some dizziness and mental dullness, with occasional headache or vomiting. In addition, you would have some difficulty in hearing and seeing.

There may be slight fever at great heights. Sometimes there is bleeding of the nose and there may be a weakness of the limbs which makes walking difficult. The pulse becomes more rapid and if you made the effort slowly, you gradually could become accustomed to the conditions. If the symptoms were very severe, it would be found that the breathing of an oxygen

love their old chairs, their old coats, their old pipes, everything, in short, but their old wives. Their bird dogs, broken down by age and work, are petted and cherished and well fed, but men want their women always young, peppy and new. They are fond of wrinkles in their habitually used trousers, but they will not tolerate them in mama's face. Any sagging that's done within the family circle must not be in the facial muscles of the Lady of the House, only in the coats of yesteryear.