

# 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 tracks.

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 naving 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 surrender 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 unmitigated 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 demoralization 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 as the pate de foie gras went sailing through the air.

Now the management of this restaurant has forbidden 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 a 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 heart-break, 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 overtake, 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 refuted 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 high. The top is rounded.

At the top there is a bas-relief showing the king receiving the law from the sun god. Below are 2,540 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 right consciousness, and there read the priceless orders of the king, and from the written monument solve his problems.

Sir William Osler says: "From the enactments of the code we gather that the medical profession must have been in a highly organized state, for not only was practice regulated in detail, but a scale of fees was laid down and penalties exacted for malpractice."

"Operations were performed, and the veterinary art was recognized."

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

"If a doctor has treated a gentleman for a severe wound with a bronze 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 has 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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# TRACY

M. E.

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 Constantine, indicted and plans made for his speedy trial, citizens and officials of Evanston, Ill., deplore the "woful 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.

There is a moron, who should protect ourselves against the idiot, lunatic and moron, especially in the matter of reproduction. Practically, we do not know how.

## What Is a Moron

There are cases of mental derangement or inferiority so apparent that any one can name them. They represent a comparatively small menace, because of this very fact, and because we have provided methods and institutions to take care of them.

The real difficulty arises from those border line cases on which experts disagree and concerning which the general public is hopelessly bewildered.

What is a moron, and who would undertake to define the word so clearly that it could be used as the basis for legal suppression of individual rights? The people of Evanston have no doubt now that David Shanks was a moron, but the fact remains that his mental condition did not appeal to them as dangerous before.

## 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 offspring.

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 minority of us, if not an actual majority ought to be scientifically catalogued as morons.

## Threatened by Trickery

Some high-brow cynics, as well as alienists, have reached a point where they are ready to regard the United States as a "sixth grade nation," where they place Christians—the fundamentalist kind at least—and morons in the same category.

It requires 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.

Neither does it require a great stretch of the imagination to forecast how early it could be influenced by clever people who had something to gain through depriving a relative of his liberty, or preventing him from becoming a parent on the ground that he was a moron.

## Psychology and Law

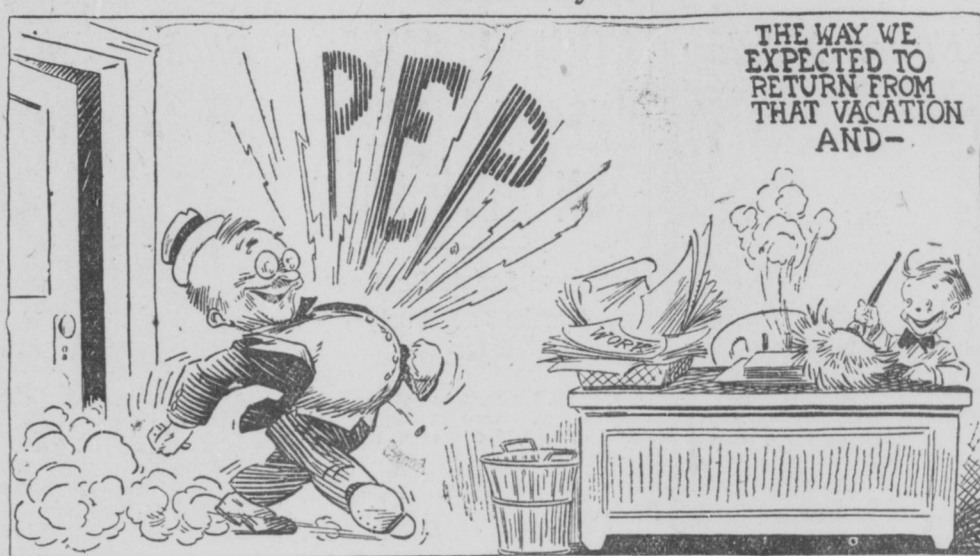
I am not one of those who doubt that psychology will some day play an important part not only in the administration of justice and elimination of crime, but in the development of social ideals. Neither am I one of those who question the practical good sense of mental hygiene and eugenics.

I am one of those, however, who doubt the wisdom of mixing psychology and law, except in a very guarded way.

While we have made some progress in the study of individual cases, we have no records that are worth a whoop in determining mass reactions.

The effect of any given system on an individual is not necessarily the same as it is on the crowd. That is something we know very little about.

## Whatta Life



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

## Fewer Doctors Now Prescribe Alcohol

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN  
Editor Journal of the American Medical Association and Medical News

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 a natural reaction against eye-strain. For this, however, there is not a great deal of evidence.

As to the amount of alcohol prescribed by physicians, there seems to be a general tendency to prescribe less and less in the treatment of disease.

In the United States the minority of the medical profession has applied for the license to prescribe alcohol. However, in Finland, according to Schmolders, it is stated that only twenty to thirty of the doctors have failed to claim official permission for alcoholic prescriptions.

According to Schmolders, the number of physicians in Finland requiring prescriptions for alcohol has steadily increased each year since 1922, and the number of prescriptions has been greatly in excess of the amount that could be possibly used in the treatment of disease.

The number of prescriptions issued during a year was sufficient to provide every inhabitant—man, woman and child of any age—with at least one prescription for alcohol.

More and more the physicians

who study this subject are convinced that the control of alcoholism is as much a social as a medical question.

This is emphasized by the fact

that legislation for the control of alcoholic addicts in most countries takes the form of enforced imprisonment and guardianship with reformatory rather than medical care.

## With Other Editors

Kokomo Dispatch  
Herbert Hoover has accepted the Republican nomination as everyone knew he would. There isn't much interest in that fact, but what Herbert Hoover would say on the occasion Saturday evening, has been the subject of much speculation, though there was no reason to suppose that there would be anything especially startling in that address. What he did say is now revealed.

The country has been led to believe that important pronouncements on two issues—farm relief and prohibition—might come from Mr. Hoover at this time. The address reveals no important pronouncements. Mr. Hoover's ideas as revealed in his acceptance address, are found to be the same as those which Mr. Hoover has believed to entertain.

On the prohibition issue, Mr. Hoover repeats what he previously had said. He believes prohibition is a "noble experiment" and should be worked out constructively.

He does not favor repeal of the Eighteenth amendment, and believes that modification of the enforcement laws "to permit that which the Constitution forbids" is nullification.

On the farm relief issue, Mr. Hoover discloses that he is not willing to go any further than was Mr. Coolidge. He speaks of high transportation charges as one cause of the farmer's plight, and speaks of water transportation development as one means of helping the farmer.

He speaks upon the tariff as another aid to the farmer. He believes that a Federal farm board to aid farmers' cooperatives and to help, in a measure, prevent seasonal surpluses, will go a long way toward solving the problem.

While even Mr. Hoover's political enemies credit him with great ability in solving economic and financial problems such as the farm problem, it is evident that his political connections and his position as heir to the Coolidge administration, handicap him in discussing the agricultural situation. If he sees the real difficulty in the farm problem today, he does not disclose the fact.

High transportation charges, high taxes and seasonal gluts and surpluses undoubtedly have their bearing upon the farmer. They are incidental rather than crucial to the problem, however.

The big fact in the farm problem is that American farmers are supplying more than can be consumed in this country, and must dispose of the surplus abroad.

Consequently, the price at home is determined by the price abroad, because the man who buys the farmer's wheat buys it at a low enough figure to dispose of it profitably even if he must sell it abroad.

Mr. Hoover's idea that the farm problem can be solved by encouraging cooperatives is discounted by the farmer who has had experience in some pools, where the man outside the pool reaped the advantage created by the pool without the expense attached to the pool, with the result that members of a cooperative one year were reluctant to join a second time.

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.

They believe that the dry issue

will prove stronger than the economic issue in the Middle West. The Democrats expect to keep the "solid South" in line, hope to win the campaign in the East on the wet issue, and think they can pick up enough scattering electoral votes in doubtful and midwestern States on the economic issue to clinch the victory.

## Questions and Answers

You can get an answer to any answerable question of fact or information by writing to Frederick M. Kery, Question Editor, The Indianapolis Times, Washington Bureau, 1322 New York Ave., Washington, D. C., enclosing 2 cents in stamps for return. Medical and legal advice cannot be given, nor can editorial questions receive a personal reply. Unassigned questions cannot be answered. All letters are confidential. You are cordially invited to make use of this free service as often as you wish.

What did President Coolidge say in 1924 about Philippine independence?

Presuming that you refer to his letter of Feb. 21, 1924, to Manuel Roxas, speaker of the Philippine House and chairman of the committee on independence, he said:

"It is not possible to consider the extension of a large measure of autonomy to the Filipino people until they shall have demonstrated a readiness and capacity to cooperate fully and effectively with the American Government and authorities."

How does the puzzle read that begins: "Brothers and sisters have I none, and what is the answer?"

A man pointing to a picture on the wall said: "Brothers and sisters have I none, but that man's father was my father's son." Who is represented in the picture? Answer: The picture is the son of the speaker. The speaker is the son of his father, and "that man" (represented in the picture), is the son of the speaker.

Who is Will Rogers?

A celebrated American cowboy humorist, actor and monologist. He formerly starred in the Follies.

What do the names Norma and Thelma mean?

Norma (German) means "from the north" and Thelma (Greek) means "bloom."

How large was the empire of Alexander the Great?

It extended from Macedonia on the west to Hyphasis River, India, on the east, and Egypt was its southern limit.

Which were the more important battles in the Greco-Persian wars?

Marathon, 490 B. C.; Thermopylae, 480 B. C.; the naval battle of Salamis, 480 B. C.; Plataea, 479 B. C. and Mycale, 479 B. C.

Who was Anawan?

A Wampanoag sachem, the chief captain and counselor of Philip in King Philip's war. When Philip fell (1676) Anawan rallied his warriors and led them successfully out of the swamp, where they were nearly surrounded.

What is meant by "cold-rolled" steel?

The steel is rolled while hot to approximately the required thickness, after which a very smooth surface and a very accurate gauged thickness are imparted, first by chemical treatment to clean it and then rolling it cold between smooth surface rollers.

Which is correct "suit" or "suite" of furniture? Are both words pronounced the same?

Either "suit" and "suite" is correct. The former is pronounced as if spelled "soot," and the latter is pronounced "swete."

# KEEPING UP With THE NEWS

By LUDWELL DENNY

UNIVERSITY, Va., Aug. 16.—Corporation contributions to campaign funds were denounced as an attempt at improper control of the Government by Representative Finis J. Garrett of Tennessee, Democratic leader of the House, at the Institute of Public Affairs here Wednesday.

"There can be but one motive for a corporation donating to a campaign fund and that is to influence the candidate," Garrett said. "Aside from the political ethics involved, such practice really violates the rights of the stockholders of the corporation."

"But in general I do not see how you can work out and put into effect a law to control the source of campaign contributions. In the end this must rest with the honor of the candidate. If the candidates can not be trusted there is no hope for our Democratic system of government."

Dr. A. R. Hutton, Northwestern University, stressed the impossibility of checking the motives of personal campaign contributions by rich and influential officials of corporations. But one protection of the public interest, he said, is that publicity of such political gifts shall include the names as well as the amount of the donation.

"You can arrive at a just solution of the problem by fixing an arbitrary total of campaign funds," Garrett put in.

"The Supreme Court in connection with the Newberry case held unconstitutional the attempted Federal corrupt practices act on the ground that the Federal Government has nothing to do with the State primaries."

"The law rather should attempt to define how campaign money is spent."

THE round table agreed that legitimate campaign expenditures cover printed matter expressing the candidates' views, personal letters, newspaper advertisements, travel expenses and office organization. Most of the political scientists and politicians present thought employment by candidates of election day workers should be prohibited, as in certain foreign countries.

The widespread practice of candidates paying for the transportation of voters to the polls was also denounced by Garrett.

Failure of State laws in this country limiting the amount of campaign funds was attributed by Hutton and others to the fact that such statutes apply only to direct expenditures by the candidate himself and his organization, without reference to additional and unknown expenditures made in his behalf by friends.

To close such holes in the law, the English have put down an absolute limit covering all expenditures from all sources. Each candidate is required by law to designate one financial agent who is accountable for all expenditures, and any person spending money for campaign purposes except through the official agent is thus automatically in violation of the law.

Ralph R. Lounsberry, New York attorney, proposed that the Government pay all campaign and election expenses, thus democratizing the system to give poor candidates an equal chance with rich office seekers.

Hutton and others thought this suggestion, which at one time was championed by President Roosevelt, was an idea one but difficult to put into operation. He said that satisfactory method has been devised for apportioning shares among majority, minority and third parties. There was rather general approval of the system in individual States, such as Oregon, where the State Government pays part of the candidate's expense by printing and distributing a campaign textbook written by the contestants.

THE shift to evils of non-voting, the get-out-the-vote crusade, and proposals for compulsory voting as in Switzerland, Czechoslovakia and other countries in which non-voters are penalized by fines or otherwise.

"When you compel people to go to the polls they are apt to go like sheep. Therefore, such compulsion should be resorted to in the United States only after all other panaceas have failed," according to Hutton.

This led to a general attack on the efficiency of governmental machinery in this country. Dr. James K. Pollock, University of Michigan, said:

"In election administration we have one of the best instances of how and why the American citizen is burdened with unconscionable costs and colossal inefficiency. New York City alone spends more money providing for its city election than does the whole German republic in a national election."

"Registration costs are highest in such cities as Philadelphia and Chicago, where there is most fraud, and lowest in Milwaukee, which has long had a Socialist mayor. The Milwaukee cost is 12 1/2 cents per voter, compared with \$1.33 in Philadelphia