



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### In the Interests of Justice

While the machinery of government moves slowly to bring Henry M. Blackmer, expatriate oil magnate, back to his native land to face the bar of justice, the same machinery has been set in motion to safeguard the humble interests of one Fred Thomas, obscure English sailor, who has complained to the British government that he was abused by the captain of an American tanker.

The two instances of involved legal processes operating under international agreements furnish a study in contrasts. The United States is sending to France to obtain custody of Blackmer, wealthy and influential capitalist, so that he may stand trial under indictments brought against him by a grand jury in Denver.

It is sending a member of the Department of Justice to London to reopen the case of the common deckhand, Fred Thomas, and enable him to present new evidence against the American skipper who is alleged to have maltreated him.

Because the British Jack tar could not afford to come to America; and because the British government is convinced that justice has not been done in his case, the American government is paying the expenses of one of its attorneys that justice may be done.

In either case the interests of the public are identical, that the rich shall not go unpunished and that the poor shall not be denied a fair hearing.

### Why the Discrimination?

Appearances would indicate that the railroad world in the Middle West is facing a serious strike.

Our guess is that it never will become an actuality, for two reasons. In the first place, the Western roads will see the light of reason if the 70,000 members of the twin brotherhoods of conductors and trainmen vote in favor of the strike on which a ballot has been called. In the second place, Federal mediation under the railroad labor act never will permit industrial hostilities to progress to the point of tying up the Nation's business.

The railroad workers apparently have a good case and have exhausted the possibilities of arbitration. Increases for which the conductors and trainmen have been asking in the West have been granted in the East and Southeast.

Such increases as have been proffered in the West, however, have been qualified by demands for changes in working regulations, which, according to the employees, nullify the effect of the advance in pay.

Working rules are a matter of growth and are more or less universal in character and purpose. Raising them as an issue looks to us like an attempt of the roads to drag the well-known red herring across the track.

Railroad employees represent a very high type of American union labor and have heavy responsibilities. There is no particular reason that we can see why those who work on the long stretches across the plains and through the mountains should rest under a discrimination, either in pay or working conditions.

### Some Tips for Swimmers

Hot weather drives everybody who can get there to the bathing beaches. In such circumstances it is wise to bear in mind a few good "safety first" rules for swimming. Here are a few, drawn up by the Chicago health commissioner:

"Persons with weak hearts should be examined by their doctor before going swimming.

"Cramps attack the strongest swimmer without warning; hence, swimming far out, where help can not quickly reach you, is unwise.

"When diving, first explore the place to make sure of its depth and hidden dangers.

"Keep out of swift currents and beware of the undertow.

"Water wings and inner tubes are poor protection when out in water beyond your depth."

Careful attention to a few rules like that will make summer swimming less productive of tragedies.

### China and Japan

The Manchurian government has yielded to the demand of Japan that negotiations looking toward a union of Manchuria and the nationalists be ended. As a consequence, the tense situation that existed between Japan and China has eased somewhat.

The nationalists are caving their own troubles, and are in no position at the moment to resist the Japanese assumption of the right to dictate the course of China's internal affairs.

Nevertheless, the nationalists regard Manchuria as an integral part of China. They will insist, if and when they are able, that it be included under the central Chinese government they now are establishing.

The problem remains as a future source of trouble unless there is a modification of the Japanese policy.

### Tariff Revision

With leading spokesmen for the major parties vying with each other in whooping it up for the protective tariff, the question of where we can turn for enlightenment on the deadly dull but vitally important tariff issue arises.

Until the turn of the century the contentions of New England protectionists were pretty well balanced by the arguments of free trade advocates from the South. The very extremes in the perennial debate suggested the wisdom of a middle course.

In later years there has been rapid industrialization in the South and with it has come a conversion to the protective tariff principle.

The result today is surrendered by the Democrats of their traditional low tariff stand.

This might be all right if it were established beyond doubt that the protective tariff is an unmixed blessing.

But on the contrary, many contend that, as at present handled in this country, the protective tariff permits exploitation of the great mass of people for the benefit of the favored few.

Following the World War, European currency devaluation was said to make a rigorous protective tariff policy necessary to prevent this country being flooded with goods seriously would have upset markets and production, and tariff rates were boosted to unprecedented levels.

Now the threat of a flood of European goods largely has been eliminated by monetary stabilization abroad, and many argue the time has come for a revision of the tariff.

With both parties ballyhooing for the glories of the protective tariff as it now operates, who is going to give impetus to this movement?

### A Lesson to Remember

A number of waiters in a certain Paris restaurant have been accustomed to wear on their black uniform coats medals won in the World War. The Croix de Guerre dangled from many an obsequious chest at the pate de foie gras went sailing through the air.

Now the management of this restaurant has forced the waiters to wear their decorations.

The medals give offense, it seems. Peace-time patrons don't like to be reminded of the war. It has been 'over' for nearly ten years, and the restaurant management feels that it ought to be forgotten.

This is a perfectly natural attitude, especially for a restaurant serving the better class of people. It must be rather embarrassing for a journalist, let us say, who whooped it up for La Patrie and bloodshed in July of 1914, and snuggled down safely at his desk for the next four years, to reflect, as he nibbles his hors d'oeuvres, that the man who served him spent four years in the trenches.

Yet there are some things that ought not to be forgotten. And the World War is one of them.

Human nature forgets things easily. It is one of the things that helps make life endurable. Bitter experiences have a way of getting softened by time. But this is not entirely an advantage.

The burnt child will never learn to fear the fire if he doesn't remember how badly it hurt him. And this blundering world will never learn to avoid that "next war" we're always talking about if it doesn't manage to remember what a terrible thing the last one was.

The human suffering brought on by that conflict was, in its total, simply beyond computation. It can only be imagined. No one in his senses would countenance repetition of it unless there were no other way out.

But when the next threat of war comes, that suffering will be forgotten. Influential people will not remember it. They will hear the bugles and see the banners and thrill to the thud-thud of marching feet, and they will remember that war has always been; and it will not appear to them in all its grisly awfulness. And, without really willing any universal heartbreak, they will agree that war, once more, "is inevitable."

War is seldom or never really inevitable. Patience and intelligence could nearly always find some other solution. If memory of the last war could remain alive and throbbing, people would make more of an effort to find such a solution when the next crisis came.

### Nailing a Political Libel

Campaign falsehoods, once started, are hard to overturn, in any kind of political contest, the normal standards of truth ruthlessly are disregarded. For that reason friends of Secretary Hoover will welcome the emphatic manner in which Senator Smith W. Brookhart of Iowa has refused the familiar yarn to the effect that Hoover forced farm prices down during the war.

Brookhart enjoys the confidence of the farmers and knows whereof he speaks when he declares that instead of holding prices down, Secretary Hoover held them up during the war.

### Watermelons and Shotguns

An Arkansas farmer had a fine watermelon patch. Into this patch came a man who liked melons, but didn't intend to pay for any. The farmer saw him and fired a shotgun at him, wounding him. The marauder had him arrested.

Now an Arkansas judge has freed the farmer, ruling that he had a perfect right to shoot any one who tried to steal his melons.

We're inclined to agree with the judge. A city storekeeper would surely be upheld if he took a shot at a man trying to burglarize his store. Shouldn't the same rule apply to a farmer? Because the farmer's property grows on the ground we're too apt to think that stealing it isn't a real offense.

David Dietz on Science

### First Medical Laws

No. 130

THE world's first medical code was formulated about 4000 years ago. It formed part of the Hammurabi code of Babylon.

This famous code dates back to about 2000 B. C. It is a column of black rock known as diorite eight feet in height. The top is rounded.

At the top there is a bas-relief showing the king setting the law from the sun god. Below are 2540 lines of writing, setting forth the law.

Jastrow tells us that copies of this

code were set up in Babylon so that anyone oppressed or injured, who had a tale of woe to tell, might come and stand before his image, that of a king of righteousness, and there read the priceless orders of the king, and from the written monument solve his problems.

Sir William Osler says: "From

in Babylon so that anyone oppressed or injured, who had a tale of woe to tell, might come and stand before his image, that of a king of righteousness, and there read the priceless orders of the king, and from the written monument solve his problems."

It requires no great stretch of the imagination to forecast how far such a point of view would go if it dominated the system by which morons were discovered and dealt with.

Neither does it require a great stretch of the imagination to forecast how far such a point of view would go if it dominated the system by which morons were discovered and dealt with.

According to some of those who have discussed the subject, a large majority ought to be scientifically catalogued as morons.

On the laws of the code of Hammurabi reads as follows:

"If a doctor has treated a gentleman for a severe wound with a lancet and has cured the man, or has opened an abscess of the eye for a gentleman with the bronze lancet and has cured the eye of the gentleman, he shall take 10 shekels of silver."

Other parts of the code are quoted below. All things considered, they were a little hard on the physician, for example:

"If the doctor has treated a gentleman for a severe wound with a lancet of bronze and has caused the gentleman to die, or has opened an abscess of the eye for a gentleman and has caused the loss of the gentleman's eye, one shall cut off his hands."

"If a doctor has treated the severe wound of a slave of a poor man with a bronze lancet and has caused his death, he shall render slave for slave."

"If he has opened his abscess with a bronze lancet and has made him lose his eye, he shall pay money, half his price."

Veterinary medicine was also recognized, for example:

"If a cow doctor or a sheep doctor had treated a cow or sheep for a severe wound and cured it, the owner of the cow or sheep shall give one-sixth of a shekel of silver to the doctor as his fee."

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M. E.

### TRACY

SAYS:

"Theoretically, We Should Protect Ourselves Against the Idiot, Lunatic and Moron, Especially in the Matter of Reproduction."

WITH David Shanks, the confessed slayer of Jennie Constance, indicted and plans made for his speedy trial, citizens and officials of Evanston, Ill., deplore the "woeful apathy which permits known morons to freely wander our streets, killing at will innocent women and children."

"It is obvious," says Dr. Scott, president of Northwestern University, "that persons of low grade mentality should not be allowed to breed."

Other eminent men have said the same thing under similar stress of circumstances.

Dr. Scott was shocked by the revolting murder of a graduate student, and speaks from the fullness of his emotion.

Theoretically, we should protect ourselves against the idiot, lunatic and moron, especially in the matter of reproduction.

"It is the increasing attention given

throughout the world to the question of alcohol consumption has prompted a report of some of the recent observations by physicians dealing with this matter.

The British clinician Wilson has classified women who drink to excess into three groups: (1) the indifferent, consisting mostly of self-indulgent, rich women; (2) feeble-minded women of all grades of mental defect; (3) neurotic women who take to alcoholism as an escape from a sense of loneliness, regret, fear, remorse or some other type of pain.

It has been the general impression of physicians that addiction to drugs of various sorts represents primarily a mental problem, and that the control of the problem depends on a study of the mental cause and of its removal.

Indeed, another investigator has asserted that the almost universal instinct of various people to produce some form of alcoholic beverage has arisen from natural reaction against eye-strain. For this, however, there is not a great deal of evidence.

Chance of Failure Great

Admitting that science has arrived at a point where it is able to define and classify morons, who would perform the actual task of discovering them? By what kind of a system could we go through the country, pick them out and bring them before the proper authority? How many agents would it take to perform such a task efficiently, not to mention the boards, bureaus and statutes?

We have made too big a mess of suppressing the bootlegger and speakeasy for one to contemplate the detection and elimination of morons with optimism, particularly if there are as many among us as some of the experts suggest.

Science at a Loss

Putting aside such practical difficulties, it is a matter of record that people with apparently sound minds and bodies produce morons, while morons occasionally have brilliant sprouts.

It is doubtful if an alienist could be found who would have seen any reason why the parents of Richard Reese Whittemore should not have married and produced children, or the parents of Leopold and Loeb, or those of Edward Hickman.

Abuse of Power

Beyond all other considerations, is the possible abuse of power.

History teaches nothing so vividly as that power is dangerous in itself. Our system of government is rooted in the thought that a minimum of power is safest, and that even that minimum should be curbed with all sorts of checks and balances.

Authority to dictate and deal with morons would represent such arbitrary rule, such intimate meddling, such control over life and liberty as no nation ever dreamed of, much less undertook to exercise.

According to some of those who have discussed the subject, a large majority ought to be scientifically catalogued as morons.

What is Psychology and Law

I am not one of those who doubt that psychiatry will some day play an important part not only in the administration of justice and elimination of crime, but in the development of social ideals. Neither am I one of those who question the practical good sense of mental hygiene and eugenics.

I am one of those, however, who doubt the wisdom of mixing psychology and law, except in a very difficult and laborious task, but it is unnecessary if you acquire the fundamental principles involved.

Your aim in leading should be to establish a winning card or suit in your partner's hand or your own. You must determine not only what is the best suit to open but what members of a cooperative one year were reluctant to join a second card.

Games are most frequently won or lost by incorrect leads. To memorize a table of leads is not only a very difficult and laborious task, but it is unnecessary if you acquire the fundamental principles involved.

Your aim in leading should be to establish a winning card or suit in your partner's hand or your own. You must determine not only what is the best suit to open but what members of a cooperative one year were reluctant to join a second card.

While the cooperatives are useful, but do not cure all, as Mr. Hoover would seem to suggest. In some branches of agriculture where air-tight cooperatives were easily organized, the principle has worked, but agriculture as a whole seems too big, to be thus organized.

The strategy in both camps now is evident. The Republicans are relying upon the dry issue to hold the farmers of the Middle West in line. Thus eastern Republican States and New England States hope to defeat the agrarian movement for economic equality.

The cooperatives are useful, but do not cure all, as Mr. Hoover would seem to suggest. In some branches of agriculture where air-tight cooperatives were easily