

BIG ROBBERIES ALARM AUTHORITIES:

A routine job. Two men from a branch bank, by taxi, to the head office. The money chained to the wrist for safety against a snatch-thief. But THIS day made history, even in these times of audacious robberies. The taxi'd been stolen. The ting at the wheel knew what time the bankmen would make their weekly trip. Suddenly he turned into a disused yard. Waiting there, other gangsters coaxed the passengers, locked them up. Another perfect robbery.

- Mail gang in ten-thousand raid.
- London bandits grab thirteen thousand.
- Twenty-thousand raid on London bank.

That was in Stoke Newington High Street. Through a back window the bandits took oxy-acetylene gear, forcing the bars with heavy bolt-cutters. A Euston Road shop (though not this one) had sold such cutters before the raid. Something about the buyer made the assistant take the car number. His action led to an arrest. In a Briton Street, another snatch.

- Clapton Post Office raided.
- Bank stick-up at Brentford.

But what of the victims? How little we hear about them! Is it any wonder that people are asking, oughtn't bandits to get the Cat? Wouldn't that stop all this coaking?

No bandits ever raid peaceful Whitehall, where the Home Secretary says the Cat would put the clock back a hundred years. Mr. Butler gave Pathe News an exclusive interview:

"Sir, why are you against flogging people who rob with violence?"

"Well originally, flogging was done away with in 1861, that's about 100 years ago. It was kept for crimes of violence up till 1948, then it was abolished by the then government in the Criminal Justice Bill at the time and since then the crimes of violence have actually gone down, and now they stand at less than they were in 1948".

"Sir, do you intend to increase the police force?"

"We are getting more recruits and of course, I should like to see more still, but I think it's even more important to make the most use of the forces we have. Now some people say that there are too many on traffic duties, but in fact, we have analysed that and I don't think there are. You see the road traffic accidents in fact account for more loss of life than anything even the criminals do, so we must keep a balance between the two".

Borstal Institutions, correcting the young offender early on, result in many of them going straight afterwards.

Isn't it possible that in the long run this treatment will end robbery with violence?

"You expect miracles"

"And who are you?"

"I'm John Capstick, ex-Chief Superintendent of the Criminal Investigation department".

"Ah, one of Scotland Yard's big five. What's your solution to the problem?"

"Well you know thieves who commit violence, they should be flogged with the cat, they understand that. I have known in all my years of experience these thieves that have had the cat and my word they never come back for a second lot. You know they much prefer a double sentence of imprisonment than the cat of nine tails".

"Do you think the police are doing enough to combat this violent crime?"

"Well they're doing well but they can jolly well do much better. I think the powers that be should take the policemen away from summoning the motorists for obstruction and what I personally would like to see is the women police do these duties and leave the men to suppress crime".

When the money for the annual share-out was drawn, the Elephant Loan Club hired a bodyguard for the secretary. Why don't big firms do the same.

The money had reached headquarters. The numbers were certain to get it....Or were they?...