

The Indianapolis Times

ROY W. HOWARD, President

BOYD GURLEY, Editor.

WM. A. MAYBORN, Bus. Mgr.

Client of the United Press and the NEA Service

Member of the Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations

Published daily except Sunday by Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 W. Maryland St., Indianapolis

Subscription Rates: Indianapolis—Ten Cents a Week. Elsewhere—Twelve Cents a Week

PHONE—MA 3300.

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.

Finish Something

Ordinary citizens may be pardoned for a lack of interest in public affairs when time after time, they are led to think that something is about to happen and nothing ever finishes.

Two years ago the highway commission was investigated and indictments were returned against officials and junk dealers charged with conspiracy to defraud the government or the people out of huge sums of money.

The people were led to believe that here was something which concerned them and which would be followed by drastic action.

And at the end of two years the indictments are dismissed, there is not even an apology to the officials and the public statement is made that there was no evidence against those who had been under criminal charges for two years.

No answer is made to the question as to why indictments were returned when there was no evidence to convict and the people are given only a guess as to the truth of the charges by those indicted that they were framed by public officials and that the bringing of charges was a sinister misuse of official power for the purpose of terrorizing officials.

Just how much this incident added to the public fund of confidence in government is a matter of speculation. Any guess is as good as another.

Mouths ago the attorney general of this State charged that the head of the dry forces of this State had attacked the integrity of the Supreme Court, had interfered with the orderly processes of government, had menaced the usefulness of courts and brought law into contempt by his attacks upon court decisions and judges.

The people were led to believe that here was something that would redeem the State and relieve it from any danger of being quietly overthrown by an invisible government more powerful than elected officials.

The attorney general said that the actions of this dry leader and political power constituted contempt of court.

Mouth after month passes and the people have yet to learn whether this dry politician brought the court into contempt or was exercising his rights as a citizen when he criticized its decisions and its action.

Over in the local court a grand jury last fall spent eleven weeks listening to evidence of corruption or lack of it.

The State was told that this inquiry would either lift the burden of disrepute from the State or bring to the bar of justice any official who had betrayed his trust or misused his power.

At the end of the long inquiry, for which the Governor paid two special attorneys from his contingent fund, the sum of \$11,000, the jury returned no indictments, but did declare that peculiar conditions existed within its body and suggested that some other grand jury take up the task.

The suggestion may be pardoned that these unfinished efforts, these things which are started and never ended, this State of uncertainty contributes to the bad repute of the State and brings in into disfavor.

Unfortunately the Legislature, at its regular session, did not find it convenient to once and forever take off the lid and make a sweeping investigation of all the incidents and charges that militate against the growth and progress of the State.

It is unfortunate because such an inquiry would have forever given the answer to false charges and forever corrected any evil condition which is now magnified perhaps in whispers.

Indiana is too fine a State to be handicapped by this blanket of doubt, uncertainty and suggested scandal.

Possibly a special session, if one be needed to legalize appropriation laws and other measures which seem to be queerly changed between the legislative halls and the executive chamber, might find the time to finish some one inquiry and give at least one answer to some one question.

Whose War Is It Anyhow?

Fear a great Chinese uprising against all foreigners is gnawing at the vitals of official Washington, according to the latest advices from the national capital.

And well might this be so.

When the World War broke out in Europe thirteen years ago a foreigner in Germany who might be mistaken for an Englishman or Frenchman, found his very life in danger.

And, in France, any one who looked like a German was equally in peril. The Cafe Viennois, in the very heart of Paris, was sacked and wrecked by an angry mob over which the police had absolutely no control.

Even a British shop, a business owned by the subject of an ally, suffered the same fate simply because the Briton had a German sounding name.

The Britisher himself and the owners of the Cafe Viennois escaped personal harm only because they discreetly made themselves scarce while the storm was on.

Have we any right to expect the Chinese to be more civilized than we are—who think our culture no superior?

Despite the fact that the Chinese have every reason to hate all foreigners for the way they have been exploited for the past hundred years, they have shown admirable restraint from the beginning of their civil war until now. Foreign lives and property have been respected more than they would have in a western land under similar circumstances.

Meanwhile foreigners steadfastly refused to heed the warnings of their governments to quit the more dangerous zones of the interior and seek refuge in the treaty ports of the coast. Closer and closer to them came the carnage and still they stayed on until at last they were run over by the irresistible juggernaut of war.

It is no excuse to say that these foreigners were in China on legitimate business. No doubt that is true. Nor is it pertinent to claim that they remained at their posts because they had valuable property to safeguard. Property, if destroyed, can be paid for; it is human life that counts. The shedding of British blood angers Great Britain. The killing of an American arouses the United States. And the shelling of densely inhabited Chinese cities by Brit-

ish and American warships inflames the anti-foreign feeling, already fervid, in China.

There is the danger. Young China is fighting for her freedom. She is in the midst of one of the most important revolutions in all the annals of history. She is struggling to free herself from the shackles of ignorance and superstition and medievalism on the one hand and foreign domination on the other. Abroad, yet we insist upon thrusting ourselves in between the battle lines. Some of us are bound to get hurt and we are bound to get mad. But when we turn our guns loose against vast agglomerations of humanity amongst whom are bound to be perfectly innocent women and children, the Chinese—who are just as human as we are—burn bloody berserkers and the trouble is on.

Americans should have been summarily ordered out of the danger zones long before now. For weeks we have had ships enough in Chinese waters to evacuate those who, for any reason, could not get out otherwise. Had this been done there would have been no need for Admiral Hough to be "drawn in" by the British admiral at Nanking, which incident bids fair to set all China on fire. The Japanese, significantly enough, did not allow themselves to be "drawn in" and their nationals were rescued precisely as were ours.

It may be locking the stable door after the horse is gone, but if it is not too late we should proceed at urgency to evacuate the remaining Americans in China, taking them to Shanghai or Manila, then inform both parties of the war they would be held accountable for every dollar's worth of property harmed.

Then we should let the war proceed without interference from us. For it is China's war of freedom and we have no right to try to stop it, even if we were foolish enough to think we could.

The great powers might seize the present opportunity to wade in, slaughter tens of thousands of natives and then sit on them for a time but, quite as the nationalist generalissimo, Chang Kai-Shek, said: "There aren't enough foreign battleships in the world to stop for long what has now begun."

Our Chinese policy must be based on that axiom. If it isn't then God help us and the rest of the world. China holds a quarter of the population of the globe.

Strike May Be Averted

Negotiations of the past few days give some hope that the impending strike in the soft coal fields may be averted. If these negotiations fail or their purpose, work will cease Friday in many mines,

The principal point at issue is the wage scale. The miners, who have received \$7.50 a day or \$45 a week—when they work a week, as they do not with any regularity—want this scale continued. The operators want wages reduced to the lower level paid in nonunion mines of West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Strikes are an old story in the coal mines of America. Operators of other industries have, perhaps, become calloused to the troubles of coal mine owners. The public, it may be, has become calloused to the suffering of miners, their women and their children, as a consequence of strikes and lockouts.

But in the past few years a new factor has entered into the consideration of wage disputes. What is sometimes called the Ford idea has taken hold of the imagination of business men. This is the idea that high wages make for the prosperity of everybody concerned, including those who pay the wages. The capacity of America to consume the goods which it unquestionably has the capacity to produce, depends on the income of the great mass of citizens. Coal miners number many hundreds of thousands—733,000 was the number in 1920. With their families they form such an important part of the total population that they can not be disregarded as an element of general prosperity or the lack of prosperity.

Whether a certain single miner in a distant State crawls on his stomach, picking coal, for \$6 a day or for \$7.50 a day may mean little to the average or us. Whether several thousand work for the smaller or the larger wage, may mean a lot.

The other dollar and cents consideration, of course, is the effect on the price we pay for coal.

Rebellious Old Age

By N. D. Cochran

Most of us are familiar with rebellious youth. If age hasn't hardened our arteries, we can sympathize with it. It's just as well to sympathize, for there isn't much else we can do—fortunately. In all ages youth has rebelled; it has a right to do and ought to do. In rebellion there is progress.

But old age is different. It is too submissive. Grandpa and grandma submit too softly to being shoved into comfortable rocking chairs in cosy corners, where there is nothing for grandpa to do but smoke his pipe and grandma to knit something or other off somebody else.

One trouble with all of us is that we determine arbitrarily, by years, the difference between old age and youth. Some years ago Dr. Osler raised the Dickens by intimating that after people reached sixty they might as well be put out of the way. But Osler was wrong. Some men at sixty are younger mentally and physically than others are at forty.

Anyhow, it is both encouraging and refreshing to learn from the New York Travelers' Aid Society that even age rebels, rebels and runs away from home. There is something about a runaway grandma that appeals to the imagination and the eternal fitness of things.

There was the New England grandma of over eighty who ran away from home and was picked up by the Travelers' Aid at a New York terminal station. Her youthful son Joel got fresh and wanted to sell the farm—though he was only 58—and grandma packed up her duds and ran away to the big city.

Then there was the venturesome old lady of 65 who wanted to see something of the world and was picked up by its lights before she sank back in the rocking chair to await the finish. She ran away and came to New York, as other girls have done, and was hobbling around on her crutch when the Travelers' Aid heard in and persuaded her to go back home to an anxious daughter.

These are but two illustrations of rebellion in the blood of grandmas, but they serve to illustrate the fact that in these days when the mysteries of the endocrine glands are being solved, you can't always tell what's going on in grandma's bloodstream when she is sitting by the fireside knitting. And while grandma may look meek, submissive and thoroughly tamed, don't be too much that her mind is entirely occupied with vain regrets. He might like to run away, too, if he only dared. The glory of grandma is that now and then she dares.

TRACY

American People Will Find it Necessary to Take China Seriously.

By M. E. Tracy

The American people are not as interested in the Chinese situation as they ought to be or as they will find it necessary to be some day.

Several writers have explained this on the ground that the names of cities and leaders are too hard to pronounce. What a pity it is that the western world couldn't have foreseen such a difficulty before it meddled in Chinese affairs.

Fiery Gospel

One hundred years ago the Chinese were giving the outside world little trouble, and probably would have continued to do so had the outside nations left them alone. The market for commercial and religious wars, however, proved too tempting. Some folks couldn't bear the idea of China going to hell in ignorance of the Gospel, while others couldn't bear the idea of her going to Heaven without modern equipment.

Missionaries and treaties were forced upon her, the control of many of her ports was taken over by foreign governments, and if she dared to so much as murmur a protest, Christian guns were turned against her to prove how fiery the new gospel was.

China broke under the strain, went democratic and though we have some sixty warships in her rivers and harbors, with hundreds of marines landed and more likely to follow, we beg the question of what it is all about by proclaiming that we can't make head or tail out of the Chings and Changs, Sings, Fangs and Mings.

Exploitation

The western world has had a rather enjoyable time lording it over China. Her cheap labor made it possible to buy many raw materials at a low price, while her helpless condition made it possible to force faith, opium and other things down her throat.

Napoleon seems to have been about the only statesman of his time who realized what the end of the game might be. He said China was a sleeping giant and those should be aware who waked her.

As a matter of common sense, China is merely trying to do what the western world has been telling her she ought to do for a century, abandoning her antiquated form of government, discarding her stupid customs and traditions, undertaking to be modern in politics and trade.

We are appalled at the first step of the process. The chaos and confusion it involves leaves us bewildered. For some asinine reason we expect China to become Christian instead of a heathen, a republic instead of a monarchy without disturbance. It all goes back to the idea that Chinese names were too hard to pronounce. We have pretended that we are interested in China herself, that we wanted to see her prosperous and in control of her own affairs. As a matter of fact, we were interested in very little except what we could buy from China at a cheap price on the one hand and sell to her at a high price, on the other.

It takes Time

The Chinese revolution of 1911 caught the world completely off guard. Very few people suspected that such a thing could occur, much less that it would.

Instead of waiting to see what the revolution really amounted to, however, we jumped at the conclusion that it was all its sponsors claimed for it, that China had changed from a 4,000-year-old despotism to an up-to-date republic over night and that other nations faced no greater problem than to adjust themselves to the new condition.

It took the English people 600 years to substitute a workable democracy for a monarchy. Latin America has been trying to do the same thing for more than a 100 years with only partial success. China had farther to go than either; it was preposterous to suppose that she could do it in less time.

If we hadn't found those names so hard to pronounce we would have guessed as much.

Worst to Come

The Chinese revolution has barely begun. It is still in the destructive stage; few of the leaders may have a constructive program in mind, but the chances are that most of them have nothing deeper than lust for power. As for the masses, they are drunk with liberation from the old restraints.

But there is strength in the chaos. You sense it in the fall of cities, the size of mobs, the excitement in foreign capitals, the alarm of statesmen.

Whatever else may be occurring, China has visualized her bigness, her latent energy and resources as never before.

Western nations are worried by the question of whether to go on with her repression, or let go. If they were not suspicious of each other they would adopt the latter course, but each is dismayed by what the others may take if it quits.

France is reported as willing to give up her concessions, but she probably won't because of fear of what England, Japan or Russia might gain.

England would undoubtedly give up many of the special privileges she enjoys if it were not for the ugly thought of what a liberated China might do to encourage revolt in India.

Japan and Russia are the two most logical rivals of them all.

Neither dares relinquish her hold on China so long as there is a chance that the other will step in and take the advantage.

The Greatest Secretary of the Treasury Since Alexander Hamilton'



Ma O'Neill Raised a Family of Fire Fighters in 'The Fire Brigade' Film

By Walter D. Hickman

Ma O'Neill married a fireman, and radio artist; Elmer McDonald, another air artist, and Emil Seidel and his orchestra.

At the Apollo all week.

The Berkell Players opened their fifth stock season at English's last night before a capacity house. The bill for the week is "If I Was Rich."

Other theaters today offer: Ledova, dancer, at Keith's; Frederick V. Bowers at the Lyric; Helen Staples at the Palace; "Bardleys the Magnificent" at the Sanders; "Tom Mix in 'The Great I and a Train Robbery'" at the South Side; "Corporal Kate,"

radio artist; Elmer McDonald, another air artist, and Emil Seidel and his orchestra.

COLLEEN MOORE IS JUST RIGHT IN HER NEW MOVIE

It seems to me that Colleen Moore is a city sweetheart as far as Indianapolis is concerned.

The other theaters today offer: Ledova, dancer, at Keith's; Frederick V. Bowers at the Lyric; Helen Staples at the Palace; "Bardleys the Magnificent" at the Sanders; "Tom Mix in 'The Great I and a Train Robbery'" at the South Side; "Corporal Kate,"

radio artist; Elmer McDonald, another air artist, and Emil Seidel and his orchestra.

COLLEEN MOORE IS JUST RIGHT IN HER NEW MOVIE

It seems to me that Colleen Moore is a city sweetheart as far as Indianapolis is concerned.

The other theaters today offer: Ledova, dancer, at Keith's; Frederick V. Bowers at the Lyric; Helen Staples at the Palace; "Bardleys the Magnificent" at the Sanders; "Tom Mix in 'The Great I and a Train Robbery