

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1934.

SUMNER ON SHERIFF HOLLEY

IT is not surprising that Sheriff Charles L. Sumner began his mayoralty campaign with a maudlin statement about "the little woman," Sheriff Lillian Holley. This is just the sort of partisan claptrap that may be expected from the old-time, machine politician like Sheriff Sumner.

Besides, he may well sympathize with Mrs. Holley's gross mismanagement of Crown Point jail. His own record with Marion county jail has been far from distinguished. It has been only luck which has prevented the escape of criminals from that institution.

Only a few days ago Hilton Crouch, a dangerous criminal, was caught in the nick of time after he had sawed almost through a bar. Where did he get his saw blades? Why, he was a forehand gentleman and brought them with him in the soles of his shoes.

This business of carrying hacksaws in shoes is one of the oldest tricks known to penologists. Why were not prisoner Crouch's shoes carefully examined?

Ask Sheriff Sumner.

Crouch also was found to have a long rope wrapped around his waist. It either was smuggled in to him or he manufactured it himself. In either case how did he get it?

Ask Sheriff Sumner.

People have not forgotten the amazing revelations several months ago regarding the management of the jail. A trusty admitted that he had been in charge of the institution's garage, that he opened and closed the door and that he even borrowed sheriff's car occasionally to take his girl friends out on dates! Why was this permitted?

Ask Sheriff Sumner.

The sheriff's candidacy for mayor adds a light touch to the primary fight. His is going to be a most amusing campaign. In view of his record he will have to devote himself in the coming weeks to kissing babies, giving out free beer and cigars, sweetening precinct committeemen and venting such asinine statements as his remarks on Lillian Holley.

Funnest of all is his impudence in running for mayor at all.

OHIO'S MISTAKE?

OHIO must be commended for the speedy trial and conviction of Harry Pierpont, but it also should be criticised for permitting this gang leader to remain in the Lima jail pending trial of two other members of his gang.

Apparently the people of Lima do not realize the ends to which a man of Pierpont's type will go when he knows that his final card will be death.

To Pierpont death in a jail break or a fight with the law is more welcome than waiting weeks to die in the electric chair.

As soon as the jury returned its verdict Saturday night, Pierpont should have been sentenced to death and removed to the state penitentiary at Columbus. Nothing but trouble can be gained by keeping this criminal in a jail that once was raided, costing the life of Sheriff Barber.

Pierpont was the man who raided that jail. He was free then, and his friend, John Dillinger, was in custody there. Today the situation is reversed. Pierpont is within the jail and Dillinger is free after his daring escape from Crown Point ten days ago.

Neither of these criminals has anything to lose but his life. Each would rather lose it at once from the city pay roll, as a penalty for defying the law.

Ohio should act immediately to put Pierpont out of the reach of John Dillinger.

"MILITARY LESSONS"

WHETHER the deaths in army air mail flying have been excessive as the President and the public believe, or only about the average for normal army training, as some officers say, the President is obviously wise in restricting the air mail routes during this interim period. Since the air mail is to be turned back to private contractors, Congress should speed the legislation for that purpose requested a week ago by the administration.

One sentence in the President's letter of instructions to Secretary of War Dern is especially significant. He wrote:

"Because military lessons have been taught us during the last few weeks, I request that you consult immediately with the postmaster-general and the secretary of commerce in order that additional training may be given to army air pilots through co-operation with private companies who later on will fly the mails."

After every allowance is made for the necessary difference in training and equipment for military and commercial flying, it seems clear that army pilots would be better aviators if given experience in individual cross-country, blind and instrument flying, in addition to the conventional formation air drill hitherto so much stressed by the army chiefs.

A PAYING INVESTMENT

ACTIVITIES of the federal trade commission have cost taxpayers something like \$5,000,000 during the last four years, of which perhaps one-fourth was spent on the investigation of utility companies ordered by the senate.

During those four years customers of electric utilities have been saved \$118,747,654 by reduced rates.

The percentage of profit to rate-payers on this investment is as staggering as the percentages of holding company profits disclosed by the commission.

The trade commission punctiliously reports that not all the reductions can be directly traced to its investigation. It finds that \$66,454,240 has been saved customers through re-

ductions by companies investigated by the commission. It does not point out what should be an obvious deduction—that the investigation stimulated rate regulatory bodies to act to bring about further reductions, and that companies which have not yet felt the searching light of investigation have hurried to clean their hands.

The money the government invests in Muscle Shoals to bring about yardstick regulation should pay dividends just as pleasing in the way of rate reductions. So should the money that will be spent in compiling and comparing rates throughout the United States if the house adopts the Norris-Rankin resolution already passed in the senate.

Best of all is the magic nature of this proposition which saves rate-payers money without causing utility companies to suffer.

In 1932 the total number of kilowatt hours sold was 63,764,024,000 while in 1933, with lower rates, the public bought 65,753,608,000 kilowatt hours. Utilities took in \$1,832,595,000 from sale of electric energy in 1932 and \$1,773,415,600 in 1933, a difference of only \$59,180,000.

ARTIFICIAL RADIOACTIVITY

WITHIN the last few weeks at Paris and within the last few days at Pasadena, experiments have been made that the future may rank with the epochal discovery of radioactivity itself. Artificial radioactivity has been produced. Atoms are made to smash themselves.

Irene Curie and her husband, J. Joliot, allowed alpha particles, helium atom hearts produced by natural radioactivity, to bombard the element boron. Not just when the attack was made but for minutes afterward, atomic explosion fragments consisting of positrons were emitted.

With the million-volt tube of the California Institute of Technology, Dr. C. C. Lauritsen and associates flung deuterons or heavy hydrogen hearts at carbon and here, too, positrons were emitted for many minutes after the deuterons ceased to strike. Artificial radioactivity was achieved without the use of any natural radioactivity.

What good will it be? When Béquerel discovered radioactivity in 1896 and Irene Curie's mother and father isolated radium in 1900, who foresaw the usefulness of radium in the treatment of cancer.

Medicine or industry may use artificial radioactivity to make the world a better place to live in. Physics is seizing the new knowledge it provides as new clews that will help the solution of the mystery of matter.

LIVERMORE, AGAIN!

JESSE LIVERMORE, once famous as "the boy plunger" of Wall Street, is broke again. His petition in bankruptcy discloses that he has liabilities of more than \$2,250,000 and assets of approximately \$184,000.

Livermore has been broke before, and has come back to make a millionaire of himself. No one familiar with the career of this canny trader will doubt that he will do the same thing again.

He knows the Wall Street game as few men know it. He may go broke, but man of his kind never stays broke.

But the career of this famous speculator seems to stand as a kind of symbol of the whole stock market arena; a steady cycle of boom and depression, periods of great affluence followed by periods of extreme financial stringency.

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To Pierpont death in a jail break or a fight with the law is more welcome than waiting weeks to die in the electric chair.

And what, in the long run, does it all amount to? Just who in the end—if any one is the gainer by this kind of operation? Surely not society as a whole.

A CITY SPEAKS UP

ONE of the interesting side issues in connection with the case of the notorious Dillinger gang is that a community at last has found a way of expressing its dissatisfaction with lawyers who stand between crooks and punishment.

Harry Pierpont, one of the gangsters, is held in jail at Lima, O., convicted of murder. He retained as his counsel an attorney who also happened to be city solicitor of Lima. And what did the city council of Lima do but demand that this lawyer separate himself at once from the city pay roll, as a penalty for defending Pierpont?

Now this, probably, was an unjust and impolite thing to do. Every accused man has the right to retain counsel; every lawyer has a right to take a case that is offered him.

And yet, considering one thing with another, it is at least easy to understand why the Lima city council did what it did.

AT LEAST TWO CHEERS

THE President's proposals for temporarily letting down import bars against foreign liquors and increasing domestic quotas will be bad news for the bootleggers, but not bad enough.

It is true that liquor prices are much too high. It is true that a temporary relaxation of quotas will help bring in more and better liquors. But until something is done to reduce taxes and tariffs, bootleggers probably will continue to wax and prosper.

Regardless of import quotas the tariff remains \$5 a gallon. The federal tax is \$2 and the average state tax is \$1. Here is an \$8 wall. Bootleg can be bought all over the United States for \$4 a gallon.

It should be remembered that for some months quota restrictions against Canadian whisky have been off. The tariff wall has worked to keep out sufficient Canadian whisky to greatly affect prices.

SURPRISE!

CABLES from Paris bring the surprising news that the French actually may resume payments on their war debt to the United States.

The next installment is due June 15, and it is said that if the present Dourmeng government remains in power the interest on the debt, at least, will be paid. The total due on June 15, is slightly more than \$55,000,000, of which \$19,000,000 is interest.

All this, to the ordinary American, probably will come under the heading of news which is too good to be true. Most Americans have made up their minds that the French war debt was a thing which might as well be kissed good-bye forever, so far as any chance of collecting any of it is concerned.

To read that some of it actually may be paid is a surprise—and an unexpectedly pleasant one—even though the payment may be only one of those "token payments," a drop in the bucket, so to speak.

THE LAKE COUNTY MESS
SHERIFF LILLIAN HOLLEY's hysterical "If I ever see John Dillinger I'll shoot him through the head with my own pistol" hits the general level of law enforcement standards in Lake county, Indiana.

This is the county where jail authorities let "Indiana's public enemy No. 1," murderer and bank robber, have a knife in his cell and laugh at him while he whittles the wooden pistol with which he later terrifies thirty-three of the prison guards and inmates, locks them into cells and storerooms, collects \$15 and a couple of machine guns and escapes in the sheriff's own automobile!

This is the county where Prosecuting Attorney Robert G. Estill, after Dillinger's capture last January, had himself photographed with his arm around the shoulder of the desperado whom it was his sworn duty to try to send to the electric chair!

Also where this same woman sheriff likewise posed for photographs, proclaimed that "John Dillinger may be able to fight his way out of some prisons, but he won't break this jail," and put an armed guard at the head of her drawing room divan to peer through the window and prevent the notorious jail-breaker's escape.

To cap the climax, we have the plaintive wail of Deputy Sheriff Ernest Baar, who slept near the Dillinger cell so as to be "available in case of trouble:

"I could have potted him as he walked out if I had only awakened!"

This sort of thing calls for something more than nation-wide laughter and contempt. Governor McNutt's investigation should be stern and thorough. It's about time local prosecutors and prison authorities were taught to be less keen for press photographs and high-sounding interviews and more zealous to perform their plain duties.

The Lake county mess is another invitation to the rest of the world to sneer at American law enforcement—and reprint that amazing picture of a smirking public prosecutor with his comrade arm around one of the country's worst criminals!

Liberal Viewpoint

By DR. HARRY ELMER BARNES

Editor's Note—This is the first of two articles by Harry Elmer Barnes, Ph. D., commenting on John W. Davis' attack on the New Deal.

AS was to be expected, the actual enforcement of the new deal is producing a definite separation of the sheep from the goats.

Realistic persons will be glad to see this frank lineup. It will enable us to know clearly just where we stand. Even Mr. Roosevelt probably will welcome frank declarations of opposition.

Open antagonism is preferable to hypocritical support, accompanied by secret chiseling and back-biting. Once the enemy comes out into the open, it will be possible to know who they are and take an effective potshot at them.

Picking up the rotogravure of the New York Times recently I noted a picture of the eminent attorney, John W. Davis, motoring with J. P. Morgan in Porto Rico. It was explained that Mr. Davis was a guest of Mr. Morgan on a yacht trip through the Caribbean.

Quite appropriately, there appeared in the following Wednesday's issue of the New York Times a bitter attack by Mr. Davis upon the new deal.

Mr. Davis had no hesitation whatever in aligning himself with the great Wall Street powers in assaulting the policies of a Democratic President who has at least promised to drive the money changers from the temple.

Mr. Davis takes his cue from the excellent brochure by Secretary Henry Wallace, "America Must Choose," which has been run serially in the Scripps-Howard newspapers. But he passes over this rapidly and launches into a headlong attack upon the plainest economic order which the new deal is endeavoring to establish.

Very cogently, but with the great risk to his argument in the hands of any facile debater, Mr. Davis raises the question of who is the greater of economics: (1) It is not a cheap and perfidious political attack, but carries the battle where it belongs, namely, into the realm of economics; (2) Mr. Davis is a person of such prominence as not to be easily ignored; and (3) he brings together very well indeed all of the stock arguments employed by reactionaries in attacking the policies of Mr. Roosevelt.

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By subtle reference to the efficiency of Judge Cox over his immediate predecessor (of whom I have heard as a probable candidate, also for mayor) it was putting in a few licks for Pritchard.

I am not acquainted personally either with Mr. Pritchard or Judge Chamberlain, and, moreover, I am a Democrat, but this barefaced conspiracy to ram down the throats of the trusting rank and file a candidate hand-picked by a few self-styled bosses of the so-called grand old party is deserving of discrediting.

As this said political party has been making its biennial pilgrimage to the grave yard ever since 1933 to point with pride to a great statesman, it is small wonder that independent voters are turning in increasing numbers to that party whose greatest statesman is very much alive in this day and age, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

THE WAR IS ENDED.

By a Times Reader.

In answer to A. B. C.

Do you know the war is ended? Do you want to live on the past glory forever? I am also an ex-soldier, but why rave about it now the war is over?

Please don't hide behind a woman's skirt, now that we are all getting it on the chin. So don't put yourself in front as an ex-soldier or a married man.

The ex-cry babies always are talking about fighting for our country."

HE'D REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CONGRESSMEN ON TICKET

By a Reader.

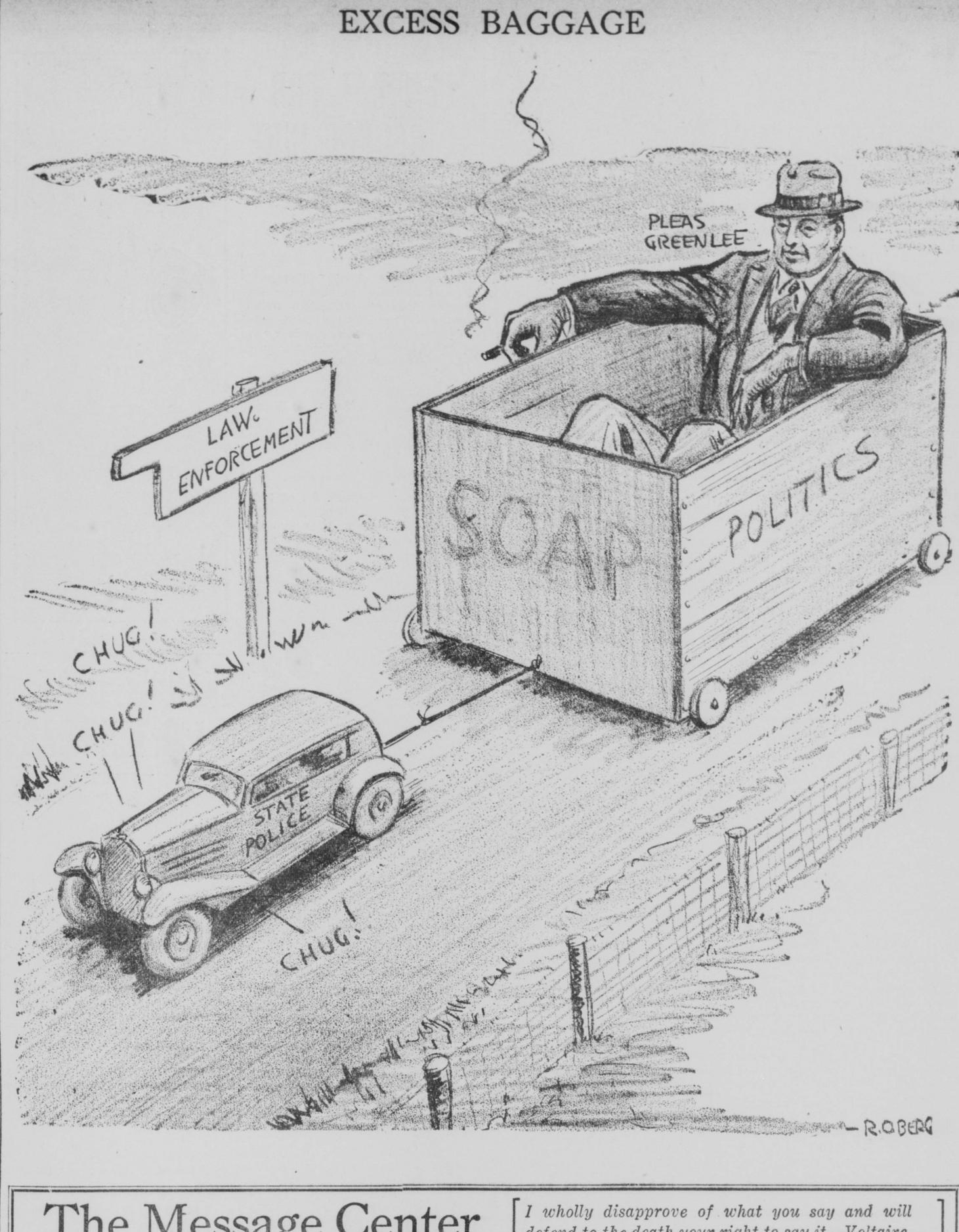
After reading and watching the political in this country on the way the congressmen and senators of our country are held by the gag rule on voting for amendments to bills and how they are kept from introducing bills to come before the house and senate by rules made by the administration, I have come to this belief:

To be telling the truth, I can see no reason for having all these senators and congressmen in Washington. It looks to me as if one senator and one congressman from each state would be enough.

Each of these senators and congressmen draws an average of about \$12,000 a year, counting his mileage and other expenses. Look at the saving in dollars yearly this would effect if there was only one of each state.

I can see no reason for there being 435 congressmen and ninety-six senators sitting in Washington as they don't seem to be able to pass on anything only what has been made up for them by a brain trust.

I would like to see the government cut down to a few hundred members.



The Message Center

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

Protests Gasoline Tax</div