



# The Indianapolis Times

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

## Free School Books

Readoption of the present list of school books by the state board of education serves to call attention to the failure of the legislature to provide free school books for all children.

That the same board refused to receive new bids means, if at all significant, that many members of the board have a deeper regard for publishers than for parents.

Prices of nearly everything else have fallen in the past five years and it is conceivable that the publishers would be willing to reduce prices in order to get business.

The open charge by the head of a state institution that educators have been subjected to influences of book publishers is as humiliating to real teachers as it is true and it is dangerous to the whole school system.

Point was given to the charge by the fact that only two members of the board, President Hines of the state college at Terre Haute, and Superintendent Borden of South Bend, voted for advertisement for new bids.

The real solution, of course, is free school books printed by the state. As long as the law forces parents to send children to school the state should furnish all equipment. It is just as much a duty to give books as it is to furnish a building or a teacher or a bus.

Nor should the present system of giving books only to the needy be permitted to continue. Children are sensitive and brutal. The soul of a child can be easily bruised by taunts. When one child is branded as impoverished the state does a wrong much greater than when it brutalizes an adult by other customs.

The crusade for free books was lost in the legislative nightmare. Sentiment should be organized now for a new effort two years hence.

It might be made a major issue, not on the grounds of economy, but as a step toward the preservation of the democratic ideal.

## Speedy Justice

Presumably the courts will care for the legal question involved in the petition of D. C. Stephenson for a new trial and will dissect his startling charges of mob law and Klan history.

The significant feature of the new proceeding is the fact that his first appeal has been pending for five years and no decision rendered in the highest court.

From time to time the people have suspected that there might be political reasons for the lack of a decision. That is an unfortunate state of public mind toward the courts.

Unless there is strong confidence that the courts will always deliver the constitutional guarantee of speedy justice, the whole foundation of society suffers.

What happens to Stephenson is chiefly important to himself. What happens to the fundamental idea of speedy justice is important to all citizens.

It is possible that a delay of five years in decision will meet with popular definition of what is speedy justice and what is denial of speedy justice.

It is possible that those who have no interest in the decision itself will reach the conclusion that he can not afford to deny any prisoner a review of his trial within such a period of time.

What is denied to Stephenson can be denied to every citizen. In these parlous days, that can reach very high or very low. Five years seems to be at least a reasonable period of deliberation for judges to decide on any legal question.

## What We Can Do

We have a national deficit of something like \$700,000,000. We have another deficit in prospect for 1932. As income tax returns drop lower and lower, the amounts of these deficits threaten to increase alarmingly.

What are we going to do?

It is not too soon to face that problem and start thinking about it, though congress probably will not meet until next December. For when action is taken it must be wise action. Unless we solve this problem intelligently, it will breed new evils and worse troubles.

There are three possible ways of balancing the national budget. The treasury can borrow on bonds to meet current obligations. It can, with legislative permission, suspend payments toward retirement of the national debt, thus temporarily saving some \$440,000,000, but increasing the amount that must be paid eventually. Or it can increase taxes.

One of these courses will be adopted during the next year. The optimistic utterances of Republican politicians in Washington, predicting that business will improve in time to save the situation, are misleading.

Business may improve in 1931. But 1931 incomes are not likely to amount so far above 1930 incomes that the taxes collected in 1932 to finance the fiscal year 1933 will be adequate.

The first two proposals are foolish, not to say immoral. To borrow extensively when repayment is not definitely in sight only postpones the day of reckoning, piles the burden higher, and meanwhile carries all the financial dangers that treasury officials predicted so freely in opposing loans to veterans.

Enthusiasm of certain Republicans in congress for suspension of war debt retirement merely indicates their fear that tax increases just before a presidential election will mean Republican defeat. But to suspend war debt payments is to shift the burden of a war for which we were responsible to future generations; and to make less stable and secure the financial structure of the government.

President Hoover recognized the iniquities of this proposal in his last message to congress.

Possibly these fearful Republicans will discover before the next congress meets that business, upon whose generosity nominations and elections often depend, has diagnosed the situation soundly and is willing to put more money into taxes.

Or possibly they may find the people have made

## M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

*The Development and Preservation of Normal Minds Represents Our Next Great Task.*

COLUMBUS, O., March 25.—Vital statistics, hospital records and life insurance reports indicate that the American people enjoyed remarkably good health last year.

However we may have handled the depression in other respects, we prevented it from creating an unusual amount of disease and death.

In some places like New York, the death rate was the lowest on record.

There were no epidemics, while most of the commoner maladies failed to increase. Even cancer lost some of its momentum.

Suicide alone took a big jump upward, but many of its victims suffered more from wounded pride than real disaster.

And that brings us to another set of statistics which is not so encouraging.

Wonderful as is the progress we have made in overcoming physical ills, those of psychological nature appear to be gaining, says an editorial in the current issue of *Woman's Home Companion*.

"All forms of instability, from actual insanity down to plain and simple nerves, are increasing. There are today more hospital beds occupied by mental patients than by all those suffering from physical ills and accidents combined."

Self destruction and crimes of violence, especially, as practiced by young people, bear out the statement. So, too, does the utter state of confusion regarding politics and morality.

Whine Without Cause

ONE of the most astonishing phases of the tragic months through which we just have passed is that the bulk of the whining and gloom has come, not from those actually hurt, but from those merely pinched.

If you would hear the loudest groaning over what has occurred, or the bluest wailing over what may occur, don't go to the bread line, but to some living room, or hotel lobby, where people of a certain bent still find it possible to eat nine-course dinners and occupy overstuffed furniture.

Evenly the development and preservation of normal minds represents our next great task.

Quite as evidently there is something about our present day life which makes that task peculiarly difficult.

No doubt we are paying more attention to mental ailments and defects than ever before. No doubt we are sending people to asylums or sanatoriums whom our grandfathers would have kept at home. No doubt we are trying to cure many afflictions which previous generations regarded as mere eccentricities.

But, and making full allowance for all that, it hardly accounts for the enormous increase of psychopathic cases among us.

According to the best information obtainable, every malady of the brain, or nervous system, is growing.

Situation Alarming

THE situation is all the more alarming because of scientific progress.

The very powers and instrumentalities we are creating call for a greater degree of poise, judgment, and self control than ever before.

The question of what we ought to do grows bigger and more complicated with every added capacity.

Emotionally, we admit that obligation goes with privilege, but intellectually we sidestep the problem.

We have grown feverish over the idea of mechanism, speed, efficiency, and volume, and the fever is manifesting itself in a lot of psychological boils.

One need not quarrel with the idea to realize that it can be overdone; that a sense of value is necessary as a sense of power; that mentality can not be driven in one direction, or devoted to one particular purpose, without becoming warped.

Nowadays they can identify the weapon used on the basis of certain special examinations. Studies of wounds in the body indicate exactly

the angle at which the bullet entered.

Studies of the effects of shots at various distances indicate the momentum with which the spot was struck, and thus the distance from which the bullet was fired.

Furthermore, there is the possibility of powder marks of the depth at which the projectile penetrates.

The amount of destruction of the tissue will indicate whether the bullet was pointed or soft and flat.

Smoke from firearms causes blurring of the surface which can be wiped off, but unburned particles of powder will travel into the skin and can not be washed off.

In a typical close discharge of a gun, not only the wound from the projectile, but the effects of the gas, the powder, the wad, the smoke and the flame are to be examined.

In a typical entrance wound from a bullet at very close range, according to Dr. Sidney Smith and

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