THE SINEWS OF ORGANIZED CRIME.

"There never was a time in the history of America when the work of the police was so necessary. In every large city the police and prosecutors have been bewildered by a new type of crime that is able to control money running into many millions of dollars: that is organized and has a secret service of its own to get information; that is intelligently directed and whose whole function it is to get money out of violating the law; a type of crime that has developed its own methods of enforcing its decrees."

This is not the irresponsible assertion of a propagandist or muckraker. It is that of one who speaks from direct and ample knowledge and personal experience, District Attorney Johnson. It gives the gist of the problem of organized crime in America as it has developed in the years of the prohibition experiment. Illicit liquor is the source of the millions referred to and these millions are the life blood of organized criminality. Obviously the new crime situation puts a strain upon the police it never was exposed to in any such force in the past. Obviously this calls for every effort to raise and support the morale of the police, and, as Mr. Johnson points out, this requires an exceptionally strong civil service commission. But so long as the fundamental strength of organized crime remains, efforts to improve police, important as they are, can only result in a partial amelioration of conditions. Until the main sources of criminal wealth are dried up, organized crime will thrive. The only radical and sufficient method of destroying it is to adopt a practicable method of regulating the liquor traffic. The path to this necessary reform is blocked by fanaticism, and fanaticism should no longer be allowed to overrule the common sense of the nation.