

LETTERS TO The Times

Suggestions in Order.

ARROYO GRANDE (Cal.)

Sept. 29.—[To the Editor of The Times:] The yearly increasing destruction of forests—both within and without the boundaries of the national forests—is simply appalling. Present efforts to extinguish a conflagration once well started seem inadequate to prevent wholesale destruction. Opening of new highways for recreation seems to have increased the danger.

Serious questions arise: Are our forests worth preserving? If so, by what means and by whom? Is the task of clearing up the dead brush and fallen trunks beyond all reasonable efforts of organized society, that is, national and State governments? Will such clearings prevent? Can any engineer, such as Mr. Hoover, map out preventives and the probable cost? Will The Times give subscribers its views on the importance of saving our forests by any system that would be reliable and constant? **EARL B. SMITH.**

The Better Cleverness

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 1.—[To the Editor of The Times:] It seems to me that we who earn our living in business and by our labor would do better to vote for one we know to be a clever business man but not a politician, than for one we know to be a clever politician but not a business man.

This may be a selfish viewpoint, but it is up to us to look out for our best interests and we who have lived long know about what to expect from professional politicians in office.

Prohibition Reduces Crime

PASADENA, Sept. 18.—[To the Editor of The Times:] Gov. Smith proposes radical changes in the present prohibition law. One may wonder if, in making those changes, radical changes would not also be made in some of the results of that law. The economists unite in saying that prohibition has saved the nation an immense amount of money. Such a saving would make a radical difference in the way in which the people of this country live.

With less than 7 per cent of the population of the world, the United States drives 83 per cent of the automobiles. It uses half of the world's print paper and 60 per cent of its telephones. It consumes 72 per cent of the world's petroleum, and 36 per cent of the world's shoes. It has more young people in college than all of the rest of the world put together, and according to an official government statement, it maintains the highest standard of living in the history of the world. Since prohibition the commitments for drunkenness have declined 55 per cent and all crime shows a decrease of 38 per cent.

It is not only the money saved—\$6,000,000,000 annually. The fact is that money begets money and consequently the total economic saving is far in excess of the billions of dollars which the economists name.

M. W. ATWOOD.