



# The Indianapolis Times

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

## Politics and Judges

Now comes the report that the two senators from this state have agreed on a candidate whom they will recommend to the President for membership on the federal court of appeals.

They may have chosen a very able man. He may be qualified to fill the place and add knowledge and dignity and confidence to the court.

But the reasons for the agreement suggest that the senators have a very low ideal of the courts, and especially of these higher courts.

Back of the sponsorship of one senator is said to be a friendship of many years. Back of the agreement of the junior senator is the explanation that he was driven to assent by the knowledge that he had no chance to place his own partner in the place and that the other outstanding candidate for recognition was the partner of Arthur Gilloom, whose candidacy against him in the primaries was not only vigorous but memorable for its denunciation and exposure.

So the senators get a chance to pay debts.

One of friendship and one of vengeance. Such a genesis is not likely to add greatly to the confidence of the people in the purity of the courts and their freedom from entanglements of partisan politics.

The bar association of this state is somewhat alarmed at the situation as it relates to elective judges. They have found that the courts, including those of higher authority, no longer command universal respect. They know that the delays in decisions, the failure of criminal enforcement, the technical blockades to justice in civil matters, have focused public attention upon the manner in which the judges are selected.

They are also convinced that the judiciary has fallen foul of party politics and that the judgeships are no longer distributed on merit, but are the subject of the same bickering bargains that go with the election of councilmen and Governors.

The bandage is quite likely to slip from the eye of Justice and her scales dip when candidates trade with bosses for places on the bench. Such at least is the suggested belief of the lawyers when they solemnly appoint committee to make a drive for better judges.

If politics are to be divorced from our judiciary, the separation should be complete and final. One way might be a constitutional amendment providing for separate elections with no party designations.

The only other alternative is to drive out of business those politicians who have so low an ideal of courts as to use their power to influence them. That may be the more direct route.

## The French Will Pay

The French finally have decided to pay their debt to us. This is a fortunate thing. It will remove a source of irritation between the two countries which has been productive of much ill will. The French have accused us of being a Shylock among nations. We have accused them of seeking to dodge their just debts, and of being ungrateful for our aid in the World war.

The chamber of deputies approved the Mellon-Berenger agreement after eleven days of debate, during which Premier Poincare made a brilliant fight for ratification. He spoke for thirty-seven hours and exhausted himself.

Foreign Minister Aristide Briand led the fight in its last hours, when Poincare was unable to be present. The government's victory was by a narrow margin of eight votes. The French senate also must approve the pact, but little difficulty is expected there, since the government has a comfortable majority in the upper house.

The text of the bill, as approved by the chamber, authorizes the president of France to ratify the Mellon-Berenger agreement. Efforts to attach clauses making the payments contingent on the receipt of reparations from Germany were defeated.

The American house of representatives has ratified the settlement, but the senate refused to act in advance of acceptance by France. It is unlikely that the administration will encounter difficulty in getting the approval of the senate, which is necessary to make the agreement operative.

The agreement as negotiated calls for payment of a principal of \$4,025,000,000 in sixty-two annual payments. The \$400,000,000 due this government on Aug. 1 for war supplies sold to France is included in the general debt. Congress had empowered the President to delay this payment if in the meantime the debt agreement was approved.

The French have complained at the terms insisted upon by America. They are in reality lenient, and could not have been much more so unless the debt were cancelled, which the American people never would have consented to.

Senators have said the settlement was on the basis of 50 cents on the dollar. Secretary Mellon has figured that the "present worth" of the debt on a 5 per cent interest basis is only \$1,681,369,000. Since the debt prior to the funding agreement was \$4,230,777,000, the "present worth" represents a cancellation of \$2,549,408,000 or 60.25 per cent of the debt.

Surely this is about as far as the American tax-payers who put up their billions to support the war should be expected to go.

It is to be hoped that the French during the long period they are required to pay money to this country do not find the burden irksome. There no doubt will be complaints, but the feeling between the two countries should be much better than if payment were delayed longer.

## A Professor Gets the Facts

Some college professors have been paid fancy salaries to spread propaganda for the private interests and have been exposed by the federal trade commission. Professor William E. Mosher of Syracuse is not one of these. Mosher, instead, has conducted a survey to obtain the facts.

In a newly published book entitled "Electrical Utilities," Mosher attempts to give the plain, unvarnished truth about the power industry.

The truth, as Mosher sees it, is that a real crisis exists, that state control has broken down because of interstate monopolies, and that unless something is done the country will find itself at the mercy of powerful holding companies beyond reach of the law.

Mosher lists the suggestions that have been offered to save the people. These include:

Federal regulation and control of interstate transmission of power.

Public competition by government operation of Muscle Shoals, Boulder Dam and the St. Lawrence river hydro-electric resources.

Stricter state and federal laws controlling the industry.

Complete government operation of all power companies.

Forcing power companies to bind themselves by federal or state contracts to keep rates at reasonable levels.

Mosher says that government operation is a success in Canada and gives rate comparisons with American cities, proving electricity is sold more cheaply there. He believes, if necessary, government operation can be made a success in this country.

Mosher further says power rates in this country can not come down as long as secret financing methods are tolerated and power companies allowed to audit their own books and fix their own systems of valuation.

This newspaper for years has been telling its readers what Professor Mosher now says in his book. Like the professor, it has sought to disregard the propaganda and obtain the facts. Once these facts generally are realized, the domination of the private power combines will be broken and the people will enjoy the advantages of cheap power they so rightly deserve.

## Going Up

Predictions that the final accounting would show largely increased government expenditures during the fiscal year ended June 30 are borne out in figures just released by the treasury.

Total expenses chargeable against ordinary receipts were \$3,848,463,189, an increase of \$204,943,519. All departments of the government spent more, the largest increases being \$33,226,000 for the navy and \$26,361,000 for the army. The postal deficit was \$137,790,000, an increase of \$105,433,000.

It is expected that similar increases will be shown during the current fiscal year. The tendency of government costs is definitely on the upgrade, and has been for several years.

It is unlikely that this tendency can be checked at least for some years to come. The government is committed to huge expenditures for flood control, farm relief, aviation, cruiser building, public buildings, inland waterways and other projects for which money must be supplied.

There was a surplus of \$185,000,000 for the fiscal year, despite the larger expenditures, due principally to greater income tax payments from profits on stock exchange transactions. So Uncle Sam is solvent and has money in the bank.

It is not surprising, however, that President Hoover has discouraged talk of further tax reductions at this time.

Cotton growers are still trying to induce women to wear more cotton. Why don't they try devising some warm garment for summer and a chilly costume for winter?

David Dietz on Science

## Flower and Universe

No. 411

SOMETIMES we are prone to overlook the importance of the plant kingdom. Yet animal life would be impossible if it were not for plants.

Professor E. N. Transeau of Ohio State university, sums up the importance of plants under five headings. He writes:

"First. Plants furnish all the food there is in the world. Of all living beings, green plants alone are able to organize the simple materials found in the air, water, and soil

into the complex substances which all plants and animals must have for food.

"Second. By far the greater part of all the fabrics we use in the making of clothing is woven out of cotton, linen and other plant fibers; and wool and silk come from animals that eat feed on plants.

"Third. The trees supply the lumber that is used for the construction of most houses. Wood is used also in the manufacture of paper and in countless other ways.

"Fourth. Most houses are heated in winter by the burning of wood, coal or gas. When we burn wood, we release the great store of energy which the tree obtained from the sunlight during its lifetime. When we burn coal, petroleum, or natural gas we release energy which plants accumulated from the sunlight of millions of years ago.

"Fifth. Certain small plants have other and quite different relations to human beings, and their activities are of the greatest consequence to man. These particular plants, the bacteria, are so minute that they can be seen only by use of the microscope."

Here are five reasons why everyone should be interested in the science of botany. There are others, of course. One is that nature is beautiful and that our appreciation of nature increases with our understanding.

We understand a flower completely, we would understand the universe completely. Tennyson, the great poet, wrote:

"Flower in the crannies wall,  
I pluck you out of the crannies,  
I hold you here, root and all, in my hand.  
Little flower—but if I could understand  
What you are, root and all, and all in all,  
I should know what God and man is."

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## M. E. Tracy SAYS:

Ten Years of Preaching, Flag-Waving and Theorizing Have Left Russia Practically Without a Friend.

OLD "Peppersass" simply refused to be stuck up on a pedestal. Instead, she jarred something loose just before it was too late, ran off the track, rolled down the side of Mt. Washington, and blew up.

It was a foolish performance at best. The idea of dragging out a sixty-year-old, wood-burning engine to make such a climb, One man was killed and three hurt.

No doubt, those who escaped misfortune had an interesting time, but isn't there tragedy enough on the serious side of life, without inviting it for purposes of ceremony?

Laugh Doesn't Hurt

PROFESSOR GODDARD'S rocket also blew up, which caused a good laugh without hurting any one.

But let's not take it all out in laughter. A new type of rocket promises far more than an old type of engine, even if it never hits the moon.

There is a good deal between us and the moon that we know practically nothing about.

Rockets, if equipped with the proper instruments, might tell us something.

At all events, the Smithsonian Institution is willing to spend some money on the experiment.

The Wheat Problem

"WHEAT Slump Raises Flour Price," reads headline in the New York Times. "London bread cost goes up as reports show conditions are serious in Canada."

In the very next column another headline announces that "Lack of Market Piles Up Wheat," and that the rail embargo in Galveston is caused "by port congestion as foreign demand falls."

Evidently, the wires got crossed somewhere, but not so evidently in the news room.

Waiting for Other Fellow

THE wheat market has become a rather large and complicated affair. For a short time, at least, it entirely is possible to have an abundance of wheat with high prices, or a scarcity of it with low prices.

Just now European buyers are made hesitant by bad reports from Canada, while American sellers are made anxious to unload.

Bread goes up in London, while elevators overflow in Galveston.

Such a situation can not last, but every one is waiting for the other fellow to crash the gate.

Dream of the 'Reds'

AS if knowledge of crop conditions in Canada and lack of knowledge of them in the United States were not enough, a strike breaks out in Argentina, which threatens to tie up not only shipping but many other lines.

The strikers have been granted all they asked, but what they asked does not seem to be what they want. This paradox becomes clearer when one realizes that communists are supposed to be in control.

Communists want nothing so much as disorder and commotion. Whether it's a strike in Argentina, a demonstration against the Boy Scouts in New York, or a move for control of some oriental state, their predominating idea remains the same.

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