

The Indianapolis Times

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

The Rural Schools

The probability that a large number of schools in the rural districts will be compelled to shorten their terms because of lack of funds, raises the question of where the responsibility should rest for the education of youth.

If it is a state matter and of importance to the whole state, then it would seem logical that the control of all the schools should be under state instead of local authorities and that the entire expense should be borne by the state as a whole.

The one certain element in the present situation is that it is most unsatisfactory and that a number of pupils are being deprived of facilities that are given to other children.

The theory of public schools rests upon the presumption that an educated boy or girl is a better citizen and more valuable to the state than the illiterate and the untrained.

The nation is fairly well dedicated to this theory. It compels attendance. It forces parents to send their children to school.

Compulsory education by the state authorities should carry with it a pledge to parents that schools will be available.

It is decidedly unfair to give the children of one portion of the state better advantages and greater facilities than are open to others. Instead of the present system of merely giving aid to townships which are unable to raise enough funds by taxation to afford schools, the state, if it compels children to attend schools, should provide schools.

Control of the schools in country districts by township trustees has failed so often and in so many places as to suggest that there can be a better system.

It is quite probable that an investigation will show that in many of the localities now in distress there has been a waste of funds.

The schools are the most important institutions in the state and should be under the best of management and the wisest of administration.

A state which raises twenty millions of dollars a year for good roads can find funds to keep the schools open. It is no answer to say that the legislature failed to appropriate enough money. The money should have been available, even if it were necessary to cut down the funds given to the highway commission.

If there is a special session of the legislature, a diversion of part of the gasoline tax to this use might be made. And when the funds are made available, the state should keep enough control to see that the money is not wasted but is spent for education and not to bolster up the petty political ambitions of a township trustee who thinks of his job rather than the children.

If it is a state job, let the state do it, pay for it, and run all the schools so that every boy and girl will have an equal chance, whether they live in a big city or in the most sparsely settled communities.

They Ask for Bread

Jesus Christ found his first followers among the meek and the lowly. Christianity in the beginning took root and spread among the poor and the oppressed.

But now, we are told by James Meyers, industrial secretary of the Federated of Churches of Christ in America, Protestant churches are likely to be found in greatest numbers "on the comfortable side of town."

Meyers just has returned from the textile areas of the south. He told his executive committee that industrial workers are turning their backs on the churches. The southern workers, by nature religious, is beginning to have doubts about the preachers, because they have been powerless to help in the struggle for decent wages and living conditions.

In some instances, village ministers have been known as the worst enemies of strikers. Meyers found similar conditions in the mining districts of Pennsylvania and Colorado and in big cities.

The lot of the preacher in the company-owned and company-dominated town is not a happy one. Usually he is pitifully underpaid and is struggling just as hard to keep his church going as his parishioners are to fill their stomachs and put clothes on their backs. Disaster is apt to follow if the animosity of the employers is aroused.

Meyers' report is none the less a severe indictment of the churches. The wealthy and powerful denominations are found wanting by the very ones their religion teaches them they should help.

They can build cathedrals, maintain lobbies in Washington and missions and hospitals in China and Africa, and devote their money and their energies to politics and the effort to make the rest of us good by law.

But apparently they have no helping hand for the thousands of downtrodden who instinctively turn to them. The plain but unpleasant fact is that the workers suspect that the churches are on the side of the money changers.

The churches defend their right to mix in politics and agitate for reforms. Surely their right to interest themselves in social problems like those of the industrial south is no less. The situation Meyers pictures is a challenge to the churches.

Peace in Asia's Cockpit?

None too soon the dangerous clash between Russia and China in that cockpit of Asia known as Manchuria, appears to have been halted.

According to dispatches from far eastern capitals, the Kudan government has agreed to the Soviet demands for a return to the status quo ante in the matter of the Chinese Eastern Railway squabble, and Russian troops are reported to be withdrawing from Manchuria.

In other words, the Manchurian authorities appear willing that Russia shall replace the railway officials arrested and imprisoned by the Chinese last July on charges of attempting to communize China, after which the two countries will settle their differences amicably by conference or otherwise.

It is very much to be hoped that the present truce will be followed by real peace between Soviet Russia and republican China. China, at least, stands very much in need of a few years of tranquility, both domestic and foreign, in which to work out her destiny.

She now is almost on the rocks. And the world has every reason to fear no telling what if war should come.

Fortunately, nearly all factors in the situation make for peace rather than war.

First, Communist Russia regards China and her 400,000,000 people as potentially one of her most fer-

tile fields of operation, and she is well aware that any "imperialistic" or "capitalistic" war against China now would ruin everything.

Second, the Mukden government, being virtually autonomous, and liking it, does not relish the prospect of the government at Nanking flooding Manchuria with nationalist troops to "rescue" her from the Russian invader. Mukden's position would be weakened materially.

Third, the Nanking government already has troubles enough of its own, what with a civil war or two on its hands and an empty treasury, without taking on new ones in the guise of a hopeless and costly war with Russia.

Fourth, the Japanese, the real power behind the throne at Mukden, are as opposed to Nanking sending troops to Manchuria as the Manchurian government itself. She now is in the midst of a program of peaceful penetration in, and exploitation of, that part of Asia and every year of peace makes her position there all the stronger.

Fifth, Washington, London and Paris, chief sponsors of the Kellogg pact outlawing war, are well aware that if Russia and China, two other signatories of the treaty, can get away with such a palpable violation of their pledges before the ink of their signatures is hardly dry, the authority of the pact—which, after all, is entirely moral—would be weakened sadly.

The Kellogg pact powers and the League of Nations both have been remiss in not acting before now. It is true that China now has only appealed to them, citing Russia as the invader and aggressor, but diplomatic pressure could and should have been brought to bear on both countries months ago, inasmuch as they have been virtually at war with each other along the Manchurian border since mid-July.

Disputes of the kind Russia and China are engaged in over the control of the Chinese Eastern Railway, bone of the present contention, are particularly susceptible to adjustment by conference, arbitration or at the hands of the world court.

Both now should be told in plain language that if they can't agree as between themselves, it is up to them to adopt one of the above alternatives or be pilloried as an outlaw nation before the court of world opinion.

However, all signs now favor a pacific settlement, which is very opportune. For certainly an ugly war in Asia would not be a nice background for the coming arms limitation and world peace talk at London and Geneva.

A Sacred Statute?

The budget now before congress proposes an appropriation of \$50,000 for the prohibition bureau, to be "expended for the collection and dissemination of information and appeal for law observance and law enforcement. Including cost of printing and other necessary expenses in connection therewith."

This means that the government will circulate prohibition propaganda. A previous attempt to propagandize the public schools was abandoned on order of President Hoover.

Such propaganda from the government may be helpful and justified.

But the question arises as to why this particular law should be singled out. Why not propagandize the public against murder, the sale of narcotics, arson, theft, assault and other crimes?

The answer is that those charged with enforcing prohibition have adopted the attitude of the reformers that there is something sacrosanct about this particular statute. They hold it to be more important and above all other laws, and feel justified in adopting unusual and often illegal methods in its enforcement. And therein lies the reason for much of the public hostility toward prohibition.

REASON

By FREDERICK LANDIS

PRESIDENT HOOVER requests us to smile sweetly and answer in happy vein all the questions the ladylike and gentlemanly census takers shall ask us. This is all right, except when it comes to one's antis.

We do not believe that your age is anybody's business, but your own, or that perpetuity of free institutions demands that you broadcast it to the world.

Once upon a time James Whitcomb Riley went back to Greenfield, Ind., his birthplace, to receive distinguished consideration at the hands of his old friends.

Everything was lovely, all of the poet's former cronies were present, and then a town boy who never had resided within ten miles of Riley's affection approached the beloved bard and asked him when the pay check stops.

What Riley told him was delightful, also abundant.

Speaking of Riley, there's a bronze statue of him on the courthouse lawn at Greenfield and the face and form are fine, but the artist put him in a Prince Albert coat, whereas he should have been done in formally.

It would have been better to cast him in a story-telling posture, the way he used to stop and talk to children in Indianapolis.

HEREDITY and environment may function occa-

sionally, but they certainly fell down on the job in the case of this son of Riley's, Billy Sunday who has just been arrested for stealing an automobile.

We don't blame Governor Green of Michigan for saying he would not succeed the late Secretary of War Good, if the position were tendered him, for it is better to be the whole thing in a state such as Michigan, than be one-tenth of any cabinet.

It was rather unusual for Governor Green to decline the job before the President tendered it to him, but after all this is the safest course for one to follow, since one may never have the opportunity of declining it, if he waits for it to be tendered.

There's no use to be technical in such things.

THESE'S one thing we like about Mrs. Emma McMahon of Kansas, who has just celebrated her 108th birthday and it is that she doesn't ascribe her endurance to the fact that she always smoked or never smoked, or has lived entirely on meats or has been a lifelong vegetarian.

It is very much to be hoped that the present truce will be followed by real peace between Soviet Russia and republican China. China, at least, stands very much in need of a few years of tranquility, both domestic and foreign, in which to work out her destiny.

She justs sees patches on men's clothing and lets go at that.

W. K. Henderson, iron manufacturer and radio announcer of Shreveport, La., may be bankrupt financially, but we can not imagine his ever becoming short on vocabulary.

It must be a great shock to our internationalists to have Ramsay MacDonald refer to the wisdom of our keeping out of Europe's endless dog fight.

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

Is Man a Free Agent or a Machine? You Can't Take Your Own Guess.

SCIENCE is developing a supermind, says Dr. Constantine Economo of the University of Vienna. A perfectly safe statement, since none of us will be here to see it proved, or disproved.

Not pausing to argue the point, science would be doing no more than her duty.

Considering some of the problems science has created, we need a supermind.

Existing conditions, however, suggest that we are more likely to get it by way of adding machines, wireless photography and other mechanical devices than through expansion of the brain.

Some people think that we have more mind than we can use wisely as it is, and that what we really need is more conscience.

Other people say that conscience is a by-product of the mind, and there you are.

The whole speculation goes back to the question of whether man is a free agent or a machine.

Such savants as Will Durant and Clarence Darrow being unable to settle it, why should the rest of us worry? Yet who can help it?

Has His Own Pride

IN spite of all science and philosophy have taught, the average individual regards himself as an individual, feels the urge of the ego, and believes that he must settle many problems alone.

You can teach him that he is a mechanism, a product of environment and a pawn of fate, until you are blue in the face, but you can not make him act on any such a theory when he is up against a tough situation.

The best you can do, or more accurately, the worst, is to destroy his confidence on the one hand, and furnish him with an alibi for becoming a nuisance, or a criminal on the other.

We would be wiser to pay more attention to the way men act in this respect than to the way they talk.

Vocally, they may be ready to visualize themselves as marionettes of the cosmos, but when it comes to doing things, they are not.

Does any one imagine that a Litvinoff, writing notes on the Russo-Chinese situation, or a Durkin, taking some one for a "ride" in Chicago, or a Sir Arthur Keefe, fixing fees for an operation, regards himself as a "helpless puppet of evolution?

Not on your life, each and every one of them acts on the idea that he is boss of the job, no matter what he preaches.

System Out of Tune

OUR attitude toward the non-existence of free will is about like our attitude toward prohibition. We simply do not drink as we vote, which, more than anything else, is throwing our educational system, especially in its higher branches, out of tune.

One moment we stress intelligence as all important and the next we proclaim that we can't make use of it as we would like, because we have no say-so in the matter.

Still Pretty Earthy

SUCH an obliterating conception would be all right, if people didn't have so many little thoughts to think about, but it doesn't help a mother very much when the baby has whooping cough, or a father when the pay check stops.

We're still a pretty earthy set of creatures, compelled to wrestle with an earthy set of problems, and our greatest need is a kind of intelligence that will assist us in solving them, and a kind of judgment that will prevent us from causing unnecessary trouble.

Sheet intelligence does not account for the difference between a happy marriage and a string of divorces, between a citizen who tries to do his duty and one who shirks, between the expert who makes a safe, and the one who cracks it.

There is a shadowy something be-

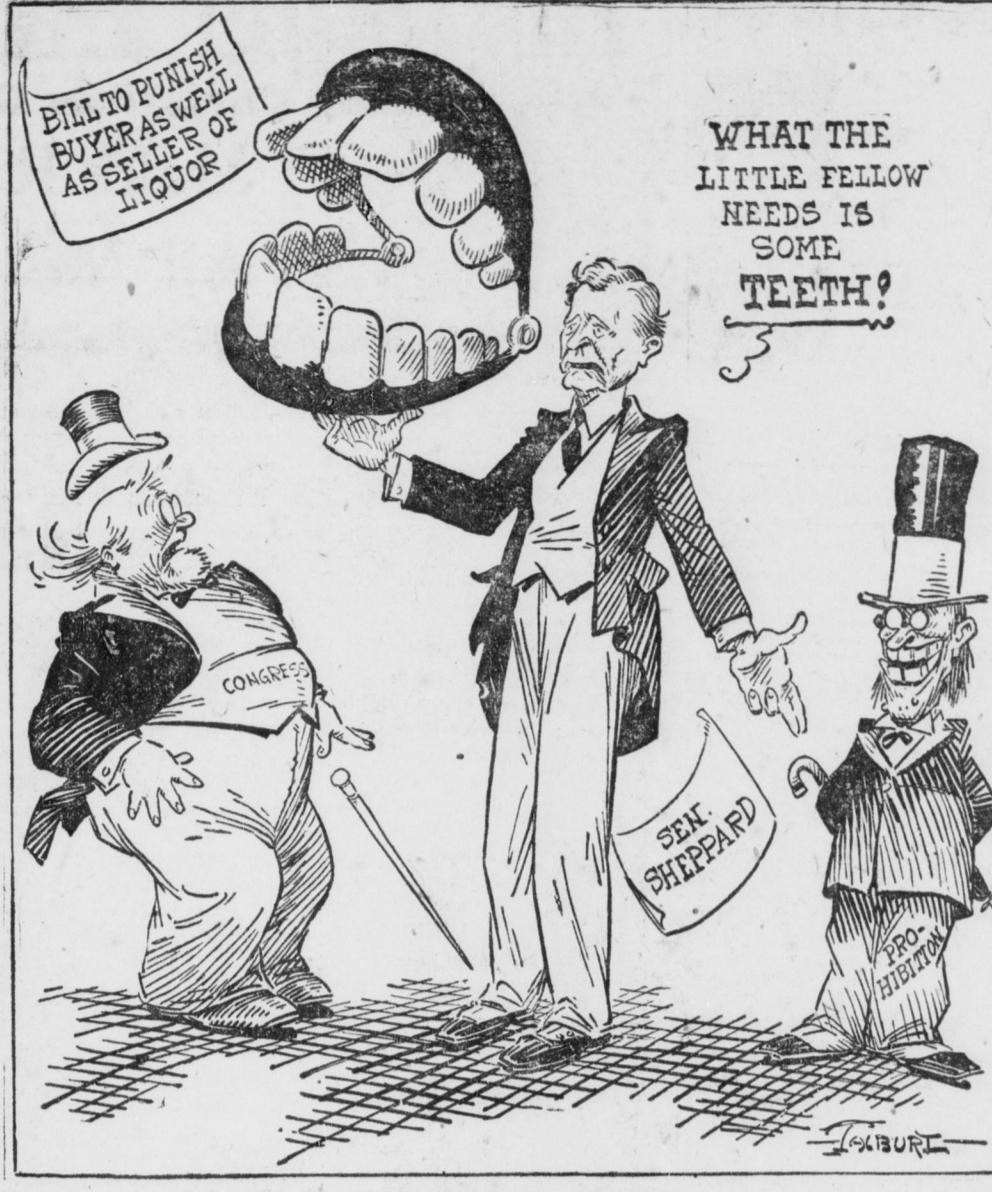
hind the scenes, determining whether we use our ingenuity to create or destroy.

That something deserves more consideration that it is getting.

15 Shopping Days till Christmas

IT'S THE EARLY BIRD THAT AVOIDS THE SQUIRM OF LATE SHOPPING

An Interesting Diagnosis!



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

"Sunlight" Lamps Aid Health

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

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

Already leading manufacturers have produced apparatus which provides only the intensity of sunlight and no ultraviolet radiation of a stronger character.

The British authorities are convinced that if ultraviolet-producing lamps are sold to the general public they should conform to two conditions:

First, they should give off no appreciable quantity of wave lengths shorter than 2,900 angstrom units.

Second, they should be accompanied by printed instructions giving exact particulars regarding the amount of time the lamp should be used and the distance that the body should be from the lamp when it is used.

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