



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 West Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Price in Marion County, 2 cents a copy; elsewhere, 3 cents delivered by carrier, 12 cents a week.

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TUESDAY, DEC. 3, 1929.

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"

Search the Closets

Intense cold brings with it inevitable suffering. The winter always comes upon many who are unprepared through some mischance of fate, to meet its rigors.

In this city and in every large city there are men and women and children who do not have the proper clothing to guard against its blasts. There are families unable to purchase the shoes and the coats that are needed for their little broods. There are men who will shiver as they walk to work.

There are also hundreds of homes in which warm clothing will be unused. The fashions have changed. Those who own them may have tired of the color of coats and, able to afford a change, have purchased new ones.

This might be a good time to get in touch with the officers of organizations which make it a business to know those in need. It is a pity that many must suffer while warm clothing is feeding moths.

There are a number of agencies that know cases of need and can use these garments in a way that will make life tolerable and comfortable for those who suffer for their lack.

This might be a good day to search the closets and do a little telephoning.

Something New

The investigation by the city council of the purchase of an automobile for the police department has resulted in adding something new to the history of public affairs.

It was discovered that the law had been evaded by dividing the requisition into two parts—and that the law had saved money for the people.

In other words, it convicted the purchasing agent of being a good business man, though it criticised the evasion of a law.

That is somewhat different than the evasions practiced in other parts of the government, county and state. When the laws have been evaded in these departments, the people have paid the bill for that evasion in high prices and inroads into the treasury.

All of the restrictions in regard to purchases are placed in the law for only one purpose. They are intended to prevent waste of public monies.

An evasion of the law for the purpose of saving money is something new.

Church and Congress

Whether churches should engage in legislative activities is a question that can be debated. Much can be said against their doing so, from the standpoint of the church's own good. But that they have a right to do so scarcely is open to question; they have as much right as other organizations.

Representative Tinkham calls attention to the fact that two such church organizations have gone into legislation in a big way. He names the Methodist Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals, and the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America. He tells of the pressure they exert on congress in manifold ways and of the large sums of money they raise and expend.

He proposes that Senator Caraway's lobby investigating committee look into their activities. Specifically, he asks that the committee inquire into the question of who provides their funds and how these funds are spent.

Tinkham's proposal sounds reasonable to us. No doubt it will seem reasonable to Caraway's committee—and, for that matter, to both of the church organizations. The churches certainly will be the last to desire that their activities in public affairs should be shrouded in mystery.

Not a Job for Moses

It is difficult to believe Senator Moses of New Hampshire is being seriously considered for ambassador to Mexico, as press dispatches say.

Moses' career in the senate has been anything but that of a diplomat. Typical was his recent speech referring to the senate group opposed to a high tariff as "sons of wild jackasses," thereby arousing their ire and solidifying their ranks.

At the same time he was involved in a row with his colleagues on the senatorial campaign committee, of which he is chairman, for failing to notify them of his appointment of Otto H. Kahn as committee treasurer. The uproar was so great that Kahn declined the post.

Numerous instances indicating Moses' temperament might be cited. He is sharp-tongued and adroit, and given to uttering wise-cracks that make others smart. From this practice he seems to derive great satisfaction.

Relations between this country and Mexico happily are better than for many years, due largely to the tact and skill of Ambassador Morrow. There remains nevertheless many points at issue, which it will require diplomacy of the highest order to settle. We doubt if Senator Moses can supply it.

California

It grows continually harder for other states to understand California.

For thirteen years the people of California have permitted two innocent men to remain in prison. For a few of those years, perhaps, it was the conviction of a majority of Californians that these men were guilty, but in recent years there has been no excuse for anybody to think that.

Convinced—as they must be if they believe the trial judge, the jurors, the principal witnesses, the prosecuting officials—that Tom Mooney and Warren Billings are innocent of the crime for which they are held in prison, Californians lack the moral courage to confess the state's error and set the men free.

We say the disgrace of this situation and the blame for it rest on the people of the state. It is not by coincidence that a succession of Governors have evaded their simple and clear duty in this matter. One Governor or two Governors might have pursued this policy in the face of the people's desire, but not every Governor since 1916.

The fact is that the state of mind of the Governors has been the state of mind of the people. And both

have had the state of mind of the ostrich. They have been unwilling to face the thing they are doing or permitting to be done. They absolve themselves by telling themselves that even though Mooney and Billings may be innocent of the crime for which they were convicted, they are the sort of men who should be in prison anyhow.

How can the people of California fail to see what this means? How can they fail to realize that they are building a precedent of official lawlessness that in time will destroy their individual rights?

How can they fail to understand that they are not merely being cruel and indifferent to the rights of other men, but that they are being stupidly regardless of their own?

The smooth maneuver whereby the present Governor temporarily has shifted the Mooney case to the pardon board is not important. The important thing is that the smooth Governor understands the public of his state so well that he can feel confident of getting away with this maneuver.

Danger From Above

Three airplanes have crashed into buildings in the New York metropolitan area within two weeks. Two pilots have been killed. Luckily no one on the ground has been struck, although houses were set fire in one accident.

But people are beginning to demand that something be done to stop this menace from above. True, something should be done. But what?

Planes cannot be forbidden to fly over the populated districts. If they were, they never would get anywhere. But planes can be made to attain and keep a safe altitude before crossing congested areas.

Also, it is foolish to suggest that all flying fields be isolated, far out in the country. If they were, the primary purpose of air transport—speed—would be defeated. But student training will be carried on in the open spaces. The majority of crashes nowadays are by novice pilots. Two of the three who crashed in New York had just learned to fly. One, according to news dispatches, violated field rules by flying over a town after taking off.

Furthermore, pilots are being turned out and permitted to go where they choose with too little instruction. Many crashes can be avoided by giving the youngsters sufficient background and skill to handle himself in emergencies.

The talk that anyone can fly is rot. Many young pilots are flying who have no business in the air, who are not temperamentally fitted to fly in present-day planes.

As for eliminating such crashes as that of the Fokker F32, there seems little hope. Pilot Boggs was a veteran, and his handling of the plane has been praised highly. The only guarantee against crashes of that sort is an absolute prohibition of flying.

But the total of crashes into buildings can be cut down by producing better fliers, isolating the novices, and creating a respect for flying rules by punishing those who violate them and live.

If President Hoover can get by with developing more waterways and then getting the railroad people to spend lots of money on facilities to handle more freight, he must be an Economist, and the capital "E" is intended.

Jersey City's police chief advises members of the force to "give your wrist watches back to your sisters." And, oh, say, how about giving them the cigar lighters, too?

REASON By FREDERICK LANDIS

THE growing tendency to place the dead line of human usefulness at 50 is as stupid as it is cruel, as age like everything else, is relative, the most recent illustration of this being the case of Clemenceau, who entered upon his immortal service to France and the world at the age of 77.

Such a dead line would drive Herbert Hoover from the White House and it would have disgraced almost all of his predecessors, except Theodore Roosevelt. It would banish every justice of the United States supreme court and retire to private life most of the leaders of the business, scientific and professional world.

A day or two ago the head of a large family was denied employment because he had passed the half century mark.

He offered to waive all insurance and sick benefits but was pushed aside by the iron rule, all of which is a reproach to our alleged civilization.

THIS world owes to every one a chance to make an honest living and when it takes that chance away it plays with fire, for there could be no greater provocation for crime.

While Mr. Hoover is assembling the industrial leaders of the land to guarantee a building program which will drive away the possibility of hard times, he might induce our captains of industry to recede from the practice of blacklisting those who have lived fifty years.

Efficiency is a great thing, but carried to the bitter end it becomes a god, as barbarous as the god of the Incas, who demanded the sacrifice of babes.

Practiced with an arbitrary code of regulations which takes no heed of individual cases, it can work more woe than pestilence and famine.

Efficiency becomes a beast when it turns its back on justice.

Clemenceau said in his last days that glory is but a wisp of smoke but he was influenced by the ungrateful nation which refused him its greatest honor, the presidency, after he had saved its life.

Little wonder he provided that the nation should not honor him dead, when it had failed to honor him living.

HOWEVER it is fortunate that great souls follow the radiant illusion, sacrifice their ease and fortune for the public good, otherwise we would have had no progress, no lofty example which rise sublimely above the flood of years.

But for the intoxicating fragrance of the "wise smoke," we would have no Washington, no Jefferson, no Lincoln.

Glory is no such futile thing; it is the sacred fire from Heaven when the aspiration is to make life better for the masses of mankind.

And it is greater than all else from the standpoint of satisfaction, for those torch bearers who led the world upward would not have traded the ecstasy of fine achievement for all the ease of earth or all its gold.

When the leaders of mankind shall turn their faces away from unselfish glory, such as shall ensue the name of Clemenceau for centuries, we shall hang the flag of human progress at half-staff and to the beat of muffled drums march back into darkness.

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

The Idea of a Few Industrial Giants Banding to Prevent War Is a Beautiful One, But Not So Feasible.

THE war prevention plan proposed by Edward N. Hurley, former chairman of the United States shipping board, is simple, to say the least.

Just a few industrial nabobs to form a world-wide boycotting trust and crack down on the naughty nation that dares to create a disturbance.

And the reasons back of the plan are equally simple.

Since no country on earth is self-sustaining, when it comes to raw material needed for war, argues Mr. Hurley, and since that raw material, or the major part of it, is controlled by two or three dozen great corporations, how could any country wage war successfully if the heads of those corporations said "nay?"

If Walter Teagle and Sir Henri Deterding, for instance, were to hold back oil; if James A. Farrell, Charlie Schwab and Dr. Fritz Thyssen were to hold back steel, and if twenty-five or thirty other international magnates, were to hold back the commodities under their respective control, how could old Mars maintain a foothold for very long?

Don't Be Too Trusting

THE task of throwing cold water on a war prevention plan may be ungrateful, particularly if the plan happens to be fathered by a man of Mr. Hurley's obvious originality and good intent, but we hardly can afford to be too naively trusting in an age which is giving birth to such plans every day or so.

War is too old and too chronic an infection to be alleviated by naive treatment.

Besides, if some one doesn't look out, we shall find ourselves endorsing a cure that would be worse than the disease.

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Getting down to brass tacks, what has Mr. Hurley suggested, except to put a common suspicion in reverse?

For years, we have imagined that industrial leaders, who had something to gain by it, were responsible for most of the war.

Turning the proposition around, Mr. Hurley imagines that they could and should make themselves responsible for the other thing.

It sounds fine, until one begins to think about the corollary.

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Governments Still Rule

IT is to be admitted that, under normal conditions, two or three dozen men control a large percentage of the raw materials essential to war.

It is to be admitted, also, that if no one interfered, they could exercise that control to such extent as would make it very difficult for any nation to carry on war.

These men, however, are not beyond control by their governments, and it is doubtful if they could get very far if they were to set contrary to those governments, or even publicly.

As Mr. Hurley points out, there are two or three men who dominate steel, two or three more who dominate chemicals, two or three more who dominate electrical apparatus, and so on.

To get a clear idea of the contingencies that might arise if these men were to undertake to prevent war by establishing a boycott through a gentlemen's agreement on their own part, let us suppose that they had gotten together in 1914 and told England that she must not assist France.

What would the English people have done under such circumstances? Or, to bring the matter closer home, what did the United States do when the railroads of the country found themselves incapable of handling the freight?

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People Have the Power

INDUSTRY has become a powerful force in the modern world, but not so powerful that it can't be taken over by the government, or the people of any country.

Russia had industry, and not only industry, but an entrenched aristocracy, in 1916. What happened to them?

France had the same thing, and what happened?

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Appealing as it may sound to suggest that a small group of men, not one of whom occupies an official position, can get together and prevent war merely by agreeing to do so, it implies an oligarchy which this democratic age would find it hard to stomach.

Industrial leaders were to undertake such a project, the chances are they would breed fear rather than confidence.

At a time when no single nation appears willing to place its destiny in the hands of industrial magnates, why suppose that they would be permitted to run the whole human race?

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