



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### Who Killed Cock Robin?

Governor Leslie adds his verse to the nursery battle over the legislative death of the income tax measure which had been promised the people.

Whatever else may be said, it is true that the Governor squeezed whatever life may have been left in the bill by vetoing it. Of course, he charged that Speaker Walter Myers had made it impossible for him to sign by writing upon the bill the truth about the fracture of the Constitution by the legislature which had continued in session beyond its legal limit to pass appropriation and other measures.

The Governor found no reason for signing bills for privileged interests which had been passed in the same illegal hours and in the most chaotic of conditions, where legislators acted as madmen rather than lawmakers.

The inquest over the measure would finally reveal, if one is held, that the income tax bill and the corporation tax bill were killed by rich men whose wealth is not in real estate.

The industrial barons had their representatives on the ground. The merchant princes were very active. The financial snares had their mercenaries in the field.

The legislators surrendered to the same old voices and obeyed their masters.

Jobless men were given fifteen minutes to plead for work and got nothing. Men with large incomes were luckier.

The Democratic house passed the measure and kept its pledge. That doesn't mean that all of its members favored it. Many are glad their votes are nullified.

The real assassin of the bill was the legal tax dodger. He had real representation in both parties and does not worry. He is safe for another two years and will continue, as formerly, to pass along his burdens to the worker and the farmer.

### Ludlow's Mistake

When Congressman Ludlow of Indianapolis denounced in advance the conference of progressives and advertised to his Bourbon supporters in the Republican party and his more Bourbon backers in the Democratic ranks that he would have none of these earnest men, he failed to represent the men and women who really elected him.

Ludlow received the support of those who had become tired of servility in congress by those who were picked by privilege. He had the votes of the great middle class. He had the votes of men who stand today in line before the township trustee asking for food.

His vote for high tariff was disconcerting to his real friends. It was an evidence that he was out of step with the people. His criticism of the conference might have been expected from a Watson or a Robinson. But from Ludlow it may be a revelation of thought that reveals a fundamental weakness.

At a time when cities are being bankrupted by enforced charity to starving men, this city should have some one genuinely interested in removing the causes of poverty.

What a pity that Ludlow could not find it expedient to attend conferences with men who hate poverty, hate privilege, but love civilization and still have faith in a political democracy.

It will be more of a pity if the voice of Indianapolis is raised against all programs of relief during the next two years.

### Official Murder

In two states, Kansas and Michigan, a return to capital punishment is being proposed as an answer to the distressing problems of this winter. A less intelligent answer would be hard to conceive.

There is more homicide this winter, more shooting and stabbing—and also more suicide—than there has been in recent years. But this is just as true in states with capital punishment as it is in those which did away with the barbaric custom years ago.

The misery of this year, the privation and hardship, the fear and uncertainty of panic times, are taking their toll in human life, as they always do. In winter, such as this one, the weaker fringe of humanity always is apt to lose its balance of sanity.

But that is no reason why the great sound voting mass of the people should lose their balance also and turn to primitive killing.

Capital punishment does not safeguard human life, and it does not prevent crime. This has been tested and proved, again and again. It is more probable that the state's example of cold, premeditated slaughter rouses the lust to kill in potential criminals.

Experience has taught us that capital punishment laws do more to protect the criminal than to punish him. Jurors who are sane and normal enough to feel revulsion at human murder often acquit prisoners or convict them on minor counts rather than take the burden of killing on their own souls.

If it were not for capital punishment, murderers could be confined for life, and their communities given actual instead of theoretical protection against them.

Kansas has not been distinguished for straight political thinking in recent times. But we expected better of Michigan. We still expect it, under leadership of young Mayor Murphy of Detroit, who will oppose capital punishment in Michigan's referendum.

### Fat or Lean?

Strange and varied are the activities of the federal government.

Experts will advise you on all manner of things—where to sell garters in Asia or how to trap coyotes.

On your weight. The bureau of home economics, for instance, has discovered that weight generally is an index to personal efficiency and can be controlled to maintain your health and enable you to get the maximum pleasure out of life.

And we learn, "a thin person is apt to be nervous and to have less resistance than the person of normal weight. Some reserve fat is desirable for fuel emergencies."

But a fat person "has too large a reserve which represents a load to be carried and thus reduces the efficiency and general ability to get around."

The bureau has some further advice on the subject

## M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

We Americans Have Developed an Insatiable Thirst for Change and Innovation.

E VANSVILLE, Ind., March 14.—Our industrial setup is largely the creature of discovery and invention. If progress is to continue, it must remain so. Unless we are prepared to stop where we are, there is no choice but to assume that the next half century will see as many changes as has the last.

What did the telephone, the auto, or even steam amount to fifty years ago?

By the same token, who can say what they will amount to fifty years hence?

If American civilization stands for one thing more than another, it is the accelerated pace of evolutionary processes along scientific and mechanical lines. Movement, whether from a physical, intellectual, or economic standpoint, has been its driving force.

The element of individualism and self-sufficiency on the part of a large percentage of the people made it possible to carry on this movement with a minimum of suffering.

Legge Quits

The federal farm board experiment has been ineffectual. One has to look only at the downward curve of farm produce prices to see that the \$500,000,000 experiment has failed.

But to some there seemed a chance for the President's farm board to vindicate itself while Alex Legge remained its chairman.

Legge was the farm board, many said.

Legge has gone now; resigned, as he threatened to do last year. If Legge was the farm board, his going appears to involve disintegration of that board.

He went to Washington a big, lumbering man with kindly squinting eyes in a massive head. He ducked publicity at the start; reporters called him a poor news source.

Then something happened. As attacks on his farm board became more vitriolic, Legge threw off his quiet, embarrassed manner, and emerged a fighter with forked words to defend his work.

Legge made mistakes, probably a lot of them. But we believe he did so in sincerely trying to defend farmers through the cumbersome, awkward and dangerous machinery that was his. He knew the board's limitations.

His resignation removes a good government official.

### A Vicious Circle

The only way to "rehabilitate" the farmers is to rehabilitate the cities, says John A. Simpson, president of the National Farmers' union, in an interview.

That is no doubt true. But it is equally true that the farmers likewise must be rehabilitated before the cities can get on their feet.

Nearly half of our population lives on farms or in small towns supplying service to farms. They purchase the things that are made in the city factories.

Many of our best thinkers are talking about industry, unemployment, capital, labor, and their various relationships as though the present lineup could be accepted as reasonably permanent, as though a given group of enterprises would continue to require about the same amount of money and employ about the same number of workmen as it does now.

If that is so, we have come to the dawn of a new era in American history.

It is not so, we have come to the dawn of a new era in American history.

Individualism Passes

INDIVIDUALISM has been supplanted by organization on every hand while the existing depression proves nothing so vividly as the fading out of self-sufficiency. The system we are pursuing, whether in respect to home life, or workshop, drifts steadily toward one result.

Each year, if not each month, holds a larger number of our people growing dependent on its maintenance as is. Most of the remedies proposed center around the same idea.

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Thirst for Change

HOWEVER advantageous such a era might appear from the standpoint of security for investors and employees, there is doubt as to whether human nature could endure the shock, especially that kind of human nature which has been developed in this country.

To a measurable extent, we Americans have cultivated an insatiable thirst for change and innovation. We want nothing so badly as new methods and new devices.

We are intrigued by nothing more distinctly than the thought that there is bound to be something different just around the corner, or just beyond tomorrow's sunrise. The appetite for experiment, discovery and invention is in us.

We are ruthlessly indifferent as to whom it bankrupts, or what it eliminates, just as our fathers and grandfathers were before us.

There have been too many whisperings and grumblings against the postoffice department to be ignored permanently. There have been charges of favoritism and unethical tactics.

It is time to find out if they are true. If not, both the postoffice and the air mail contractors should be freed from the burden of suspicion.

The postoffice says it is ready to face any inquiry. Many of the operators welcome it, for they feel that if given the opportunity to show congress what it costs to run an air line future appropriations will be easier to get.

We trust the investigators will go to the bottom, and hear all sides.

Air Mail Scandals

Congress voted to investigate the air mail. This inquiry should be started soon, and conducted with thoroughness.

Since air mail was transferred from the postoffice department to private contractors four years ago there has been need for a major operation, to let the public and congress see what's inside.

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A publishing house soon to open in New York will issue books without the names of the authors. This undoubtedly will discourage writers contemplating biographies of the great.

Twin liners have been named after Hoover and Coolidge. And we'll wager Hoover wishes he were in Cal's boat.

"And how's my grub today?" as the insect affectionately addressed his larva.

Champagne, according to a dentist, ruins the teeth. That objection, however, can easily be brushed aside.

We Need Ideas

I AM not trying to throw cold water on anybody's plan for relief, or prevention. We need all the ideas we can get along that line. In analyzing those ideas, however, we must not overlook the power of habit and tradition, as we did when we adopted the eighteenth amendment, particularly when they have been woven so thoroughly into our conception of progress.

No other country on earth has wrought such violent changes in its methods of work, or ways of living as we Americans during the last century. Not only most of our achievements, but most of our problems, originate in that very fact.

Instead of permitting both sides to select their experts who bend their testimony to suit the needs of those who called them, the court should appoint experts to testify, not for one side or the other, but for the cause of justice.

And it can be stopped very easily.

Questions and Answers

What is the population and area of South America?

The approximate area is 6,800,000 square miles, and the population is estimated at 66,000,000.

How many years has the Hamburg-American steamship line been in existence?

The company is in its eighty-third business year.

If you were disposed to grumble over the recent brief visit of the Storm King, just glance backward toward December, January and February and remember what a mild-mannered gentleman the old boy has been.

And if this is not enough, then think of the relations that have had earthquakes.

UP in Michigan two men were taken to the state prison in an airplane.

It is presumed that they first were searched for parachutes.

President Hoover has signed a bill to put the head of George Washington upon next year's quarters, which leads us to suggest that the buffalo nickels should bear the likeness of the Wickersham commission.

And we learn, "a thin person is apt to be nervous and to have less resistance than the person of normal weight. Some reserve fat is desirable for fuel emergencies."

The honors showered upon Justice Holmes of the supreme court of the United States remind one of the strange fact that the three liberals of our highest court come from our great centers of reaction. Holmes and Brandeis coming from Boston, and Stone from New York City.

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