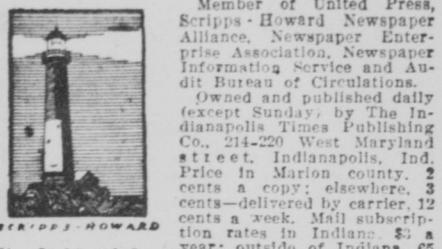


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## SMITH'S UNSOUND MONEY

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 the mark.

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 reflation 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 reflation. 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 almost invariably got 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 those 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-incrusted 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 batteners on public provender will be common—money to assure 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 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 accompanying their going. The Tammany Jokers, 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 affliction 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 and to burden its plans with their incompetence.

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.

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. Will our Glenn Volnya 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 INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

## 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 that 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.

Atmos 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 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 pioneering instinct drives ahead. While the ship 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.

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.

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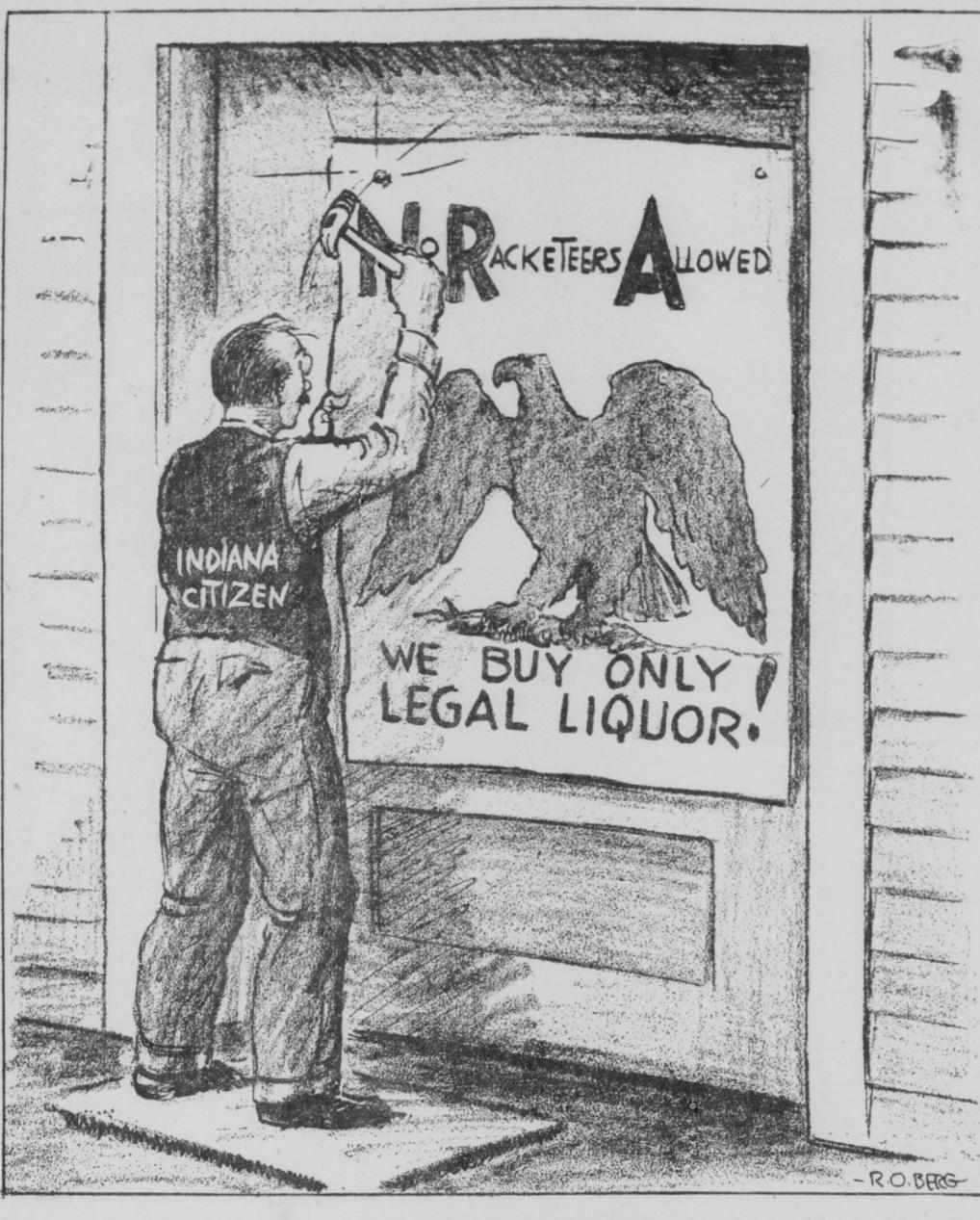
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## It's Smart to Be Legal'



## 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 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 similar 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.

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 him (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?"