

The Indianapolis Times

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LUCKY ARE WE

IN HIS statement to the President's Agricultural Committee, Secretary of Commerce Hoover made some extremely pertinent observations, but none more interesting than these:

That the United States can make itself economically independent of the rest of the world by properly balancing its production.

That it can maintain a plane of living 20 to 30 per cent higher than the present one by balancing production.

That it is the only nation in the world with unique economic resources and circumstances to permit complete independence with a high living standard.

This is possible, he explained, because all but 10 per cent of what Americans produce is consumed at home and because the country can produce, in its wide latitude, practically everything its people need.

The normal increase in population, some fifteen millions a decade, is sufficient to consume practically all of the increased normal production, if production and consumption were properly balanced.

Mr. Hoover's idea hinges on two things:

The first is that production be so guided that not much more is produced of any one thing than the country can consume.

The other is that a high enough standard of wages be maintained so that consumers can afford to buy what is produced.

This sounds very complicated, but to Mr. Hoover it is not. He says it is about the way production and consumption would see-saw back and forth normally, if greed did not foster over-production and speculation, if economic waste did not upset the balance.

The periods when one end of the teeter-totter or the other over-balanced the other too long have been the times when the farmers, or the wage-earners, or the consumers, have been stranded uncomfortably in mid-air, ready for the bump at the bottom.

By a campaign of education and Government cooperation with industry, agricultural as well as manufactory, Mr. Hoover proposes to war on waste, speculation, booms and panics, and reduce the halts and the bumps in the American economic teeter-totter.

It strikes us the U. S. A. is lucky not only in the lay-out that kind Providence gave it, but in having some one who at least is trying to unscramble the fundamental economic truth from the hodge-podge of our complicated National life.

UTILITIES APPEAL BILL

THE BIGGEST difficulty with the utilities appeal bill in the Indiana Senate is that it did not become a law ten or twelve years ago. It is now coming too late to do a great deal of good. However, it should by all means be enacted for the little good it still can do.

The bill provides that utilities which, after its enactment into a law, obtain indeterminate permits to operate from the public service commission should be allowed to appeal only to State courts. If they do not obtain satisfaction in State courts they would then be able to appeal to the United States Supreme Court.

Under present conditions, the utilities have been appealing directly to the United States District Court so often that the court has become a rate-making body.

The only difficulty with the measure is that it cannot be made retroactive. Many utilities already have indeterminate permits and the law cannot apply to them.

THE ECLIPSE

TOMORROW morning a large portion of northeastern United States and southeastern Canada will become as dark as night. A much larger portion of the continent, including Indiana, will be in varying degrees of twilight.

The forces of nature will be at work as they have worked for countless thousands of years. The sun's face will be obscured. Nothing that man could do would prevent it.

Man, frequently large in his own estimation, is merely a tiny speck on a comparatively small point of matter in the universe. He does a lot of things on that little spot of matter known as the earth, but there his influence ends. In the universe he is as comparatively important as a microbe on a pea.

But it frequently takes something like the coming eclipse to make him think of it.

Leave Schools to States

BY HERBERT QUICK

Again the agitation comes up, of experiment, of local differences. Unify the schools in management, as they would be unified in spite of what the promoters say, under a Federal department, and innovation and experiment would be struck a blow from which it could hardly recover. It is weak enough as it is.

Money is not what the schools want. They want brains and inspiration. Booker Washington built up a better school than ever existed for any people before his day without money.

Let us have no federalization of the schools. Let this great field of effort for the children be left to the people. Let every State have as bad schools as it is willing to endure. The very fact of their badness may lead them to better things that the so-called veteran States in good education have had. The demands for this new department are made by very well meaning people who simply think that "there ought to be a law." Let's leave something to the States.

Prisoner Tries Suicide

Herman Hey, 901 N. East St., who is held at the Marion County jail waiting to be taken to the Indiana State prison to begin a two-to-fourteen-year sentence, attempted to take his life Thursday night by cutting an artery in his left arm. He was rushed to the city hospital and later returned to jail. He probably will be taken to prison Sunday.

A department of education would simply add power to the moosbackism in education in the United States. It would centralize it. It would put moosbackism on a pinnacle of power. What we need is

the spirit of innovation in education, of experiment, of local differences.

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Money Well Spent

The development of the rivers and harbors of the country is greatly to the benefit of all the people and is the greatest economy that could be practiced.—Rep. Linthicum (D) Md.

Pacific Air Defense

The Navy has thirteen air stations, and only one is located on the Pacific Coast. Yet we keep the larger part of our Navy on the Pacific Ocean.—Sen. Dill (D) Wash.

Fowler Mason Dies

By Times Special

RICHMOND, Ind., Jan. 23.—Funeral arrangements were being made today for Samuel Mariott, 94, oldest official in Masonry in the State, who died at the Masonic home at Frankfort.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

BRITAIN BALKS AT STOPPING WORLD TRAFFIC IN OPIUM

RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

Speedway

THE bitter row at Geneva between England and the United States over the opium traffic serves to turn the spotlight on John Bull in his least enviable role—that of an international Jekyll and Hyde.

The flat refusal of Viscount Cecil, British delegate to the International Opium Conference, even to consider the American proposal—made by Stephen G. Porter to bring the drugging of the Far East to a gradual end over a period of ten years—sounds unaccountable and unbelievable save to those familiar with John Bull's Jekyll-Hyde history.

Cultured and enlightened to the limit in most things, when John gets away from home and mixes in trade and the exploitation of native populations, he turns from a likable Dr. Jekyll into a most unprepossessing Mr. Hyde.

Most people, for instance, blame China for the opium evil. The shoe is on the other foot. Europe, mainly England, is to blame. The poppy had been known to China for twelve centuries and used in medicine for nine centuries before anybody ever thought of smoking it. Then the idea came from Europeans trading in Formosa in the seventeenth century.

Opium Is Bootlegged

In the eighteenth century Emperor Yung Ching tried to stop the stuff being brought in by the British, Portuguese and Dutch, but, like boozing into the United States, it was bootlegged across her borders and past shores in immense quantities despite his edict.

In 1839, by which time the British in India were the chief purveyors of opium to the Chinese, a powerful Cantonese official named Lin objected to the presence of an "opium row," or fleet of drug-laden British ships, off Canton and appealed to John Bull to disperse it. John Bull—Mr. Hyde—did nothing. Whereupon Lin seized the cargoes—20,000 chests—and destroyed them.

Which brought on a war with England—the "opium war."

England licked China, of course, annexing Hong-Kong, levied a big indemnity and made Canton, Amoy, Foo-chow, Ningpo and Shanghai "treaty ports" which had to take British opium and whatever else was brought to them.

In 1907, however, Britain agreed that to the degree China quit cultivating opium—for by this time China had made a home industry of it—she would taper off bringing it in from India. And to the world's astonishment, China put a stop to poppy growing.

Poppy Growing Encouraged

But not for long. Since the revolution of 1912 the country has been in the hands of corrupt politicians and bandits, and in some of the provinces growing the drug is encouraged. So China today is back where she was in 1907. Opium is coming in from India and elsewhere, not only as opium, but in the form of morphine and the other derivations.

In 1922 India produced 1,450 tons of opium. The British make a government monopoly of it, licensing the whole business, from the poppy fields to the 6,400 retail shops scattered throughout India.

Turkey came second, according to the latest available figures, but a poor second, with only 240 tons, and Persia third, with 162 tons. What China produces is an unknown quantity.

Sales in India from 1917 to 1922, inclusive, amounted to 4,780 tons, and, in addition, some 8,546 tons were exported.

Holland buys considerable opium from Britain to sell to the natives of the Dutch Indies, principally Java, Sumatra and Borneo.

In British North Borneo nearly half the revenue comes from licensing opium, gambling and pawnbroking shops—a trio which would seem to go together well.

The opium menace now threatens the United States. The same ships that smuggle rum can just as easily and more profitably, smuggle narcotics, and in some of the provinces growing the drug is encouraged.

Which is why the British press claim more opium per capita is sold to Americans than is sold to the people of India—as was claimed by Viscount Cecil and disputed by Representative Porter. Official figures in this country to the contrary notwithstanding.

How to Get Power

The two chief ways in which water power development and navigation may be correlated are, first by affording opportunity for slack-water navigation in the pools behind dams erected primarily for power development, and second, by increasing the low water flow and reducing the liability to flood damage through the utilization of storage reservoirs, also erected primarily for purposes of power development.—Report of the Federal Power Commission.

A Vital Chemical

There are wastes which arise from wide-spread unemployment during depressions, and from speculation and overproduction in booms; wastes attributable to labor turnover and the stress of labor conflicts; wastes due to intermittent and seasonal production, as in the coal and construction industries; vast wastes from structures in commerce due to inadequate transportation, such as the lack of sufficient terminals; wastes caused by excessive variations in products; wastes in materials arising from lack of efficient processes; wastes by fire; and wastes in human life.—Report of the Secretary of Commerce.

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pie take holidays as opportunities to relax and enjoy themselves in pursuits they like best.

If every holiday sporting event was prohibited those occasions would not be more fittingly observed. People would still seek personal enjoyment. A person can be just as disrespectful on Memorial day by lying in the shade as at the Speedway race.

Notches

TWO youths and a girl were sentenced in Criminal Court for robbery. The trio had toured the country for several months in an automobile, with robbery as a sideline.

For every felonious "job" they pulled they cut a notch in the steering wheel of their machine. There were nearly one hundred notches when their career was halted by the judge.

The picturesque desperado of the town West notched the handle of his six-shooter. Every notch marked a killing. Now beardless youths cut a steering wheel to record petty thefts. What a degenerate age!

Alkali Ike, the Poco Kid and others of that ilk must turn over in their graves at the desecration of the once proud symbol of the bad man.

Nevertheless, there is a spiritual kinship between those western gunmen and these present youthful sneak thieves. Each is bad according to his lights and opportunities. Each is irksome to society.

Consequently the notch is significant, whether it is cut in the handle of a revolver or a steering wheel. It proclaims that he who cut it is bad, and glories in his badness.

Society can't do much with one who has that mental and spiritual attitude but lock him up.

Odors

WEST Indianapolis and south side civic associations are backing a proposal to prohibit erection of slaughter houses, or other plants emitting obnoxious odors, within the corporate limits of a city.

This would hit the Indianapolis packing industry and many enterprises in the State.

An industrial plant with an aggressive aroma stunts residential property values in the neighborhood. However, a brawny, passionate odor seldom stays outright.

It may curl the victim's hair, tarnish the gold fillings of his teeth, peal the paint off his house, garnish the sun—but the victim lives.

We are progressing in the abatement of smells. A resident of West Indianapolis couldn't live in the Paris of Louis XIV. The open sewers and lack of sanitation existing there would have paralyzed his sensitive nostrils. Wild public smells were fought with strong perfume—but it must have been a drawn battle.

We have eliminated much of that. A few wisps of obnoxious odor, however, still cling to some industries. In time they will have to go.

They can't be eliminated by moving the offending industries—they will have to be suppressed by science and technical advances. Industries, even the most odiferous, cannot be separated from people.

Respect

TRAFFIC court ground out its weekly grist yesterday with the mayor an interested spectator. He wanted to check up on the effects of the intensive speed drive he has ordered.

He spoke to the defendants, and pointed out the seriousness of fast driving. It was a very exemplary plea for law observance.

Then he said: "A fellow knows when he is speeding. I have done it myself, but I don't do it in Indianapolis. I go to some other town."

Of course he didn't seriously mean that—perhaps. He was only seeking to convince them he is not a cold, lofty, civic monument, but just one of the "boys."

Nevertheless that one remark is the answer to the whole problem of reckless driving.

Speeding in Podunk is as dangerous to life as it is in Indianapolis. Physical hazards not geography make the practice offensive. Yet Podunk's mayor—who wouldn't speed at home, because of the bad example—will do so elsewhere, without a moral qualm. The mayor of Indianapolis, likewise, will speed in Podunk.

They merely reflect the normal attitude of most people. Violation of traffic, and other minor laws, is not considered morally reprehensible—at most it is inexpedient. Respect for a law must precede law enforcement.

REP. MANSFIELD (D) TEXAS

DOES THE BIBLE MENTION THE NUMBER OF MAGI OR WISE MEN IN THE ACCOUNT OF THEIR VISIT TO THE INFANT CHRIST?

THE NUMBER OF MAGI IS NOT STATED IN THE B