

The Indianapolis Times

ROY W. HOWARD, President
FELIX F. BRUNER, Editor
W. A. MATYBORN, Bus. Mgr.

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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

THERE are two sides to every question, and France's repudiation of her \$3,917,325,974.84 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 danger is 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

RESOLVED, 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 shown in the annual report of one of the largest 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, \$1,288,489; 1923, \$2,465,090.—Report of the Commissioner of Navigation.

The Railways Rival
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 highway. Already the competition 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. Begg (R) Ohio: The gentleman ought to make his speech in his own body (the Senate).
Sen. Blanton (D) Texas: I would answer there, but, unfortunately, 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 twenty years of vain insistence, of our doctrine of the open door in

China. We have brought about the scrapping of the Anglo-Japanese alliance. We have brought about the reign of peace to this hemisphere and to the Orient.—Rep. Rathbone (R) Ill.

One for the Druggist
A ducky lady went into a drug store and asked for one cent's worth of insect powder.
"But that isn't enough to wrap up," said the clerk.
"Man!" exclaimed the woman, "I ain't asked you to wrap it up. Just blow it down my back!"—Whiz Bang.

You Cross-Word Puzzlers
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ENGLISH EDITOR, Washington Bureau, Indianapolis Times.
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SPECIAL NOTE: Our Washington Bureau still has copies available of the bulletin, COMMON ERRORS IN ENGLISH.

RAILROADS REPORT SMALLER INCOMES, LARGER PROFITS

Net Income Larger Than That of 1923 Reported to Commission.

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 \$2,114,090 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 income.

The explanation offered by railroad executives for this favorable trend is simply that of greater efficiency in managements. 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 4.83 per cent of tentative valuation.

Congress provided in the Esch-Cummins law that railroads should be entitled to earn 5 1/2 per cent of the aggregate value of their property and in addition granted the railroads an additional 1/4 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.

Greatest 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. (Copyright, 1925, NEA Service, Inc.)

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 it is aimed at druggists' 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 pursues 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 bandana 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 \$333,900 in the general fund. Which is not stylish. So started city officials discuss ways and 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 war or a desperado has fallen on them.

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

The inadequacy of police and fire salaries 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. But 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.

Ask The Times

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to The Indianapolis Times Washington Bureau, 1322 New York Ave., Washington, D. C., enclosing 2 cents in stamps. Personal, legal and marital advice cannot be given, nor can extended research be undertaken. All other questions will receive a personal reply. Unsigned requests cannot be answered. All letters are confidential.—Editor.

What is meant by the term, "human aura?"

A supposed emanation or insensible fluid conveying mesmeric and similar influences. A sensation as of a light vapor rising toward the head.

What is the oldest Roman Catholic Church in the United States?

Probably the Church of San Miguel in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It was established at the time of the first settlement of that region by the Spaniards, about 1606.

What horse-power can a muscular man develop? Usually one-tenth of a horse-power, but he can not keep this effort up all day.

SAMUEL GOMPERS

In response to reader requests, our Washington Bureau has prepared a one-page mimeographed bulletin giving the outstanding facts in the life and work of Samuel Gompers. Any reader wishing to obtain a copy may do so by writing to our Washington Bureau, enclosing a 2-cent postage stamp for reply.

Which prominent breeds of chicken lay brown-shelled eggs? The Plymouth Rock, Wyandotte, Orpington, Rhode Island Red, Longshan, Brahma, Cochins, and Cornish.

Why doesn't it hurt to cut the hair or nails? Because there are no nerves in them and pain is caused only when a nerve is injured.

How long is St. Joseph's River? 260 miles long.

Who is the British ambassador to the United States? Rt. Hon. Sir Esme Howard.

When Japanese fantail fish come to the surface of the water and make a sucking sound, causing bubbles to form, what does this mean?

It means they want fresh water, in other words, more oxygen.

What is a barrage? An impenetrable screen of artillery fire.

What is Rudyard Kipling's address? Bateman's, Rurwash, Sussex, England.

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 124 liquor cases in Federal Court last year there were 107 convictions. While only 617 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, 2600 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 board 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. And should be given to every child. But eyesight is still more valuable.

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 going blind—as 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.

BARONESS IS TIPPED

Former First Woman of British Nobility Serves Hot Tea to Thirsty Motorists.



LADY DECIES IN HER LITTLE STORE WAITING ON THE CHILDREN OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

By MILTON BRONNER

NEA Service Writer
ANE HILL, England, Jan. 1.—Gertrude, Dowager Baroness Decies—and thus connected by marriage with one of the oldest families of the British nobility and with the purple-prod, millionaire, Gould family of America—serves hot tea to thirsty motorists and is thankful for a tuppenny tip.
The woman, who once presided over a castle, is now very glad to have shelter in an old house—and once didn't even have that. When her husband the fourth Baron Decies died, as their little son was also dead, the title and estates passed to her husband's brother, the present and fifth Baron Decies.
The latter a year later married Helen Vivian Gould, daughter of George Jay Gould of New York.

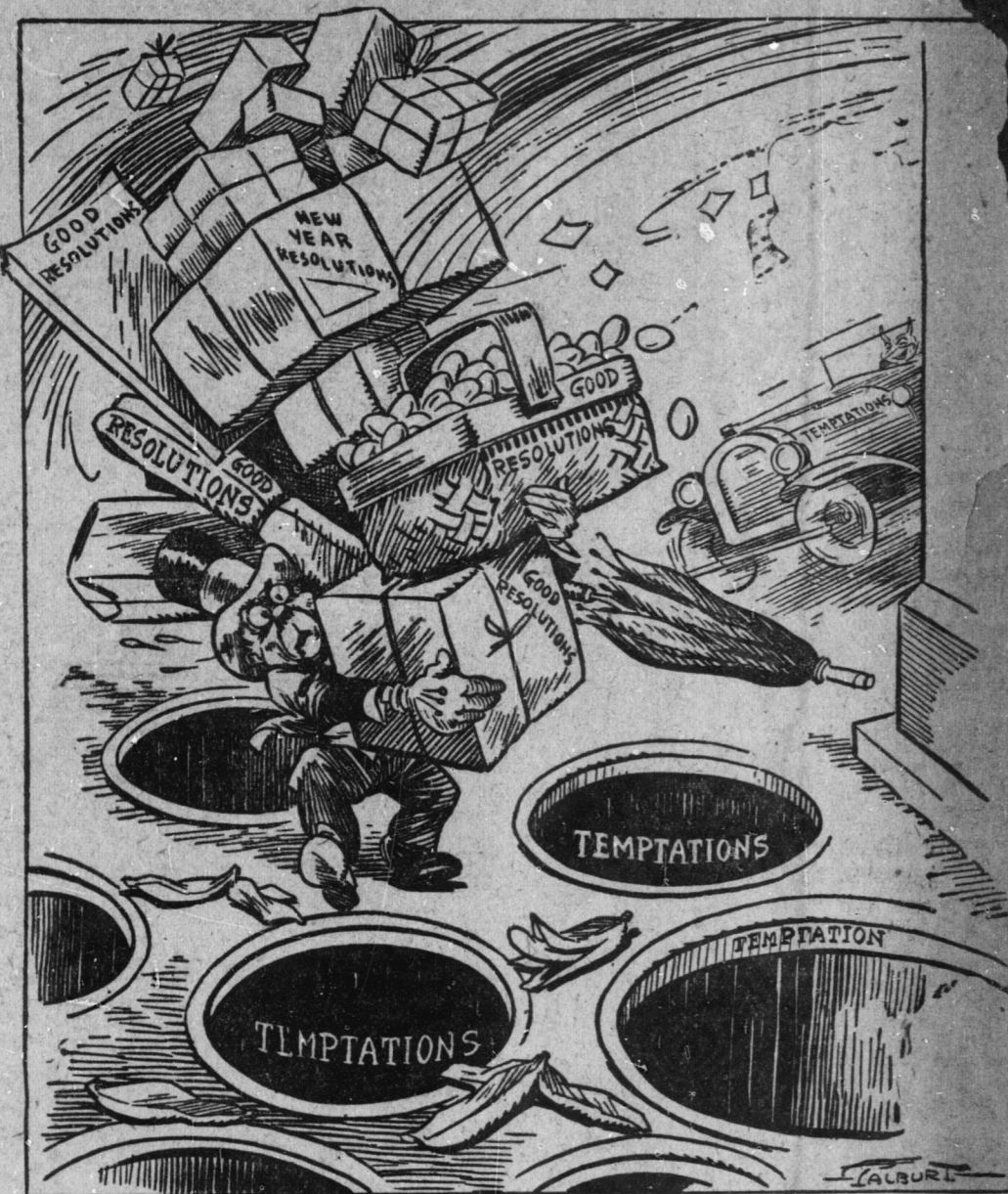
Decies and his American bride are in high society. Their sister-in-law is buried in this isolated little place in the Sussex hills, nine miles from the nearest railway.

The Decieses regale themselves with opera in the season. Their sister-in-law, when she has time, listens to the music of an old phonograph.

"There's no use grumbling," said Lady Decies, "I am a woman."

"Then I was really down and out. I lived for six months in a hut in the corner of a field and had to sleep with a rain-coat on when the rain poured through the roof. Then I came here and took this place. We sell hot tea to motorists and cyclists, candy to the neighborhood children, and take care of valuable dogs of London people who want them out in the country for a bit. They know I know about dogs and love them."

'What Chance Has a Fellow Got?'



CASH VALUE OF EDUCATION

By RUTH FINNEY.

TELL what it will mean to me in terms of money," the boy of today says when advice is offered to him. Here are dollar and cents reason why boys who sulk 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 \$2,350 a year for himself those four years.

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 exact-

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

These figures have been compiled by Dean Everett W. Lord of the College of Business Administration of Boston University. They should do much to advance the cause of education among those who demand a material reason for every act in life.

Dean Lord finds that the average boy with nothing but a grammar school education begins work at 14 and reaches his maximum earning capacity at 30 years of age. By the time he is 60 years old he has earned only \$45,000 altogether. His highest salary in life is about \$1,200.

The boy who goes through high school starts work at 18. He reaches his maximum income, \$2,200, at the age of 40. By the time he is 60 years old he has earned just \$78,000, a total of \$33,000 more than the man who left school at 14.

The man who completes his college course starts work at the age of 22. He does not reach his maximum earning capacity until he is 60 years old, but the maximum, when it comes, is \$6,000, and his total earnings at 60 amount to \$150,000, nearly twice the total of the man who ended his education with a high school diploma.

United States Navy Plans to Make Study of Ocean

By DAVID DIETZ

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—The United States will embark upon a study of the ocean which will eventually furnish the scientific world with as much knowledge of the ocean as is now possessed with regard to the land, if plans announced here at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science are carried out.

The announcement was made by Dr. Austin H. Clark, oceanographer of the Smithsonian Institute, and member of the Navy's advisory committee on oceanography. This work, Dr. Clark believes, will accomplish the following results:

Enable the prediction of weather with greater accuracy, especially in the region of the seacoasts.

Enable the prediction of fish migrations, information of the utmost value to the fishing industry.

Make possible the adoption of methods of protecting the fish life of the ocean from disease, parasites and the like, a move necessary to conserve the food resources of the world.

"No work has proved of greater value to the people as a whole than the study of geology," Dr. Clark says.

"But our knowledge of the geological and geographical features of the earth's surface practically ends at the shore line.

"The detailed mapping of the topography of the ocean bottom will almost certainly bring to light systems of mountain ridges, terraces, old shore lines, submarine volcanoes, deformations of the ocean bottom, and the like.

"It should give us the data from which to reconstruct the history of the changes in size, depth and shape of the ocean basins. It should furnish information regarding old shore lines.

"It should also give us much information regarding centers of submarine volcanic action where islands may be in the forming, or form which tidal waves may travel."

The study of the ocean bottom, Dr. Clark says, is so-called "sonic sounder."

This instrument, the invention of Dr. H. C. Hayes, makes possible to measure the ocean depth at any point by sending a sound wave which is echoed back from the ocean bottom. Timing the sound wave makes it possible to compute the depth of water.

Plans are now under way to begin the study by equipping a United States Navy ship for the work and supplying it with a special scientific staff of an oceanographer, a biologist, a geologist and at least six scientific assistants.

Both Worry

"Why, Johnny, are you just home, now? Your mother's looking for you all the afternoon."

"Yes, I know."

"Just think how worried she is."

"Oh, she's near the end of her worryin'." I'm just beginning—Boston Transcript.

NEW FORDS FOR

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LINCOLN GARAGE

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