

The Indianapolis Times

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INDIANA'S HEAVY TAX BURDEN

THE tax-burdened people of Indiana probably have little time or patience for any suggested improvements involving greater expenditures and greater taxes. Just now, the Indiana taxpayer is carrying one of the heaviest tax burdens in the entire country and what he has to show for it is a question.

But there is the matter of Indiana roads.

There was a time when we had a reputation for our fine gravel roads. That was in the days of horse and wagon transportation. Today, with the motor and the hard-surface roads, we suffer by comparison with other States. We have to look to the future, because some day we'll have to improve our roads and pay good money for them.

Let's look, for a few minutes, at the road history of Maryland, the most progressive State in the country in the matter of road building. Every tourist will tell you of Maryland's roads. There is nothing to equal them, considering them as a whole.

Not many years ago, Maryland had worse roads than Indiana. Then the State deliberately started out on a road improvement program. O. E. Weller, now senator from Maryland, was chosen to direct the job. He had been a Wall street banker before he retired.

Weller took the job. He was a Republican and it was a Republican State administration. The first man he discharged was a Republican and the first man he hired, for the most important work, was a Democrat. That was the chief engineer. Then he put in a real merit system. Employees were advanced, fired, or demoted, as they showed ability and interest. Roads were built for the State as a whole and not for any politician. Weller, today as the boss of the State Republican organization, has more than one political enemy in his party, because he refused to build a road near the politician's farm or home. The roads were built, however, for the entire State.

It is noted now, that Maryland not only has the best road system in the country, but also that the roads were built with less extravagance and less graft than in any other State.

The answer? They were built in complete disregard of politics and political influence and political machinery.

The further answer? Maryland, normally Democratic, gave Weller 35,000 majority when he ran for the United States Senate. And he ran against Senator John Walter Smith, boss of the Democratic machine, and a man who had been in the Senate for twenty years and more.

MERGING OF CHARITY WORK

PROPOSED consolidation of summer camp work conducted by charitable and benevolent organizations is a good idea. The Community Chest has resulted in a consolidation of fund drives. The theory should be carried to its logical conclusion and relief work consolidated as much as possible.

On the surface, there seems to be no good reason why supplies could not be purchased jointly. Some of the camps might even be consolidated physically. The Salvation Army and the Family Welfare camps, for instance, are doing very similar work.

Of course, it would be necessary for the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts and organizations of that character to continue their individual camps.

IF STATEHOUSE WERE "MISSING"

WE WOULD like to know by what slipshod methods a low salaried State employee with a comparatively unimportant job could be short in his accounts nearly \$10,000 in a space of a little more than two years.

The State board of accounts has reported a shortage of \$9,839.61 in the accounts of Roy Couch, former custodian of the Statehouse, and adds that he left, when he resigned by request, \$1,154 in unpaid bills.

The buildings and grounds department is supposed to be controlled by a committee composed of the Governor, the auditor and the secretary of State. The board of accounts is supposed to make an annual check of the affairs of the office. The auditor is supposed to check money spent and bills paid.

It appears that somebody has been asleep. Some day the Governor may arrive for work and find the Statehouse missing.

OH, UPRIGHT JUDGE!

"I AM strongly impressed with the view that it would be unwise to heckle and annoy the press. If every article subjected them to an examination that would harass and annoy whenever the subject matter was unpleasant by way of criticism of officials, the public would lose much, even recognizing the license oftentimes used."

Thus said Judge Marcus of the New York Supreme Court, when certain city officials of Buffalo, angered by adverse criticism, sought to employ the court in placing a muzzle on the Buffalo News. The court refused to be so used.

The decision was a victory for the press in a double sense. It denied the right of angry officials to force a newspaper, while serving the public, to reveal sources of its information. Also and more important, it did renew, with force, the time-honored proposition of the Constitution that there shall be no interference with free speech or a free press.

It is refreshing, indeed, to find in Buffalo a regular court of justice rather than a sinister trespasser upon and destroyer of the plain guarantees of the bill of rights. Here's to Judge Marcus of the New York Supreme bench! May his example penetrate even to Birmingham, Memphis and other places where courts have been less considerate of the Constitution than he.

It appears that the Statehouse custodian's office needs a receiver.

Have you noticed that the men who have gained a place in the community were not holding up lamp posts or stealing automobiles when they were twenty?

The heat is terrific. At the same time a man was offering to paint the Statehouse flag pole for nothing another man was driving an automobile 120 hours without stopping.

The naval reserve camp will charge only \$4.50 a week for board. The Navy seems to have found a solution of the cost of living problem.

JAPS COULD DEFY WORLD IN WARFARE

Nation Slowly Making Herself Invincible in Far East.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS, Times Staff Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, July 12.—Word comes that Japan has joined the race for supremacy in the air and is building one of the greatest air fleets in the world. Some \$200,000,000 is to be spent on aircraft in the next six years, according to information.

Slowly but surely Japan is making herself invincible in the Far East. With unlimited aircraft, giant submarines and fast cruisers, in conjunction with the capital ships allowed her under the Washington agreement, Japanese militarists, if they retain control, will shortly be able to lock their front door, go out into Japan's back yard, where China and Siberia are, and play any old game they like.

Militarily, they could come pretty nearly defying the world.

China's safety today depends on two things: First, on the Japanese progressives being able to block their own war party; second, on the nine-power treaty drawn up eighteen months ago at Washington, between America, Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Portugal, Japan and China herself.

Britain and America have material weight, since only a naval power could operate against Japan. These would be well nigh powerless. First, because public opinion in neither country would sanction war against Japan over the Japanese seizure of Manchuria, for example.

In the second place, the greatest navy in the world, under the Washington agreement, would be no match for Japan in Japanese waters.

In view of recent developments, the Washington treaties have left President Harding in the position of a swimmer who finds himself half way across a deep stream. He must go on or go back. He cannot stop where he is without great discomfiture to himself.

Washington will ultimately be forced to make at least two more steps:

1. Call another conference and further agree to limit armaments, particularly aircraft, submarines and cruisers.

2. Join in some general world peace move, the weight of which would be so overwhelming that no government, however war-like or militaristic, would dare defy it.

What Editors Are Saying

Wisdom

Marion Leader-Tribune

The more we read of Mr. Harding's trip and the more it is said that it is purely a business trip and that politics must be eliminated, the more we appreciate the wisdom of P. T. Barnum.

Efficient

Frankfort Crescent-News

One thing must be admitted in favor of the Indianapolis police force; it has held the bootleggers down more effectively than the utility commission has been able to do with the men who furnish the people with water.

Growing

Richmond Item

Two years ago there were in Indiana some thirty community service groups of activities in our various cities and towns. Today there may be that number—no more, anyway.

The sentiment which we are sensing in our own community is not peculiar to Richmond. It is part of this great nation-wide movement to put more emphasis upon some real basis underneath our social organizations.

It seems, so far as we can judge in our daily talks with people here, to be very steadily growing. At all events, it is to be felt every day.

It is something which must be reckoned up in any plans for the Community Chest of next year.

It is at least strong enough for the President of the United States to recognize and to share. And it's so strong in Richmond, that we may as well be prepared to deal with it, intelligently, in all our community plans.

Reduced Rates

Kokomo Dispatch

Logansport is expecting a reduction in electric light and power charges made by her municipal plant, following a report on the situation by the Indiana public service commission. It seems the city-owned plant has been showing a pretty wide margin of profit and the thing is not supposed to be run for profit.

Observations

Mr. Dempsey is evidently of the opinion where there is a will there is a way of making about \$300,000 more.

"Cupidsons are being removed from countless American drawing rooms," says a London paper. That's because we have inside information that no more Englishmen of refinement are coming over to be entertained.

Then, on the other hand, if it were not for the candidates there would be no one to speak a good word for politics.

The old puritan spirit still prevails in Boston. Four young men have just been deprived of their auto licenses because each drove his car with one arm while the other encircled the waist of a modern Priscilla.

Russian soviets have adopted a constitution that provides for a republican form of government, of a sort, but overlooks the little matter of popular elections. As usual, the proletarian is the goat.

Alaska is now mining and burning its own coal, without let or hindrance of the barons. It begins to look like a good place in which to live.

TOM SIMS SAYS:

CHILDREN never realize how hard it is to make money. An Alabama boy swallowed three dimes.

About 250,000 chickens burned on an Illinois farm. Smelled like a new cook getting dinner.

It would be interesting to know if Carpenter bet anything on Dempsey to whip Gibbons.

Chloroform used by New York burglars made ten people sick. It should be against the law.

A bachelor tells us his suitcase has just returned from its second honeymoon this year.

Lies show every fish weighing over 60,000 pounds has gotten away nine times this summer.

Oldest street car in the world is only 35. You never would guess it by looking at ours.

Not many returning vacationists have changed much, and less than that have much change.

Mr. Karlpuiserneuererler was arrested for being drunk in Chicago. We don't blame him.

About five million pairs of glasses are sold every year, just to help our looks.

A new bride sweeps clean.

Indiana Sunshine

Farmers in the vicinity of Princeton report they are having an awful time keeping thrashing machinery in repair. Jugs, ranging from tiny artistic affairs to gaunt five-galloners are lying in fields along the roads and the wings of the machines are constantly running into them, they assert.

Preliminary gifts of the campaign for \$150,000 for the Ft. Wayne Methodist Hospital have been turned over to the committee in charge. Many cities in the North Indiana Conference are contributing.

All cases in the Terre Haute court have been postponed until Friday because Judge Robert Irwin and Deputy Prosecutor W. A. Church couldn't agree about the proper dress for the court room. Church insisted on going without his coat. The judge objected.

Old residents of New Albany recalled the anniversary of Morgan's famous raid in the State as far as Corydon in 1863. They recounted how the home guard assembled on Silver Hill, when it was reported that the famous Confederate general was coming on to New Albany.

A few days ago was La Beulter, 18, counter girl in a South Bend cafeteria. Today she is La Senora Sedano, on her honeymoon to the South American estates of her husband, Cupid. Cupid did some quick work over the soups and salads.

Greensburg folks had better stick to "the truth, the whole truth," because Dr. W. D. Bates argues he can spot the tiniest fly's wing just by watching how one's retina behaves with his retinoscope. Use of the instrument may become popular. Nineteenth of the criminals suffer from defective vision solely from strain of being dishonest, Dr. Bates says.

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At the time the world war ended a consignment of 150,000 cubic feet of helium was ready for shipment from New York to the front, where it was to be used for observation balloons and for airships of the Zeppelin type. Helium in airships does away with the danger of their burning in mid-air.

Why is it incorrect to say, "those kind"? Adjective pronouns must agree in number with the nouns they modify. "That kind" and "that sort" would be correct.

If a business woman has a title should this appear upon her visiting card?

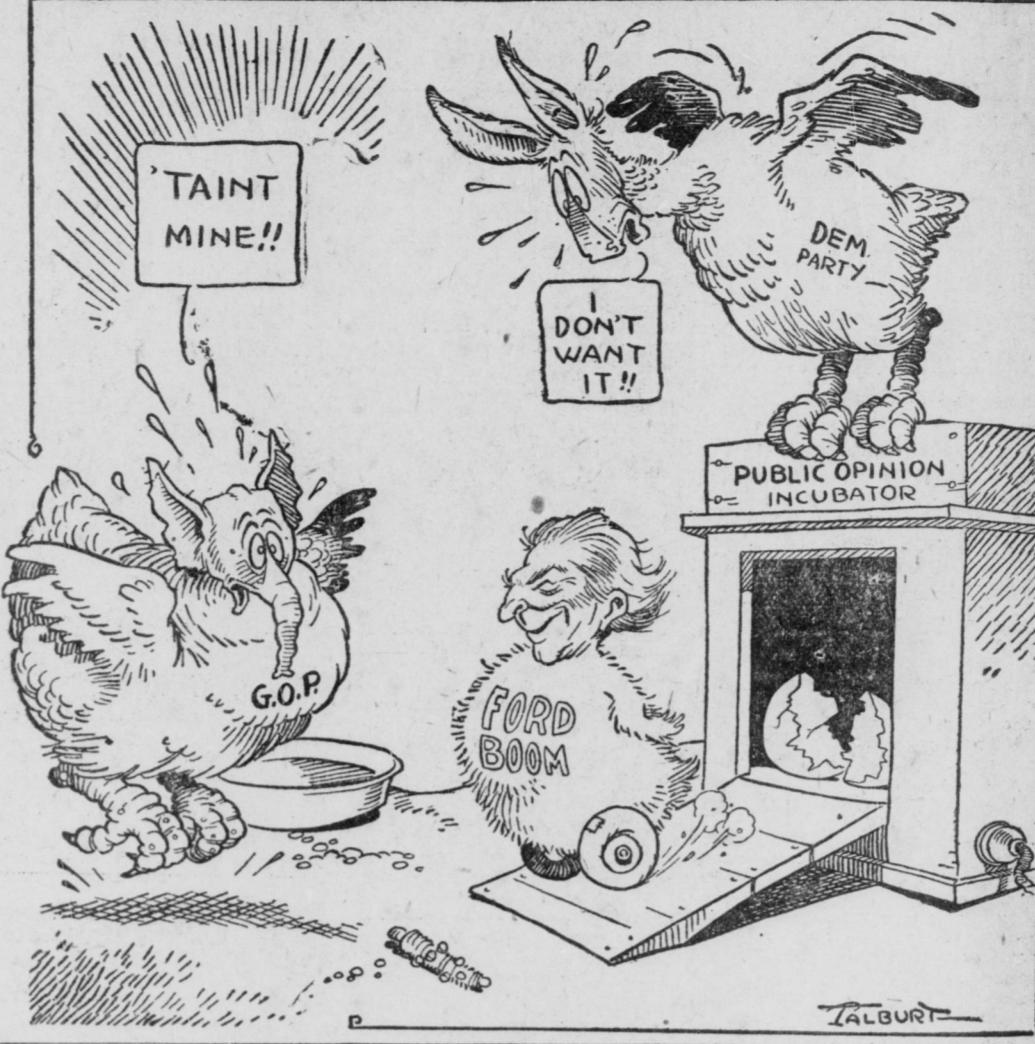
In America a woman never assumes any title other than Mrs. or Miss on her social card, except in the case of the doctor of medicine. In this case even though she is married she drops her husband's Christian name and signs herself "Mary B. Jones, M. D."

Humming birds have the curious habit of flying for long periods in a perfect arc, back and forth over the same path above their nests, the wings in such rapid motion all the time that the effect reminds you of a fly wheel revolving so fast that the spokes are invisible.

Points Made by Poets

All passes. Art alone Enduring stays to us. The Bust outlasts the throne— The Coin, Tiberius.

He'll Have to Scratch for Himself



Questions Ask The Times Answers

Dull Days at Capital

These are dull days in Washington. The President is vacationing in Alaska.

Secretary Hoover is vacationing with the President.

Secretary Work is vacationing with the President.

Secretary Wallace is vacationing with the President.

Attorney General Daugherty is leaving for the Pacific coast to vacation with the President.

Secretary Mellon is vacationing in Europe.

Secretary of the Navy Denby is there off and on.

Secretary of War Weeks is there. Postmaster General New is on the job.

Almost forgot him—Secretary of Labor Davis is vacationing on the Levathorn.

And the Government clerks are finding it too hot to get very enthusiastic about work.

Sister Mary Is Saved

Mary had two little calves

That should have been some fatter. She wears her skirts much longer now.

And so it doesn't matter.

—Judge.

Plenty of Gingerbread

In Yellowstone Park, they breed two black bears, so that President Harding could feed them gingerbread and the camera get a picture to display to the world.

It will be a good enough picture for the world, but the real classy thing would be a picture showing us treat and Mr. Harding offering the gingerbread.

—Judge.

People's