

The Indianapolis Times

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No law shall be passed restraining the free interchange of thought and opinion, or re-stricting the right to speak, write, or print freely, on any subject whatever.—Constitution of Indiana.

Coolidge Cornered

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE has cut a job out for himself if he hopes to convince the farmers of Iowa and neighboring States that it is unsound economics for the Government to assist in obtaining a fair price for farm products.

He will first have to abandon his lifelong belief in the economic soundness of the tariff on which New England manufacturers have been fattening all these years—at the expense of the farmers and other consumers.

He won't abandon that. The outcome of the revolt started by the farmers and finally taken up by the bankers of the farming States is likely to be Coolidge's capitulation. Signals of surrender have been hoisted at the White House since the bitterness of the farmers has become clear.

The upshot of this political rebellion is likely to be the formation of a Government export corporation that will so handle surplus crops as to prevent the hammering down of prices every time American farmers produce more than the American people alone can consume. The farmers will be protected in their basic prices, probably.

Then will come the howl from the other consumers, the city folks who eat bread and meat and vegetables. For the middlemen will still be with us. Consumers will not be protected against higher prices.

There might be more benefit to the country in the long run—though not to Coolidge—if he stood pat in his opposition to giving the farmers the same advantage as the manufacturers. It might eventually lead these farmers to wreck the tariff system of which they have always been the victims. In so doing they would help the other consumers of the country as well as themselves. The same cannot be said, of course, of the export corporation plan.

Anyhow Our Flivver Will Be Worn Out

WIN a car! Or pay taxes? Then you'll be interested in this.

Just now, as you may have observed, we're enjoying quite a hullabaloo over the British rubber gouge.

A year ago crude rubber sold at 36 cents a pound. Today it's above a dollar. Controlling the market, the British make us pay approximately \$1,000,000,000 for a year's supply which, at admittedly fair prices, should cost us only \$325,000,000.

This three-quarters-of-a-billion-dollar gouge makes an average set of automobile tires cost you \$40 more than they otherwise should. So Secretary of Commerce Hoover is complaining most bitterly. It isn't right, he says, and we are all with him. In fact something ought to be done about it. Absolutely.

But the rubber gouge isn't a circumstance compared with the gas gouge we are being let in for, thanks to the scandalous squandering of our oil supply. And no one is lifting a finger to stave off the evil day. No one in Washington is even talking about it, though the Army, Navy and air force couldn't turn a wheel without it.

There is in the United States, of course, only just so much oil. When that is gone—and experts tell us it will be gone, at the present rate of consumption, in ten years—we will have to depend upon foreign countries, principally Britain, to whom we already go for rubber, as above stated. Either that, or resort to new and expensive processes for extracting oil from our shale deposits.

Gas from shale, we are told, will cost us at least 25 or 30 cents a gallon more than present prices. As we consume approximately 8,000,000,000 gallons a year, that means a \$2,000,000,000 boost in our bill. Distributed over two years—the average life of a set of tires—the \$40 rubber gouge costs you \$20 a year. Pro-rating the \$2,000,000,000 gas increase among the 20,000,000 American automobile owners, each would be stung for an extra \$100 per year, or five times the rubber gouge. And that is the least you can expect.

What can the Government do about it? We do not presume to know. But here's an idea: Britain, Japan and other countries are now quietly getting control of vast oil fields scattered about the world, but are not using them. Instead, they are conserving their own oil while helping us to get rid of ours, through our big oil companies. A heavy export tax on American oil, therefore, would have four immediate effects:

1. Britain, Japan and the other countries, forced to pay higher prices for American oil, would use more of their own.

2. A good stiff export tax now would bring in considerable moneys which would come in handy when later on Uncle Sam will have to pay high prices for his oil.

3. Our own supply would last longer and,

4. Our big oil concerns—now distributing fat dividends of anywhere from 50 to 300 per

cent per annum—would let out a squawk that would be heard all the way from Kankakee to Kamchatka, not to mention Washington.

This, we repeat, is just an idea. And the fourth effect being what it would be, we can just forget the other three. But start saving up for 50-cent gas ten years hence and amuse yourself cussing the British. British rubber concerns don't make any campaign contributions anyhow.

Sugar and Income Tax

WHEN you go to the corner grocery and pay 6½ cents for a pound of granulated sugar, 2 cents of it is tariff tax. You are paying 4½ cents for the sugar. The other 2 cents is divided between Uncle Sam and the American sugar barons.

The total tax is \$246,000,000 a year, according to M. Doran, secretary of the American Sugar Association, at a conference on the tariff held by the People's Reconstruction League in Washington recently.

Americans have a great sweet tooth, he said, and eat an average of 107 pounds of sugar a year, so that the tariff slice of the Nation's sugar bill is \$2.14 per person, or \$10.70 extra to be paid by the head of a family of five.

This is equal to the income tax paid by him now if he is making \$4,450 a year. It is more than the average relief for \$2,300,000 small taxpayers proposed in the income tax-cut bill about which so much noise is being made.

But there is no move to lower the sugar tax, and there won't be, as was shown when President Coolidge about a year ago refused to follow the advice of his tariff commission and lower it.

Doran said the Government collects directly \$144,000,000 on sugar imported into this country and the remaining \$102,000,000 is pure subsidy to American sugar manufacturers.

It has resulted in large profits to these interests, he said. The Great Western Sugar Company, one of the largest, showed a loss of about \$8,360,000 for 1921, but in 1922 it made \$6,879,000, in 1923 \$12,004,000, in 1924 \$10,577,000, and is now paying 7 per cent on preferred stock and 32 per cent on common. Other companies have similar histories.

About 300 pounds of beet sugar is made from a ton of sugar beets, he said, so that the tariff-tax alone means \$6 a ton to the manufacturers. In contrast with this, the minimum price to farmers for their beets in the six States where most beets are grown is \$5 a ton, so the manufacturers can pay the farmers their minimum out of the tariff subsidy alone and have \$1 a ton left.

The farmers are not being benefited by the tariff.

The Boomerang

THE return of General Pershing from South America before finishing his job there brings the United States mighty close to the most humiliating, and at the same time the most serious, diplomatic defeat in its history.

Not only all Latin-America but the entire world was watching us when we set out to make peace between Chile and Peru by arbitrating their quarrel over the border provinces of Tacna and Arica. Failure now would drag our prestige in the dust.

Nor is this any too high, as it is, south of the Rio Grande. Secretary of State Kellogg's recent threat to Mexico was a blunder that started and angered all Latin-America. A second reversal would have most serious consequences.

To say that we have been riding for a fall will not soften the tumble a particle. True or not the world thinks we have been parading a holier-than-thou attitude for years, publicly scorning the League of Nations and doing everything we could to belittle that organization and its influence.

Thus when Chile and Peru waxed hot over the possession of Tacna and Arica they should have taken their dispute to the league. Instead, we deliberately encouraged them to bring their troubles to us. We would show the league how to settle international rows. And we'd have no league "meddling" in the Americas. No sir-e-e!

Now Chile is calling the United States names. She says General Pershing is unfair. She says we are trying to get trade advantages down there. She makes all sorts of charges, withdraws from the plebiscitary work, reports to the league and appeals to the President.

It's a lovely mess. Maybe we will yet contrive somehow to have what is left of our badly battered prestige. And we sincerely hope so. But it will never look quite the same. The blow we so cockily aimed at the league has proved a boomerang.

Maybe the league would not have done a better job than we have in South America. But it would now be wearing the black eye instead of us. Which makes a lot of difference.

A Sermon for Today

By Rev. John R. Gunn

Text: "Whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." Matt. 10:42.

THE disciples had seen Jesus working in a mighty fashion. They had seen Him perform a number of miracles. They had been called to follow Him, and they were anxious to do it, but when they saw Him doing such marvelous works, they were naturally discouraged. The bigness of the work was discouraging to them. It was to meet this discouragement that Jesus said, "Whosoever shall give a cup of cold water shall in no wise lose his reward."

How encouraging these words are to some of us. We cannot work mighty miracles. We cannot do big things. But we can give a cup of cold water to the thirsty. This is something every one can do.

You met a friend who has passed through a great sorrow. You do not know what to say. You cannot put into words what you feel in your heart. The best you can do is to extend a warm hand clasp that needs no words to explain its meaning. That's the cup of cold water.

A fellow-business man is overtaken by adversity. He is humiliated by the sense of failure. Yet, with a brave heart, he sets out to recoup his losses and re-establish himself. Conditions are against him, and it is a hard battle. You drop in to see him, assuring him of your confidence

and speaking a word of cheer. That's the cup of cold water.

A widowed mother is having a hard struggle to take care of her dependent little ones and keep them in comfort. The best she can do is to provide the barest necessities of life. She is too proud to ask for charity. In a manner not to offend her pride, you slip in a few little extras. Not much perhaps, but it adds much to the cheer of that home. That's the cup of cold water.

A man is thrown out of a job. Not through any fault of his. Business has been dull with his employers and somebody had to be laid off. He walks the streets until he is foot sore looking for another place, but somehow he cannot connect up. The reason is behind the ladder is about empty, and he faces despair. As busy as you are with your own affairs, you take time off and go out with him and help him find another job. That's the cup of cold water.

The world is full of tears, full of trouble and sorrow, full of disappointment and discouragement, full of want and need. You can't relieve all of it, but you can relieve some of it. Here and there you can dry away a tear, assuage a little sorrow, dispel a little gloom. You can make life a little brighter for a few. Wherever you can, that is your opportunity to give the cup of cold water. And when you give it, you shall in no wise lose your reward.

You will be rewarded with that satisfaction and joy which is always experienced by every one when a kindly deed is done to help another. (Copyright, 1925, by John R. Gunn.)

RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

BAIL BOND BUSINESS

THE judges of the four municipal courts in Indianapolis, which came into existence Jan. 1, have adopted a rule that professional bondsmen who loiter around police station at unusual hours soliciting business will not be accepted as bondsmen in the new courts.

Apparently that is a slap at the professional bail bond business. It may purify the temple of justice somewhat, but it is doubtful.

The professional bondsmen who hang around the police station at all hours of day and night soliciting trade mostly traffic with friendless, petty offenders—drunks, speeders and the like. Without them a stranger or poor devil, judged for some petty offense at an unseasonable hour, might find the bail necessary as hard to raise as in the national debt.

So, while the loitering professionals may be vultures, to some casual offenders they have all the aspects of a good Samaritan.

The real disgrace of the bail bond business is not the professional bondsmen who hang around police court but the shameful laxity of judges who release seasoned crooks and big offenders on small bonds and inadequate security.

So probably the net result of the committee's efforts so far as actually reducing salaries will not be visible to the naked eye. A stenographer here and there in State departments may feel the pruning knife, but there will be no marked saving in the expenses of government.

Every one of the officials and employees affected by the committee's salary reduction order is enthusiastically in favor of the State administration's economy program.

But how they oppose cuts in their own pay! They want economy, but they don't want it too personal. When it applies to them it hurts.

Campaign oratory and awed devotion to the abstract principle of economy in State government won't be visible to the naked eye.

A major fraction of every dollar raised for the maintenance of Indiana's State government goes to pay salaries of State employees. Any real reduction in governmental expenditures must be effected by operating on the pay roll. It can't be accomplished by saving erasers or strengthening the lives of lead pencils.

Back of every tragic accident to children playing with firearms is a careless adult, on whom rests the responsibility for the fatality. Remember that, you men who have around the home shotguns, rifles or pistols, for sport, business or protection.

Adults might as well get out rattlesnakes or trained typhoid germs for the children to play with as to leave firearms, loaded or "unloaded," within reach.

Whether she was properly scared or not by the jest is debatable. The top of her head was blown off. The little boy "didn't know it was loaded."

Just another of the distressing tragedies, all too frequent, caused by children playing with firearms. Of course it was an accident; the small lad is more deserving of sympathy than censure. Nevertheless he killed his cousin. Throughout his life he can't escape that fact and the regret, remorse and sorrow his act will cause him. He'll suffer and pay.

But who left the gun loaded and within reach of active childhood?

Of course, the committee's salary reduction order is enthusiastically in favor of the State administration's economy program.

But how they oppose cuts in their own pay! They want economy, but they don't want it too personal.

Greater Indiana! The Merchants Heat and Light Company now is busy placing the signs in all parts of the city.

Thus when Chile and Peru waxed hot over the possession of Tacna and Arica they should have taken their dispute to the league. Instead, we deliberately encouraged them to bring their troubles to us. We would show the league how to settle international rows. And we'd have no league "meddling" in the Americas. No sir-e-e!

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Matinee Musicale to Present American Baritone

BERNARD FERGUSON, American baritone, who will make his first public appearance here with the matinee musical at the Murat on Friday afternoon, Jan. 15, enjoys the admiration and confidence of the conductors of many of the largest choral societies and music festivals in the country.

This confidence has been won by reason of his splendid musicianship and the fact that he always "knows his lines." Choral works of widely different character are given at the different festivals, and an artist is often called upon to learn new works in a very short time.

In the Spring of 1922, Mr. Ferguson made a tour with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Following his tour with the orchestra, Mr. Ferguson's concert tours: "I am glad to say that I consider Mr. Ferguson a very fine artist with a splendid voice, and an excellent musical temperament, and a real man."

Mr. Ferguson is a man of large and powerful physique, dignified and imposing appearance, and a perfect physical as well as vocal type for the role of "Elijah" in which he will be heard here. He is a great lover of sports and all out-of-door life, by means of which he always keeps himself in splendid physical condition to meet the exacting demands of his profession.

THE regular monthly musical program which the Metropolitan School of Music broadcast from WFMF will be given next Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock. On the program will be Ernest G. Hesser, baritone; Edwin Jones, violinist; Earle Howe Jones, pianist, and conductor of the

Roy Medsger of Lebanon, Miss Helen Payne and Miss Mildred Johns, vocalists, advanced students of Edward Nell, and Miss Ruth McDougall, cornetist, graduate student of Leslie E. Peck. The accompanists will be Mrs. John Kolmer and Miss Grace Hutchings.

FOR the first time in the history of the organ in America, a professional organization has sponsored the tour of a great organist. The National Association of Organists, with a large membership spread throughout the country and numbering among its members many of the most prominent organists in America announces that the present American tour of Alfred Hollins, the famous blind organist and composer from England, is under the Honorary Auspices of the Association. The seal of professional approval is thus set upon the forthcoming appearance of this noted performer at the Tabernacle Presbyterian Church on Wednesday night, Jan. 13.

Thus honoring one of their own profession, the National Association is following the example set by musical and educational organizations all over the world, which have joined in bestowing on Alfred Hollins tributes of the highest kind. In addition to several college degrees and a Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists, the degree of Doctor of Music was conferred on him in 1922 by Edinburgh University.

But the distinguished decorations worn by this English virtuoso have not, so it is said, affected the individualistic style of his playing, which the London Daily Telegraph last season declared to be "happier and more facile than that of any other organist." Ye, according to the same paper, "Hollins never seeks after the sensational. Often he brings a touch of raciness to his work, but this is always well placed and controlled by good taste. Buoyancy is the especial quality of his playing," and as the Telegraph says, "how rarely can that be said of organists."

During this return visit to America, Hollins will be the honored guest