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## Bigger and Bigger Big Business

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### BIGGER AND BIGGER BIG BUSINESS

Crime, gangsterism, racketeering, is today our biggest big business. An ordinary tax-dodger is unable to visualize the sum required annually to meet its budget. He is beginning to realize, however, that bacon, butter, beddings, business and government overhead, protection costs, social and economic welfare and security values, all have responded to the proddings of ingenuity and organization applied to criminality. And now this destroyer of good government, law, order, and security seems to have become an important and almost necessary adjunct of our police system.

Just who and what is this Frankenstein monster? We have asked that question often since we first had the uncertain pleasure of sitting on a plank in a Chautauqua tent, listening to soft-hearted theorists. The answer hasn't been forthcoming, but we, frequently, have heard the voices of responsible Americans saying, "We fail to prevent crime; we fail to detect crime; we fail to convict criminals; we fail to punish criminals; we fail to deter repeaters"; and now we are beginning to wonder if such statements do not ring true, in large measure, because every time some one is punished, a new sob-sister society springs up to "tear-stain" our judicial benches and "slobber-smear" our executive mansions.

Even if interference by forces outside of the officials having matters in charge is a necessary evil of democratic government, isn't it about time we curbed some of our desires along that line? The people, you and I, are really entitled to a reasonable degree of security, security obtained without contribution to cracksmen and craddle-robbers.

A return to more primitive justice isn't advocated, but 20th century crime is not a mere matter of impulse, and the way back to security doesn't seem to lie in the direction of the establishment of modern transportation facilities between our respective homes and praecox farms.