

The Indianapolis Times

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The angel of the Lord encampeth around about them
that fear him, and delivereth them.—Ps. 34:7.

It is only the fear of God that can deliver us from the fear of
man.—Witherspoon.

WHAT IS THERE TO HIDE?

SOCALLED friends of the State highway commission who
are making such desperate efforts to prevent an investigation
by the Legislature of its affairs are doing the commission
an irreparable amount of damage.

The State highway department spends millions upon mil-
lions of public money every year. The public, of course, has a
right to know down to the most minute detail about the opera-
tion of the commission.

Still the "friends" of the department are doing every-
thing possible to prevent an investigation.

Why?

Is there something to hide?

That is the only conclusion that can be drawn from the
columns of propaganda, thinly disguised as news, now being
printed concerning the investigation and from the hue and cry
that is being raised to stop the probe.

This is not the first time efforts have been made to hide
the details of the activities of the road department.

More than two years ago The Indianapolis Times exposed
the activities of this department in receiving from the Gov-
ernment hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of surplus war
material, of no conceivable use to a road department, and in dis-
posing of this material without competitive bids.

Many months later the board of accounts took up an investi-
gation of the department. Again everything possible was put
in the way of the public ascertaining the facts. But alleged ir-
regularities were found and a sum of money was paid back.

Then the Marion County grand jury took up the investiga-
tion. Again every possible effort was made to stop the probe.
It was reported that at least one State official was threatened
with the loss of his job in connection with the highway affair
because he did not accede to the demands of another State official.

Then came the legislative effort to bring about an investiga-
tion and it has been blocked.

What is the answer?

Some day the public will know.

A MERE BILLION? POOH!

DEFY America herself to reimburse a sum of \$3,000,
000,000," Louis Loucheur, former French cabinet official
and financial expert, is quoted as saying in connection with
France's \$3,340,000,000 debt to the United States.

"She would be incapable of doing it and nevertheless the
United States financial situation is much more solid than ours,"
he said.

wonder if M. Loucheur was correctly quoted. If so he
betrays an amazing ignorance of American affairs.

Figures just made public by President Coolidge and General Lord, Director of the Budget, reveal that it would have
been perfectly possible for this country to have paid a debt, not
of a mere \$3,000,000,000, but of approximately twice as much,
all IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS!

We actually paid on our national debt, in that time, the
sum of \$3,198,000,000, not counting the interest. That is to say,
we reduced our national indebtedness by that much.

During the same period we reduced Federal taxes by some
\$2,000,000,000. Thus, had we owed France, or Britain, or any
other country, the sum of \$5,000,000,000, by maintaining taxes
where they were we could easily have paid that debt in four
years' time.

What M. Loucheur says about our financial situation being
more solid than that of France, is, of course, quite true—fortu-
nately for us and unfortunately for France.

But as for the rest, he was considerably off—or mis-
quoted.

THE FIGHT MUST GO ON

ELEGRAPHIC reports from various States indicate that
ratification of the child labor amendment will be obtained
only after a long fight against the wide-spread misunder-
standing of its meaning. Like other amendments to the Constitu-
tion, years may be required to put it into effect. Opponents of
the amendment have won over sufficient State Legislatures for
the time being to prevent ratification during the present
winter.

The fight must go on in those States where the Legis-
latures have not yet acted. The honest misunderstandings on
the part of some and the deliberate misrepresentations on
the part of others must be cleared away. Many of these States
should ratify this winter. In those States that already have
rejected the amendment for the time being, the truth must be
driven home. The people must see and their representatives
must see that justice demands this protection for child workers.

Thus far only one thing has been proved. That is how
powerful an influence unfair propaganda can be. Given time to
get to the bottom of this issue, the people will decide in accord-
ance with justice and America, richest among the nations, will
deal wisely and generously by her children.

V. BLASCO IBANEZ STILL WARS ON THE KING OF SPAIN

Author Explains His View-
point on Condition In
His Homeland.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS

Y OU saw "The Four Horsemen," no doubt, or read it. Also "Blood and Sand." And maybe some other writings of V. Blasco Ibanez.

Today he is an exile in France, waging a revolution—with his type-
writer—against his king, Alfonso XIII of Spain, whom he hopes to
topple from the throne.

Here are some of the things he is
saying—against the king, and the
Spanish dictator, Gen. Primo de
Rivera, and the situation in his
country generally. Pieced together,
they afford a pretty clear picture of
conditions as he sees them in tor-
mented, tottering Spain.

"Thanks to Alfonso XIII and his
mother," says Ibanez, "Spain has
become greedy, cowardly, servile, in-
capable of any idea outside of sen-
sual pleasure.

"The wealthy classes are cruel
through fear—fear of a change.
They are in favor of all solutions
which permit of gun-fire as a pre-
liminary measure.

Shot on Streets

"The working masses, on their
part, give proof of a taste for vio-
lence more marked than in any other
country. Every time they have
demonstrated their desires the
answer has been to shoot them down
in the streets.

"Alfonso has adopted the speech
and gestures of a bull fighter. No
schools have been created in fifty
years.

"There used to be two governing
parties. Desiring to be an absolute
monarch, Alfonso took the line of
splitting them, setting leader against
leader and rewarding traitors. He
carried out the maxim, 'Divide and
rule.'

"He believed that by governing
with the military he would be far
more master of the country than
when surrounded by civilians.

"For four years he planned the
coup. . . . But he was incapable of
keeping his secret. At a banquet at
Cordoba, he let his tongue run away
with him. There was nothing extra-
ordinary in that, since there is
plenty of Montilla wine at Cordoba.
He let it be understood that he
would presently become absolute
master of Spain.

Blame Civilians

"The military also wanted power.
The Morocco disasters, according to
them, were attributable to civilians.
Thus, for the king and the military, the
civilians became the scapegoats.

"At first they thought of appointing
as dictator General Aguilera.
He is less ridiculous and more honest
than Primo de Rivera. But one
evening Aguilera declared the honor
of a soldier was worth more than
the honor of a civilian, and M. Sanchez
Guerra, a Conservative with an
irritable temper, replied by giving
him two resounding blows.

"After that no one could reasonably
think of Aguilera as a dictator.
How could fear be inspired by a
warrior who had been cuffed by a
lawyer?

"The king then thought of Primo
de Rivera, a general, despised for
his private life and who never com-
manded an army. He is the nephew
of Marshal de Rivera, who betrayed
the revolutionary government of
1874 and restored the Bourbons. He
has no children, so used his influence
to promote the young men so
as to continue the glorious family
traditions.

Progress Rapid

"There has seldom been so rapid
a career. Every gesture he made
was heroic. He could not draw his
sword without getting some advance
in rank or some ribbon for heroism.

"He was born in southern Spain
and has its prolixity. His facility
of speech might be useful if it had
been wedded to real intelligence.
But he is a sort of first cousin to
the king; he thinks he knows every-
thing.

"This Figaro—this barber—dressed
up as a general, after the coup at
Barcelona marched on to Madrid to
rule Spain. His program to arouse
enthusiasm among the crowd is:

"The king is a great man, almost as
great, almost as honest, almost as
pure as myself. The politicians who
have governed hitherto are a band
of robbers. I will unmask them and
put them in jail."

Income Tax

Bonuses to employees constitute
allowable deductions from gross in-
come when such payments are
made in good faith as additional
compensation for service actually
rendered, provided that when added to
the stipulated salaries they do
not exceed a reasonable compensation.

Donations or gifts to em-
ployees which do not have in them
the element of compensation, or are
in excess of reasonable com-
pensation for services, are not de-
ductible from gross income.

Pensions paid to retired employees, or
their families or others dependent
upon them, or on account of injur-
ies received by employees, and
lump-sum amounts paid or accrued
as compensation for injuries are
proper deductions as ordinary and
necessary business expenses. Such
deductions are limited to the amount
not compensated for by insurance
or otherwise. No deductions are
allowed for contributions to a pen-
sion fund held by the corporation,
the amount deductible being the
actual amount paid to employees.

When the amount of salary of an
officer or employee is paid for a
limited period after his death to his
widow or heirs in recognition of the
services rendered by the officer or
employee, such payments may be de-
ducted. Salaries paid to employees
who are absent in the military, naval,
or other service of the Government,
but who intend to return at the
conclusion of such services, are allow-
able deductions.

Donations or gifts to employees
which do not have in them the ele-
ment of compensation for services
rendered may not be deducted by
an employer, and need not be
deducted in the return of the re-

RIGHT HERE
IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

Textbooks

R EPRESENTATIVE LAW-
RENCE E. CARLSON of
Huntington introduced a bill
yesterday to provide free school
books. Textbooks adopted could not
be changed oftener than every ten
years.

Probably nothing in connection
with the schools is more perennially
the bone of contention than textbooks.

Who shall select them? Who shall
pay for them? How frequently shall
textbooks be changed?

In some places school textbooks
change with the weather. In other
places the books in use are so out of
date they are little better than an-
tiquities.

NELSON The present Indiana
law, prohibiting books for less than
five years, allows reasonable elasticity.
It does not permit adoption of new books
as they drop hot from the publishers' presses, but enables the
Hoosier schools to limp along with
the educational procession.

To extend the period to ten years
would effect no great saving—and
some texts might completely ossify
in that period.

Free textbooks have a seductive
sound—but only salvation is free.
This is not given away by acts of
the Legislature. Somebody must
pay for school books—the school dis-
trict or the school patrons. The
latter would probably fit it just as
satisfactory to pay for school books
directly as indirectly through taxes.

Hauling

T HE Indiana Supreme Court, in
a decision Tuesday, upheld the
"heavy-hauling act." This
law prohibits a load of more than
3,800 pounds, including the vehicle,
on roads in bad condition, unless the
vehicle has tires five inches wide.

The decision will be pleasing to
the highway commission. It is dis-
couraging to road makers and de-
bilitating to funds—to have high-
way surfaces cut to pieces in wet
weather by overloaded vehicles.

Construction of highway involves
not only a financial problem but also
a serious technical problem.

The better the roads the bigger
the loads that will be hauled over
them. It's an unending conflict be-
tween construction and destruction—
like the naval race between the
penetrative force of projectiles and the
resistant power of armor-plated.

Somewhere along the line, building
road surfaces to withstand the
heaviest possible traffic, without
damage, construction costs become
prohibitive.

A plug of tobacco carried in the
hip pocket may be too great a load
for some Indiana roads. Others even
more profanity must be thrown
overboard before vehicles can
traverse them without damage.

Consequently only by rigidly im-
posing limits on the weights of
vehicles and contents, to suit the
condition and character of the high-
ways, will the roads best serve the
needs of traffic.

Possibly popular election of judges
is a defective system. Nevertheless,
most regularly elected judges are
able and indisposed, to try all causes
fairly and impartially.

Many defendants do not want a
fair judge, but a favorable judge.
Special judges and changes of venue
are sought and granted on the flimsiest
pretexts—at the expense of the
taxpayer. Criminal justice will
always be uncertain and disbelieved
until the practice is suppressed.

A plug of tobacco carried in the
hip pocket may be too great a load
for some Indiana roads. Others even
more profanity must be thrown
overboard before vehicles can
traverse them without damage.

We'll hike to the yard, and we'll
draw on a card the plans for layout
in mind. The thought that is main-
tain is our plan won't be plain, but
we'll make it.

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