

The Indianapolis Times

ROY W. HOWARD, President.

WM. A. MAYBORN, Bus. Mgr.

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

KNOW YOUR STATE

INDIANA is furnishing an example for other States in the manner of conserving her natural resources. One of the first of the States to develop a policy with reference to fish, game and wild life generally, the conservation department has developed a policy with reference to State parks that is attracting national attention.

THE WRONG WAY

Workers on the street railways, who have ceased work as a protest against working conditions, should carefully scrutinize any suggestion from whatever source that violence will help them win.

The quickest way to destroy sympathy in any such controversy is an appeal to violence and force.

Any leader who advises such a course or countenances it places himself under suspicion of having other purposes in mind than that of the welfare of those who may trust him.

It would not be new in labor controversies to find that such counsel has been inspired.

It is lamentable that the city administration takes the bland view that its policy must be that of "neutrality," an attitude which suggests that a strike on a public utility is a private war between employers and employees.

The rights of the public are always paramount. Every factor in the situation becomes a public matter.

The same public sentiment which will righteously condemn violence will be just as alert to correct conditions which might lead men into such a frame of mind.

A strike on any public utility, presumably under public regulation and control, should be more than impossible. It should be unthinkable.

The time has passed when unreasoning arrogance on the part of any factor in the operation of public utilities can be permitted to jeopardize the welfare, safety or comfort of all citizens.

INCREASING AMERICA'S WAR DEBT

A fifteen-billion-dollar addition to the war debt of the United States is hovering over the American taxpayer and consumer.

At least that is one way, and a quite reasonable way, of viewing the valuation of the American railroads. The question was argued before the Interstate Commerce Commission last week, and started on its way to the Supreme Court, where it will be settled some time.

Representatives of the railroads argued that the railroads should be valued for rate-making purposes at what it would cost to rebuild them at the present high level of prices.

They said the users of the railroads—and that's everybody in the country—should pay rates high enough to provide a profit on what it would cost to buy rails, locomotives, rights of way, etc., and set up railroad system comparable to the one at present in existence.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has proceeded on another basis. It has regarded the high price levels of the past twelve years as one of the freaks of the world war. Therefore, it has valued that part of the railroad system built before that time on the basis of the prices which prevailed in 1914, the year the European war started.

Wholesale prices today, according to the United States bureau of labor statistics, are 51.1 per cent higher than they were in 1914. If the railroads are valued for rate-making purposes at present prices, they will be entitled to make a profit on about \$15,000,000,000 more than they would be if they were valued at 1914 prices.

That's the nub of the argument between the roads and the interstate commerce commission's bureau of valuation.

The commission, in its method of valuation, is willing to allow a profit on the full cost of additions and betterments since 1914, but it thinks any investment made prior to that time should be computed on pre-war prices.

The railroads want full reproduction cost as of today.

If one assumes, as most economists do, that the rapid rise of prices from 1914 to 1920, with a gradual falling off since, was due to wartime pressure for supplies and war financing operations, fixing the value of the railroads at present prices, instead of those prevailing in 1914, is equivalent to adding about \$15,000,000,000 to the cost of the war. That is the added sum upon which American consumers will have to pay interest.

It is a sum greater than that to be collected in the next sixty years from all of the countries of Europe which owe war debts to the United States.

The Supreme Court decided two years ago that the Government can constitutionally seize earnings from the railroads. Whether that decision is to have any real meaning will depend upon the coming decision as to how the valuation of the railroads is to be fixed.

REFRESHING HONESTY

Texas people seem convinced that their State will witness the next national real estate boom. Some of them are determined that the boom, if it comes, shall not be based on false pretenses.

The El Paso Post, a Scripps-Howard newspaper, praises the efforts of the El Paso Ad Club to head off any possible dishonest exploitation of budding town sites in that corner of the big State. Discussing one project, the Post says, editorially:

"Matters not to the promoter that this place is merely a flag station setting high and dry on a desert mesa, far removed from producing valley lands. There's that word 'Adjacent' to fall back on, along with beautiful pictures of flowing water and luxuriant in neighboring fields."

"The lure of the cross-word puzzle, the easy solution of which wins a lot, is one variety of minnow attached to their hook and sinker."

"And in this new enterprise the history of oil stock promotions seems to repeat itself. It's the small investors, many of them women, perhaps some widows of meager savings, who swallow the bait. At least, that's the record revealed in complaints received by the Better Business Bureau of the El Paso Ad Club."

"True the investment is small—only \$9.85 per

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

Tracy

Prof. Opsjon Unfolds a
Staggering Tale of
Adventure.

By M. E. Tracy

More than 900 years ago, if Prof. Opsjon is correct, a little party of Norsemen, after having sailed the sunset for many a weary league, found itself attacked by savages near where the city of Spokane now stands.

There were twenty-four men, seven women and one child in the party. Half the men, one woman and the child were killed, while the other six women were borne off captives.

Later on, the survivors came back, buried the dead and painted the record of their misfortune on the sides of a great lava rock.

It staggers the mind to visualize such an episode, chiefly, perhaps, because it is so foreign to what we have been taught.

Though long admitted that Norsemen found the eastern coast of North America centuries before Columbus was born, it has scarcely been credited that they could have penetrated the wilderness for more than a few miles.

To find an account of their adventures, wanderings on the other side of the continent is well nigh unbelievable.

The Rockefellers, for instance, who gave \$80,000 in the past eighteen months to protect the American people from beer and light wines, must consider themselves robbed of the glory which is theirs when the league refused to list their contributions.

And from the league viewpoint, the contributions of the so-called wets must bear every brand of infamy.

It would seem, to a neutral mind, that if there were any reason for secrecy it would be on the part of those who contributed to the fund to fight Volsteadism.

But the exact opposite is true and the Anti-Saloon League, still powerful, was able to control three Senators to the extent of limiting disclosures to the past few months. The wets desired to make public their source of funds.

That is unfortunate. Every believer in the present system must desire to know the names of their benefactors and these philanthropists who are financing the dry fight.

Certainly no one who contributed to that cause can be ashamed of the fact.

Certainly no one of them could fear social ostracism or public condemnation from that fact.

Certainly if there be anything in the claim that the public is in favor of the present system, then they become heroic in their benefactions.

Secrecy is always sinister. It invites suspicion. It suggests improper motives.

WHO'S TO BLAME?

James McCarthy, 8, of Columbus, Ohio, bears in his veins the blood of a valiant race, and the "black-eye gang," a bunch of hoodlums extraordinarily young in years but extremely tough withal, demanded tribute of James in the amount of 2 cents, the lad rebelled.

Wherefore they waylaid him in an alley and beat him so badly that they partly paralyzed him. Haled into juvenile court, the leader of the gang, aged 11, confessed that they had intended buying their victim alive but had changed their minds.

The McCarthy lad is near death. If he dies, a first degree murder charge will be asked—and the old in the gang is 11!

Whether they succumbed to the influence of some unwholesome "bad man" movies, whether their environment was evil, or what, the fact remains that some one else is to blame for the transgressions of these juvenile gangsters.

Indiana man left his wife and twenty children. Hunt him in a quiet spot.

Americans chased out of China. May have been singing popular songs.

Slight earthquake at Santa Barbara, Cal. No climate destroyed.

Now we'll starve. German machine makes alcohol out of bread.

Farm prices are very low right now. So are the farmers.

New York wife says she can't live on \$500 a week. Few of us can.

Restaurant burned in Chicago. Smelled like a bride getting dinner.

COLLEGE BREED MOTHERS

By MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

Some loud-mouthed man has issued a statement saying that a child born of a woman who has been to college should be taken from the mother as soon as possible and placed in some institution where it could be properly cared for.

Women through the ages have grown accustomed to such insults.

Hundreds of years ago in medieval Europe wise men gathered together to debate whether or not females had souls. Interesting arguments were offered by the negative.

When a few intrepid girls decided to learn the alphabet, more men unctuously announced that this knowledge would unfit them for motherhood. When they boldly attempted to tackle arithmetic and spelling, they were subjected to long sessions. We now read with smiles the walls of sorrow that arose when girls first began going to country school. We can all recall the loud outcries that ascended heavenward when we had the temerity to ask for the vote. How they hooted us, the wise and superior men! They loudly proclaimed that if we ever went to the ballot box the whole country would be a wreck.

And so this last snort from an embittered male is but the echo of all the cries of fright which have been sounded since we first called our soles our own.

The man who asserts that a college education unfit a woman for motherhood only exhibits the narrowness of his mind.

If every girl in the country had an equal chance for a good education, where such a large per cent of them now are bound down forever by ignorance and poverty, the future would be a lot brighter for the race.

Great men have almost invariably had mothers of high character, and it is most ridiculous to suppose that the education which would help a man to make his way in the world and assist him to be a good father, would not give equal advantages to the woman destined to bring children into the world.

What this man needs himself is a good course in some woman's college.

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Say, If You Want to Hear Al Jolson at His Best, Then Get This Brunswick Wins Favor

By Walter D. Hickman

Am shouting this from the rooftops; "Say, Mister, if you want to hear Al Jolson at his best then get his new Brunswick record."

Generally in the past, if I am not all wrong, Jolson used a piano as his musical background. That is a wee bit foreign to this man as he uses a large orchestra in his stage presentations.

Jolson must have volume when he sings those crooning little ballads of the hour. Soft and sweet must be the strains attending his singing. This comes best from a large orchestra.

In his new Brunswick records, Jolson uses Carl Fenton and his orchestra. Fenton has caught that crooning and soft something which Jolson's voice has in moments of ballad. The lyrics have their meaning of course, but Jolson has the artistry which lifts them up very high.

This is true in "If I Knew I'd Find You," one of the soulful longings in man's heart. The singer allows that he would tramp the deserts, climb the highest mountain and swim the deepest river if a certain "you" was on the other side.

Jolson puts over this sentiment with all of his soothsaying artistry. He makes a triumph out of a song which a lesser artist would murmur with overenthusiasm.

And this Jolson-Brunswick record has been recorded with as much artistry as the singer. A triumph in recording. It actually brings the spirit of Jolson into your own home.

You will find on the other side another ballad type of a popular song, "I Wish I Had My Old Gal Back."

they insist on postponing the issue of stabilization until it is too late?

France owes us something more than \$4,000,000,000, but she owes her own people a dozen times as much. What is worse, she has agreed to pay them interest running as high as 8.6 per cent in some cases and averaging about 5½ in all cases.

The interest on her domestic debt now absorbs about two-thirds of her entire revenue.

In other words, two out of every three dollars which France collects immediately find their way back into the pocket of French bondholders.

No matter how high bondholders are, those Frenchmen who have invested in government securities can smile because they are sure of getting the bulk of their money back.

Bondholders Obstruct

The first requisite of stabilization, but especially as it involves payment of the British and American debts, is a reduction of this interest rate and that is what the French bondholders do not want.

They, more than any other class, are preventing ratification of the debt pact with this government and are standing in the way of a similar pact with England.

Other governments are refunding their debts on a lower rate of interest, taking up 5 and 6 per cent bonds and replacing them with 4 and a 4½ per cent.

Other governments are doing this, because they realize it is the only road back to normalcy, because they understand perfectly well that the world cannot go on living with such a drain on its public treasures as war interest rates call for.

But France is still reluctant to follow the common policy and is getting to a point of petulance and temper, where she is trying to justify herself by a show of undeserved resentment toward her creditors.

EX-SULTAN STOCK GAMBLER

PARIS.—Mehmed VI, the deposed Sultan who died at San Remo, nearly doubled his private fortune in his exile by gambling in stocks.

CUP THAT DIDN'T CHEER

CHICAGO.—Alexander Fitzpatrick had his stepson arrested and fined for throwing a cup at him.

When a girl explains she can't stand in the sun, on account of the dress she's wearing, it's a pretty thin excuse.

FABLES IN FACT

THE TYPEWRITER MAN HAD A HABIT OF CALLING UP HIS CUSTOMERS JUST TO BE SURE HIS MACHINES WERE RUNNING ALL RIGHT PERIOD HE PHONED A CERTAIN OFFICE AND SAID COMMA QUOTATION MARK DOES YOUR TYPEWRITER NEED REPAIRING QUESTION MARK QUO-

UATION MARK AND THE OFFICE BOY TOLD HIM HE GUESSED SO COMMA CAUSE SHE'D JUST LEFT FOR THE DENTIST'S OFFICE PERIOD.

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THE VERY IDEA!

By Hal Cochran

LIKE A MAN

I guess a dad's a sort of pest at morning, when he's gettin' dressed. With heaps of trouble he seems best—"I'm shy a button on my vest."

By little things a fess is delayed. He always needs the good wife's aid—"The collar on my shirt is frayed."

He has a tough time getting by. While dressing he will puff and sigh. And ere he's through you'll hear him cry. "Hey, mom, come, cope help me my tie."

Then, when he's set to his down town, you'll find him searching al around. No wonder pop gets mother's seat. "Say, where the heck's my coat?"

It's more blessed to give than receive—especially if you're dealing in pills and advice.

Little Jack Horner was the original plumber.

A cat will always give a lick and a promise not to cry over split milk.

Of course he danced upon his feet.

And it was sad but true, That when he did, he also danced On