



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

The Next Step

The city government having turned down the proposal of the Insull interests to take over the street car system, should now press forward toward ultimate public ownership of the transportation system.

The Insull organization is probably the best in the utility field. It is not more avaricious or greedy than other similar groups. It is possible that it is even less greedy than some of the others whose holding companies are mere fences for their loot.

It would seem that the one alternative to Insull domination is public ownership and the way should be cleared for that objective.

There should be an insistent demand for legislation which will permit this city to take over the present system and then plan for real transportation.

One of the obstacles to growth in this city has been the character of the transportation service rendered in the past. The tracks are rough and not cared for. The cars, according to the lawyers for bondholders, are on their way to the junk yards.

Private ownership, mixing with and into bad politics, has been a failure and the rights of the people to decent transportation have been disregarded. Public ownership could do no worse. It might do better.

George Marott, veteran merchant, has suggested a practical plan of financing of a city-owned system. The community clubs are demanding public ownership. If the change could be made quickly, it would do much to relieve the unemployment situation.

The first step is the passage of a law giving the city power to run its own system. It should provide for a nonpolitical board of trustees similar to that created for the gas company or perhaps the same board.

There can be no objection on the part of the rest of the state to such legislation in behalf of this city. If there is, the time to find out why is at the beginning of the session, not after it has ended.

The city must grow. To grow it must be free from inefficiency and incapacity and greed in its utilities.

Co-operation Pays

Old school employers well might tear a leaf from the experiences of those concerns that have quit bating the workers who help make their wealth and have invited labor to participate in management.

A movement, called for want of a less clumsy designation "Union Management Co-Operation," has gained considerable momentum. Its aim is to make industry a co-operative adventure, with the management and the workers sharing responsibility for production and distribution.

Otto S. Beyer, consulting engineer, in an article in the Electrical Workers Journal, shows that every company that has adopted this plan is weathering the depression better than its competitors of the old school.

Beyer proves his point by concrete figures. For instance, the Baltimore & Ohio, whose shops work under the co-operation plan, showed losses of only 12.8 per cent in freight revenue as compared with a 16.4 per cent loss suffered by its rival, the Pennsylvania.

Other concerns, the Canadian National Railways, Yeomen Brothers Company of Chicago, Rocky Mountain Fuel Company, Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company of Salem, Mass., report the same sort of comparative prosperity.

The good will engendered among consumers, most of whom are working people, elimination of waste due to lack of loyalty of employees; priceless free advertising by the workers—these and other factors are showing results in dollars.

Who Saved Paris in 1914?

The death of Marshal Joffre affords a good opportunity for looking into the actual facts behind the great German withdrawal which saved Paris in September, 1914. These facts prove that the kaiser did not start the war, at least he lost it.

Wilhelm lost the war because of his loyalty to a man and a name, rather than to the principles of sound military statesmanship. The German chief of staff was Helmuth von Moltke, nephew of the hero of the Franco-Prussian war. He was a nice fellow, but no military strategist of a high order. He had no zeal or enthusiasm for a European war.

In the summer of 1914, he was a very sick man. Three times that year he had taken the cure at Carlsbad. Admiral von Tirpitz once said that during one of the important conferences late in July, 1914, Moltke was unable to stand alone. But the kaiser remained loyal to his friend and to the name of Von Moltke. He refused to remove Moltke and replace him with an aggressive military leader.

Such was the man intrusted with the execution of the gigantic and challenging plan of campaign drawn up by General von Schlieffen, probably the greatest military genius Europe has known since Napoleon, not even excepting the elder Moltke.

It involved war on two fronts—first striking down France on the west before Russia could get her massive army thoroughly in motion and then turning back and destroying the Russian forces. In the west the plan of campaign was to close in on the French and British armies like the jaws of a pincer. It was Hannibal's tactics at Cannae on a vast scale.

At the outset, the plan worked perfectly. On Aug. 22 the scene was set for the enveloping movement which would have meant the capture or annihilation of the French army, and possibly the English as well.

But the commander at a crucial point was General von Bulow, an old line strategist without the imagination of Von Schlieffen. Disobeying orders, he made a frontal attack which disrupted the whole program.

Even so, a smashing victory was won, though absolute triumph was denied. The Germans, with proper direction, might have occupied the channel ports and marched triumphantly into Paris. The French resistance was broken and orders had been given to re-embark the British army and move it to a safe place on the west coast of France. If the Germans had possessed an aggressive leader, nothing could have saved Paris.

But Moltke was sick and out of touch with events

on the far distant front. Von Kluck's advance had been so rapid and spectacular that it alarmed him. He sent out an inexperienced aid, Lieutenant-Colonel Hentsch, to observe and report.

Hentsch went to the front, was shocked by the sight of the dead and wounded—a spectacle he never had witnessed—and advised ordering a retreat. Moltke followed Hentsch's advice and gave the order to withdraw when nothing remained except to walk triumphantly into Paris. The retreat was in process before the much talked of French offensive had begun.

The latter was nothing more than a following up of the retiring Germans. It never could have saved Paris if Moltke had been well advised. There is not the shadow of a doubt that if Mackensen, Falkenhayn, Hoffman or Ludendorff had been in Moltke's shoes the war would have been won by Oct. 1, 1914.

Hindenburg already had (Aug. 27) annihilated the Russian army at Tannenberg without interrupting the German offensive in the west—a stroke of good fortune not in the German program.

It is probably futile to speculate on whether the world would have been better today as the result of a quick German victory like this. It would have saved the four years of horror which followed. But it would have strengthened enormously the military clique in Germany, and probably would have made Germany after 1914 something like what we were taught to believe she was before that date.

Economically, Europe and the world would have been far better-off today, but peace hardly would have been assured. The other nations, chafing under German domination, would have been more restless than they are today under the French military dictatorship in Europe.

All we know only serves to emphasize the fact that only one statesmanlike utterance came forth during the World war. That was Woodrow Wilson's proclamation that any constructive peace must be a peace without victory.

A Labor Injunction

While congress is groping about for ways by which it may relieve and prevent unemployment, it should not overlook legislation that has been waiting many years in its committees and on its calendars, for attention.

This is the anti-injunction bill.

There were reasons enough, even before the depression began, for its passage. Now there are additional and stronger reasons.

As more thought is being given than ever before to the problems of industry and its workers, more and more people are realizing that to workers the right to band together is essential to their security and livelihood.

The courts have recognized this right, yet they continue to issue injunctions which make a mockery of them.

Last spring, with the senate's debate on Judge Parker and the yellow dog contract still echoing, a federal court in Iowa issued an injunction which forbade strikers at Ft. Dodge to tell any one, directly or indirectly, verbally or in writing, that a strike is in progress, that the mill in question was considered unfair to organized labor, and that it required its workers to sign a yellow dog contract.

Labor's guaranteed right to organize and to strike were about as useful to Ft. Dodge strikers in that case as if they had been slaves in manacles. Their strike was doomed from the beginning. So was their liberty of contract and the decent livelihoods they had hoped to gain.

Now we are discovering by bitter experience what happens when American workers have not money enough to buy the goods the factories make.

We must have money first, from congress, to stop immediate suffering. Then let us have this anti-injunction bill as one step toward blotting suffering from the future.

A fight crowd is funny, observes the office sage. They'll razz a fighter's bathrobe, but go wild over his socks.

These are the days when a college grad just as soon would have something else on his stomach than a fraternity key.

The times are such, indeed, that many a man worth his salt finds himself in a tight pinch.

REASON BY FREDERICK LANDIS

PRESIDENT HOOVER is said to favor calling an extra session during hot weather, confident that Washington's soggy heat will bring congress to terms.

The environment has a lot to do with action, the adoption of the Declaration of Independence having been hurried by the fact that the flies from a nearby stable stabbt the statesmen through their silk stockings.

The papers say that the great-granddaughter of John Adams, second President, danced in the East room of the White House the other evening.

Wonder if she thought of the old days when her great-grandmother used to hang the family washing there?

Al Smidge gives out a little article every day and Al Smidge is going to give out a big article every week.

The columnist who never ran for President is badly handicapped these days.

The syndicates are going in for celebrities, and this said, furnishing the ghost writers when necessary.

THE way the commercialization of fame is going on it will be only a short time until dramas, grand operas, oil paintings and statues will be placed on the market bearing the name of ex-politicians, but really executed by some talented unknown.

Bryan used to be in favor of a law compelling every man who wrote an editorial to sign his name to it, but the need of our day is a law compelling every celebrity who signs an article to make an affidavit that he wrote it.

Instead of appropriating four million dollars for a new cellhouse at Michigan City, as Warden Daly said would have to be done, Indiana should take a lot of her prisoners out and build roads with them.

This would not cut down the employment of free labor; it would simply let us build more roads than otherwise.

EINSTEIN says he may stay here permanently if the fascists get control of Germany.

Well, we will be glad to have him; he may be too deep for us, but we need a little profundity to offset the frivolity of the period.

Twelve hundred children of the Bolsheviks hissed and jeered Santa Claus in Moscow, and we'd say they would grow up to be very sentimental.

Russia has taken away the Lord and Santa Claus, but it lets the children look at the mummy of Lenin, which is about the largest gold brick ever handed to a safe place on the west coast of France. If the Germans had possessed an aggressive leader, nothing could have saved Paris.

But Moltke was sick and out of touch with events

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

Pig-Headedness in the Palace, Rather Than Sloth in the Pit, Is What Has Drenched This World With Blood.

EL PASO, Tex., Jan. 8.—The magazine *Liberty*, which always is interesting and generally right, takes Admiral Pratt to task for expressing the opinion that "this country never will start an aggressive war."

Falling back on history, it proves to its own satisfaction, at least—that not only do we Americans owe our national existence to aggressive war, but that many aggressive wars have been good and that, whether they have or not, they will continue to occur.

Well, you can prove a lot of things by history.

You can take history, for instance, and prove that the leper recently discovered in El Paso should be given a gray gown and a cap and told to come no nearer than three miles of any human habitation.

You can take history, and prove that the yarn about those Italian airplanes flying across the Atlantic just can't be so.

Or, going a little farther back, you can take history and prove that there isn't anything at all on this side of the Atlantic; that the earth is flat, and that what we call science is merely witchcraft, designed by Satan to trick the faithful.

What you can, or can not, prove by history depends on where you stop, but history itself never stops.

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Lepers Can Be Cured

AS to that leper, he has been sent to the splendid government hospital at Carrollton, La., and the chances are that he will come out with the dread malady arrested within a few years, which is something men looked upon as impossible even as late as ten years ago.

As to those Italian airplanes, who supposes they have spoken the last word in trans-ocean flying, great as is their feat?

The significance of the past does not lie in what has been finished, but in what has been left unfinished, in the suggestiveness of its achievements.

He who would be a prophet must read the record, not as a guide to completed trials, but as a prospectus of unexplored realms, and as the most convincing proof we possess of man's ability to grow.

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Ignorance Still Thrives

REAT areas of savagery, superstition and ignorance remain. Vast multitudes of people still flounder along in a comparatively backward state, according to our viewpoint.

Civilization can not sidestep the necessity of trading with them, which means that it can not sidestep the necessity of insisting on a certain degree of order.

It occurred to Dr. C. A. Mills to find out whether there was any direct relationship between climate and the number of births occurring in any section of the world at any given time.

Almost every one knows that the coming of bad weather is reflected by pain in injured and inflamed joints, and that in various other ways the physical conditions of life affect the constitution of the human being.

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It is known that the band which waylaid our men was an aggregation of bandits, the mystifying part of the whole proceeding will grow no less. After all, these are not our bandits. Here, within the borders of the United States, there is ample opportunity to carry on machine gun warfare with outlaws.

Twelve months they were equalized to a "thirty-one-day basis for

comparison.

Correction also was made for changes in population and allowance made for the time necessary for the prenatal development of the child.

It was then found that the conception rate in Montreal is rather depressed in the late winter, rises steadily to a June peak, and then declines gradually to late winter.

A little farther south, where the temperature for July and August rises above 70 degrees Fahrenheit, there is a depressive influence on the conception of children.

In Boston, with July and August average temperature of 71 degrees Fahrenheit, there is a 6 per cent reduction in the rate, and in Chicago a definite late winter depression and a mild summer heat effect.

In Wichita, Kan., where the temperature during July and August rises to 78 degrees Fahrenheit, there is a 14 per cent reduction in the rate.

In Charleston, S. C., and in Tampa, Fla., where there is an average temperature of 82 degrees and 83 degrees Fahrenheit in July and August, respectively, there are corresponding decreases of 27 to 31 per cent in the rates of conception.

There is a 50 per cent fall in the conception rate during the tropical summer period.

It is the opinion of the investigators that heat and high humidity definitely affect the likelihood of conception. Therefore, human fertility is highest in temperatures at about 65 degrees Fahrenheit.

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