



The Indianapolis Times

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

More Important Than Governors

What the Governors may say or whisper about matters over which there is no controversy is not as important as the message delivered in Indianapolis Sunday by William Green, head of organized labor, and Senator James J. Davis of Pennsylvania.

They came to dedicate the new building of the Barbers International Union. But they sounded a note of real significance to industry, labor and society.

Davis declared that there must be no reduction in wages. That is important, as it comes from the state where labor receives scant consideration. It comes from the home of the steel trust and the coal barons.

The warning of Green was even more important. He called attention to the unemployment of six millions. He saw little hope for relief unless President Hoover immediately calls a conference of the leaders of labor and industry and makes some practical effort to bring the consuming power up to productive capacities.

But he took a new step when he declared that it is the right of labor to work. He declared that if it is necessary to go to a four or a five-day week that must be installed. If hours must be shortened in order to distribute available labor equitably, that must be done.

The new slogan of the right to work means much. Organized labor has not always been as far sighted. At times it has failed to give the right answer to the problems of workers.

But with labor now demanding a solution, and in position to make a demand effective, perhaps the hours at Valley Forge may be shortened.

Perjurers' Paradise

Perjuring men into and out of jail used to be considered a serious crime. The Egyptians made it a capital offense. The Romans threw perjurers from the Tarpeian rock. The Hebrews required perjurers to be punished from the same crime for which they falsely swore against their brethren.

In 1931 America, it seems, all a perjurer need do is to cross his fingers as he takes the stand to swear away life or liberty. Perjury is one of our big industries.

"Perjury has become so general as to well-nigh paralyze the administration of justice," says Samuel Untermyer.

"The practice of perjury has come to be surrounded with a practical immunity," says Charles H. Tuttle, former United States attorney of New York. "It sends honest men to jail and turns loose on the community predatory law breakers of every kind."

"Arrests for perjury are rare, convictions rarer," writes Dorothy Dunbar Bromley in the current Harper's magazine. "Too many judges are supine in the presence of perjury. . . . Juries have no real understanding of the gravity of the offense. . . . The great majority of lawyers are privy to perjury."

The court calendars bristle with examples. The outstanding one is the Mooney-Billings conviction, effected by means of five perjurers, not one of whom has been punished. The arch-perjurer and subornor, Frank Oxman, was arrested and subjected to a farcical trial.

MacDonald, the two Edeaus and the Smith woman at large, in spite of the fact that their lies would have, but for the clemency of Woodrow Wilson, sent Mooney to the gallows.

Here is a condition that should stir to the depths the American bar. It is eating away the foundations of our entire machinery of justice. Laws will do little without a change in attitude from the judges and the lawyers themselves.

As Mrs. Bromley says, the leaders of the legal profession must "give up their laissez-faire policy and determine to discipline summarily all lawyers who soil their hands with perjury."

Ten Miles Up

Scientists say Professor Auguste Piccard's ten-mile balloon ascent will prove little that they already had not discovered through experiments with balloons that carried only instruments as passengers.

But even if they are right, what difference does it make? That does not detract from the feat of Piccard and his companion, Charles Kipfer.

Their astounding flight is important even if nothing new was discovered in those calm, frigid stratospheric air ten miles up.

Look at it as another achievement of earth-bound man and you get the significance of the flight. Look! Here were two men, sealed in a globe of metal, tied to a frail bag of gas, soaring higher into the limitless skies than any other living things ever had before!

It was no stunt, and that adds to its importance. The flight was an idea, carefully planned, carefully executed.

Piccard's observations of the stratosphere may reveal important facts hitherto unknown. Then cold science will hail his flight. In the meantime, we do.

Hoover's Hairshirt

After "two years of fever and tumult in Washington," Hoover was glad to rest a moment in the quiet of the Union League Club, he told the Philadelphia aristocracy on Memorial day eve.

He hoped, somewhat plaintively, that the hand-some Hoover portrait presented to him by that club would "serve as an antidote to some of the current portraits under which I suffer."

Then at Valley Forge, in his Memorial address, he said:

"You have each one your special cause of anxiety. So, too, have I."

From all of which we gather that the hairshirt psychology from which the President suffered a year ago has grown to trouble him during the passing months.

We wonder whether the President is not worrying too much about the fever and tumult in Washington" and the critical "current portraits under which I suffer."

Once a man gets the fixed idea that he is being mistreated and misjudged by his fellows, he is apt to get a distorted idea of everything else.

Popularity can not be pursued effectively. If the President thinks too much about pleasing people, he

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"Waiting" has largely been abolished and we recall one supper, given by our old friend, the late Hol Shideler of Marion, one of the rarest souls who ever lived. The Governor was there and a Vice-President, but Mr. Shideler served his two kids first, saying: "Gentlemen, the children always are our guests of honor."

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For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence; but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.—Ecclesiastes 7:12.

Knowledge, in truth, is the great sun in the firmament.—Daniel Webster.

Who is the author of the proverb "Little pitchers have big ears?"

It is an adaptation from the Proverbs of John Heywood, A. D. 1563 as follows: "Small pitchers have wide ears."

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