



"What do you know about this business?" the King said to Alice.
 "Nothing," said Alice.
 "Nothing **WHATEVER**?" persisted the King.
 "Nothing *whatever*," said Alice.
 "That's very important," the King said

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➤➤ Trend of the Week ◀◀

➤➤ *A Lewis Carroll Report*

THE Wickersham commission, which slipped over the brink of absurdity with its report on prohibition, hit bottom the other day with its report on Causes of Crime. "What are the causes of crime?" the commissioners, in effect, were asked. "Dunno," they reply. "We haven't the faintest idea."

And that is really all they say, though their report is 250,000 words long. All but a few paragraphs are written by the commission's experts, none of whose conclusions are endorsed by the commissioners. The underlying factors in our lawless era are too complicated and theoretical to be boiled down to anything more than a controversial social philosophy, they say; they "find it impossible comprehensively to discuss the causes of crime or factors in non-ob servance of law." What this says in a great many words is simply, "We don't know." No more fantastic report has ever been issued. It is hard to see how the government-by-commission idea can outlive it.

➤➤ *Plea for Petters*

KING RACKET goes too far. It's bad enough when he gets a grip on liquor dealers, laundrymen, truckers and the rest. It's ten times worse when he reaches out for the petting party. North Carolina, which reports a widespread "petting party racket" by its magistrates, says that parked automobiles are raided in search of clinging couples who, brought to court, are told that upon payment of costs they will be dismissed without publicity and without trial. Naturally they pay. The racket works so smoothly and profitably that, it is

said, North Carolina magistrates have no further necessity for speed traps.

Shall this outrage continue? The mere thought is unthinkable. Liquor, laundry and trucking may succumb to the racketeer if they will. That great American institution, the petting party, must not. The North Carolina racket must be stopped before it spreads. Menace and destruction threaten precious customs and characteristics of the flower of our youth. Our young men and women must not be forced to become economical with their affections and niggardly with their caresses. The roadsides must be made safe for parking petters. Courting must stay out of court. American girls must be kept kissable.

➤➤ *Stupidity in Japan*

JAPANESE authorities have done an irritating and stupid thing in the case of Pangborn and Herndon, the two aviators who abandoned their projected round-the-world flight over Siberia and proceeded to Tokio, intending to try a non-stop flight to Seattle. Arriving in Tokio, they were placed under arrest, questioned for day after day, then finally tried and sentenced to pay fines of a thousand dollars each or spend two hundred days in jail.

Their offense? Innocently, without knowing where they were, they flew over certain Japanese fortifications and—as, unasked, they revealed—took moving pictures of the scenery. Early dispatches from Tokio indicated that their arrest was a mere formality and that they would speedily be cleared. They should have been. Or, with the innocence of their intent so obvious, they could have been lectured or fined a few dollars and the case disposed of in a day or

two. Instead they were kept in hot water from August 6 until August 15 and then confronted with this nonsensical penalty. If officials in the United States had treated Japanese fliers similarly in similar circumstances Japan would have deafened high heaven with protests and every fair American would have sympathized with her. Of this the Japanese officials may well be reminded. From start to finish theirs was a jackass performance of the minor but exasperating type well calculated to embitter Japanese-American relations.

➤➤ *The Michigan Murder*

Nor infrequently northerners greet news of southern lynchings and attempted lynching with the boast that things of that sort could not happen above the Mason-Dixon line. They err. Things of that sort not only can happen in the North but occasionally do, as the recent mob demonstration in Michigan indicates.

The provocation in this case was of course extreme. Two boys and girls were held up, robbed and killed by a Negro and two young white men, one of them an ex-convict, in an auto on a lonely road near Ypsilanti, not far from Detroit. Their tragedy began when one of them recognized one of the robbers. It ended in flame, their car drenched with gasoline, their dead bodies piled within. The arrest of the criminals was the signal for two lynching demonstrations, one at Ypsilanti, the other at Ann Arbor, seat of the state university. Only the sincere and intelligent determination of the police to let the law take its course prevented the prisoners from falling into the hands of the mob, which was scarcely to be stopped even by tear bombs.