

# PRESS EXECUTIVES CONDEMN TABLOIDS

**They Taint Entire Profession of  
Journalism, H. B. Swope of  
The World Declares.**

## 1926 CHARITY FUNDS LISTED

**Julian Mason Tells the Broadway  
Association of \$870,000 Collected  
—\$277,000 by The Times.**

Revolt against tabloid newspapers spread yesterday to a luncheon of the Broadway Association at the Hotel Astor, where editors and business executives of other New York newspapers denounced the picture papers for exploiting indecent news in their daily issues.

Herbert Bayard Swope, executive editor of *The World*, in a paper read for him by James W. Barrett, city editor, asserted that certain tabloids had tainted the entire profession of journalism and might bring about a limited press censorship.

"We have nothing to learn from the foreign press," said Mr. Swope's paper, "with respect to the development, treatment and publication of major news, but all the foreign papers have something to teach us with respect to decency. When I say 'us' I mean certain members of the tabloid group.

"Their brazen violations of privacy, in short, their outright filth, have brought about a condition that is reflected on all journalism. None of us can escape the taint.

"The condition that has arisen is so serious that it would not be surprising were a form of censorship forced. Perhaps it might be an act similar to the one recently passed in England forbidding the publication of divorce and separation details.

"We are proud of the freedom of the press, but we should be fearful lest it become a license. Our right to speak should be limited by good taste as well as by honesty and a proper regard for libel laws."

### **Browning Reports Defended.**

Louis Wiley, business manager of *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, said that certain tabloids cast "an unfair taint" upon all newspapers and newspaper men. On the other hand, Armistead R. Holcombe, managing editor of *The New York Herald Tribune*, said that news "must be as clean as possible," but defended the publication of testimony such as was brought out in the Browning divorce action.

"The newspapers performed a real service of civic usefulness in publishing the Browning story," said Mr. Holcombe. "If it has served to arouse public opinion it has been a good thing. Besides, it showed people just what we have in our midst."

A great metropolis suddenly deprived of its newspapers was pictured by Fred A. Walker, managing director of *The New York Telegram*, who said that "indescribable chaos" would result if the newspaper presses stopped for any appreciable length of time.

"Upon the publicity afforded by the newspapers depends in large measure the prosperity of a thousand different forms of activity and the return on millions of dollars invested," said Mr. Walker. "Firmly as sports are established in this, the greatest centre of sport in the world, there is not a single sport which would not be practically killed if the newspapers unanimously refrained from printing anything about it. Baseball would die, boxing would be discontinued and racing would end if the newspapers printed nothing about them."

Julian S. Mason, editor of *The New York Evening Post*, discussed newspaper funds for charities, which in New York, he said, reached a total of \$870,000 actually collected last year. He led with mention of *THE NEW YORK TIMES*'s fund for the Hundred Neediest Cases, which accounted for more than \$277,000 of this total, and then listed the following other newspaper enterprises for charity last year.

Hearst newspapers (Milk Fund, &c.)	\$225,000
Herald Tribune (Fresh Air Fund)	142,215
World (Children's Christmas Party)	25,000
Evening World (Coal Fund, &c.)	80,000
Sun (Funds for Roosevelt Heroes and Victims of Linseed King Sinking)	25,000
Evening Graphic (Help for Needy)	15,000
Evening Post (Old Couples' Fund)	42,000
Brooklyn Eagle (Neediest Cases)	38,000

The total of \$870,000 did not include funds for Florida relief and other enterprises in which newspapers acted merely as money-collecting agencies, Mr. Mason said. On a capital basis, he said, the \$870,000 would represent an investment of more than \$17,000,000.

Lee Ettelson, managing editor of *The New York American*, pleaded with business men to discourage unscrupulous and untruthful publicitmen and press agents.

Others who spoke included Edwin S. Friendly, business manager of *The Sun*; Meyer Solmson, city editor of *The Morning Telegraph*; State Senator Alexander Simpson of New Jersey, prosecutor in the Hall-Mills case, and Lee J. Eastman, President of the Broadway Association, who presided.

*THE TIMES* Press Room Band played selections at the luncheon.