

The Indianapolis Times

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

The Price of Greed and Anarchy

When we think of misery in the textile industries, we naturally allow our minds to gravitate toward the south. We almost automatically turn to Marion, Gastonia, Danville and the like, where we are told that women and children work long hours for pitiful wages.

Yet, in a truly striking article in Harper's Magazine, Louis Adamic tells us of the "Tragic Towns of New England." He reminds us that bad working conditions are, after all, better than no work at all.

Lowell and Lawrence were two of the greatest textile centers of the United States until the middle of the last decade. Now they are both hollow shells. He thus describes the general physical impressions given by Lowell and Lawrence:

"I found in Lowell eight enormous mills, all idle for years, dominating the town, each six or seven stories high and covering several blocks, with tall, unsmoking chimneys . . . The general aspect of Lawrence is not unlike that of Lowell: empty stores—rows of shabby, unpainted, untenanted old houses—broken window panes—no new buildings going up—people still moving out when they can—and so on. In Lawrence, too, charity is one of the main industries."

The picture of personal conditions given by Adamic is touching in the extreme. It is a uniform chronicle of extreme poverty, necessary but debasing charity and universal hopelessness. Only lack of nerve prevents an epidemic of suicide.

Lowell, a cotton center, could not compete with southern factories unless it gained the co-operative enthusiasm of the mill workers. The latter could be secured only by decent wages and good relations with unions, something which the mill-owners regarded with more repugnance than cessation of their very industrial existence.

Lawrence, a woollen and worsted center, has shut down in part as a result of the depression and in part as a phase of a great campaign against union textile labor. A number of big factories in towns close together makes labor organization relatively easy. The policy now is to build one factory in each of a large number of scattered towns, which enormously increases the difficulty of unionization.

Fall River, one of the oldest textile centers in New England, is industrially dead. This is due in large part to archaic machinery in the plants. The mill-owners exploited the industry to the limit, milked it dry, put no money back into improving equipment, and then dropped it cold. At the height of their prosperity the Fall River mills earned as high as 200-300 per cent dividends yearly. And these on the basis of a twelve or fourteen-hour day at low wages.

Nothing went back into the town: "The trouble with Fall River has been—in a nutshell—that most of the profits of its mills were spent, not in Fall River, but in Paris, New York, the Riviera, Newport News, Santa Barbara and Pasadena."

Adamic found the shoe towns in about as bad a condition as the old textile centers. There is no thought of permanence or soundness in the industry as a whole. The ideal is concentrated exploitation and quick abandonment. The manufacturers are at each other's throats, and all throttling unionism. Industrial anarchy is the rule.

Adamic found one prosperous town—Salem, Mass. And this a cotton town, supposedly incapable of competition with the south. But unemployment scarcely exists, the shops are fully unionized, high wages are paid for short hours, and the unions cooperate with the owners in devising more efficient methods of production.

In Lowell men stand against telephone poles in tattered overcoats, their faces pinched with hunger. In Salem, mill girls actually go to work in raccoon coats and dine in evening gowns. The money goes back into Salem, not the Riviera or Mount Desert island.

The moral is easy. The decay of New England is the price exacted by an extreme form of capitalistic greed and by old-fashioned industrial anarchy. Fall River and Salem, these are the symbols of the old and the new capitalism. But New Englanders still seem to prefer the industrial style of Fall River.

Paying the Fiddler

There has been much talk of late regarding the greatly increased costs of the federal government. Almost hysterical comment has announced the falling off of receipts from taxation and other sources. A great deficit stares us in the face. Hoover and department chiefs have gone into a huddle to devise ways for reducing the budget for next year.

We now are paying—and have been paying for more than a decade—the price exacted for our folly in entering the World war. Our enormously greater budget today is chiefly due to the stupendous debts placed on the shoulders of Uncle Sam by our entry into the Great Crusade. Total expenditures of our federal government in 1916 were less than the deficit of 1916.

In 1916, total expenditures of the central government amounted to only \$733,056,202. For the fiscal year 1930-31, they are \$4,435,029,000. The deficit for the current year is \$809,677,181, nearly \$100,000,000 more than the total expenditures for 1916.

Without apology to Messrs. Hoover, Mellon and company, it is unfair to blame them for our present fiscal mess, except in so far as these men bellowed for war in 1916 and 1917.

If we want to get out and vent our spleen on anybody on account of our national fiscal problems today, then we must seek out the Angloamericans, Francophiles, Germanophobes, bankers and munition manufacturers who, from honest conviction or private interests, pushed the United States over the brink into world carnage in 1917.

Certainly the Democrats logically are estopped from making wry faces at the Great Engineer and the Republicans, for it was a Democratic administration which collapsed before the war clamor, after having been returned to power on a peace referendum.

Now great expenditures sometimes may bring comparable benefits. Gigantic costs may be justified by colossal results. The non-financial results of the World war to the United States certainly were colossal, but for the most part they have been a colossal disadvantage to our country.

The "way to end war" has proved a huge travesty. There have been wars and rumors of worse wars ever since Nov. 11, 1918. Armaments have not been reduced. The nations of the world are spending more today than in 1914 for the instruments of mass murder.

The mythical German military dictatorship of 1914, when the German army was smaller than the French army alone, has been replaced by the real military dominion of France. The military strength of the latter and her allies out-tops that of her former enemies by forty to one.

We have received no gratitude from our former allies for our huge expenditures of money and men in their behalf. Rather, we have obtained nothing

except petulance and criticism. Though we have written off half the debts incurred by our former allies, we have been branded as "Uncle Shylock." The worst snarls have come from those whose debts have been cancelled most thoroughly.

Our best friends abroad are our former enemies of the war period. And we may doubt the disinterestedness of these states. No doubt a considerable part of their ostensible amiability is due to the fact that they look to our friendship and sympathy to help pull them out of their present difficulties.

Such are the results which we have obtained from the international forum which puts our present deficit ahead of our national budget in the pre-war days. We can not even allege self-defense or national pride in mitigation.

Even Secretary Lansing's articles now running in the Saturday Evening Post admit clearly enough that we had more reason for fighting Britain than for battling Germany—that we should have fought for most or neither. If the above facts can not teach us something, then we do deserve the worst.

Planning Prosperity

In discussing the depression, the annual meeting of the United States Chamber of Commerce at Atlanta City has discovered one type of solution and several obstacles.

Most of the speakers, approaching the crux issue from the viewpoints of separate industries, seem to come in the end to virtually the same conclusion—that business must be stabilized by advance planning. No intelligent person will find fault with that proposition. It is obvious. To stabilize business by advance planning is to break the unemployment cycle and help perpetuate prosperity.

But adequate advance planning by a single company is almost impossible. Under the competitive system, one company usually fears to take steps toward employment reserves, the staggering of orders and other stabilization measures, without co-operation of competitors. To be effective, planning must be central planning.

To meet this need, L. C. Reynolds of the American Writing Paper Company proposed to the chamber a system of national control of industry through trade organizations: "Such would be practical if trade organizations should be clothed with legal authority and all business enterprises compelled either to belong to their respective associations or to abide by their decisions mutually arrived at."

But there must be no "governmental interference," Reynolds added.

And just there is the dilemma in all such plans, if understood correctly. They aim at a quasi-governmental national organization of an industry, whose powers for good or ill would be far greater than the old style monopoly, but which would be left entirely free from regulation or control by the government.

Isn't that another case of trying to eat one's cake and have it, too?

Granted that complete anarchy, or destructive "rugged individualism," in business produces inevitable cycles of depression, and that stabilized prosperity depends on co-operative centralized planning, there appear to be two alternatives.

One is voluntary action by private business. The other is government action, in which the government would hold the power of regulation over centralized trade agreements having official sanction.

Probably most Americans will grant that the first method is preferable.

But can private industry be persuaded to reform itself by voluntary stabilization plans? It can not, according to Dr. Joseph W. Willits, professor of industry at the University of Pennsylvania, who told the chamber that only about 10 per cent of industrial leaders "are alive to the present situation."

Therefore, Dr. Willits predicted that industry, if left alone, would drift unprepared into another depression in a few years. The desired stabilization would "require all the agencies of our economic and political organizations," he warned.

We do not profess to know the precise solution, nor to predict the future. But we believe the general trend is clear. There is increased demand for stabilized profits and stabilized employment through central planning.

If industry itself can not or will not meet that demand, will not the government finally be forced to step in? The people have suffered two very serious depressions within a decade. The people simply can not stand two more such depressions in the next decade.

REASON BY FREDERICK LANDIS

GENERAL FERSHING has written an article on religion in which he states that Christianity is on the defensive and that it is up to all believers to unite to preserve it.

We are glad to note the general's solicitude, but he has drawn the picture too darkly, for Christianity is in fairly good health and will be transacting business under the Stars and Stripes so long as they shall continue to wave.

But there is no doubt the proposition that people have not the keen consciousness of religion that marked older days, when distances were measured by miles instead of minutes, when life was vacant instead of crowded, and when diversions were few and far between.

THE number of actual churchgoers is not so great in proportion as in the days of our ancestors, but this does not argue a rise in infidelity so much as it argues a rise in competing attractions.

We have millions who have religion, but it is covered by sports and automobiles.

There has been a certain decline of faith which it is absurd to deny and to this very fact is due a great portion of our major crimes. The social workers and students of cities will tell you they can trace this line of cause and effect very clearly.

And there is no denying the fact that the religious come into which so many have fallen has caused the lightness with which the marriage tie is now held, the decline of parental authority and the departure of the impressive influence, formerly exerted by family life.

IN the old days there were family services every morning, the father reading the Bible to his children, and he read with an authority we never have seen equalled elsewhere, and he was listened to with profound respect.

Then after the reading, the mother of the family started an old-fashioned hymn, one of those old hymns which in its magic arms lifted countless lives out of loneliness and despondency, and after this the father led the family in prayer.

That's the way the American family used to start the day, and while it is out of date now, we can't say that we have profited greatly by the change.

Everybody went to hell as a result of that old-fashioned morning service in the homes of the United States!

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THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

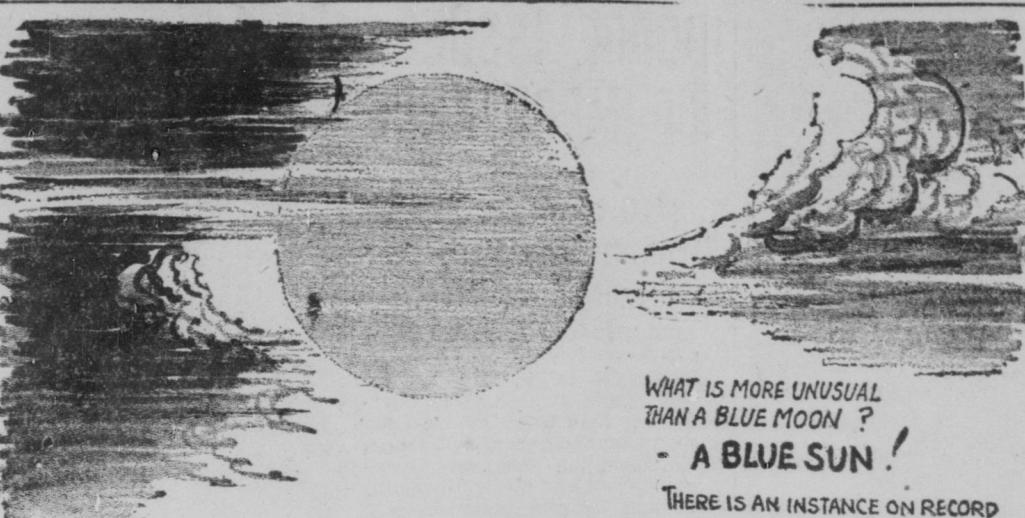
M. E. Tracy SAYS:

Power Is Passing Out of the
Hands of the Many Into the
Hands of the Few.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

On request, sent with stamped
addressed envelope, Mr. Ripley
will furnish proof of anything
depicted by him.

By RIPLEY



WHAT IS MORE UNUSUAL
THAN A BLUE MOON?

- A BLUE SUN!

THERE IS AN INSTANCE ON RECORD
IN JAVA - 1883.



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The Checker Problem—A game of checkers can be played to a finish, without either player losing a man, each player making thirteen legitimate moves, and neither player having an opportunity to jump the opponents' men. A numbered diagram and list of moves for players will be sent upon request if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Monday: "The Champion Armless Marksman."

DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Mathematical Gift Runs in Families

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor, *Journal of the American Medical Association* and of *Hygiene, the Health Magazine*.

In a recent consideration of the practical application of heredity, Paul Poponos discusses particularly the question of the infant prodigy.

Others think it would be wiser to reincarnate some of the old policies and conceptions.

Theodore Roosevelt once said that we were headed for regulated monopoly or state Socialism. Woodrow Wilson, on the other hand, believed we would avoid both by preventing the concentration of wealth and the overorganization of industry.

There is a deal of difference, however, between machinery and mechanism, between the unit of efficiency which science decrees and the endless combination of such units as greed would impose.

A Norwegian student learned 408 figures in 104 minutes, and there are people who have been able to remember 2,000 words after one reading.

It is obvious that such performances require not only a system, but also some special gift in the form of unusual brain development.

Poponos concludes as a result of his consideration that such mathematical talent runs in families, mentioning a French family which produced eight outstanding mathematicians in three generations.

In the same way, lack of mathematical ability runs in families. Thus

there was one family in Pennsylvania in which there was an inherited lack of sense of quantity and number.

When the father went to work in the morning he had to measure out the meat and potatoes that the mother was to cook for dinner, because if it were left to her she had absolutely no sense of quantity and there was no telling how much or how little she would cook. This defect persisted through five generations.

One of the reasons for believing that mathematical and similar mental abilities are inherited is the fact that not all members of the family are gifted alike, the fact that the special ability appears at an early age in the gifted members, the fact that it behaves independently in transmission.

Thus the special genius may appear without any other type of talent and may be lacking with almost any other type of talent.

Furthermore, the special gift comes out in spite of any discouragements. One of the greatest experts in the field of heredity attempted himself to become a lawyer, but the pull toward mathematics was so great that he gave up law.

Children either spell well or badly, and his statistics indicate that there is little or no relation between spelling ability and various methods of instruction, school surroundings or even foreign parentage.

Among college students it has not been found that spelling ability is associated closely with general intelligence.

I have tried by means of these pictures to give the reader an intimate view of Lodge. His official record is to be found in many places.

He would take half a column of type to list his honorary degrees, his medals, and his memberships in important scientific societies. He was one of the great pioneers in the modern study of the atom and of radio.

Marconi usually is termed the father of radio. There can be no quarrel with that, provided we remember that radio had many grandfathers. One of them was Sir Oliver Lodge.

Lodge invented the method of tuning radio circuits. Accordingly, if you were one of that once-numerous band of enthusiasts known as "dial fashers," send your thanks for pleasant evenings to Sir Oliver.

Lodge was born on June 12, 1851. He received his education at University College, London, and became professor of physics at University College of the University of Liverpool in 1881.

He held that post until 1900. He was president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1913.

His early interest in spiritism is shown by the fact that he served as president of the Society of Physical Research from 1901 to 1904.

SCIENCE

BY DAVID DIETZ

Intimate Glimpses of Sir Oliver Lodge Reveals Him as Man of Many Sides.

FOUR pictures of Sir Oliver Lodge stick in my mind. To me they have the revealing qualities of informal flashlights which often tell much more about a man than does the carefully posed portrait.

I recall seeing him at a soiree of the British Association for the Advancement of Science upon the campus of the University of Liverpool.