



## 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."

### Prohibition and Profit

Two outstanding facts are pounding their way into public consciousness.

The first is that this country faces the necessity of settling very serious economic and industrial problems, so grave that great leaders of industry and finance declare that our entire system of government and business is on trial.

The second is that any political solution is rendered difficult, if not impossible, by the question of prohibition.

The frank declaration that the Anti-Saloon League is in politics to stay and will back the candidacy of Senator Arthur Robinson, no matter what his economic views may be, is a fair illustration. Any wet senator from any wet state would receive the undivided wet support on the same basis.

No sane person will deny that there is much drinking in the nation, and that probably forty millions of our people do drink despite the law. The bill, at retail prices, is estimated at between eight and ten billions of dollars a year.

No patriotic person who believes in this country can be other than alarmed by the growth of gang control of cities, by the corruption of government of all degrees.

Nor will any one deny that the economic fate of the wet and the dry is the same. The jobless dry and the jobless wet are both to be found on charity lists, and the wet industrialist and the dry industrialist both face the same menace to their prosperity. Yet, when they go to the polls, the jobless dry and the jobless wet divide their votes and their common problem remains unsolved.

There is only one reason for the existence of the bootlegger. He knows that there is a big market. The profits from his trade are so large that he is ready to take the small chance of jail in order to get those profits.

The business is so rich with profit that it is organized and has its own private armies of gunmen to prevent competition.

These gangs run politics. They have money and they have votes. If they continue, this government faces surrender to them.

The legalized saloon of the old days was founded on the same basis of profits so huge that it became necessary to corrupt government and control it in order to maintain them.

The Canadian experiment of government distribution fails because the government places a high price upon its liquor and takes the profit that formerly went to the individual. That system, in this country of lax law enforcement, would still, in all probability, leave the bootlegger, the speakeasy, the gangster, and the corrupt official, hunting for loot.

What would happen if this government decided to take the profit, ALL PROFIT, out of this business?

What would happen if it recognized the fact, most deplorable, that many persons continue to drink as long as drinking is fashionable and not disgraceful?

Would any bridge hostess offer gin to guests when those guests knew that it could be bought for ten cents a quart?

Would any business man rent rooms in hotels to serve liquor to legislators if that same liquor could be bought for a dollar a gallon?

Of course drinking would not disappear. Not until education as to the evils of excessive alcohol had its results. But there would be an end to the debauchery of youth who is led to think that drinking is smart and ritzy. There would be an end to scandals in college fraternity houses. There would be an end to the social prestige that today exists with law violation.

How long would it take this country to settle its problem of unemployment, of impoverished farmers, of great depression in industry, of prosperity and happiness, were the people not divided and separated into warring groups over the liquor problems?

Is it not true that there is no quarrel over any question that has in it no private profit? Then why not wipe out the private profit in liquor and settle the grave matters?

The idea is not original. What do you think?

### The Miner's Appeal

America's \$2,000,000,000 soft coal business is the sickness of all our industries. It was sick when most other industries were in the "Coolidge boom." It will be sick when the depression is passed.

Just how sick it is one hardly guessed until, out of the depth of their misery, the coal miners themselves spoke. B. A. Scott, organizer for the struggling, but militant, little West Virginia miners' union, went to Washington and told his story to the Wagner committee on unemployment insurance.

Scott, a mine worker since he was 12, had been crippled by falling slate. He is uneducated. Yet his story was so eloquent in its sincerity that the Senate committee voted to bring it to the attention of the Red Cross.

Conditions described by Scott apparently are common to most mine regions where unionism has been crushed. They recall in their incredible inhumanity the things that made Robert Owen cry out in England at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Men working ten and twelve hours a day at low wages, forced to trade at company stores, where prices often are 30 per cent higher than elsewhere;

families in debt to the company year after year, sons inheriting their father's debts, two and three days' work a week for the lucky, none for the unlucky. Such are "normal" times. Depression brings hunger, sickness, cases of actual starvation.

Company guards stop union organizers and injunction judges do the rest.

The Red Cross refuses to feed any but drought sufferers.

There is basic need for reorganization of the industry—a reorganization which can be brought about only through co-operation of the government, the operators and the union. But meanwhile the miners' right to organize must be protected against infringements by company gunmen and injunction judges. And immediate temporary relief is needed to prevent starvation.

Can't the Red Cross stretch a point and help?

With congress out of session, partly because the Red Cross asserted that the general relief situation was well in hand, isn't it now up to the Red Cross?

### A Blow at Stability

The Carnegie Foundation for International Peace is not celebrated for snap judgments. Whatever the field of inquiry, it dissects, analyzes, checks. Its recently published study of our 1930 tariff as a factor in the world-wide business depression commands attention.

Following passage of the act, there came from every corner of the world a volume of angry protest and retaliation, which has not diminished to this day, his judgment reads. "The act was a blow struck by one nation at the economic stability of sixty nations."

Step by step: As in the case of Switzerland, the study traces the processes of economic dislocation operating since the bill was signed, last June, to show how the United States tariff wall contributed directly to prostration of business the world over.

The Swiss republic is to a large extent a nation of watchmakers. She has no natural resources. She imports all her raw materials. She had been shipping to the United States approximately \$11,000,000 worth of watches every year. Our new tariff closed the doors of many of her factories. This is not world order. It is world anarchy.

"Even from the standpoint of our own selfish interest, it is a catastrophe, for Switzerland was buying from us \$45,000,000 worth of goods a year. With her principal industry disorganized, and with the ramifications of that collapse upon her purchasing power, with what funds will she buy from us in the future?"

But watches were only one item among 890 on which the rates were increased. And Switzerland is but one of the fifty-odd nations which protested while the bill still was before congress. She is but one of the thirty-six nations which have responded with retaliatory rates.

Perhaps no one will know fully what the Hoover tariff revision of 1930 cost the world in hunger and human misery. But whatever the actual dollar computation in lost business may turn out to be, public and expert opinion long since decided that world economic dislocation and unprecedented unemployment—more than 17,000,000 at the end of March in the six leading industrial nations—was the flower of its folly.

### The Air Trophy

The Collier trophy is awarded annually "for the greatest achievement in aviation in America, the value of which has been demonstrated by actual use during the preceding year."

It first was awarded in 1911 to Glenn Curtiss. The 1930 award just has been made to Harold F. Pitcairn for the development of the autogiro.

We can quarrel with this award, but we can wish that there had been two trophies to give for 1930.

For there is another achievement, it seems to us, as great as the autogiro's. That is the exceptional performance of the Ludington line, which runs hourly passenger air service between New York and Washington. The Ludington line was considered seriously by the Collier trophy committee.

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### REASON BY FREDERICK LANDIS

YOU'VE doubtless read about this strange case out in California where a 14-year-old boy is 6 feet tall and still growing. His father wants to give him glandular treatment to stop his growth, but the boy says he doesn't care if he grows 8 feet tall.

If the boy should soar to an altitude of eight feet, he has only to wander to Indiana and every town in the state will greet him at the border and bid for his services as a basketball player.

And this suggests a thing that should be done for the good of this great sport. The authorities who pilot this pastime should do something to eliminate the overshadowing importance of the tip-off artist.

Now he's the most important feature of the game, which is absurd.

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