

The Indianapolis Times

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

Utility Regulation

Killing the proposal before the legislature to place utility holding companies under state control merely postpones the question of whether the people are to control utilities or the utilities rule the people.

The assertion of utility representatives that there is no need of such a law and that the commission, if it wishes, can now obtain all the facts on which to base rates, is an indictment of the commission.

The truth stands out that the holding companies of many of the utilities are bleeding the people white for outrageous rake-offs that are hidden, or at least not considered, in the fixing of rates.

If there is no need of a holding company law then there is a necessity for a new commission which will more closely watch the public interest.

If holding companies are essential to modern financing of utility expansion, then the people need either new weapons or new protectors against utility greed.

The public knows that rates or utility service are too high. They know that they are paying on uninvested dollars and for service never rendered.

If the utilities are so poorly managed as to require the high priced advice of holding company experts, then stockholders, not consumers, should pay the penalty for bad management.

The merchants of this city and the large users of electric power know that they are too heavily taxed since the merger and that the large burden comes at a time when prices of everything else, whether commodities or labor, is at a low level.

If it be true that the present commission has power to investigate all the unwarranted charges by these holding companies, then the present commission has utterly failed in its duty to the public.

There can be but one logical step. If holding companies escape regulation the people need new regulators. A measure abolishing the present board and naming a new one which would be responsible to the people, instead of fawning in fear before the political power of electricity, gas, water and transportation, should find favor and support from those who rebel against unfairness and worse.

The American Civil Liberties Union

One of the sharpest sections of the Fish committee report on Communism relates to the American Civil Liberties Union. We may well investigate this as a sample of the accuracy and fairness of the report as a whole. The majority report thus describes the union:

"The American Civil Liberties Union is affiliated closely with the Communist movement in America, and fully 90 per cent of its efforts are in behalf of Communists who have come into conflict with the law. It claims to stand for free speech, free press and free assembly; but it is quite apparent that the main functions of the A. C. L. U. is to attempt to protect the Communists in their advocacy of force and violence to overthrow the government."

"Roger N. Baldwin, its guiding spirit, makes no attempt to hide his friendship for the Communists and their principles."

As all informed persons know, nothing would be more wide of the facts than to call Roger Baldwin a Communist or a man personally sympathetic with Communists. He is an extreme libertarian, who loathes all the regimentation and rigorous control of life and opinion which exists under Communism. He stands at the very opposite extreme of opinion from Foster and the Communists.

If the American Civil Liberties Union puts in most of its time defending Communists, which is an exaggeration, this is only because the Communists are the most persecuted class in our American system today.

If the government would let Communists alone to enjoy their constitutional rights there would be no need for their frequent defense by the Civil Liberties Union or anybody else.

The Civil Liberties Union has defended the Ku-Klux Klan in its rights to free speech and assembly. Does Mr. Fish allege that this makes Roger Baldwin a klanster?

The Outlook for Liberalism

The outlook for liberalism in the next presidential election isn't so good. The infernal prohibition issue set only cuts through both old parties, but through both progressives and reactionaries.

Some men who are progressive along general lines are reactionary and decidedly illiberal on prohibition. Take two of the highest class public servants and progressive statesmen in the senate—Senators Norris and Walsh of Montana—and they are reactionary on prohibition and its violation of the Bill of Rights.

Senator Norris is a Republican, yet he is closer to the Bill of Rights and Jeffersonian democracy than such professed Democrats as Robinson, Harrison, Caraway and practically all the southern Democrats, who, as slaves of the Anti-Saloon League and the preacher political lobbyists, have thrown Jeffersonian democracy into the garbage can. That is, on everything but prohibition.

Yet Norris, the prohibitionist, was so devoted to other principles of democracy that he supported Al Smith in 1928.

One trouble with the Democratic party is the solid and bone-dry south. If Democrats should control the next house, the foolish seniority rule would put reactionary, prohibition, non-Jeffersonian Democrats at the head of every important committee.

Probably the reactionaries in the Democratic party look with greedy eyes on Owen Young as the next presidential hope. That would mean a big campaign fund, but it wouldn't mean victory.

At this stage of the game even the party of Jefferson, Jackson, Cleveland and Wilson can't turn the country over to Wall Street and the power trust. Young is too close to both.

Of course we won't be any better off with Hoover,

who is as reactionary as Young. If both should be nominated by their respective parties, the plain people couldn't win and might as well go fishing on election day.

A Colonial Reform

President Hoover's decision to substitute civilian for naval government in the Virgin Islands is wise. And he has found in Dr. Paul M. Pearson of Savannah an ideal civil governor.

It is a difficult job, requiring administrative insight, courage to make changes, and, above all, a sympathetic attitude toward the Virgin Islanders and their hard economic problem.

Pearson's wide experience as a community organizer and educator will be especially useful where educational and social service leadership is so much needed.

Herbert D. Brown, chief of the United States, bureau of efficiency, whose brilliant study of island conditions is largely responsible for the governmental reorganization, shares with the President the credit for the reforms now in prospect.

Ever since the Virgin Islands were purchased from Denmark in 1917, the population has decreased steadily, due chiefly to immigration to Harlem and to prohibition. Prohibition killed the rum industry and hurt the bay rum industry.

The islands were purchased during war hysteria, when it was rumored that Germany was trying to get them. They contain some of the best harbors in the Caribbean, and are on a direct steamship route between New York and the Panama canal.

But after the navy obtained the islands, it was decided that their value as naval bases was exaggerated. So the navy now is said to wish to withdraw from the responsibilities of local government.

Naval rule has not taken into consideration to any appreciable extent the basic social and economic problems. The population is more than 95 per cent black, the whites being Danes, Irish and English of the old planter type, not particularly anxious to raise the Negro out of his state of virtual peonage.

The Hoover program, which Governor Pearson and his civilian staff will initiate, is said to include crop diversification, promotion of handicraft industries, encouragement of tourist traffic and improvement of fiscal and educational systems.

Albert S. Fall Again

It is not very important to any one except Albert S. Fall—and maybe not to him—whether he succeeds or fails in the attempt he is making to overturn his conviction on a charge of accepting a bribe.

The most Fall can win now is a technical victory, the right to be let alone for what years remain, and a line in history saying that after all his conviction was set aside and that he never served the sentence imposed upon him.

There are things in the record that he never can change.

There is written, through the public documents of the last ten years, the story of his part in the unsavory naval oil leases and the finding of the United States supreme court that his leases were tainted with fraud and corruption.

If the courts sustain the verdict against Fall, they will add little to the national verdict, returned long ago. If they reverse the jury's findings, this other verdict will stand unchanged.

Fall's punishment of public disgrace began seven years ago. No man as old and sick as he ever will go to jail, no matter what happens; and no matter what happens, the punishment already imposed can not be lightened.

Outdoor Sports

If the threat of divot-diggers became so great as to menace the existence of golf courses in this country, you'd hear plenty about it. There'd be mass meetings, riots, bills in congress and all sorts of hullabaloo.

But what about fish and wild game?

If facts gathered by a senate committee recently are facts indeed, the idea that golf and baseball are our most important sports needs a little revising. This committee discovered figures which showed that in fourteen southern and southwestern states there were 908,640 golfers, 2,426,372 baseball fans, and almost four and a half million hunters and fishermen.

These figures are given by the committee to support its pleas for wild life conservation.

A Chicago gangster wrote a song in jail while awaiting trial. All he needs now is an acquittal to plug it.

To the perpetual inebriate, nothing succeeds like excess.

The stock market plays no favorites in making riches and wretches.

REASON BY FREDERICK LANDIS

DOWN in New York those producers who have been shoveling filth across the footlights are sending out S O S signals because the public stomach has rebelled and horrible plays are being given the hook.

This is good work, but it comes very late. The New York stage has been a sewer for many years and it has contaminated the whole country, for the rest of us have had to take whatever the friends of depravity saw fit to give us.

The man who degrades art is a traitor to his kind. The man who perverts the public taste, who serves filth, is the lowest order of animal life and long ago he should have been drummed off Manhattan Island.

STILL there are those, otherwise normal, who insist that the only censor should be the public, that so long as people relish rottenness the merchants thereof should be permitted to sell it.

This is equivalent to saying that all narcotic legislation should be repealed, that all forms of depravity should go untrammelled, so long as some people see fit to purchase it.

This cross-eyed philosophy would make legitimate every dope peddler, every agent of darkness in the land.

In other words, human progress has no right of self-defense.

WE read in the papers that Mrs. Einstein says her scientific mate might sell his autographed pictures for \$5 apiece and hand the money over to help the poor children of Berlin.

But if any of you want to purchase the autographed likeness of a wizard, it might be arranged to purchase the photograph of our own product, Thomas A. Edison, who might in turn be willing to hand the money over to the poor children of America.

Mrs. Bessie Kempton, member of the Georgia legislature, would have a law passed placing a tax of \$1 on every gentleman who wears a red necktie. We wouldn't do this, but we would put a heavy tax on every fellow who eats onions and then insists on becoming confidential.

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

It's Wonderful to Be a Creditor When Debtors Have Something With Which to Pay; When They Haven't—

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Feb. 2.—Milk is being delivered to Sacramento homes at 4 cents a quart, while butter retails at 25 cents a pound. Fresh eggs can be had for 25 cents a dozen and, in many instances, fruit growers offer to let oranges, peaches, pears and lemons go for the picking.

The unusually low price of milk is largely due to a drymen's war, but the prices of other farm commodities obviously have fallen in response to general conditions.

California's farm production was much greater this year than in 1929, but she will receive \$125,000,000 less for it.

As the department of agriculture points out, this loss somewhat is offset by increased purchasing power of the dollar.

Increased purchasing power of the dollar means that gold has gone up. It takes more fruit, grain, or labor to get an ounce of the precious metal this year than it has for many years.

'Mother Lode' Calls

THOUGH California has produced about one-sixth of the gold in existence, she has quite a bit left, and some of her old mines are being cleaned out and reopened.

Once again the "mother lode" calls to the gambling spirit of mankind, and this time it is backed by such an epidemic of financial fever and auge as makes it doubly effective.

What the various nations owe each other, or their own people, heaven only knows. It has been estimated all the way from \$100,000,000,000 to nearly three times that amount.

Whatever they owe, they have only about \$9,000,000,000 in gold with which to pay it, half of which has been gobbled up by the United States and France.

Overplayed Our Hand

FOR ten years, the nations have been trying to solve this problem by reverting to the primitive method of exchanging commodities. Exchanging commodities has resulted in a definite advantage to low-wage nations, and high-wage nations now are trying to protect themselves from this unlooked-for debacle by throwing up a network of tariffs.

This network of tariffs is stopping the exchange which means that most of the nations in debt not only will default, but cease to buy.

German economists professed to be puzzled at the renewed movement in this country for a revision of debt settlements. Are they dumb, or just trying to be clever?

We merely are acknowledging that we overplayed our hand, chiefly because we realize there isn't anything else to do.

Dashed Hopes

IT'S wonderful to be a creditor as long as debtors have something with which to pay. When they haven't, it's about the worst misfortune that can happen to an individual, a community or a nation.

Of all the illusions that ever plagued and misled us poor mortals, the most pernicious is that which holds out the hope that we may get something when we know we can't.

It was such illusion that drove so many to mortgage their homes in a futile effort to protect margins on stock last year, and it is such illusion that persuades some of our best statesmen and financiers to keep up a ledger which represents little of substantial value.

Going Down

MANY allied leaders came out of the war assuming that Germany would foot the entire bill, which they optimistically computed at somewhere near \$200,000,000,000. Lloyd George, wishing to appear conservative, said they should be satisfied if she paid \$100,000,000,000.

After the first round of conferences the allies found it necessary to whittle the amount down to \$32,000,000,000. And they have been whittling it down ever since, until they are ready to confess that they would regard it as a lucky break if they got the third of that amount.

In the same way, many American leaders came out of the war assuming that the allies would pay us every cent they owed, interest included, arguing that such idea represented no hardship, or injustice, since they only would be handing us part of the money which Germany was to pay them.

The fact that there was only about \$9,000,000,000 in gold with which to pay through the enormous transaction, and that we ourselves had reduced it to less than \$5,000,000,000 by tying up the remainder, seems never to have occurred to them.

Today Is the Anniversary

CANDLEMAS DAY
February 2

ON Feb. 2 Candlemas day is observed. In its ecclesiastical meaning, it is the feast of the purification of the Virgin Mary.

This festival is strictly kept by the Roman Catholic church, there being a custom to burn many lighted candles, hence the name "Candlemas."

The candles symbolize the words spoken by Simeon of the Infant Christ, "A light to lighten the Gentiles." Popular observation of this date prevailed in pre-Christian times. The Romans burned candles on Feb. 2 to the goddess Februa.

In modern times many traditions have attached themselves to the day. Among these is the belief that a fair Candlemas day indicates a long winter. This is expressed in the Scotch lines:

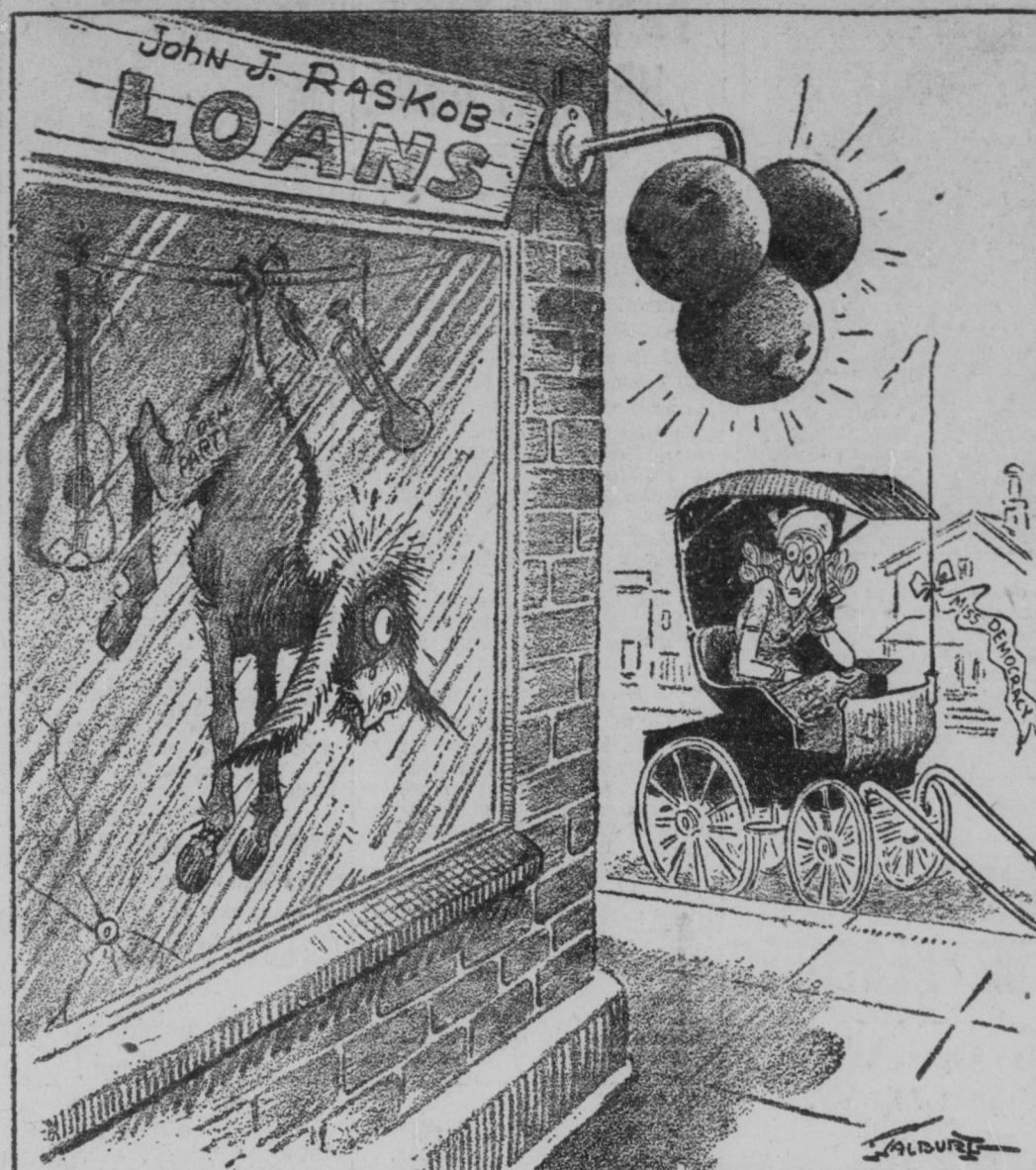
"If Candlemas is fair and clear,
There'll be two winters in the year."

Does warm water freeze quicker than cold water?

Cooling a substance to its freezing point simply means reducing its temperature. Since cold water already has lower temperature than hot water, it is natural that it should freeze quicker.

A voyage in the steerage may be

Two Souls With But a Single Thought



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Pure Water Is of Utmost Importance

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN,
Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine.

THE old poem which began, "Pure water is the best of drinks," puts into rhyme one of the trust statements known to expert physiologists and hygienists.

Today this fundamental field of sanitation so definitely is recognized that every community does everything possible to secure a supply of pure water and to keep it pure.

To have the water hygienically safe, clear, tasteless, odorless, and without a sufficient amount of dissolved salts to corrode pipes through which it passes, it is necessary to study carefully all sources of water supply.

Unfortunately, not every community can be near enough to a perfect source of water supply to be sure that it will have one. Under the circumstances, it is necessary

to do the best that can be done with the supply that is available.

From the hygienic standpoint, freedom from germs and poisonous materials is of the utmost importance.

This is accomplished by avoiding contamination of the water supply from human sewage, and by making sure that the tanks and pipes through which the water passes are not possible sources of lead contamination.

To keep water clear, it sometimes has to be filtered, because visible dirt is unappealing and even dangerous, since it will cover signs of bacterial growth.

Because of the fact that most of the water used in the middle west is derived from surface water, it is likely to be turbid and dirty and therefore require some filtration.

Good clear water has neither taste nor odor, whereas turbid and cloudy water is likely to have both taste and odor, because of the substances that contaminate it.

In a review of the subject recently made by Dr. John F. Morton in Hygiene, he points out that private wells need protection against pollution, whereas driven wells in sandy soils invariably are almost safe.

However, the surest and best method of safeguarding the quality of a public water supply is by artificial purification.

Storage of the water in the reservoir or basin aids purification by permitting settling of the water and use of the material from the surface.

In addition, it is possible to have filtration for the removal of contamination of various types.

Finally, chlorination can be used to kill harmful bacteria. Amount of the chemical used has been shown to be harmless to human health, and if properly used on a water supply should not contribute to it either a definite taste or odor.

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 editorial attitude of this paper.—The Editor.

IT SEEMS TO ME BY HEYWOOD BROWN

COMMISSIONER MULROONEY is quoted as saying that he would like to see all cabarets and night clubs in New York closed by 1 a. m.

This feeling undoubtedly is founded on the fact that one resort housed a fatal shooting affray a few days ago in the early morning.

That seems to me no more than a coincidence. I hardly think that gangsters can be reformed by a curfew law.

Nor is it fair that the rest of us who are respectable and law-abiding should be all tucked in at any such unearthly hour as 1 a. m.

After all, it is the function of the police to keep order, both day and night. There is no reason why a city might not have available shelter for the wakeful and still remain crimeless.

There is, as far as I know, nothing essentially sinful in remaining alert and abroad in the early hours.

This move to make us all pull down the shades and shutters before the shank of the evening appears to me a confession of weakness.

A Place to Look

INDEED, there would seem to be some benefit for police purposes in allowing late hours to a certain number of establishments.

If resorts exist which may attract the criminally minded, the officers of the law at least know somewhere to look for culprits when the peace is twisted out of joint.

To be sure, there would be fewer holdups and deeds of violence if no one were permitted on the streets after 11 p. m. There would be an even smaller number if any ordinance compelled each one of us to sink to his home at 8 or 9.

But it seems to me unfair that the rest of us should be punished for the violations of a few. I do not believe that we should all be pressed down into a village schedule just because there are a few men with whom Mulrooney can not cope.

I do not think we need sleepless citizens so much as we require a police force for more wakeful.

Of late New York has taken quite a pounding as a community given over to crime, materialism, and selfish indifference. None of these accusations is founded securely.

City Hospitality

IN a good many ways New York is more hospitable than other cities and towns. This is still a place where it's no disgrace to be a foreigner.

I know that's used as a reproach against us. I've heard the speeches of the politicians who say, "New York is an alien city" and "Wait till they hear from America," and all that.

But, after all, it used to be the American custom to welcome people who came to us from strange lands and distant shores.

We had some sense of the struggle they had undergone to get to us. We caught some glint of the hope with which they trusted us. To them we were the land of freedom and, because we were the land of freedom, the land of opportunity. And we felt that here again were pioneers.

A voyage in the steerage may be

as difficult as a voyage in the Mayflower.

We tried not to let them be disappointed in us. We tried not to let them down.

This cold shoulder attitude, this business of "If you don't like it here why don't you go back where you came from?"—that isn't American. At least, it used not to be.

We had an ideal, and it's slipping away. This was to be the melting pot—the melting pot in which a new brotherhood would be founded. It's still a fine ideal. But we are

beginning to ask too much of the immigrant.

We ask the foreigner to jump in and leave behind him everything that is native to his homeland. He must give up on the instant his language, his customs, his affection for the place which bore him.

We want him to come out of the melting pot with nothing left of what went in. He must be boiled down to bones and buttons. That's what we call assimilation.

It isn't a fair definition. Assimilation is give and take.

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Questions and Answers

What provision was made regarding the Saar basin in the treaty of Versailles?

According to article 45 of the treaty, France obtained from Germany as a compensation for the destruction of the coal mines in the north of France the exclusive rights of exploitation of the coal mines situated in the Saar basin.

The area of this district is about 751 square miles, and the population 837,870. For fifteen years from the date of the treaty, the Saar basin was to be governed by a commission of five, chosen by the League of Nations. At the end of the fifteen years the population will decide by plebiscite one of three alternatives, viz, the maintenance of the rule set up in the treaty, union with France, or union with Germany.

What was the population of New York in 1890?

2,507,414.

For whom was the Marcel wave named?

For a Frenchman named Marcel who invented the hair wave.

What is the name of the isthmus that connects Africa with Asia?

Isthmus of Suez.

How long is the Zambesi river in Africa?

It is estimated about 1,600 miles.

Who discovered the Victoria Falls in Africa?

David Livingston, a famous Scottish missionary explorer.

According to the Jewish reckoning, when was the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ?

In the Jewish year 3786.

What songs did Ramon Novarro sing in "The Call of the Flesh"?