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

One Civic Resolution

This city, if it makes any resolution for the new year, well might determine to demand the right to own and operate its transportation system.

When George J. Marott, civic-minded citizen, and John White, for years in the front of fights for better things, present plans for such system, the people will do well to listen.

Facts in the situation are so clear as to make it difficult for any one to deny that public ownership not only is desirable, but inevitable, if the best interests of all the people are to be served.

The Insull plan is impossible. Its high valuation for decrepit lines and cars stamps the proposal with unfairness at the start. Its high rate of return for these same fictitious values makes the burden continuous.

It is significant that the spokesmen for the Insull interests first came with the arrogant attitude that not one line or command would be changed. This city could take the proposal worked out for the benefit of those whose investments have been impaired by private management or walk. The threat was made that no other plan would be financed by bankers.

Now the attitude is changed and the arrogance is gone. Instead, there is the plaintive plea to civic clubs that no official has presented a basis on which compromises can be effected.

If any more were needed to show that the proposal was unfair at the start, this changed attitude furnishes the basis.

No one desires to take any advantage of the security holders who find that the values of their investments have dropped because of the policies and actions of the private operators. Nor will any fair-minded person believe that the people, as a whole, are under any obligation to make good the money they so have lost.

The city does not reimburse those who have lost money in banks or private investments. The city does not restore real estate values.

There is a fair basis on which the city can buy the present system, and that is at its real value.

The suggestion the security holders can "protect" themselves by bidding in the lines is fine. At the present time the system is in the hands of a receiver. Of course, the proper time for these security holders to have protected not only themselves, but the public, was before the receiver was named. They did not press forward then to save the public.

The threat of poor service and poor cars is childish. The public still has rights. Good service is the basis of the right for the company to use the streets. If it default in that, the people can protect themselves.

The plan of Mr. Marott for bus lines has its fine points and is in line with progress. The hour may not have arrived for this. It will come.

His suggestions on financing the system bear the stamp of wise judgment and a knowledge of dealing with large affairs. It is not the suggestion of a radical dreamer, but of a hard-headed business man who knows finance and can use his pencil with the best of the boys who deal with big money.

It should be very easy to draft a bill for the legislature which would permit the city to own and operate the transportation system. It would be very easy to take the management out of politics.

As a matter of fact, much of the present trouble may be due to the fact that private ownership has been in politics, and bad politics, for years.

If no other measure is secured by Marion county legislators, the one for public ownership of utilities should be passed.

It is based on justice, good business, and the best interests of the city. Future generations, as well as those who at present ride the cars, will applaud such movement and benefit from it.

Private ownership has proved too costly in too many ways to be tolerated longer.

That \$500,000,000

Near at hand is the time when, the half billion dollars having been appropriated, the federal farm board's worth can be judged finally.

Again congress, unwilling to stop in mid-course the farm board experiment, has given that board the princely gift of \$150,000,000—a sum, it should be pointed out, in excess of both the so-called drought relief appropriation and the misnamed emergency unemployment relief appropriation.

Before long congress undoubtedly will appropriate \$100,000,000, completing the authorized half billion dollars for these agencies.

In making this sum available to carry out the administration's "farm relief" program, congress, almost two years ago, passed the federal agricultural marketing act.

This was, among other things, a statement of policy. Briefly, this policy was that the farmers of the nation should organize to help themselves, should lower production to a point more nearly equal to national needs.

Paternal Uncle Sam, through congress and the President, agreed to finance these co-operative efforts.

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

We Are Great for Science and Originality, Until It Comes to Doing Something Simple, Sensible and Obvious. Then We Balk.

HOUSTON, Tex., Dec. 31.—Last day of the year, and who would know it but for the calendar?

It took men thousands of years to figure out a calendar that would stay put for more than ten or a dozen generations, and they still have done nothing to brag about.

What excuse is there for Jan. 1 coming when it does, save tradition. It doesn't fit the vernal equinox, summer solstice, or anything else.

Papa did it that way, so we continue, regardless of what it costs children by way of headache, or older folks by way of bookkeeping.

When you want to know why politicians won't repeal a blue law that has gone unenforced for centuries, look at the calendar. It is the greatest monument yet erected to conservatism.

Balk at Sensible Things

SEVEN months with thirty-one days each, four with thirty, and one with twenty-eight, for no other reason on earth except that we lack the spunk to change it.

Mr. Eastman has spent a good part of his life trying to show us the stupidity of continuing such course and the ease with which it might be changed, but to no purpose.

We are great for originality and sense, until it comes to doing something simple, sensible, and obvious. Then we balk.

Our ability to move forward in some respects is matched only by our inertia in others.

We can perceive the desirability of a League of Nations—some of us at least—or an international language, but not of changing the almanac, though it would do nobody harm and make nobody mad.

Maybe that's why we remain so indifferent. Maybe we can't get interested in a thing unless it promises a fight.

Relics of Past

ALWAYS have regarded the Gregorian calendar and English arithmetic as the two prize leftovers of a dead past.

As long as one-fourth of a gallon and one-eighth of a peck are not the same thing, though called a quart, I shall refuse to believe that "the voice of the people is the voice of God."

As long as we must go on teaching tots to say, "Thirty days hath September, April, June and November—" to pound the names of the months into their poor little cranes, I shall refuse to admit that our great pedagogues are taking education seriously.

It takes the average child two or three years to get the calendar straightened out, and twice as long to suspect what arithmetic is all about, chiefly because of the hazardous tables around which both are built.

Putting aside all other advantages, adoption of the decimal system and the thirteen-month year would more than pay for itself by what would be saved in the schoolroom.

Easier in France

HAVING become acquainted with the cubic litre, all a French kid has to do is multiply or divide its various qualities by ten to learn all the tables. The length of its side is a basis for linear measures, what it contains is a basis of dry or wet measure, and its weight is a basis for all computations which have to do with gravity.

The average French kid has time for a lot of other things while ours is trying to reconcile grams, pennies, weights, feet, bushels and barrels.

Talk about extravagance! In what line have we wasted so much time or money as in dragging each generation of children through this useless quagmire of unintelligence?

Solution Easy to Find

I CAN think of no benefaction that would do more to lighten the universal load than the metric system and a scientifically arranged calendar.

Why we should persist in the clumsy, meaningless methods bequeathed to us by people who knew no better, I, for one, can not understand. Why we should hesitate to make the necessary changes now that we know how is even more of a mystery.

You just can't square such a stupid, apathetic attitude with the spirit of progress which we pretend to love and possess.

No wonder outsiders think we are queer. No wonder they find it hard to understand how we can build all the machinery with such a system of arithmetic, or keep such accurate accounts with such a calendar.

People's Voice

Editor Times—A number of our

Democratic citizens are expressing

regret at some of the appointments

of our new sheriff, Buck Sumner.

We believe that these aforesaid citizens are complaining without due

cause, or at least without considering

the world wide crisis of unemployment.

Mr. Sumner, to our way of thinking, is a big, broad-gainged citizen

who thinks from an international

standpoint. He realizes that jobs

must be created for the unemployed.

Realizing this, he has appointed

several men as deputy sheriffs who

to say the least would fail to be

employed by anybody else.

The Republican party in Marion

county has been shorn of its power

and patronage, and a right-thinking

public must know that it is

impossible for a Republican

to get a political job under a Demo-

cratic administration. Mr. Sumner

has shown how to create Demo-

cratic jobs for Republican workers

and we believe that the Democratic

party is indebted to Mr. Sumner

for being the first to "blaze the trail" to the political millennium.

UNEMPLOYED DEMOCRAT.

And not only are these meat-eating pursuers dan-

gerous as killers, they are dangerous also as creators

of a public sentiment that brings the accused to im-

mediate trial once they are brought to town with

several thousand trailing along, demanding that they

get the limit.

It would seem the people of Indiana have acquired

the habit of the man hunt and if they have any

clipping his ears.

Crooked politicians are of no avail when a bunch of

farmers and townspeople take the trail and perjured

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