



# The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."—Dante.

## Labor Day

Perhaps the finest vindication of Labor Day as a holiday is the fact that very few of us could give, off hand, the reasons that prompted the setting aside of one day under this name.

Contrary to popular suspicion it was not created for the purpose of giving demagogues a chance to talk about the dignity of labor or cheap politicians the opportunity of deluding those who work for wages as to their "friendship for labor."

In the days when this country began to change from a strictly agricultural nation to one of industry, the wages of the worker and the conditions under which he worked were real problems.

It was a fight to get rid of the 12-hour and 14-hour day and that strange phrase a "living wage" was a platform and a purpose.

The problems have been solved to a large extent in this country without creating that class consciousness which exists in other countries and divides citizens into working classes, leisure classes or middle classes.

Labor saving machinery, mass production, intelligent selfishness have combined to give all a standard living never before reached in the history of any nation and a general distribution of comforts and of education that have wiped out class distinctions.

Few can tell whether that shiny auto in front of a factory belongs to the chief stockholder, the general manager or the man who operates a machine or lathe. Department store managers would be marvels if they could tell whether the girl who buys that new dress is the daughter of the city's richest man or the girl who works in an office in the next block. The sons of the owner of a big enterprise and of the man who is its night watchman are to be found in the same class in state universities.

The triumph of labor is that it has taken drudgery from toil and maintains a standard of living that preserves self respect.

The politician would draw only a laugh who talked these days about the "dignity of labor." Everyone knows that we are stepping lively along the road to the point where machinery and electricity will do most of the hard jobs.

The day when it was necessary to set aside a day for human beings to talk about their rights and to plan to get them industrially belongs to a historic barbaric past.

Can you remember why Labor Day was so designated? Neither can many other people.

## Why Wait?

Shall Indiana and Indianapolis be compelled to wait two years before it rids themselves of conditions and scandals which are humiliating to citizenship and a positive barrier to progress?

No such situation has ever existed in any other State or in any other city.

We now have the amazing situation of a mayor under indictment, holding office only because of an act of legislature which prevented the people from replacing the system which created him with the City Manager form which the people have voted.

We have the more amazing situation of a grand jury calling witnesses who could only tell of the truth of the charges made by this newspaper that the present Governor, then secretary of State, offered a former Governor

\$10,000 for attorney fees and a jury which would not convict in return for a friendly prosecutor, and that Governor silent and making not even denial.

These things are not helpful, either to the moral sense of this State or to its industrial progress.

Every newspaper in this State has declared that if the charge a story concerning Ed Jackson, then secretary of State and now Governor is true, he should not be Governor.

Is the only remedy that of waiting two years until the people have a chance at the polls?

That seems intolerable. Certainly there are men in this State who have interests great enough in its prosperity and growth, citizens with a regard for its reputation, who are strong enough and courageous enough to demand that this situation be ended and ended at once.

It is not a question of politics. It is one of citizenship and of Indiana.

## The Baron, the League and the Press

Lord Hewart, Chief Justice of England and Baron of Bury, speaking before the American Bar Association at Buffalo, took occasion to criticize the press.

Misrepresentation in the news, he declared, is more dangerous to mankind than communism. With which sentiment this newspaper most heartily agrees. "Is it not really a kind of treason against the political sovereign," he asks, "deliberately to mislead the public either by active misrepresentation or by calculated suppression?"

Again this newspaper concurs with the general thought, though certainly not with the inference that the newspapers themselves are most generally to blame for said misrepresentations and suppressions.

The "political sovereign" itself, that is to say governments, are today the most dangerous offenders by far and away, against what the baron complains of. Many governments maintain their own "official" news agencies for the sole purpose of being able to transmit news to newspapers colored to suit, else suppress it altogether. And many governments maintain a peacetime censorship for precisely the same reason, namely, that they may control the news as one controls the flow of water from a faucet.

Here is "treason" indeed, and of the worst kind, but the newspapers are the victims, not the perpetrators.

It is highly significant that the First International Press conference, which has just adjourned at Geneva, made this very thing the main theme for discussion. An international committee of journalists, of which President Karl A. Bickel, of the United Press, was the American member, drew up a resolution against any such control over the news. And another resolution was offered by Robert P. Scripps, president of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, against peacetime censorship because it makes for dangerous news abuses.

Both these resolutions were passed unanimously and Friday, at Geneva, German Foreign Minister Stresemann and M. Paul Boncour of France, urged the League of Nations to adopt these resolutions as being of utmost importance.

The journalists, M. Boncour declared, were to be congratulated for what they had done, particularly for their condemnation of peacetime censorship which gives rise to so much false news inimical to world peace.

This is the answer of the press to Lord Hewart. Like the bar association, the press is made up of good members and bad. But so long as the press is free that editor is a fool who thinks he can mislead the public for long. Where newspapers are at liberty to discuss any and every public question, the truth, in the long run, must rise above all attempts at misrepresentation.

Lord Hewart need not lose any sleep over the menace of a free press, no matter how flagrantly that freedom sometimes may be abused. A free press inevitably carries with it its own antidotes for any and all possible poisons.

## What Other Editors Think

As Warren T. McCray left Atlanta prison on parole, he was faced by a group of newspapermen such as might have talked with him in his political days.

So says a dispatch. But the former Indiana Governor declined to discuss the published report that \$10,000 had been offered him by Governor Ed Jackson, then secretary of State, in an effort to influence him to appoint J.

McDonald, prosecuting attorney of Marion County, when W. Evans McCray's son-in-law resigned, "I am not responsible for that report," he said, "and I want to keep out of it."

We know of no better way for the former Governor to win back the good graces of the people in Indiana than to talk, if by such conversation he will be able to help in a good house cleaning. His refusal to talk may be understood, in a degree, by the punishment he has endured and a desire to keep out of additional entanglements. Nothing will do more, we imagine, to sap a man's courage than a term of three years behind the bars of a penitentiary. But, on the other hand, McCray was honored by the State and elected to the highest office within the gift of the people. He later disgraced the office, was untrue to the oath, and betrayed the faith and confidence of the people who had so similarly honored him. In what better way can he receive, or deserve, forgiveness than to assist those same people in cleaning up the horrible state of affairs which now exists in the Hoosier State? No one should know better than McCray whether the Governor offered him \$10,000 for a dishonorable purpose, and surely no one should be more anxious to assist the officials of the State in a determination of the question.

McCray has suffered much, and he has the sympathy of many people. He would win the respect of the majority of them if it was shown that he had been asked to further dishonor his State, by entering into the alleged illegal conspiracy. It has been intimated that McCray refused to accept the \$10,000 and predicted his refusal on an unwillingness to so betray the State, and to thus lose his self-respect. No finer motive could be imagined, and if the allegations are true, the ex-prisoner is a much better man than he has been pictured. The offenses proven against him concerned financial transactions surrounding his personal dealing in farm products and cattle. None of such offenses were high crimes against the peace and dignity of the whole State. But here is an alleged

crime which touches the entire State, and the highest of the State. Every newspaper in the State has declared that if the charge is true, first made by The Indianapolis Times, then Ed Jackson should not be Governor. In the meantime the Governor spends his time in vacationing and refuses to talk. Has the Governor, the right to even retain the office if he continues to remain silent? Are not the people of Indiana entitled to an explanation?

The Leader-Tribune believes that the legislature of the State should meet and investigate this incredible situation. We are sickened almost to death by the continuous flaunting of the good name of the State from one end of the nation to the other. Has the time not come for a showdown? How much longer will we be compelled to put up with this terrible silence, and this failure to act?

McCray refuses to talk. Does he mean by that he is unwilling to assist in helping to restore the good name of the State, and does he not believe that he never had a better chance to show penitence and to come clean?

The Richmond Palladium

The Indiana law requires automobiles to come to a stop when school hacks are discharging or loading pupils. The reason for the law is apparent. It is to give the children a chance to leave or enter the bus without suffering bodily harm from passing motorists.

Here is a law that is not well known.

*a Chance* School will resume in a few days, so the warning of State authorities that the law will be enforced should prompt automobile drivers to remember that children have certain rights, one of them being entrance and exit from school hacks without having to watch every step they make.

The requirements of the law are reasonable, and every automobile driver should obey it implicitly.

In several counties drivers have been instructed to report the license numbers of drivers who drive by hacks without coming to a stop. In Henry county vigorous prosecution of offenders is promised.

Wayne county drivers are not exempt from the operations of this law. They, too, should come to a stop whenever they see that a school hack is taking on or discharging its young passengers.

A number of flagrant violations of the law have been prosecuted in this county. Authorities will be protecting the rights of the children if they insist that motorists obey it.

There are any figures showing the comparative number of horses on farms in the United States twenty-five years ago and today?

Horses on farms Jan. 1, 1926, were estimated at 15,778,000, compared with 16,272,000 in 1910.

## M. E. TRACY

SAYS:

Farming and Local Mining  
Are the Two Darkest  
Spots in Our Industrial  
Situation Right Now. It  
Is Only Fair that They  
Receive Some Attention  
on Labor Day.

I have just returned from a trip through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana.

These states form a section of the country where farming and coal mining play an important part.

Farming and coal mining are the two darkest spots in our industrial situation right now.

It is only fair that they should receive some attention on Labor Day.

Is the only remedy that of waiting two years until the people have a chance at the polls?

That seems intolerable. Certainly there are men in this State who have interests great enough in its prosperity and growth, citizens with a regard for its reputation, who are strong enough and courageous enough to demand that this situation be ended and ended at once.

In a majority of cases, common labor earns more.

Some of the skilled trades earn three times as much.

Though a good many people think so, the farmer can not be classified as a common laborer.

## Lowest Paid Labor

According to the latest government report, the average income of farmers in this country is \$835 annually.

Leaving out Sundays, this amounts to less than \$3 a day, but most farmers have to work some on Sunday.

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Some of the skilled trades earn three times as much.

Though a good many people think so, the farmer can not be classified as a common laborer.

## No Farm Protection

Most branches of labor have been assisted by law.

The eight-hour day has been established with regard to public and semi-public work, supervision of mills and mines has been provided to safeguard the health and safety of employees and compensation in case of accident has been made compulsory.

Farmers enjoy no such protection at the hands of the government.

There is no one to pay them when they get kicked by a cow or cut their fingers in the mowing machine.

There is no inspector to see that their barns are properly lighted or their houses properly screened at some of their expense.

Their economic status is such that they must attend to these things for themselves.

They are exposed to handicaps and difficulties, however, which the government might help them overcome, and they are no less entitled to its assistance than any other class.

## Low Wages to Miners

The situation of coal miners is about as serious as that of the farmers.

The industry is over-capitalized and over-manned. There is a market for only about one-half the coal which the available mines and miners can produce.

This has led to a cut in wages in several sections and to idleness in others.

The average income of coal miners is probably not more than that of farmers—\$833 a year.

## Favors Open Shop

Trouble centers in the soft coal end of the industry, which is by far the biggest end.

West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee mines are generally on an open shop basis, and wages in them run as low as \$5 a day, if not lower.

Ohio, Indiana and Illinois mines are generally on a union basis, with \$7.50 a day as the bone of contention.

Such a condition gives the open shop mines an obvious advantage, especially if freight rates permit them to ship coal to the great markets on fairly equal terms.

It is a curious fact that until the recent decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission, the open shop mines, although much farther away, could send their coal to Chicago for very little more than the union mines.

It is an even more curious fact, that after the Interstate Commerce Commission had insisted on lower rates for the Ohio, Indiana and Illinois mines, the railroads running out of West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee to Chicago voluntarily lowered their rates.

## lazardous Work

Operators in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois contend that the freight rate situation makes it impossible for them to pay the union scale.

Union officials contend that if they were to cut wages in these states, there would be still more of a cut in the open shop mines, and that all they would have accomplished is to make pay lower all along the line.

Such details and sidelights furnish the background for an interesting and complicated discussion.

Back of it all, however, there is one big important issue, and that is whether or not the coal miner is entitled to as good wages as are other skilled laborers.

The issue can be side stepped by saying that there are too many miners, that freight rates prevent justice, or that because some have yielded to wage cuts the rest must.

The fact remains that coal mining is a hard and hazardous occupation and that those who engage in it should have an opportunity to earn a decent living.

Considering what carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers and railroad men receive, no one who is familiar with the coal mining business can argue that, as a general principle, miners are unreasonable when they insist on \$7.50 a day.

## Attention to Plight

The farmer and coal miner, however, are in a bad way, and Labor Day would not be serving the purpose to which it was dedicated if their sorry plight went unnoticed.

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## The First and Second A. E. F.—No. 4

