

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.

THE HUNS ARE HERE

Remember back a few years when the bogie was raised that the Huns were on their way and would levy tribute unless we sacrificed and gave and bought.

Well, we won the war all right, but it looks very much as if the Huns are here just the same.

You find them up around the public service commission asking for about the same tribute that the kaiser would have taken in indirect taxes had he become the ruler of the world instead of an exile. At least, even by the wildest leap of imagination, you could hardly expect him to ask more than interest on the increased prices of iron and copper and steel that came from war inflations.

That is about what is happening in the minds of the utility barons who expect to collect from the men who won the war the price of winning the war.

That is what is involved in the manipulations by corporations which are asking for more money, which must come from the pockets of the people.

The route is well marked and they all travel the same way.

First there comes an application for a huge issue of stock and bonds, which the lawyers explain has nothing at all to do with rates.

The gentlemen who are throwing the two local power and light companies into one are now asking for a fifty-five-million-dollar issue on properties capitalized at many millions less than this sum and the lawyers are trying to pacify the public with the statement that the commission does not fix rates on capitalization, but on the physical value.

The next step, of course, is a valuation of the properties at much less than the amount of securities which are handed out.

Then comes the suit in the Federal courts which show that rates thus fixed are confiscation of property and invariably those courts have looked at the stock issues, and given the "innocent" purchaser of these securities a rate that will compensate them.

In the end the public has paid and will continue to pay dividends on these new valuations.

What really has happened and is happening is that the utility barons are collecting for the war.

During the war the prices of the materials which are used in these utilities took a big jump. They are the same materials used for guns and ammunition.

Those prices have remained up. It is true that the companies have not had to buy new materials. But they are intent on collecting interest on war prices for their old materials and are able, through their political lawyers and their high-priced experts to convince the commissions of the justice of their claims.

The mergers, the purchases by new companies, the applications for increased rates, all go back to this very simple system.

The purpose is to collect, through commissions and courts, interest on prices fixed by war conditions.

Figure it all out for yourself. What different method would the kaiser have followed had he won? Are the Huns here, in this simple disguise? Is democracy safe for itself? Who really won the war?

THE IMPORTANCE OF DEBUNKING HISTORY

Back in our school days, like millions of boys and girls today, we studied history, particularly United States history.

And, of course, we got the usual panorama. George Washington was not a great human but something more than a saint—deity as pure and as perfect as God—and the British were cruel, stupid, cowardly, inefficient, inhuman, blundering asses. While we (Britain, too, mostly, if only the historians had not distorted the picture so we forgot this fact), were the sum of all the good and all the virtues of all time.

Thus we left school with the idea that we were superior to any other people; that our untrained American citizen, pitchfork in hand, is more than a match any time, any place, for any dozen well-trained, well-equipped soldiers of any nation or group of nations anywhere on the face of the globe.

Which is why the protest of Lieut. Col. Thomas J. Dickson, chaplains corps, United States Army, retired, and president of the First Division Society of Washington, D. C., is worthy of more than passing notice.

Colonel Dickson, whose war record overseas is to be envied, in a criticism cites case after case taken from school histories in use all over the United States where pictures of world war events are distorted out of all proportion.

Some of the histories slant over the first three years of the great war, says the colonel, and give American boys and girls the impression that there wasn't any real fighting until we came in and that when we did so we quickly won the war.

"We have a record any nation can be proud of," says the fighting parson. "And that is what we should teach—the truth. We don't need to exaggerate what we did or belittle the other fellow, not even the Germans."

"We don't want our boys and girls growing up with wrong ideas in their heads about these things," he argues, for two very good reasons.

First, it will call down upon our country the hate and contempt of foreigners in general and our former allies in particular, and second, it constitutes a real danger to the children themselves and to the Nation.

Among scores of examples culled from many different text books, Colonel Dickson quotes the following from "Our United States" (Guitteau, Silver Burdett & Co.): "The fighting at Belleau Wood, Chateau-Thierry and in the Argonne forest demonstrated that the American soldier with six months of training is more than a match for the German veteran."

"Ideas like these," comments the chaplain of the Fighting First, "when believed by children, make work for the Graves Registration Service." As indeed they do. Our soldiers won, surely, but only because they made up for their lack of experience by unflinchingly throwing in enough of their lives to turn the tide in our favor. Even Von Hindenburg, in his memoirs, admits he was moved to pity, along with his admiration, for the American boys who fell in this fighting, victims of too hasty training.

Our schools are intended to teach American boys and girls to be useful, informed citizens. Stuffing

their minds with historical bunk is worse than history at all. It makes them intolerant of foreign nations and peoples which, in times of crises, inclines them more to war than to peace, then fools them utterly as to what they will have to go up against if and when war comes.

It is high time we began to debunk our school histories, beginning at the beginning. There's glory enough in the simple truth and we would be a finer and stronger race for knowing it. It would be a work of real patriotism.

FALL AND DOHENY ON TRIAL

The trial of Albert B. Fall and Edward L. Doheny, starting today, takes place three years after the public first learned of the charges against them, and after the first shock of the Teapot Dome committee revelations has passed.

This is fortunate in one sense for no defendants should be tried in the midst of hysteria great enough to cause suspicion that impartial justice has been denied them.

Yet fairness can become indifference and indifference can become overdone in a case like this.

The offense of which the two are accused is so grave as to threaten both the structure of the Government and its powers of defense.

If the two are guilty then they have seriously wronged and imperiled every living person in the United States, and those who will live here in future years.

This is not a case affecting us as a matter of abstract justice. It has a specific, material bearing on the welfare of each of us.

Each of us needs to scrutinize every detail of this trial in order that we may get a clear picture of the present condition of our Government and foresee the possibilities the future holds for it.

"TAX RELIEF"

Don't be fooled by phrases.

"Tax relief" is occupying the headlines a great deal these days. Anybody overburdened with taxes naturally will welcome relief from the burden. Before you hug that phrase to your heart, however, stop and consider how much direct Federal taxes you are paying. Then you can tell whether you prefer the Mellon plan of "relief" or a program of intelligent use of the surplus now in the United States treasury.

If your income is less than \$3,000 a year your personal relief will be about 6¢ cents, under the Mellon plan.

If you happen to be Andrew Mellon, your relief will be about \$160,000.

"Plunder fund" is another phrase coming into use in Washington. It is applied by those supporting this so-called tax relief to those who would spend the treasury surplus. No discrimination is used between plain pork-barrel proposals and projects of admitted benefit to the public. Even those who would use the surplus to hasten relief for the farmers are being included as members of this alleged plunder fund.

Figure it all out for yourself. What different method would the kaiser have followed had he won? Are the Huns here, in this simple disguise? Is democracy safe for itself? Who really won the war?

RELIGION AND THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By N. D. Cochran

The New York Legislature enacted a law authorizing religious instruction of public school pupils one hour a week during school hours, but outside of school buildings. The constitutionality of that law is now being tested in the State Supreme Court.

Those who attack the law contend that it violates one of the fundamental principles of the Constitution, declaring that State and Church shall remain separate. Also they argue that it is in conflict with the State compulsory school attendance law, which the commissioners of education is required to enforce.

Counsel for the State department of education, defending the law, argue that not to permit the absence of children from regular school classes to attend their church schools would be an interference with religious liberty, and that no pupil is required to attend the church classes without the consent of the parent.

Counsel for the Greater New York Federation of Churches and the New York Sunday School Association, asserting the right of the parent to direct the training and culture of the child to be one of the most inalienable liberties guaranteed by the Fourteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution and the Bill of Rights of New York State, said:

"The local school boards of this State, which have the authority to prescribe the curriculum and make all reasonable rules and regulations, have the power to give reasonable recognition to this right and to recognize that, according to the view of most parents, religion is the most essential and an increasingly important element in the prescribed subjects of civics, citizenship and patriotism. While such boards may not themselves, under the Constitution, expend public money upon religious education in connection with these prescribed subjects, they have the power to honor the views of the parents who feel that any instruction in these subjects which excludes religion altogether is, in effect, instruction in irreligion and undermines the very basis of all good citizenship, honest government and enlightened patriotism."

It is expected that this case will go ultimately to the Supreme Court of the United States; so it becomes of interest to all States and all citizens of all religions.

The right of parents to direct the training and nature of the character of the child need not be disputed, and isn't. There is no dispute as to the intention of the Constitution to separate Church and State. But there can be honest and sincere difference of opinion as to the propriety of indirect as well as direct connection of religious instruction with such instruction as our public schools are expected to provide.

One need not argue against either the value or the importance of religious instruction in insisting that the public school is no place for it, and that public school authorities should not touch it even to the extent of changing rules of school attendance in order to accommodate any church. There is plenty of time for religious instruction by churches or parents outside of public school hours.

If these were all there is to the movement that led to the New York law it might be passed over as not important enough to discuss; but there is a determined effort on the part of some religionists to get around the constitutional separation of Church and State and to force religious teaching in the public schools. And that is important.

Even the movement to have Bible reading in the schools involves the determination as to which Bible shall be used; and three Bibles, at least, are in use in this country—the Jewish Bible, the Catholic Bible and the King James edition of the Protestant Bible. That is already a controversial subject.

We can't teach religion in the public schools unless we teach some religion. Agreement on any one religion is impossible. We can all agree on the Golden Rule, but that's about as far as we can go; and it's quite far enough for the public schools which are open to children of all religions or of no religion on equal terms.

Tracy

Fall-Doheny Trial, Regardless of Result, Is Triumph for Decency.

By M. E. Tracy

Fall and Doheny went on trial at Washington today.

Whether convicted or not, it is a triumph of decency that they should be brought to book like other people. It restores a badly shaken faith that there is still a law in this land for the rich as well as the poor.

Bad as it may be for a cabinet member and a multi-millionaire to stand before a jury charged with conspiring to defraud their Government, it would be far worse to let the charge go untried and unanswered even though they are innocent.

There never was and there never will be but one safe way to clear up a situation that is rooted in such ugly scandal.

The question at issue is whether the secretary of the Interior and an oil magnate connived to defraud this Government of a great oil reserve acreage.

Let us have done with the red tape and technicalities with which high power lawyers can obstruct justice and confuse the public.

If Fall and Doheny are guiltless it is their right to be vindicated. If they are not it is essential to this country's welfare that they pay the price.

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Mess Left by G. O. P.

Republican administration, put in to save this country from Wilson's idealism, as its spokesmen are fond of proclaiming, has left a miserable mess for the law to clean up. For the first time in American history, cabinet members have gone on trial charged with misconduct during their terms of office.

There has been such corruption in handling public funds and such scandalous use of money in connection with political campaigns as are without precedent.

Hundreds of men have been suspended or convicted for conniving to violate the liquor law while members of the coast guard.

A commissioner of the District of Columbia has been dismissed for taking money from insane veterans to which he was not entitled.

A veterans bureau chief has been proven guilty of even more shameful conduct.

No wonder Samuel Hopkins Adams thought writing such a book as "Revelry."

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Scandalous Books

This has become a great day for scandalous books.

Apparently, quite a few people want to see things for which they do not care to stand responsible.

Some of them are for fiction, and sign their names, well knowing that the art of romance offers a sufficient disguise to shield them, while others produce fake memoirs and diaries which they do not care to face.

"Revelry"—you don't know who it is about, but you do know who wrote it.

"Whispering Gallery"—you don't know who wrote it, but you do know who it is about.

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LEW IS HAPPY

IN OHIO PHOTOPLAY

Lew Cody in "The Gay Deceiver"

has a role that must have pleased him mightily for he is cast as a matinee idol of Paris. Although the movies have no regular matinee favorites Cody is a star of such popularity that a role of this kind is but real life to him.

"The Gay Deceiver" is a romantic story of stage life in Paris, centering on the affairs of the foremost actors of the day. His reputation is such that all women love him but one believes a word he says. In this picture Cody is all that is expected of him, and a little better than some of his former pictures have been.

As the famous actor who has all the feminine hearts in his hand, he is most convincing. The Lew Cody story is not very heavy but there is enough human interest in the plot to give full play

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Hits School Histories

Speaking of books, Lieut. Col. Thomas J. Dickson, senior chaplain of the A. E. F., charges that recently published school histories are grossly inaccurate with regard to the World War. He says that he has read something like fifty-two of them and that "all have serious errors of omission or commission."

"Some of them," he says, "are ridiculous, absurd and stupid."

"Unless our modern histories are immediately 'corrected,' he adds, "our pretensions, unwitting or otherwise, doom us to become the laughing stock of the world."

Affect World's Fate

Political ideas, especially as they are around in history. How the next generation of Americans will feel toward England, France, Germany or any other government depends entirely on what it is taught to be here about them today.

The fate of the world is bound up in school histories. We cannot be too careful in their writing, cannot afford to have any but the best qualified men do it.

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Prosperity and Rain

There have been four great financial depressions in this country: One in 1837, one in 1873, and one in 1893. Professor Ellsworth Huntington of Yale says that each has followed a period of deficient rainfall and bad crops.

There is no doubt that the weather exercises an all important influence on business cycles. We recognize this in seasonal trade, in spring and fall buying, in winter stocks, in the difficulty of selling coal in June and ice cream in December.

But the weather moves in larger spirals than a single year measures.

An expert who had the time and means at his command, tried to discover the secret of these spirals by cutting down trees in all parts of the world and examining these rings each of which, as everybody knows, represents a year's growth. He found that there was a period of diminished or suspended growth about every twenty years with some irregularity.

You should have no difficulty identifying this popular Scotch comedian. The rest of the questions are easy, too. Correct answers appear on page 12:

1. Who is shown in the accompanying picture?