

# 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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PHONE—Riley 5551 THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 1931  
Member of United Press, Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, Newspaper Enterprise Association, Newspaper Information Service and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

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

## The Road to Better Times

Our world presents a strange and sorry spectacle. In the cities, millions of people haven't enough to eat.

In the country, millions of farmers, facing ruin, are feeding dirt-cheap wheat to hogs because they haven't a market.

Around the world there are hundreds of millions going almost naked, while cotton planters are on the verge of starvation because they can't get rid of their cotton.

There is too much bread, too much sugar, too much coffee, too much cotton, too much silver, too much copper, too much oil, too much, almost, of everything.

Yet 1,500,000,000 people—three-quarters of the population of the globe—half-naked savages and half-starved, are yearning for the bare necessities of life, but can't afford them.

What a sickening indictment of our system! What's wrong? The answer is that science has developed faster than statesmanship. Scientists have perfected production methods in a way to make us proud, but statesmen have neglected to improve mass standards of living and mass purchasing power in a way to make us ashamed.

War, really, is at the bottom of it all. War seems to stimulate, or speed up, science, while playing havoc with the progress of the masses. Science has forged ahead while statesmen have quarreled and the masses have fought each other to a standstill.

As a result of the last war and the years of business-killing uncertainty which followed, mass standards of living and mass buying power have been set back, while mass production has kept on advancing.

That is why today so many folks—in Europe, Asia and the Americas—are ragged and hungry in the midst of abundance.

The remedy is to be found only in a new order of things, founded upon world peace. The principal nations of the earth must get together on a plan to put an end to war, then turn their attention to policies, national and international, which will improve the living condition of peoples everywhere.

If they don't, then farewell to our kind of civilization.

There are approximately 2,000,000,000 inhabitants on this globe. Every extra dollar these people are permitted to earn means \$2,000,000,000 added to world trade.

If all the earth's people were enabled to buy the bare necessities to which the meanest human being is entitled, there would be no surplus commodities left rotting in fields and warehouses for want of a market. There would be no more jobless, no more world depressions and no more bread lines.

Everybody would have to work full time to supply an ever-growing demand.

Prosperity would come back to stay. Beginning in The Times on Page 1 today, you will find a series of articles dealing with the road to better times.

We invite you to read it. For while it deals with a subject as big as the world and as broad as humanity itself, it also concerns, in a vital way, the life of the smallest wage-earner. It has to do with all—with where next month's rent is coming from, and the money to pay the grocer's bill.

Read it. You'll be interested, we feel sure, for it concerns you and yours.

## The Wagner Bills

Ten years after recommendations by the Hoover unemployment conference of 1921, the President has permitted to become law the bill for advance planning of federal public works.

"I have had great pleasure today in approving the act providing for advance planning of construction and federal public works in preparation for future unemployment relief," said the President.

"It is not a cure for business depression, but will afford better organization for relief in future depressions."

His present enthusiasm adds to the mystery of why the President has blocked this important Wagner bill ever since he took office. If the administration had allowed it to pass before the depression, today public construction could be rushed to take up unemployment slack, instead of having to wait for architects and lawyers to complete belated plans.

We hope that Hoover also will avail himself soon of another "great pleasure" in approving the companion Wagner bill for employment exchanges. That bill provides for federal aid and direction of a national system of state labor agencies. It has passed the senate and been reported out by the house committee, but an administration blockade keeps it off the house floor.

Will the President lift that blockade?

## Not Enough

A family of five in North Lenoire county, Arkansas, dependent on the Red Cross for food, gets \$4.20 worth of rations every two weeks. A family of thirteen gets \$6.65.

This we learn from the chairman of the county's Red Cross chapter, in a letter to Senator Robinson.

There is, in addition, a shortage of clothing. The chapter collected discarded garments in the towns and spent \$1,365 for shoes, clothing, underwear and stockings in two weeks, mostly for children, who were asked for first.

Here's the ration for a family of nine, presumably for two weeks, which cost \$6.25: Flour, forty-eight pounds, \$1.15; meal, twenty-four pounds, 65 cents; lard, eight pounds, 95 cents; beans, 50 cents; rice, 75 cents; sugar, 75 cents; baking powder, 50 cents; four salmon, 50 cents; six tomatoes, 50 cents. The salmon and tomatoes apparently are to halt the spread of pellagra.

Nine persons may be able to subsist on such a ration for two weeks—but certainly they won't overeat.

## The Lame-Duck Test

Last November, facing a national crisis, the voters went to the polls and cast a vote which to a large extent repudiated the Hoover administration.

Yet a congress containing seventy-eight lame duck representatives and twelve lame duck senators has continued throughout the winter to help President Hoover defeat the measures proposed by congressmen who still hold the confidence of the electorate.

The lame ducks are going farther, and helping his efforts to deny the newly elected congress an opportunity to meet in special session and carry out the tasks imposed upon it last November.

If the Norris constitutional amendment now were law, the new congress would have taken office automatically the first week of January.

The senate passed the Norris amendment almost two years ago. In the house, Speaker Longworth held the Norris

amendment on his desk for months in violation of all orderly procedure. The rules committee for almost a year denied a substitute measure by Representative Gifford the right to a vote on the floor. That substitute, with its minor changes of the Norris measure, was reported out Wednesday.

Almost three weeks of the session remain and those three weeks should see action without fail on one or the other of these measures.

If Republican leaders will feel any better about passing the Gifford measure instead of the Norris measure, no one will deny them the childish satisfaction of eliminating Norris' name.

## Pointing Wrong Way

The federal building program necessarily is too slow to be of much help in this time of depression, despite the hullabaloo raised on Capitol Hill and elsewhere. But the federal building program is extremely valuable as a means of pointing the way for private construction, and both, if properly planned over a period of years, would go far to ending this deadly cycle of prosperity, depression, prosperity.

And, as the government sets an example by pushing construction in slack times, so, also, it must furnish the example to the country's builders by maintaining pre-depression wage scales.

If complaints which have reached Representative Paul J. Kvale of Minnesota from bricklayers and others are correct, the government is not setting this second and equally important example.

If the federal authorities, in letting contracts, allow successful bidders to cut wages, what can be expected of private contractors?

The point is, of course—and this has been stressed by none other than President Hoover—that it is more vital to maintain the higher wage scales, and thus keep alive the purchasing power of workers, in slack than in boom times.

The excuse of those in charge of government building that they can not restrict bidders in regard to labor they use, and must accept lowest bids, may be academically correct.

But with people starving, thousands unemployed, and the depression becoming worse as winter advances, this is no time to stand on technical points. Federal authorities possess power to make contractors pay existing wage scales. And this power should be invoked.

## Tweedledee

Chairman Raskob has called the Democratic national committee to meet in Washington on March 5 to plan for victory in 1932. Cheered by the voters' desertion of the administration in the congressional elections last November, the opposition party takes it for granted that 1932 will be a Democratic year.

According to the party strategists, only two difficulties need attention. One is to persuade the dry southerners that it is necessary to have a wet candidate again—which, apparently, will not be hard to do. The other is to remove the charge that Raskob personally owns the party by getting others to pay off the deficit notes held by him.

But the Democratic leaders seem to be overlooking one other and more important point. That is the failure of the Democrats in congress to do anything in the way of real relief for the drought victims and the unemployed.

The surrender of Senate Leader Robinson and his associates to the Hoover do-nothing policy is apt to convince a great many voters that there is no choice between the bankruptcy of Democratic leadership and the bankruptcy of Republican leadership.

That this surrender is attributed generally to orders from the Raskob-Baruch financial management of the party only increases the public disappointment in the Democrats.

An anthropologist claims that Adam was a Chinese. Perhaps this explains why his descendants are so prone to war with one another.

Speaking of paradoxes, here is King Zog of Albania, with a name like a cigarette, being ordered by his doctors to stop smoking.

Judging from the "butting" tactics that have developed in wrestling, the bigger "bonehead" you are the better.

It makes little difference, from a financial point of view, whether you tear or sign on the dotted line.

"Isn't this the limit?" as the thirsty voyager eagerly inquired as the liner passed the three-mile point.

## REASON

BY FREDERICK LANDIS

ON this, our immortal birthday, a discordant note is sounded by Edgar Lee Masters, a northern writer, whose book seeks to take from Lincoln those qualities for which the world so long has loved him.

'Tis said, among other things, this volume portrays Lincoln as "cold" and "selfish," a strategy which is shameless, yet shrewd, since the writer who merely added another blossom to the wilderness of flowers which covers the Emancipator's memory, must pass unnoticed, while he who cast a thorn upon it might shock mankind—and sell his book.

LET us cite but a few incidents from Lincoln's life which answer Masters.

Weeks after his mother died he induced a minister to go to her grave and preach a funeral sermon.

One night finding a drunkard on the frozen ground, he carried him a mile to his home and saved his life.

As captain in the Black Hawk war he saved a harmless Indian's life when his soldiers sought to kill him.

As a lawyer he defended a Revolutionary soldier's widow for nothing, and paid her traveling expenses.

Would Mr. Edgar Lee Masters have done more?

AS president, his pardons earned him Stanton's wrath and had he lived the South would have returned to the national foldside without one carpet-bagger without one outrage, without one bitter memory. That was his plan and it was neither "cold" nor "selfish."

As Masters, a northern man, has assailed Lincoln, we choose to let two southern men defend him.

Listen to the late Henry W. Grady of Georgia: "Abraham Lincoln was the first American to comprehend within himself all the strength and gentleness, all the majesty and grace of this republic."

"He was the sum of Puritan and Cavalier, for in his ardent nature were fused the virtues of both, and in the depths of his great soul the faults of both were lost."

And now listen to the late Henry Watterson of Kentucky: "Inspired by God was Abraham Lincoln; and a thousand years hence, no drama, no tragedy, no epic poem will be filled with greater wonder, or be followed by mankind with deeper feeling than that which tells the story of his life and death."

## M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

If Lincoln stood for one thing more than another, it was a tolerant, sympathetic understanding of his fellow men.

SANTA BARBARA, Cal., Feb. 12.

—What's the use to argue? Myth or reality, Abraham Lincoln has come to stand for something very substantial and very constructive, not only in the minds of most Americans, but of most civilized people throughout the world.

Undoubtedly there has been idealization, but where did it originate, except in the man himself?

Undoubtedly those weaknesses and defects which he shared in common with all mankind, and which he would have been first to admit, are fading out of the picture.

But why worry over that aspect of the case? We do not remember Lincoln, or any other great man, for the traits and characterization which marked them as one of the herd, though they all had such traits and characteristics, but for the few outstanding qualities which set them apart.

## He Had Tolerance

IF Lincoln stood for one thing more than another, it was a tolerant, sympathetic understanding of his fellow men. Not afraid to fight when necessity compelled, he could win without abusing victory, or lose without succumbing to defeat.

Above all else, he could disagree, without bitterness, and stick to his own convictions, without assuming that those who held different convictions were wholly bad.

He guided this country through the stormiest period of its history, yet was able to rise and remain above the tide of passion which swept most other men off their mental feet.

His genius, if such it may be called, consisted of something superior to cleverness, or ingenuity. He was not great in conventional sense, nor ever he so regarded.

No one ever thinks of comparing him with Napoleon, Caesar, or Gladstone.

Lincoln is of those very few men for whom human history holds no counterpart.

As Stanton said, "he belongs to the ages."

## With Malice Toward None

AS commander in chief of the federal army, bowed down with the worries and cares of a fratricidal war which he was determined to win and agonized by the bloodshed involved, he still was able to lift his voice above the booming guns in that immortal phrase, "With malice toward none, but charity for all."

What other man in America could have said it?

There is a theory that Lincoln was shot just in time for his own salvation, that had he lived, he would have been swept aside, or destroyed by the tempest he had raised. But who knows?

Who knows but what his wonderful patience, and still more wonderful insight, would have steered this country through reconstruction as successfully as he steered it through civil war?

## The Ideal Courts

WHAT Lincoln really was as a being of flesh and blood, or how his career might have ended but for the interference of John Wilkes Booth, is not half so important as what he might do by emulating his virtues, and it makes little difference whether these virtues were actual or imaginary.

What courts is the ideal—the things we have come to believe about Lincoln and that we make the basis of his greatness.

It may be possible to pay just tribute to the man with monuments and praise, but the ideal calls for a higher tribute. The best way to show respect for an ideal is to follow it. That is where we have fallen down most completely.

No man could ask for finer memorials, or a greater amount of lip homage, than Abraham Lincoln has received. No man could ask to have his favorite anecdotes more often repeated, or his prize speeches read more widely.

But if he was the kind of man we think he was, he would prefer something different, something that would perpetuate his character, and weave it more firmly into our own lives.

If we think so much of Lincoln, why not a little effort to be like him?

If his sympathy and tolerance were to give to what's the matter with us now?

If we respect him because he was patient and kind, how can we prove it more convincingly than by being patient and kind ourselves?

After all, isn't emulation the only genuine tribute, especially to a man's virtues?



## GEORGIA DAY

February 12

ON Feb. 12, 1773, General James Oglethorpe, a member of the English parliament, founded Georgia.

Oglethorpe had petitioned King George II to grant him and his associates a charter for a tract of land for twenty-one years, in the southern part of South Carolina. He had three objects in view:

1. To give the worthy and honest poor of England—especially those confined in debtor's prisons—an opportunity to begin life anew in the new world.

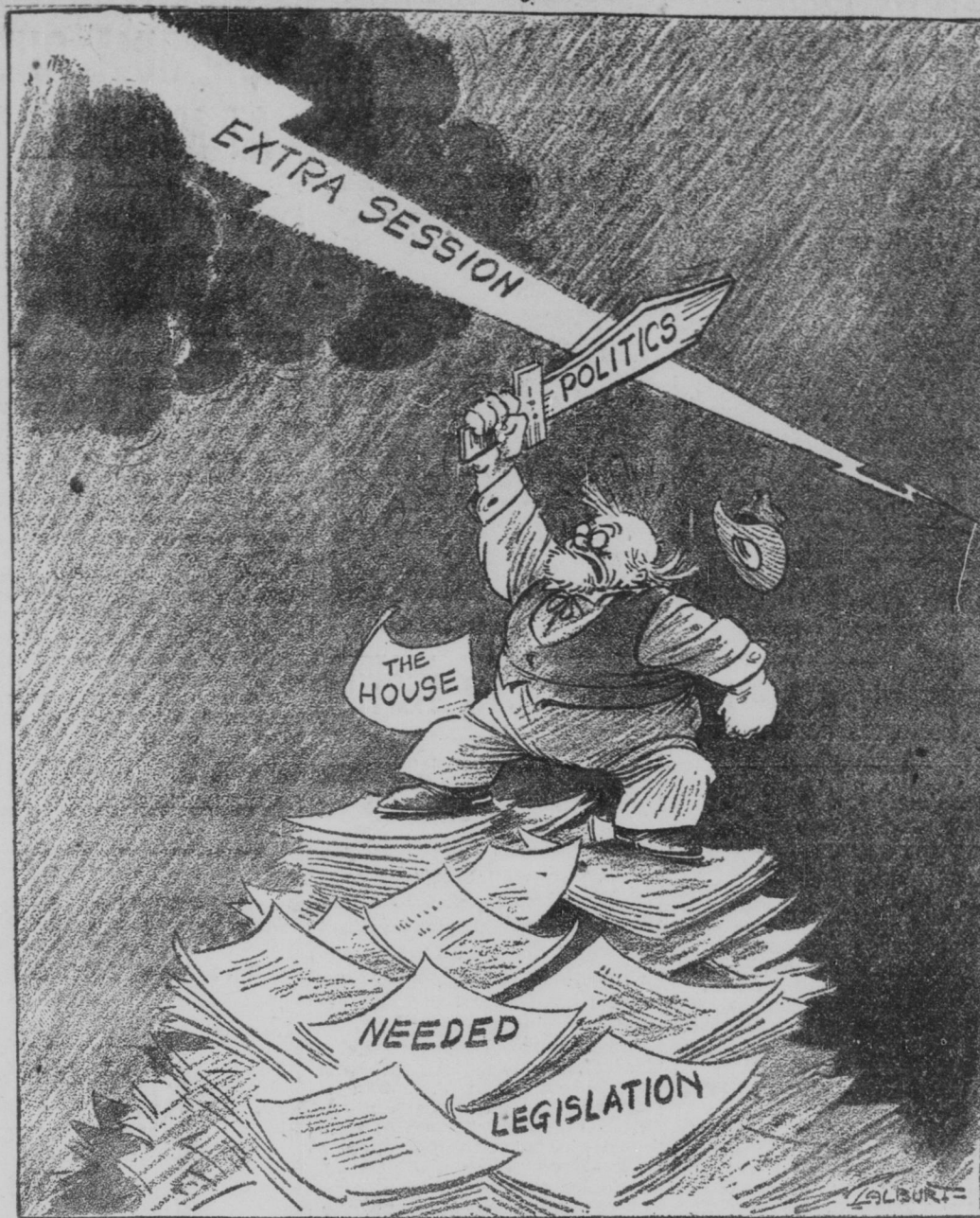
2. To furnish a refuge to the persecuted Protestants of southern Europe.

3. To protect the Carolinas against the attacks of the Spaniards of Florida by building up a settlement on the southern frontier.

The immigrants settled on the Savannah river, from which they named the town Savannah, and named the new colony Georgia, in honor of the king.

Oglethorpe's landing is celebrated annually as Georgia day in Georgia.

## Old Ajax



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

## Belgian 'Fog Death' Cause Revealed

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

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

NEWSPAPERS have a strange fashion of arousing the public interest to fever pitch concerning incidents reported from different parts of the world and then seeming to forget altogether the fact that the public remembers the incidents and wonders what the outcome may be.

From time to time new cures are reported for all sorts of diseases. Then nothing further is said in the newspapers to indicate that careful medical trial has caused complete dissipation of hope for successful results from these cures.

The most recent sensation to arouse world interest was the so-called fog that spread in Belgium and caused sixty-four deaths.

Experts who were consulted were convinced that it was not possible for any poison gas or any products from any factory to affect people in such manner as to bring about deaths of the nature of those reported.

So terrible was the scare that health officers in various American cities were called to advise as to proper conduct in a fog and the inhabitants of villages in the region affected barricaded themselves in their homes and stuffed the chinks in the windows and doors with rags.

The ministry of health of London has been notified by several health authorities that the deaths were not due to any communicable disease; neither were they due to any poison gas.

The sixty-four deaths which occurred affected old people primarily. There were five deaths in one village and there in people who long had been suffering from heart disease, one from tuberculosis, one from asthma and one from obesity. Apparently the deaths were due to nothing else but a sudden severe spell of fog and cold.

The British authorities point out that the valley of the Meuse at the point at which the deaths occurred is deep and sheltered and that cold air settles at the bottom of such a valley.

A fog itself will not affect appreciably the rate of deaths from diseases of the lungs, but if the fog is associated with a low temperature, there is a sudden sharp rise in the death rate of adults from respiratory disease.

Several British health officers who have been much concerned by such problems assert that during the winter every city is in danger of a catastrophe, if a combination of severe cold, fog and still air occurs over a period of several days.

This apparently was what happened in the valley of the Meuse, with the resultant death of a considerable number of aged persons in a short period of time.

Idea and opinion expressed in this column are those of the author and are not necessarily those of the editorial staff of this paper.—The Editor.

As part of my campaign for reducing I've decided to go in for long walks. The zoo in Central park is almost a quarter of a mile away from my house.

That is a good reducing distance, particularly as it is possible for the walker to break the exercise a little by leaning up against the bars—I mean the bars which restrain the lion and the tiger and the several varieties of bear.

But I'm rather more interested in the somewhat tamer animals. I feel quite sorry for and a little afraid of lions.

The cage seems so adequate, and when a lion gets to roaring cold chills go up and down my spine, even though he seems to be safely locked up.

I have no sense of superiority to that which afflicts many a wanderer in the zoo. Again and again I've seen some man stand in front of the cage of beasts and try that staring trick.

Naturally you've been told that if you look long enough into the eyes of a lion he will drop his head and turn away.

I DON'T know just what it is supposed to prove. As far as some of the gentlemen in the park go, they could make me turn away quicker than any lion if they undertook to stare in my direction.

When anybody at all looks fixedly at me I get the notion that my shirt is unbuttoned or that I've come out of the house with a shoe lace untied. Maybe lion psychology is somewhat similar.

But it is the domestic animals of the zoo which capture most of my attention. I feel more at home with the pigs and cows and sheep.

We city dwellers don't often get a chance to see pigs. I mean regular pigs, and, of course, the pig is one of the most put-upon and abused animals in all the world.

He's come to be a symbol for gluttony and dirtiness, and it isn't quite fair.

I'm willing to admit that a pig eats with considerable enthusiasm, but so do dogs, horses and cows. As a matter of fact, I'm not entirely disaffected in the presence of dinner myself.

Pigs aren't nearly as selfish about food as a lot of other animals. They have more of the co-operative spirit. It's not uncommon to see seven or eight pigs all eating from the same trough.

They don't stand back and growl and bark at one another if anybody comes within a few feet of them when they are feeding.

They may prove useful to me for purposes of painting. For quite a while now I've wanted to get away from doing trees and oceans and buildings.

I want to paint people, figures, ven, rising from the sea and Diana and things like that.

## Wanted—A Horse

I DON'T think they've got a horse in the zoo. That should be attended to for the sake of Manhattanites.

Except for people who stay up late enough to watch the milk wa-

gon, lots of us here in the mid-section of New York don't see anything but taxicabs all day.

Taxis do get around faster, but you can't strike up a close, friendly feeling for a taxicab. If you hold out an apple or a lump of sugar, nothing happens. It's a much more impersonal relationship.

It's motorization which has made Broadway and the big towns more drab than it used to be in the age of Richard Harding Davis.

For instance, think how much the horse and carriage contributed to the romance of the theater.

If a girl in a show came out and sang a song in a way that everybody liked and the audience got excited, it was always possible to run around to the stage door and take the horses out of her carriage and drag her back to her hotel.

Now, there's nothing like that today. There wouldn't be any sense in taking the taxicab driver off his seat and pulling Helen Morgan's taxicab home.

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Views of Times Readers

Editor Times—Perhaps the most interesting development of the present session of congress has been the attitude of the Democratic members toward co-operation with the G. O. P. in consummation of their party plans or program through legislation, which up to this time is unusual, if true.

I do not refer to the Democratic party as a whole, because there are individual members who still insist upon doing their own thinking, wear no tag or collar, and follow no leadership.

Early allegiance in most cases overtops patriotic judgment. But the fact is that since the recent election, it is plain to be seen that if the Democrats do not allow themselves to be deluded and misled into any political trap, and make no serious blunders between now and 1932, they easily can nominate an accessible candidate who will appeal to the business interests of the country as well as to anti-prohibition sentiment, which is essential to success at the polls.

They should "watch their step." They should not be so captivated by this political interpretation of "patriotism" issued by any other party until they are assured as to its sincerity to evade the pitfall.

Consideration of co-operation, while it speaks a persuasive language and often addresses itself to us with great force, sometimes is insidiously used.

Voting to provide funds for relief through proper and legitimate legislation, in cases where unemployment manifestly is conceded, depression obvious, and suffering widespread, is patriotic and laudable.

On the other hand, it must require egregious nerve for the Republican party, or its President, to call upon the Democratic congressmen to help them in their party plans and attendant legislation, when they know full well that they have no intention of recognizing or listening to a single Democratic recommendation of any of their friends for appointment to office, no matter what their merit or competence, notwithstanding their "rockribbed landslide" at the last election. Looks as if the Republicans are "trying to play politics at the expense of credulity or confidence."

In a democracy the government is presumed to be administered by the people, who spoke plainly last Nov. 4. Louis Ludlow is generally conceded to be the most useful representative we ever have had, faithful to every trust, competent and reliable. Why should he not be entitled

to nothing else but a sudden severe spell of fog and cold. The British authorities point out that the valley of the Meuse at the point at which the deaths occurred is deep and sheltered and that cold air settles at the bottom of such a valley.

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