



## The Indianapolis Times

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BOYD GURLEY, Editor

ROY W. HOWARD, President

FRANK G. MORRISON, Business Manager

PHONE—Riley 5551

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

### Victim of Politics?

Ordinarily the resignation of a superintendent of schools is of interest only to the city or county which he served. The enforced resignation of Superintendent Borden of South Bend is different.

As a member of the state board of education, Borden was a leader in the fight to save the parents of the state money on school books. He was among the first to protest against changes that would compel new expenditures. Last week he was one of two members of that board who voted to advertise for new bids, basing his demand on the logical plea that prices of labor and other commodities had been reduced and that the price of books for schools might be expected to follow the general trend.

At that time the head of a state educational institution declared that the influence of the book publishers had been such as to attack the dignity of the teaching profession and their influence in appointments and control of schools a disgrace.

Under the superintendency of Borden the schools of South Bend have been elevated to new standards of efficiency.

The school system is political in its control. The members of the school board are named by the mayor. The present ruling powers of that city would consider it a libel to suggest that they ever miss a chance to play politics and partisan politics. They are very practical gentlemen in their outlook upon society. The friendship of the book publishers would not be offensive, if that friendship could add a vote or an office or a campaign contribution.

The teaching profession and citizens who believe that the schools should be kept out of politics should be interested in the case of Borden. Is the time here when any man who protests in behalf of the people is to be crucified?

### Wilson's Neutrality and Pacifism

In his interesting articles on Pulitzer and the World, Forrest Davis refers to Woodrow Wilson's declaration of impartiality, neutrality and pacifism during the World war. He quotes Wilson as saying to Frank Cobb of the World:

"I do not want war, yet I do not know that I can keep the country out of the war. That depends on Germany, and I have no control over Germany. But I intend to handle the situation in such a manner that every American citizen will know that the United States government has done everything it could to prevent war."

But Wilson knew—indeed, admitted in confidential circles—at that very time that he was in no sense neutral. The question of our neutrality during the World war does not involve any preferences for the culture of Britain or of Germany. It is a simple question of fact.

There is no doubt that Britain violated our rights as neutrals far more extensively and flagrantly than did Germany, even to the extent of using the American flag on her merchantmen to escape the German submarines. Imagine our mass horror at the time over any report that a German vessel was using the Stars and Stripes.

Our protests to Britain were half-hearted and never followed up seriously. Indeed, Page assured the British foreign office that we did not really mean what we said, and he helped Grey answer the protests of the United States, a procedure which aroused the indignant comment of the New York Times (Aug. 9, 1925).

Secretary Bryan, who was honest and logical, if not profound, protested against this unequal conduct in his famous letter of April 23, 1915, over the Thrasher case. When his honest soul could stand no longer, he resigned a couple of months later. Bryan clearly proved that the President was applying one kind of international law to Germany and another to Britain.

Attorney-General Gregory, a close friend and admirer of Wilson, admitted that Wilson confessed his lack of neutrality to the cabinet. Gregory pointed this out in a letter of Jan. 29, 1925, written to the New York Times. Several members of the cabinet called Mr. Wilson's attention to the fact that the British violations of our rights exceeded those before the War of 1812. Gregory thus described Wilson's response:

"After patiently listening, Mr. Wilson said, in that quiet way of his, that the ordinary rules of conduct had no application to the situation; that the allies were standing with their backs to the wall, fighting wild beasts; that we would permit nothing to be done by our country to hinder or embarrass them in the prosecution of the war unless admitted rights were violated grossly, and that this policy must be understood as settled."

Months before he went before the country in 1916 on the "he kept us out of war" platform, he had sent Colonel House to Europe late in December, 1915, with a plan to put us in the war on the allied side. But his conditions were deemed too fair to Germany and there turned down by the "bitter-enders" among the entente leaders.

Whether he called the famous sunrise conference of American Democratic leaders in April, 1916, and urged war, can not be determined at present, but there is good evidence for it as against it. And it matters little in the light of the House mission in the winter of 1915-16.

Finally, Secretary Tumulty, in his "Woodrow Wilson as I Knew Him" (pp.256-8), says that, in the flush of excitement after urging a declaration of war on Germany, Wilson admitted to him that he only had been adroitly "kidding" the American people into believing him neutral, pacific and long-suffering.

It may have been a great feat of statesmanship to put us into the war, but it was not any triumph or outcome of honest neutrality.

### Local Anesthetic

Anesthetic may be as desirable for social misery as for physical pain. If so, the appeal of the National Recreation Association is not without merit.

This organization just has issued a bulletin calling attention to the value of recreational centers as an aid in the unemployment crisis. They point out the value of recreation in relieving the mental suffering of the unemployed and in improving the state of health of those out of work.

Nothing is said about the possibility that hard play may increase the appetites of the participants. Playgrounds without breadlines may be indirect but organized cruelty.

It is pointed out that the attendance at playgrounds and recreational centers has increased enormously since the depression set in. This doubtless is a good symptom, and serves to prevent violence and confusion, which might result if men stood around silently to nurse their grudges. But it must be remembered that pleasantly to distract a man's mind from his misfortunes does not find him a job and put him to work.

More cogent is the statement of the association

that now is the time to plan extensions to recreational facilities for public use. As a nation, we play far too little. Now would be a splendid time to provide the physical basis for more adequate physical recreation in the days to come.

It would provide work for many unemployed right now and it would create an opportunity to cultivate a beneficial form of activity in future periods of leisure which are not enforced by economic depression.

### Bread Arithmetic

Food prices are the lowest in twenty years, the department of agriculture reports. The mid-February farm price of wheat of 58.7 cents a bushel was 43 per cent below that of a year ago.

Meanwhile, the average retail price of bread, according to the bureau of labor statistics, has declined from 8.9 cents a pound to 8.2 cents. This is a drop of 8 per cent.

A bushel of wheat will make sixty-two loaves of bread, and bakers argue that the drop in price of wheat from a year ago means less than a cent a loaf in the cost of the flour used.

But it certainly behooves the farmer to do his own baking.

It would cost him \$5 and more to buy the bread from the wheat for which he got his 58.7 cents. This seems like a rather large spread, and the same thing is true with other commodities to greater or less degree.

### Other Tammany

In trying to hang the latest Tammany scandals on the national Democratic party as a coming issue, Republican headquarters in Washington will not get very far. Tammany is not a national issue and can not be made one.

Whenever Republicans attempt to lug it into the national campaign, voters with half an eye will see that this is merely a clumsy trick to obscure real national issues, such as unemployment, power, civil liberties, tariff and prohibition.

If the national electorate would not "turn the rascals out" when those rascals were federal officials in the Harding administration, voters outside New York need not be expected to get excited about Tammany.

Being less hypocritical than some of the Republican politicians, voters in the rest of the country know that Tammany has no copyright on city corruption. Municipal crookedness in Chicago, Philadelphia and elsewhere is sufficient to keep those citizens busy cleaning in their own backyards.

The only national aspect of Tammany corruption as such is that Tammany delegates sit in Democratic national conventions—just as the racket ring of Chicago has a hand in Republican national conventions.

But fortunately local Tammany corruption does not smear the national Democratic party, any more than Chicago Republican racketeers run the Hoover administration.

### Business Folly

Certain manufacturers of New England and elsewhere are beginning to slash wages.

In the face of the promise made by employers to President Hoover a year ago, in face of the virtual unanimity among intelligent employers that wage slashing will prolong the depression, in face of the united warning of economists that return to prosperity depends on restoring the buying power of the wage-earners, it seems incredible that manufacturers should return to low-wage standards.

On the same day that President Green of the A. F. of L. and Dr Julius Klein of the commerce department called public attention to this wage-cut campaign, John P. Frey, labor economist, showed that American workers today actually are receiving less of the product of their toil than in 1849. Then the wage-earner got 23.3 per cent of the value of the finished product; now he gets 16.5 per cent.

The amazing wealth that machinery has added has gone into other pockets than the worker's. The breach between the value of our manufactured products and the workers' share of that value is widening. If the home market is not to collapse, as such boys were moved by neighborhood gossip before headlines ever to develop a correct posture.

Associated with round or stooped shoulders there are on occasion

Twenty murders, a million dollar's worth or robbery, rewards totaling \$50,000 on his head and successful defiance of the greatest country on earth for several years—that's almost equal to MacBeth or Borgia.

Of course, some addle-pated boys will be moved to try the game because of the headlines it brings, just as such boys were moved by neighborhood gossip before headlines ever to develop a correct posture.

American industry has a big job on its hands to absorb its 6,050,000 unemployed. It will fail if it kills its consumers' market by cutting wages.

They're not going by automobile, but the Wilkins expedition to the north pole will have to get out and get under just the same.

### REASON BY FREDERICK LANDIS

THE other night we listened with great interest to the radio address of Mrs. Herbert Hoover, for it was well written and splendidly delivered.

We were surprised at her ease before the microphone, for it's the test of one's composure.

Many veterans of the stage and platform shrink from it, some of them being frozen by fright.

You have noticed that certain artists are accompanied by laughter and applause when they speak in the studios.

This means that they require visible audiences when they go on the air, and responsive friends are placed in the studio.

THIS enables one to proceed with the same naturalness, as if addressing an ordinary crowd of folks, and this naturalness is the effect for which all radio speakers strive.

If one can attain it, his future is assured, provided he has, in addition, something to deliver.

And so it was surprising to listen to the President's wife as she addressed the mike as naturally as if speaking to a group of friends in the White House.

If Mrs. Hoover ever desires a radio engagement, she can get it after this performance.

But our enjoyment of her number was marred for a moment by some static, furnished by one of the kids, it coming in the form of a crash of glassware just as Mrs. Hoover was concluding.

It was like this. One of the goldfish appeared to have passed out. Yes, it was as rigid as a ramrod, floating on its side, apparently as dead as King Tut, whereupon the kid in question remarked that he had been in school that a bowl of salt water would bring back a departed fish.

So he tried it and little by little that fish came back. It actually did; for a few minutes he had a struggle, but it was not long before he resumed his former activity and was returned to the fresh water bowl and there he swam about, apparently no worse for wear.

In bringing him in to display him, the kid dropped the bowl and broke it and we had to hold the dog until the fish were rescued. That was the static.

## M. E. Tracy SAYS:

How Many Great Novels Can You Think of Without Theft, Murder, or Some Other Villainy to Furnish an Excuse for the Hero?

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 28.—If this man Burke is worth all the headlines, he is worth some comment. Those who pretend to interpret the news can not ignore him, or his kind, and play the part they should.

Neither is it enough to argue whether all the headlines are justified. The situation includes more than distracted editors hunting for copy. Contrary to popular opinion, editors, no matter how distracted they may be, have comparatively little say so about the general character of news.

The general character of news is determined by prevailing tastes, whether born of tradition, excitement, or some passing whim. The taste which decrees front page space for such men as Burke is not only of ancient origin, but owes much of its strength to some of our more exalted literature.

It encourages crime, they contend, and less of it would help to solve the crime problem.

Not pausing to discuss that point, what about the great books and plays which have acquired such a reputation that even the boldest reformer, or most fanatical crusader would not think of questioning them?

Take them as a whole—Shakespeare, Scott, Hugo, Dickens, Dumas, and the rest, and don't they revolve around crime to a greater extent than the average newspaper?

How many great novels, or dramatics, can you think of, without murder, theft or some sort of villainy to furnish an excuse for hero?

Not Fault of the Press

INTEREST in men of Fredrick's stripe was not created by newspapers. If it had been, we wouldn't be hearing so much about Captain Kidd, Rob Roy, Robin Hood, Dick Turpin, Jesse James, Billy the Kid, and a thousand more like them who have been made virtually immortal by popular fancy.

Ten thousand years of glorification for brass buttons, blood, and violence have woven this tapestry into our very nature.

Otherwise, how could we accept a system of politics and diplomacy which, though willing to spend everything for the protection of children against accident and disease, is quite content to make cannon fodder of them, once they reach maturity?

Frederick Burke symbolizes war on a small scale, trial by combat, brute courage, the fighter who is ready to try anything once.

Not only youth, but a lot of old fogies, are intrigued by his sheer foolhardiness and largely because of the kind of books, monuments, songs, and pictures on which we have been brought up.

If the papers didn't give us all the details, we'd start a flock of new ones before another sunset.

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