



## 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.

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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 Community Fund

Is this city able to contribute the sum set by the community fund to the charitable uses it represents?

No one would have the temerity to suggest that this city could not raise that sum, or ten times that sum, if the individual cases which will be cared for by it were brought directly to public attention.

Yet there seems to be some difficulty in obtaining the money which those who have charge of the organized charities have set as the least amount on which these agencies can operate.

Perhaps the reason for hesitation comes from the fact that while one sick child or helpless mother will attract deep and instant sympathy, few have the power to visualize the needs of a thousand children of a thousand mothers whose needs are cared for in an orderly and prompt manner by social agencies.

Yet every one knows that there are in every city recurring cases where help and aid are necessary. Each year there are the sick. There are the unemployed. There are those who have found it impossible to meet the buffet of fate or the disaster of circumstances.

We have not yet learned completely the lessons of living in great cities. We have not yet solved all the problems that come in changing from a rural and independent existence to one of community dwelling. There are always misfits. There are always the unfortunate. There are always the needy.

The community fund is organized to meet every definite social needs and every agency which receives its support has behind it a great necessity. The needs, apparently, grow each year and that, too, may be expected.

As a matter of fact these agencies which are supported by voluntary contributions are more important than the organized agencies supported by taxation.

We might imagine a community which could get along very well without some of the inspectors and agents of various boards. We can not imagine a great community without a hospital for a sick child.

Perhaps the urgency of the matter has not been brought home with enough emphasis. That fund must be raised. It is hardly a question of volition. Why not do it today?

### A Lesson in Taxes

Payne Whitney, dying the other day, left an estate appraised at \$179,000,000. Of this the federal government will receive about \$4,000,000 through the federal inheritance tax.

Thomas Fortune Ryan, whose death has followed Whitney's, leaves an estate estimated at a much larger figure. Of this the federal and state governments will receive shares proportionately the same as in the case of the Whitney estate.

Something more than thirty millions of dollars will be turned back to the people of New York from the estates of these two multimillionaires. In this fact should be found an answer to those who are seeking to destroy the federal inheritance tax on the ground that "it is a tax that properly belongs to the states."

Here the state of New York is receiving four-fifths of the tax and the federal government one-fifth—surely none too large a federal share when it is remembered that neither Whitney nor Ryan drew their vast wealth solely from the state of New York.

But the important fact is that it is the federal inheritance law which actually makes possible effective state inheritance laws. The federal law operates in all states that have inheritance taxes as it is operating in New York. In those misguided states that have abandoned this tax, in the hope of attracting wealthy men there to die, the federal tax is collected in full.

In the case of some persons who campaign for "leaving this tax to the states," a simple lack of intelligence is responsible. In the case of others it is something else. These seek first to destroy the federal tax, knowing that destruction of the state taxes, one by one, then will be comparatively easy.

The inheritance tax is among the most just of taxes, as none looking at the vast private fortunes left by Whitney and Ryan will deny.

### Mooney and Billings

At last, after twelve years, stirrings of public conscience give hope of belated justice in the California Mooney-Billings case.

The American Civil Liberties Union has made this famous case first order of business and is organizing a nation-wide drive upon Governor Young of California for immediate and unconditional pardon for the pair. Fifty pounds of evidence which it claims proves a "frame-up" has been gathered.

If Governor Young doesn't know it, nearly all the rest of the world is convinced that whatever their sins may have been, Tom Mooney and Warren Billings did not plant the bomb that killed a score of people in the 1916 Preparedness day outrage in San Francisco.

Mooney and Billings were labor agitators and perhaps even guilty of sabotage. But that does not justify the complacent attitude that would leave them in prison because "they're a bad lot, anyway."

If they can be "framed" into living death for wholesale murder of which they are innocent, then so can the rest of us, in an American court of justice, be victimized by crooked district attorneys and suborned and venal witnesses. With Mooney and Billings in jail for life we may well exclaim with John Wesley: "There, but for the grace of God, am I!"

California has had twelve years to clear up the disgrace of this case. Governor Young should not permit further delay.

### Qualifications for Citizenship

The United States supreme court will decide whether opposition to war makes a person ineligible to citizenship. The court has decided to accept for review the case of Mme. Rosika Schwimmer, Hungarian pacifist, lecturer and writer.

Mme. Schwimmer has been seeking citizenship for several years. Her petition was rejected by the United States district court in Chicago because she said she would be unwilling to bear arms, and that she would not kill another person, even to save her own life.

The appeals court reversed this decision, holding sensible that her attitude on the question of pacifism had nothing to do with her qualifications for citizenship. Questions put by the lower court were called hypothetical and termed "conundrums."

The 100 per centers in the department of labor

## THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

### M. E. TRACY SAYS:

"Why Should We Scrap Our Navy If We Enter the World Court? . . . Who Fails to Bolt His Door Because There Is a Statute Against Burglary?"

A curious admixture of practicality and idealism—this President Coolidge of ours. Sooner is he through arguing for more cruisers than he begins maneuvering to get us into the world court. Hopelessly inconsistent, some people say. If we are going to have judges, why not disarm? If we are not going to disarm, why play the hypocrite and pretend to favor peace?

Consistency would be a jewel if it only squared with life. Strictly logical people, however, seldom accomplish more than make good arguments.

Why should we scrap our navy if we enter the world court, or even sign a treaty to outlaw war? Who fails to bolt his door, or, perhaps, keep a shotgun in the house, because there is a statute against burglary?"

### Babies With Tails

The news columns tell of a baby born in Baltimore with a tail seven inches long. The doctors say the occurrence is not so very unusual. The spinal column has a way, in animal life, of ending in tail. The habit has been outgrown largely in the case of human beings, but in moments of absent-mindedness nature reverts to a forgotten era. At least so the doctors and scientists say.

In Arkansas news of these short-tailed babies do not will be censored. The matter could not be explained properly, now that the state has passed its anti-evolution law. It would not do to tell the children that this was a case of atavism—a throw-back to the monkey age of man. That would be against the law.

And it would not seem wise to say that God gets careless in constructing babies, and finishes them once in a while under the impression that He is making a monkey or a dog.

### Too Many Toll Bridges

Toll bridges operated for private gain, and the disfigurement of highways by advertising signboards, were criticised severely by Thomas H. MacDonald, chief of the public roads bureau of the department of agriculture in his annual report to congress.

In the last congress, he said, bills were introduced for construction of 122 toll bridges, sixty-seven of which were authorized. About three-fourths of these, or about fifty, were for private interests.

The same private interests, MacDonald says, fight tooth and nail to block legislation authorizing building of public free bridges.

There is hardly any room for argument on the points stressed by MacDonald. Tolls as a means of financing a state seeking to pay its share of bridge-building are one thing. Tolls to yield enormous profits to private interests through the years are another.

As for the disfiguring billboards, the sooner we can find means of protecting natural beauty of our roads from these monstrosities, the better.

Let congress take MacDonald's report to heart.

Twenty-one guns roared in salute as Hoover embarked for South America. That other terrific roar you heard was from the candidates for postmasterships who won't get to see him for a couple of months.

Heads you never see: WON WEALTH BY EMBEZZLING AND PLAYING HORSES, SAYS FORMER BANK CLERK.

Irvin Cobb spends his winters window shopping, according to an item from New York. Babe Ruth also has a terrific appetite.

The only real thinkers in America are the men of the farms and small towns, says a French diplomat. Perhaps they got that way thinking about congress' plans for farm relief.

There may be no connection between the two events at all, but shortly after President Coolidge spoke on world peace, Lloyd George was reported slightly ill.

A bulletin from the department of commerce announces that the United States ranks first of all nations as a compiler of statistics. Even on the streets you occasionally see men studying figures.

Professor Shapley of Harvard announces that he has found the center of the visible universe 47,000 light years away. There haven't been as yet, however, any announcements of good-will trips.

### David Dietz on Science

Edison's Chief Inventions

No. 217

THE World war may be taken as a convenient dividing point in the career of Thomas A. Edison, famous American inventor, recently awarded the United States Congressional Medal of Honor.

Let us summarize, therefore, his inventions prior to 1914. They are a long and imposing list.

1868—His first patented invention, an electric vote-recorder. He had previously made many improvements in telegraph apparatus.

1869—Various stock tickers.

1872 to 1878—Various improvements in the duplex and quadruplex telegraph systems.

1876—The carbon transmitter which made telephony a commercial possibility.

1877—The phonograph.

1879—The incandescent electric light.

1880—The magnetic ore separator.

1880—The first full-size electric railway.

1880 to 1887—Some 300 patents relating to the electric power industry.

1887 to 1890—Some seventy-five patents relating to improvements in the phonograph.

1891—The motion picture camera.

1891 to 1900—A number of important inventions for the iron ore industry.

1900 to 1910—The Edison alkaline storage battery.

During this period he also developed the Portland Cement mill and founded both the Edison Storage Battery Company and the Portland Cement Company.

1910 to 1914—Developed many improvements in the phonograph.

1912—The kinetophone, a talking motion picture.

1913—Improvements in the diaphragm.

The World war, as we shall see next, made it necessary for Edison to turn his attention to other fields. One of the first effects of the war was to cause a shortage of certain chemical materials for which American industries had depended thus far.

It was to this problem that Edison turned his attention, his own plant for the manufacture of phonograph records being hit almost at once by a shortage of carbolic acid.

The 100 per centers in the department of labor



### Laws Not Enough

The pacifist brigade makes ready to move on Washington. If the Kellogg pact is agreed to, it asks, why more money for six-inch guns?

Why, indeed? Why a lock on the door, why a dog in the yard, why a police force of 15,000 in New York City, why all the constables and deputy sheriffs? Have we not a law against every crime they are supposed to prevent, have we not courts to settle all the cases and have we not protected ourselves against all kinds of violence in so far as it was possible to do so through paper enactments?

There seems no reason to go crazy in one direction for fear we may go too far in another. Why get so excited over ten cruisers more or less? They do not spell the difference between Prussianism and the millennium.

We live in a very human world and we must recognize its human weaknesses—its suspicion and distrust, its eternal disposition to bargain and trade, its habit of attaining ends by compromise and concession—if we are to accomplish results.

### Who Except a Moron?

William McFee, writing in the New York Sunday World and headlined as a "sea-going engineer," calls the "women and children first" tradition a "classic, conventional imbecility."

By way of bolstering up the assertion, he says that "nothing could be more ridiculous than to put a lot of women and children into a lifeboat with, perhaps, a couple of steward stewards and a mess boy, and smash them down into the wintry north Atlantic."

Every one will admit that nothing could be more ridiculous than what has that to do with it? Who except a moron, interprets the "women and children first" tradition in such a way?

The "women and children first" tradition presupposes intelligence as well as courage. It is not built around a childish notion that sailors are to stand back while wives and infants go forth in boats they do not know how to handle or could not handle if they did. Its ideal is safety for those less able to take care of themselves, and it includes everything needed to provide for that safety.

### Art Scandal and Genius

Art scandal goes with art. That is the chief reason why Italy should be expected to put on a good one.

Some \$2,000,000 worth of supposedly genuine old statuary has found its way not only into private collections throughout the world but—horror of horrors—into some of the greatest and most exacting museums.

Strangest of all, the supply appears to grow bigger as the market improves which is contrary to the habits of old statuary, art which aroused the suspicion of critics.

An investigation brought out the truth. The statuary was being produced by two skillful brothers, who labored in starvation wages, while the art dealers trading in their genius got rich.

One is reminded of how Michael Angelo won a cardinal's admiration by perpetrating a similar fraud though in jest, and all the more so since the poor sculptors in this case may profit by a similar whim of fate.

It required craftsmanship, as well as crookedness to carry through such a stupendous fake. That is what the poor sculptors contributed, and that is the one good thing that has been discovered.

### Give Moderns a Chance!

Whatever the rule of "age before beauty" may mean in other fields, it plays a big part in shaping the art market.

Give a bit of statuary or painting four centuries, or even two, and see how the price goes up.

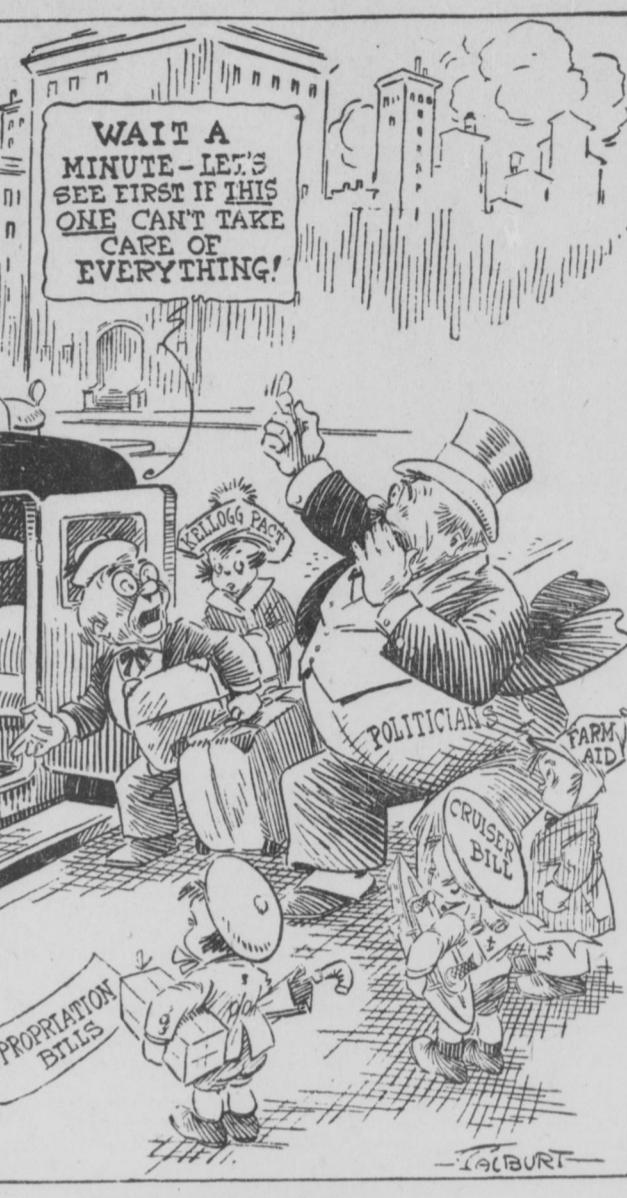
One cannot quarrel with the idea as art is made an excuse for it. It is not art so much as an appetite for what is rare, ancient and, therefore, impossible for more than a few to possess.

The penchant for collecting what men have left is commendable in every way. It gives us a perspective we could not otherwise attain. It takes the conceit out of us by revealing through what slow processes the race has advanced. But placing a high value on antiques for other reasons than their age, calling them superior to what we can produce when they are not and beggarly those who are able to do better work for the sake of ancestor worship, is little less than a tragedy.

While paying fabulous prices for sculpture, painting, furniture, pottery and tapestries that are old, we would not injure art in the least by giving men and women who have chosen it as a career their chance to earn an honest living.



## A Bit Previous



## DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

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