



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### Rockefeller's Coal Plan

It is possible to be a little disgusted by John D. Rockefeller Jr.'s failure to make a first hand investigation of the grave charge that a West Virginia coal company, which he is capable of controlling, repudiated a solemn wage contract with the miners' union, and then used strong-arm methods to beat down the union men when they struck in protest. It seems that, as an apostle of righteousness in industry, he should have done as much.

That, however, does not make it possible to brush aside lightly his cutting of a possible method of procedure to straighten out the disgraceful industrial mess in the soft coal fields, to which his company has contributed.

Rockefeller told the Senate soft coal investigating committee that he would first have it summon the operators, and see if a plan could be worked out to cut down the present overproduction of coal at the same time protecting the public against the danger of unreasonable price increases.

If this accomplished anything, he said, he would suggest the committee call those engaged in distribution—railroads and large retailers—to see if they would agree to plans to cut production, and provide for better handling of soft coal.

And finally, if some tentative basis of agreement could be reached between Government representatives and these groups, he said he would then summon the leaders of the miners and tackle the "fourth, and most difficult and important part of the problem—wages and labor."

This is by far the most intelligent line of procedure which has been outlined during the present investigation, and just about the only one that gives promise of checking the human and business demoralization in the soft coal fields.

It will be objected, of course, that Rockefeller's plan of procedure makes the human element in coal mining a fourth rather than a first consideration.

Let's take a look at that objection. Unless production of soft coal is cut down to eliminate cut-throat competition, it is going to continue to be impossible for coal miners to make a decent living, regardless of the soundness of their claims or the public sympathy with their plight.

The miners do not control the production of soft coal. They take the work that is available, and right now coal mining jobs are almost universally wretched, because too much coal is produced. That forces down prices, and hence wages.

The first and absolutely essential step to permanent relief of the miners is to cut down production. Any possibility of controlling that depends upon negotiations with the operators.

Consequently, it is an eminently sensible suggestion that the first step toward a solution should be Government efforts to induce or compel the operators to check the ergy of production.

Until that is done, everything else is relatively futile. It may comfort the miners to have it reported to the Senate that great coal companies have junked ethical considerations and repudiated wage contracts, and that outrageous injunctions have been issued against the striking miners. That, however, will not get them back decent jobs.

Decent jobs will be available only when the industry is put on a paying basis. And it is not going to be put on a paying basis as long as the main drive is to prove that the leaders of one side or the other in the soft coal industry are a set of rogues.

To that extent, at least, the testimony of Rockefeller before the Senate committee was clear and to the point.

### These S-4 Rumors

It is to be hoped that someone—the Navy Department, Congress or some other responsible body—will get to the bottom of the S-4 story and make all the facts public.

Ugly rumors are floating around the Boston Navy Yard. It is hinted that the submarine rested so lightly on the bottom that only a slight pull would have brought it to the surface. It is reported that "if the divers could talk" there would be a new story to tell; that bungling and inefficiency might be revealed.

For the good of the Navy these rumors must be traced down. If they are true, let's know it and kick the bunglers out; if they aren't, let's clear the Navy of some serious charges and end the whispering. At all events, let's have the whole story.

### The Jazz Mutiny

It is to be hoped that the ghosts of the tarry-handed old British sailors of Nelson's day have not heard about the recent "mutiny," or whatever it was, on the British warship Royal Oak.

This affair developed, according to dispatches, when the captain refused to allow a jazz band to play aboard ship.

British naval vessels saw mutinies occasionally in the old days—but never over anything like that. The old-timers could put up with weevily bread, semi-rotten salt beef and vinegar-like lime juice for month after month; they could endure things that modern Jack never imagines; and when they mutinied, it was a real mutiny.

But a mutiny over a jazz band! The old-timers could pull down Davy Jones' locker in sheer disgust.

### A Magnificent Gift

John D. Rockefeller has given away a tremendous amount of money during the last two decades; just how much, nobody but Rockefeller and his secretaries, probably, knows.

But few of his many gifts were any better than the \$5,000,000 contribution which will help make the Great Smoky Mountain National Park a reality.

This vast stretch of wilderness in Tennessee and North Carolina comprises one of the real beauty spots of America. In addition, it is close to the thickly populated eastern sections of the country. Residents of the east who are prevented, by the expense, from visiting the Rockies can see this new park easily.

Now that the village of Detour has been located in Michigan by being snowbound, a lot of the motorists will quit hunting for it.

A headline in a tabloid newspaper says "Chorus Girl Bares Soul." Something new, anyway.

Spring's here. If you see a car parked in the park, you can almost tell without hearing the engine run that there's a miss in the motor.

### West Indian Isles for War Debts

Turning the French and British possessions in the West Indies over to the United States in exchange for a received bill for their war debts again is being mooted in the capitals of Europe.

In reviving this issue, which most folks thought had died before it even was born, a new and startling thing is advanced. Writing in *L'Illustration*, conservative and influential French review, Ludovic Naudouin declares that Uncle Sam's gold would be preferable to his bullets.

Napoleon Bonaparte, Naudouin argues, had much the same thought back in 1803, when he sold Louisiana to the young American republic, this territory stretching all the way from the Mississippi delta to the Canadian border, and from which some thirteen of our largest States were carved—was certainly worth holding.

But, says the writer, Napoleon realized that the United States would grow, and that France would not be able to defend possessions so far away. So he disregarded sentiment, became a hard-boiled business man and swapped a liability for \$15,000,000 in cash.

A century ago, the Frenchman continues, Martinique, Guadalupe, the Bahamas, Jamaica, French Guiana, British Honduras and the other European possessions of the new world, might have served a strategic purpose in a war against North, Central or South America.

But what good are they now? The Monroe Doctrine, at first ridiculed in Europe as a bumptious gesture on the part of a puny republic, today stands a monumental fact, unassailable as Gibraltar.

The Caribbean has become an American lake and not only is the territory in that region useless as a base from which to launch an attack against the mighty United States, but that country never would tolerate even a safety standpoint we should have them.

Within the last two or three years the city has been petitioned to install street lights, but no favorable action has ever been taken. Just recently I have obtained a new petition with more than 99 per cent of resident property owners, and this petition was handed to the Board of Works today.

Dear Mr. Fixit: In Indianapolis, how close to a division line between two lots may a building be legally placed? **CONSTANT READER.**

The city building code provides business structures can come up to the line but residential structures must be four feet back.

If Napoleon preferred American gold to American bullets 125 years ago, why shouldn't European statesmen do so now?

The Frenchman does not attempt to answer the question. In fact, he makes it plain that he merely is reporting something he believes to be in the air, particularly the American air. And he wants it understood that he is not suggesting that France take the initiative—though he does suggest that Britain might.

As for us, charming as some of the islands are, we know a whole slew of Washington officials who would have to be outrun, hamstrung and hog-tied before they'd accept them as a gift. Their view is we've trouble enough of that kind on hands as it is.

### France's New Insurance

France has, supposedly, a "conservative" government. So far as we know, no one has ever accused Premier Poincare of any form of radicalism.

But the French have just adopted one of the most radical schemes of governmental insurance ever heard of. A fund of \$200,000,000 will be raised annually through the collection from all workers and employers, of 10 per cent of each worker's wage. This will go to build up a \$40,000,000,000 fund, from which old age pensions, death benefits, disability payments and medical care will be paid a full half of the French population.

And this was adopted by a government often called reactionary! Imagine what would happen if that were even proposed over here. Apparently what is radical on one side of the Atlantic is something else on the other side.

David Dietz on Science

### A Strange Relationship

No. 7

ONE of the great steps which led to our modern understanding of the atom and the marvelous progress which the science of chemistry has made in recent years, was taken by a Russian chemist in 1869.

It was in that year that Dmitri Mendeleeff published his famous periodic table.

Mendeleeff showed that if the chemical elements were arranged in a series with the one whose atom weighed the least at one end and the one whose atom weighed the most at the other end, a surprising relationship then existed between the elements.

This relationship was a periodic recurrence of similar physical and chemical properties in the elements in the table.

It was in the third element in such a series is lithium. If you count eight from lithium, you come to sodium. Count eight more and you come to potassium. Now these three elements are all very similar in color, hardness and chemical properties.

Many similar groups come to light in the Mendeleeff periodic table, for example, one containing the gases fluorine, chlorine and bromine.

Mendeleeff's table had two interesting results. Certain elements did not fit into the table. He at once said that this was because their atomic weights, that is, the weight of their atoms, had been wrongly determined. Further experiments proved he was right.

Next, there were certain gaps in Mendeleeff's table where elements should have fitted in but for which no element was known.

Mendeleeff boldly predicted that such elements would be subsequently found and that they would have the physical and chemical properties which his table called for.

A number of these elements were later discovered. And the great Russian chemist was vindicated, for they possessed the characteristics which he had predicted.

But perhaps the greatest usefulness of his table was that it stimulated research.

The existence of these periodic relationships was a fascinating one. What was its underlying cause?

The explanation, as we shall see, was found when the structure of the atom was once understood.

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### BRIDGE ME ANOTHER

(Copyright, 1928, by The Ready Reference Publishing Company)  
BY W. W. WENTWORTH

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

1. When you hold A Q J X in hand and dummy holds X X X X, what many possible tricks may be made?

2. Should partner of informer double ever make a pre-emptive bid?

3. When you hold: spades—X X; hearts—Q J X X X; diamonds—X X X; clubs—X X X, what should you bid in answer to partner's introductory double of opponent's one-heart bid?

1. Four.

2. Hardly ever.

3. One no-trump.

### Mr. Fixit

Street Lights Ordered Installed on Winthrop Ave.

Let Mr. Fixit, The Times' representative at city hall, present your complaint to city officials. Write Mr. Fixit at The Times. Names and addresses which must be given will not be published.

City Engineer A. H. Moore today ordered installation of street lights on Winthrop Ave., between Fifty-Fourth and Fifty-Sixth Sts., on request of Mr. Fixit, following his letter of the following letter:

Dear Mr. Fixit: I am writing this to ask for your assistance in the installation of three lights on Winthrop Ave., at Fifty-Fourth, Fifty-Fifth and Fifty-Sixth Sts. This district has no lights whatsoever and holding installation of lights. It is extremely dark, and even from a safety standpoint we should have them.

Within the last two or three years the city has been petitioned to install street lights, but no favorable action has ever been taken. Just recently I have obtained a new petition with more than 99 per cent of resident property owners, and this petition was handed to the Board of Works today.

Dear Mr. Fixit: In Indianapolis, how close to a division line between two lots may a building be legally placed?

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What is the seating capacity of the Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds in New York?

Yankee Stadium, 62,000; Polo Grounds, 55,000.

Are the parents of Jackie Coogan living?

Yes.

How old is Irving Berlin?

He was born May 11, 1888.

How old is Rin-Tin-Tin, the movie dog?

Nine years.

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