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

Burdening Business

State line wars and enmity between bordering commonwealths can be expected to follow the passage of laws limiting the size of trucks on public highways.

The measure now awaits the approval of the Governor and thereafter trucks in Indiana must be much smaller than those used in Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and Kentucky.

The heads of many business industries protested against the rigid limitation on the ground that their business is now geared up to the use of trucks and its passage will confiscate their property and destroy their businesses.

The railways and interurbans were in the background with the support and approval of the highway commission.

It is significant that the Indiana measure does not follow the recommendations of national associations which made a scientific investigation of the conditions of highways. It appears to be a blind thrust at the truck in favor of the railways.

Such efforts, of course, must fail. Labor saving machinery may add to unemployment, but it will not be discarded. Any step forward in transportation or manufacture will be permanent if it produce economies.

The action of the legislature seems to be unwise because it adds new burdens to business instead of making business easier at a time when it is punch drunk with many blows. The Governor might help the state by a veto. But that is to much to expect.

Questions and Answers

President Hoover's Muscle Shoals statement contains six questions and a puzzle. The questions can be answered, but the puzzle only puzzles.

In naming the factors he will consider in signing or vetoing the Muscle Shoals compromise bill, Hoover asked these questions:

1. Whether it is desirable to adopt a change in federal policies on utility ownership and operation?

Our answer is that the question of federal ownership is not involved. The government already owns Muscle Shoals. The government already is operating it for the benefit of a private power company.

But, if an additional answer is needed, Hoover himself said during the campaign that Muscle Shoals was the exception to his general policy against government operation, because it was a byproduct of a great major purpose.

2. Whether the lease provision in respect to the fertilizer plants genuinely is workable?

The answer is that those who should know say that the nitrate plants can be leased. Certainly, the President is given wide enough powers by this bill to remove minor constancies which might arise.

3. Whether the method proposed in this bill will produce cheaper fertilizer for the farmers?

The answer is that the lessee of the nitrate plants is given first call on cheap power, he is ordered to manufacture nothing but fertilizer in the government plants, and the limit of profit he may make on this production is stipulated. If it is possible to manufacture cheaper fertilizer for farmers at Muscle Shoals, this will do it.

4. Whether the project is required for national defense?

The answer is that the project was built originally for that purpose. But, of course, only another conflict can determine whether it will be needed again for national defense. In the meantime, why sacrifice that preparedness?

5. Whether this bill is in the interests of the people of the Tennessee valley!

The answer is that the people of the Tennessee valley appear well satisfied with the compromise. Many of them are confident that putting Muscle Shoals to work will initiate the great development of the river. And, in addition, the states of Alabama and Tennessee will benefit especially through their sizeable percentage of the gross receipts from power sales.

6. Whether the whole project is a business proposition?

The answer is that only a trial will answer this. But, awaiting this trial, it is obvious that the compromise will accomplish approximately what Hoover himself must have had in mind when he sponsored the proposal to lease the whole project to private companies.

So much for Hoover's questions.

His puzzle was the statement that the long Muscle Shoals controversy had sidetracked other effective action for federal regulation of interstate power in cooperation with the states. This "effective action" must be hidden in the President's mind. There has been no such administration proposal before congress.

Other parts of Hoover's statement made clear that he understands the enormous political and economic potentialities of the bill. He can sweep away the former by considering the latter.

If he does this, he only can decide to sign the compromise bill.

Page Diogenes

If Diogenes had been in New York City last Sunday, his quest for an honest man would have been realized. The Rev. Dr. Fulton J. Sheen, professor of fundamental theology at the Catholic University of America, preached a sermon in St. Patrick's cathedral.

He came out definitely against toleration in the field of religious belief. He declared that the intolerance of the Catholic church was wholly justified by the fact that it is the divinely appointed custodian of revealed spiritual truth. The church could not be tolerant and be true to its trust.

As Dr. Sheen puts it: "The intolerance of the Catholic church is the intolerance of divinity. On questions of ministry and doctrine, the Catholic church refuses to be broadminded."

One may differ with Dr. Sheen on the validity of the claim of the Catholic church to divine pretensions, but he can not bring into question his logic or his candor.

Granted his premises that Jesus Christ variably was the Son of God, that He desired to establish His church on earth, that He personally commissioned Peter to organize it, that Peter did so and became the first bishop of Rome, that the popes have been the lineal and spiritual successors of St. Peter, that the pope is the viceregent of Christ on earth, and that when the pope speaks officially on matters of faith and morals his doctrine possesses infallible

truth, there is no dodging the conclusions of Father Sheen.

Such honest talk draws the issue sharply and accurately. If one desires to refute such doctrine, he must assume responsibility for undermining the premises which lie back of such assertions.

This position is far more impressive than the attitude of such apologists as Dr. James J. Walsh who seek to give the impression that the Catholic church has been the great sponsor and custodian of secular learning, that it has always fought the battles of sound scientific research, that it has forwarded tolerance and urbanity, and that there is no conflict between scientific methods and discoveries and Catholic dogma.

Further, Father Sheen's straight speaking likely will create far more respect for the church and its leaders than any evasive and misleading effort to prove that the Catholic church is something which it is not and never has been.

It puts the church in a dignified position where disagreement is possible, but where disrespect and indignation are difficult.

Difficult to Understand

White House rumors suggesting a veto for the Wagner employment agency bill seem incredible.

The President has turned thumbs down on food loans or gifts for drought sufferers, on loans of any kind for the unemployed in cities, and on loans for veterans.

But this plan for a national system of employment agencies is one he himself helped formulate.

It is suggested that Hoover will "stand by" his secretary of labor, whose substitute employment agency bill was defeated. But his secretary endorsed the Wagner bill on behalf of his Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen a short time before entering the cabinet.

Either the rumors of a Hoover veto are false, or there is some mystery here.

A man who recommends, as president of a national unemployment conference in 1921, that "an adequate permanent system of employment offices be established," to take the place of an inadequate existing system; who sponsors committees in 1923 and 1924 echoing this recommendation, reasonably can not reject the plan in 1931.

Nor does he, if he is a statesman, reject the measure because it bears the name of a man in the other political party.

The Wagner employment agency bill is needed now as it never has been needed before. Only three days remain before it dies or becomes law.

The President must decide now whether he will give men out of work a chance to help themselves.

A Modest Servant of Humanity.

Some of our workers for civilization in the field of prison reform have received at least slight public recognition for their devoted services to humanity. Such has been the case with Lewis E. Lawes, Thomas Mott Osborne, Clarence Darrow, Adolph Lewisohn, Dwight Morrow and a few others.

Albert H. Votaw of Philadelphia, long head of the Pennsylvania Prison Society, was not so honored with the plaudits of his fellowmen. Yet it is probable that no other American of our generation has given as long a period of unselfish service to the cause of improving prison conditions as has

Mr. Votaw.

He was the successor of Roberts and Richard Vaux and their associates in the Society of Friends, who founded the Pennsylvania Prison Society and the Pennsylvania prison system a century back. He carried on their tradition of service with a more modern and enlightened perspective.

Gradually the issue has been restated and realigned to fit that mass-eaten formula of "big business versus the people." The fact that Standard Oil favors proration has been made to mean that there must be something crooked about it, while the fact that Harry F. Sinclair is ballyhooing for the other side has been taken as revealing hitherto unperceived virtues on his part.

Some wild catters and independent operators have worked them-

selves into such a stew that they are actually yelling for the lot to be taken off and the bottom kicked out of the market, just as though they would not be crushed in the process and a lot of others with them.

Some Queer Thinking

Quite a few people have turned their attention to the task of finding a substitute and thought none of them succeeded to the satisfaction of the majority, or anything like it, their combined efforts have served not only to arouse much sentiment against proration, but to set the stage for some queer thinking.

In association with recent attempts to analyze scientifically the reasons for the conduct of the child, the psychologists have given special attention to this problem.

Professor Franz Alexander believes that children lie because they need to lie more than do adults in order to satisfy their wishes and to maintain themselves toward conditions.

Therefore, children lie because adults compel them to lie.

The child, when it comes into the world, has no knowledge of right or wrong, and its code of conduct is determined by its parents.

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