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

Just a Suggestion

Faced by the necessity of closing a very large number of country schools or raising money to keep them open, officials seem at a loss as to know which horn of the dilemma to grab.

They realize that the money can not be raised by direct taxation in the country districts. The farmers are already taxed beyond the limit.

Failure to provide school facilities for the children of agricultural counties can not be tolerated. That invites too many injustices and too many new dangers.

While the schools are in danger the state finds it very easy to gather in twenty millions of dollars a year for new roads. The boys and girls will be able to ride even if they can not read.

Out of the twenty millions of dollars a large amount is spent for cement and other materials.

The state has a lot of free labor. It gets more each month. The free labor is in the prisons, whose population grows rapidly.

One or two states have found it economical to start their own cement plants.

The establishment of a state plant for making cement and the payment to the school fund of the money saved on its manufacture over that now paid to private concerns might solve the problem.

A state that pays twenty millions of dollars a year for roads and spends it with little supervision or vision ought not to find it difficult to keep its schools in operation.

Life Without Pardon

Imposition of a sentence of "life imprisonment without pardon" on a Kentucky Negro raises the very fitful issue of who and what shall determine the fitness of a convict for release.

Our present punitive system is based on the idea that a judge logically may impose a punishment which will fit a particular crime. The convict will be ready to be released when the sentence has expired. The nature of the crime, not the nature of his conduct while in prison, is made to determine the desirability of freeing the criminal.

Now it is obvious that it is the promise of a law-abiding life after discharge, based on evidence of reformation while in prison, which is the real test of one's fitness to be at large. Neither the nature of the crime committed nor any experience or shrewdness on the part of the judge at the time of the trial can furnish any sure basis for final judgment as to the future reformation of the convict while incarcerated.

The only persons capable of forming any dependable judgment relative to the rehabilitation of a convict are those in a position to observe his life and activities from day to day, namely, the prison authorities. Arbitrary and specific time sentences, whether for life or less, make it impossible for us to make intelligent use of this indispensable information.

A Real Message

Herbert Hoover's first message to congress is one likely to please the millions who voted to make him President. It is, furthermore, one likely to persuade many of those who voted against him that, after an eight-year interregnum, there again is a strong and competent leader in the White House.

Space is not available here to discuss the message in detail. In the course of its more than 10,000 words, it presents an analysis and a recommendation in connection with practically every major problem confronting the country. Each of these deserves its own discussion in due time.

There is room for difference of opinion concerning more than one recommendation offered by the President.

But, it seems to us, the message is bound to increase the steadily growing impression that an able, forceful executive has buckled down to the country's biggest job, and that he gives every indication of making a distinguished success of it.

The message makes clear the number and the complexity of the government's problems. It reveals the manifold ways in which the government must function if it is to aid in the general well-being of the whole people.

Of all the President has to say on a wide range of subjects, some part is new, a large part is not. Perhaps, in a way, the one thing he says of greatest importance is not new. This is the reiteration of his views concerning the tariff.

The progressive Republicans and progressive Democrats in the senate have contended from the beginning of the present notable tariff struggle that they, and not the so-called regular Republicans, are fighting for the principles laid down by Hoover in his call for the special summer session of congress.

Hoover's message proves their claim. No warrant for the unprecedented raid on the public pocket, attempted by the Hawley-Grundy tariff bill, can be found in his original statement, which he now repeats.

The special session of congress opened with the reading of Hoover's warning against the very thing which the house has attempted to do. The house ignored the warning. The senate coalition has compelled the senate to stop and consider. Now the regular session opens with this warning renewed by the President.

It is important that this time both branches of congress heed the warning. It is important that they dispose of the limited revision of schedules, for which some justification can be found, and get the tariff controversy out of the way.

It stands squarely across the path of industrial, commercial and agricultural rehabilitation in which the whole country is engaged.

The way to get this obstacle out of the path is not to pass the tariff bill, willy-nilly. There is no prosperity in that direction, there is only loss for a limited part of the population. The very interests pressing congress hardest for this bill are those who stand to lose most if the tariff fight is permitted to hold back the general business program.

They should call off their dogs. They should sum-

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

History Is Repeating Itself in the Fight of Tories and Left Wing Laborites to Beat Ramsay MacDonald.

ACCORDING to Postmaster General Brown, the air mail covered 10,250,000 miles last year at an expense to the government of \$1,250,000.

That represents an average cost of \$1.10 a mile. If such price is fair, airplanes will have to be big and travel well loaded to carry passengers at railroad rates without loss.

Left wing Laborites join with the Tories in an effort to beat Ramsay MacDonald, which is what everybody looked for when the right moment came.

It is history repeating itself.

Only a few months ago, French royalists and radicals made the same kind of an unholy alliance to beat Briand in France.

You can generally depend on extremists to be against the middle, no matter which end of the game they play.

That is one reason why the middle appeals to most people.

Alarmed by Vare Case

THOUGH willing to concede that William S. Vare was duly elected, the senate probably will sustain him.

That it has the right to do so and that he deserves no less is beyond dispute.

Some politicians, however, and especially those committed to the doctrine of state rights, profess great alarm at the precedent that would be established by such action.

If Vare can be excluded because of primary irregularities, they argue, why not any one else?

What they mean is that some senator-elect from the south might be excluded because he was nominated by a primary in which Negroes were not permitted to take part. That is nonsense.

The senate is exercising no new power in the Vare case. Ever since the Constitution was formed, it has had the authority to pass on qualifications of its members and that, too, without offering any specific excuse.

Southern senators would be in no more danger if Vare is denied a seat than they were before.

The senate is not attempting to discipline the people of Pennsylvania, but to make an example of a politician who overstepped the bounds of decency.

Who can doubt that our fathers had that very thing in mind when they clothed the senate with such power?

Common Sense Needed

THE idea that we can make rules for every situation is absurd.

In the last analysis, we must look to common sense for guidance.

Because Vare is punished for spending too much money, it does not follow that the senate will attempt to force the Democratic party to admit Negroes to its primary in future.

It is probably true that most automobile accidents are the result of carelessness on the part of the

driver or pedestrian, or of intoxication on the part of either.

Not infrequently, however, accidents occur because some one did not see quickly, see accurately, or understandingly. Dr. Charles P. Small calls attention to the fact that eyes may become so fatigued after a long drive as to add a distinctly new element of danger.

Muscle exercises do not strengthen the eye, but overexercise of the eye is likely to interfere with proper muscle action.

Greater and greater demands are being placed upon the eye and ear for the safety of mankind. The eye specialist is finding as a result more and more work to do in determining who is capable of driving the various vehicles that convey mankind and who is capable of taking care of himself in the middle of the road.

Another danger of driving is the danger that comes from color blindness. A color blind man may learn by daily experience on roads which he travels regularly the position of the light that means go and the one that means stop, but on an unfamiliar road if he is unable to distinguish red and green, he is likely to get himself into a good deal of trouble.

If he passes these test satisfactorily, he should be given a certificate of his ability to drive a motor car, at least from the point of view of color blindness was not really



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Eye Tests Urged to Avert Smashups

By R. MORRIS FISHBEIN,
Editor of the American Medical
Association and of *Hygine, the
Health Magazine*.

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known until about 100 years ago. At that time Doctor Dalton, the eminent English physician, was walking down the street wearing cap and gown, insignia of the degree that Oxford had just conferred upon him.

One of his brother quakers took him to task for appearing in public wearing colors, and all scientists were at once on the qui vive to see the man who could not see red.

The majority of people first take up motor car driving after the age of 16 years. Dr. Small suggests that every child on graduation from high school be submitted to an eye examination to indicate whether or not he possesses the minimum amount of vision for driving a motor car, and whether or not he is able to distinguish between red and green.

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