

The Indianapolis Times

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

Political Pardons

When the chairman of the political party in power becomes interested in the liberty of a Chicago gunman, holdup and thug, his value to his party should be drawing to a close.

There are generally other reasons than the warm glow of charity and human brotherhood that excites activity on the part of politicians in behalf of visiting gunmen.

The pardoning power has, very often, been a very fertile field of operations for politicians, especially if a susceptible governor could be persuaded to give clemency in a wholesale manner.

Last night at a meeting of the pardon board, the members denounced the "high pressure" methods used to obtain freedom for a man who is serving a sentence for the robbery of a local department store. The crime was desperate.

Ever since his sentence, powerful personages have enlisted themselves in his behalf. High priced and very respectable law firms have been busy. Especially active have been law firms with politicians as members.

It was openly stated that one of the lawyers now interested and presumably using the "high pressure" methods is the present state chairman of the Republican party.

Whenever a convict seeking a pardon hires other than the lawyer who defended him, there is a reason. And the reason for hiring lawyers prominent in politics is presumably their grip on officials, rather than their knowledge of law or ability as pleaders.

It will be remembered that a previous state chairman, no longer at liberty, interested himself in pardons and was quite successful in selling stock to relatives of those whom he set free.

When chairmen of parties are lawyers, it is perfectly ethical to take fees.

As long as the pardon board of the Governor refuse to listen to please for political pardons, there is no danger. Especially is there little danger when the board members openly point to the political character of the pleaders for clemency.

It might be a very good thing if it became generally known that any convict who hires a lawyer to plead his case would be very closely scrutinized.

Theoretically, no convict needs a lawyer. If he is worthy, the board should know. If unworthy, it has the facts.

Other states have had grave scandals over the pardoning power. This state has had too many other scandals to afford one from that cause.

Senate Investigations

Senate investigations cost more or less money and the senate should consider the cost before undertaking them.

This, notwithstanding the fact that the total cost of all such investigations in recent years really is insignificant compared to the money they have saved, or regained, for the government.

Complaints that the senate has become an investigating body instead of a legislature should be disregarded. Intelligent legislation requires investigation.

Those who would head off any investigation of the textile industry say the inquiry should be referred to the federal trade commission because the senate is not equipped to make the kind of study that is necessary.

By equipment is meant paid agents, accountants and other experts.

Congress is in danger of transferring too much of its authority to executive bureaus and commissions. One thing it must keep is its investigating power.

An Amazing Admission

When William S. Culbertson, member of the United States tariff commission, was named minister to Rumania by President Coolidge four years ago it was charged that the purpose was to get him off the commission, where his activities had not been pleasing to certain influential persons interested in high tariffs. The charge was denied.

But now it develops that it was true. We are indebted to Senator James E. Watson for verification. "I recommended to get rid of him," Watson said at a public committee meeting. "I recommended him for foreign service, the foreigner the better."

This is an amazing admission not because of Watson's recommendation of Coolidge's appointment, but because of Watson's effrontery in telling it at a time when the worst tariff holdup in history is being attempted.

"Scrapped at 65"

Old age pension surveys in a number of states reveal that of the 4,000,000 people over 65 years old one of every three will become dependent either upon charities or relatives, while one of every five will incur the stigma of pauperism.

What of these hundreds of thousands of our aged poor? What of these 20 out of every 100 who, through no fault of their own, reach the afternoon of life, only to pass into some crowded, insanitary, pride-killing poor farm?

Their number will increase, for while science is lengthening life, industry is making it cheaper. "Scrapped at 65" is an all-too-familiar axiom of American industry, which requires the swift and steady hand of youth to run its machines and requires it more exactly each year.

Charles Dickens and Elizabeth Barrett Browning voiced the "cry of the children" that loosed the shackles of child labor from the hands of the little ones. No one is here to voice a still more pitiable cry from the aged folks whose sickness, ill-luck, and the demands of speed-up machines are sending to the "industrial scrap heap."

This country, now the wealthiest in the world,

civilized land without a national old age pension system of some sort, and in China old age is as consecrated as here it is neglected. After three centuries of every other sort of progress, the United States still is satisfied with the Elizabethan poor law system of 1601.

The legislative season just closed has added four new states, including California, to the valiant little band of commonwealths flying the new old age pension banner. Yet while these four adopted pension laws, twenty-two legislatures rejected them. Isn't it about time Uncle Sam took the lead in pointing the way to a really civilized national policy toward the problem of the aged poor?

The Restricted Farm Board

President Hoover has hit upon a wise method for selecting the new federal farm board, which is the administration's contribution to solution of agricultural depression.

Instead of picking academic experts or farm politicians, or both, the President is choosing officials of farmers' associations.

At any rate such are the first three names announced by the White House: James C. Stone, president of the Burley Tobacco Growers' Association; C. B. Denman, president of the National Live Stock Producers' Association, and Carl Williams, vice-chairman of the National Council of Farmers' Cooperative Marketing Association.

This is a democratic method of selection, in addition to being politically expedient.

It is democratic because these men already had been elected by the farmers themselves as most representative and presumably most able to conduct the business of their respective organizations.

It is politically expedient because, if the farm board fails to bring in the millennium which some expect, the farmers can hardly blame the President for the failure of their own officials.

That the farm board, which is to administer the \$500,000,000 federal revolving loan fund through co-operatives and stabilization corporations, has an opportunity to eliminate some of the credit and marketing problems in that chaotic industry, few will doubt.

But that such machinery can get at the root evils is doubted by many competent to judge.

Worrying a Busy Man

A President has so many things to do of importance, it is a pity that he has to stop over so often to mend the pottery broken by the little boys in his own party.

There was a day when the Republican administration—and Democratic, too—could be forced into making a fool of itself fighting red bogies.

But that particular brand of insanity went out of fashion some years ago. Now whenever a political group starts a drive against the nonexistent red menace, the public at once assumes that there must be some dirty work afoot or those politicians would not be intent on throwing dust in its eyes.

That was the situation when the backers of a Republican organ, the National Republic, announced recently a campaign for funds to fight the alleged red menace—and, of course, to finance their magazine. These politicians used the names of such leaders as Dr. Herbert Work and Senator James Watson, who now deny any connection with the campaign.

But the Democrats were quick to pick up the absurdity and reply to it, charging that it was a ruse of the Republican old guard to obscure the high tariff battle.

So President Hoover, who naturally has no sympathy with the red bogey creators, now is doing his best to dissociate himself and his party from all responsibility for the foolishness of some misguided politicians who happen to bear the Republican name.

The telegraph companies are trying to "humanize" their service. But haven't the wires been full of human touches for years?

An Englishman writes from New Zealand to claim he discovered the saxophone. That's like calling somebody names over the telephone.

David Dietz on Science

Physical Basis of Life

No. 395

THE flowers that grow in your garden have so many points of similarity with your own body that biologists today feel justified in considering all living things as being constructed out of the same stuff.

Its technical name is protoplasm. Huxley, the great English scientist and popularizer of science, called it "the physical basis of life."

This does not minimize the difference between organisms. It doesn't take a scientist to observe that there are tremendous differences between a human being, a frog, and a head of cabbage.

No scientist tries to minimize these differences. But science has shown that these differences are in many ways, differences of degree rather than differences of kind.

This is particularly true when we get to the microscopic structure of organisms.

The microscope reveals that all organisms, both plants and animals, are built up out of little units or building blocks known technically as cells.

These cells differ in size, shape, and general appearance, but nevertheless, they have so many features in common that it is apparent they are fundamentally pretty much alike.

When we turn to the chemical analysis of the cells, we find that they differ to a very considerable extent, not only between organisms, but between different kinds of cells in the same organism.

But again, we find the differences are of degree and not of kind.

Fundamentally, the similarity is sufficient to justify the biologist in considering all organisms as being formed from the same chemical mixture and in giving a single name to all living material.

We find a third point of resemblance between all living material in the matter of functions.

There are certain functions, growth, reproduction, metabolism, response to stimuli, and so on, which characterize all living material.

The reader may feel that at this point, perhaps, we should define "life." That, alas, no one is able to do.

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

A New Alignment Is Developing Against French Aggressiveness, England, Germany and France Are Being Driven Closer Together.

THE tenth anniversary of peace finds Germany denouncing the treaty of Versailles, denying responsibility for the war and refusing to continue a law which forbids the kaiser to come back.

The Echo de Paris, influential French journal, blames the British labor victory for such an attitude.

"The French government of today and the French governments to follow," says this newspaper, "will be obliged to unite against those who wish to overthrow all the conservative forces on the continent."

One need not be a prophet to realize that a new alignment is developing with French aggressiveness as the motivating force. Slowly, but inevitably, England, Germany and Russia are being driven closer together, in spite of their divergent aims and clashing theories.

We Still Are Human

BUT who cares to speculate on such a situation, with Ambassador Davies declining to array himself in knee pants and a Scotch golf club trying to get Ramsay MacDonald back into its roster?

Whether we have gone sex mad, as Rabinadrath Tagore declares, we still prefer human interest stories to the problems of statecraft.

For one thing, they are much easier to understand. For another, we are human.

The News of Interest

BISHOP CANNON is found to have made a stock transaction recorded on Sunday: Czechoslovakia is in a row over the teaching of evolution; a New York theater doorman is arrested for making announcements on the sidewalk; a New Jersey mother of six will ask the court to impose birth control on her husband by injunction; the Republicans in Maine are in a turmoil over the wetness of Senator Gould; all of which is mighty interesting, and not without reason.

Such items come close home, they get right down where we live. And what is better than all else, they require little study or thinking.

Stunts Go Good

NOT that we are opposed to study or thinking, but that most of us have enough of it in connection with our own personal affairs.

Unless the news touches our personal affairs, we prefer what is interesting to what is serious.

That is one reason why we pay more attention to stunt flying than to the constructive side of aviation, why we had rather read about a trans-Atlantic hop than a merger of airplane manufacturers.

Enthralled by Drama

THREE men dive to their death in Egg Harbor, Viola Gentry is injured, while her co-pilot is killed, and Captain Hawks flies from New York to Los Angeles in nineteen hours and back in seventeen hours. The drama of it enthralled us, the dare-devil spirit, the gamble with fate.

The bigger, surer play of engineer, efficiency sharp and capitalist seems not only tame by comparison, but too complex and involved.

Speeding Up Travel

WRIGHT and Curtiss combine, taking in eight other companies by way of good measure, forming a \$70,000,000 concern and giving aviation the benefit of organized, scientific management.

Railroads and airplane companies working in conjunction have already started on transcontinental service. Two more will be started within ten days.

The man in a hurry can now go from coast to coast in forty-eight hours.

"Ere long the time will be reduced to thirty-six. When the railroads are eliminated, as they will be, and an all-air route is established, it will be reduced to twenty-four, if not less.

Where Will It End?

ONE wonders where the craze for speed and power will end. Apparently, each new device calls for a greater degree of mechanized life, and in that lies the real danger.

For the last few years, we have tried to imagine that flying was a matter of individual effort, courage and skill, that all it needed was a race of Lindberghs.

That, more than anything else, is what has held it back.

Aviation, like the auto, demands organized production, organized distribution. Unlike the auto, it seems to demand organized operation.

Personal Liberty

SOCIETY, politics, even government itself, are becoming subordinate to mechanical power. Men are being swept into one kind of organization or another, whether they want it or not.

Where we used to regard personal liberty as a matter of law, we now behold it as a matter of industry, of factory whistles, boards of directors, trade unions and time tables.

At present, we can see little but the advantage of system and discipline. Tomorrow, or the day after, we shall face their tyranny.

300 AT WET CONGRESS

World Anti-Prohibition Delegates Drink Toasts With Wines.

By United Press
COPENHAGEN, June 29.—Drinking their toasts with eleven different wines, 300 delegates to the International Anti-Prohibition congress reaffirmed their conviction that prohibition legislation is harmful and adjourned their three-day

What! Another One?



HEALTH IN HOT WEATHER

Be Sure Swimming Pools Are Sanitary

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN,
Editorial Journal of the American Medical Association and of the American Health Magazine.

THERE are in the United States at least 5,000 indoor swimming pools and no one knows how many beaches there are along the shore of lakes, rivers and the ocean. In 1900 there were said to be only sixty-seven swimming pools in the country.

This has brought about problems of sanitation of these places, since the human contacts take place tend to spread bacteria from one person to another, and in this way to spread disease.

Swimming pools are merely refilled from streams near which they are located and the water which is let into the pool is muddy and contains sewage. In others, pure water is let in, but it is used over and over again because of the expense of control and eventually becomes exceedingly foul.

The bather who wants to be safe

will find out just how the water that comes into the pool is secured and what is done to keep it safe.

Recently, I. M. Glace, district engineer of the Pennsylvania state department of health, has surveyed conditions relating to pools in various places and has called attention to the excellent regulations which govern the situation in Pennsylvania.

The chief diseases that are transmitted through swimming pools are inflammations of the eye, boils and infections in the ear, chronic inflammations of the nose and sinuses, sore throat, various skin infections and infections of the intestines with dysentery.

It is important, in the prevention of such diseases, that all swimmers be free from visible acute diseases at the time they enter the pool, that there be a shower bath for each forty bathers, and adequate comfort facilities for men and women, and that it be insisted that the

showers and other facilities be used regularly by those who patronize the pool.

There must be adequate dressing rooms, guard rails, life guards, bathing suits and provisions for boiling them.

The drinking water must be controlled and bathers must co-operate thoroughly in observing the regulations.

The common use of all drinking cups, towels, combs, hair brushes and other toilet articles should be strictly prohibited.

It is most important that the water be clear, comparatively colorless and odorless and that chemical or other disinfecting methods be constantly maintained to be sure that the water in the pool is safe.

If the swimming pool happens to be in a free flowing stream not contaminated or in a beach in which the water changes regularly, chemical disinfection may not be as important as under wholly artificial conditions.

IT SEEMS TO ME By HEYWOOD BROWN

Ideals and opinions expressed in this column are those of one of America's most interesting writers, and are presented without regard to their agreement or disagreement with the editorial attitude of this paper.—The Editor.

WHEN one considers humanity in the mass there is probably no question that the telephone is a beneficent invention. Our forefathers could not call up the delicatessen store to say, "please send half a dozen ginger ales and a cake of ice."

Only 100 years ago the man or woman who made an engagement had to keep it, since it was impossible to telephone at the last minute hoarsely. "I'm so sorry, but the doctor thinks it looks like tonsillitis."

Vital things like courtship and marriage have been aided and abetted by the phone. The whole theory that long engagements are necessarily bad was only true in the days before wires were laid. When a man had to go and see his girl every night it was inevitable that they should grow sick to death of each other. But surely it is no trouble at all to jiggle a hook and "ferret" a "How are you baby?" and with this slight service the average swain manages to retain the franchise.

Excuses

ONE of the reasons why I fail to get out a better column is the amount of time I give over to debating with people as to whether or not I'm out and when I will be in.

Naturally there is no intention to suggest that the world is heating a pathway to this door as it housed a mousetrap-maker. Three or four calls in an afternoon are plenty to frazzle the nerves of a sensitive soul who has work to do and is three hours late in getting at it.

Bootleggers, bond salesmen and charity workers are all telephone addicts and the strain of saying "no" to "no public utilities" and "no contribution" takes a lot of energy out of any creative artist or columnist.

Persistent are the folks who use the wire. It never is enough to say, "he isn't in." They always want to know, "when will he be home?" I don't see why I should be supposed to know that. I mean after I've explained, "this is the butler."

Possibly I might be more ruthless over the phone if I could master

some dialect. "Beggara me no ban spika zee English" might serve to stop them.

The trouble is that I never can keep the conversation all in the same dialect. My German accent fades into cockney and after that a bit of Scotch creeps in. This merely serves to arouse the curiosity of the party on the other end of the line. He gets the impression that a whole staff of servants is on the wire and that some of them must have information and intelligence.

Curiosity

OF course, one good way to avoid telephone interruptions when pressed for time upon the job is to sit tight and let the blame thing ring.

This is far beyond my capacity. The very "clang, clang" of the bell wears down my sales resistance after a few minutes.

More than that, an overwhelming curiosity draws me to find out who it is that's calling. Always the message fails to bring about any complete wish fulfillment. The man on the other end of the line actually wants Gil's drug store. Or somebody says that the bill is already overdue. And yet there is a romantic potentiality about every phone call so that its insistent nudge may never be denied.

This may be opportunity itself which comes rap, rap and buckety through the stillness. There is one particular fantasy in my mind which makes it wholly impossible for me ever to neglect a telephone call. I've acted it over in my mind a score of times.

"Heywood Brown?" "This is Brown."

Mr. Brown, I am Charles Linick of the firm of Linick & Flushing. We are the legal representatives of Mr. Horace Tumpkin of whose death you may have read in the paper last Wednesday.

"I didn't happen to see it."

"Never mind. That's of no consequence. Mr. Tumpkin, who was our client, until last Wednesday, was a man of considerable wealth. But eccentric. Oh, very eccentric. We've just had his will probated, or whatever you call it, and it seems that he has left you \$10,000,000."

"This is Brown."

We do not inherit our character, temperament, and special abilities. We are forced upon us by our parents.—John B. Watson. (Liberty.)

When laws are just and wise, they ought to be obeyed and are likely to be; but when they are not, they open very genuine problems in ethics; for the decent citizen—James Thurgood Adams. (Forum.)

REASON

By Frederick Landis

The Fellow Who Calles "Near-Beer" Is a Poor Judge of Distance

THIS Chicago gentleman laughed so hard at a joke he fell off his porch and fractured his skull, probably was laughing this proposition to help the far by increasing the duties on lum cement and window glass.

Strongheart, famous police dog motion pictures is dead. He was a great performer, but fame rested on the fact that he was the only screen artist who never has been divorced.

Yale university made a perfect horrible mistake the other day when it conferred the degree of doctor of laws on Attorney-General Mitchell, who knows something about law.

President Hoover shook hands with 1,176 visiting ladies and gentlemen the other day.

Mr. Hoover is in luck that he do not greet each other by rubbing noses as they do in the islands of the sea.

The people of Iowa are excited to fear near-beer will be taken away from them, but the fellow that call it "near-beer" is a very poor judge of distance.

THE insanity experts and gland feelers are getting ready to festoon the court room at Columbus, O., with Latin phrases when the Snook murder case opens.

One good vigilance committee worth more than all the crime courts in America!

What the farmer really needs not a higher tariff, nor a market system, but a law which will compel all automobiles to eat corn.

In his last magazine article, M. Coolidge says that the duties of the presidency are appalling, but according to reports, he hopes to be expelled again in 1932.

The United States senate should have waited to install this machinery to reduce the amount of hot air for it may not be necessary.

Tom Hefin may not be renominated.

Al Shaw of Chicago was fine \$5 for driving through Gary at the rate of fifteen miles an hour.

If he had gone through that slowly on election day they would have voted him fifteen or twenty times.



MAGNA CHARTA

THE Magna Charta, or the Great Charter, the name of the famous charter of liberties granted by King John to the English people, was signed 714 years ago today, June 29, 1215.

The causes which led to the grant, briefly, are to be found in the conditions of the times, the increasing insularity of the English barons, the substitution of an unpopular for a popular king and the unprecedented demands for money, coupled with defeats of the English army abroad.

Smarting under King John's enormous demands for money, the northern English barons renounced their allegiance to the king and marched toward London.

After several futile attempts to delay the crisis the king, promising to assent to the barons' demands, agreed to meet them in a meadow between Staines and Windsor, called Runnymede.

The magnate contents presented their demands in a document of forty-eight articles. The articles were converted into a charter and signed by King John, providing for various civil and religious liberties and aimed to eliminate the king's cheating and oppression of the English people.

Although in later years its importance enormously was magnified, the charter differed only in degree, not in kind, from other charters granted by the Norman and early Plantagenet kings.

REALTY PICNIC JULY 10

Annual Outing of City Board to Be Held at Walnut Gardens.

Annual picnic of the Indianapolis Real Estate Board will be held Wednesday afternoon and night July 10, at Walnut Gardens. Frank Wooling, social affairs chairman, has announced. Sports and contests in the afternoon will be followed by a chicken dinner and dancing in the evening.

Picnic subcommittees are: Refreshments, Wooling and A. H. Graves;