

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 make 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

will be aware of them fully until some day we realize they have saved us from suffering or danger we might have had to face.

They will become so integral a part of our national life that we will wonder how we managed without them.

Having started to grapple with the ills of an industrial age, perhaps we shall find it easier to go on and do the things that still must be done before the democracy of food, shelter and security is won for all.

Prohibition Is Legal, But—

Few will be surprised or grieved by the unanimous decision yesterday of the United States supreme court upholding the constitutional validity of the eighteenth amendment.

There will be little surprise, because the same high court in its earlier decision in the celebrated national prohibition cases held that "the amendment by lawful proposal and ratification has become a part of the Constitution."

And only last month the able justices of the United States circuit court of appeals in New York also unanimously sustained the constitutionality of the amendment.

Probably not even Federal Judge William Clark of Newark will be surprised that he was reversed by the supreme court. For Judge Clark's logic, it will be recalled, leaned much more heavily on a political philosophy than upon the law at issue.

Clark's basic argument that the tenth amendment limited congress' power under Article 5 of the Constitution to fix the method of ratifying subsequent amendments does not hold water.

As the supreme court pointed out, every amendment has been ratified by the acts of state legislatures, including all the amendments after the tenth and including those touching individual rights of citizens.

We believe with Judge Clark that the unused method of ratification by state conventions is a better and more democratic method than by state legislatures. But, unfortunately, under the Constitution it is not the only way and not the way which congress hitherto has chosen.

The great educational value of Clark's opinion is not destroyed by the supreme court's decision. For as Clark himself said in his decision:

"Even if this opinion meets with a cold reception in the appellate courts, we hope that it at least will have the effect of focusing the country's thought upon the neglected method of considering constitutional amendments in conventions."

That applies to all future amendments.

As for the eighteenth amendment, we believe that most intelligent prohibition opponents will welcome the supreme court decision. They realize that effective abolition of the dry amendment can not be achieved by a legal technicality, but only by outright repeal. And repeal is coming.

Il Duce Advertises

If Mussolini's cohorts in this country are not careful, Americans are going to discover that there is a Fascist terror and dictatorship in Italy. For some years American liberals have tried to advertise that fact—without success. But Mussolini's ambassador and other Fascists here are more successful.

Now that the ambassador calls for a report on every obscure American speech of commonplaces on Italy, the hitherto ignored facts are getting big publicity.

It was supposed that Mussolini and his agents learned their lesson in the recent Smedley Butler case—when they were glad to have the general's court-martial called off rather than stand a public parade of the Mussolini record.

But the Italian embassy now has called for a full report of last Saturday's New York speech by Assistant Attorney-General O'Brien.

"Thank God we do not live in a country such as Italy, where a dictatorship of one man can make a horizontal slice in wages," O'Brien is reported to have said.

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

We are glad that Fascist officiousness has given wider publicity to the truth than 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 tranquility of nations, nothing for which the government will have to apologize.

Wherever you go you witness the spread of the horrible habit of topping trees, and it will not be long until the tree follows its forest brother to annihilation.

Some organization, the Izak Walton League, for instance, should come to the rescue of our defenseless friends.

TO top a tree is to kill it by inches.

It makes a brave effort to come back, but the most it can do is to raise a crop of sprouts around the amputated surface and meanwhile it dies back. It is butchery, pure and simple.

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.

Mrs. Nature emphasized her attitude very strongly in the case of the late Senator Boies Penrose of Pennsylvania.

Penrose was built like a battleship and should have lived a century, but he scuttled his ship with dissipation and went out at 62.

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 ball 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 gum drops years ago instead of hooch and dope, they would now be roaming the wide open spaces without restraint.

IN spite of the dire predictions of Secretary Mellon regarding the effects of letting the soldiers borrow more money on their certificates, stocks went up immediately after the house of representatives voted for the proposition.

This sham battle at Panama between warships is a sham in more ways than one, for if the canal ever is attacked it will be from the air.

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

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

FT. 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 "semi-arid," in certain text books. Not only that, but they have been successful in the extent of making some of the publishers take it back and agree to a revision of the copy.

Queer 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 means no more in one place than another.

Just 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, overproduction undoubtedly is the real cause.

Home Industry Thrives

If dry officials are as successful as 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 happy 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 stand by it, with Chairman McKeown virtually thwarted in his efforts to turn the Democratic party wet, and with "Big Bill" Thompson renominated and likely to be re-elected mayor of Chicago, the bootlegging industry should feel safe.

Gloomy 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 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 Rockefeller's if the New York World hadn't insinuated 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 would see dollars squandered in an honest endeavor to end it than pennies saved in some unimportant matter while the general agony continues.

Whatever else may be said of the people of this country, they are positive in their attitude. They want to carry on, get things behind them, and be ready for the next job. What irks them with congress is its inability to cover ground unless driven to act by a chief executive whom it recognizes as its master.

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 want as soon get it from congress as anybody. Failing that, they will look elsewhere.

Daily Thought

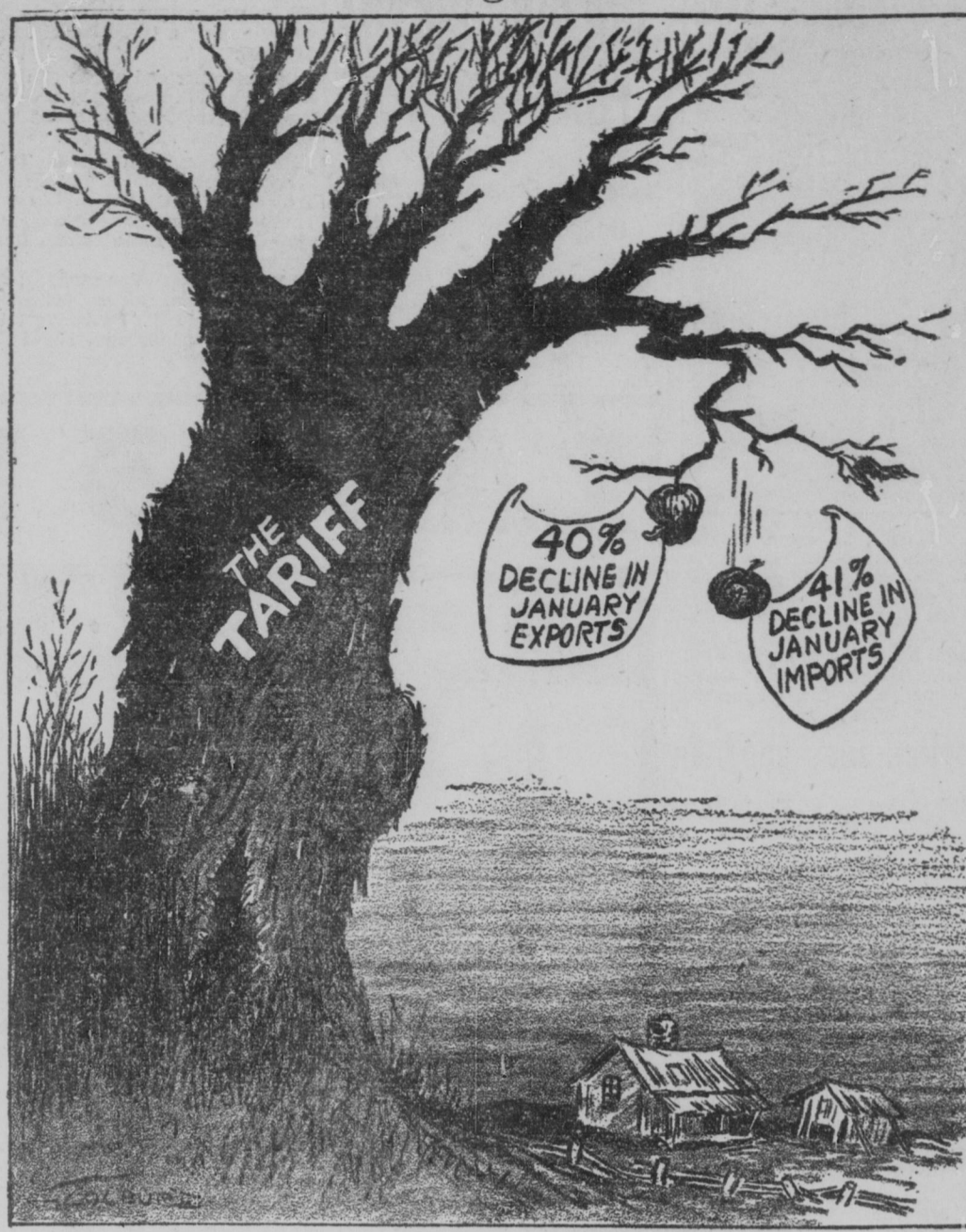
Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.—Isaiah 55:7.

Repentance is not so much remorse for what we have done as the fear of the consequences.—Rochefoucauld.

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

When was William Haines born? Jan. 1, 1900.

Bearing Fruit!



IT SEEMS TO ME BY HEYWOOD BROWN

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.

WEST OF THE HUDSON.—The lady from Boston looked across the gleaming swimming pool at Agua Caliente, and it was not a difficult choice in the matter of view, for I was sitting on the other side of the little table. But after a little while she turned back and gave me a frank New England glance.

It was evident that she had a concern! I am no Winchell, but I have at least an average curiosity as to people's errors, particularly the transgressions of the sedate. Our brief acquaintanceship was perfectly proper and founded on the fact that her husband had once published a book through a firm which had once brought out a book of mine.

I waited patiently to hear just what she had to tell. After a long silence she remarked: "This morning I did a dreadful thing."

Consolation Falls

THERE is no point in trying to hurry a Bostonian, so I merely sat still and made no comment, even though I ached to hear the true and complete confession.

But it was not until a long, long time later that she said, "This morning I had a Tom Collins before breakfast."

And to me it seemed a momentous revelation. A New England conscience had gone down under the hot sun and customs of Old Mexico.

It will seem an anti-climax if I discuss my own conscience and what has happened to it at Agua Caliente and other points on the Mexican side of the border.

Down here the day is without recreation! tides. It started me to see men and women dancing cheek to cheek in the cafes of Tia Juana at 9:30 of a Sunday morning. By 11 the Casino at Caliente was jammed with players two deep around each roulette wheel.

Like Heaven

I AM no fanatic for fun—I quit a little after 4. It seems to me that every man who respects his health should get five hours' sleep as regularly as possible.

But at least here was an opportunity to gamble through a complete twenty-four-hour span at roulette, blackjack, craps or bird cage, and down in Tia Juana there's a perpetual stud game.

Among the factors which make the Caliente Casino stand out beyond most others is the color of the place. Every other attendant looks

that its parents know exactly what they are doing and when it begins to unlearn, finds out why they do it, is going to be a much more happy child and at the same time a much more efficient member of the community.

Beyond the physical and mental factors associated with the rearing of the normal child, there are the tremendous problems concerning the handicapped that already have been mentioned.

The progress of medical science has made possible a great service to these unfortunate children. The children are repaired by the new reconstructive surgery; the hard of hearing are taught the reading of lips, and in some instances aided by electrical devices; the child with impaired vision is provided with suitable lenses.

These weakened by rheumatic disorders and heart disease are taught proper conservation of their energy and given occupations suitable to their state of life; the astigmatic may be studied by modern methods to determine the substance to which they are particularly sensitive and in some instances desensitized; the child that breathes badly because of enlarged adenoids and whose throat is infected constantly, can be made

happy, strong child by proper attention to these sources of infection. The one important step at present is to get information to parents as to what can be accomplished by scientific medicine, by sociology, by psychology, and by public health work, so they and their children may have the benefits of all that modern medicine, modern education, and modern social welfare have to offer.

People's Voice

Editor Times—Governor Leslie recently stated, or was quoted publicly, that information had come to him that married women were able to support their husbands were able to support them.

We would suggest that state officers take a survey of statehouses and state institutions generally of the departments where married women are employed. These ladies wear diamonds, rich furs, lovely dresses and park good cars on statehouse space, while their childless husbands are employed in gainful occupations and professions.

The officials should check up on the state board of charities, the state industrial board, board of accounts, board of mines, treasurer's office, state historical commission, state board of medical registration, state board of nurses' registration, board of education, board of agriculture, etc.

The Federation of Women's Clubs, Business and Professional Women's Clubs and Assembly Women's Club should act to prohibit hiring of married women in all state, county, city and township offices and all city, town and rural schools of the state. The competition of young girl and men teachers with married women is a situation that is all wrong.

More young men would turn to the teaching field if there was a real man's chance, which the state should provide, by abolishing these luxury-loving parasites, and working people would not face daily the set of false standards and extravagance which these greedy women flaunt in the faces of the spinsters and younger generation, both of whom have dependents and expensive educational requirements to meet.

Many teachers are from the farm districts and the Governor should be keen to sign such a bill and not call that "trading."

JANE FERVOR.

Nothing More Important

The health and well-being of your children undoubtedly is the most important single thing in life to you as a parent. Our Washington Bureau has ready for you a comprehensive and authoritative bulletin, drawn from United States government sources, on CHILD HEALTH. It gives in understandable language general rules for finding and recognizing common ailments and physical defects in children, so that competent medical assistance can be called in before such defects or ailments have time to do permanent and perhaps irreparable damage. If you have a child or children, this bulletin may mean a great deal to you. Fill out the coupon below and send for it.

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I want a copy of the bulletin CHILD HEALTH, and inclose herewith 5 cents in coin or uncancelled United States postage stamps to cover return postage and handling costs:

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SCIENCE

BY DAVID DIETZ

Life Probably Exists on Mars and Venus, Astronomers Believe.

PRESENT-DAY astronomers are inclining more and more to the opinion that life probably exists on both Mars and Venus.

A century ago, when big telescopes just were beginning to reveal details of the solar system, it was popular to regard the entire solar system as the abode of life.

Some astronomers even went so far as to postulate the existence of creatures who could withstand the heat of the sun and the cold of the moon.

But with development of better observing apparatus soon it was seen that such a view was unreasonable. The sun, for example, was shown to be a seething cauldron of white-hot gases, with a surface temperature of 10,000 degrees, Fahrenheit.

Then came the day of extreme pessimism. Astronomers felt certain that there was no life in the solar system except on the earth. Many even went so far as to say that our earth perhaps was the only inhabited globe in the universe.

Today, perhaps, the pendulum of opinion is swinging toward a more reasonable view. The present opinion is that while conditions in the solar system generally are unfavorable to life as we know it, conditions may be all right on Venus and Mars.

Dr. Leon Campbell

A RECENT opinion upon the subject was expressed by Dr. Leon Campbell, one of the astronomers at the famous Harvard observatory.

Campbell says that "it is ridiculous to believe that our earth is the only peopled planet."

"Our work proves that Mars is not a cold planet in the sense that it has no life," Dr. Campbell says.

"The atmosphere which observations show exists on Mars is a livable one."

"The temperature in the middle of the day is about 60 degrees above zero, Fahrenheit. It ranges downward 100 degrees."

Dr. Campbell points out that this same temperature may exist on earth. Temperature changes, however, are more violent on Mars, the change from maximum to minimum occurring in a single day.

This fact has caused some astronomers to have doubts concerning life on Mars, but Dr. Campbell considers them groundless.

"Astronomers generally agree now that Mars has some form of life. If you see evidence of vegetation, you usually find that to be true."

"Venus has about as good a chance of sustaining life as does Mars."

"We have no right to assume that we are the only people in the universe."

Earth's Neighbors

THE chance of the planet Venus being inhabited has appealed to many astronomers. Dr. Seth B. Nicholson of Mt. Wilson observatory says that he rather would take his chances on the planet Venus than Mars.

Venus and Mars are the earth's immediate neighbors in the solar system.

The planet Mercury is closest to the sun. Astronomers feel certain that this planet is too close to the sun for life. Thermocouple measurements of its surface indicate temperatures of about 300 degrees above zero.

After Mercury comes Venus, then our own earth, and then Mars. Venus is about the same size as the earth, having a diameter of about 7,900 miles.

The telescope indicates that the planet has a dense atmosphere filled with clouds. There seems to be reason for supposing that its atmosphere contains both water vapor and oxygen.

Mars is about half the size of the earth, having a diameter of 4,200 miles. Its atmosphere is not very dense.

Markings on the planet's surface change color with the seasons, leading such authorities as Professor Henry Norris Russell of Princeton to conclude that they are due to vegetation.

The battle over the canals of Mars is not settled yet. Some astronomers claim that they exist. Others deny it.

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