



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### One Needed Law

Let it be hoped that in the great mass of proposed legislation the proposal for the right of municipal ownership of street car or other city transportation will not be lost to the attention of the lawmakers.

This city needs such a law. It should be used in order that the people, and all future generations, may have a transportation system without paying tribute to private owners.

This law, even if the city be not now ready for this step, will serve the useful purpose of making the present or prospective owners more reasonable in their attitude toward the public.

The utilities of the state will, of course, object to such a measure and thus far in the legislative session there has been a peculiarly protective attitude toward these interests. But perhaps the Indianapolis legislators, if they present a solid front, can succeed in passing a law that should make history.

The utilities particularly object to municipal ownership of any kind. The habit might grow until the people own their electric lights and gas and water and telephone industries and the rich profits that now go to holding companies of these concerns would be kept in the pockets of the people.

This law for Indianapolis prepares the way for a tomorrow for this city. It will pave the way for the big dream of George Marott for a city of a million human beings who will ride on modern busses instead of on stuffy cars.

Some one, representing the city, should see that interest in this measure does not lag and that delay does not strangle its chances of passage.

### Hoover Blocks Relief

Every time President Hoover enters the argument about federal relief he becomes more confused and misleading. His statement Tuesday to the press revealed the bankruptcy of his leadership in this emergency.

To insist, as he is doing, that direct federal relief for sufferers from national calamities is un-American is deliberately to ignore the facts. Several times this newspaper has published the long list of federal grants, over a century, for disaster victims in this country and abroad—some of which federal appropriations, like the Russian relief fund, were requested by Hoover himself.

To repeat, as he does, that the Red Cross is meeting the present emergency is to color the facts regarding widespread disease and starvation facts proved by responsible reports, by surveys of relief workers, by statements of local officials, by eyewitness accounts of senators and congressmen, and by pitiful appeals of the sufferers themselves.

In setting the proposed federal relief over against the Red Cross drive for \$10,000,000, the President is attempting to create a false conflict. Both the Red Cross and federal funds are needed.

The President knows that the Red Cross has no intention of spending its national fund outside the drought area, that not one cent will go for unemployment relief for the six million jobless and their families.

Knowing that the Red Cross has no program for unemployment relief, and knowing that hundreds of mayors and local officials have reported to congress the inadequacy of local relief and the necessity for federal aid, how does the President dare repeat that private charity is enough?

If the pending federal appropriation for \$25,000,000—which covers unemployment as well as drought relief—does not pass, thousands of American citizens will starve to death and millions of children will be stunted for life.

Yet the President, who supported the recent federal appropriation to feed farmers' mules, argues that it would be un-American for this government to feed hungry children.

We do not believe that congress or the people will be turned against the great American tradition of mercy by any such partisan political appeal—even though that misguided appeal comes from the White House and from a man whose very name once was the symbol of relief.

How different the Hoover who fed the Europeans from the Hoover who refuses to aid the hungry among his own people!

### Federal Wine Business

If any further proof of the hypocrisy of prohibition were needed, activities of certain grape interests should supply it. A company which asserts it owns and controls 80 per cent of the output of grape products in the United States, and which has borrowed large sums from the federal farm board, is selling throughout the country, through circulars and salesmen, "the pure juice of California wine grapes."

Their literature amounts to an open invitation to householders to make their own wine. The grape industry, they tell you, has been organized "under provision of the farm relief laws." The product, delivered to your home in five and ten gallon kegs, "is legal, but you must not sell or transport it."

You may select muscatel, tokay, claret or other well-known varieties.

And the company will go further. "Let it (the keg) alone," said its advertisement. At the end of sixty days the company will call, reclaim its keg and transfer the fruit juice to bottles for you without extra charge. Of course by that time the fruit juice will be wine.

The product, you are told, is for "home use only; not to be sold or transported from the home. But its proper use is absolutely legal. Section 29, national prohibition act, gives you clear authority to possess and enjoy the juice of wine grapes in your home."

So if you want to drink wine in your home, you may. And any lingering doubt that the government has given at least its tacit blessing to this evasion of the prohibition amendment should vanish.

### Another Spree?

Almost unanimously the bankers, business leaders and financial experts have testified that the proposed cash payment of veterans' bonus certificates would cripple government finances, close banks and prolong the business depression.

Such unanimity can not be ignored with safety. Those experts come from both political parties and

## M. E. Tracy SAYS:

*There May Be Really Dry Spots in This Arid Land of Ours, but I Have Failed to See One Between the Two Oceans.*

**S**AN FRANCISCO, Feb. 4—Across the bay to Frisco in the early evening, which is a trip no one can make without getting a big kick out of it, no matter how many times he has made it before.

Same old ferryboats, same old Market street, same old Chinatown, same old skyline, with just enough new buildings for an argument.

An American city with a distinct oriental flavor, built partly by priests, partly by gamblers, and partly by vigilantes, its Spanish traditions unspoiled by twentieth century jazz, its extreme modernism enriched, rather than handicapped, by a cosmopolitan spirit, there never was and there probably never will be another San Francisco.

Only when you get to talking about the eighteenth amendment, the racket, or the depression do you sense the predominating influence of those wisecracks and platitudes which are characteristic of your Uncle Sam.

With regard to hooch, skyscrapers, badmashes and Rudy Vallee, this is just another Boston, Cleveland or St. Louis. But with regard to most everything else, it is different.

### Do It in Big Way

**F**ORTY thousand out of work, according to latest survey, but San Francisco is facing the situation the same way she has faced other and worse situations.

Next Friday the city will vote on bond issues to the extent of \$2,500,000 with which it is hoped to provide employment for many of the jobless.

That is one-tenth the amount over which the United States senate has been stowing for weeks, without getting anywhere.

Just to prove that everything has not gone to pot, the annual auto show now in progress here reports a record-breaking business, while the San Francisco News declares that, hard as times may be, they have not been hard enough yet to slow down the operation of dives and gambling dens very much.

### Al Capone Bobs Up

**S**UCH condition is not peculiar to San Francisco, or even the west coast.

The railroads may have suffered a 20 per cent slump, grain may be low, and copper may be finding it very difficult to come back, but the big boys in every line of questionable traffic appear to be doing as well as usual, if not a little better.

From sources ordinarily considered reliable, we learn that Mr. Al Capone, contented with taking over the Hollywood beer trade and, if the venture proves satisfactory, that he may extend operations to include Los Angeles and San Pedro.

That's news which should make Chicago and Miami look to their laurels, though for some curious reason, it does not seem to have increased the gloom hereabout.

One would like to believe that San Francisco refuses to begrudge Los Angeles the prospect of Mr. Capone becoming one of her first citizens on purely moral grounds, but the chances are that content with the local management offers a more genuine explanation of her attitude.

A few months ago a commandant-general of the marine corps was to be named by President Hoover. By seniority of service, by his record of accomplishments and by his native genius as a military man, General Butler was indicated for the appointment.

And why the extreme of court-martial for an offense that would have been covered amply by a verbal reprimand?

It happens that few living men in the armed service of the United States have a record comparable to that of Smedley Butler. Two Congressional Medals of Honor are his to wear if he chooses, along with a square yard of other decorations given in the course of thirty-odd years for greater gallantry than the strict line of his duty called for.

Why then the extreme of a formal apology to Italy for the unwise—but unofficial—talk of a marine officer, speaking in his civilian capacity before a local social organization?

And why the extreme of court-martial for an offense that would have been covered amply by a verbal reprimand?

It is the local management appears to be doing a thorough and profitable job in proving that the Wickersham report was right in its facts and wrong in its conclusions.

I will not deny that there really are dry spots in this constitutionally arid land of ours, but I have failed to find one between the two oceans, though I am uninterested from a personal standpoint, never having bought one cent's worth of liquor from a bootlegger since prohibition was adopted.

I am willing to admit that some good has been accomplished through abolishment of the saloon, and I do not pretend to know just how much liquor is being consumed by the American people today, compared with what it was consumed before 1920, but I never have heard it discussed so continually and uninterrupted, or seen so much of it in homes, or at parties, especially with people young enough to be described as children present.

Where Is That Dry Spot?

**H**ERE, as everywhere else, the local management appears to be doing a thorough and profitable job in proving that the Wickersham report was right in its facts and wrong in its conclusions.

It is inevitable that an impression might gain ground that his censures had some official color. Any such unauthorized assertions are likely to stir up ill will both here and abroad.

And yet I hope that the officer's trial will be conducted on the broadest possible basis. Out of it might well come an understanding that major-generals and admirals can do no worse than make any speeches at all.

Next to our joining the league of nations, I can think of no step more calculated to further world peace.

Generals . . . Admirals

**G**ENERALS and admirals always too frequently aiming verbal Roman candles in the direction of arsenals. Like other men, they have opinions.

Shall We Be Cheats?

**W**HAT worries me and, I believe, what worries millions of other parents, is the utter impossibility of teaching children common honesty, much less respect for law, under such circumstances.

How can we reconcile what is going on with the elemental principles of truth or patriotism?

How can we train our sons and daughters to regard the Constitution as important, or understand that it is wrong to play the hypocrite?

This problem has passed beyond the question of what we can afford to do politically. Even from a moral standpoint, it has ceased to center around the drink habit.

What it calls upon us to decide now is whether we shall readopt sincerity as the greatest of all virtues, or go on breeding a race of liars and cheats.

With a dog, it's what goes inside the neck that counts.

A rich New York girl marries a Russian prince, which is about the last word in wastefulness.

Our golden girls are not wearing foreign princesses as they did once; they're wearing American foxes, which are a decided improvement.

It's a great joke to read that a British naval officer actually suggested using sea lions to spot German subs during the war.

But it's hardly more foolish than the refusal of the British army to use tanks until Winston Churchill, a civilian, finally compelled it.

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Editor Times—I have read your latest "bunk" about the city detective department's cruelty to prisoners.

Who impersonated George Washington in D. W. Griffith's photoplay "America?"

How long was the biblical cubit?

It was the distance from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger, usually estimated at 18 to 22 inches.

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