

The Indianapolis Times

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

Privilege Smiles

Out of a legislature that was born in bedlam and died in desperation comes a triumphant victory for every power of privilege.

The people get as little as a hungry dog, seeking a bone, obtains from a sausage factory.

Big business is safe. Special taxation is safe. Political grafts are protected. All the old impositions are continued. All the old forms of private pillage are in force.

At the finish, when tired men, sleepy men, voted upon motions which they little understood, the forces behind Leslie must be credited with the final slaughter of good legislation and the passage of some that is evil, very evil.

The Democratic party emerges with the hollow victory of having passed every platform measure promised the people through the one house that they controlled.

The Republican party should be able to draw large drafts in the form of campaign funds from the privileged interests, for with the single exception of the registration bill, forced into law by an indignant and organized womanhood, every one of those platform pledges failed to become a law.

At the finish, the statehouse presented the spectacle of a Governor seated with his private mentor, able to force from a timid opposition of legislators practically every demand he made in behalf of the forces he represents.

There will be no Old Age Pension. That was assassinated by the Governor after it had been passed with cheers by the Democratic house and grudgingly by a holdover senate. "Over the hill" was the sentence given to those who are old and, growing older, find themselves no longer self-supporting.

The utilities may continue, unhampered, every device of loot which now permits them to escape proper regulation. Not all of the blame for this rests upon a Republican senate, which ruthlessly killed the measure to regulate holding companies. Other bills, which might have saved some of the penuries of the people, aggregating millions in the total, mysteriously were suppressed or defeated by a Democratic house. The utility business in Indiana is good for another two years.

To those same utility interests which have been thus saved should be given thanks for the small favor that this session saw none of the old briberies, or very little of it.

Old faces were missing. Some of the boys who have lived in other years upon the pickings from this source are disappointed. But, of course, expect no reduction in your gas or electric or water bills. Perhaps the habit was too strong.

Not even so mild a measure against outrage and imposition as a reduction from 42 to 30 per cent a year charged by loan sharks in a taxation upon the defenseless and the desperate, received a majority vote in either house. Usury waves its black flag in glee. It also rules.

The Governor should be very happy. When the session started he was unhappy. In fact, worried. A campaign issue had been made of \$35 ash trays while people were starving and unemployed. He will still be able to buy such ash trays to care for guests at the mansion. His emergency fund, cut from \$200,000 to \$125,000 a year, still will be available. The people of the mines and the drought district will get all they got before—which was nothing.

The Governor had expected investigations. There were no investigations, except that of the highway commission in which a brave minority promptly was outvoted by Leslie's political friends, and the same old commission, with the same old powers, the same old funds, received new letters of marque to prey upon the auto owner.

In the matter of carving the state into new districts for electing members of congress, Leslie finally, in the small hours of the morning, had his way. A timid opposition surrendered to his wish. Notice was given to the nation and those who live upon political favors that there will be, as long as party labels count, three servants of Big Business from Indiana in the national house of representatives. Two of them, Republicans, have a long record of servitude. The third resents any suggestion of progressivism.

What is the picture as a legislature ends its futile session?

There is a Republican majority in one house, with a few belligerent and active dissenters, which boldly jingles the chains of privilege.

There is the picture of a stalwart group in the Democratic party which fought to make good its pledges. Foiled at every turn by self seekers, by those who used the weapons of sex and booze to betray secretly those pledges, those who call themselves Democrats and are not democratic, and that break in the dike of solidarity surrendered a great victory at the polls to a poor advantage in legislation.

The Times reports to those who have agreed with its policies that the legislature has failed, and failed utterly. It reports that

in both parties are symptoms of courage, greater in organized Democracy than in rebelling Republicanism. Thus far, party labels have been more powerful than principles. The farmer, the jobless artisan, is exactly where he was before the legislature began its session.

Privilege, represented by a Shylock, a holding company, a fat comfortable recipient of dividends, a member of a commission who lives from crumbs tossed from the tables of the rich, smiles.

A National Range

Timely, indeed, is the report of the Garfield committee on conservation and administration of the public domain, which, for the first time, suggests a comprehensive plan.

Here is a vast area of 180,000,000 acres of land in seventeen western states. Over-grazing, brush and forest fires, and unregulated exploitation of this region have worked their evil consequences for years.

Whole regions have been denuded and left as bare as a desert by sheep and cattle. Erosion and silting of streams and reservoirs have destroyed billions in wealth. Game refuges and scenic resources have been neglected. The "great open spaces" of the west have been all too open.

The Garfield committee suggests that the next congress create a national range commission to administer these lands as the government administrators its forests. Those states whose legislatures petition the government will be given their public lands under conditions that insure proper conservation.

Minerals are withheld from the states until proper state-federal regulations are adopted to conserve them and the reclamation fund is assured of protection. Continuation of the government's reclamation program, wisely, is urged.

National forests, it is suggested, should be enlarged.

The report is statesmanlike and should become the basis for one of the first projects of the next congress. One might question the wisdom of turning the public lands over to certain poor and sparsely settled states where big stockmen dominate the government and sometimes oppose laws to curb over-grazing.

However, this is a matter to be studied carefully by congress.

The nation, which depends for its wool, meat, hides, much of its minerals and timber, water power and farm produce upon these western states, owes a vote of thanks to the Garfield committee for its endeavors.

A Federal Deficit

Precise figures are not yet available, but it appears that the session of congress just adjourned appropriated around \$5,200,000,000 to be spent by the federal government during the fiscal year which begins July 1.

This is the largest sum ever authorized for a peace-time year. It is at least \$300,000,000 more than the President recommended in his budget message. And it is half a billion more than was voted last year.

Increased outlays for internal improvements of all kinds—these alone will absorb \$600,000,000—drought relief and other unusual conditions largely account for the increases.

Meantime, federal revenues will be at least \$400,000,000 less than last year. The effect of the depression on income taxes will not be known until returns are filed this month. Customs receipts already are well below last year's and less than had been anticipated in treasury calculations.

It seems that Secretary Mellon's forecast of a deficit for this year of at least \$500,000,000—the first deficit since the war—will be borne out and the figure may be larger.

The treasury can meet this partially by reducing its emergency fund and curtailing public debt payments, or it can issue short term securities.

But eventually bills must be paid, and the question arises as to where the money is coming from.

It is time to start thinking now about the possibility of higher taxes. The 1 per cent reduction on income taxes paid each year will not be in effect this year, but the likelihood is that this will not make up the difference.

With wealth concentrated as it is, the public must guard against increased taxes on the persons with small incomes, for it is they who have suffered most through the depression.

REASON BY FREDERICK LANDIS

HERE is grief in the noble heart of Thompson, for Dr. Bundesen has refused to run as an independent candidate for mayor of Chicago, and thereby divide the people who are sick and tired of Big Bill.

Bundesen's candidacy would have wished B. B. upon Chicago for four years more, a fate harsh enough to make a wooden Indian tremble, but now that Bundesen is out of it, the long-suffering can hold a family reunion behind Cermak, the Democratic candidate.

He seldom goes through a day without violating from one to a dozen regulations, and that if all the regulations were enforced, nobody would be out of jail more than half the time.

Well, if he can get away with it, why can't the other fellow? And if the other fellow happens to rob a cash till, instead of spitting on the sidewalk, or making a wrong left turn, what's the difference in principle?

WE see where an expert says that the color of eyes can not be made a guide in determining parentage, which is correct, as your experience will tell you.

From the standpoint of soul, brothers and sisters may be total strangers, while two persons, coming from the ends of the earth may bear the most amazing resemblance, not only physically, but spiritually.

All of which is not very strange when you consider the number of people there are in circulation.

INSTINE is going back to Europe, but when, according to his own statement only half a dozen people on earth can understand him, what's the use of having him around!

Bob just a plain mongrel dog, saved the life of Mrs. Will Ashby of Globe, Ariz., by leading rescuers through a blinding snowstorm, proving once again that it is not rank nor pride of ancestry that makes the hero.

Is the Stars and Stripes still published?

It's a perfect outrage the way these politicians kill themselves off, working for the dear people.

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

It Is No Accident That Lawlessness and the Number of Laws Grow Proportionately.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 10.—"Lea and Caldwell indicted," reads a headline in the Memphis Press-Scimitar.

A newsboy takes it for the first part of his selling cry and then adds, "but they'll never go to jail." Who could ask for a better illustration of the prevailing attitude toward such cases, not only in Tennessee, but throughout the country?

We Americans have become skeptical of the law when it comes to handling big fish. That is one reason why the law fails so frequently to handle them.

Sentiment, whether pro or con, has a profound bearing on all activities.

Let a large number of people get it into their heads that justice is powerless under certain circumstances and the chances are that justice will be.

Nothing has done so much to help the racket as a widespread belief that it was beyond the reach of police and courts. Nothing has done so much to portect corrupt politicians, or save guilty men who possessed good social or financial connections.

Faith Is Gone

THE Lea-Caldwell failure was one of the worst that ever occurred in this country.

It carried down more than 150 banks, ruined thousands of innocent investors, wiped out several million dollars in state, county, or city funds, and already has led to five suicides.

In popular opinion, the circumstances surrounding it are such that there must have been more or less crookedness and corruption all along the line.

In the same popular opinion, none but a few of the subordinates will be punished, which is the saddest part of the whole affair.

How can we hope to get very far with the administration of justice as long as such lack of faith exists?

How can we hope to restore faith until the system of justice does more to deserve it?

It is not enough to say that dis-

respect for law has weakened the law.

Every one knows it has and that it will go right on doing so, unless reduced.

TO Many Laws

IT can not be reduced by mere preachment. Something definite has caused it, and until we discover what that something is and deal with it directly, we shall make little headway.

We are not anarchists by nature.

If we were, such institutions as the Pennsylvania railroad, Standard Oil or the Bell Telephone Company would be impossible.

No one can watch the American people at work and believe them instinctively opposed to system and discipline.

No other people has shown

greater ability to co-operate with precision in commerce and industry.

Some have tried to persuade themselves that prohibition was the cause of lawlessness in the United States, but we had the murder record, the forgery record, the arson record and the thief record long before the eighteenth amendment was adopted.

There is only one thing that has synchronized with the volume of crime in this country through all the years, and that is the volume of its laws.

There are not anarchist by nature.

It is time to start thinking now about the possibility of higher taxes.

Even so, conditions are so bad that action more immediate than that is necessary. I submit the letter from the "Average Citizen" in full because it seems to me to embody the puzzle which implants the authority of us all.

Disrespect for All

TO the same extent that we lead other nations in all kinds of lawlessness, we lead them in all kinds of regulatory statutes.

The civilized world has nothing to compare with our codes, in the aggregate.

The average public official does not stay on the job long enough to read them, much less enforce them.

It is not accident that the amount of law and the amount of lawlessness grow proportionately. Neither is this wholly due to the fact that where there are more laws to break, more are broken.

Though minor laws never are taken as seriously as major laws, for perfectly obvious reasons, respect goes right up the line.

The citizen who disregards a traffic light because there is no cop on the corner gives the worst criminal an excuse.

The legislator who votes for a law which he knows will be winked at generally, or evaded, has helped to weaken the whole structure.

What's the Difference?

EVERY one knows how widespread the disregard of some minor laws has become, and how common it is for congress and the forty-eight legislatures to pass laws which are not supposed to be enforced, except in emergencies.

The average citizen admits that he seldom goes through a day without violating from one to a dozen regulations, and that if all the regulations were enforced, nobody would be out of jail more than half the time.

Well, if he can get away with it, why can't the other fellow?

And if the other fellow happens to rob a cash till, instead of spitting on the sidewalk, or making a wrong left turn, what's the difference in principle?

Questions and Answers

What do the initials U. S. S. R. stand for?

Union of Socialist Soviet Republics (Russia).

How many colleges and universities are there in the United States?

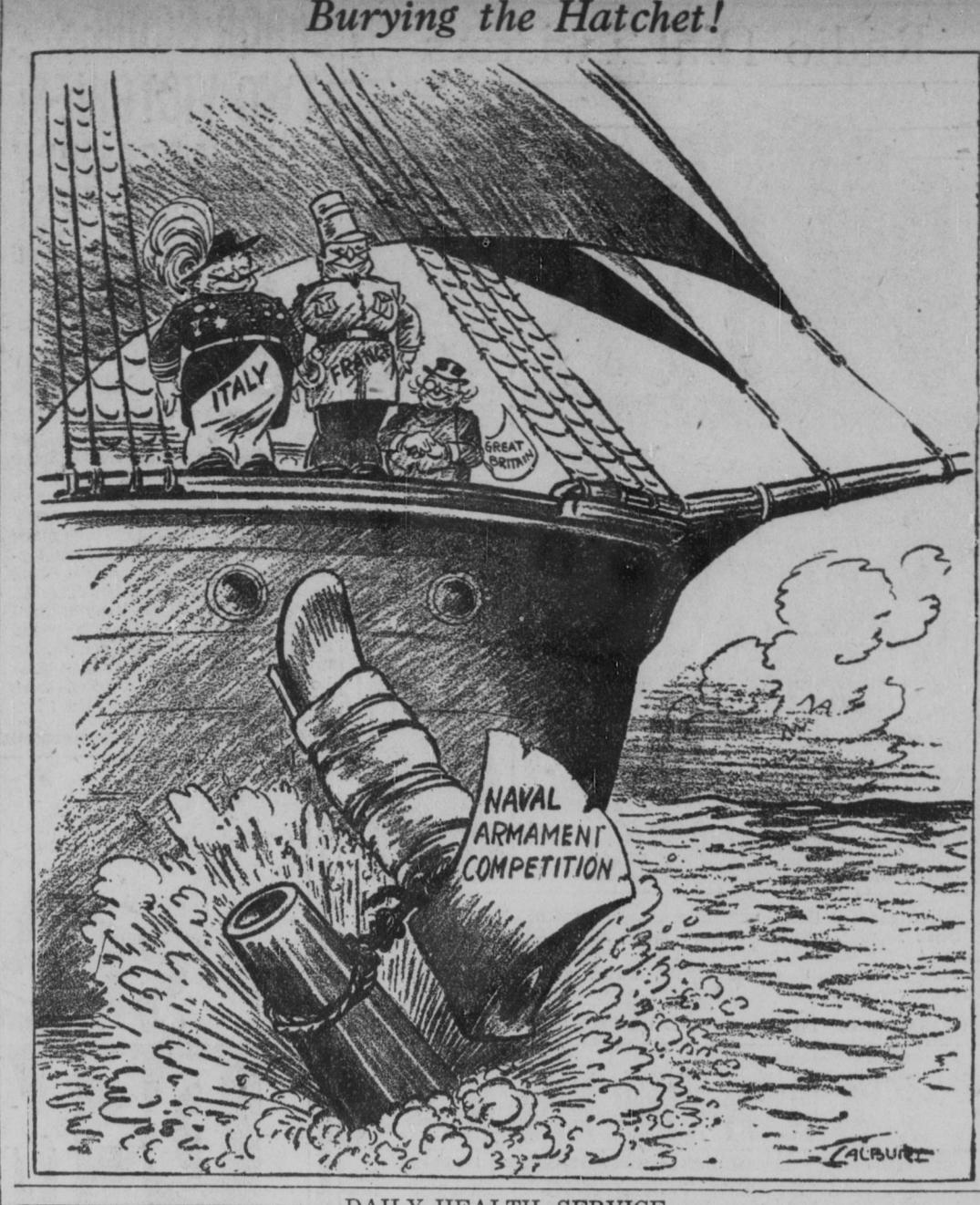
The American Educational Directory lists 913 accredited colleges and universities.

Can an alien seaman who deserted his ship in the United States in October, 1924, obtain American citizenship?

He can not become an American citizen unless he leaves the country and re-enters legally as an immigrant.

Is the Stars and Stripes still published?

It has been succeeded by the American Legion Monthly.



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Outdoor Air Is Vital for Baby

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor, *Journal of the American Medical Association* and *Hygiene, the*