



The Indianapolis Times

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

Breeding Trouble

Coercion, suppression and force have always been the most successful trouble breeders, especially in this country with a tradition of resentment against such methods.

The courts will decide, of course, whether the men who passed out cards to street car workers announcing a meeting of a proposed union are guilty of any crime.

But it would be exceedingly unfortunate if there should be any widespread suspicion that the real offense was not against the ordinances regulating the distribution of cards but against the street car company which does not desire its employees to organize.

The right of collective bargaining is too firmly established in principle to be denied in any part of this country. It has been endorsed by every President from McKinley to Coolidge and written into law by the Supreme Court.

Whether it be the best or most effective way of obtaining fair wages and decent working conditions may be a matter of opinion. There should be, especially in public utilities, some way in which those employed could easily enforce by public opinion and through public agencies fair and decent treatment.

If the police are finally impressed with the idea that distribution of cards announcing more or less public meetings is a crime, they will have many things to explain.

Within a week, within a block of the police station, there has been public distribution of cards announcing the gathering of the old hooded order of hate at the very hour named for the meeting of the car workers.

Just why the police show great vigilance toward street car employees and considerable sympathy for the purveyors of prejudice is at least a matter of public curiosity.

The oppressive tactics of the police two years ago in repeatedly arresting men who were trying to organize the street car employees had much more to do with whatever progress they made than did the arguments of the organizers.

The semblance of any use of power to interfere with firmly established rights is about the best and quickest invitation to trouble that can be issued.

And this city does not want trouble of any kind or sort and surely is big enough and wise enough to see that it is not brought by any unwise use of power.

Radio Racketeers

The Federal radio commission reports that it is receiving many complaints concerning broadcasting late at night and early in the morning. The complainants say they can not close their windows because it is too hot and can not sleep with the windows open because of the racket from their neighbors' radio sets.

All who live in congested neighborhoods will sympathize with the objectors.

Something should be done about it and something can be done.

It is possible to tune any radio set down to the point where, while still sufficiently audible to those in the same room, it will not annoy those next door.

Any reasonable neighbor should be willing to do this much for you. Unreasonable neighbors, persons accustomed to disregard the comfort of others, should know that it is possible for the radio commission to regulate the hours of broadcasting and so to shut off the early morning and late night broadcasting if it finds such action in the public interest.

Every station in the country now is operating on hours fixed by the radio commission. This should be sufficient warning to the racketeers.

Labor and the Candidates

The American Federation of Labor has found little to choose between Herbert Hoover and Alfred E. Smith and so declares a program of neutrality in the presidential race. This seems a sound decision.

Both candidates have given, through their long careers, convincing evidence of their sympathy with labor's aspirations. Neither can be expected to suggest unfair or unfriendly legislation, so far as labor is concerned; and neither is likely to oppose or veto legislation designed to meet labor's fair demands.

By taking this course the A. F. of L. keeps itself free to fight for the election of its friends to Congress and it knows that these friends are in both parties. The very heart of labor's hopes in Congress, indeed, lies in that group of Republicans commonly called progressive, or insurgent, or independent.

So little, however, have party labels come to mean in this respect that now we hear some Democrats in the Senate and House called progressives to distinguish them from the majority of their party colleagues. The labor forces make this distinction and in so doing reveal their wisdom.

Foreign Vote to Split

How is the so-called "foreign vote" of the United States going to go in the coming presidential election?

There are approximately 7,000,000 naturalized voters in the country. If they all went one way they might easily have a decisive influence on the election. What's going to happen?

The answer, apparently, is that their vote will be split regardless of their nationalities, just like the vote of native-born citizens. The Foreign Language Information Service recently reviewed editorial comment in several hundred foreign-language news papers printed in this country.

It could find no one group that was anything like unanimous for either candidate; and it concludes that "there is not only a lack of unity of opinion between the various racial groups, but each group seems to be split within itself."

Nature and the Chemists

Chemists meeting in Chicago made all sorts of disturbing predictions. The time is coming, they said, when life as we know it will no longer exist. Human activities will revolve around a chemical laboratory.

Farms will be abolished and we will eat synthetic food made in factories. Scientists will regulate our health, complexions and even our stature by the truck they feed us. Clothes, our houses, and almost everything else will be synthetic and of course scientifically perfect.

All this distressed us very much until we read other news.

Out in California, we are told, the crops of fruit are so great that even that State, famed for its prodigious feats, is unable to handle them. The horn of plenty has overflowed. The cooperatives, which have spread the fame of California's products far, are swamped. Prunes, peaches, apricots, grapes and apples must be left to rot.

From the Middle West comes news that the wheat harvest is progressing satisfactorily, and yields are better than had been anticipated. Oats, barley and rye are turning out better than had been expected.

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More and Better Policemen

More and better policemen are urged in a report by a subcommittee of the Baumes Crime Commission of New York.

Undoubtedly improved training methods to equip policemen for their work would aid in curbing crime.

The public expects much of the average patrolman without due regard for the many-sided nature of his work or the difficulties under which he labors.

Coupled with this attitude is a general lack of respect for the dignity of his occupation. The public too often regards a policeman as a necessary evil when as a matter of fact he is a valuable and highly necessary public servant.

However, the law itself is responsible for many of the policeman's troubles. Sumptuary legislation has multiplied and complicated his duties and a disproportionate amount of his time and energy is expended in the routine and wearisome task of enforcing traffic regulations.

Your real policeman does not much care about ransacking a private home in search of home-brew, or arresting motorists.

By all means educate the policeman for his work. It will encourage higher standards of men and performance; but in the meantime, relieve him of the stigma of being a snoop and let him direct his activities against those who actually war against society.

Nordics and Others

Our pet Nordic notion that we are inherently superior to all other races, received a jar at the Wilmette Institute of Politics, when a professor by the Celtic name of MacKenzie declared it is based wholly on conceit.

This is a sad blow to our racial self-esteem. The fable of Nordic supremacy has been hugged to our bosoms, in the comforting, if unjustified conviction that we belong by inheritance to a specially favored portion of the human race.

The Nordic, declares Prof. MacKenzie, simply got a running start over his red, yellow and brown brothers in the use and development of mechanical energy, but, biologically, possesses no advantages.

It was demonstrated by the World War that no nation has a monopoly of courage or loyalty and the history of mankind would seem to bear out the professor's opinion that no race has a monopoly of brains.

David Dietz on Science

Drastic Headache Cure

No. 124

HEADACHES, it would seem, are nothing new in the world. The caveman suffered from them just as people do today.

Perhaps the caveman was afflicted with more severe headaches.

At least that conclusion seems reasonable judging from the drastic remedy which he employed to rid himself of the affliction.

In many parts of Europe, ancient burial grounds have been found. These date back to the so-called Neolithic Age, or the New Stone or Polished Stone Age.

We can tell that because the weapons and tools found in the graves are made of polished stone.

In these graves, in all parts of Europe and in other parts of the world as well, skulls are found with little round holes of bone removed from them. Sometimes one skull will have five or six round little holes in it.

Many careful studies have been made of these unusual skulls. These include studies by Paul Broca, the famous surgeon and anatomist, and M. Lucas-Champigniere.

The studies show conclusively that these disks were caused by the skulls while the persons were alive.

Careful examination of any skull reveals that the holes were not drilled at the same time but over a period of years. This can be told from the difference in the appearance of the holes.

These holes were made in the skulls of living persons to cure them of headaches!

The general idea was that headaches were caused by demons which had gotten into the afflicted person's head. The remedy was to cut a hole in his skull and let the demon out!

Trephining is the technical name used to describe the practice.

Broca suggests that the trephining was done by scratching or scraping. Lucas-Champigniere thinks that it was done by drilling a circle of tiny holes with fine instruments.

Some skulls show traces of such tiny holes.

Trephining was also used as a cure for epilepsy, convulsions and similar afflictions.

M. E. TRACY SAYS:

"The American Flag Will Disappear From the High Seas Unless We Accept Its Maintenance as a National Problem."

WHEN DR. JOHN ROACH STRATON described Governor Smith as "the deadliest foe in America today of moral progress and true political wisdom," he probably did not expect the latter would demand permission to appear in his pupil and argue the point.

When Governor Smith demanded such permission, he probably did not expect Dr. Stratton would come back with the suggestion that the debate be staged in Madison Square Garden and then repeated in half a dozen Southern cities.

Governor Smith says he has no intention of starting a hippodrome, which is something he should have thought of before. Dr. Stratton says he wants room for everybody to see and hear, which is something he may have thought of before.

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Gossip and Murder

Nothing more serious than neighborhood gossip appears to have been behind the latest sensational murder in New York.

"The neighbors said things," Mrs. Kirkwood tells the police after killing her husband with a bread knife.

What the neighbors said was not particularly frank, but was accompanied with such smirks and arched eyebrows as are often more convincing than words.

She gathered that her husband was unfaithful, but that does not seem to have hurt so much as the fact that her neighbors were wise to it.

Cutting short a vacation when the gossip grew too hard to bear, she returned home, accused her husband, ignored his angry denials, spent the night brooding over her woes, lost her self-control and murdered him in most savage manner the next morning.

What the neighbors put into her mind with their smirks and arched eyebrows does not excuse the crime, but it ought to give them something to think about during the next few days.

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English Justice

There is much to be said in favor of English law. It is not built on one way rules. When it makes a mistake, it is willing to pay, as is illustrated in the Slater case.

Slater was convicted of murdering an old woman twenty years ago, and pardoned after he had served eighteen years of a life sentence.

In this country we would have said, "our mistake, good-by." The English government was not content with that, however, but handed him \$30,000 by way of recompense.

This item should be pasted up in every court room in the United States and put on the desk of every law maker. It represents a conception of fair play that we need to acquire.

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American Saves

The national banks of this country have resources of more than \$28,000,000,000, which is nearly two billion dollars more than they had one year ago.

While demand deposits have increased by only \$226,000,000, time deposits have increased by \$80,000,000, suggesting that the American people have learned how to save money, as well as make it.

The national banks with their thirty-five or forty million depositors represent a good index of prosperity. The volume of their loans and discounts, as well as their resources, gives a fairly reliable measure of the flow and distribution of wealth.

Because they deal very little in long time credits, they reveal the dynamic side of money—dollars in motion and at work.

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A National Problem.

Senator Fletcher of Florida is right. Sale of Government ships at this time means that they will pass into the hands of foreign owners. American capital has lost its stomach for the sea. It is content to loan money abroad and establish branch houses, but shies at ships.

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