

The Indianapolis Times

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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 has a budget law which provides regulation of the expenditures of State money. Through this law it has been possible to limit expenditures for the various State activities and to intelligently estimate the necessities for each department of government. Business men see in this law a step toward reduced taxes, and the means of securing a more intelligent administration of fiscal affairs.

AN OBVIOUS DUTY

Whether it be true or not, as claimed by the officials of the street car company, that they have "won the strike," a most obvious duty rests with the public service commission of investigating conditions which led to this walkout of half of the workers on the lines.

Public utilities are not private enterprises. They are under control of the State. They are necessities to all business and because of that fact are protected from competition and are insured a fair return through rates fixed by State authorities.

Stripped of all the technical claims, movements, mistakes and camouflage, it is most obvious that the men who quit their jobs hastily, and ill advisedly, did so in the hope of obtaining more wages.

It may be taken for granted that the company believed them to be capable men or they would not have been in service.

It is most obvious that the people of this city are entitled to capable service, courteous service, and efficient service from trained men.

The wage paid to employees of a public utility is a matter of as much concern to the public service commission as are returns to the street car owners.

The people of this city certainly are willing to pay for good service, and under no stretch of the imagination would any one believe that those who ride upon the cars desire to save money at the expense of men who receive less than a living wage than less than a fair wage.

The worst way to settle any wage controversy is by strike. In disputes in private enterprises the principle of arbitration is recognized in every part of the Nation as the fair and decent way.

In the case of a public utility, there is provided and ready at hand the machinery not only for arbitration, which should not be necessary, but for permanent peace through an official body already in operation and authorized to act.

Whether the controversy be between one man and the company or hundreds of men and the company, the commission established by the State should be interested in seeing that fair conditions and fair wages prevail.

The spectacle of a policeman standing guard over passengers upon the street cars is not a good argument for this city, to put it mildly.

That it is at all necessary, is even worse.

The wage paid to these men who quit their jobs was 37 cents an hour for beginners. The highest wage paid was 42 cents an hour.

That may be a fair wage in this city. It may be a living wage. It may be all that the service is worth.

Or it may be lamentably low.

But that is a question which can be quite as easily determined as is the rate of return to the owners of the company.

Surely this city is able and willing to pay all that the service is worth. Surely this city is willing to be fair to the owners of the utility and fair to the employees of that utility.

It is more than a question of the rights of the men who struck. It is a matter of public welfare and future peace.

NAPOLEON PLUS

"He thinks himself Napoleon." That's Clemenceau's description of Joseph Caillaux, new finance minister of France. It was made before Caillaux' latest attempt to straighten out the French financial tangle. Otherwise Clemenceau would not compare a man of Caillaux' nerve with a mere soldier, even if that soldier did think he could conquer the world.

Caillaux' job, barring the annoyance of bullets and bayonets, is a harder one than any ever given to a soldier.

He must persuade the French people to accept hard times.

When soldiers take the field—it was true in Napoleon's time and it's true today—business booms. Supplies are scarce, prices rise, and people are generally prosperous.

France has been prolonging her wartime prosperity by printing more francs and keeping prices continually on the rise.

For about ten billion franc notes in circulation in 1914, there are over fifty-three billion now. The francs are not worth nearly so much as they were in 1914, about 2.23 cents, instead of approximately 20 cents. That's another way of saying that prices are about seven and a half times as high as they were before the war.

As long as prices continue to rise in France the present prosperity in that country will continue. As long as wages and other costs lag behind selling prices, as they do on a rapidly rising price level, there will be large profits, and that's prosperity. As soon as prices are stabilized there is virtually certain to be a period of hard times.

There's bound to be disaster sooner or later, the present French financial policy is followed, and the franc is allowed to depreciate until it isn't worth the paper it is printed on, but that disaster can be postponed for a while.

Caillaux' job is to stabilize the franc right now. If he succeeds and survives he can tell Georges Clemenceau that Napoleon wasn't really so much. Napoleon's armies bred general prosperity outside of the areas actually devastated. Caillaux' plans will breed hard times in France. Prices will stop rising, taxes, railroad rates, etc., will be increased and the bubble of prosperity—for, of course, it is a bubble—will burst.

To remain a national hero under these circumstances will be a real job.

THE FARMER'S BUDGET

Balancing the budget. It has become a popular phrase. What does it mean?

France, so you read, can't hope to achieve a sound basis until she "balances her budget." The receiver for the concern that failed is engaged in "balancing the budget" in order to put the business back on its feet. The state must "balance its budget," if increased taxes are to be avoided.

And so on. What does it mean? Simply this: Expenses must be brought down to the level of income. The nation or state or business concern must quit spending more than it takes in, if it hopes to become solvent and remain solvent. Of course, everybody always has known that, but only of recent years have we been calling it "balancing the budget."

Now the farmers are getting ready to balance their budget. At least, a lot of farmers' organizations are talking about it. They propose to reduce the farmers' expenses to the point where he won't have to spend more than he earns in order to live. To do this they plan to obtain a pretty general reduction in the prices of the things they buy. They can't buy much less than they now buy, so the remedy lies in paying less for the same commodities. A radical revision of the protective tariff, say these farm organizations, will accomplish this.

It will be an interesting experience in American politics to see the farmers fighting the protective industries and using the latter's own language in doing so.

THIS IS TERRIBLE

The scene is the projection room of a movie studio.

Enter: One union operator, a number of invited guests, one William Fox. Fox is a movie producer.

The guests take their seats. The operator adjusts the machine. The long room becomes dark.

A slender cone of light comes from the machine. Figures appear upon the silver screen.

"Hello there," says one of the figures.

"Hello yourself. How's all the folks?" replies another.

"Just fine," says the first. "Let's sing."

So they sing. The audience gasps at its perfection. The much discussed talking movies appear to be a success at last. Performances on the film control the flow of words on the screen, automatically adjusting the conversation to fit the action.

But the solution of one problem often creates a dozen more.

Think of the movie stars who will have to learn our language!

Imagine the other complications. It wouldn't do for an alleged Mexican torero to say to a beautiful señorita, "Let's go down by the shaft factory and sit on the cob and hear the boids."

Then, too, the conversation in the audience will be drowned. Many who can't say a word at home can think up more darning things to discuss at the movies.

The machine may be perfected but people still are funny. Science is years and years ahead of us.

ALAS! JERITZA WINS

Marie Jeritza, most temperamental of the Metropolitan Opera Company's temperamental prima donnas, has won her fight to keep her picture off the covers.

Not that Jeritza is opposed either to cigars or to having her picture on display; but she couldn't reconcile herself to the thought that she, an opera star, would be in the same class as prize fighters, actors, ball players and statesmen. And it irked Jeritza more than little that a cigar merchant should make money out of it.

A great many will be sorry, for there is no question but that the fair Jeritza's picture would have left charm to the cigar that it graced. Even the most ardent admirer of Daniel Webster will have to confess that he had rather look at a likeness of the fair Marie than one of the famous orator. But it is a queer world—and a cruel one thus to blight our love for the esthetic.

Boys will be boys and so will men, but women will be girls.

Salt has a very agreeable taste in hot weather if a Stein of beer is added to half a teaspoonful.

NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT

By MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

A wife writes to say that she believes her husband to be smarter than herself and is worried over this fact. What this conscientious consort fails to comprehend is that she is very fortunately situated and instead of complaining over such a condition, she should rejoice because of it.

Having a husband whom you believe to be smarter than yourself is one of the first essentials to happy marriage for a woman. No girl wants to wed a man she knows to be her intellectual inferior. When she deliberately does such a thing she is almost certain to blight our love for the esthetic.

Even today, when men actually have no authority or rights left at all, you can no more get the average man to say that he thinks any woman knows more than he does than you can get him to dress up in skirts.

But, taken all together, this is the thing that has made many satisfactory marriages. Every bride loves to think that her man is about the most brilliant on the face of the earth. All wives desire to look up to their husbands. They suffer if they are married to a dumb.

By nature woman is a dependent creature and most happy when she is being protected. And nothing brings out the inherent decencies and the strength of men like the worship of women for their fancied superiority. They can rise to magnificent heights under such conditions; and who dares gainsay that they may not grow in wisdom and worth simply because of this?

No, madame, one of the surest ways of retaining your husband's affection is to know less than he does and keep him with a realization of the fact. Feeling sorry for his wife has kept many a man faithful.

Tracy

What Reason Has France
for Being So Angry
at Us?

By M. E. Tracy

What have we done that France should be so angry?

Loosing her cash when she needed it, we have not complained at her failure to pay it back thus far.

We have not complained because she employed her credit to help Poland and finance at least two wars of conquest.

She has neglected to refund her war debt and reduce its interest rate, has put one ministry after another out of office for no better reason than opposition to a sensible program of reconstruction and still we have not complained.

We have been glad to wait to give France time to get rid of the idea that Germany, or somebody else, would pay her bills.

When her ambassador was ready to talk about the debt settlement, we offered a 40 per cent discount with sixty-two years in which to liquidate the rest and only nominal payments for the first fifteen years.

It is not more than natural that France should bargain for better terms and we do not resent the fact, but it is inconceivable that she should fly into such a rage.

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A Red Devil

The powerful red car, in which Archduke Frans Ferdinand and his consort were riding when shot by a Serbian student twelve years ago, is on the market for the twenty-fifth time, and with no buyers.

It has belonged to one general, two doctors, a great landlord and twenty less prominent people, but always with disastrous results.

It has been identified with six deaths and several injuries.

One of the doctors, who bought it principally for the use of his patients, lost the majority of them.

"You may cure or harm us," they said, "but that red devil will certainly kill us."

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Joy for Motorists

Truck and automobile tires went down yesterday—an unexpected, but none-the-less gratifying, climax to the rubber scare of a few months back.

What struck the market, no one seems to know, but some of the big manufacturers are certainly less concerned about the "British monopoly" than they were.

Gooday led the slash, but was quickly followed by Dunlop, Kelly-Springfield, Fish and U. S. Rubber.

One sales manager declares that the cut, which ranges from 2 to 25 per cent, practically wipes out the three advances of last year and will enable the consumer to buy tire mileage about as cheaply as he ever could, while another asserts that it brings balloon tires to the lowest level in their history.

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Eyes Down

Says Arthur Murray, the famous dancing master, in an exclusive interview with the United Press:

"The Charleston has greatly reduced immoral dancing by concentrating attention on the dancers' feet, which are in nowise suggestive."

He says too, that the Charleston does not cause flat feet.

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Reasonable Kaiser

The ex-kaiser is willing to sell his holding to the kingdom of Prussia for 17 per cent of their value, or about \$3,000,000.

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