



The Indianapolis Times

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

The Tax Problem

The farmers who today are attempting to impress the legislature with their demands for tax relief might well be joined in that effort by small home owners and the delegation of jobless men which visited the state house a few weeks ago.

The farmer is bankrupt. The industrial worker is in distress. Taxation adds to the troubles of both.

Back of the proposals to tax incomes of persons and corporations is a very fundamental principle of all taxation. The government, by necessity, must be paid for by those who are able to pay.

It would be worse than folly to tax the personal incomes of workers and leave untouched the corporations created by law and endowed with the rights of human beings to do business.

As to the specific details of the measures before the legislature there is room for an honest division of opinion. The rates may be too high. The exemptions may be too low. But in principle, they follow a just principle applied to new conditions of society.

Our present tax laws were framed in a day when real estate was the only property and all real estate had practically the same value.

Society has changed its ways. New conditions exist. The income tax and the corporation tax merely recognize these changes in social conditions.

Voiceless Indiana

Unless the legislature passes a law creating new congressional districts, the people of this state are quite likely to have no voice in the national congress two years hence. Politicians who glibly assume that the twelve members of congress can be elected at large may be shocked by the opinion of very able attorneys that no such election is possible.

The act of congress ordering a new apportionment of members of the national body says that such members shall be elected from districts and not by states.

This is in keeping with the fundamental idea that the house of representatives shall be brought as near as possible to the people, and thus to be responsive to their will at all times.

This state now has thirteen members. Two years hence it will have but twelve. It is, therefore, very imperative that the state be divided into new districts.

Political managers who are obsessed with the idea that there is an advantage in placing blame on the opposition party for failure to act will probably be disillusioned at the next election. The people will resent every influence that takes away their right to representation in government.

Indiana in the past may not have been well represented in congress, but it has had members in that body to whom appeals could be made. To leave the state voiceless in national matters is unthinkable.

It is time to lay aside political bickerings and give the people the right to rule themselves.

Hoover's Pledge

Another President has another Muscle Shoals bill to make law or kill. Coolidge killed one. What will Hoover do?

By the very nature of this shoals compromise and particularly, because of what he said about this problem during the campaign, Hoover the President must sign the bill or repudiate Hoover the candidate.

The President has said he does not favor government operation as a general proposition, but indicated he would favor it in a special instance such as Muscle Shoals if it were necessary as the by-product of some major national purpose.

The Shoals compromise offers not one such "major purpose," but three: Flood control, navigation and manufacture of cheap fertilizer for farmers.

The President has said he does not favor the Norris bill for government operation of Muscle Shoals. The compromise is not the Norris bill. It is more truly a compromise between government operation and private operation than any bill heretofore agreed on in congress.

While it provides that the government shall operate the power facilities at Muscle Shoals, all sections of the measure pertaining to operation of the nitrate plants by the government are suspended until the President makes a lease for these plants. And this suspension continues for fifty years when the lease is made.

Probably never before has a President been given such wide powers to dispose of a government property to a private concern as this Muscle Shoals compromise gives Hoover to lease the fertilizer facilities there.

Moreover, the compromise is a test of whether any part of the Muscle Shoals properties ever can be leased. If, after twelve months, no lease is consummated under the liberal terms of the compromise, it must be agreed generally that a lease never can be made.

And then even the most vigorous opponents of government operation will be forced to the conclusion that such operation is preferable to allowing the valuable plants to disintegrate.

And, above all, this is another test of Hoover on the power issue.

He can not meet the issue by a pocket veto, as has been hinted. He can not meet it by any sort of veto.

He can meet it only by approving the compromise.

The Wagner Laws

If President Hoover signs the employment agency bill, Senator Wagner's preliminary program for reducing future unemployment will be complete. His other bills, now law, provide for better labor statistics and staggering of public works.

This does not mean the end of unemployment. We must go a long way, experimenting, rejecting and planning, before we have done all that may be done to rid our industrial civilization of its worst disease.

It does mean that we have made a start. For the first time we have done something besides discuss unemployment.

This depression will not pass without at least a small effort to avoid depressions in the future.

The Wagner program is sound and helpful. It offers no spectacular remedies. Its benefits probably will make themselves felt so gradually that we never

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

The American People Really Do Not Want a Dictator, but They Flirt With the Idea Because They Want Action.

FORT WORTH, Tex., Feb. 25—Though asking for drought relief, the people of west Texas have raised a great hue and cry over the description of their habitat as "semiarid," in certain text books. Not only that, but they have been successful to the extent of making some of the publishers take it back and agree to a revision of the copy.

Quarreling as this sounds, it is quite consistent with the facts. There has been a drought in west Texas, just as there was in Virginia, southern Ohio and many other sections, but it meant no more in one place than another.

Now, no one would describe west Texas as even mildly arid, whether with regard to water, oil or hooch. A special report to the Wickersham commission says that the market is better for moonshine than imported stuff, and though it attributes this to local taste, over-production undoubtedly is the real cause.

Home Industry Thrives

IAS they claim in stopping importation, and if drinking is as prevalent as they admit, home manufacture must be gaining by leaps and bounds.

Those who have perfected themselves in this new art, whether for business or their own convenience, doubtless will be glad to learn that the eighteenth amendment is valid and that they can continue, without fear of competition.

It requires no stretch of the imagination to guess how dreadfully such hefty boys as "Scarface" Al Capone would have felt had the supreme court upheld Judge Clark and decided that the eighteenth amendment was null and void.

With national prohibition okayed, with President Hoover committed to it, by Chairman Raskob virtually thwarted in his efforts to turn the Democratic party web, and with "Big Bill" Thompson re-nominated and likely to be re-elected mayor of Chicago, the bootlegging industry should feel safe.

Gloomily Outlook in Oil

THE situation does not look so bright for oil men, especially the little independents. Congress can't find time to do a thing in their behalf. Garner of Texas says it's because the Mellon crowd and the Rockefeller's won't let congress do anything; that they have the little fellows right where they want them, and are making use of the present situation to squeeze them out.

That may be true, of course, but congress has been very busy with its probes and investigations, not to mention the task of building fences for 1932, and just about the time it appears to have things nicely cleaned up and can get down to work, some one is sure to confront it with a wholly unexpected problem.

The oil men might have obtained something in spite of the Mellons and Rockefellers if the New York World hadn't instigated that some senator got paid by somebody for putting over some deal in connection with the sugar tariff, but now Mr. Borah thinks the senate should drop everything and find out all about it, though there isn't so much as a name to begin with.

Do We Want a Dictator?

SENATOR WALSH of Montana says that the reason people find so much fault with congress is that they want a dictator. Assuming he's right, for the sake of argument, what has caused the people to want a dictator? Why were such Presidents as Wilson and Roosevelt so popular?

The people like to see things done, especially when things need to be done. They can forgive the mistakes of effort much easier than those of inertia. When a war or a depression is on, they rather see dollars squandered in an honest endeavor to end it than pennies saved in some unimportant matter while the general agony continues.

That strikes us under the circumstances as a very mild remark, which happens to be true.

We are glad that Fascist offensiveness has given wider publicity to the truth that O'Brien could give it. For the orchestra drummer, anyway, business is booming.

An Arkansas man broke his leg attempting to hit a golf ball the other day. Add hazards of driving.

REASON BY FREDERICK LANDIS

GENERAL SMEDLEY BUTLER'S speech at South Bend was very disappointing to the lovers of raw meat, for he didn't say a thing which disturbed the tranquillity of nations, nothing for which the government will have to apologize.

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They Want Action

WE have come to a rather critical state of affairs in our political life because of this feeling toward congress in relation to the presidency.

The people really do not want dictatorship, yet they flirt with the idea because they do want action.

The only remedy is for congress to wake up, quit trifling, and pay more attention to important business.

The people are tired of this endless parade of probes, most of which result in little but a waste of time and money; tired of the petty squabbling over petty details while the nation is confronted with such big and complex problems.

What they desire is leadership. They would as soon get it from congress as anybody. Failing to get it from congress, they look elsewhere.

The death of Louis Wolheim, the actor, as a result of radical dieting should warn ladies and gentlemen with heavy cargoes to lighten the same with care.

Old Mother Nature resents intemperance of every kind.

Daily Thought

SENATOR SMOOT comes out strongly against the further reduction of European debts, which is rather proper right now, for if we can't use public money to feed our own when they are hungry, most assuredly we should not give a charity bill for the benefit of foreigners.

The convicts in San Quentin prison in California have gone in for candy ahead of everything else.

But it's too late. If they had concentrated on gun drops it would instead of hooch and dope, they would now be roaming the wide open spaces without restraint.

What race are Filipinos?

The bureau of American ethnology says that Filipinos are related to the Malay-Polynesian family. They are more closely related to the Mongolian than to the Caucasian race, and range in color from light to dark reddish brown.

When was William Haines born?

Jan. 1, 1900.

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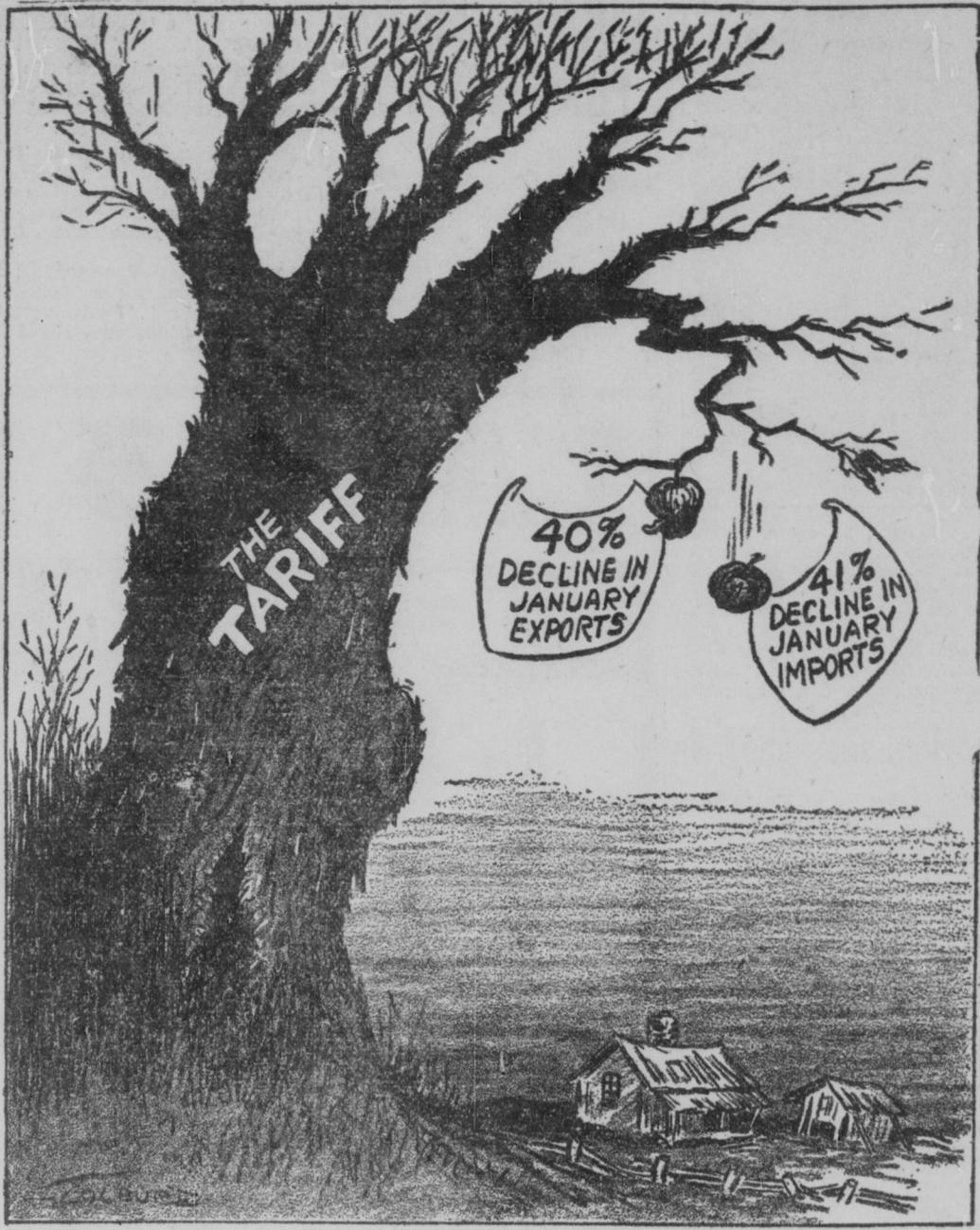
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Bearing Fruit!



IT SEEMS TO ME BY HEYWOOD BROUN

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