

The Indianapolis Times

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THE LABOR MOVEMENT

THE average reader, asked to relate the activities of organized labor in the past year, might perhaps mention the shopmen's strike, the anthracite miners' strike and the New York pressmen's strike.

The first named because it was of national importance, the second and third because they were so recent. So little are we conscious of the large part being taken in national affairs by what is called the labor movement. But, considering the field of legislation alone, read this paragraph:

"Indiana—Labor succeeded in defeating bills relieving farmers from provisions of the workmen's compensation law, repealing the free employment bureau law, creating a State constabulary, compulsory labor, repealing the miners' qualifications law, appointment as police officers of persons selected by railroads, and reducing the number of industrial board members from five to three. Bills favorable to labor which failed of passage were amendments to the workmen's compensation law, regulating hours and employment of women, and the full-crew law. Labor succeeded in enacting the following laws: Mothers' pensions, boiler standards, building construction code and codification of mining laws."

The paragraph is from the report of the executive committee of the American Federation of Labor, made to the federation's annual convention opening today in Portland, Ore. It is a condensed skeleton of the legislative activities in just one of the forty-eight States. Of Illinois, for instance, the report says: "There were 223 bills introduced in which labor was interested. The forces of labor defeated twenty-nine vicious bills aimed at the destruction of labor unions, etc."

Several pages are required to sum up labor's legislative efforts in the United States Congress, pressing its own ideas or resisting ideas inimical to itself. More pages tell of how labor fared in the courts, Federal and State.

All this apart from the activities of labor in its own principal field—the industrial. Here great success is reported in labor's defensive warfare against efforts to spread the open shop movement, and in labor's cooperative efforts with employers to further voluntary negotiation.

The American Federation of Labor may or may not be as important as—for instance—its everlasting president, Samuel Gompers, thinks it is. But the labor movement as a whole, for which the American Federation comes nearer speaking than any other institution, has become one of the biggest facts of American life.

LOCAL EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN

ANY program "to lift the spiritual temperature of Indianapolis" undoubtedly will receive cooperation of all churches.

The proposed evangelistic campaign as announced before the Indianapolis Ministerial Association by Dr. W. O. Trueblood will not cost as much money as if an out-of-town evangelist were brought to the city to conduct a meeting at a central location.

Dr. Trueblood's plan is to divide the city into sections and at certain places in each section hold union evangelistic meetings with local pastors preaching.

As Dr. Trueblood stated, it is "a subscription of life and energy" on the part of local pastors in lifting the spiritual temperature of the city.

Various denominations of the city will act upon the proposition before campaign plans are adopted.

It will take unified action to put over a campaign of this nature. It is really the conducting of a great revival all over the city with local pastors preaching the message.

POLITICAL FAITH AND TARIFF FAKING

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE and his Cabinet advisers are now giving serious attention to the suggestion that impoverished wheat farmers may find a new pot of gold by increasing the tariff on wheat.

Were it not for the tragedy in the wheat growing sections of the country, this would be funny. In no place, other than in comic opera or in political fakery, would a sane man give consideration to the idea that increasing the tariff on wheat would increase wheat prices.

We have far too much wheat in this country today because bankrupt Europe cannot buy; because the bread rations in many countries have been reduced to the point of starvation. We have too much wheat also because Europe is endeavoring to trade with people who are willing to trade with her and who are not trying to shut her out by a high tariff wall. That is all there is to the wheat situation and all the political bunkum that could be manufactured by the greatest political savant cannot wash that fact out.

On the one hand we have this and that organization pleading and praying with the people to have faith in their government. On the other hand, we have a band of petty politicians, temporarily in charge of the Government, trying to justify past and present tariff sins against the farmer and consumer by reiterating what they know to be tariff faking. It would not be so bad, if by any chance the politicians in charge of the Government believed in this theory they profess to court. They do not. They cannot.

We can begin to establish faith in our Government when we can begin to have faith in our Government leaders. While we get nothing but windy words and political cant, faith will find no place to rest securely.

SPEAKING of the farmer situation in the Northwest, the White House suggests "an increased tariff on wheat," but the official spokesman adds, "of course, we don't positively know that this would help—much." How naive!

A POPULAR uprising among flappers in San Salvador has resulted in a reduction of the tariff on imported perfumes of 80 per cent! This shows what women can do when they stand together.

REPUBLICAN Chairman John T. Adams has just issued a statement declaring the "prospects for farmers in the Northwest are for a continuation of generally prosperous conditions." This reminds us of the Yankee doughboy who wrote home from a German prison: "They are treating us fine," then added, "P. S. The censor has gone. They shot Bill yesterday."

MARYLAND MAN TESTS PROHI LAW

Congressman Brews Wine in Baltimore Mansion and Asks Haynes for Ruling.

By United News
B ALTIMORE, Oct. 2.—A quaint and picturesque tap room, in the cellar of a century-old mansion, is the setting of a strange comedy which its director hopes will have as its climax a nation-wide return of beer, for the working man and others.

The director himself, John Phillip Hill, United States Congressman from Maryland, stood before the broad, old-fashioned fireplace and pointed about him to the instruments with which he is brewing a potion that he expects will knock back the effects of the Volstead Act into a "cocked hat."

"This is where it's done," he explained: "I notified Commissioner Haynes when I started, and asked him to let me know what was the point of intoxication, so I could stop it there."

"I went out and got the grapes myself. I made some of it exactly according to specifications of the Department of Agriculture, and some by methods the farmers use. Some of it has already got a kick of eleven, and twelve per cent and it's still going up."

Farmers Exempt

HILL said farmers all over his State and in other States are making such liquor. They are exempted, he claims, under the Volstead Act, while the city man can buy only a pale, weak solution. Hill is trying to get a decision from the Attorney General as to the percentage of "intoxication," believing it will have to be fixed at 2.75 per cent or higher, which would be the peg on which to hang an amendment to the law legalizing light wines and beers.

A faint smell of home-brew rises convincingly from a score of fruit jars, placed on shelves and tables in this ancient square room.

Looking down on the home-made apparatus are the portraits of George Washington, Columbus and—William Jennings Bryan, lover of grape juice, if not beer.

In front of the fireplace is the press, rudely fashioned of two window sashes, tied together at the ends by a pair of old shoestrings from the Army boots Hill wore in France—he won the Croix de Guerre at Verdun.

There are also a couple of milk bottles from his baby's nursery, which were used in the process—and several packages of prepared baby's food, from which Hill made alcohol, in an experiment to demonstrate that it can be done. Through the door is the study. Its walls lined with law books and above the books Hill's diploma from Harvard, where he was graduated in law in 1903. In these two rooms, he explained, he holds his political pow-wows.

Hill has been trying to have the dry law amended to allow beer and light wines ever since he has been in Congress—he was elected in 1920.

Full Measure

By BERTON BRALEY
When they say a thing has "neither rhyme nor reason,"

What they mean is that it hasn't any sense.

That it doesn't fit with any rhyme or reason.

That its total lack of logic is immense.

Being lacking in all backing of the brain,

Being tasteless, vapid, juiceless and name;

Not bright and intellectual but dull and ineffectual.

With no glint or hint of smartness—not a bit.

With no dash or flash or rumor of the slightest splash of humor;

Or that bitter sort of glitter known as Wit.

When they say a thing has "neither rhyme nor reason,"

It's a sign that they regard it as a mess,

As a thing you couldn't even prime a wheeze on,

As a total liability—no less;

With a flavor, pep and savor Of a pie

Like the showy, tasteless, doughy

Kind you buy;

The restaurant variety

Which ruins all your pley

And takes away your gay and merry looks;

Tell you now, "Well, NOW I'll do it."

Knit my brow and go right to it.

And you trifle with a rife For the Cook.

When they say a thing has "neither rhyme nor reason,"

What they mean is that it isn't worth the while,

That it's full of literary crime and treason,

Or is quite incomprehensible in style;

That it's duller in its color

Than you wish,

That it's merry, bright and airy Like a Fish.

We soon will be arriving at The thing that I am driving at,

You'll catch a snatch of it, from time to time;

Though there's nought of thought to freeze on,

Though these verses have no reason;

They've got, I wot, an awful lot Of Rhyme.

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Papa's Generosity

"Sir, will you allow me to marry your daughter?"

"I'll go farther than that, my boy. I'll come and live with you."—Boston Transcript.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

UNUSUAL PEOPLE

Fiddler Rises to Fame

By NEA Service

P ARIS, Mich., Oct. 2.—For fifty years folks around here have reckoned that Jasper Bissell was a "right fat fiddler."

But it took a stranger to realize the significance of Jasper's fiddling propensities, and of the tunes he coaxed out of his homemade instrument. That stranger was Thomas A. Edison, the electrical wizard.

Edison happened to be here on his recent camping trip, and he met Bissell at Harvey's post office, when he met Bissell.

The old veteran's rendition of "pieces" that were popular half a century ago impressed Edison so that the inventor arranged to have the fiddler's tunes reproduced on phonograph records.

Bissell won many a middle championship in these parts during his 90 years of life here, but aside from a neighbor who moved to Tennessee, hardly anyone outside of Mecosta County knew his name.

Now Bissell expects his fame to spread out beyond his home town, his country and even across the ocean.

QUESTIONS

Ask—The Times

A N S W E R S

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to the Indianapolis Times, 110 W. Market, Indianapolis, 1323 N. Avenue, Washington, D. C., enclosing 2 cents in stamps. Medical legal, medical and medical advice cannot be given, nor can extended research be undertaken, nor papers, speeches, etc., be prepared. Advice can be given, but all letters are confidential, and receive personal replies.—Editor.

When is the axis of the earth at right angles to the direction of the sun, so that the sun rises and sets on a straight line?

March 21 and Sept. 21.

How much meat is eaten in the United States each year per capita?

Per capita consumption of meat during 1922 was: Beef, 61.4 pounds; veal, 7.3 pounds; mutton, 5.0 pounds; pork, 76.0 pounds, total, 149.7 pounds.

When did McKinley die?

Sept. 14, 1901.

Who was the author of:

"Cease, every joy, to glimmer on my mind,

But leave, oh leave the light of Hope behind!"

What though my winged hours of bliss have been

Like angel visits, few and far between.

Thomas Campbell in "Pleasures of Hope."

What is a good recipe for banana custard pie filling?

Rub two ripe bananas through colander, and mix into this pulp 1 pint of milk, 2 tablespoonsfuls of sugar, and 2 beaten eggs. Bake with crust only in a moderate oven.

How are bronze ornaments cleaned?

Genuine bronzes may be washed with good soapsuds and a sponge or rag, and wiped dry with a soft flannel cloth.

How may fats be clarified?

Unless fats are to be removed, a good way is to pour boiling water over the fat, boil thoroughly and set away to cool. The cold fat may be removed in a solid cake and it will be found that any impurities in the fat will cling to the bottom of the layer, where they may be scraped off.

By melting the fat and then putting into it thick slices of raw potato.

Heat gradually; when the fat ceases to bubble and the potatoes are brown, strain through a cloth placed in a wire strainer.

How should everlasting flowers be dried?

They should be picked when about half open, tied in bunches and hung in a dry place with the heads of the flowers down.

When were dinosaur eggs found?

They were found in a cave, proving that man and eggs were probably a man and an egg.

How long half ye between two opions?

If the Lord be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.—I Kings 18:21.

HERE is nothing more pitiful

in the world than an irresolute

man oscillating between two

feelings, who could willingly unite the two and who does not perceive that nothing can unite them.—Goethe.

Family Fun

Could Answer One

Every time the teacher asked the same answer, "I don't know."

"Johnny," she said, "what is twice eight?"

"Don't know."

"Well, then, four times six?"

"Don't know."