

# RISK

CARTOONS SELECTED BY OUTLOOK READERS

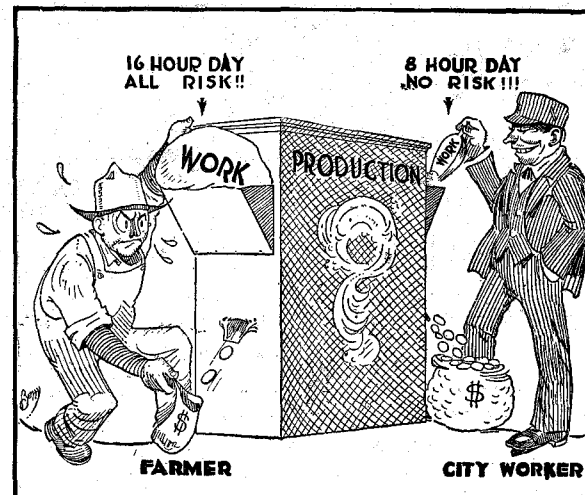
*Satterfield in the South Bend News-Times*



THE SKIPPER AND HIS FIRST MATE

From William S. Schmidt, Mishawaka, Ind.

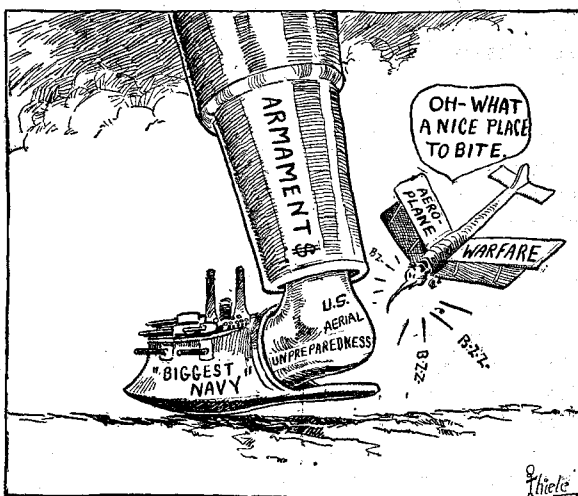
*From the Nebraska Farmer*



THERE IS SOMETHING RADICALLY WRONG WITH THIS SYSTEM

From Evelyn Wolph, Nehawka, Neb.

*Thiele in the Sioux City Tribune*



THE HEEL OF ACHILLES

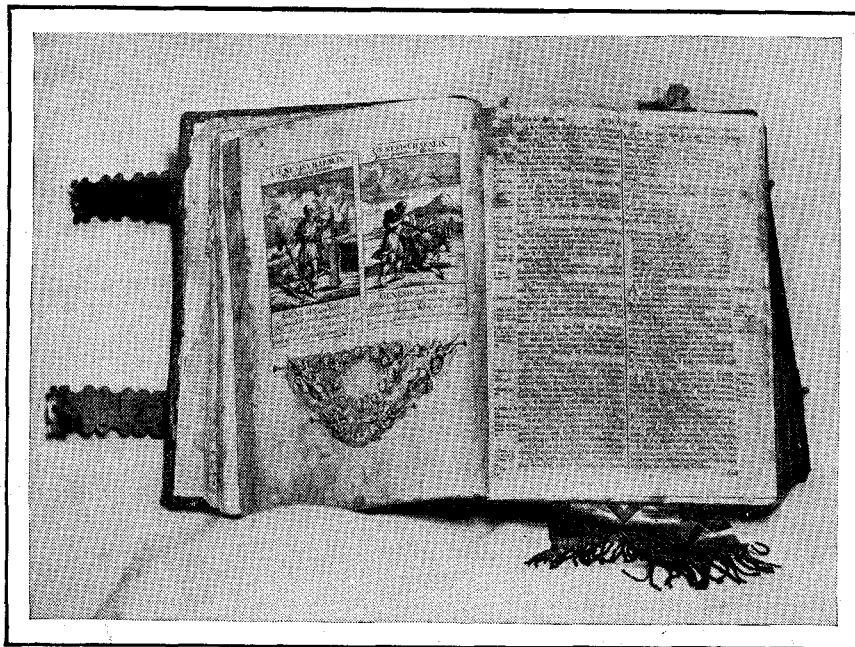
From Leslie Ross, Akron, Iowa

*Williams in the Indianapolis News*



A GENTLE HINT

From Mrs. John C. Binford, Greenfield, Ind.



WASHINGTON'S BIBLE, ON WHICH PRESIDENT HARDING TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE

It is open at the passage which Washington kissed

made so speedily. We regard it an augury of the readiness of the Harding Administration to act with the least possible delay. It will be a "business Administration."

#### MR. HUGHES ACTS

PANAMA and Costa Rica are such small countries that they do not get very much popular attention. But twenty-one years ago their boundary quarrel developed into a sufficient international issue to be submitted to President Loubet, of France, for adjudication. When M. Loubet handed down his award, the geographers of the world drew his line on their maps, and, although there was considerable grumbling on both sides, the award has never been nullified. Later, at the request of the countries interested, Chief Justice White, of our Supreme Court, interpreted the Loubet decision. This was in 1914. But the interpretation offended both countries in being too much a reaffirmation of the Loubet decision.

The district bordering the boundary-line on both sides has been a more or less unsettled region, but the advance made by Costa Rica in developing the country has brought about clashes with the inhabitants of Panama. This was hard on Panama, for, while Costa Rica has a little army, Panama has none at all.

But Panama has something else—a treaty with the United States. Its first article reads thus: "The United States guarantees and will maintain the independence of the Republic of Panama." That means that we cannot allow any impairment of her independence. Of course Panama appealed to the United States. And so did Costa Rica. Acting

on this, Secretary of State Hughes, within a few hours after he had taken his oath of office, sent identic notes to the Costa Rican and Panaman Governments. The Costa Rican Government immediately replied, ordering the return of its troops, as requested by Mr. Hughes. It is expected that Panama will "follow suit."

As Panama and Costa Rica are members of the League of Nations, the League Council is investigating the differences between the countries with a view to League intervention. Under Article XII, members of the League agree that if a possible cause of rupture arises between them they will submit the matter either to arbitration or to inquiry by the Council, and, in any case, will not resort to war until three months after the announcement of the award by the arbitrators or the report by the Council.

While the League was deliberating America acted.

#### WHAT IS PROFITEERING?

ANY attempt by legislation to stop extortion should be so clear in its meaning that the law would stand investigation by the Supreme Court. A recent decision by the Supreme Court holds certain sections of the Lever Act unconstitutional, and therefore void, as deplorably lacking in definition and clearness. What is profiteering? what is extortion? what are fair prices? Such questions as these would be answered one way by one judge and another way by another judge. If we compare the profiteering law with the income-tax provisions as regards "excess profits" the difference is very plain; we may like or dislike the excess profits provision, but the law tells plainly enough what it

means by the phrase "excess profits." Not so with the law intended to stop profiteering. Chief Justice White, in his opinion handed down in this case, expressed this in legal fashion when he said that the sections under discussion did not "constitute a fixing by Congress of an ascertainable standard of guilt," and therefore "were not adequate to inform persons accused of violations thereof of the nature and cause of the accusations." He illustrated this by imagining a court attempting to punish a person who should commit any act which in the estimation of the court might be detrimental to public interests.

The decision handed down referred only to a test case relating to the sale of a small quantity of sugar by a retail grocer, the lower Court holding that a charge of over twenty cents a pound for sugar was extortionate. The effect of the decision, however, is very wide. It will involve the reversal of convictions obtained against many profiteers, the abandonment of many other cases now under way, and the return of hundreds of thousands of dollars collected as fines.

Despite the failure of this attempt to prevent extortion, it may be held that its short existence has been of value to the public in deterring evil-doers. If the evil continues, Congress should find it possible to pass an act with specific provisions, not one like the discarded law, which, to quote Chief Justice White again, is "as broad as human imagination" and has a definition of criminality "left to ever-changing standards."

The British Government has had no difficulty, we judge, in framing laws against profiteering which have been upheld by the courts and have been reasonably well enforced.

Another recent Supreme Court decision is that declaring the Farm Loan Act valid. This decision was expected, as there never has been much doubt that Congress had authority to establish the land banks and provide for their operation. The result will be a very large issue of Farm Loan bonds which have been held up for final action during this litigation.

#### A LIBRARY THAT GOES TO THE PEOPLE

THE conception of a public library as a community center has grown enormously in the past few years. A fine example of this principle in practice is the Public Library of Portland, Oregon. It would be hard to mention any better method of spreading the educating influence of a library by active work than this institution affords. It exemplifies the principle laid down by those who conduct it that "the public library is a big business in which the