

# PRESS FREEDOM UNDER FIRE OF SNIPERS



"... a boastful totem ..."

bodyguard pictured on the first page of this section. It also symbolizes the regimentation of thought in that land, the organization of all ideas after the pattern of those of the dictator, Adolf Hitler; the suppression of individualism of every sort, and the clamping down upon the freedom of the press—if ever at any time the public *Zeitung* of that country can have been given latitude worthy of the name of freedom. The NRA eagle symbolizes governmental regulation of trade and industry under a system designed and set up by the administration to provide jobs for the jobless and to produce profits for the profiteers—simultaneously. That the disciples of Rooseveltian recovery in the United States and the Brown Shirts of Germany should have hit upon the same symbol—the eagle—is explained in the fact that the bird is well known in both countries—in America as the representative of liberty, in Germany as the war bird of the Kaisers.



"... squelches all criticism ..."

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS exists not under dictatorships. The audacious Signor Mussolini of Italy (above), who, like Hitler of Germany and Stalin of Russia, is a dictator of the first water, sees to it that the press of his country performs only as the exponent of the Fascist idea—and Mussolini once was a journalist himself. Professional journalists of Italy are under government control through a decree put into effect in 1924, which wiped out the royal edict of 1848 that gave newspapers a limited measure of liberty. In Italy a newspaper editor must be approved by the prefect of his province. If the rules and regulations governing the Italian press are violated by a paper, that paper is confiscated. Mussolini squelches all criticism of his government.



"... assailed the boddlers ..."



"... 575 lives were lost ..."

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC IN ANOTHER MANNER, newspapers thirty years ago gave wide publicity to the flaws in construction and design of the Iroquois theater in Chicago (above, interior view), in which 575 lives were lost in one of the worst holocausts of history. Since that time theaters throughout the country have been equipped with every manner of device to protect lives in the case of fire.

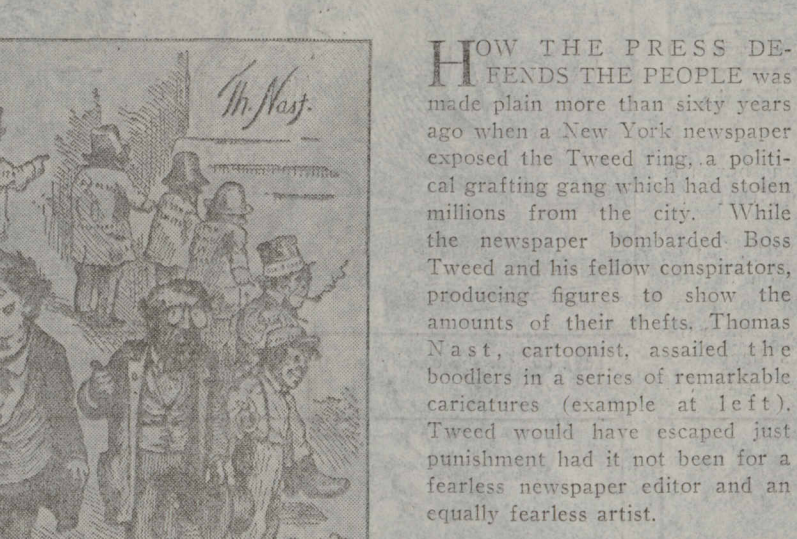


"... governmental regulation ..."



"... boss of the NRA ..."

CALLLED INDUSTRIAL DICTATOR OF AMERICA because he is the boss of the NRA, Hugh S. Johnson (above) declares that the guarantee of the freedom of the press, written into the NRA newspaper code by publishers, is an affront to the President in view of the guarantee existing in the first amendment to the constitution. Publishers, speaking for the people, point out that the press is public thought itself and the principal medium of public expression.



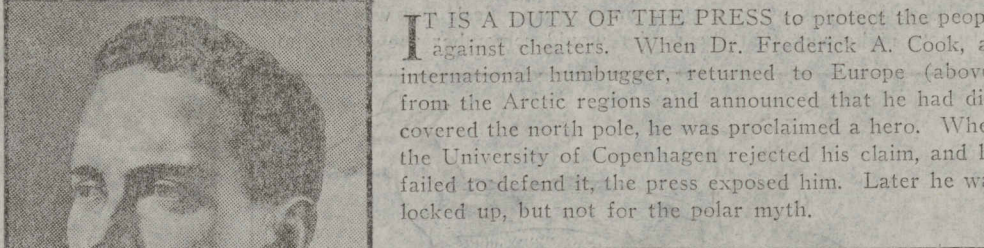
"... the musical mayor ..."



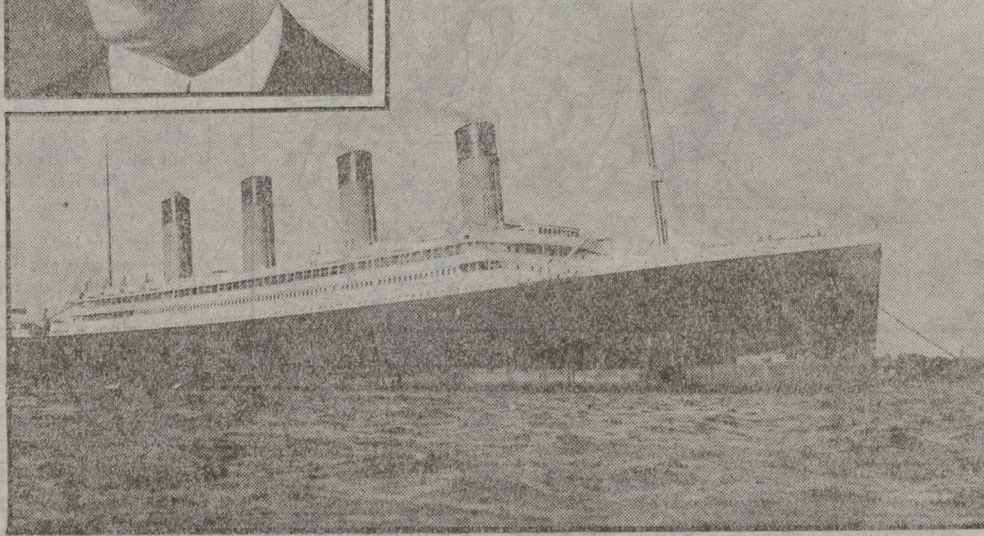
CLEANING UP CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT long has been the job of the honest newspaper. In San Francisco rottenness in the municipal rule of Eugene E. (Handsome Gene) Schmitz (above), the musical mayor, was laid bare in public print. Schmitz was sentenced to prison on a charge of extortion, but the conviction was reversed. His political boss, Abe Ruef, however, served a sentence in San Quentin penitentiary for perjury.



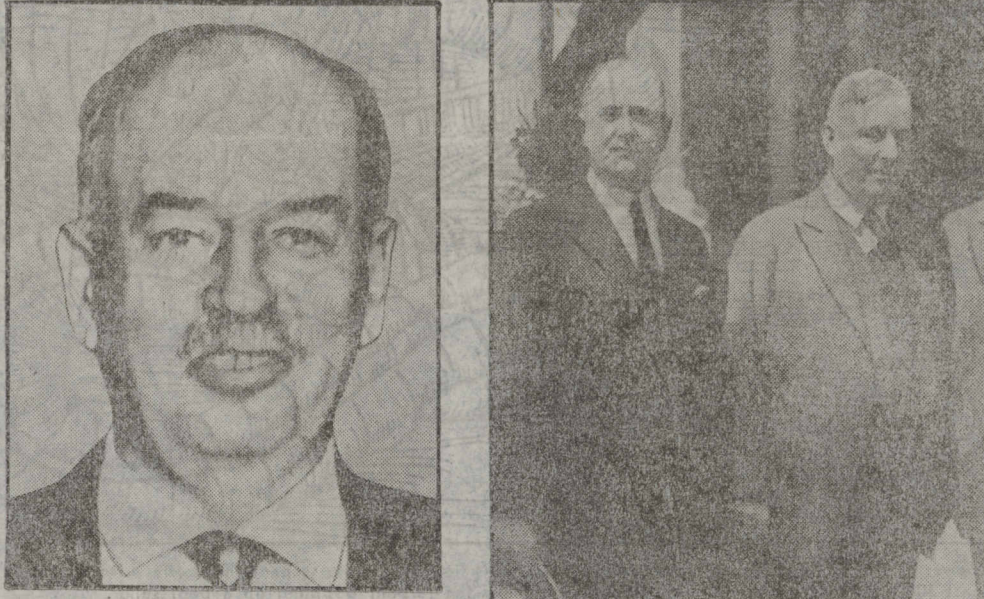
"... an international humbugger ..."



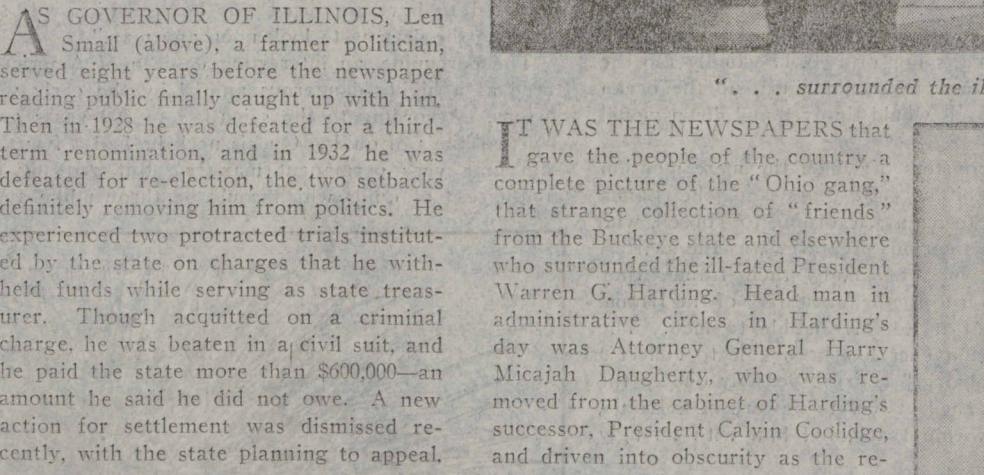
"... sank with the loss of 1,513 lives ..."



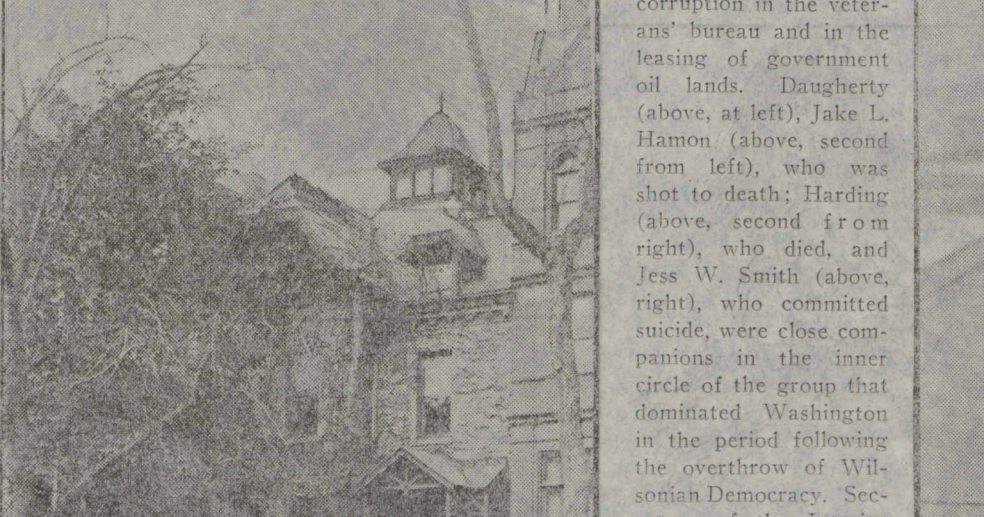
"... caught up with him ..."



"... surrounded the ill-fated President ..."



"... shook itself to ruin ..."



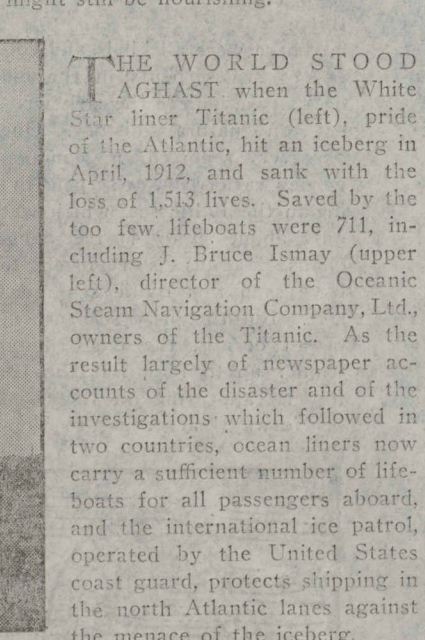
"... invasion of the home ..."

WHOSE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS? The people's or the government's? Hard questions to answer in a country in which the people constitutionally are the government. The public, in the narrow sense, however, accepts the term government as meaning those in power. An old press in Washington (above) finally shook itself to ruin after 30 years of printing 34,000 copies of the Congressional Record nightly. The NRA is said to have had printed and distributed five tons of propaganda since it took over regulation of trade and industry—more than four million separate pieces of literature sent through the mails under governmental franking privileges.



"... bought his way ..."

UNITED STATES SENATORS TODAY ARE ELECTED BY POPULAR VOTE largely because of the sentiment aroused for the seventeenth amendment by the newspapers which published details of the expulsion from the senate of William Lorimer (above), who bought his way into that so-called august body by purchase of votes in the Illinois legislature. The amendment, added to the constitution in May, 1913, wiped out election of senators by legislatures and made it extremely difficult for a candidate to purchase his way into the senate. Without the revelations of the press, which pointed out the need of the amendment, that old political abuse might still be flourishing.



"... careened skyward with its doomed ..."



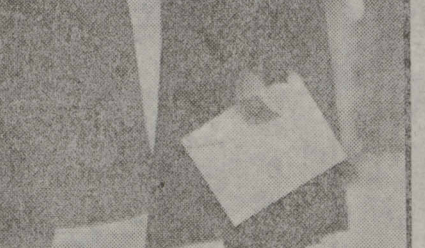
"... barred a reporter ..."



"... defended ... freedom of press ..."



"... sentenced ... newspaper men ..."



"... bound for Joliet prison ..."

TO THE PRESS SHOULD BE GIVEN THE CREDIT for making the world at large acquainted with the senator from Louisiana, Huey P. (call me Kinefish) Long (left), who recently, according to dispatches, argued that attacks against him in the form of petitions to the senate should not be allowed the privilege of publication. When Huey was governor of Louisiana, and reputable newspapers of that state were criticizing his administration, he proposed a bill to license persons and firms selling space for, or printing in daily newspapers, advertising matter for pay, the license fee to be 15 per cent of the gross business. The idea recalls the early days of the newspapers in England, before the dawn of the freedom of the press as it is known in Anglo-Saxon countries, when publishers were licensed against printing criticisms of the crown.

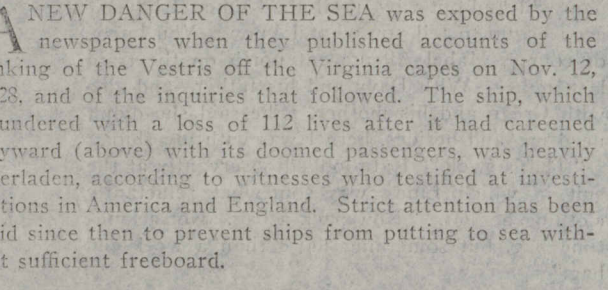


"... invading the pulpit ..."

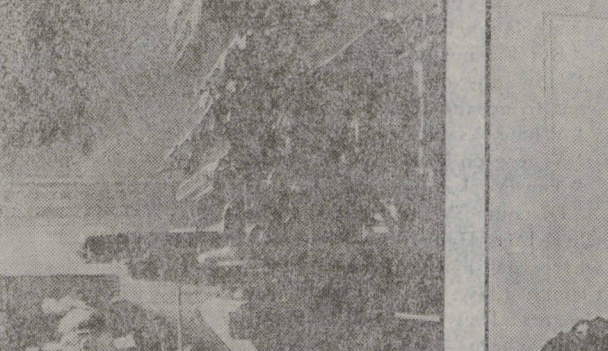
AN INVISIBLE EMPIRE CANNOT THRIVE FOR LONG in a land where the press is free to publish facts. That is why the invisible empire of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, once said to boast nine million members but now fading to nothingness, is no longer a menace but merely an object of ridicule. Parading the streets of the United States, dominating courts, invading the pulpit (above), the Klan, as an institution of intolerance, once was almost as powerful as it is Hitlerism in Germany today. Had the Kluxers been able to control their own publicity nationally as they did in a few remote places in the land, they might still today be a menace rather than a joke.



"... surrounded the ill-fated President ..."



"... barred a reporter ..."



"... defended ... freedom of press ..."



"... sentenced ... newspaper men ..."

UNNUMERABLE ARE THE INSTANCES in which the press has served the public as defender of its rights. Limited space on this page prevents more than mere mention of a few of the outstanding instances. Also countless are the cases in which efforts have been made to "crack down" on the freedom of the press. Major among those efforts was the Minnesota press "gag" law, declared unconstitutional by the federal Supreme court. Minor among the efforts have been those of small magistrates and sub-officials everywhere in the land. Judge Frederick P. Walther (left, above) sentenced two Cleveland newspaper men to jail for contempt. Judge Henry R. Prewitt of Kentucky (below) barred a reporter from his court. Newton D. Baker (above, right) in both cases defended in cogent words the freedom of the press.



"... ambushed ... and murdered ..."

RACKETEERS AND GRAFTERS FEAR EXPOSURE BY THE PRESS in its duty of protecting the rights of citizens. Therefore certain dangers quite frequently attend the business of exposing corruption. Don R. Mellett, young editor of James M. Cox's newspaper in Canton, O., was ambushed at his home and murdered because he had revealed to the public through his newspaper the alliance between the police and the underworld of Canton. His funeral (above), attended by hundreds, was followed within a very short time by the apprehension and conviction of his assassins.

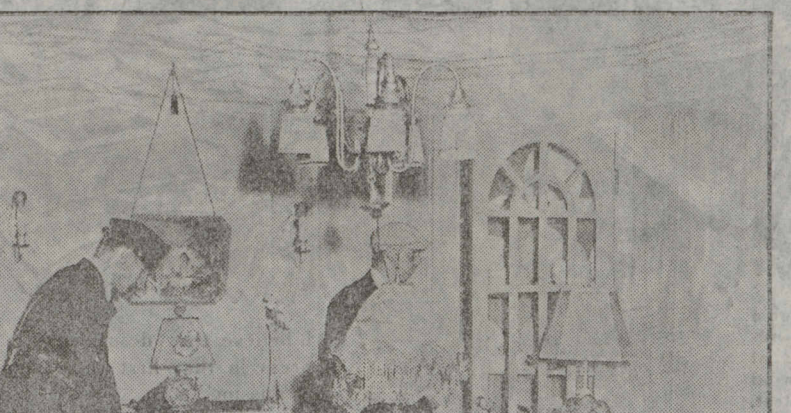


"... sentenced ... newspaper men ..."

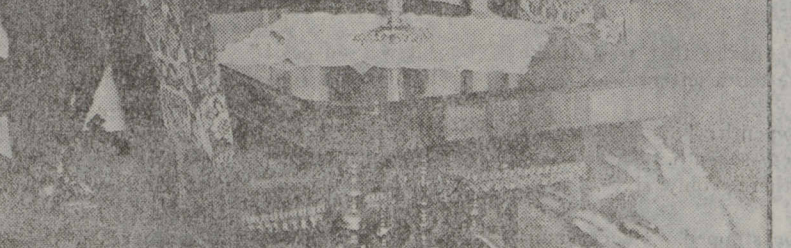
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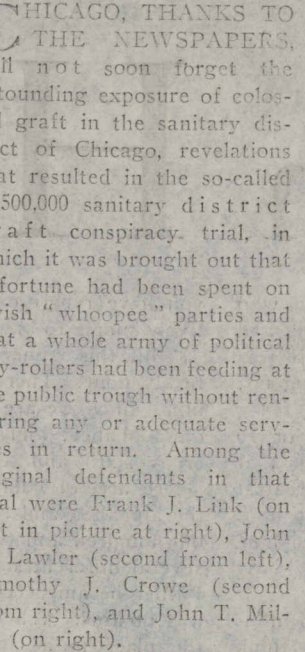


"... defended ... freedom of press ..."



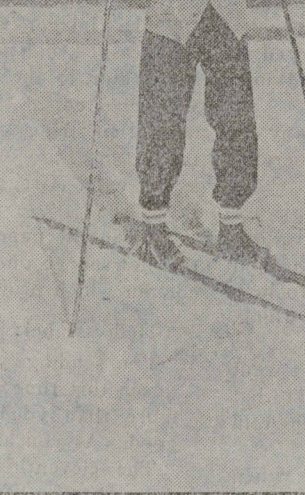
"... sentenced ... newspaper men ..."

BECAUSE OF AN EDITORIAL in his paper, George R. Dale (left), Muncie, Ind., Klan foe, was sentenced for contempt. The state Supreme court upheld the sentence, saying "truth is no defense." Dale later was elected mayor of Muncie and still later sentenced to federal prison on a liquor conspiracy charge, which he contended was "framed" by his enemies among the underworld chiefs of Muncie.



"... colossal graft in ... Chicago ..."

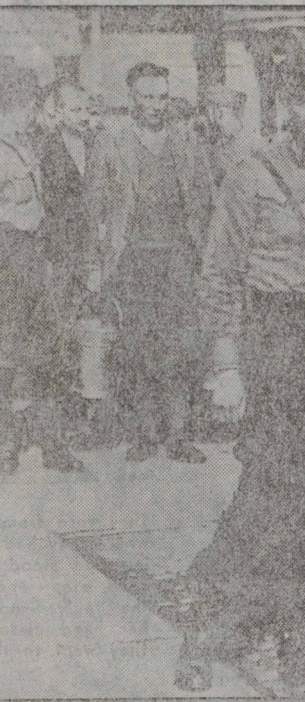
CHICAGO, THANKS TO THE NEWSPAPERS, will not soon forget the astounding exposure of colossal graft in the sanitary district of Chicago, revelations that resulted in the so-called \$6,500,000 sanitary district graft conspiracy trial, in which it was brought out that a fortune had been spent on lavish "whoopie" parties and that a whole army of political pay-rollers had been feeding at the public trough without rendering any or adequate services in return. Among the original defendants in that trial were Frank J. Laak (on left in picture at right), John K. Lawler (second from left), Timothy J. Crowe (second from right), and John T. Miller (on right).



"... playboy mayor ..."



"... proposed a bill to license ..."



"... undergoing indignities ..."



"... defender ..."

A DEFENDER OF PEOPLES RIGHTS in congress is Hamilton Fish Jr. (above), who on recent occasion has called attention to actions involving freedom of the press. William T. Schulte, another congressman, only two weeks ago predicted the next congress would pass legislation "muzzling the press."



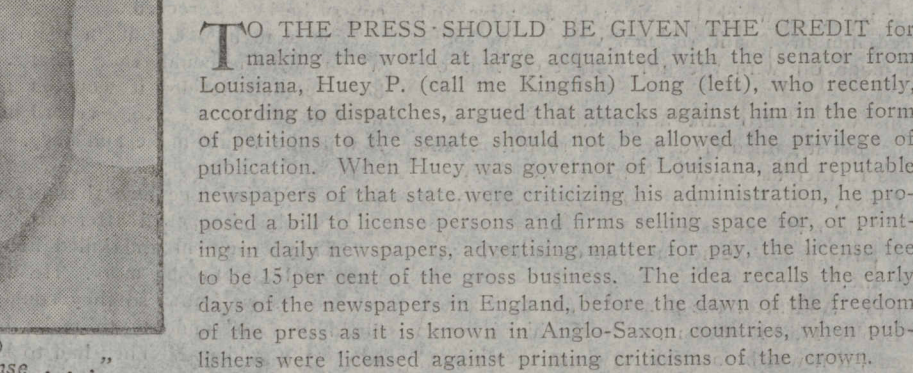
"... colossal graft in ... Chicago ..."

LOYAL MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF TAMMANY HALL—the same Tammany Hall over which the grating Boss Tweed once reigned—was dupe Jimmy Walker (left), playboy mayor of New York. But Jimmy found New York too hot for him when the newspapers of that city published detailed accounts of the Seabury investigation, which revealed him as the recipient of many and costly favors bestowed by those he called his friends—first personal friends. Walker, as his record was unraveled before the public gaze, did not wait to be removed from office by the governor. He resigned and went to Europe on a long vacation. Another instance of a free press protecting the public pocketbook.

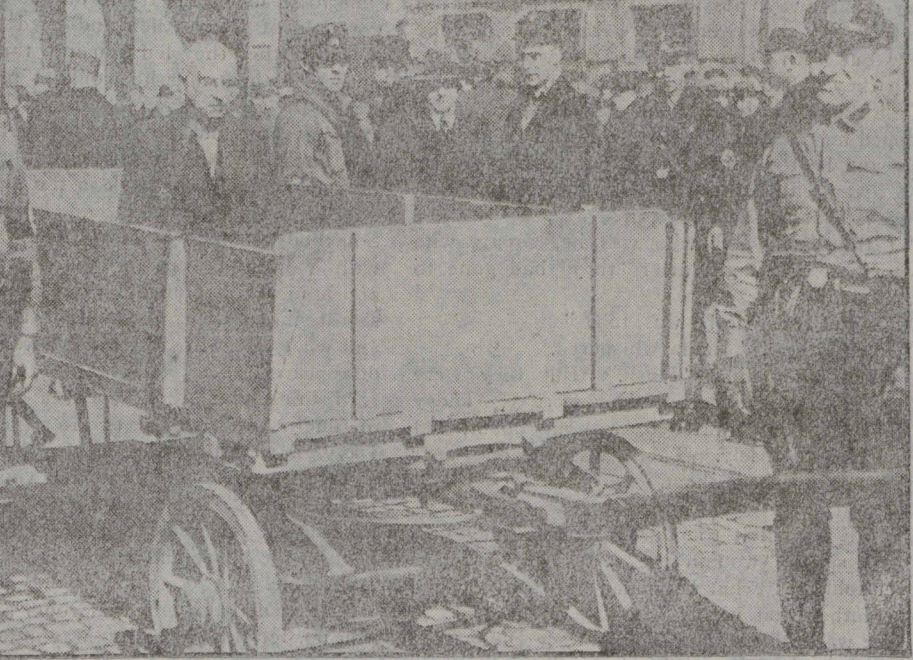


"... bound for Joliet prison ..."

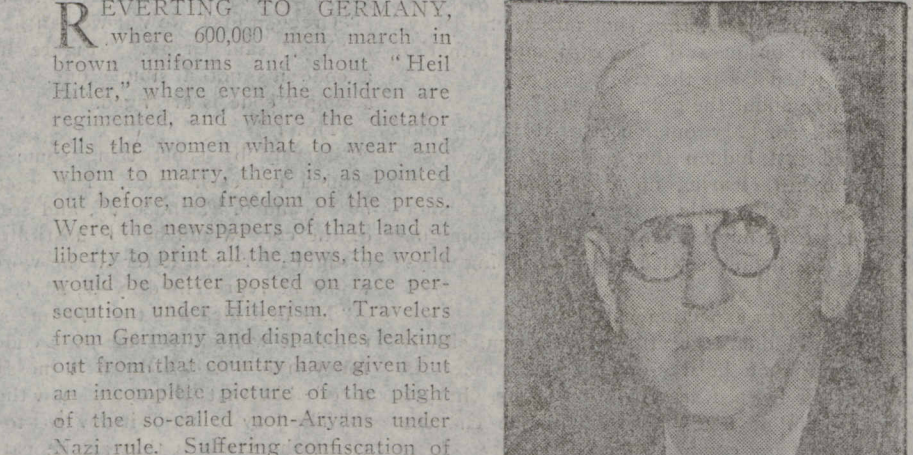
WHAT PUBLICATION OF CRIME NEWS SERVES TO FOSTER CRIME, as contended by a minority group of newspaper readers, is disproved by court records in the present onslaught against criminals in Chicago, a campaign instigated and backed by wide publicity in the press. The view taken by editors and publishers is that the drive on crime is mainly a result of public indignation against former intolerable conditions. Gangsters, gunmen, and petty crooks, bound for Joliet prison (above), present a striking answer to the argument of the senseless ones who would bar from public print all accounts of criminal depredations, all references to indelicate subjects, and all news of violent happenings.



"... proposed a bill to license ..."



"... undergoing indignities ..."



"... defender ..."

FOR UNFAVORABLE REFERENCES to the NRA, James T. Johnson (above), an unimportant author of a trade news letter, was barred from Johnson's press conference.