



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.

Somewhere, 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 sponsors the paper.

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

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 laborers, 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 Fickert, 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.

Why Is Prison Reform So Slow in Coming?

Why are American prisons just about what they were a century ago? The last hundred years have witnessed the advent of the steamboat, railroad, automobile, airplane, telephone, telegraph, wireless, radio, etc. Yet our gloomy prisons are what they were in the age of the stage coach and saloon. Why is this so?

This question is discussed intelligently by Dr. Karl Menninger, author of the brilliant book, "The Human Mind," in an article in Plain Talk. Dr. Menninger holds that the criminal is the scapegoat who frees us from our own subconscious guilt.

It works this way: In childhood we are punished and thus acquire a guilt complex. This is repressed and driven back into our subconscious mind because it is not pleasant to think about. By what is known as the process of "projection," we help to free our mind or conscience of this burden by thinking that others are guilty like ourselves.

By punishing these others, we free our own mind of its sense of guilt. Psychiatrists run into hundreds of exaggerated cases of this common tendency in the course of their practice.

Convicts make the best of scapegoats. We resist any proposal to make their punishment lighter or more rational because to do so would interfere with our own comforting process of self-purification. Dr. Menninger thus summarizes the process which leads to our stubborn refusal to heed the scientific demand for rational treatment of prisoners:

"The one thing that the punishment of prisoners does and does satisfactorily, although very expensively, is to gratify our passion for revenge. It gratifies, it comforts, it gives pleasure and satisfaction, and even delight to the public...."

"We take out our feelings for the need of punishment on scapegoats of various kinds. The Jews established the scapegoat several thousand years ago, and a very commendable plan this was. For surely it is much better to kill a goat or to turn a sheep loose in the desert than to beat a child to death or to start a street brawl or lynch a Negro...."

"But taking it out on criminals is by all odds the most satisfactory method.... The men in charge of prisons, and the people entirely familiar with criminals have denounced the present system for a long time, but the public pays no attention to them. It pays no attention to them because it can not give up the enormous satisfaction which it is now getting out of what its more intelligent leaders deplore."

Prison reform, then, makes little progress because it is conscious and rational, while the motives of punishment are unconscious and illogical. Prison riots are the protest against this unconsciously motivated savagery.

"Prison riots express the intolerableness of a solution of the crime problem which expensively gratifies unconscious feelings of guilt on the part of a society which consciously believes it wants protection.... What is needed is a coldly calculated system for segregating and detaining the socially impossible in such way that riots are not provoked, nor money wasted, nor sadists gratified, nor the public endangered, nor parole boards expected to do miracles."

We believe that Dr. Menninger has gone to the bottom of one of our leading social problems of the present day. In personal hygiene, an explanation of the cause of a mental disorder often works wonders in bringing about a cure.

Will the same hold good of this social disease—the punishment-complex which relieves our sense of guilt?

Football players at a western college, we read, drink black coffee at the end of the first half. In order, perhaps, to run wild over their grounds in the second.

President Hoover will attend the Navy-Princeton football game this fall. It will be sort of embarrassing if, in his enthusiasm, he should clamor for naval reduction.

London stock brokers recently held an exhibition of their own paintings. Even in framing their pictures, we understand, they had to call for more margin.

New York bootleggers who can beer pipelines under the streets, were forced, of course, to depend upon their underworld connections.

George W. Wickersham, chairman of President Hoover's law enforcement commission, thinks that dogging might bring an end to the bandit business.

As a lawyer, Wickersham ought to know that the whip would fall to pieces and the flogger die of old age before the courts finally would find a fellow guilty.

The only ray of hope there is in the bandit business is that they will continue to wipe each other off the earth.

If they didn't turn their guns on each other they soon would overrun the country, for there's no other way to handle them.

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.

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.

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 driven heroically to take in the endless panorama of red and gold hillslides 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, had 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 the scenery, 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 yet testifies to the fact that the Confederates 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 dated, yet testifies to the fact that the West Indians were 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 of that half is closer home than one likes to think.

Some Eye for Beauty

THERE are some wonderful plants around Charleston and the Kanawha valley, and that huge, tree 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 sound, 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, who 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 else that system 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 scurrying 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, for 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 no more.

But, like everything that is human in origin, or subject to human control, machinery can be overdone, and made to play an unwelcome 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 ghastly breadlines; 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.

Times Readers

Voice Views

Editor Times—The Indianapolis Times always has worked for the best interests of the citizens of this city. Please do not desert us at this time. The Insular interests are planning to take over the street railway system, which means another grab at the poor man's money.

I think the city should take over this transportation system, eliminate the car tracks and add sufficient buses, of the right type, to meet the needs of the city.

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.

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.

AMONG 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 his life through life which is 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 alcoholic liquor, coffee drinking, and long sessions at bridge or pinocle 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 out into the sunshine.

The four factors which Dr. Worcester emphasized as most important for the health of the aged are more warmth, more rest, less strenuous work, and less food.

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 eat the eating of quantities of food and forms of food which formerly were forbidden them.

It seems likely that many of the ills 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 writers and are presented without regard to their agreement or disagreement with the official attitude of this paper.—The Editor.

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 most petty 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 take me into custody.

That, I will admit, is a farcical rather than a fighting charge. Other epithets and charges have been more inflammatory. I have been compelled at meetings to stand and take it while some heckler got up to make a long and mendacious harangue.

None of this is presented as evidence that I am a saintly person. Of course, it's made me mad. I don't like Communists. But I have been able to stand the gaff.

On at least one occasion I stopped a cop who was just about to take a Communist interrupter. Jimmy Walker has been in politics and public life a long time. He ought to know his way around.

Of course, he doesn't like Communists. Who does? The Communists don't even like one another. But there are fundamental rights which belong to every member of mankind, and these are the very things upon which the mayor and his police have trampled.

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Warning to Writers

MR. WALKER'S dignity and honor or had been attacked. Are they so precious, then, that a man must court death in order to make grave and graceless charges against our chief city official?

In all consistency, the mayor should send armed policemen around to the editorial rooms of most newspapers in New York and order the clubbing of commentators and columnists.

I happen to believe in the personal honesty of Mayor Walker, though I have no doubt of the corruption of the machine under which he operates.

I am not an adherent of the Communist cause. And I have every right to take Mr. Walker to task for his ill-judged outburst of temper, because I am in a position to understand the precise nature of the provocation.

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SCIENCE

BY DAVID DIETZ

Scientists Find Baffling Puzzles in Studying the Problem of Human Growth.

THE problem of human growth is one of the most complex and baffling of the many which confront the biologist, the medical man and the physiologist.

Growth is a gipsy, says Dr. T. Wingate Todd, director of the Brush Foundation, and it is to the tracking down of this elusive gipsy that the foundation has launched an elaborate five-year program.

"A very simple diagram of the changing composition of the body will introduce us to the problem," says Dr. Todd.

"The relative proportion of bones, muscle, fat and viscera differ greatly in childhood from what they are in adult life. It is clear then that harmonious and well-coordinated though the various mechanisms may be throughout our life, the expression of our activities must be forever changing.

"New machines are being added from time to time to our equipment, old ones going out of service."

"Nature has a habit of maintaining the body upon an economical basis resembling the skeleton cadres of the arm in peace time. Only those organs like heart, brain muscles and stomach, which are in constant or daily intermittent use, are kept in full working order all the time.

"There are others, such as lymphatic glands, which develop only when necessary and fade away again when the need for them is over."

Childhood Stays

Dr. TODD tells that a paragraph from Thomas Hardy's "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" always stuck in his mind because it so aptly described the problem. It reads:

"Phases of her childhood lurked in her aspect still. As she walked along today for all her bounding handsomeness, you could sometimes see her 12th year in her cheeks, or her 9th sparkling from her eyes, and even her 5th would flit over the curves of her mouth now and then."

Dr. Todd adds, "Down through the years that paragraph has remained in my mental background to spur me on. It is the beginning of the study of childhood."

For many years, Dr. Todd carried on his studies in the Western Reserve University Medical school, where he is professor of anatomy.

"Many false starts were made," he says. "We had to realize that the body does not grow as a unit or even like a community, but that each member and organ is a law to itself, its mechanism deftly fitting in order into the complex pattern of the whole."

"Some, like the heart and lungs, the organs of special sense, sight, smell and hearing, must be perfect before or shortly after birth. Others, the muscles for example, may delay their final perfection."

"There are organs of childhood like the tonsils and organs of adult life like the sex glands."

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 organs systems already have been explored with indifferent results. Could we succeed where others had not?

"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 brain within."

"Several areas 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 and 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 collection of which, inquiry, which seeks to analyze the growth of children, with a view to finding the role played by heritage in that growth.

Daily Thought

Put your trust in the Lord—Psalm 4:5.

An undivided heart, which worships God alone, and trusts Him as it should, is raised above anxiety for earthly wants.—J. C. Glekie.

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