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

Doubtful Policies

Once more the state highway commission resents itself in an attitude that suggests that the sooner Governor Leslie, either by pressure or time limitation, secures a new road, the better it will be for the public.

This time the members, or the director, announces that the low bids on cement are to be overlooked and the contract awarded to concerns which use only coal mined in this state.

The board has gone through the formalities of obtaining bids, as required by law. The announcement says that the unsuccessful bidders will reduce their prices to meet that of the low bidder and promise to buy coal in Indiana.

That suggests that the interests which are to receive the contract tried to get a price that was more than fair when they submitted their offers and are hardly in a position to ask for any special favors.

The result of giving contracts to higher bidders can only be an ultimate burden. If the word goes out that the state of Indiana does not follow usual business practices—and the law—in giving contracts to the low bidders, business men will no longer take the trouble to submit bids. That would be a very fine situation for a board wishing to favor its friends. It would relieve them of embarrassment in explaining their actions. But it would cost the people heavily.

Of course, there is nothing new in the handling of cement purchases, except that the amount of money involved runs into many thousands of dollars. It is the largest single purchase made by the state for any purpose whatever. The difference of a few cents on a barrel runs into a sizeable sum.

The board has not always been so kind to home industries.

If the next legislature should, happily, be set free from the clutch of machine politics, it could do worse than look into the building of roads and the expenditure of the twenty millions of dollars a year.

It could very easily remove the board, if it desired, from temptation to doubtful practices in the purchase of cement by establishing a state-owned plant to produce this material for the highways.

But until that is done, the least the people can demand is that the contracts go to the lowest and not the highest bidders.

The Senate and Prosperity

There is close conjunction between the special session of congress adjourning today in the business situation. But it is not the connection imagined by such critics as Kent, the New York banker, and Babson, the stock market soothsayer. To blame congress for the stock speculation orgy is silly, coming from any source; it is worse than absurd when it comes from a Wall Street banker.

Now that the speculators have had their fling, the country can thank congress—or rather the progressives—for maintaining one of the factors of business prosperity.

As the President has pointed out repeatedly, industrial prosperity depends on keeping up our export trade. If we lose that outlet for our 10 per cent production surplus, factories will close and millions will walk the streets without work.

The strain upon our business structure resulting from the Wall Street deflation, and the necessity for careful planning to preserve prosperity, is shown by the present Hoover conferences with commercial leaders. Those conferences are helpful; already they promise increased production and employment.

But nothing that the Hoover conferences can do, nor anything else, will avail us if our overseas markets are shut off by foreign retaliation against a higher American tariff wall excluding their products.

That is where congress comes in. Despite the warnings of economists, despite the campaign pledges of President Hoover and the Republican party, the Republican-controlled house passed a higher tariff bill, which brought threats of retaliation from about thirty foreign countries.

The same finance committee, representing the same G. O. P. old guard which dominates the house, concurred in that high tariff bill.

At that point senate progressives intervened. By blocking the tariff bill, through coalition with a Democratic group, the progressives temporarily have saved our foreign trade at a moment when a falling off in orders would have serious consequences for the entire country.

For that service, and for the lobbying revelations, and for uncovering the armament propagandists who helped wreck the Geneva naval conference and threatened the coming London conference, the nation is indebted chiefly to the senate progressives.

Indian Board Reports

The fact that the board of Indian commissioners has endorsed the policies of Secretary Wilbur and the heads of the Indian bureau must be gratifying to the latter.

It is likewise gratifying to the public to know that the board is in harmony with the acts of the present administration, even though it has in the past shown a disposition to endorse the acts of whatever administration happened to be in charge of the Indian bureau.

The board scarcely could have acted otherwise in this instance with public opinion approving the Wilbur course as strongly as it has.

The sixth annual report of the commissioners makes numerous recommendations for betterments in the organization and personnel of the Indian service, some of which Wilbur effectively has already advocated.

Just how valuable the report will be depends on

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

Most People Find It Easier to Excuse the Offense for Which Sinclair Was Sent to Jail Than the One for Which He was Not Punished.

THAT "seeing is believing" may be a sound doctrine, but believing no longer can be confined to seeing.

The human eye can not see a cannon ball, but the camera can. Not only that, but the camera can record the antics of a stick of dynamite while it is exploding.

Motion pictures of the performance actually have been taken by the bureau of mines at its laboratories in Bruceton, Pa.

The stick of dynamite is placed behind a narrow slot in a piece of armor plate, and is photographed by its own light on a reel of rapidly moving film.

The detonation wave, we are informed, travels at the rate of four miles a second, or sufficiently fast to circle the globe in less than two hours.

But simply to call Ford's action unexpected and courageous would be to miss the point. It is more than that. It is shrewdly intelligent.

If prosperity is to be maintained, production must be maintained. And production can not be maintained unless consumption is kept at a high level. The only way to keep up consumption, that is the purchasing power of the great masses of the people, is to keep up high wages and to raise wages that are low.

That used to be a new and heretical doctrine, when Ford first reached it. But during the last seven years it has come to be accepted generally by most business men of the country and by government officials, from presidents down.

There thus is nothing very surprising about Ford's action when it is analyzed—nothing, that is, except that he has the intelligence to practice in a time of emergency what every one has been preaching during the fat years.

Roger Babson accuses the senate of wasting time, and the senate proves it by talking about him for an hour or so.

Borah, Walsh, Heflin et al. drop the nation's business to explain not only that Mr. Babson is wrong in this particular instance, but generally. If he is, why all the tumult, and if he isn't, what good can the tumult do?

Sinclair Speaks Piece

HARRY F. CINCLAIR thinks that the imprisonment imposed upon him was "in violation of common sense and common decency."

"I have paid the penalty without complaint," he says, "and have made no personal appeal for sympathy."

"I do not need sympathy, but I do need and seek the respect to which I am entitled as a man of honor and integrity who fully recognizes his obligations to respect the statute law, the rules of the courts, and the ethical rules of the profession."

That would sound fine if it had not been for Teapot Dome.

Most people find it much easier to excuse the offense for which Sinclair was sent to jail than that for which he was not punished.

An Ohio woman, suing for divorce, charged her husband was an egoist. For your information, that's what a man is when he takes away the bid from his wife in a bridge game.

It is reported Colonel Lindbergh plans to buy Anne a sport model monoplane. That would be a big saving on fenders, anyway.

A good-natured man is one who can start a fire in the furnace in the morning without losing his soul.

REASON By FREDERICK LANDIS

THOSE disposed to blame President Hoover for lack of leadership because he has not been able to bring warring senatorial factions together, should remember that we have had but one President since the Civil war able to effect such harmony, and he was William McKinley.

On one way or another, the judicial system has walled itself off from the public, created the impression that it is a separate institution, and developed a feeling of fear and embarrassment in those whom it was designed to serve.

All down the line from Lincoln to Hoover, with this one exception, our Presidents have been unable to wave the olive branch, but many of them have waved the red flag.

McKinley's amiable heart and his long experience in congress equipped him for the role of peace maker and those who entered his presence in anger went away smiling.

For instance, one day the papers said McKinley was about to appoint Philander C. Knox of Pennsylvania to the position of attorney-general, whereupon one of the Republican leaders of the Keystone state went to McKinley, protesting because Knox had been opposed to him in a law suit and had won it, costing the political leader something like a million dollars.

McKinley heard him through and then said that he was sorry the leader had lost so much money, but that when it came to selecting an attorney-general for the whole country, he wanted the lawyer who won cases, not the one who lost them.

Then the President switched the conversation to some theme of mutual interest, after which the political leader went away feeling he had spent an enjoyable morning.

Babe Ruth demands \$85,000 for his services next year, which is \$10,000 more than we pay the President of the United States, but then Ruth can knock the ball over the fence, which Mr. Hoover's longest hit is the Texas leaguer he knocked in the last presidential campaign.

All the ladies and gentlemen who have been defeated by the stock market's collapse are in a position to sympathize with the farmer, for he was defeated immediately after the war and he has been ever since.

THE prince of Wales has declared for long skirts because that will help the textile manufacturers and now it is up to him to come out strongly for bustles to bring prosperity to the excelsior manufacturers.

Senator Copeland fears that our statesmen are going to ruin their health by over-work and worry about legislation and so he advocates a reduction of hours.

Having seen quite a little of the congressional end of it, we say to you that the average man, engaged in keeping a family and fighting the wolf, works harder and worries more than all the senators in Washington.

Senator Copeland fears that our statesmen are going to ruin their health by over-work and worry about legislation and so he advocates a reduction of hours.

Merrily we roll along.

Say It With Stamps



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Scarlet Fever Antitoxin Value Proved

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

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

SIX years have passed since Doctors George F. and Gladys Henry Dicks proved that the germ of scarlet fever exercises its effects on the human body through development of a toxin or poison which produces the general illness, the nausea and the rash.

When the person recovers from the disease it is because he develops in his body an antitoxin which opposes this poison or because scientific medicine injects into his body or provides him otherwise with antitoxin to overcome the disease.

As a result of their fundamental discovery, the Dicks were able to develop also a method of identifying the germ that causes scarlet fever—a skin test which shows whether or not a person could resist the disease, a method of inoculating people against the disease and antitoxin which could be injected into patients for the treatment of the disease and also for its prevention.

They recently have collected the results of observations made on 32,440 people on whom skin tests for scarlet fever have been made and on 11,584 people who were found in the skin tests to be likely to catch the disease when exposed and who therefore were given graduated doses of the scarlet fever toxin or small doses of the antitoxin to aid them in resisting scarlet fever.

All of these people were exposed to scarlet fever in one or more epidemics. The complete study indicates that inoculation against scarlet fever is a safe procedure.

Of 12,775 people inoculated, there was no evidence of harm in any case.

Among the 11,584 susceptible people immunized against scarlet fever in institutions where it was epidemic, there was not one case of scarlet fever subsequently.

One thousand one hundred ninety-one nurses and interns who worked in hospitals for people with contagious diseases were immunized against scarlet fever before they began work, were constantly exposed to scarlet fever during their work, but none of them contracted the disease.

As a result of their study of the use of scarlet fever antitoxin, the Dicks are convinced that its early use shortens the duration of the disease, reduces the number and the severity of the complications.

They have had to work in relation to the industry upon which their researches bear, and many receive extra endowments from the industry for doing special researches for it.

The laboratory also may sell its invention to the state. The physico-technical institute has sold a radio-telephone invention to the state, and is buying 1,000,000-volt high-tension laboratory equipment with the money.

The correspondent expresses the opinion that in general scientific research is well supported in Russia. The endowments, he says, are probably larger in relation to the superfluous wealth than in any other country.

Power

THE scientific program of the Soviet government is interlocked with a great industrial scheme, which the Guardian correspondent says is not sufficiently well known in England. It is equally unknown in this country.

The large developments in departments of technical physics hinge on the five-year industrialization plan," he writes.

"The Soviet is building an experimental electrical institute in Moscow which will cost, I am told, 1,500,000 pounds (\$7,500,000) for the first installment."

His conclusion is one which is interesting though it is quite possible that many will disagree with it sharply.

Fate is wedded wholly to ironic finales. Against the big blue team, Harvard seems weak and pitiful. How can it lose?

It isn't possible, unless all the legends from the beginning of time were conceived by liars.

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SCIENCE

By DAVID DIETZ

Russia Has Undertaken a Program of Scientific Research That May Make It the Most Powerful Country in the World.

SOVIET RUSSIA, with its passion for organization on a national scale, has subjected the field of science to much the same treatment it gave industry.

Scientific men in this and other countries are watching with interest to see what the future of science will be in Russia.

The most comprehensive survey of science in Russia yet made by a journalist has just been completed by the scientific correspondent of the Manchester Guardian.

The Guardian man states that he was "the first scientific journalist since the war to tour Moscow and Leningrad laboratories systematically." This correspondent believes that the Soviet program of science may make it the most powerful country in the world.

He writes: "Scientific work in Soviet Russia is subject to social planning. This is natural, because all endowments for research come ultimately from the state.

"The institutions for the study of various branches of science have been sorted out and placed in contact with those social institutions to which they naturally are related.

"For instance, all institutions in the union for the study of applied botany come under the department of applied botany and are related to the state department of agriculture.

"The thousand workers of applied botany work within one planned scheme. Unnecessary overlapping can be reduced under this centralization and the range of experimentation can be greatly increased, because everybody knows what his particular job is, and knows that, in general, it is different from every one else's."

Inventions

THE Guardian correspondent speaks highly of the achievements of this plan in certain lines of research.

"The indexes and herbaria in the department of applied botany at Leningrad are already a great achievement," he writes.

"The information on every kind of cultivated plant is filed there."

He throws an interesting sidelight on conditions in Russia by adding that the indexes are housed in the former Italian embassy and a disused church, adding "The state of repair of these buildings is no indication of the importance and quality of the scientific work done within."

An interesting state of affairs exists in the relation in which their researches bear, and many receive extra endowments from the industry for doing special researches for it.

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