

The Indianapolis Times

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Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and be shall
strengthen thine heart.—Ps. 27:14.

Courage leads to heaven; fear, to death.—Seneca.

DEBTS: FRENCH AND AMERICAN

HERE are two sides to every question, and France's quasi-repudiation of her \$3,917,825,974.84 debt to us is no exception.

Leave sentiment aside. France helped free America of the Hessians, and America helped free France of Prussians, so we may call the sentimental debt canceled; let's pass on, then, to the practical.

The United States declared war against Germany on April 6, 1917. Not a shot was fired by Americans in European trenches until Oct. 27, or six and a half months later. And not until late spring, 1918—the following year—were we "over there" in sufficient force to make any impression on the German line.

Bluntly, then, we pulled Germany's nose a full twelve months before we were ready to scrap. Had Germany not been otherwise pretty well occupied she would have climbed all over us during that year of unpreparedness and done us five times four billion dollars' worth of damage.

Likewise we would have received such a setback in the war that it would have taken five years and billions of dollars more to recover the ground lost by our initial weakness.

But Germany was occupied. France and Britain were occupying her. France held four-fifths of the German line while we got ready to fight.

It was during that time that we loaned France most of the money. In the war since 1914, France was nearly exhausted when we came in. She had to have help or drop out. That would have been bad for us, unprepared as we were, so we sent a few billions of iron men over to help hold the line for us while our flesh and blood millions were being recruited, drilled, equipped and sent after Germany's scalp.

A country which declares war against a powerful opponent a year before it is in a position to fight is certainly not without obligation to the nation that holds that enemy off until the day ready.

To say that it was France's war and that we were helping her, is beside the mark. After April 6, 1917, it was our war. And it was up to us to fight it from that date. Had we done so the war would have ended in 1917. But we did not and could not. We were not ready. But that was our fault, not France's.

France has no right to repudiate the debt. It is a regular, honorable, legal debt. Even if it is physically impossible for her to pay it now, or ever, she must continue to recognize it as binding until settled to this country's satisfaction. And we do well to tell her so.

On the other hand, we must not forget that unpreparedness is always costly and that it was our unpreparedness, as much as France's need, that caused that debt to be written down on our books against her.

MONEY

ESOLVED, That we will obtain from the Legislature as much money as the traffic will bear.

This appears to be the New Year's resolution of most of the State institutions and departments. There is nothing new in it. The same resolution is made at the beginning of every odd-numbered year. It usually is carried out in part.

This year it is proposed that the State spend approximately \$6,000,000 more than last year. A great part of this money is needed, so the institution heads say, for new buildings. Judging from requests, inmates of institutions must be far from having proper shelter and living conditions. Which is true in some institutions, but in others this condition does not exist.

The fact of the matter is that institutions and departments make a practice of asking for far more than they need. This is done to gratify the economy complex of budget committees and legislators. The committees and legislators can righteously slash estimates, thus satisfying their own minds and making a record to which they can point with pride in the next party platform.

But usually when all the slashing and wrangling cease and the Legislature passes the budget bills in the small hours of the morning after the day it is supposed to adjourn it is found that the appropriations have reached a new high mark.

Telling It to Congress

A Lusty Infant

Evidence of the rapidly growing interest in radio is contained in the annual report of one of the large radio companies. According to this report gross sales of radio equipment by this company for the past three calendar years were as follows: 1921, \$1,408,919; 1922, \$1,286,489; 1923, \$22,465,090. Report of the Commissioner of Navigation.

The Railways Revival

In the last few years a new agency of transportation has entered into the consideration of thoughtful men, an agency that bids fair later to have a distinct bearing on the future of the American railway. Already the construction of the motor car has been felt in the interurban lines and in railroad lines of a short-haul character. The motor bus has already resulted at least in a few abandonments of electric line transportation.—Rep. Hawes (D) Mo.

Not His Fault!

Rep. Bogg (R) Ohio: The gentleman ought to make his speech in another body (the Senate). Rep. Blanton (D) Texas: I would be there, but, unfortunately for the country, I am not there.

A Peaceful Victory

What has the Washington Conference accomplished? It has achieved many acts of justice. Japan has returned Shantung, the question of Siberia has been settled. We have obtained recognition, after over twenty years of vain insistence, of our doctrine of the open door in

RAILROADS REPORT SMALLER INCOMES, LARGER PROFITS

Net Income Larger Than
That of 1923 Reported
to Commission.

Times Washington Bureau,
1322 New York Ave.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—The first twenty-seven large railroads to file their November financial statements with the Interstate Commerce Commission reported an aggregate decrease of \$11,000,000 in total income as compared with November, 1923. In the face of this decrease, the same roads reported an aggregate net income of \$2,114,000 larger than during November, 1923.

Nine of these twenty-seven railroads had smaller gross incomes during the first eleven months of 1924 than during the first eleven months of 1923 and yet showed decided increases in net incomes.

The explanation offered by railroad executives for this favorable trend is simply that of greater efficiency in management. Whatever the cause, the increase in earnings during the late months of 1924 is bringing many of the railroads very close to the authorized earnings limit of 6 per cent permitted under the Esch-Cummins law.

Make 5.80 Per Cent

During October, for instance, all the class one railroads of the country had a net operating income of \$127,105,089, which was at the rate of 5.80 per cent on their tentative valuation. During the corresponding month of 1923 this income ratio was 4.68 per cent of tentative valuation.

Congress provided in the Esch-Cummins law that railroads should be entitled to earn 5½ per cent of the aggregate value of their property and in addition granted the railroads an additional ½ per cent to be used in upkeep. Since the adoption of that law in 1920 only thirty-six railroads have admitted that their net incomes exceeded 6 per cent of their aggregate valuation, and all of these have been small companies.

Owing to the fact that during the early months of 1924 many of the railroads made very poor showings, the record of net income for the whole year will not approach that of the late months. The estimated net operating income for all the class one roads of the country for the entire year is \$970,000,000 or 4.30 per cent of the tentative valuation figures. In 1923 the net operating income was \$877,00,000 or 4.47 per cent of the valuation.

Great Month.

It is rather in their predictions for railroad business in 1925 than in contemplation of past records that railroad executives are finding their greatest joy. Though October, 1924 was the greatest month in railroad history from the standpoint of freight carried, and though that month saw the establishment of ten new traffic records, nearly all railroad officials believe that there will be a number of months in 1925 that will dwarf the October showing.

If their recent efficiency records can be maintained, and the predictions of increased business prove accurate, the Esch-Cummins recapture clause is expected to yield important sums from the railroads during 1925 and thus to set in motion Congress' plan for the rehabilitation of weak roads at the expense of the strong ones.

Tom Sims Says

All we wish is that these radio guys would find their Sally. You can't turn a dial without some one wondering what's become of her.

Well, it's only one more shopping year before Christmas.

It's real funny how some people won't discuss religion until they get drunk, and then won't discuss anything else.

Every drinker thinks he can drive a car while drunk. He can, too, not counting accidents.

New resolutions are about like new laws. They have to be made right along because the old ones are broken.

We bought a new auto and the first week got a crack in our neck looking to see if it was still out in front.

Wonder how Congress can tell when it is not in session?

We got a mirror on the windshield of our new car so we can look at it and see where we were.

Bad thing about steam heat is you can't throw everything into the radiator.

One check that can always be cashed is a check on your living expenses.

Cinderella's lot wasn't so bad. She slept right by the fire.

Many a boss when at work washes the dishes when at home.

So live that you think all people better than you know they are.

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SPECIAL NOTE: Our Washington Bureau still has copies available of the bulletin, COMMON ERRORS IN ENGLISH.

RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

Medicine

THE Indiana Medical Association will seek—in the next legislature—to strengthen the law regulating the practice of medicine in the State.

The amendment would give courts power to enjoin persons, not possessing stipulated qualifications from treating the sick. And is aimed at drugless healers who practice without passing the State physicians' examination.

Sickness is as old as the race. But there has never been agreement as to its proper treatment. Magic charms, booming drums, laying on of hands, faith, prayer, medicine, and surgery, had all been tried.

In some cases patients have survived the treatment—whatever its nature—in other cases they have succumbed. Consequently every healing system points with pride to its successes and buries its failures.

And no method is uniformly successful. Or is entitled to exclusive privilege to inspect furred tongues and thumb jumping pulses. Probably the State should rigidly regulate healers who use drugs.

But the person ill has the right to say whether his treatment shall be a major operation or a red bandage tied around his neck. And choose his healer accordingly. State regulation should not interfere with the exercise of that choice.

Surplus

THE city treasury closed the year with a surplus of \$333,000 in the general fund. Which is not stylish. So started city officials discuss ways of means of spending it.

The mayor proposes to spend it by increasing the pay of policemen and firemen 50 cents a day.

Doubtless policemen and firemen are underpaid in comparison with employees of private industry. Particularly as they risk life and limb in the line of duty.

They are entitled to living wages. Which would be more useful than hero medals awarded after a wall or a desperado has fallen on them.

But, to increase their pay because a treasury surplus exists is only an act of expediency, not justice. It's based on no higher principle than a itch to spend a surplus.

The inadequacy of police and fire force is no sudden emergency. Their need was as acute when the city budget was adopted as now. Yet it was ignored then.

The city can afford to pay decent wages. Not by cutting an unexpected melon, but as a regular budgetary expenditure. A surplus spent for any purpose at the whim of officials makes a city budget ridiculous.

Enough eye-strain is thus encountered unavoidably without bringing it to school. Where it may turn day into night for some child.

And a college or technical education, in terms of actual money, is worth just \$72,000. Each of the four years spent at college mean exactly

Enforcement

ASSISTANT Federal Prohibition Director R. C. Minton declared the weak point in dry enforcement in Indiana is now in State courts.

Court records seem to confirm this. In 123 liquor cases in Federal Court last year there were 107 convictions. While only 517 convictions in 1,012 cases in State courts.

Squeamishness over technicalities in State courts is given as the cause for their lower ratio of convictions. But probably the principal cause lies in the manner of choosing Federal and State judges.

Federal judges are appointed for life. And are unswayed by public opinion. While State judges are elected by popular vote. While listening to justice they must keep their eyes on the political barometer.

So where popular sentiment is opposed to prohibition State courts inevitably become colored by their surroundings. Technicalities creep into their records instead of convictions.

The relative merits of the two systems of elevating judges is open to argument.

But the difference in the two methods accounts for the disparity in convictions in liquor cases. Which will continue until public opinion in every locality makes it not enforcement of the PROHIBITION law—but simply enforcement of a law.

Eyesight

MISS OLIVE D. EDWARDS, secretary of the Haughville Civic League, stated in a letter to the school board—that seventeen rooms in School 52, 2800 W. Walnut St., were without lights.

The same deplorable condition exists in many grade school buildings over the city. More than a score of which are without lighting fixtures—although wired for electricity.

Procrastination is the reason the school has failed to install the necessary lights. It has been easier to let the children strain their eyes than for the board to strain its inertia.

Education is a valuable possession. Which would be more useful than hero medals awarded after a wall or a desperado has fallen on them.

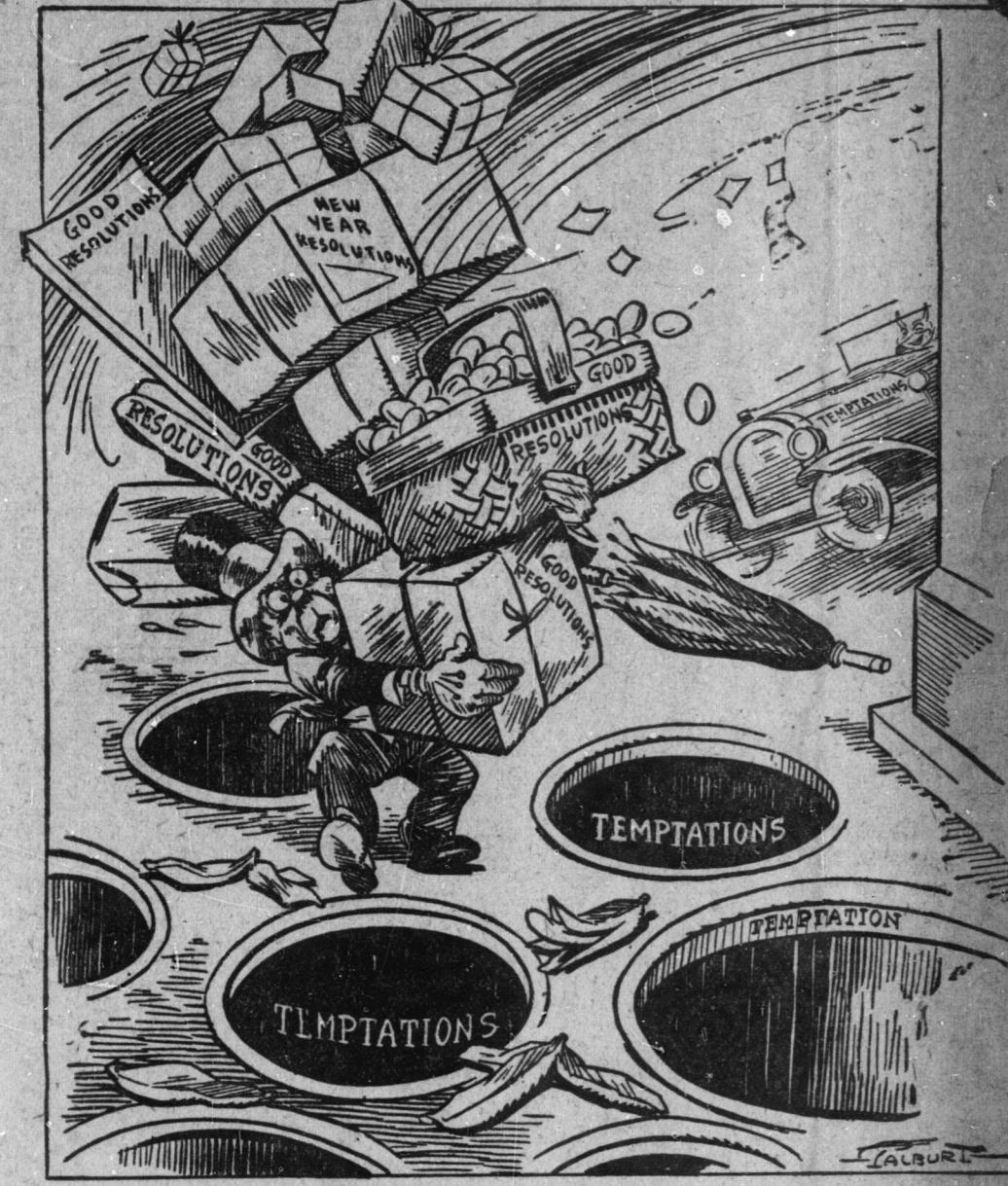
The pursuit of knowledge is dangerous if conducted in semi-darkness. Or in the twilight murk of an unlighted Indianapolis schoolroom on a winter morning when the city smoke inspector has overslept.

There is already too much defective vision in evidence. The Nation is not blind—some alarmists predict. But it is using its eyes as never before.

Enough eye-strain is thus encountered unavoidably without bringing it to school. Where it may turn day into night for some child.

And a college or technical education, in terms of actual money, is worth just \$72,000. Each of the four years spent at college mean exactly

'What Chance Has a Fellow Got?'



CASH VALUE OF EDUCATION

By RUTH FINNEY

"ELL what it will mean to me in terms of money," the boy of today says when advice is offered to him.

Here it is, then. Here are dollar and cents reason why boys who walk over Latin and geometry should stay on in high school instead of "getting a job."

The cash value of a four-year high school course is \$33,000.

The boy who gets a job after leaving grammar school earns an average of \$500 a year during the four years he might have been in high school. The boy who takes his four high school years, while he may not have a cent of spending money, is actually earning \$8,250 a year for himself those four years.

Enough eye-strain is thus encountered unavoidably without bringing it to school. Where it may turn day into night for some child.

And a college or technical education, in terms of actual money, is worth just \$72,000. Each of the four years spent at college mean exactly

only \$18,000 to a boy, even though he is waiting on table to pay his board bill.

These figures have been compiled by Dean Everett W. Lord