



## The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)  
Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 West Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Price in Marion County, 2 cents a copy; elsewhere, 3 cents—delivered by carrier. 12 cents a week.  
BOYD GURLEY, Editor ROY W. HOWARD, President FRANK G. MORRISON, Business Manager  
PHONE—Riley 5551 SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1931  
Member of United Press Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, Newspaper Enterprise Association, Newspaper Information Service and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

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

**Hoover Takes Charge**  
President Hoover is acting with increasing wisdom and courage in the Nicaraguan muddle.

He is reversing an interventionist policy of a quarter century. He is refusing to act on the Chauvinist demands of fire eaters like Representative Ham Fish of New York. He is resisting the pressure of American business interests determined to turn the United States marine corps into their own private police force.

Such is the significance of Friday's state department announcement that this government no longer would use its troops trying to protect Americans in the civil war interior of Nicaragua.

"To do so," Secretary Stimson informed the American minister, "would lead to difficulties and commitments which this government does not propose to undertake. Therefore, the department recommends that all Americans who do not feel secure under the protection afforded them by the Nicaraguan government, through the Nicaraguan national guard, should withdraw from the country, or at least to coast towns, where they can be protected or evacuated in case of necessity."

Any other policy is self-defeating, as demonstrated by our twenty-five years of sordid experience in military intervention. In those years the use of American troops, guns and airplanes has cost much more in American property and lives than it has saved—not to mention the Nicaraguan losses.

Moreover, the old imperialistic policy has made us hated throughout Latin America. Loss of trade has been only one of many evil results.

If President Hoover can get us out of the militaristic Nicaraguan venture, as he already is taking us out of the similar Haitian invasion, he will be credited with one of the great achievements in the history of American foreign affairs.

**Another Blind Boy Sees**  
We never expected to live to see the day when one of the Republican old guard leaders would see the folly of continued high tariff. But that, apparently, is happening in the case of Representative Snell of New York.

Snell is no common congressman, but a fairly good-sized czar. As chairman of the house rules committee, he dictates legislation. He not only helped to force through the Hawley-Smoot higher tariff bill last year, but even refused to let Democratic and Progressive opponents fully debate it.

"For many years, on account of our natural revision must come:

"For many years, on account of our natural resources and by means of a protective tariff, we artificially have maintained a higher standard of living than in other countries, but we have gone the limit in a tariff, our natural advantages are being depleted, and it will be necessary that the next generation govern its economic standards and living conditions more in accord with world-wide conditions than we have done in the past."

That is going rather far for a leader of the old guard, which insisted that the Hawley-Smoot steal would restore prosperity—"within sixty days," as one of them said.

According to the Progressives, Snell's lower tariff conversion—if it really is such—is explained by his hankering for the chair of the late Nicholas Longworth as Speaker of the house and the Progressive voters necessary to get that chair.

We prefer to think that Snell's eyes have been opened like those of so many business men, by the costly experience of this year. Higher tariff helped to kill the foreign trade upon which American prosperity depends.

The United States commerce department Friday issued the merchandise trade figures for March. Exports had the lowest value of any March since 1914, and imports the lowest value of any March since 1916.

The export value was only \$237,000,000, compared with \$369,000,000 last year and \$489,000,000 in March, 1929. The loss in our foreign trade turnover compared with 1929 is at the rate of \$425,000,000 a month, which means that our foreign trade has been cut in half.

It is about time that even the Republican old guard began to see the light and plan tariff reductions.

### Unhealthy Banditry

Bandits may get discouraged in attempted holdups if many more head waiters or bank cashiers come back at them with bullets.

Frank Abler of Chicago, waiter, former army sharpshooter, shot two holdup men while patrons in a cafe looked on. Last week Claude H. Owens, clerk in a Maryland bank, shot to death Joseph Hayes, one of a trio of bank robbers, while two other citizens of the town made brave attempts to get the others.

Better than such emergency methods, however, would be efforts by authorities to cope with civic corruption, racketeering, unemployment and other causes of banditry.

Brains are better than guns.

### Doing Their Bit

It generally is agreed that one of the chief immediate causes of the continuation of the present depression is the underconsumption of commodities. We are in a buyers' strike. People refuse to purchase up to their limit.

Most impartial students believe that the "buyers' strike" is nothing deliberate. It is a result of the fact that unemployment and loss of wages render the buying public incapable of purchasing normally, even if they wished to do so. They simply can not in many cases purchase necessities, to say nothing of comforts and luxuries.

Therefore, if we wish to end the depression speedily, nothing should be done further to reduce the purchasing power of the laboring classes. Further discharge of employees and wage cuts will only drive the depression to lower levels.

How far the railroads have co-operated enthusiastically in this policy of aiding recuperation may be seen from the recent report of the bureau of statistics of the interstate commerce commission. Summarizing the findings, Lawrence Todd writes as follows in the *Advertiser's News*:

"Reduction in the total number of employees on Class I steam railroads in the United States of 248,527 persons between December, 1929, and December, 1930, is reported by the bureau of statistics of the interstate commerce commission.

"Every group, from executive officials to maintenance men, suffered a loss in number employed and number of working hours a day.

"Thus the downward trend of the employment side of the railroad industry, which began in the summer of 1929, steadily continued through the entire period of the general business collapse, in spite of brief seasonal recovery.

"In December, 1929, there were 1,605,085 employees

and in December, 1930, there were 1,356,568 employees.

"The loss in the number of employees in the

industry in 1930 was 248,527.

"The loss in the number of working hours in the industry in 1930 was 1,000,000,000 hours.

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