



The Indianapolis Times

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.
BOYD GURLEY, ROY W. HOWARD, FRANK G. MORRISON,
Editor, President, Business Manager.
PHONE: RILEY 5551. TUESDAY, AUG. 28, 1926.
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."

The Biggest Merger

The petition of the Insull and allied interests to put under one great company the street railway and electric interests serving 280 communities of the State deserves something more than a casual glance by officials before it is granted.

It is carefully explained that the merger does not mean anything to the public and that it is merely a system of financing, under which owners of stocks and other forms of securities will trade them for other stocks and securities, accepting reductions in the face value and squeezing out some of the water which promoters of other years poured into the component corporations.

The real purpose, of course, is to make money. And there are only two ways of making money. One is by taking it from the customer. The other is by saving in the cost of production.

No one has yet devised any scheme of honestly creating wealth through any trick of issuing stock certificates. A lot of men have made money by creating new corporations and mergers, but in the end the value of the stocks depends on how much the public can be made to pay.

The utilities which are included in the proposed merger differ in character of service and location.

Some of them make money. Others have not earned dividends. Each one of these 280 communities affected is interested in knowing if the merger proposes to tax them for the benefit of others.

Some of these smaller corporations, especially the electric companies, earn large dividends. The communities they serve could, under the theory of regulation, expect reductions of rates when the earnings go beyond a certain figure.

It is reasonable to suppose that no such reductions will occur under a merger until every antiquated interurban and street car line is also on a paying basis, not from its customers, but from the diversions of profits from other communities.

Merging of competing utilities in the same community is theoretically correct and desirable. It should result in reduced cost of operation and the elimination of waste.

But this merger presents a different picture. It is not a proposal to cut out competition between utilities of the same kind. It proposes to tie together two kinds of utilities, rendering different kinds of service, operating in many communities, into one great concern that will, presumably, demand profits on the entire capitalization with regard to the cost of service in any particular community.

Not only the reasonableness of valuations and stock issues but the principle involved demands careful consideration before this new financial scheme is given legal standing.

Secret Understandings

"Open covenants, openly arrived at," phrases an ideal in diplomacy toward which the nations move only stumblingly.

Secret understandings were disclosed as among the real causes of the world war. The Russian revolution having brought these secret treaties out of the czarist archives, it became impossible to ignore the part they had played in bringing Europe to the brink of destruction. Yet the effect of the secret treaties did not end with the war. They went a long way toward making a tragedy of the peace that followed.

At every point Woodrow Wilson found himself balked by these treaties. He was obliged at the very outset to surrender his program of open covenants and consent to meetings behind closed doors.

All this has a bearing on the present stir over the alleged understanding between Prime Ministers Chamberlain and Briand concerning British and French naval armaments. There may be nothing in the alleged agreement—if one has been made—that is not altogether commendable. It may help to keep down trouble between the two nations.

But it has the vice of secrecy.

Our Government is interested in naval armaments, decidedly so. It has sought to reach an understanding with Britain. At the same time it has been conducting negotiations with most of the world looking toward the outlawry of all war.

In the midst of all this came the report of a private agreement between England and France; to be made public presently. Chamberlain is said to have promised, but privately arrived at in any case.

It is much like one gentleman in a poker game passing a card under the table. It isn't done. Or, it shouldn't be done.

If Secretary Kellogg adheres to his intention to detour around London on his way to Ireland, his action will be perfectly understandable.

Open covenants, openly arrived at, was a splendid principle when Wilson enunciated it. It is a splendid principle now. Indeed, there is not a great deal of assurance that any peace program will succeed until there is actual outlawry of secret treaties.

A New York newspaper prints the headline, "Divorce Suit Shakes Gilda Gray's Past." Gilda has a shaky past, at that.

Next year's beach costumes will be "almost backless," according to a style note. Anyone who saw any of this year's beach suits will wonder if the word meant for next year's wasn't "almoster."

A lot of people who don't know how many stars there are in the flag can tell you exactly how many there are in the movies.

Just because you're a prune you don't have to fall for a lot of applesauce.

Testing Out the Courts

Are the courts all one-way streets?

That's what the American Civil Liberties Union has set out to discover.

A citizen is supposed to violate peace and order by standing around where he is not wanted—picketing they sometimes call it—and he is arrested. In court he is found to have been beaten up by the officers. So he is sentenced to jail for a long term and fined a big sum and put under bonds for a thousand dollars, etc., etc.

That's all an old story.

But suppose a citizen who has not violated any law, and is acting within his rights under the Constitution, is grabbed by a man in uniform called a policeman and is hauled and mauled and locked up and given a bum trial and an unreasonable sentence. What then? Has he no rights? No remedy?

It is the theory of our law that nobody—not even a policeman—may do injury or injustice to an innocent person without involving legal consequences. A policeman must act within the law or he is a violator of the law. As a violator of the law he is committing assault and is liable for damages. His employer or bondsman is liable for damages. All that is necessary is to bring a suit for false arrest, assault, etc., etc.

"An' so's your old man," is the popular answer to all that. "Go try it."

Which is an intimation that the courts are just for the rich and the strong; that they are one-way streets.

The Liberties Union proposes to try out such questions as how many strikers can picket at the same time; whether talking, or singing is a breach of the peace; and whether meetings on private property can be forbidden and raided by the police.

If the courts are to be used exclusively by employers to defeat strikes regardless of personal liberty, the sooner it is openly admitted the better.

One Unspoiled Spot

There is to be, in this country, one unspoiled spot.

Part of Mount Rainier National Park, now a wilderness, will be kept forever a wilderness. No roads will be built. No hotels will be permitted.

Access will be only for those willing to walk or ride horseback; only for those who long for silences and untouched beauty and will not violate them.

When man's soul is sick from the futilities and frustrations of life, the clash and compromise and turmoil, how shall he live if there are not places like these where he may learn strength and serenity?

One wilderness for this great Nation is not enough. There are millions of people here who will never be able to go to Mount Rainier. If there be places in the Eastern mountains and those of the South not yet invaded by commerce and the crudities of civilization let the national park department reserve these also and keep them as they are—havens where hurts of life may be healed. It could do no greater service.

The Movie Producer's Problem

Why the poor moving picture producer in these trying days. He is a man who must make weighty decisions.

The new talking movie is at the bottom of his trouble. Shall he go in for it? It will mean ditching most of his present star actors and actresses and finding new ones who have brains and can really act. It will mean constructing elaborate new studios. It will mean devising an entire new technique of production. It will mean knotty problems in connection with the foreign market; for French and German and Argentinian audience won't care for pictures that talk in English.

The movie producer must guess right on all of these questions, for his existence hangs in the balance. It looks as if the days of easy money in the movies were about over.

The United States needs twice as many parks as we have, says a landscape artist. But where'll we find enough waste paper to fill 'em?

David Dietz on Science

Galen Ruled Medicine

No. 140

GREAT men, it seems, do damage as well as good. They make great discoveries and by so doing advance the world. But they sometimes make mistakes. And because no one dares question the authority which their greatness brings, their mistakes endure longer than would the mistakes of smaller men.

Aristotle, the great Greek philosopher, did much to advance the world's knowledge. But during the Middle Ages he became the great authority. No one dared question the word of Aristotle.

The result was that the world failed to advance beyond Aristotle as rapidly as it should have. The mistakes which Aristotle had made were perpetuated for centuries.

The same thing happened in medicine in the case of Galen, the great Greek physician who died in 200 A. D.

He dominated medical thought for fifteen centuries just as firmly as Aristotle dominated other fields of knowledge.

Galen was a great man in his day. But his knowledge was limited and many of his ideas were erroneous.

But all his ideas, the wrong ones as well as the right ones, held sway for fifteen centuries.

Galen corrected the erroneous idea which had been held by the physicians of the Alexandrian school concerning the arteries. They believed that the arteries contained air.

He demonstrated that the arteries contained blood.

He also noted differences in the blood in the arteries and the veins.

But he made the mistake of imagining that there were two separate systems in the body and that the arteries formed one and the veins the other.

It is surprising that he missed the fact of the circulation of the blood, for he made a careful study of the heart as a pump.

Galen believed that the network of arteries centered about the heart, but that the network of veins had its origin in the liver.

Galen apparently believed that there was a sort of pulsation going on in the arteries and veins, a sort of ebb and flow. He failed to recognize that there was a real circulation of the blood.

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M. E. TRACY SAYS:

"The Treaty Renouncing War Has Been Signed. To My Mind This Is One of the Greatest Events Since the Birth of Christ."

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Desire for Peace

One respect international peace is traveling a beaten path. Having reached the form of world wide desire, it is now made articulate through the Kellogg Treaty.

The problem of translating it into action, of developing it as a basic conviction, remains to be solved.

There are millions of people who regard this as impossible, even though they would like to see it come to pass. These millions are victims of tradition. Their scepticism is rooted in the thought that nothing of the kind was ever done before.

They doubt the workability of this agreement for exactly the same reason that farm hands doubted the workability of Fulton's steamboat, that most people doubted the workability of flying machines until the Wrights convinced them they were.

A give attention to the diseases associated with industry strange sources of infection and of other disturbances come to light.

A recent report by the New York State department of labor has to do with wiping rags as a source of infection or of other hazards.

Wiping rags come from all sorts of sources, many from the refuse of dwellings. Some of the rags purchased by regular dealers are sold to paper mills and to manufacturers of roofing material.

The cleaner rags in fairly good condition are picked out and sold as wipers; the dirtier ones in good condition are sometimes washed and sterilized before being sold as wipers.

It is impossible to say just how much infection is transmitted by rags used in this way. On the other hand, it is reasonable to believe from the available knowl-

edge as to the amount of bacterial contamination of rags that it is possible for diseases to be transmitted in this manner.

One of the damages from such material is the presence of bent and rusty pins with which the hands of workers may be scratched, affording a ready opportunity for infection to enter.

The United States Government has specified methods of washing

Reviving a Couple Old Favorites



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Disease Can Be Carried by Rags

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine.

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give attention to the diseases

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