

The Indianapolis Times

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PUBLIC HAS RIGHT TO KNOW **T**HE school board may not be making a mistake in its wholesale transfer of grade school principals, but it certainly is making a mistake in not taking the public into its confidence. The public would like to know why it was necessary to transfer so many principals. The mere statement that the transfer was necessary does not suffice.

The school board has been much maligned by individuals who sought to control it and in many respects it has done good work in the face of opposition. But there is too much activity in the dark in connection with the transfer and dismissal of school principals, and in working in the dark the board leaves the way open for criticism by its enemies and doubt on the part of its friends.

To cite an instance, it may have been necessary to transfer Miss Elsa Huebner from school No. 9 to a smaller school. But the necessity was not apparent and if it existed it should have been made known. The demonstration by pupils against the transfer may have been inspired by persons who have been working constantly in opposition to the school board and in opposition to the provision of adequate school facilities in Indianapolis, but there must have been some spark of feeling present, or it could not have been staged.

The method used by the board in discharging three principals, each of whom has given most of her life to school work at inadequate pay, was almost brutal and is deserving of condemnation. The time may have come for these principals to retire, but it was not necessary to dismiss them peremptorily. They could have been allowed to resign quietly and to have ended their school careers amid happy circumstances. As it is, they have been placed in the same position as employees discharged for inefficiency or for other unpleasant causes.

ANSWERS TO KNOTTY PROBLEM **M**UNICIPAL ownership has been advanced by Taylor E. Groninger, city corporation counsel, as a solution of the utility rate problem. Certainly something must be done to stop the everlasting demand for higher rates being made by utilities all over the country.

There is no reason why a necessity of life should be controlled by a monopoly for the purpose of making profits, and utilities by their very nature are monopolies. Water is as necessary as streets and all other things being equal, should be controlled and operated by the city just as streets and sewers.

Of course, there are arguments on the other side of the municipal ownership question, but such ownership could not be worse than private monopoly regulated by a board that frequently is able to hear only one side of a case, that of the utility.

As long as utilities are privately owned the theory that they should be allowed to make only a reasonable return on the value of their property is a correct one. But no agreement has ever been reached as to what is a fair valuation. Recent Supreme Court decisions on the subject have only muddied the waters.

One thing is certain, and that is that utilities should not be allowed to apply the proceeds of their business to capital expenditures. The Indianapolis Water Company is planning to make extensive extensions and as a preliminary is asking for higher rates. More rates are necessary to obtain more credit, it is explained. Maybe so, but it is going to be mighty hard to make the public understand why water should cost more at this time.

LASKER'S LEVIATHAN JOY RIDE **C**HAIRMAN LASKER of the shipping board, in a lengthy statement given out for publication Friday, attempts to justify the tax burdening Leviathan six-day trial joy ride on

these grounds:

1. That such trial trips are necessary and customary.
2. That the contract for reconditioning the Leviathan, which contained the provision for the trial trip, was unanimously approved by the shipping board, including the three Democratic members.

3. That of the \$120,000, which he says the trial trip will cost, only \$13,000 will be spent for the entertainment of the 400 or 500 guests.

The answer to the first was contained in a London cable to this paper that the Majestic, a similar ship was successfully put into commission by the White Star line about eighteen months ago without any trial trip and that the reconditioned Berengaria was successfully put into commission by the Cunard line at about the same time after a trial trip of only 500 miles.

The answer to the second is that the waste of public funds is no less indefensible because participated in by Democrats.

The answer to the third is that whether it will cost \$13,000 or \$130,000 or \$13 to entertain the 400 to 500 invited guests, every penny of it is an improper use of taxpayers' money.

Questions

ASK THE TIMES

Answers

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to the Indianapolis Times' Washington Bureau, 1322 N. Y. Avenue, Washington, D. C., including 2 cents in stamp. Special inquiries, however, for which advice cannot be given, nor can extended research be undertaken, or papers, specimens, etc., be prepared. Telegrams, letters cannot be answered, but all letters are confidential, and receive personal replies.—Editor.

Where is the geographic center of continental United States?

In the eastern part of Smith County, Kan., latitude 39 degrees, 50 minutes, longitude 98 degrees, 35 minutes. Smith County is one of the northern tier of Kansas counties, bordering on Nebraska, and is about midway between the eastern and western boundaries of the State. It is not far from the town of Lebanon, a station on the Rock Island Railroad.

How is salt obtained?

The simplest method of extracting salt is by the evaporation of sea water, but this is seldom practiced except in those countries or regions that lack subterranean brines or rock-salt deposits, or cheap supplies. Rock salt is sometimes obtained by mining, but in most regions the salt is obtained from subterranean sources.

Lowden

Ex-Governor of Illinois Declares Taxes Dangerously Near Confiscation.

BUREAUCRATS SCORED

Speaker Also Hits Public Agencies Having Power to Levy Tribute.

By United Press
ATLANTA, Ga., June 16.—Government extravagance threatens to undermine the national structure, ex-Governor Frank O. Lowden, Illinois, told the National Association of Credit Men's convention Friday. He declared taxation is increasing faster than wealth.

Quoting the constitution at the outset of his speech, Lowden charged in spite of the limits imposed in the document, the national wealth was being absorbed by taxation, and predicted the downfall of Government if reckless expenditures were not curtailed.

"A prolific cause of the rapidly increasing cost of Government," Lowden said, "is the number of public agencies having the power to levy taxes. When all of these taxes are totalled they dangerously approach the line of confiscation."

To check this "growing extravagance on the part of the Government," Lowden urged municipalities and States provide for their own needs and leave the Government the task of caring for genuinely National needs.

"Enrichment upon the authority of State officials by the hands of bureaucrats—an outgrowth of Governmental extravagance—threatens a break down in the local self-government of America," he declared.

"If the present tendency of States to seek Federal aid and to mend the Constitution is left unchecked, States will soon become mere satraps with all their powers issuing from Washington."

HARDING IS LOSING HIS GENIALITY **B**Y JOHN CARSON, Times Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, June 15.—President Harding is becoming just a little bit crabbed. When the President was elected, one of his most intimate friends said the country wanted a "good old rocking chair to go to sleep in for four years, at least," and that the country had gotten its wish.

But the old rocking chair has begun to show some sharp edges under the wear and tear of two years in the White House. Mr. Harding is not the kindly, unruffled, smooth-tempered, easy going soul he was when he took his oath of office.

Every one in Washington who has come into contact with the President has recognized that fact. His answers are just a little briefer, his voice is just a little gruff, he does not hesitate when he thinks it impossible to please, he indicates that he has a will of his own. And with it all, the President's face is showing that development also. There is a note of sternness now which was not there before.

Three times recently the President has differed with his strongest political advisers within his Cabinet. His differences with Republican Senators have been almost constant in the last ten months. The warm political friends he once satisfied are showing their dissatisfaction. He faces an insurrection within his party organization and more than a little evidence of a political revolution among the voters not bound by organized ties.

This condition is not peculiar to Mr. Harding, as President, alone. Invariably, about this time in each Administration, the President begins to feel the warp of the dissatisfied, the cry of the opposition. And invariably he begins to show it.

Warns Extravagance Is Threatening Nation

'Statesmen' Become Boys and Girls Once More As 'Pan-American Conference' Comes to Close



TOP ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT—MARGARET JOLLY, BILLY PETERS, MARJORIE FOGAS, DICK WOODARD (PRESIDENT HARDING), BETTY SCHINKE AND BOB McCULLOUGH. BOTTOM ROW—MARY LOUISE BRILES, STUART BUCK, PAULINE GRANT, MERRILL BARTH, CLARIBEL DAVIDSON AND JOHN DAVID MILLETT.

LLOYD GEORGE INSISTS ALLIES MUST AGREE ON REPARATIONS SESSIONS

(Continued From Page 1)

It proceeds to suggest that all further discussion on the subjects at issue between the parties should take place at a conference rather than by interchange of notes. How can any unprejudiced person refuse to recognize the essential reasonableness of this part of the offer? What annuity can Germany pay? And when will she be in a position to pay?

It is unreasonable to propose that this question, which involves most searching examination into German assets, should be referred to a tribunal capable of giving it a final and judicial consideration? And what objection can there be to discussing the matter at a conference where Germany as well as all the allies would be represented?

What are the objections to an acceptance formulated by the French press?

The first is that the French Government will discuss no proposals emanating from Germany until the latter withdraws its passive resistance to the French and Belgian exploitation of the Ruhr. What does this exactly mean? It is important as a preliminary condition to a conference or consideration of terms—an acquiescence by Germany in the occupation and exploitation by France and Belgium of the Ruhr Valley until reparations are fully paid, then the position is hopeless.

Assent Impossible

A German government may submit to such an occupation because it has no force at its command to offer resistance. But no German government can give assent to such an invasion of its territories. A peace signed on such terms would be inevitably repudiated at the first favorable opportunity. Meanwhile, there would be constant trouble and friction in the Ruhr.

This first is that the reparations commission as at present constituted is not the body to which Germany agreed to refer these questions so vital to her existence. It is not the body which Britain and the other allies contemplated. The withdrawal of Germany had already signed the American method adopted by the German government, a conference with an impartial tribunal.

It is objected that this treaty of Versailles has already provided a tribunal in the reparations commission for the specific purpose of adjudicating upon Germany's liability and Germany's capacity, and that to set up another for exactly the same purpose would be to supersede that treaty. There are two answers to this contention.

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The only disinterested power has retired from the commission.

Germany Has Rights

Germany has the right under the treaty to pre-empt her case. The whole question of capacity could then be gone into in the light of experience acquired during the last four years, and a settlement could thus be effected on a sound basis. Such a settlement would have a much better chance of being workable and therefore more durable, than terms imposed by force on people who only accept under duress.

But whatever the French view may be of the suggested annuities or guarantees, or of an impartial commission, it is inconceivable that they should reject a conference.

Unless the terms are mutually acceptable, I surmise that the German government will experience insurmountable difficulty in persuading the stubborn miners and railway operatives of the Ruhr to assist in furnishing to France the products of

Fools

By BERTON BRALEY

The wise men said, "Why, the world is flat! Our fathers' fathers have taught us that; And all experience goes to show That what our fathers have said is so. It's only fools who would dare allege That one could sail o'er the ocean's edge." But the fools—the fools!—let the toxin sound it—Sailed to the blue sky's edge—and 'round it.

The wise men said, "It is all a dream, That anything can be done with steam." The wise men said "He's a fool for fair, Who thinks we ever shall ride the air." But the fools believed, and the fools held true To their foolishness, till they saw it through; And a fool must follow his natural bent—So now we swoop through the firmament.

The fools, the fools! how they loom in sight, Gallileo, Columbus, Wright, Waits and Stephenson—pioneers Conquering nature, charting spheres! And ever the wise men—learning naught, In the teeth of all of the creeds and schools, Man is led to the heights—by Fools!

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The Art of Canning

The Housewife who doesn't know the art and science of canned fruits and vegetables is not efficient in her job of homemaker. If you want a valuable printed booklet giving all the facts you need for the proper home canning of fruits and vegetables, fill out the coupon below and mail as directed, with the postage stamps requested.

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I want a copy of the bulletin, HOME CANNING, and enclose here-with 5 cents in stamps for same:

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STREET & NO. _____ STATE _____

TOM SIMS SAYS:

WOMEN can vote in Italy now. They should come out for shorter spaghetti and less garlic.

The sun didn't go to college or Sunday school, but it seems to have about a hundred degrees.

Ruhr isn't the only place Frenchmen are out of luck. Peroxide blonds are increasing in Paris.

When you see a tree torn down these days you never know if it was lightning or an auto.

Hornsby, St. Louis ball player, may be sued for divorce, indicating he can't make a home run.

Scientists are digging up the missing links, but New York is digging up the missing drinks.

"What a Grass Widow Knows" is a new book. The thing must have about ten million pages.

Three Cape May (N. J.) men may have caught 1,590 pounds of fish. Anyway, they swear they did.

Sam Lloyd is a famous puzzle maker. Sam, we often think, designs wedding gifts also.

Senator Smoot predicts taxes will not be lowered. Also, we predict it will not snow this July.

A family at odds soon comes to odds and ends.

It only takes two to make a quarrel, but others always help.

PUTTING THE GOOD SHIP LEVIATHAN ON FREE LIST

By H. L. PHILLIPS
(Reprinted by permission from the New York Evening World)
The Leviathan is to be given a trial trip to see what condition the American taxpayers are in.

She is to sail June 19, according to present plans, with a decided free-list to starboard.

Formerly the Leviathan, she was taken over by Uncle Sam during the war, rechristened the Leviathan and remodeled as a houseboat for Albert D. Lasker, chairman of the shipping board.

The conference was the result of an ingenious idea of Mrs. Adelia Brier, 6-B teacher.

South America was studied all term. For the conference each of the forty-five pupils chose the country he wished to represent. When the conference ended each had made a speech about his country.

"I should like for each of you to sign this cablegram, assuring the United States of our friendship."

She has multiple expense vouchers, twix-six I. O. U.'s, self-deceiving receipts, hot and cold liabilities and cash-burning engines. Everything is "on the house."

She is guaranteed to make 25 knots an hour on any ocean and from 40 to 50 knots a minute in any taxpayer. Mr. Lasker says the purpose of the junket is to give the ship a shake-down. That goes for the general public, too.

All invited guests will report at the ship on the morning of June 19, to put nobs and take all.

Everything will be free. If you don't see what you want, ask for it. Daily program:

8 A. M.—Guests will rise and sing "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow." He Always Sets 'Em Up.

8:30 A. M.—Breakfast, using the \$50,000 gold plate. Address of welcome by Mr. Lasker. Topic: "The Sky's the Limit."

9 A. M.—Public censure of engineer for not burning more oil.

9:15 A. M.—Distribution of souvenir binoculars with shipping board's compliments.

9:30 A. M.—Setting-up exercises by Uncle Sam. Encores.

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