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BOYD GURLEY, Editor
ROY W. HOWARD, President
PHONE—RILEY 5531
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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

The Public's Rights

When Robert Feustel, Indiana representative of the Insull interests, denied that his holding company takes any fees, commissions or grafts from subsidiary companies, he inferentially indicted every other holding company in control of Indiana utilities.

The Insull interests, from this statement, alone are innocent. For huge fees are taken by holding companies for telephone service and the people pay. Huge levies are made by the holding company for the local power and light concern, and the people pay in heavy rates and cost.

More important than his explanation of the proposed car franchise was this indictment by inference of other utility concerns.

The explanation by Mr. Feustel was such as to suggest that the public has many rights and that attention should be directed to the value of eleven millions of dollars on which the people will pay dividends at 8 per cent through all time to come.

Quite frankly, he admitted that this valuation was much higher than the system would bring under foreclosure of the mortgages at the end of the receivership. He said it was a "fair" valuation as a service cost.

The one element of value in the system, outside its salvage possibilities, is the right to use the people's streets. The streets, presumably, belong to the people. That makes possible the "service" value of the decrepit lines.

If the people already own these streets, why should they pay private owners for the value they put into the street car lines?

The proposed franchise is a cold business deal on the part of the Insull interests and the owners of bonds on the system. It should be cold business in behalf of the people. If the lines are to be sold, the people should have the benefit of the lowest possible price.

Private ownership and operation has failed. It is possible that the cities of the future will demand a different system of transportation. Both these facts suggest that the one way to safeguard the public and the future is public ownership of all transportation lines. That would insure a real "service at cost."

World Dynamite

Eventually the senate will ratify the world court protocols submitted to it by President Hoover in an able message Wednesday, but eventual action is not enough. Prompt action is needed.

Anything we can do to emphasize international co-operation in this time of war clouds is vital. If the senate does not think there is an emergency, let it consider what just has happened at Geneva.

After years of talk and subterfuge, the preparatory disarmament commission at Geneva has closed up shop with what amounts almost to bankruptcy. There is to be an international disarmament conference—perhaps in 1932—but that it will result in disarmament is highly improbable.

Describing the net result of the long labors of the preparatory commission, our chief representative, Ambassador Gibson, said at the closing session:

"This draft falls far short of our hopes and expectations. It fails to contain many factors in which we always have believed and which, in our opinion, would lead to a real reduction of armaments."

"What we have achieved does not hold out the promise of bringing about that immediate reduction of armaments we would like to see." He went on to take some comfort in the fact that "we at least can foresee a stabilization of armaments."

In a world which has sworn fidelity to disarmament with one hand and proceeded to increase armaments with the other hand—which is precisely what all the great nations have been doing, including the United States—perhaps there might be some gain in merely "stabilizing" armaments at the present high level.

Such gain, however, would be more theoretic than real. For the dynamite in this armament dispute is that the allied nations are armed to the teeth while Germany virtually is disarmed. Thus stabilization would mean perpetuating the present inequality in violation of the Versailles treaty.

It often, too, is forgotten that the allies, in advancing Germany, pledged themselves to follow suit.

The rapid growth of the German Fascist and militarist parties in the last year reflects the natural but dangerous impatience of the German people over the allies' failure to carry out their disarmament pledge.

Unless general arms reduction is achieved soon it is certain that the German nation will insist on increasing German armaments.

That is why the usually optimistic statements of the statesmen at Geneva now are changed to cries of alarm. Speaking of the present world emergency, the Greek delegate declared that disarmament agreement "is imperatively necessary"; the Dutch chairman of the commission said, "No more time is to be lost. Failure would be disaster"; the German delegate warned of "grave dangers," and Gibson said that public opinion must not be lulled into a "false sense of confidence."

Faced with this explosive world situation, the United States during the next year has the power to lead in international co-operation for peace, without which the armament race will probably result in war.

If the United States will join the world court promptly, keep down its own armament expenditures, call off its tariff war against other nations, come forward with a consultation treaty and otherwise put teeth into the now hopeless Kellogg pact outlawing war, we may prevent the international explosion.

This is the world challenge to the United States government.

The Other Side

Against the shortsightedness of President Hoover and Secretary of Agriculture Hyde in slowing up congressional unemployment relief with charges of "politics" must be balanced the forward steps of Attorney-General Mitchell and Secretary of Labor Doak.

Mitchell has started an inquiry on the disparity be-

tween the prices of wheat and bread. Members of the federal farm board charge that only 39 cents of the consumer's dollar goes to the farmers and millers.

Doak has made a good beginning in his new job at the labor department by coming out, according to press reports, for the five-day working week. He also announces he will move at once for settlement of the big Danville (Va.) textile strike.

Mitchell and Doak can count on public support in these matters.

Bobby Jones and Civil Liberties

The press announces that Bobby Jones has retired from golf, that he will be shot in some golf movies at a fabulous figure, and that he then will assume the practice of law in dead earnest.

We wish Bobby luck in the career of a jurist, but if evidence at hand is prophetic of the future, he is not going to seem to emulate Clarence Darrow and lend the weight of his prestige to the cause of justice for the underdog.

A few Communists, among them two girls of far more than average pulchritude, are facing trial for their lives in Bobby's home town. They may be punished with death under an obsolete statute which the prosecuting attorney has revived.

The prosecutor publicly and frequently has announced that he means what he says and intends to hang their scalps very literally about his belt.

Certain lovers of the old Jeffersonian tradition of free speech in Atlanta, while abhorring Communist dogmas, believed that these radicals had a right to be heard. They doubted if they should be treated as murderers and traitors. Therefore they protested vigorously against the antics of the Atlanta Black Shirts and demanded justice for the accused Communists.

One prominent Atlanta woman had a happy thought. Why not go to Bobby Jones, who is an attorney in Atlanta between golf tournaments? The golf king might obtain a fair hearing for these Reds, even in Atlanta.

She sought Bobby's office. She obtained an audience with the wizard of the green and asked him to lend his name to the defense cause.

Bobby informed her curiously that he had no interest in such matters, and implied decisively that he would be pleased greatly if the space she was occupying in his office should be vacated expeditiously. So she left within two minutes after she had been admitted, full of assurance that girls of unorthodox economic views would go to the gallows as far as Bobby was concerned.

The genius of the links may rise to heights of juristic grandeur surpassing Judge Parker of recent and transient fame, but it appears certain that he is no Clarence Darrow in the making—or even a second Senator Hardwick, who had nerve enough to defend the martyrs of Gastonia.

Governor Harry Leslie says that 85 per cent of the people have the minds of 15-year-old children in government affairs. Now let any one deny that this state has failed to give its people a truly representative government.

The health commissioner of Massachusetts declares that rheumatism is the outstanding chronic problem in the state. Shows you what the dampness of a wet state can do to some joints.

Passaic, N. J., has opened a street paved with rubber. Just to be able to say, perhaps, that it stretches for miles.

It was only a fitting climax that Notre Dame should beat the U. S. C. after rambling over the U. S. A.

A Texas woman, 75, a news item says, recently married a man named J. J. Ice, 83. And did she have to take her pick?

A Detroit man, suing his wife for divorce, says she stabbed him with a pen. But maybe that was her quaint way of getting across a point.

"Frog Legs Newest Canadian Industry," says a headline. They're interested in hops of one kind or another, it seems.

REASON BY FREDERICK LANDIS

WE are keen to read the book which Colonel House got all ready to publish, but which has temporarily been squashed by the objections of Italy, France and Great Britain.

Naturally this only makes one more anxious to peruse the Colonel's pages.

So, we should say, Colonel House should be permitted to go to press with his reminiscences, and if he will do so we will promise him an order for the book.

Now that it's forbidden, we want it.

Ambassador Page told his side of it; Lloyd George has told his, and so has Churchill, and over in France Foch lambasted Clemenceau and everybody else and Clemenceau lambasted Foch and everybody else.

Why at this late hour, turn thumbs down upon the meek and lowly Colonel House?

WHAT they've tried to do to House isn't the worst of it.

General Pershing soon is to go boozing to press with the story of the big blowoff as it appeared to him, and doubtless he will have certain hang-curving remarks to his former brothers-in-arms, as his brothers-in-arms have had, respecting him.

Who knows but what these European birds may next try to put a quietus or something of that general nature on the general's literary aspirations.

Why let Europe write all the books and get the gravy?

Go in, Americans—the waters fine!

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

The Efforts to Put Business Back on Its Feet by Whistling Happy Tunes Is Too Thin to Fool Any One.

THE farce just concluded by Soviet Russia and the poison fog mystery which the queen of Belgium wants science to explain are tragically symbolical of the times.

On every hand men are trying to steer the gigantic machines of modern civilization or solve its complicated problems with ballyhoo.

In this country the big idea is to cure depression by patting each other on the back and proclaiming that everything soon will be all right.

The widespread effort to put business back on its feet by mouthing agreeable platitudes and whistling happy tunes is too obvious and too thin to fool even those who are making it.

Admittedly the American people are in a discouraged frame of mind, but it was not caused by putting words to music, nor can it be corrected that way.

Luncheon Club Bunk

A FEW days after the November election, seven distinguished Democrats, including Senator Robinson, minority leader of the upper house, announced they proposed that the two parties get together on a program of relief work.

Majority Leader Watson accepted the idea on behalf of the Republicans, and just before congress assembled, President Hoover held a conference with Robinson.

Then President Hoover outlined a program which was so palpably loose, vague, and inadequate as to find little favor outside those professional politicians who feel bound to dance the party jig regardless.

When certain Democrats refused to join the chorus, as they hardly could do without sacrificing their self-respect, the President denounced them for "playing politics."

And that's where the dream of meeting a great emergency with noon-day luncheon club psychology has landed.

Good May Develop

EVEN though unwise and uncalled for, as many think, the President's broadside may do more good than harm.

At all events, he has brushed a cheap smoke screen aside and cleared the stage for action.

Possibility that the President's program may be delayed is less consequence than the probability that it will be enlarged until it promises something of real value, which it scarcely did in its original form.

In the first place, \$100,000,000 or even \$150,000,000 is not a drop in the bucket, considering what this country is up against.

In the second place, such work as the federal government is prepared to conduct by itself won't mean much by way of immediate relief to the millions of unemployed.

Work Is Great Need

MANY economists doubt the wisdom of a huge federal appropriation for federal work at this time, because plans are lacking for its proper expenditure, and they are probably right.

But how about the idea of a huge federal appropriation to be loaned to states, counties or cities that are ready to go ahead, but lack the cash?

What our unemployed need is not only work, but work somewhere near home. It should be apparent to anyone that local improvements are the best kind to encourage.

Also, it should be apparent that because of the confused financial situation and the prevalent timidity, it has become rather difficult to raise money on a local basis.

To a layman, the most effective part for the federal government to play would seem to be that of banker, rather than construction engineer.

Suppose congress were to make several hundreds of millions of dollars available for loans to states, counties and cities.

Suppose it were to borrow the money at 3 1/2 or 4 per cent, which it easily could do, and charge them 4 1/2 or 5.

Wouldn't that automatically shift the debt burden and make a rise in the income tax unnecessary?

At the same time, wouldn't it enable us to start local improvements all over the country—improvements that we intend to make anyway and that could be had at some saving right now?

We loaned European countries billions to help them buy arms. Why not millions to help our own folks provide work?

This Is Golden Rule Week; Aid Those in Need

BY CHARLES STELZLE, of the Golden Rule Foundation

WHEN you lodge, your church, your card club, your social organization, or any other society of which you are a member holds its meeting this week, devote a few minutes to discussion of the unemployment problem, with special reference to the needs of your fellow members.

Try to account for every person connected with your organization. Find out whether they have jobs, and, if not, whether they are in need of any kind, keeping in mind the pledge of helpfulness by which you mutually are obligated.

If it is thought advisable, appoint some wise person to call on the needy "brother" or "sister" discovered through this roll call, and let him see to it that necessary relief is furnished.

Remember that to some people being out of a job is worse than the fear of going to hell, worse than losing their social position, and worse than many other experiences regarded as personal calamities.

And remember, too, that being out of a job just now is the common lot of hosts of perfectly fine people. It isn't the condition merely of the careless and lazy.

This is Golden Rule Week. If you are out of a job, what would you have some other man do for you?

Who Said 'Hard Times'?



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Insurance Men Probe Family History

This is the second of four articles by Dr. Fishbein on health requirements in insurance examinations.

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

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

Indicate that the members break down at an early age. If the person is a member of such a family and has, at the time of his application, high blood pressure and thickening of the arteries, he is likely to be a bad risk for the company.

In estimating the possibilities in cases of application for life insurance, it is necessary because of the complex character of modern life to look particularly into the occupations of the applicant.

If man's heart is slightly impaired, he is a better risk, provided he does not have to work hard for living than if he is engaged in farming, lumbering or some similar occupation.

It is known that bankers, brokers and speculators are liable to great strain. The man in such occupation with high blood pressure would not be considered as good a risk as a

farmer or lumber man of the same age with the same blood pressure.

A man with high blood pressure who is alcohol is not as good a risk as one with high blood pressure who does not drink. There is also the question of the dangers of oversmoking in people with disturbances of the heart.