



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 W. Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Price in Marion County, 2 cents—10 cents a week; elsewhere, 3 cents—12 cents a week.

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 29, 1928.

Member of United Press, Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, Newspaper Enterprise Association, Newspaper Information Service and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

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

Politics and Our Stake Abroad

During 1927 American foreign investments—investments made by the rank and file of the American people—reached the staggering total of \$2,071,954,100, according to Dr. Max Winkler, nationally recognized financial authority.

That much money would buy the State of Maine, lock, stock and barrel, or Delaware, Vermont and Nevada in a lump, at the valuation placed upon them at the time of the last census.

At the beginning of this year, according to the same authority in a tabulation made for the foreign policy association of New York, our total investments abroad, not including the war debts, amounted to \$14,500,000,000. Which would buy Maryland, Alabama, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

Including the war debts, says Dr. Winkler, our foreign investments reached the amazing total of approximately \$25,600,000,000—a figure incomprehensible to the human brain without aid.

The magnificent State of California, for instance, along with Texas, an empire in itself, could be bought outright for such a sum—cities, towns, farms, factories and everything, with all the improvements. Or the States of Ohio, Kentucky and Georgia. Or all six of the New England States in a block, an entire geographical section of our country.

Nor do these estimates represent a maximum, Dr. Winkler reminds us, but rather a minimum. While his figures for 1927 are somewhat higher than those hitherto published, the latter dealt only with foreign loans publicly offered in America, while his figures include issues privately placed, purchases of properties abroad, and similar investments not involving the sale of securities.

It is difficult for us to realize what a brain-dazzling thing has happened to our United States in the last few years. It has come upon us too quickly. At that, the above resume is far from being a complete survey, for there is foreign trade, a \$10,000,000,000 a year institution, providing jobs for hundreds of thousands of our citizens. And our territorial possession worth billions more.

All told, we have a foreign stake to watch over, foster and protect, worth something like \$50,000,000, or more than half what our total national wealth amounted to no longer ago than 1900.

And yet some folks say we have no interest in foreign affairs. Some of our politicians—even some who aspire to the presidency—act to sneer every time they hear it suggested that our interests are international in scope. Imagine such a person in charge of the nation's business!

Whether we like it or not, fate, or what you will, has made America a leader of the world and the richest of all nations. Our interests have become universal, inexorably so.

Today we have more to look after overseas than we had here at home 50 years ago and any political spellbinder who tries to tell you different is a Rip Van Winkle stirring in his sleep.

Just mark him down as such and pass on.

Conditions in the Coal Fields

The congressional investigation visit to the Pennsylvania coal fields has served to verify many charges made in recent months by striking miners.

Four Senators visited mines and camps, and interviewed workers, operators and public officers. They seemed unanimous in their opinion that the courts and the police power of the State were being used in violation of the Constitution to oppress the striking workers.

They found that injunctions had been issued to forbid picketing, the gathering of strikers in groups in public places, advertising in newspapers to persuade other men not to work, and performing other acts which Senators declared the strikers had every right to do under the Constitution.

They found that large numbers of deputy sheriffs and coal and iron police were maintained at company expense, although operating under State warrant, throughout the strike region. They heard tales of the eviction of thousands of miners and their families from company houses.

They collected evidence which indicates, on its face, an amazing lack of humanity in the attitude of the operators toward the workers. They found living conditions of almost unbelievable squalor among strike breakers and strikers alike.

The testimony of Senator Frank R. Gooding of Idaho, normally temperate in his expressions, is typical of the group:

"Conditions which exist in the strike-torn regions of the Pittsburgh district are a blot upon American civilization. It is inconceivable that such squalor, suffering, misery and distress should be tolerated in the heart of one of the richest industrial centers of the world."

"The committee found men, women and children living in hovels which are more insanitary than a modern swine pen. They are breeding places of sickness and crime. . . ."

Thinking Campaigns

Politics is quieter than it used to be. A few years ago a presidential campaign meant lots of excitement, with torchlight processions, impassioned stump speakers and blaring brass bands. The color has gone out of it now. The campaign is conducted quietly.

Probably this is a change for the better. Presidential campaigns call for clear thinking on the part of the voter. And certainly brass bands and torchlight parades didn't induce thinking. Their appeal was solely to the emotions.

Know What You're Voting For

The national "get out the vote" campaign has already begun. Efforts will be made to get an unprecedented number of people to the polls in this year's presidential election.

It's a worthy aim, to be sure. But, after all, there isn't much sense in voting if you don't know just exactly what you're voting for. A vote unintelligently cast can be worse for the community than no vote at all.

Get out the vote, by all means. But see to it that the stay-at-homes you bring to the polls know what it's all about.

An Opportunity for Comparison

The indictment of Edward Kidwell, juror in the Fall-Sinclair conspiracy case, who is reported to have said he expected to get an automobile "as long as a block" out of the trial, is being sought by the United States District Attorney in Washington. Kidwell was instrumental in bringing about a mistrial, and may be indicted for contempt of court.

It will be interesting to see whether Kidwell, a man without means, is as successful in evading jail as the multimillionaire Harry F. Sinclair.

Sinclair was adjudged guilty of contempt by the Senate nearly four years ago, and still is out of jail. He has been indicted, tried and convicted, and will not go to jail before next summer—if at all. He still has two courts in which to argue appeals.

An almost endless vista of litigation stretches in front of two other contempt proceedings, that of Sinclair for having the Fall-Sinclair jurors shadowed, and that of Robert W. Stewart for refusing to answer questions of the Senate.

Kidwell's case should furnish interesting information on the question of whether the law applies equally to rich and poor.

Senator Norris

Year after year, Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska has led the fight to keep Muscle Shoals from passing into the hands of the power interests.

Again this fight is being waged on the Senate floor and Senator Norris is in the thick of the battle.

For two days he has been battling down the opposition with fact after fact to show that, no matter what the disguise, any attempt on the part of private interests to lease Muscle Shoals is an effort of the power companies to get control of resources in which the Government has invested close to \$200,000,000.

Norris may not get his own plan of Government operation adopted, but he does keep private hands off the power.

Not only has Norris devoted much of his time and effort to this one thing but he has spent several thousand dollars of his own money to collect facts to use against his opponents.

Every one knows of Senator Norris and the fight he is making. This is written to thank him and to let him know that the public appreciates what he is doing.

Debt and Extravagance

Willard B. Pillsbury, banker, announces that four-fifths of all wage earners are in debt. Only about a quarter of the country's population, he says, are free from financial worries.

This sounds rather appalling. But there are debts and debts. The man who owes for a home, an automobile, a piano or furniture may be in the soundest kind of financial condition. Extravagance is one thing, and going into debts that can be met promptly and without strain is another.

There are times when the wisest thing a man can do is go into debt. It is only when debts are incurred unwisely, or when misfortune brings a flock of bills greater than income can meet, that there is trouble.

Meeting the Japanese

The Japanese government, believing that its present arbitration treaties with other nations have too many loopholes and "exceptions" in them, may seek to revise them and make them more all-inclusive, according to dispatches from Geneva.

Among the treaties is one with the United States, soon to expire. Japan is said to be ready to redraft this to make it a more effective anti-war instrument.

Somehow we don't hear as much of the "Japanese peril" as we used to. It is slowly becoming evident that the Japanese want to be friendly, and that the dreaded specter of war in the Pacific can be forever averted if we will go to the trouble of meeting them half way.

Are You a Machine?

BY BRUCE CATTON

The things that men boast of sometimes are queer. Theodore Cognacq, wealthy merchant of France, died the other day at 89. It was his especial boast that during his long career he never had missed a day at his office. This was a record of which he was highly proud.

Industry doubtless is one of the higher virtues; but there is something almost terrifying in the thought of M. Cognacq's devotion to his business. To convert oneself into a machine, running with monotonous regularity, consuming countless columns of figures, taking over the functions of cash register and filing cabinet, hardly seems the highest possible development for which a man may aim.

We have all read enough copy books to know that "life is real, life is earnest." But the man who refuses to spend all of his days in toiling and getting—the man who insists on his heaven-born right to loaf occasionally—has never been praised half enough. There are times when idleness is a great virtue.

For here is the unfortunate thing about a life like that of M. Cognacq: just when you have reached the acme of efficiency—just when you have become fully reconciled to the grindstone against which you are eternally forcing your nose—your life comes to an end. And what have you had? Nothing that the ant has not had in equal measure.

Life offers a great many things that can be enjoyed only in idleness. And these things are too precious to miss. There are winding roads through rolling countrysides, where petals from apple blossoms drift lazily down through the long spring days.

There are roads that rise over green mountains, with unexpected curves now and then where half a dozen counties lie like colored maps, spread out at your feet.

There are long stretches of sea shore, with yellow sand, white surf and blue water. There are tiny lakes hidden in quiet uplands, where clean winds will ruffle your hair and blow the dust out of your hair.

These things are the common property of all who own as much as a six-year-old flivver.

And they are boons beyond price. They remain with you through all your days. They provide inner retreats to which you can retire without leaving your chair. They furnish conviction that life is a grand, more beautiful affair than is dreamed of in offices and factories. And they can be had only by those who know how to loaf.

Continued idleness is a curse, of course. But it isn't much worse than no idleness at all. The man who takes M. Cognacq as his model may become wealthy. But he will not be a man to be envied.

BRIDGE ME ANOTHER

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BY W. W. WENTWORTH

(Abbreviations: A—ace; K—king; Q—queen; J—jack; X—any card lower than 10.)

1. When you hold: spades—J 10 XXX; hearts—XX; diamonds—AK X; clubs—XXX; what should you bid initially?

2. How does bridge resemble radio?

3. What does pass by initial bidder indicate?

The Answers

1. Pass.

2. The partners should be continually sending each other radios.

3. That he is too weak to make any bid in suit or no-trump.

To the Editor:

The latest addition to the false prophets of today seems to be our present Secretary of State of Indiana and candidate for the governorship, Frederick E. Schortemeyer who will cry: "Prosperity! (Peace) Prosperity! (Peace) when there is no prosperity (peace)." This seems to be the studied program of our Republican friends, office-holders and candidates, to create a kind of "psychological" prosperity and keep up the prosperity cry.

According to the Labor Review of August, 1927, published by the United States Department of Labor, we have among us from ten to fifteen millions of people who do not share as they should in the prosperity enjoyed by the rest of us. Several months ago at the Los Angeles convention of the American Federation of Labor it was stated that more than a million workers are out of employment, while three and a half million are working on part time. R. G. Dun & Co. reports:

"Commercial failures in the United States in January were the largest for all months since January, 1922."

During the greater part of 1927 we were told that "unemployment conditions were improving," and now we are being filled with "optimism for 1928."

The real situation is this: "We are making so much of everything that some people haven't got anything." If conditions do not improve in the near future we will be told "it is always so during presidential campaigns."

We have now the highest protective tariff in the history of our country. we have "sound money," we have an "elastic currency" through the Federal Reserve System, we have a Republican administration which will not "fingerprint with the tariff" a broad expanse of country with twenty people to the square mile, whereas England, France and Germany have some 200 inhabitants to the same area.

We are rich in natural resources, blessed with diversity of climate; no obstruction of trade between our States as in Europe and yet the latest reports are that "some 4,000,000 people are out of work in this country." Competition as reported by some New York business man will die "still keener in 1928 than in 1927." Truly, as a New York reviewer stated: "The relief and remedy of unemployment should be one of the leading issues of the day."

Oh, yes, Mr. Schortemeyer business is good, all you have to do is go after it"—and get it if you can. And working men and women, "there are plenty of jobs just go after them and try and get them."

Is he aware that during November and December seven jobless persons committed suicide in Indianapolis? And the pity of it is that so many good people are of the opinion that all the nation needs is "good men in office" and the question of prosperity for all people will be thus solved automatically.

CHARLES H. KRAUSE, SR., 674 E. Drive, Woodruff Pl.

To the Editor:

I saw in Monday's Times the talk about women working. Let the women read 113th Psalm, 9th verse. "He maketh the barren woman to keep house and to be a joyful mother of children."

What is a woman for if she can't stay at home, keep up the house and raise children right? She sure will have to give account of all at the day of judgment. M. E. B.

S	H	O	E
F	O	O	T

The Rules

1. The idea of letter golf is to change one word to another and do it in par, or a given number of strokes. Thus, to change COW to HEN in three strokes, COW, HOW, HEW, HEN.

2. You can change only one letter at a time.

3. You must have a complete word of common usage for each jump. Slang words and abbreviations don't count.

4. The order of letters can not be changed.

G	O	L	D
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