



The Indianapolis Times

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

Vote for This Convention

Nearly eighty years have passed since adoption of the Indiana state Constitution. In that time, the conditions under which the world lives have changed in far greater measure than in any like period of time in history.

Many of the laws under which the state operates are archaic. They are not conducive to progress, they do not promote the welfare of the state's citizens. A thorough revision is needed.

For these and several other reasons, equally good, every voter should be for the constitutional convention. He should cast his vote for the proposal when he goes to the polls on Nov. 4.

This issue may not seem as important to him as the election of certain of his favorite candidates, but there he is wrong. It is a matter of vital import to the state that its Constitution be brought up to date.

There is taxation, for instance. Complaint after complaint is heard daily of the injustice of tax laws. But there is little hope of relief with the Constitution in its present form.

Most of the public utilities and other great corporations will oppose the convention, for their own selfish interests, with no regard for the rights of the small property owner, the worker in factory, store or elsewhere, the farmer and the small business man.

So it behooves every voter to study the matter of a constitutional convention and cast his vote in its favor on Nov. 4.

They Can't Read or Write

Higher and higher grows the pile of unfinished tasks awaiting return of congress.

One of the first to receive attention should be the matter of fighting illiteracy.

Somehow, somebody wrote into the census act of 1929 a clause which threatens to cripple this work. Just as a national commission to co-ordinate the efforts of state bodies begins to function, on this important subject, a clause is discovered in the act forbidding the census bureau to furnish "any information by which any particular establishment or individual can be identified," and the attorney-general rules that lists of illiterates can not be given any agency, because of this wording.

It will be a difficult matter to teach men and women to read and write unless the ones in need of such help can be located and classes arranged to meet their individual needs. No one intended, apparently, that the law should prevent this, and it should be a simple matter to have the wording altered.

A resolution to do so will be presented as soon as congress meets, at the request of the national commission on illiteracy.

We forget, too often, that the United States, as well as China, has many thousands of adult citizens who can not read or write. We forget because it is not pleasant to remember. But this is one of our social problems that can be solved.

A Swell Idea, But —

We have been reading Vol. 1, No. 1, of Washington, the new propaganda weekly, issued by some of Hoover's friends to save the administration from voters who threaten to elect a "Democratic" congress next month.

With hearty frankness, the editors write of Hoover as the greatest of Presidents and describe themselves as the greatest of writers.

The masthead lists as the two chief members of its editorial staff William Allen White and Will Irwin. For the benefit of those who may not appreciate the quality of its editors, the paper states that Irwin "frequently has been described as the world's greatest reporter and whom we know to be one of the world's rarest and choicest spirits." Irwin's articles in this paper are described as "masterpieces."

White is described as "brilliant, penetrating, understanding" and "he is going to give a summarized estimate of the four speeches President Hoover recently made—speeches which Mr. White believes rank as the greatest speeches, taken as a group, ever delivered by any President."

That is spreading the hokum pretty thick—even for the Republican national committee, which sponsored the paper.

But apparently the paper is not published for the wicked and sophisticated cities, which want their propaganda laded up with a bit more skill. This is for the hicks back at the crossroads who take their strength.

That is a swell idea, except for the fact that most of the hicks disappeared when the automobile, the movie, the radio, the daily newspaper and the state college arrived.

Labor Speaks Its Mind

Reaffirming its position voiced at three previous national conventions, the American Federation of Labor at Boston passed a resolution instructing its executive council to try to prevail upon the Governor of California to grant justice to Mooney and Billings.

In the name of 3,500,000 workers, the A. F. of L. demanded unconditional pardon for two fellow laborites, victimized by fifteen years of perverted justice. The resolution cited the 1916 mistrial and deplored the California law that made a retrial impossible. It pointed to the galaxy of confessed perjurers whose "evidence" sent the pair to jail for life.

The A. F. of L. quoted the trial judge, Franklin Griffin: "The transcript of evidence on which Mooney and Billings were convicted no longer exists." It reminded the people of America that with the single exception of ex-Prosecutor Flickert, every official active in those famous cases—including all the living Mooney jurors—has joined with Judge Griffin's appeal for belated justice.

"Confidence in our form of government and in orderly government by law can not be maintained unless our citizens fully and confidently can place reliance upon the justice of our court procedure," the resolution declared.

The Mooney-Billings scandal is not merely a labor issue, nor is the pardon plea labor's exclusive cause. The tragedy belongs to us all. It is as inclusive as the boundaries of these United States. In making it theirs, the workers again have earned the gratitude of the nation.

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

Half the Human Race Not Only Still Is Catching Up, but Is Making Rather a Slow Job of It.

COVINGTON, Va., Oct. 22.—An auto trip from Charleston, W. Va., to this town, all in one sitting, hardly is calculated to generate single-minded interest in outside events.

Of the 150 miles of tortuous, distracting roads, at least 140 are through the mountains, and every one of the latter runs about 15,000 feet to the mile, not to mention five detours, or the amazing amount of "highway under construction."

You have striven heroically to take in the endless panorama of red and gold hillsides out of the corner of your eye, or catch glimpses of some winding creek down yonder, but the immediate business of not going over the bank on any one of a hundred hairpin curves, colliding with a steam roller, or scaring innumerable workmen out of their wits, has made it impossible.

At the end, you discover that you haven't seen much, and that you can't remember what you read in the morning papers. Not only the revolution in Brazil and the preparations for crowning an emperor in Abyssinia seem far away, but so do local happenings.

Still, the hungry presses cry for fodder and editors expect a scribe to do his stunt, no matter how good the scenario, how bad the roads, or how well the public might get along without it.

Not Far From Jungle

REVOLUTION in Brazil—how out of place and out of date it seems to us Americans who have dwelt in peace for sixty-five years, yet it was not six hours ago that this writer rode by "Lee's Tree." It stands, gnarled and gray, on a bleak mountain top, more than 3,000 feet high, where the great Confederate general made his headquarters for five weeks, within the memory of more than one living inhabitant.

So, too, the queer, antiquated ceremonies now going on in Abyssinia seem out of place and date, yet ten generations ago, what now is West Virginia was ruled by chiefs only one jump out of the jungle.

The world can be regarded as speedy and progressive only when looked at in spots. Half the human race not only still is catching up but making a rather slow job of it.

Some Eye for Beauty

HERE are some wonderful plants around Charleston and in the Kanawha valley. They are huge, they house novel and gigantic machines, and they convert what looks like common dirt into great wealth.

Many of them are scrupulously neat in appearance, suggesting that this age of industry is acquiring something more than a taste for gain. Many of them show that an architect, as well as an engineer, was called in to help work out the plans.

All that is good. It makes one feel that our economic structure is not entirely sordid, and that machinery has not destroyed that innate love of beauty and refinement without which we poor mortals seem unable to develop symmetrically.

The picture would be quite reassuring were it not for the obvious condition of those who do the work, when tend the machines, who run when the whistle blows each morning, who have become serfs, not of their employers, but of a system.

Still Many Suffer

WHATEVER it may be accomplishing, it is building too many shacks beside the country road, too many mean tenements along the city street. No matter how much variety it is contributing to life at the top, it is putting an unhealthy amount of monotony into life at the bottom.

To look at a family flivver slogging along some smooth highway after the day's work is done to join a happy group listening to the radio after the dishes have been washed, is to get one side of the picture. But to stand beside some great conveyor system, or read a book on "The Psychology of Salesmanship," is to get another.

And that other isn't all of it by any means. The home, the family, the fireside, as our grandfathers, or even many of our fathers, knew them, are going by the board, not necessarily because people prefer it that way, but because the system, the efficiency, the discipline called for by mechanized life leave less room for them.

No one with sense can quarrel with machinery per se. It already has done wonders for our comfort and convenience, and there is every reason to believe it will do more.

But like everything that is human in origin, or subject to human control, machinery can be overdone, and made to play an unwholesome part in the scheme of things.

When you realize what some people have, in contrast to what other people need, the surplus of luxuries on the one hand, the lack of necessities on the other; the vacant land and crowded cities; the cost of first-class hotel accommodations and the gathering bread-lines; the amount of cheap money available for certain groups and the difficulty of finding even poorly paid work for others—you can't help wondering.

There are no cinders about electricity, and after you ride behind an electric engine your hair does not feel like a mop of mineral wool.

You can wear the same collar the rest of the day and you don't have to take a bath.

Electricity is the coming king—and the only one we're ever likely to have in this country.

Heat, light, power, refrigeration—everything soon will come from the invisible giant.

The only trouble about it will be the men it will throw out of work.

THIS question of unemployment is giving the students of economics more trouble than any other thing right now. We don't mean the present unemployment, but the far greater unemployment which is threatened by our turning the work of the world over to machinery.

In former days we met the men who were thrown out of one job by a machine by giving them jobs in another line, but it will not be long until every line has its machines, and when that time comes we will face a situation which will call for all the patience and wisdom we have in our systems.

This would go far toward solving our present traffic problem, by eliminating the slow moving street cars which use the middle of the street, and usually are followed by a line of automobiles.

In the meantime we should cut down on immigration and make the problem of distributing the employment simpler than it will be with Europe's overflow on our hands to care for.

D. D. FERTIG.

Times Are Hard!



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

More Warmth, Less Food for Aged

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

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

MONG the public health lectures given at Harvard Medical School on the personal care of the human being was one by Alfred Worcester on the care of the aged.

When it is realized that up to 100 years ago the average age at death was 35 years, it easily is understood why the care of the health of the aged has not been particularly a problem for medical science.

In modern times when the average age at death is more than 55 years and when a considerable number of people live to 75 and 80 and even up to 90 years of age, the problem of the aged is assuming increasing importance.

It must be realized that the man or woman who is old has diseases which are different from those of the child. Babies are much alike and it is possible to establish routine methods of care for their hygiene.

It is doubtful that any two elderly men or women are exactly alike; it is questionable that any systematic

method of care for all of them can be outlined.

The elderly man or woman who has suffered from a chronic disorder has, no doubt, established habits throughout life which are practically a necessity for his or her comfort. It is not wise to attempt to change all the habits of the aged in times of illness.

Smoking, small amounts of alcohol, liquor, coffee drinking, and long sessions at bridge or pinochle may be the factors of happiness which have made for old age, and to attempt to remove them from the aged may result in dissatisfaction, unhappiness and perhaps even in an earlier death.

There is a great tendency for the aged person who is ill to get into bed and to stay there, in hope that rest will bring about complete recovery.

Far too often, however, the better procedure would be to get the old man or old woman into a chair and it is possible to bring about the cure.

The four factors which Dr. Worcester emphasized as most important for the health of the aged are

control of the diet is most difficult. It has been said again and again that man digs his grave with his teeth. Before modern dentistry, most human beings lost their teeth by the age of 45 to 50 and thereafter had to eat less food and softer food. These things protected the intestinal tract.

With the coming of artificial teeth, the aged are able to attempt the eating of quantities of food and forms of food which formerly were forbidden them.

It seems likely that many of theills as well as the deaths of the aged are due to overeating and unfavorable diets.

Constipation is associated with a strike on the part of the weakened musculature of the bowel against too much work being thrown upon it.

There is a tendency among some of the aged to force the weakened musculature by cathartics. It is far safer for them to take regularly small amounts of mineral oil.

If the appetite disappears, it is not wise to force food. It is probably better to give the digestive tract a rest until the appetite returns.

IDEALS AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS COLUMN ARE THOSE OF ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST INTERESTING AND INFLUENTIAL EDITORS, WRITTEN WITHOUT REGARD TO THEIR AGREEMENT OR DISAGREEMENT WITH THE EDITORIAL STAFF OF THIS PAPER.—THE EDITOR.

stand the precise nature of the provocation.

During the last two months I have been specifically singled out by Communists for abuse. I have been called more and harsher names than those flung at Jimmy Walker.

In print and in public, Communists have called me every kind of rogue and sneak. They have not hesitated to invent the silliest and mostatty sort of lies.

For instance, when I was arrested for picketing a few weeks ago, the Daily Worker announced in all seriousness that I had paid the policeman on the beat \$10 to make him stay.

"To our amazement we found that features of development hitherto overlooked register themselves strictly on time. Thanks to the X-ray, we have been able to identify these developing features in the skeleton and in the brain case which registers faithfully the localized growth of bone within.

"Several parts of the skeleton are easily available for study in the living and chief of these is the region of the knee joint. Year by year development of the bones of this area is registered faithfully and independently of height or weight, state of nourishment or condition of health.

"Growth, the gipsy, is caught in a fair way of being tamed."

The work begun in Dr. Todd's laboratory has been expanded into the five-year program of the Brush Foundation, the so-called Brush Inquiry, which seeks to analyze the growth of children, with a view to finding the role played by heredity in that growth.

Age Indicators

DR. TODD'S aim was to discover those organs which would be serviceable as age indicators throughout the whole life period.

"Comparison of growth patterns of different organs convinced us at last that skeleton and brain best fulfill the conditions of our search. But these organ systems already have been explored with indifferent results. Could we succeed where others had not?"

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Daily Thought

Put your trust in the Lord.—Psalm 45.

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