



The Indianapolis Times

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

Poor Relief

commendable as may be the purpose of the members of the county council to keep down taxes, there is one spot where not even they will dare to stand and defend a program of retrenchment on poor relief.

This is the refusal to give any needy person proper sustenance. Nor will any reduction of either amount or quality of food be tolerated by a community that still has a heart, even if it has no jobs for the workless.

It is costing this city very much money to support the families of the unemployed. It is costing other cities much more. It will continue to cost money until this and other cities find a cure for unemployment.

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But there must and can be no arbitrary limit to the amount spent for this purpose. That would be notice to the world that the city is ready to let men, women and children starve rather than raise tax limits. It would be, in the end, the philosophy of killing the needy and the unfit.

A Colonial Office

President Hoover is said to be considering the idea of a colonial bureau to handle all our foreign possessions. That is a good idea. Doubtless he will have it in mind when he sails on his Caribbean tour this week.

Most citizens probably assume that the United States already has a colonial office. The need for centralization and co-ordination is obvious, especially in a highly specialized activity such as colonial administration. Why, then, have we gone on with the present inefficient system?

There are two reasons.

The first is a matter of hypocrisy. We can not have a colonial office without admitting that we have an empire. We don't like to admit that. We like to assume that we still are a republic, with no imperial ambitions, no desire to rule over other peoples.

We like to think of the Declaration of Independence—and forget that its application to the Philippines and Porto Rico would mean independence for these subject peoples. A colonial office would mean that we have colonies, and we object to calling them colonies.

A colony implies alien rule and alien exploitation—imperialism. We want to forget that we have come to rank with Great Britain as the largest of imperialistic powers.

The second reason we have no central colonial bureau is that the various governmental departments which now control different colonies have a vested interest in them. The war department wants to keep its hands on the Philippines and Porto Rico, the interior department will not give up Hawaii and Alaska, the navy department wants to keep control of Guam and Samoa, and only reluctantly let go of the Virgin Islands, though none of the three departments is fitted for such colonial administration.

In addition to that jumble, the state department, on the side, runs our unofficial colonial affairs in Cuba, Haiti and Nicaragua.

We should have the honesty to admit the fact that we are an imperial power, ruling subject peoples. And as long as we are in that business, we should do the job as efficiently as possible.

That means in the first place the creation of an independent colonial office or bureau, centralizing the common problems and duties.

It means in the second place the development of a specially trained and experienced personnel for colonial service, comparable to our present military and diplomatic services.

Colonial administration, as Great Britain long since discovered, is a job for experts. Retired army and navy officers, lame duck politicians, and party campaign contributors are not adequate for the task.

Here is a problem which Hoover inherited. He believes it is precisely the kind of problem that Hoover can solve. He has made a good beginning in transferring the Virgin Islands from naval to civilian government.

We hope that, before he finishes, he will have a separate colonial bureau, with complete responsibility for all foreign possessions and with a trained personnel in colonial service.

Dogs and Men

A foundation has been established for study of the problems of dogs, we learn in a dispatch from Rockford, Ill. P. M. Chappell, who endowed the foundation, says its object is the maximum of happiness for our dogs, and he says there are 8,000,000 of them—or one to every four families.

The foundation is particularly interested in the welfare of dogs obliged to live in apartments, and this is not surprising. These dogs can't get out to fight other dogs, they can't chase cats, and do other things that dogs like to do.

They must submit to the indignity of wearing muzzles and be led about by leashes. And many of them are forced to wear blankets in the winter time, an offense to a dog's pride.

"The dog probably is the last link binding man to nature," says Chappell.

Perhaps he is right, as far as city-dwelling dogs are concerned. Country dogs lead happier lives. They can herd cattle or sheep, chase rabbits, talk to other dogs, and pretty much lead their own lives, barking and running when they feel like it.

Mr. Chappell's foundation reminds us of the well-known evil of Senator Vest of Missouri to the dog:

"The best friend a man has in this world may turn against him and become his enemy. His son and daughter that he has reared with loving care may become ungrateful. Those nearest and dearest to us, those whom we trust with our happiness and good name, may become traitors to their faith."

"The money that a man has he may lose. It flies away from him when he may need it most. Man's reputation may be sacrificed in a moment of ill-considered action. The people who are prone to fall on their knees and do us honor when success is with us may be the first to throw the stone of malice when failure settles its cloud upon our heads."

The one absolutely unselfish friend a man may have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is the dog."

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

M. E. Tracy
SAYS:

*In the New Order of Things,
Our Children Are Getting
Mighty Little of What
Might Be Called Ethical
Training.*

SPEAKING of revolutions, possible, imaginary and otherwise, we Americans are emerging from one of the greatest in human history. We fail to realize it, because the usual noise has been lacking.

We don't know what to do because the situation is unprecedented. Most of our problems originate in the necessity of readjustment, however, which proves the point.

No nation on earth ever was compelled to grapple with more sweeping changes in the same length of time. The fact that those changes have been brought about without strife and bloodshed does not alter their character.

Except as it retains the same Constitution and the same flag, the United States of 1931 bears little resemblance to the United States of 1831, or even 1881.

Look at the traffic on our city streets, the way we spend Sunday, the city manager form of government, the soda pop bill, the racket, the federal court, or a hundred and overalls, and shirts, and other necessities of life.

That is why income tax figures just announced by the treasury department have such grave import.

In the first eight months of 1931, 500 men with incomes of more than a million dollars a year possessed one-twentieth of the nation's wealth.

Where there had been 7,259,944 persons filing income taxes in 1920, only 4,034,702 filed in 1931.

And where, in 1920, six and a half million men and women with small incomes had almost fifteen and a half billion dollars to spend, in 1931 the number of small income earners had been reduced to three million, and they had only a little more than eight billion dollars.

It is costing this city very much money to support the families of the unemployed. It is costing other cities much more. It will continue to cost money until this and other cities find a cure for unemployment.

If there has been either mismanagement or private profit in the distribution of food to the hungry, the county council has a duty to demand changes. Every penny spent by the public for relief should and must go to the needy.

But there must and can be no arbitrary limit to the amount spent for this purpose. That would be notice to the world that the city is ready to let men, women and children starve rather than raise tax limits. It would be, in the end, the philosophy of killing the needy and the unfit.

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