



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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PHONE—Riley 5551 TUESDAY, SEPT. 16, 1930
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."

Foundations and Social Progress

Perhaps the greatest novelty in our social scheme today is the great foundations with capital of more than a billion dollars. They give away to supposedly excellent causes some \$65,559,000 yearly. What kind of movements and programs do they support? Are they an asset to American society? Do they contribute to progress or social inertia?

The basis for an intelligent answer to these questions is supplied by Evans Clark in his careful and fair analysis of the nature and activities of these foundations in the New York Times.

The greatest donation made by the foundation is, beyond all reasonable comparison, the gift to educational enterprise. Here it must be said that the some \$30,500,000 given to education is spent in ways designed to foster conservatism and safety. The overwhelming majority of the benefactions go to conventional educational activities.

There is nothing for the Rand School of Social Science, the Brookwood Labor college, or even the New School for Social Research—the latter certainly not an especially radical institution, though it is one of the most interesting experiments in the history of higher education.

No sensible person would ask the foundations to finance radical or proletarian education exclusively. Yet the workers make up more than 50 per cent of the population. Any agency which pretends to serve the body politic should have something to give to the majority.

Next in order of expenditure comes research. But how much of this is in any way likely to prove subservient of the present order? In the field of social sciences, where we most need courageous research, the dice certainly are loaded against originality and independence.

There no doubt is honesty in gathering the facts, but the research projects either are eminently safe or else interpretations and opinions are suppressed carefully.

The research in the field of medicine is the one type of subsidized investigation in which all stand to gain by the discoveries. Yet even here the benefits will not be distributed evenly.

The wealthy are much more capable of benefiting by the advances in medicine and surgery. But here again the foundations also have done their most equitable work. They are financing research into the costs of medical care which may help to democratize medicine.

Take the question of civil liberties. Here is a place where we would expect patriots to pour their money. From Jefferson to Lincoln our great statesmen have contended that this country was conceived in, and dedicated to liberty. What could be nobler than to support its continued existence?

Yet not a single great foundation has given a cent to support civil liberties in the United States. The American Civil Liberties Union is supported primarily by private subscriptions. Only the American Fund for Public Service—a sort of "foundation by default" from the heritage of an eccentric young millionaire—gives the union any money.

The foundations give millions for research into social and economic conditions and for promotion of social work and charity. How many support the birth control movement, probably the most important single social program in the United States today? Not a one, save the tiny American Fund for Public Service.

If this is not millions for charity, but not one cent for prevention, then the writer does not know the meaning of words.

The foundations and their work necessarily reflect their donors and the society out of which they are derived. The givers are entitled to order the expenditures they approve. The writer is willing to concede that the net result of the foundations is as yet a benefit to the United States.

But this is something quite different from agreeing that they reflect democratic ideals or do their utmost to promote social progress. They are damned far more by their sins of omission than by those of commission.

Unemployment Insurance

The conference for progressive labor action has drafted a bill for unemployment insurance for introduction in the forty-eight state legislatures. Essential features of this bill are:

1. Unemployment insurance is to be a charge on industry in the same way as workmen's compensation for accidents. If it is legitimate that business should accumulate a reserve in good times, so as to be able to pay dividends in periods of depression, it surely is equally legitimate that industry should accumulate reserves to tide over unemployed workers during slack times. Therefore, we advocate contributions by employers alone, and not the tripartite arrangement of contributions from employer, employee and the state, common in European schemes.

2. We advocate the principle of graduated contributions, industries and establishments having more unemployment to pay a larger percentage of their pay rolls into the fund. It is hoped in this way to encourage stabilization of industry and employment, for the less unemployment an industry will have, the less it will have to pay in premiums.

3. Unemployed workers are to receive 40 per cent of their prevailing weekly wage, with 10 per cent additional for a wife and 5 per cent for each child up to 2, that is, in no case more than a total of 60 per cent of the prevailing weekly wage of the unemployed worker. Insurance is to be paid for not more than twenty-six weeks in each year. A worker on short time not making 40 per cent of his prevailing weekly wage is to be paid the difference between what he receives in his pay envelope and 40 per cent of his weekly wage. In no case is a worker to receive in any one year more than the equivalent of 40 per cent of his weekly wages for twenty-six weeks, or 60 per cent if he has a wife and children.

4. Any one who has worked and for whom contributions have been made in the state for a period of 52 weeks (not necessarily consecutive) is entitled to insurance . . .

The conference also favors a federal bill carrying an initial appropriation of \$100,000,000, from which the federal department of labor may pay annually to any state establishing a satisfactory unemployment insurance plan the equivalent of one-third of what the state expends.

This plan certainly goes the whole hog, and has the virtue of candor and forthrightness.

But it is not strategically sound. It will be hard enough to get unemployment bills through which split the expense equally between employer, employee and state. To ask the employer to bear the whole burden simply will increase the pressure of business resistance to unemployment insurance and postpone its adoption indefinitely.

The employer should not be held solely responsible for unemployment. Governmental acts, like the higher tariff, which increase unemployment, may be

beyond the employer's control and embody policies which he has fought.

A split three ways in the cost of unemployment insurance seems not only the most practicable, but also the most equitable plan.

Rumble of War

A young draftsman's clerk today menaces the German republic and perhaps the peace of Europe. Adolf Hitler is founder of the Fascist party, pledged to break the peace treaties and restore Germany's old military power.

In the elections his party just has swept the country with a 900 per cent gain, becoming the second largest in parliament. He is driving toward a dictatorship like Mussolini's.

Hitler's illegal armed bands have been spreading terror for months. He is irresponsible, unscrupulous. He hates to the point of madness any one resembling a Socialist, and hates only less the liberals, also responsible for Germany's pacific policies.

Since Hitler left his Austrian home to join the German army before the war there has been doubt as to his sanity. War strain did not help his mind. After defeat he fell under the spell of Mussolini.

Day by day in the streets of Bavarian towns he whipped the crowds to fury with his frantic gestures and shrill voice. At night he plotted and stored guns. Lucifer had helped him.

But his beer hall revolt—the Hitler putsch—in 1923 failed. The premature dictator was sentenced to five years in prison and his bands scattered. Thinking the danger passed, the government released him within a year.

Forbidden to speak in most German states, he resorted to underground organization or terrorist "storm squads." His open political party did not grow so well at first. In the 1928 elections his Fascists won only twelve seats in parliament. But Sunday they came back with 107 seats. This gives Hitler, who is not even a German citizen, the balance of power.

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It is understood that the reporter who punched the Governor of Louisiana in the nose the other day said, "It won't be long now."

An aviator has escaped from Sing Sing. The boys there will tell you that he "flew the coop."

REASON BY FREDERICK LANDIS

THIS senatorial investigation of Ruth Hanna McCormick over in Illinois is a very unusual proceeding.

The committee has a right to investigate one who has been elected to the senate, but Mrs. McCormick has not been elected; she only has been nominated; she is just a candidate.

It is this senatorial committee can investigate one who merely has been nominated for the senate, than it can go a step beyond and investigate a candidate for a senatorial nomination, in fact it can go as far as it likes, so long as it has a good time and enjoys the scenery.

THE first impression is that this senatorial investigation will hurt Mrs. McCormick in her race, but on reflection we believe that it will prove to be boomerang and help her, particularly since Chairman Nye complains that Mrs. McCormick has been investigating him.

The senatorial committee can investigate one who merely has been nominated for the senate, than it can go a step beyond and investigate a candidate for a senatorial nomination, in fact it can go as far as it likes, so long as it has a good time and enjoys the scenery.

After denouncing the Monroe Doctrine these many years, our southern neighbors should now be in a position to give it their august approval.

With all the revolutions now under way south of the equator, it would be an easy matter for Europe to help herself to South America if the Monroe Doctrine did not admonish her to keep off the grass.

A REALIZATION of the benefits resulting from our friendship, together with good sense, caused the Peruvian government to release those two Americans who had their fingers burned in the flames of the last uprising.

If Americans would keep out of foreign prisons they should stay in the U. S. A. and mind their own business.

Interest in the present political campaign is almost entirely eclipsed by the contest now being waged by the Honorable Hack Wilson and the Honorable Babe Ruth for the home run championship of our beloved land.

Christopher Columbus was not agitated greatly when the recent hurricane roared round his tomb in the cathedral at Santo Domingo, for that is only one of the three places where he is buried.

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SCIENCE

BY DAVID DIETZ

Chemistry Is Adding More to World's Wealth Than Is Any Other Instrument of Progress.

THE increasing importance of the role which chemistry is playing in modern life can be judged from the fact that the membership of the American Chemical Society has risen from 3,079 to 18,000 in the last twenty-five years.

In 1905, the budget of the society was about \$15,000. Today it is more than \$550,000 a year.

The society, which is one of the largest professional organizations in the world, held its annual meeting in Cincinnati, Sept. 8 to 12. Professor William McPherson, famous chemist and dean of the Graduate School of Ohio State University, is president of the society.

"Chemistry and its application to industry," says Professor McPherson, "today are adding more to the world's wealth and to the enjoyment, comfort and usefulness of mankind than any other instrument of progress.

Its advancement has been due both to highly trained chemists and capital intelligently invested in industry dependent upon the guidance of the chemist."

Three Journals

AMONG the most important activities of the American Chemical Society is the publication of its journals. These make it possible for chemists in all parts of the United States to keep abreast of what is going on in the research laboratories of the world.

Statistics prepared by Dr. John E. Teeple of New York, treasurer of the society, show that the society will spend about \$465,000 during 1930 on its journals.

"A quarter of a century ago," President McPherson says, "we printed a single journal of 900 pages containing approximately 360,000 printed words. In 1930 we are printing three journals containing, after rigid editing, approximately 112,000 printed words."

But in spite of this fact, Dr. McPherson says that it has not been possible to keep up entirely with the march of chemistry.

This has been due to the fact so much progress has been made in the last quarter of a century that it has been impossible to record all of it even so ambitiously a publication program as that followed by the society.

The society, Dr. McPherson continues, would like to embark upon a still greater publication program, but can not afford to do so unless public-spirited men of wealth underwrite it.

Endowment Needed

DR. MCPHERSON makes a plea for larger endowments for the society. He says:

"Hundreds of millions of dollars have been given to boards, foundations, and colleges for scientific research and facilities for education. Part of this has gone to chemical research and education but chiefly to other fields, particularly to medicine."

It is difficult to convince philanthropic boards and men that so successful an organization of 18,000 professional men, spending \$550,000 a year for the advancement of chemistry, has reached its limit."

Nationalals moved farther to the right to join the Fascists. Socialists moved farther to the left to the Communist ranks. And the immense list of young first voters scorned the moderate parties, and divided between the extremists—country youth rallying to Hitler, while city youth marched with the Reds.

The spectacular challenge of German Fascism comes at the tensest moment in European affairs since the World war, adding its impact to an already explosive situation. Franco-Italian tension, Italian-Yugoslav threats, German-Polish frontier clashes, Hungarian revenge plots, Balkan conflicts, and native risings in India, Syria, Palestine and Egypt, are all capped by increased military preparations and larger armaments by the big powers.

No wonder the statesmen in session at the League of Nations are warning the world of danger ahead unless there is a general tightening of peace treaties and drastic arms reduction.

Lovers of opera shouldn't feel too badly because Chicago's Auditorium theater, aristocratic home of the opera, has been converted into a miniature golf course. Played right, you know a golf ball can take a good role.

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'Another Noble Experiment Ruined'



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

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