

COMPLAINTS POUR IN AGAINST HIGH COST OF LIVING

Campaign Against Profiteers
Results in Conviction of
107 Offenders.

NEW YORK, April 21.—A. W. Riley, chief of the "flying squadron" of the department of justice, whose campaign so far has resulted in the conviction of 107 profiteers with fines ranging from \$50 to \$2,500 and imprisonment from one day to two years, has uncovered a number of surprising commodities for which dealers are said to be asking exorbitant prices. Complaints of alleged "gouging" are almost as varied as pickles, soups, ices, lemonade to whisky are being reported to Mr. Riley by New York consumers. One man who had paid \$1.15 to a restaurateur for a tiny steak and six small pieces of French fried potatoes, didn't stop to eat them but glancing at his check, took a newspaper he had been reading, wrapped up his "meal" and brought it to the office of the prosecutor.

Some of the latest complaints were amusing, others pathetic. All, however, showed the seriousness of the present era of high prices. One indignant citizen wrote: "You ought to investigate —'s fish market in Brooklyn. He's a modern Jesse James. What do you think of 99 cents a pound for salmon and 60 cents for a barrel of —."

Examples Cited.

The chief of the "flying squadron" has received complaints of such examples of alleged profiteering as follows:

Drug store whisky at \$5 a pint and \$2 more for doctor's prescription; canary birds \$20 to \$25 and \$3 to \$10 for a cage; lemonade, served at a hotel bar, cost and said to have been "weak" \$1; a glass, ranged \$1 to \$3 a box for "imported" brands; that fish during Lent rose from 20 cents to \$1 a pound in some New York markets; prunes, three for 19 cents in a popular restaurant; peanut oil, sold as "olive oil," \$4 a quart; anthracite coal \$15 instead of \$9.50 a ton in Nyack, N. Y., because the miners had granted a wage increase of 50 cents.

Consumers complain to Mr. Riley that they have to pay 50 cents a pound for the same brands of coffee that retailed for 21 cents a pound before the war and that wholesalers paid 11 cents a pound for some of these coffees three years ago and are now paying 15 cents. Milk they can now get 16 cents a glass in restaurants which cost it for 12 cents a quart; that they have to pay 25 cents for linen collars costing at wholesale \$2.40 a dozen; pickles cost six cents each; cabbage 40 cents a head; 75 cents a bunch for asparagus and 35 cents a head for lettuce.

Remedy Suggested.

A young woman protested after having paid \$3 for a box at a department store, "bargain sale" which, she discovered later, cost 75 cents to manufacture. She said that many big business houses were not satisfied with 100 per cent profit but were making, in some cases, 150 to 200 per cent. She suggested a "remedy" as follows:

"Do not buy anything in the first store you visit. Ask the price and, if it seems at all excessive, say you will not pay it and walk out. Then go next door and you may buy it for less. At any rate these profiteers need to know that the public is wise to them. A tremendous volume of refusals to buy would make such merchants realize they must stop overcharging. If they would not precipitate a general business boycott."

Obviously the "flying squadron" is working with the utmost secrecy and names of complainants are withheld. Several big New York corporations, which have been accused of making unjustifiable profits on foodstuffs and clothing, are now reported under investigation. According to Mr. Riley, one convicted profiteer blamed the public for much of the high prices.

"It's so easy to get what you ask for," the merchant confided to the chief investigator, "that few business men can resist the temptation to raise prices. If I put two garments in my store window of exactly the same cut and materials but with a \$50 tag on one and a \$5 tag on the other, most persons would buy the higher-priced one. It's a strange freak of human nature."

Eyes Inflamed?

If your eyes are inflamed, weak, tired or overworked; if they ache; if picture shows make them feel dry and strained, get a bottle of Bon-Opto tablets from your druggist, dissolve one in a fourth of a glass of water and use as an eye bath from two to four times a day. Bon-Opto relieves inflammation, invigorates, tones up the eyes.

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From School to Auto Shop



Cementing automobile tires pays three times as much money as school teaching, so Mrs. Lillian S. Sanders gave up her position in New York's public schools, and went into the automobile repair business. Now she's service manager of a tire station in Nyack, N. Y. Hundreds of other school teachers have left their desks for better paying positions in all kinds of businesses and professions. "Anything but teaching" has been the cry, with the result that New York schools are in a state of timeless confusion and need. Children are being turned into the streets at a rate of 150,000 a week, class rooms are crowded to twice their capacity and substitutes requirements have been lowered, all because of the alarming teacher shortage due to insufficient wages.

People nowadays don't seem to concern themselves any more about what things cost.

Protests against profiteering are reported pouring into the federal building here from all over the country. While a complaint is received, it is indeed forwarded to federal prosecutors and "flying squadrons" operating in the United States judicial territory where the victim resides. Investigation follows and, if the facts warrant, arrests are

made. The campaign, initiated by Atty. Gen. Palmer will go on according to H. L. Van Sickle, in charge of the New York office for Mr. Riley, "until prices of food, clothing, fuel and feed for livestock are brought to more normal levels."

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Read what these Women Think About It
North East, Md.—"I was in ill health four or five years and doctor who took care of me after another had not helped me. I was irregular and had such terrible pain in my back, lower part of my body and down each side that I had to go to bed three or four days every month. I was so weak and could not eat without getting sick. A friend asked me to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and I am sorry I did not take it sooner for it has helped me wonderfully. I don't have to go to bed with the pain can eat more, being sick and have more strength. I recommend your medicine and you are at liberty to publish my testimonial!"—ELIZABETH WEAVER, B. E. 2, North East, Md.

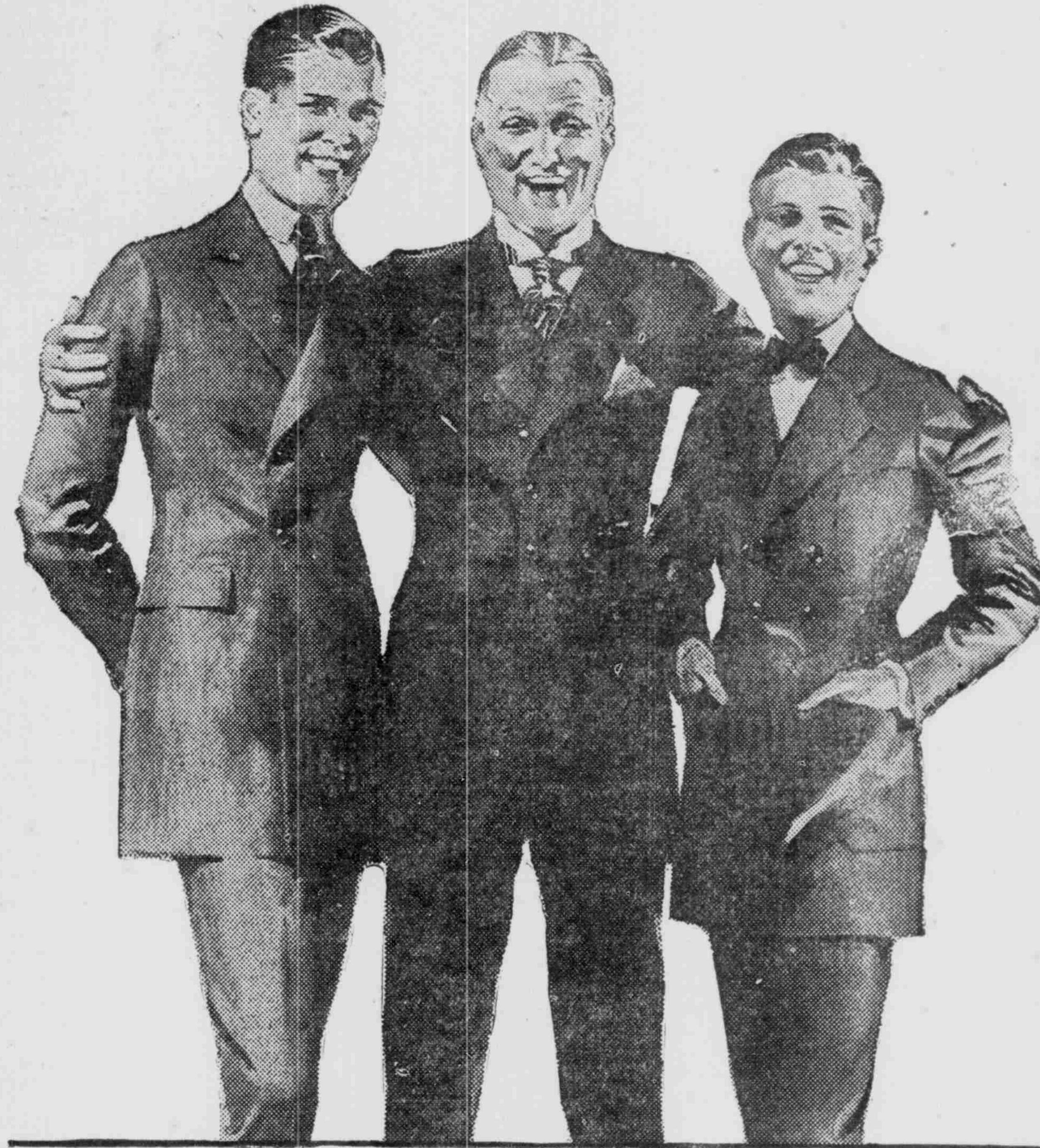
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