



## The Indianapolis Times

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

## Probing Utilities

The decision of the public service commission to inquire into the financial habits of the group of telephone companies just sold by former Governor Goodrich for several millions will be applauded.

True, the inquisitive may wonder why the inquiry was not ordered until after this very powerful figure in the state had disposed of these properties.

But what is important is that the things which are alleged against this company are quite as true of every other group of utilities operated under that new device to escape regulation, the holding company.

If there is to be an inquiry, why not make it a real one and extend it to the gigantic concerns which serve hundreds of thousands of people.

The comparison between electric charges in our large cities and those of Tacoma, for instance, should arouse curiosity.

What has this holding company done that most of the others have not?

## One Step Forward

Action of the trustees of De Pauw university in a blanket indorsement of the president, Dr. G. Bromley Oxnam, is much more than a vote of confidence in a man.

It is a declaration of scholastic freedom that challenges all the forces of suppression, all the forces of reaction.

That resolution stands for liberalism in education which led people away from superstition into civilization. It is a new defiance of witch burning.

Dr. Oxnam has been the target of these forces since the day he came to the Indiana college and captured the imagination of students and of citizens generally by his brilliant thought and his forward-looking attitude upon life.

Sacrificing nothing of religious tradition, he made it possible for students to think for themselves and, indeed, believed that the real purpose of all education is to teach students to think.

Every attack has been based upon misconstruction and misinterpretation of his public addresses. Were there lacking motives of self interest and self seeking on the part of his critics, the attacks might almost be said to be due to the lack of this power which he encouraged. They might almost seem to come from the parrot minded, and parrots who had been under the tutelage of rather ignorant forces.

The trustees can hardly be called radicals in any group of society. Headed by a former high official of the Republican party in its most conservative era, they stand unanimously for that liberty without which there can be no progress either in education or in government.

Those who are sometimes fearful of the future may take new hope from this complete indorsement of Oxnam.

## Practical Suggestions for Legislative Aid

Mr. Hoover says we can not legislate ourselves out of our present economic difficulties. The National Unemployment League, headed by such men as Darwin Miserole, S. Parkes Cadman, George Foster Peabody, John A. Ryan and Harry Emerson Fosdick, think differently.

In a pamphlet which they just have broadcast, they propose immediate measures which obviously would go far toward ending unemployment and would at the same time constitute a great national saving. They specify the following federal public works which could be undertaken at once, if congress could be summoned and induced to authorize such action and the necessary expenditures:

"1. Highways: 48,000 miles of federal aid highways in every state of the Union (report of United States Bureau of public roads, 1930) can be given a permanent surface at an expenditure of \$1,200,000,000. These roads thus can be completed, and the surface protected, while at the same time employing scores of thousands of men.

"2. Grade crossings: 210,000 unprotected railway grade crossings can be eliminated. One-third—70,000—could be wiped out at a cost of approximately \$3,500,000. (Both of the above projects could be carried out promptly and with the simplest form of contract.)

"3. New highways, reforestation, flood-control projects, river and harbor improvements and public buildings. In these additional fields there are many opportunities for wise, economical and immediate expenditure of public funds.

"Public opinion approves such work.

"The best economic thought of the nation recently has advocated it.

"Why do we hesitate to adopt such a plan?

"Surely not because of the cost? The interest on a \$3,000,000,000 federal bond issue would be only \$120,000,000 a year. The cost to investors and wage-earners of the present depression is more than \$1,000,000 a month—\$12,000,000 a year."

## Young Lamont

He might spend his life cruising the seven seas in a yacht, his summers in Switzerland, his winters on the Riviera, and all that sort of thing. Or if he didn't like that kind of navigation, he could cruise the 36,000 speakeasies and night clubs that his home city affords.

He could devote his days to polo if he chose. Or to golf or horse-racing or roulette, or any of the other occupations that so many rich men's sons go in for.

Instead, we find him hard at work as an instructor in a university.

And this is what he says about the system which would have made it possible for him to have been a playboy.

"Whatever its good points, it permits and encourages the exploitation of the many by the few in the name of a cruel and unintelligent God called rugged individualism and worshipped fanatically by Republicans and Democrats alike.

"This system concentrates two-thirds of the wealth and one-third of the income in the hands of approximately 10 per cent of the people and provides for the other 90 per cent chiefly on the marvelous theory that enough somehow will trickle down from the top.

"It is a system, furthermore, which carries within it unmistakably the germs of another terrible war, in the form of a high tariff, which is a near-embargo, in unrestrained economic imperialism and struggle for world markets, and an unco-operative policy toward other nations.

"Worst of all, perhaps, in a crisis like the present,

## M. E. Tracy SAYS:

Europe Is Developing a State of Mind Auspicious for Revolution and Chaos.

NEW YORK, June 8.—According to the American Federation of Labor, unemployment, wage cuts and part time work represented a loss of \$2,500,000,000 to the American people during the first three months of this year.

Since the Empire State building was opened formally in May, nearly 100,000 persons have paid a dollar each for the privilege of viewing New York from its observation tower.

Apparently it is possible to prove anything by figures, and when figures fail, we always can fall back on theory.

## We're Not the Greatest

SIR OLIVER LODGE celebrates

his 80th birthday by declaring that the next great scientific step will be the discovery that "man is not the highest being of which we have cognizance, but that there is a multitude of intelligences elsewhere, some more highly endowed than ourselves."

Composing as such outlook may be, we would better go right on trying to improve man by the slow processes of education and hard work.

As things now stand, we are in no position to entertain a superior race of beings.

Nothing proves this like the inability of our best minds to agree on most anything.

## Dangerous War Talk

WHILE Sir Oliver Lodge foresees the advent of a higher spirituality, Sir Arthur Keith not only predicts war, but thinks it would be a good thing.

"Nature keeps her human orchard healthy by pruning," asserts Sir Arthur, "and her pruning hook."

Wickham Steed, keen English critic, writing in the Sunday Times, thinks Sir Arthur should get "immense popularity," especially in those lands where trouble and distress prevail.

He also thinks that Sir Arthur would have done much better to spill his stuff before an audience of steel helmets than a crowd of college students.

Does seem curious that a man of Sir Arthur Keith's intelligence should glorify war at a moment when the German chancellor is in England trying to preserve peace.

Not that England and Germany

are in imminent peril of falling out, but that the entire economic and political structure created by the Versailles treaty is threatened with collapse.

It all goes back to the miserable reparations deal by which the allies tried to collect loot in the name of justice.

With billions of debt hanging over their heads and millions of men under arms, the people of Europe rapidly are contracting a case of nerves.

Whether they are in position to wage organized war, they are developing a frame of mind that is auspicious for revolution and chaos.

## It Is Our Business

WE Americans can, of course, dismiss the situation as none of our business.

That is what we tried to do in 1914, and look how it turned out.

Our responsibility consists of what we might do to remedy matters. We can not evade it by claiming that we were not in at the start.

Neither can we avoid the consequences by pretending that the war debts owed us are not a factor in the general bankruptcy.

Broad is right in referring to the question of war debts as a "horse-trading proposition."

We can not tolerate it as a means of increasing armaments.

Drastic reductions of the military establishments now maintained in Europe should be made the sine qua non of any readjustment.

The real question involved is whether we should wait for European nations to make the offer.

At present our attitude is wholly negative.

## We Have Much to Lose

HINTING that we might be willing to do thus and so, if European countries should continue the proper spirit toward disarmament, gets nowhere.

Obviously some one must take the lead if civilization is to be exonerated from the hopeless tangle of insolvency, depression, bewilderment, and reawakened war hatreds which now threaten it.

No country on earth is in such good position to assume leadership as the United States, or has more at stake.

I know that "Precedent" is a good play, because all my scouts have brought in reports to that effect.

And there were nights when I might have gone, but once there was a bridge game and on another occasion a musical comedy.

I gladly will join in with a thousand others to seek absorption by seeing the play before it is too late.

As you know, "Precedent" deals with the Mooney and Billings case and acquires its intense dramatic quality by sticking literally to the facts.

## Time to Atone

THE inertia of Americans goes beyond this drama into the great injustice itself. For the most part we are not a mean people or merciles.

But we have an extraordinary capacity for forgetting. As a matter of fact, that is one of the functions which jails fulfill. When some one is committed, rightly or wrongly, he goes into the long silences which do not assail our ears.

We may for a moment get together in protest. But once the decision has been rendered, we are inclined to say "Too bad," and go about some other phase of the complicated life which engulfs us.

This can not be excused as a universal human frailty. In other lands memories stretch a little longer.

Because of the interference of dust and other particles in the atmosphere which the rays encounter in the sky, we are traveling toward the eye.

When a woman is introduced to a man, should she rise?

Not necessarily but it is customary for a young woman to rise when she greets an elderly man.

You've heard a lot about rebellions in prisons, but one of the greatest causes of them is the knowledge on the part of convicts that our system of law enforcement is crooked, that many on the outside are more guilty than those on the inside.

What's a little matter of grand larceny between brothers!

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