



WITH OUR READERS

►► Relieving the Farmer

To the Editor:

Chase City, Va.

SIR—Appreciating your efficient championship of one certain worthy cause, I beg to call your attention to another—the growing distress here in the South from *lack of food*.

There have been two years of successive crop-failures, 1929 having yielded badly by reason of excessive rainfall and other conditions, and 1930 having been even worse by reason of drought, hail, etc., so that the main “money crop”—tobacco—which at best gives but a small net profit, has, this past year, not yielded enough gross profit to pay for fertilizer used to make it grow; while other farm products, as well as vegetables, fruits, etc., have been almost *nil*. The custom down here, for many years, has been for the farmers to get all supplies on credit during the farming season, and to pay for them in the fall, when the crops were marketed (an admittedly bad custom, but so arranged by long habit) and the average farmer, having practically no gross returns from his 1930 crop, finds himself today with two years’ debt staring him in the face, no credit left, no cash wherewith to purchase clothing, and—the far more sinister lack of cash wherewith to buy necessary food for his family; not to speak of his inevitable taxes.

This situation has been fully explained to our government officials. The Federal Farm Board, as picked by Mr. Hoover, has, with the aid of various politicians, established a remarkable series of remedial measures, and thus, doubtless, considers its responsibilities discharged. They have bought several million bushels of wheat (which may have been grown in the North, in Canada, or in Russia—for all that we know) and are still playing with it. They secured a temporary reduction in freight rates, “in order to facilitate shipment of stock *out* of the drought area, and of stock-food *into* it”; though just what good this might bring to distressed farmers, who had neither any money with which to buy outside fodder nor any stock to ship outside, it is difficult to discover. They went further, and advised the farmers that they “felt sure” that they would not be victimized by profiteers in the purchase of high-priced feed; which has been a highly valuable and admirable assurance, but which has not yet been confirmed by results. This Board has also apparently arranged for loans to the farmer; forgetting, apparently, that thousands of impoverished farmers have no collateral with which to supply the necessary security for such loans. In general, the Farm Board has done nothing to assist southern farmers, and the criticism recently passed upon the Board by a big western farmer (to the effect that the Board will be found useless, because not one of them knew anything about farming) is lamentably true.

Again, during the last sixty days, as the teeth of winter set a little bit closer, lack of food becomes constantly more pressing, and all sorts of requests for immediate aid have been sent to all officials of the government. Mr. Drewry of

(Please Turn to Page 160)

OUTLOOK

and Independent

VOLUME 157

NUMBER 4

January 28, 1931

With Our Readers	121
Frontispiece: A Cartoon by Robert James Malone	122

THE TREND OF EVENTS	123
---------------------------	-----

Editorial

The Wickersham Report	130
-----------------------------	-----

Backstage in Washington	A. F. C. 131
-------------------------------	--------------

ARTICLES

Blessed Are the Pure in Heart	Rebecca West 132
Our Failing Banks	Frederick R. Barkley 134
Profits from Peace in China	Grover Clark 137
Why I Hate Hollywood	Patterson McNutt 140
The Country Store Survives.....	Charles Morrow Wilson 142
What About Wages?	William O. Scroggs 144
The Stream of Business	Frank A. Fall 145
Re-Enter Benes of Czechoslovakia	T. R. Ybarra 146

THE LEISURE ARTS

Speaking of Books	147
The Week's Reading	Frances Lamont Robbins and Virgilia Peterson Ross 147
Religion's Voice	Edmund B. Chaffee 149
Behind the Blurbs	Walter R. Brooks 150
Gramophonia	O. C.-T. 150
The Movies	Creighton Peet 151
The Theatre	Otis Chatfield-Taylor 152
Prose and Worse	Walter R. Brooks 153
From the Life	Diana Rose 154
Ivory, Apes and Peacocks	W. R. Brooks 155

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Next Week in the Outlook

Law Breakers in High Office, by William Pickett Helm.

Honest John Citizen—the man in the street—is not the only violator of the law, the author maintains, no matter how many times he breaks the speed limit. Even the law makers and law enforcers are constantly violating his constitutional rights. Soon, Mr. Helm suggests, there may be no rights left.

Back in the Jungle, by Rebecca West.

The ridiculous uproar attending the publication of a well-known letter telling of one of Robert Burns's love affairs moves Miss West to contemplate the foibles of the human mind which, she asserts, “has hardly moved one hundred years from its old place in the jungle.”

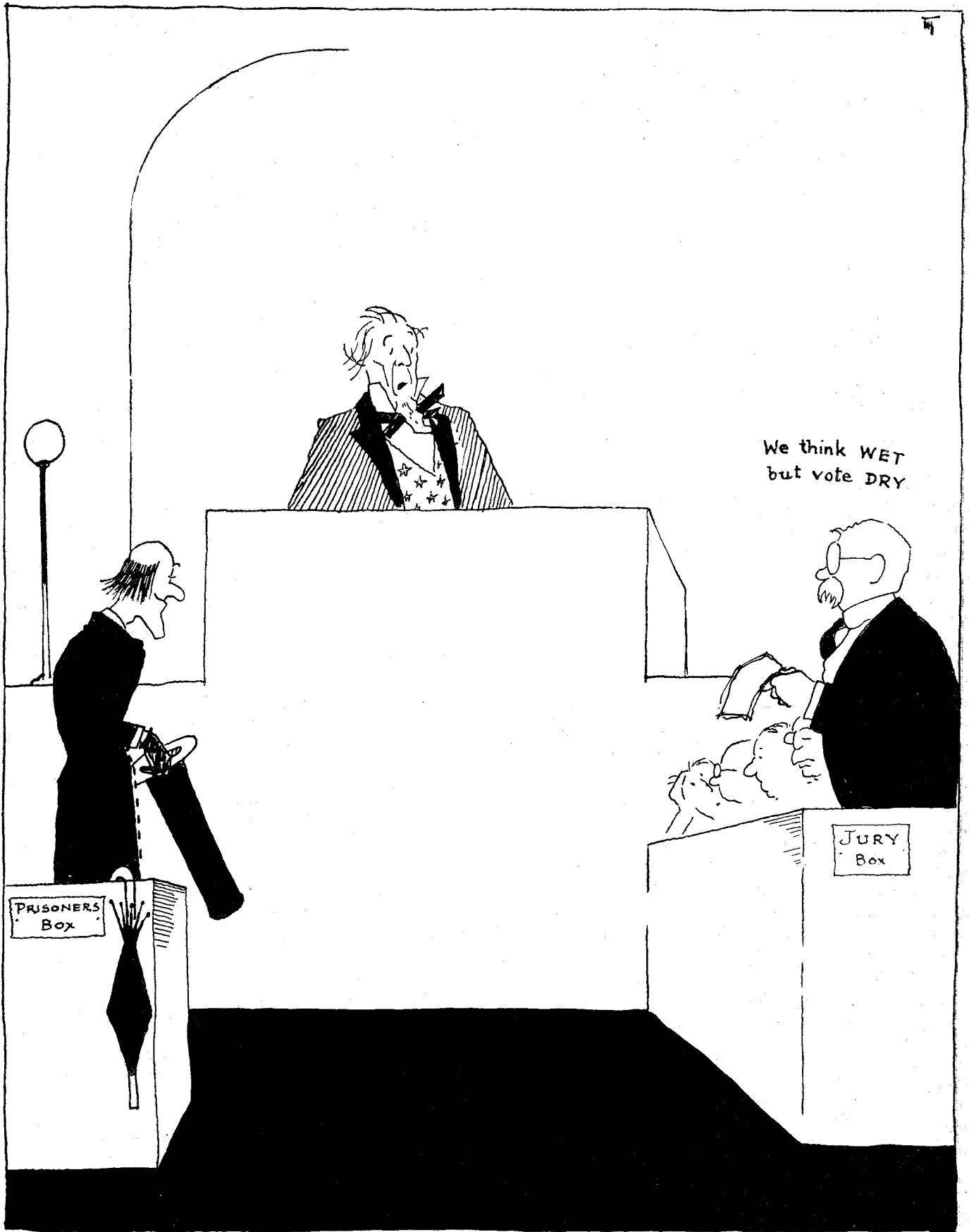
Croesus and Corinthian, by Lucius Beebe.

A portrait of “the greatest Secretary of the Treasury since Hamilton,” and master of one of the country's three largest fortunes—Andrew Mellon.

Good-bye to H. G. Wells, by C. Hartley Grattan.

Mr. Grattan reviews the philosophy of the author of *The Outline of History* and explains why Mr. Wells's influence is diminishing, particularly with the younger generation.

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