



COLUMBUS, OHIO, CITIZEN
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1932

The Prince of Wales is trying to popularize
tripe and onions. What celebrity will bring
codfish balls back into style?

29 Genteel Mobs

It is the duty of the well-born to maintain
civilization's standards.

But down in southeastern Kentucky the
other night the Bluegrass bashaws of Bell and
Harlan counties turned themselves into a night-
riding mob. In a state where chivalry is tra-
ditional these leading citizens—doctors, business
men, officers of the law, lawyers and one news-
paper editor—are charged with kidnaping a
group of New York writers at midnight and
carrying them in autos to the state line at
Cumberland Gap. There, it is alleged, two of
the New Yorkers, Waldo Frank and Allen Taub,
were beaten. Their crime, it seems, was to
have brought into the region food for the strik-
ing miners' families.

This is not the first outrage reported from
these terror-ridden counties. Strikers and their
sympathizers have been intimidated by law of-
ficers and company guards. To be called a
Communist there subjects one to the workings
of Kentucky's criminal syndicalism law, said
to outdo all other such laws in its sweeping de-
nial of fundamental rights.

The United States Senate has been appealed
to and an investigation may be ordered. With
both law and the tradition of fair play appar-
ently lacking there seems to be no other way.

After all, the soft coal regions of Kentucky
are part of the United States.

With Jimmy Walker presiding as vice pres-
ident, all the United States Senate would need
to make it a good show would be a jazz band
and a couple of good hoofers.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

INVESTIGATION

SENATOR COSTIGAN, Dem-
ocrat, has introduced a
resolution in the Senate ask-
ing for an investigation into
the conditions of Harlan and
Bell counties.

This resolution has come
after pressure has been
brought to bear by outside
"uplifting reformers" who
have come into our midst. The
major portion of the agitation
has been of Communistic
origin, the whelp of the hit
dog, the whine of the cur that
would snoop around and bite
and harass innocent and un-
offending people who have
been suffering.

Senator Costigan is yield-
ing himself to that plea, and
is giving credence to the
broadcasted fables of Commu-
nists who want nothing but
turmoil, and the outsider who
knows little about the real
situation and who is believing
what the Communist propa-
ganda has put out.

We find no fault with Sena-
tor Costigan in his desire to
see improved conditions. Our
people will welcome a fair and
unbiased visit of United
States Senators who want to
do right by everybody, opera-
tor and miner. These investi-
gators will find rough-shod
methods have been used in
stamping out the invasion of
the Communist, but they will
find that our people had to
protect themselves against
revolution. If they are good
Americans, and certainly we
know our Senators to be such,
we do not need to worry about
their verdict.

Let the Senators come, if
they have the time and the in-
clination. They will learn a
good many things about what
is going on in acute situations
where the Red is trying to
tear down, instead of to build
up.

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ONE thing the Senators will
find, which may not be ap-
parent to the cloistered schol-
ars of the East, who live in
the idealism of the class room.
They will find that there
comes a time when freedom
of speech, as guaranteed by
the Constitution, has its dan-
gers in internal warfare and
revolution. When you turn
loose upon a distressed com-
munity such as ours has been
in recent months, a horde of
propagandists and vile de-
nouncers against either actual
or fancied wrongs and permit
them to work unchecked upon
the prejudice, the ignorance,
and the superstitions of the
burdens and ill-fed coal min-
ers, there is going to be
trouble. There is going to be
riot. There is going to be
bloodshed. There is going to
be sabotage. There is going
to be revolution. Why? Be-
cause these poor miners, gen-
erally speaking, are unable to
separate the truth from the
false, and they are just as
likely to turn upon a friend
unwittingly as upon an enemy.

In a provincial community
such as ours, when we are all
home folks, when we all know
each other, when an outside
meddler lies about one group
of neighbors and tries to stir
up trouble, it is easy to under-
stand how there comes a time
when his mouth has to be
dried up.

We believe our Senators will
find out this truth, when they
view our local troubles from
a close-range standpoint, and
in the light of stern actuality
instead of idealistic theory.

COURAGE

REGARDLESS of what may
be said about Governor
Laffoon, there is one thing
which everyone must admire,
and that is his courage.
Some might call it plain stub-
bornness, but even at that, it
becomes courage in the
strongest sense. Courage is
the greatest asset of any pub-
lic official, and it is ours to
hope that such an official
may make few mistakes.