

# The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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

## The Real Problem

The citizens of the state, in all probability, will have an opportunity to pass on the question of whether they wish to raise a part of the cost of government by an income tax.

The legislature, largely through the pressure of the farmers of the state, seem likely to approve such an amendment to the constitution.

Against the proposal are the so-called business interests of the state who do not believe that such a tax is desirable.

Whatever any one may think on the subject of income taxes, there can be no argument against permitting the people of the state to pass directly upon the problem.

If we have any faith in the theory that the people of this state are capable of managing their own affairs and do not need either a guardian or a dictator, then no public question is too great for them to solve.

Any opposition to this measure should be made at the polls when the amendment is brought forward for ratification and not in a legislature which merely passes along to the people a proposal which has the support of a very large portion of the citizens.

It would be fine if there could be direct action on many other measures which are pending and about which there is controversy.

Whether the income tax is a way to get more money from the people, a costly and inefficient way, or a fine method of distributing burdens in accordance with the protection received is an argument for the voters, not for the legislature.

It may be said, however, with no fear of denial, that the problem is not so much as to the manner in which taxes are to be collected, as long as laws are general in application, as to the way in which they are spent.

The farmers complain that they are overburdened and rapidly becoming bankrupt through heavy imposts. They may be right. So are men in cities, who are staggering under heavy costs. So are workers, who pay those same taxes in the form of rents, high costs of living, high rates on utilities and other necessities of life, each one of which indirectly carries a part of the tax burden.

The real problem is to see whether it is not possible to spend less and still get all the necessities of government.

The proposal to raise another five or six millions of dollars a year for highways is a case in point. This expense, whether collected by a higher gasoline tax or a raise in license fees, is as much a direct tax as would be a tax on incomes.

The real problem is not one of method in raising taxes, but in the total cost of government and the problem of getting it at cost.

Plug the leaks and there will not be so much outcry.

## Penny-Wise, Pound-Foolish

The federal power commission, after years of begging for sufficient personnel to enable it to carry out the work for which it was created, seems about to get a measure of help from congress.

The appropriation bill now being considered allows the commission an increase of \$57,000 to hire a chief counsel, an attorney, a valuation engineer and a few auditors. Presumably this was all the budget bureau would approve.

When the commission was created in 1920, congress intended that it should hasten the development of latent water power resources. Equally important was protection of the public interest through perpetual retention by the government of power sites, and regulation of rates in certain instances.

Leases were to be granted for fifty years, and at the end of that time the government could recover the property through payment of amounts actually and legitimately invested.

There has been much water power development, but the public interest has been neglected.

The commission obviously must keep account of expenditures in development if the government is to have a fair basis for possible exercise of its recovery right, or if it is properly to exercise its control over rates. This it has not been able to do, because of its inadequate staff.

The commission is four or five years behind in its work. It has been able to audit and settle the claims of only a small fraction of the cases pending.

The total of claims in projects already under license eventually will be a billion dollars. It is no exaggeration to say that literally hundreds of millions of public property is involved, to say nothing of the danger of establishing fantastic bases for rate-making, which would operate as a tax on consumers for all time to come.

It is penny-wise and pound-foolish for the budget bureau or congress to quibble over expenditure of a few thousand dollars in such a situation. The increase under consideration will help, but it is insufficient to enable the commission to bring its work quickly up to date and to function as it was intended.

## More Dry Funds Not Needed

Secretary Mellon offers convincing arguments against the appropriation of an additional \$25,000,000 for the bureau of prohibition, as proposed in the senate.

Other bureaus and departments are concerned in enforcement, Mellon points out. He believes that part of any increase voted well might go to the department of justice for relief of court congestion, or for enlargement of the coast guard and customs border patrol, which have been unable to cope with smuggling.

In short, he wants any increased funds used where they will do the most good, and he questions whether suddenly dumping \$25,000,000 in the lap of the bureau of prohibition will accomplish what congress intends. He proposes "a thorough-going survey of the entire field" before appropriations are increased.

Mellon might have added that the additional funds probably would have increased the force of prohibition agents from 4,000 to perhaps 15,000, and that the wisdom of this is open to question. Almost all persons who have been connected with prohibition enforcement have said that state and local co-operation is essential.

Creation of a vastly larger organization of federal agents would lead in the direction of federal policing, and away from the policy of having the federal government devote itself to diversions and major violations. This should be the federal government's job, not the detection of pint transactions and the suppression of speakeasies. These are matters for local police.

The treasury already is taking steps to ascertain

the needs of its enforcement agencies, says Mellon. It is probable that this job better can be left to Hoover's projected commission of inquiry, which it is expected will make a thorough study of the entire prohibition question. Its recommendation should enable congress to vote larger units, if they are needed, with intelligence and not blindly.

## The Wrong Time

The trouble with the cruiser bill is that it is poorly timed. From almost every angle this is about the worst time the United States could pick to start another naval building program.

For seven years we have been trying unsuccessfully to persuade Great Britain to agree to cruiser limitation on the basis of equality. The British admiralty has blocked such agreement. Now for the first time the British people are rising against this admiralty rule and demanding in a general election campaign a more friendly policy toward America.

But just at the moment there is some chance of a change in British policy, we propose to ruin that chance by a building program which is considered a threat.

Why should we be so anxious to play into the hands of the rapidly slipping British admiralty? Why should we enter a disastrous armament race, when a little more patience may avoid that danger?

Anyway, why tie the hands of the Hoover administration, which has to conduct our foreign and naval policy for the next four years? How much wiser it would be to give Hoover time to get squared away in office before taking a step which will affect all our international relations.

The argument used by the farmers for "postponement" of farm relief until the new administration is in applies with even greater force to the cruiser bill.

There also are technical and economy reasons for postponing this naval program.

But the major reason is that the strongest nation in the world does not have to resort to threats, however provoked, until it has exhausted the method of friendly agreement.

They call them speakeasies, and after a few hours there some men have been known to speak hard, and others to become speechless.

A robber was arrested after holding up a crowd entering a night club. Still, you'd hardly expect him to wait until they came out.

They use machine guns against wolf packs in Russia, but don't let the police see you carrying a machine gun down Wall street.

Now Mr. Durant might offer another \$25,000 prize for the best criticism of the prize-winning prohibition enforcement plan.

A Montreal schoolboy placed a stick of dynamite under his teacher's chair. Don't be alarmed. Just another "expression of personality."

David Dietz on Science

## Modern Peck's Bad Boy

No. 263

NEW YORK, Jan. 17.—Professor Harry Elmer Barnes, sociologist and historian of Smith college, made himself the Peck's bad boy of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He put soap on the front steps and salt in the sugar bowl, so far as most of the scientists at the convention were concerned, when he chose the convention as the place to launch an attack on conventional theology.

Dr. Barnes insisted that a new religion had to be organized, one based on the facts of astronomy and biology, which would consider God not as a Father in Heaven, but only as a force behind the universe. He insisted that mankind must ignore the idea of Heaven and concentrate all efforts on making this earth the happiest possible place.

The opinion which a half dozen of the most eminent scientists at the convention expressed in an after-dinner conversation in which I was privileged to join might be summed up somewhat as follows: "There has been altogether too much talk about a conflict between science and religion. It isn't helping the advance of science any. The best thing for scientists to do is to stick to science."

"A great many people didn't want to believe that the earth revolved around the sun when Copernicus and Galileo and some of the other early astronomers insisted that it did. But eventually, everybody has come around to believe that the earth does revolve around the sun."

"In the same way, other facts of science can be expected to spread."

"Many people with a strong religious belief, nevertheless hold many of the same beliefs which Barnes outlined."

Many of the scientists felt that the convention was not the place for Barnes to launch his attack. Several thousand papers were presented at the convention, which was attended by 5,000 delegates.

Practically all these papers dealt with new advances in specialized fields of science—new advances in astronomy, physics, chemistry and so on.

The scientists felt that it was unfortunate if any large group of people got the idea that the convention was held chiefly to launch an attack on conventional religions.

On the other hand, it should be said that many scientists have felt for years that many of the things which Barnes enunciated were so.

For example, they agree with him when he says that every effort should be made to make this earth the best possible place in which to live.

In fact, they would point out that science is doing exactly that. The scientist who discovers a cure for a dread disease, the scientist who discovers a new use for electricity, the scientist who makes a discovery about the human mind, has done just that.

Most of them would agree that this earth should not be considered a mere training place for the world to come, but they would add that most liberals in the churches of the world hold that idea also.

Most of them would agree that God is not the anthropomorphic God which ancient peoples postulated, but they would probably add that they have no scientific way of knowing and that neither has Barnes.

In fact, most scientists regard Barnes' papers as poor tactics. They feel that he has antagonized many people to science who otherwise might look at it with a friendly eye.

They feel sure that the facts of science will survive and they feel sure that the highest type of religion will find room for the facts of science.

M. E.

## TRACY

SAYS:

"There Is Not Only Too Much Politics but Too Much Argument in Our System of Justice."

CLEVELAND, O., Jan. 18.—"Prosecutor bares names in vice quiz," reads a headline in the Cleveland Press, not the names of those charged with anything, as one might suspect, but of those from whom a local clergyman says he obtained information.

Figuratively speaking, a Mr. Wallace, a Mr. Foote and a Miss Sill have been "put on the spot," for Cleveland's underworld, with that accomplished, they will be paraded before the grand jury to tell what they know, which is all right, except that, no matter how interesting or enlightening the grand jury may find it, the underworld already has discounted it.

The case seems worth mentioning, because it typifies a general attitude. In most of our large cities the administration appears far more interested in protecting itself than in protecting the public.

If some one rises to remark that conditions are bad, whether publicly or privately, the first thought is to discredit that some one, to prove that he knows far less than he claims to know, his source of information and throw up such a smoke screen as blinds every one to the original issue.

## Scaring the Witness

I DO not pretend to know whether the Rev. Charles Debow gave the Cleveland authorities a hot tip, whether vice in the neighborhood of his church was as bad as he said, or whether the informants on whom he depended were reliable, but it strikes me that the way the authorities have handled the matter has resulted in a situation so distinctly as to spoil their opportunity for doing anything of constructive and lasting value.

They seem to have been vastly more concerned over the sources of Mr. Debow's information than over the idea of acting on it before the dive keepers and craps shooters had time to put up the shutters. Who tattled, appears to be what they were most anxious to find out.

It frightens witnesses, warns the underworld and vindictive the authorities. You can't beat it as a method of proving everything is "jake." Nothing has come to interfere with law enforcement more than the scared witness. Average people are actually growing afraid to tell what they know. They are afraid not only of the gangster and his bullets, but of the way they are likely to be handled by those very officials whom they would like to help.

They are afraid of being made a target for every lawbreaker, of the humiliation that goes with the all-too-frequent efforts to discredit them, of the publicity this makes inevitable.

## Politics and Justice

HUMAN nature is not 100 per cent courageous or accurate. No one should realize this more keenly, or make allowance for it more rapidly, than policemen and prosecutors. No one is in a better position to understand the necessity of depending on voluntary information, or using it, even if it includes mistakes and of never adopting a course that is calculated to discourage it.

What law enforcement calls for is not a system committed to the destruction of clues and tips, but one that will run them down, even if they are not so good. There is not only too much politics, but too much argument in our system of justice.

We still are trying to make it function through the combative method, through letting one person attempt to prove that another is wrong. Science has abandoned that method, and so has industry.

When do you suppose Edison or Ford would have landed if they had spent their lives arguing?

We have learned how to solve mechanical problems by dispassionate, impersonal study. Some day we may learn how to solve legal problems in the same way.

## Laggard Law

THERE is no phase of life in which we are so inefficient, so backward, reactionary and hopelessly bound by tradition as in the administration of justice, and I believe that dependence on argument, rather than study and investigation, offers a large part of the explanation.

We put up with things from the law that we would not tolerate in a corner grocery. We let it dawdle along as it did in the oxcart age. Let it waste time and money for no reason in the world, except that it always has; let it deprive people of their liberty, their right to be heard; their opportunity to remain at work, without any excuse, except its own lazy, obsolete way of doing things.

In other respects, we have learned how to do things quicker and better.

Only in the law have we slowed up, put on our brakes and settled down to the idea that there is no room for improvement.

## Too Much Red Tape

WHY do we not run courts continuously and get cases out of the way?

Why do we not demand the same degree of efficiency from justice that we demand from the postoffice and telephone company? It goes without saying that these cases require time in the trying, but most of the time is not consumed that way.

Most of the time is consumed by useless delay, useless argument, useless red tape, useless technicalities, useless methods.

As any lawyer knows, we would need more judges, of course, more courthouses and more other things, but when we have balked at the cost to save time?

## Solitaire



## Chlorinated Water Is Object of Rumors

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBIE

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

SO many cities and institutions now use liquid chlorine and calcium hypochlorite for disinfection of water supplies that the process would not seem to require any further defense before the public.

Only a few institutions still use ozone and ultraviolet rays for this purpose.

Strange superstitions arise, however, which need to be contradicted; for example, the assertion of a physician in Columbia that the use of chlorinated water would cause sterility and a decrease in the birth rate, and the assertion by other

people that chlorination of water might produce changes in the kidneys or ulcers of the stomach.

The actual facts of the matter are that there is not the slightest evidence to support the contention that the amount of chlorine in the water after the chlorination process is sufficient to be of the slightest harm to any one.

On the other hand, the installation of chlorination spreads apace. The first practical apparatus, as pointed out by George C. Bunker, was made in 1913. In 1926, four billion gallons of chlorinated water a day were being used in 3,200 American communities.

About 70 per cent of the popula-

tion of the United States is today drinking water that has been disinfected with chlorine.

Furthermore, the method has been adopted as the one of choice for swimming pool disinfection, for the disinfection of water mains, and for the treatment of water used by travelers.

Various methods are now being studied with a view to finding those that are cheapest and most efficient, and new types of chlorinators are being developed, the most recent type being an electrolytic device which permits the utilization of common salt for the development of the chlorine and avoids the use of tanks of pure chlorine gas.

## Reason

By

Frederick LANDIS



THE most striking political flip-flop is the case of Ruth Bryan Owen, brilliant daughter of the late commoner, elected to congress from Florida on a platform pledging high tariff to the fruit industry, whereas her father won his spurs kicking the daylight out of the tariff idea.

But then Webster, Calhoun and the rest of them reversed themselves completely.

Immigration makes stranger bed-fellows than politics.

Legion members of Chicago have presented a flag to 300 German veterans who have just become American citizens and will join the Illinois National Guard.

With Republicans and Democrats all favoring the tariff and almost every statesman at Washington demanding a higher duty for his home products, we may wind up with a tariff wall so high the result will be exploitation, not protection.

It is a time for conservative Republicans to watch their step.

It knocks the wind out of Cupid for 850 out of 800 Northwestern university co-eds to say they propose to enter professions, but every normal father and mother want to see their daughters make themselves independent, to avoid a fate worse than death—marrying some fellow just for a meal ticket.

The amount of influenza among the members of European royalty proves again that overwork will undermine the system until there's no resistance.

They are installing telephone booths in England, large enough for two, so a policeman may phone for the wagon and keep his hand on the collar of his prey.

We should have such booths in America, for they would be wonderful to hold political rallies in, if last fall's audiences are an index to the future.

## Daily Thought

All our enemies have opened their mouths against us.—Jeremiah 34:6.

It is with a word as with an arrow; the arrow once loosed does not return to the bow; nor a word to the lips.—Abdel Kader.

Did a world champion heavyweight boxer ever regain his title after losing it? Who held the title the longest?

The heavyweight championship has never been regained after it was once lost. John L. Sullivan held the heavyweight championship ten years from 1882 to 1892, which is the longest time on record.

Will silver attract mercury? Silver will amalgamate with mercury, but it can not be said to attract it.

## UNPARDONABLE SIN

RUTH'S FLIP FLOP GREAT UNDERWEAR

MARSHALL FOCH, military idol, is hailed in his illness as the savior of France, but this is not true; the savior of France was the private soldier.

This robin which was seen in Wisconsin the other day when the thermometer was below zero could write a wonderful testimonial for some underwear manufacturer.

One is not surprised to learn that the American copper output for last year exceeded that of the year before by 100,000 tons, for it took many more to line the stomachs of the booze customers of the land.

## Common Bridge Errors AND HOW TO CORRECT THEM

—BY W. W. WENTWORTH

(20. DECLARER SHOULD NOT FINESSE.)

North (Dummy)—  
♠ 8 7  
♦ 10 8 7 4 3  
♣ A K Q 4

West—  
Leads ♠ K

South (Declarer)—  
♠ A K J 10  
♦ A Q 5  
♣ 9 6  
♠ 8 6 3

The Bidding—South bids one spade. East passes. North bids two spades and all pass.

Deciding the Play—West leads king of hearts and Declarer takes trick with ace of hearts, plays another heart and ruffs it in Dummy. Declarer then leads 8 of spades from Dummy. Should Declarer finesse?

The Error—Declarer plays the jack of spades or 10 of spades. The Correct Method—Declarer should not finesse because if the finesse fails, a capable opponent will immediately lead a spade and the

losing heart will not be made. Without the finesse game is assured as you can ruff the remaining hearts.

The Principle—As a rule, do not finesse trumps when you hold losers that must be ruffed in Dummy.

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## Times Readers Voice Views

The name and address of the author must accompany every contribution, but on request will not be published. Letters not exceeding 300 words will receive preference.

Editor Times—Being an idle child (59 years) and nothing better to do than to attend to someone else's business, I am constrained to write you about "traffic laws" and other things pertaining.

My first thought is every other north and south street going through city traffic to be a one-way street; east and west cross streets the same.

To avoid accidents, provide towers and "watch guards" high up in them, with powerful field glasses and stop watches, so if a driver should for example start north on Meridian street running fifty miles an hour or over the limit by the first "tower guard," the guard could with his binoculars pick off his license plate number.

Then he could telephone the next guard above him to flash a red and green stop signal and send him in to drive a fine. In addition to this, if drivers run over the signal to stop, drop a chain or obstruction across the street and compel them to stop and show cause.

I think after a few reckless drivers went head-on into a strong chain stretched against them it would have most of them "city" broke.

Then, too, this tower system would be a quick and sure way to throw barriers around the city, which would be of great service in catching bank robbers and bandits. J. G.

## IT SEEMS TO ME

By HEYWOOD BROWN

"WILL you settle an argument for us please," writes R. V. T. "Were you or were you not at Martin Beck's theater on Jan. 11 at the performance of the 'Wings Over Europe'?"

"I really do hope that you weren't," George said that it was you, but if it was, Heywood, I am mighty disappointed in your looks. I will admit that the hat bore a faint resemblance to Emil, but I'm sure that it was only a coincidence. I didn't have the snappy, nonchalant, man-about-town air that any hat of yours should have with all its experience. And then, too, you weren't making Emil plop (assuming that it was you) which is a point in my favor.

"I don't know what to do about it. I hope—for your own sake—that this person wasn't you. But if he was not I'm no better off than before. I might suggest that you go round in public muttering 'IT SEEMS TO ME' or why not have your picture taken and wear a small replica of it on your coat lapel?"

"The rest is up to you. I've warned you that it would be better for you for this column to think of me as being you. Why, Mr. Brown, he looked all of 41 and although well-dressed, decidedly haggard. He was a shade too stout and not in the least like the dream, the courtly dream, your readers have of you."

"You might answer in code. 'Yes' will mean 'No' and vice versa. Or if you don't care to commit yourself even to settle an argument you might append a note to your column saying that you didn't get this letter."

## Not Guilty

SCORNING codes and subtleties I can answer with a single word—No. I mean the well-dressed, slightly stoutheaded, handsome stranger was not I. Come to think of it, my correspondent says nowhere in her note that he was handsome. I have merely added that to make it more difficult.

Possibly the whole matter should be allowed to drop with a simple denial. After all, Mr. H. of the Scripps-Howard column in various papers, has said several times that he liked the column better when it dealt with serious subjects and did not strain to achieve trivial and humorous effects. But the point raised by R. V. T. is serious to me.

Of course the various parts of the land are making fools of themselves. And naturally there is still prohibition to complain of. But surely this is not a subject demanding haste. One can write about the evils of prohibition ten days from now, or ten years. On the other hand I can't afford to waste words doubling walk about the two feet free and get mistaken for the writer of this column.