



The Indianapolis Times

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, 25 cents a copy; elsewhere, 3 cents—delivered by carrier. 12 cents a week.

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

An Avalanche of Wage Cuts

Necessity of keeping up wages to maintain consuming power is conceded so thoroughly by many capitalists that even President Hoover is reported to have bestirred himself in this matter recently. Any serious cut in wages will be followed by an even greater decline in the demand for goods.

Yet March, 1931, witnessed an unprecedented wave of wage cuts. In March, 1930, only twenty-six wage cuts were reported by the department of labor and 116 wage advances. But in March, 1931, the department reported 340 wage cuts and only fifty-nine cases of increase in wages. The labor bureau presents the following facts bearing on the situation:

"Three hundred thirty-five establishments in fifty manufacturing industries reported wage rate decreases averaging 10 per cent and affecting 43,500 employees. Sixty-eight decreases were in establishments in the lumber group of industries, 65 in textiles, 51 in iron and steel, 33 in food and 31 in paper and printing.

"From trade union sources came five reports of cuts, affecting some 9,000 workers. Concurrently twenty-three establishments in five manufacturing industries awarded wage increases—increases which averaged only 3 per cent and affected only 35 per cent of the workers in the plants—a total of 1,664 employees."

There is little in the above statistics to indicate that our period of underconsumption is nearing an end.

Spanish Recognition

Acting without undue haste, the state department has extended diplomatic recognition to the new Spanish republic.

In dealing with Madrid, the department did not question the right of the Spanish people to choose their own form of government by revolution—that is none of our business. But in the case of Moscow the state department tries to make it our business.

Nor did the state department ask whether the new Madrid government is permanent, though obviously it is much less stable than the Moscow regime.

One disturbing report regarding Spanish-American relations has arisen in Madrid. According to the newspaper *Crisos*, the American ambassador, Irwin E. Laughlin of Pittsburgh, has been making insulting remarks about the new government.

It is hard to believe that any member of the American foreign service would be guilty of that greatest of blunders in diplomacy, interference in the domestic affairs of the nation to which he is accredited.

But presumably the state department will investigate this charge, and take the indicated action.

There can be no question of the propriety and popularity of the appointment of Señor Salvador de Madariaga as ambassador of the new republic in Washington. He has world renown as a scholar and as a former brilliant official of the League of Nations.

In this country he is well known for his books and lectures. He will be welcomed cordially here.

Not to Be Eaved

Henry W. Anderson's speech to the Kentucky Bar Association is another reminder that the administration apparently is doing nothing about the Wickersham commission's prohibition report.

Except for Anderson and his frequent speeches in favor of a modified form of the Swedish government control system, the public is in danger of forgetting the Wickersham report.

Because of the fake summary of the report put out at the time, the public was so confused that it never understood clearly that the commission, by a 7 to 4 majority, declared for modification or repeal. And those who did understand the fact that the report condemned prohibition as a failure, soon came to consider it just "another report."

It was not just another report, and citizens will be very foolish if they permit it to be buried and forgotten as such.

Hoover and the administration were committed morally to the report in advance—not necessarily committed to accepting all its findings without question, but to using those findings as a basis for reforming the present vicious conditions.

Hoover indicated that he was open minded on the question, that he wanted to arrive at a scientific solution. Therefore, he proposed to lift the controversial subject above partisan argument by choosing an eminent commission of jurists and others to make an expert study.

The commission was given the power, the money, the co-operation of other government agencies, and the general prestige necessary for its difficult task.

The President definitely implied that he would be guided by the results—otherwise there was no purpose in his naming the commission. Congress already had investigated prohibition for itself more than once, and would do so again.

Plenty of independent studies had been made. But the excuse for this commission was its relation to the executive departments of the government and to the President.

The commission idea relieved the President for two years of the embarrassing duty of declaring himself on the prohibition issue. But that time of grace is past.

Now the country is about to swing into another national political campaign. And apparently Hoover, along with most, though not all, the potential candidates in both parties, is ready to sidetrack again this issue in which there is more national interest than any other.

We do not believe prohibition can be evaded as a political issue in the next campaign as in the last. We hope it can not be evaded. For, altogether apart from the right of American citizens to pass judgment on this experiment, continuance of present conditions threatens to undermine all law and law observance.

As Anderson explains, on the basis of his study as a member of the Wickersham commission:

"Nothing so quickly impairs the prestige of government as the existence of laws which are not observed and can not be enforced; while a system which operates to place millions of dollars in the hands of the lawless elements of the country for use in the organization and development of criminal activities, in open defiance of government, presents a serious menace to social peace and order."

That Is News

When Sir George Paish, British economist, tells a meeting of Philadelphia bankers and brokers that a revival of prosperity depends on reducing tariffs, that is news. Virtually all economists everywhere, including the 1,000 American economists who protested in vain against passage of the Hawley-Smoot tariff, take that position.

But when a leading Republican politician and busi-

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

The Remedy for Unemployment Depends Largely on Our Ability to Find Work for People in New Places.

NEW YORK, April 23.—Those applying for civil service jobs with Uncle Sam after July 1 will be fingerprinted.

Among other reasons for putting such rule into effect, is the discovery that about 7 per cent of all applicants have police records.

On the surface, it looks all right. Few people will quarrel with the idea of keeping crooks and ex-convicts off the public pay roll, but the problem they represent includes a whole lot more.

If the government can not afford to employ them, who can?

We are running hundreds of thousands of people through our jails and reformatories every year. The theory is that most of them have been chastened to such extent as to resume their places in society, and society is being reminded constantly of its obligation to reinstate them.

Intelligence suggests that society has no other course, that it must give these people a chance, that the theory of reformation is meaningless, unless it does.

But if the government fails to do its share, how can ordinary people be expected to do theirs?

Capper Gets Mixed

SENATOR CAPPER says that what the farmers need is another drought, that while a number of them have shown willingness to co-operate in the matter of curtailment of acreage, the majority persists in overproducing.

He hopes that the depression will bring them to their senses, but spurs it all by prophesying that the drought soon will be over.

Senator Capper apparently is committed to the time-honored doctrine that, whatever happens, things can be depended on to readjust themselves. They can, of course, but that is all we can say, a lot of money has been wasted on education in this country.

Maybe it's just one more disillusionment, but most of us have assumed that all the teaching, training, and taxing which our enormous school system involves would help solve just such problems.

Reduction Only Remedy

THE farm board, while denying any intention of dumping its wheat, takes occasion to remind farmers that it will not buy any more this year. That also is another way of saying that they must look out for themselves, and that, if they won't reduce on their own initiative, wheat prices are likely to be low.

No matter who speaks on this subject, crop reduction appears to be the one and only remedy.

That's fine for people who don't depend on crops, but it is not so fine for a farmer who barely can make a living out of what he raises on 100 acres and who is politely informed that it should be cut to 120.

All things considered, reduction of acreage means nothing but the reduction of farmers. With six or seven million unemployed in our cities, what are we going to do with these farmers driven off the land?

Times Have Changed

OUR economic stress, whether as revealed by too much grain, or too much power, seems to hinge on finding substitutes.

What the farmer needs is not forced curtailment of this or that crop, but a chance to raise and sell something else in the same way. The remedy for unemployment depends largely on our ability to find work for people in new places.

We seem unable to realize that a more or less permanent change has occurred in our economic structure, and that a more or less sweeping readjustment must be made.

The comforting thought persists that hard times will end when, and if, everybody goes back where he was in 1928.

A good many never are going back because circumstances have made it impossible.

The railroad business, for example, has suffered a sharp decline because of the truck, pipeline and waterway competition; oil is taking the place of coal; electric plants are being located at the source of fuel supply; canned jazz and the radio have put thousands of musicians out of work; changes in our wearing apparel have raised Cain with the textile industry; greater consumption in fruit has reduced the amount of potatoes raised, and so on, ad infinitum.

Questions and Answers

Who played the part of Stephen Decatur in the motion picture "Old Ironsides?" Johnnie Walker.

In the card game of euchre can you order up without a trump? There is nothing in the rules requiring player ordering dealer up, to head cards of the trump suit.

Were Quakers exempted from military service during the world war? Quakers and other sects whose religion forbids them to serve in war, were exempted from combatant military duty by this country during the world war.

What are the nationalities of Ramon Novarro and Antonio Moreno? Ramon Novarro was born in Durango, Mexico, and is descended from Spanish and native ancestors. Antonio Moreno is a Spaniard by birth.

What is the origin and meaning of the name Eula? It is from the Greek and means praise, blessing.

What countries produce cotton besides the United States? India, Egypt, China, Russia, Brazil, Mexico, and Peru are among the countries that produce cotton.

Is it correct to say "Mrs. Jones invited Mary and I to luncheon?" "Mrs. Jones invited Mary and me," is correct. "Mary and me" is the object of the verb and must be in the objective case.

We have our organized crime with its elaborate organization, involving courts, bondsmen, alibi witnesses and politicians, but the old-fashioned neighborhood spontaneous combustions have gone the way of the ex-carts.

A ND neighborhood fights used to be an ever-present source of justice of the peace prosperity.

We remember when three Logansport "squires" were kept busy fining neighbors for provoke and for assault and battery, but now the cowboys have taken the place of the litigants in the office of the justice.

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