

The Indianapolis Times



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

Investigate This, Too

The grand jury of this county declares that the poorhouse is operated in a most outrageous manner, that its unfortunate inmates are terrorized and mistreated, that poverty is punished worse than are crimes.

Two weeks ago a sick and helpless former inmate made exactly the same charges to the grand jury and he is now in the penal farm under a sentence of 180 days.

Here, too, is something that needs not only investigation but quick relief. The circumstances strongly suggest that he was sent to that prison not for offenses, but because he dared to protest against the conditions which the grand jury says are vicious.

It is most significant that no warrant was issued for his arrest until after he had made his charges. The offense charged was that he tried to assault one of the attendants with a knife and that he had liquor in his room at the poorhouse. The witnesses against him were the paid employees of the superintendent whose removal is officially demanded.

If he had committed these offenses, they happened before he had been kicked out of the place. But these witnesses did not complain of his acts then. They did not ask a warrant until he told his story to the prosecuting officials and had gone to the grand jury to appeal, not for himself, but in behalf of all others whose necessities send them to the infirmary.

There is every reason to draw the inevitable conclusion that this man, sick with tuberculosis, was sent to jail for his protest and not for his alleged crime.

The length of the sentence and the extraordinary conditions under which it was imposed would suggest that an inquiry by the proper officials and at least a kindlier attitude toward those who dare protest are in order.

Tomorrow we celebrate the courage of the brave men who dared to revolt against the tyrannies of a king.

Just how far can we be sincere if we send to a prison a sick, helpless, almost dying man because he lifted his voice against outrages.

Why not a hospital and a medal instead of a jail and dishonor for this man?

Henry Ford: Messiah or Menace?

Is Henry Ford the finest flower of the new capitalism or the most complete perfection of plutocratic exploitation? Does he prefigure a new and chaste age of competitive industry or is he the most conspicuous industrial colossus whose collapse Karl Marx believed would usher in Socialism. Such questions have been widely debated, but most interpretations of Ford have been too partisan to possess much value.

In the July American Mercury there is a comprehensive assessment of Ford which inspires confidence: It is written by Murray Godwin, who appears remarkably well qualified for the task. He is a virile liberal, unlikely to be constitutionally charmed by Ford's paternalism. He has worked at length for Ford, has quit without a quarrel and gone elsewhere without animus.

Godwin presents the socio-economic balance sheet of Henry Ford in American society with thoroughness and fairness. In Ford's favor there stand out bold and sharp such things as: (1) The \$5 and \$7 day and the five-day week, recognizing that workers are consumers as well as producers; (2) the straight wages system and resistance to the demoralizing piece-work methods; (3) the bucking of Wall Street and banker dominion in 1921; (4) the victorious battle against the licensed manufacturers' system which would have paralyzed technological progress in the automotive industry; (5) successful opposition to the attempt of the coal and steel barons to hold up the automobile industry by extortionate prices; (6) perfection of mechanical and mass efficiency in production; (7) achievement of economy in sales prices; and (8) free industrial training for able and ambitious workers.

The conventional indictment of Ford—well expressed, by the way, in Edmund Wilson's article in the current Scribner's—consists of the following allegations: (1) His workers are reduced to desperate and harried automata, are hounded by overseers and prevented from unionization by elaborate espionage—in short, Ford's regime is one of relentless paternalism; (2) Ford fires anybody from his vice-president to his floor sweepers without warning or announced cause; (3) he ignores the Detroit community and allows it to support his idle men without substantial aid from Ford; (4) he squeezes his dealers ruthlessly when it is necessary to raise funds to buck the bankers; (5) his peace ship indicated a naive notion of the real causes of the World war; (6) his libel suit against the Chicago Tribune proved that he was no erudite master of history or literary criticism, and (7) he frequently indulges palpable droll on such subjects as religion, morals and prohibition.

Mr. Godwin concedes some truth in all these charges, and admits that little can be said in defense of his irresponsible firing of men. Much can be said in mitigation of the other charges, according to Godwin. Ford's paternalism is to be preferred to the oppressive anarchy of a Judge Gary's steel industry or the paralyzing worries and exploitation of the piece-work system employed by some other automobile manufacturers. Detroit has always prodded Ford as hard as possible; so why should he care to be a sugar-candy daddy to the Motor City? Land monopoly, in the form of excessive rents and prices, have enabled Detroiters to milk Ford's men ruthlessly.

Ford's peace ship proved that he held a view of war causes fully as accurately as the vast fabric of lies believed and passed on by the greatest of American historians. Ford may not be as learned as his opponents in the Tribune suit, but he has brought forth a more lovely and useful product than have some of our newspapers, argues Godwin.

But above all, Godwin says, stands the one supreme achievement of Ford, namely, to proclaim and demonstrate that the great industry of today can and should be carried on for the good of the industry, the employees and the consumers—that it should never

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

A Nonstop Flight Around the World in Four and One-Half Days Is Only a Question of Time.

NEW YORK, July 3.—Post and Gatty made a great record, but it won't last very long. Their actual flying time was four days and twelve hours. An airplane has stayed up nearly twenty-seven days. The speed of flight is constantly being increased. When put together, such facts leave room for but one result.

A nonstop flight around the world in four and one-half days, or even less, is only a question of time.

There are discoveries and inventions which leave little doubt as to what will happen.

Once the steamboat had been perfected men of sense could foresee the doom of sailing ships. Once the auto came into being it required no prophetic genius to realize that Old Dobbin's fate was sealed.

Science Warns

IT is the price of progress to make room for new industries by killing off old ones. In olden times, this was largely a matter of accident, or caprice. Men were often caught completely off guard, and ruined in consequence.

Except for a few revolutionary innovations, science generally warns us of what to expect. That is an advantage which the people of other ages did not enjoy.

All we need do is keep our eyes and ears open to realize many of the changes which are bound to occur within the immediate future.

Politics at Standstill

WERE it not for the chaotic state of social and political ideas, we could tell with some precision where we were going.

Science has made little headway, however, in the field of politics and sociology.

When it comes to government, justice and morality, we still are obliged to fall back on empiricism.

Without any well established principles, any rules which we can depend on to work the same in all cases, any complete records as to results, we are forced to guess, theorize and experiment.

Engineering Universal

IT is only necessary to compare the general condition of politics with that prevailing in other lines of human endeavor to understand just what we are up against and why.

Engineering is about the same thing in Japan, or Russia, as in the United States, and so is chemistry, or plumbing, but look at the ideas of government, or morality.

In constructing and operating a steel plant, Mussolini would adopt about the same methods as prevail at Pittsburgh, but not in setting up a municipal government.

When it comes to drugs, or dye stuffs, we are glad to take advice from anybody, but we scorn it with reference to moral problems.

No Science in Law

THERE is nothing which even resembles science in our attitude toward law, statecraft, or social problems.

Look at the different ways in which our own sovereign states regulate marriage and divorce.

Some states forbid Negroes and whites to inter-marry, though allowing defectives to do so.

In South Carolina, you can't get a divorce on any ground, while in Nevada, you don't need any ground to get one.

Social Ignorance

FIFTY-FIVE governments, and no two of them alike, or to come closer home, forty-eight states in the American union, and no two of them wholly alike, in regulating human conduct.

We have found it possible to discover and apply scientific principles in the hospital, the factory, or even on the farm, but not in the courthouse, or legislative hall. We are not going to discover and apply them there, either, until we have more information for guidance.

Did you ever stop to think how much greater pains we take to inform ourselves about business, the stock market and many other things than about human beings?

We know how many freight cars were loaded each day, but not how many babies were born. Also, we know how many shares of stock were sold, and at what price, but not how many people died of cancer.

What we don't know about ourselves is, perhaps, the most astounding phase of modern life. Incidentally, it's the chief reason why we don't get along any better in a political, or social way.

July 3, 1917, General Petain, commander-in-chief of the French armies operating on the French front, issued the following order in regard to the Fourth of July celebration of United States troops:

"Tomorrow, the Independence day celebration of the United States, the first American troops which have debarked in France will file in Paris. Later they will join us at the front."

"Let us salute these new companions in arms who, without thought of gain or of conquest, but with the simple desire of defending the cause of liberty and right, have come to take their places in the ranks beside us."

"Others are preparing to follow them. They soon will be on our soil. The United States means to put at our disposition, without reckoning, their soldiers, their factories, their vessels and their entire country."

"They want to pay a hundredfold the debt of gratitude which they owe to Lafayette and his companions."

"From all the points of the front a single shout on this July 4 will be heard: 'Honor to the great sister, Long live the United States!'

Regardless of the wisdom of the proposition, it is rather an unusual spectacle for us to send Mellon to Paris to use all the influence he can muster to induce the French to consent to a plan whereby this country may lose the payments on the war debts for one year—if not longer.

Irvin Cobb, the humorist, has presented his granddaughter with the four-poster walnut crib in which he was rocked as a beginner.

Now that the country knows that Cobb started out in such magnificence, it ends all chance of his ever becoming President.

They want to pay a hundredfold the debt of gratitude which they owe to Lafayette and his companions."

"From all the points of the front a single shout on this July 4 will be heard: 'Honor to the great sister, Long live the United States!'

He who has ceased to enjoy his friend's superiority has ceased to love him—Madame Swetchina.

Therefore, let us depend on our public service commission and our public city officials, that they will

Loaded Down



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Lockjaw Is Fourth of July Peril

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN
Editor Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygeia, the Health Magazine.

In recent years there has been a gradual tendency to return to the old Fourth of July holocaust that aroused consternation twenty years ago.

In the old cannon cracker-shot gun days, it was not surprising to read in the paper on July 5, the records of hundreds of deaths due to explosions and, during the months that followed, reports of deaths from lockjaw due to infections sustained in Fourth of July celebrations.

Fortunately, some sense has been brought into the situation. Many periodicals conducted campaigns of education, ordinances have been passed, and the total number of accidents and deaths is much less than it used to be.

However, a new generation has

grown up and apparently there is a tendency to relapse into the condition that formerly obtained.

Lockjaw is particularly likely to occur in injuries caused by fireworks. The germs of lockjaw develop in soil and in manure and on dirty clothing.

Any time an injury occurs in which dirt is forced into the wound and sealed in, there is danger of lockjaw. That is the kind of accident that occurs in explosions of cannon crackers, blank cartridges and toy cannons.

Gun wadding is forced into the wound and the germs of tetanus or lockjaw go in with it. The size of the wound is not important.

The tiniest puncture by a dirty nail, a splinter or explosion may cause the passage of the germs into the body.

There is just one thing to do about lockjaw. Whenever such an injury occurs, get a doctor as soon

as possible. He will open the wound, clean it thoroughly, treat it with proper antiseptics, and in questionable cases inject the antitoxin against lockjaw to prevent the disease.

It is not safe to wait in any case until lockjaw has developed. After the disease has developed, immense amounts of antitoxin are needed.

The condition is very serious. It is accompanied by convulsions.

The patient must be treated in a hospital. Certainly here is one condition, above all others, in which prevention is far cheaper, much more certain, and much more sensible than a later attempt at cure.

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