

The Indianapolis Times

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

"French Public Opinion"

Now the solution of the European crisis seems to rest upon that mysterious thing called French public opinion. The French government is reputed to be willing to go a long way toward helping her late enemy out of the bottomless hole, if this can be done without getting into trouble with the French people.

This throws us right back to where we were at the end of the war, or, more precisely, toward the end of peace negotiations. The schedule of reparations, dictated by France, had been agreed upon by the allies' representatives and were ready to be submitted to the German delegation. Suddenly it came over some of the British delegates that they were putting their hands to an instrument that meant not permanent peace, but prolonged disaster.

One to realize it was Bismarck, chancellor of the British exchequer, a cool-headed, financial-minded Scotchman. True, he had lost a son in the war and had entertained a fervent hope that the peace might be such as to put the next war in the far distant future.

But his mind was clear to implications of the proposed reparations. Another to see the significance of what they were about to do was Barnes, the British labor minister. They went to Lloyd George and related their fears. He agreed with them instantly and said he had worn himself out endeavoring to persuade Clemenceau to the same viewpoint; he suggested that they talk with "The Tiger."

They did so. To their surprise, Clemenceau likewise agreed, without hesitation. But, he said, the terms fixed were the least that public opinion in France would accept. And when, eventually, the treaty flatly charging Germany with the whole guilt of the war and assessing that beaten and broken nation with, as nearly as possible, the whole cost of repairing the damage, Clemenceau did have difficulty in obtaining its acceptance by his chamber of deputies. The chamber wanted terms even harsher.

Presumably, the chamber represented French public opinion. And at that time it probably reflected this opinion correctly. For the French, fed for four years on their government's propaganda, had no reason to believe that anything charged against Germany was not true.

They could see no reason why Germany should not be required to pay every last cent that could be wrung out of her. They were bitter, as was natural.

The intervening thirteen years seem to have modified this feeling on the part of the French. They have learned more concerning the causes of the war; no less person than Poincaré has admitted Germany's sole guilt was a political fiction.

More than that, the mere passage of time has begun to bring their native common sense into play. Now they can shout "Long Live Germany" when Brüning appears in their streets.

But that doesn't say that the average, hard-working French citizen is ready to transfer the burden of the war debts from the shoulders of his German neighbors to his own. He isn't. The Frenchman is a frugal, thrifty soul. He hates taxes a little more earnestly than most any other national in the western world.

Yet France is a prosperous country; compared with others she is rich. What does that mean? It means, fortunately for the French, that the average man is fairly comfortable.

It means more than that, however. It means that there are many great and growing personal fortunes in France; that, as in the United States, the economic scheme is one that fosters these growing fortunes, regardless of what may be the condition of the average man.

This week, before the interstate commerce commission, a New York investment banker, appearing to support the railroad's plea for higher freight rates, said:

"I've never seen the banks so full of money!"

This was his very simple manner of saying what has been said over and over again since our present hard times hit us: That there is more money in America than at any other time in its history, and that this money is in fewer hands than ever before.

The American economic system has operated to provide and protect dividends, interests, and profits, but no longer to provide and protect wages. The result is that America approaches a winter of terrible hardship on the part of millions, a winter of idle money on the part of the few.

America faces the necessity of taking a great part of this piled-up wealth by taxation, for the sheer purpose of staving off starvation of the unemployed.

The situation that France confronts is somewhat similar. Not immediate starvation within her borders, but a collapse of all Europe that necessarily would engulf France.

Just as we can meet our own dire need if the government will seek the money where the money is, so France can meet the need of all Europe if her government will do the same.

And the French public opinion that her politicians fear so heartily, probably would stand for such solution of the situation. Say higher taxes to the average Frenchman and he will rebel.

The same is true in this country—if you don't specify who is to pay the higher taxes. Already the spokesmen for America's great fortunes are seeking to avert the fear that increased taxes will mean increased taxes for the average man.

But if French public opinion is given to understand that the plan is to take the burden from the ruined peasants and workers of Germany and transfer it to the war and peace profiteers of France, the world probably will have no cause to doubt the favorable response of French public opinion.

Historical Perspective

With 8,000,000 workers and their dependents idle today, should we set about to increase the number of mouths to be fed? The distinguished student of population problems at the Brookings Institution in Washington, Professor R. R. Kuczynski, answers yes.

There are two ways in which our population might be increased—natural growth and immigration. "There is no practical hope in the former. Our birth rate is declining steadily. In 1900 it was 50 per 1,000 population. In 1920 it was 24 per 1,000; in 1930 it had dropped to 19. Therefore, Dr. Kuczynski insists that we must modify our immigration laws.

His argument is that the economic structure of the United States is "dynamic." This can be maintained only by a system of ever-increasing population. "With her present fertility, she is not in a position to increase her population domestically. This would be true, even if the mortality should be further reduced. Other countries have a static economic structure, for instance, France, for instance.

Your own structure, however, is exceedingly

dynamic. It can not remain so without an increasing population, and between immigration laws and birth control, the United States is approaching a static condition."

Dr. Kuczynski's theory is sound, but he has failed woefully to get any historical perspective. Of course, our economic structure has been dynamic in the past. Since 1607 we have been conquering a great continent. The frontier beckoned us on until 1890. Vast natural resources were unlocked and exploited.

After 1890 there were new markets to be opened overseas from Cuba to China. This most gigantic and dramatic epic in human history made possible the expansion of our population from 4,000,000 in the days of Washington to 120,000,000 in the regime of Hoover.

But these days are over. The economic program of 1875 is as out of place today as a prairie schooner in Times Square. The continent has been occupied. The frontier was no more when Benjamin Harrison left the White House.

Our natural resources have been tapped, exploited, and wasted, though by no means exhausted. Even foreign markets no longer are virgin opportunities, and we run head-on into serious competition with European rivals. The semi-explosive period of American history and civilization is past and gone. Better days may lie ahead, but they will not be the days of the first Astor, or of James J. Hill.

The trouble with most of the world is that its economic structure is geared to the perspective of an age of expansion and exploitation which is no more. Such is the plight of England, Germany and Italy.

What we need is a population adjusted to our land, our resources, and the present state of our cultural development, not to the reckless booster spirit of a past generation. Our natural population tendencies are pushing us on inevitably to this enviable biological condition.

Let us adjust production to the ideal population and give our masses money enough to buy the products of a sane economic system.

In short, we have come to the time for special sanity. Decent life for a perfectly adjusted population should be our ideal.

An Embarrassing Suicide

There came into a rich and smart Fifth avenue church in New York City a man haggard and ragged—one of the millions of honest victims of the depression and unemployment. He put his all, 7 cents into the collection plate and knelt on his knees in prayer.

The eloquent sermon of that great preacher, Robert E. Speer, failed to hearten him. As the benediction was being pronounced, he swallowed carbolic acid and fell dead. A note was found stating that he no longer could bear the burden of futile search for work and his family suffering.

The suicide might have sought more modest quarters for his sorrow and self-destruction. Yet there may be something to be said in defense of his error. He may have been reading his Bible that morning and discovered that the founder of Christianity himself was drawn from the working classes and that he labored among the meek and lowly. He may have read what Jesus had to say about the Pharisee and the Publican, or about Lazarus and the rich man.

Even his paltry 7 cents may have been unduly magnified as he thought of Jesus' words in Mark xii relative to the widow's mite: "Verily I say unto you, this poor widow cast in more than all they that are casting into the treasury; for they did cast in of their superfluity; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."

This poor broken suicide doubtless was guilty of a grievous social error. Yet in extenuation may be urged not only his desperate condition and his overwrought mind, but perhaps also a rather too literal interpretation of certain scriptural passages. We should not be too harsh on him.

Those club-swinging New York cops probably have their own ideas of what a policeman's "beat" should be.

Henry Ford is reported using cantaloupes to make paint. The colors should be in good taste.

Cards have become so universal a pastime that the old nautical expression should be revised to read: "All hands on decks."

A good golfer, says the office sage, is known by the clubs he belongs to.

Credo of the American business man: First the credit, then the contract.

REASON BY KENESAW M. LANDIS

OUR mutual friend, the regular conductor of this column, has another day of leisure, and your impresario of yesterday carries on.

Our black eye is becoming blacker and blacker. In fact, it is developing its own color harmony. It is a harmony peculiar to itself, however, and it makes the rest of the face look like the countenance of a village tough. For the last several days we have been strolling down the street with the careless and impudent nonchalance of a desperado.

To jump from a black eye to a paragraph on the international situation may seem to the casual observer to be somewhat rash, but taking the hurdles your humble servant has been taking lately it seems a gentle step. And then every word would be columnist simply must pay his respects to international relations.

The government of France at last has backed down on her plan to use economic pressure to force political guarantees from Germany. Now if this were a conflict between individuals the economic pressure would prevail as a matter of course, but with nations it is something else again. One must treat a sovereign debtor with the utmost tenderness.

A WEST VIRGINIA boy of 15 tells the police that he has been in the bootleg business for the last two years and has averaged \$36 a week. This shows remarkable enterprise in one so young, and back in the days when almost all business was conducted in the rough it would have indicated the prospects of a great success.

Many of the great American business fortunes had their start in practices of such a fashion, and the mere recital thereof can not help but be somewhat embarrassing to their present highly respectable proprietors. But time and a few convenient contributions to well-publicized charities, and their debauched youth ripens into a highly respectable maturity.

Our most celebrated example is, of course, Mr. Rockefeller, who of late has become almost saintly in his virtue. Time deodorizes the most rank evils, and a long injustice is the most entrenched of institutions.

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

The More You Learn of the Rackets, the More You Wonder What Part the Big Bankers Play.

NEW YORK, July 22.—The Do-rado, a fifty-two-foot yawl, navigated by her owner and manned by a crew of seven amateurs, sails across the Atlantic in seventeen days, winning the Newport-to-Plymouth race, which started July 4 and in which ten small yachts participated.

It's a remarkable record, right down with that of clipper ships as to time and right back with the early pioneers as to hazard and seamanship. Those who made it have some idea of what their forefathers went through.

The Mayflower, which brought 102 Pilgrims to Massachusetts, was less than 100 feet long, and was regarded as a good-sized ship for her day.

Protect That Hen Roost!

OF the first 12,000 people who attempted to reach America, two-thirds perished, either during the passage, or within ten years. Yet to hear some people talk you would think that they had nothing to worry about, except religion and blue laws.

If 60,000,000 had died in this country last winter, we would be facing the same kind of a situation that the pilgrims faced in the summer of 1621, after they had buried one-half of their total population.

Speaking of blue laws, we are just about as rough and intolerant when it comes to having our way as the old boys were in trying to have theirs.

In Delaware, a chicken thief just has been sentenced to ten lashes at the whipping post and six years in prison.

According to press reports, this example is intended to show thieves that the state of Delaware means to protect the hen roost regardless of cost or consequences.

Tough on Boys

POLICE COMMISSIONER MULROONEY appears to have a similar idea regarding New York night clubs.

The "committee of fourteen" having told the commissioner just how bad conditions are, he rolls up his sleeves and issues orders in a way that would make a pilgrim father blush.

Proprietors of night clubs must submit to finger-printing if they want their licenses renewed, and in the meantime, they must have no traffic with crooks.

If they have any difficulty in identifying the crooks, Commissioner Mulrooney will be glad to furnish blueprints and specifications.

Do You Catch On?

AS might be expected, there is a great travail of the spirit in the night club district.

For reasons with which Commissioner Mulrooney doubtless is well acquainted, certain proprietors rather would not be finger-printed, while the majority agree that, without well-known crooks and bad shots as an attraction, it will be hard to hold the butter-and-egg patronage.

Though other people don't seem to have caught on, New Yorkers are aware that crooks from the inside and hicks from the outside furnish the big excuse for night clubs.

It Goes Foolishly

IN spite of the hard times, lots of people are making easy money and spending it foolishly. However, and yet in spite of these facts and the poor outlook ahead of them they have gone right on producing children that they, and you, too, expect some one else to support for them.

As you also know, charity of the stupid kind begets the need for still more charity, since, as in this case, if these children are rescued now, what assurance is there that there will not be twice as many in the next generation who will need help?

A New Angle

NO assurance whatsoever, Mr. Staebner. That is, until we have laws permitting the free dissemination of birth control information.

This correspondent has put his finger on the crux of the problem. I absolutely agree with his statement that "charity of the stupid kind begets the need for still more charity."

Charity, as we know it, is moribund. It alleviates temporarily, but does not cure society's cancer. And, no matter how we fight against the first dose, once we have known relief from pain we seek the spurious remedy again and again.

But, after all, the cause is still there. And only a major operation can eliminate that.

In defending the Red Cross, Mr. Staebner goes on to say:

"They must know the type and character of the people who work in the mines. They must recognize the danger of having on their hands perpetually a pauperized, fast-

breeding mass of ignorant people, who, unless they will adopt birth control and they are probably too stupid to do so, must demand so much of the Red Cross as to cripple that organization in its other relief work for years to come."

Why Poor?

MR. STAEBNER'S nonchalance is refreshing. He admits that here is a community of pauperized people, but what of it?

The burden of responsibility does not touch him. Apparently it is his contention that they are poor because they are stupid.

If it is true that they are stupid and it is far from intelligent to generalize—maybe it is because they are poor.

Why should a group of people who perform such an important and dangerous function in our industrial life be poor? They hold within their hands the power to cripple us as a nation?

If all the coal miners in the world would suddenly decide to quit burrowing in the bowels of the earth, civilization as we know it would cease.

It seems to me that it would be

People's Voice

Editor Times—Sheriff Charles "Buck" Sumner has begun to show the taxpayers that the Democratic party can and will keep its campaign pledges, by reducing his 1932 budget by about \$20,000. Had his predecessor won, he probably would have increased it by the same amount, as this extra money could have been used to promote his future campaign activities.

The contract for cleaning the statehouse was let by our chief state executive on a 2 for 1 shot, and since 1921 from the national capitol down to township trustees the Republican party has played the 2 for 1 shot, and the taxpayers pay the bill. Like Judas who sold our Savior for thirty pieces of silver, Republican officials have sold the American people, and made us a disgrace to the civilized world, and the high tariff, "bought and paid for" has made us, on the whole, a country of paupers.

President Hoover is more concerned over the welfare of Europe, than he is over the American farmer or his two-bit wheat, or the laborer with his unpaid rent and soup houses.

Are we to be fools again in 1932, led by false gods, or be sane and sound as in the days of Woodrow Wilson?

WILLIAM LEMON.

Editor Times—More power to Chief Morrissey! And let him not miss the "wheels of fortune" and other gambling devices at church fairs, card parties, etc.

RAY ALLEN.

How many words are there in the English Language?

Approximately 450,000. If the dead words of the speech be added, the number would reach 700,000 words, living and dead, for the English language.

Looks Like a Little Control Is in Order



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Heart Failure at 50 Due to Arteries

Why men break down from heart failure at 50, after leading active lives, is explained by Dr. Morris Fishbein in a series of five articles in "The Falling Heart of Middle Life," the first of which is presented herewith.

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

One of the most common and at the same time one of the most serious conditions confronting the medical profession today is the control of the failing heart of men at middle age.

Dr. David Riesman recently discussed this subject before a medical society. He pointed out that modern men lead active lives and seem to get along quite well until they reach 50 years of age. Then they go to pieces.

Scientific study reveals that the breaking down is due to changes in the heart and in the circulation. In the vast majority of cases the breakdown is not due to any infection of the heart affecting the valves, which is one of the most common causes of heart disease.

It seems to be associated with high blood pressure and with some

changes in the blood vessels that feed the heart with nutriment. These blood vessels are called the coronary arteries. Innumerable records of deaths recently reported indicated that the coronary arteries were responsible.

Of special interest is the fact that the condition seems to be prevalent also among physicians who, as every one knows, lead extremely strenuous lives and carry the mental burdens of vast numbers of people.

The increase in heart disease is revealed in the statistics of large insurance companies as well as in the government reports. Whereas 111.2 persons out of every 100,000 died from heart disease in 1910, the number was 160 in 1924.

In 1928 the deaths from heart disease in Philadelphia were three times as many as from tuberculosis in all its forms, and almost twice as many from diseases of the kidney or cancer.

It is, of course, realized that people will die eventually, or something, because the biological cycle of the human cell is still approximately seventy years. An increase in

the number of deaths from heart disease after middle life indicates that these people were saved from the infectious diseases that used to carry off tremendous numbers in youth.

Nevertheless, this heart disease is preventable to some extent, and those who are wise will do what they can to avoid it.

In analyzing the increase in the number of deaths from heart disease after middle life, Dr. Riesman is convinced that some of them may be an aftermath of the influenza epidemic of 1918.

It is well recognized that chronic diseases, such as tuberculosis or syphilis, may weaken the condition generally and thus affect the heart. It is also known that overeating, sexual excess, worry, intense ambition and the strenuous life included in striving for success may also be associated with wear and tear on the vital organs.

Insufficient sleep is a prominent feature of the lives of those who break down from heart failure in middle life. Insufficient sleep represents a vicious circle. Because the man worries he can not sleep; because he can not sleep he worries.

IT SEEMS TO ME BY HEYWOOD BROWN

"I WAS very much surprised and disappointed," writes Harold H. Staebner, "to read your ill-considered attack on the Red Cross for its refusal to aid the children of the striking Pennsylvania coal miners."

"As you know, for many years the miners have been suffering from low wages and unemployment, and yet in spite of these facts and the poor outlook ahead of them they have gone right on producing children that they, and you, too, expect some one else to support for them."

"As you also know, charity of the stupid kind begets the need for still more charity, since, as in this case, if these children are rescued now, what assurance is there that there will not be twice as many in the next generation who will need help?"

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SCIENCE

—BY DAVID DIETZ

Man Has Inhabited the Earth Only 100,000 Years of Its 2,000,000,000-Year Existence.

MANKIND, according to the general opinion of biologists, has inhabited the earth for about 100,000 years. A few authorities are willing to coincide "homo sapiens," as man is known scientifically, a half million years.

That seems a long time until we find that the geologists believe the earth has been in existence for 2,000,000,000 years.

But even this figure shrinks to a mere second when we turn to the estimates of astronomers of the age of the universe.

The stars, according to the latest astronomical estimates, are from five to ten trillion years old. A trillion, it will be recalled, is a million times a million.

Astronomy, therefore, gives us an age for the universe comparable to the immense distances which it has revealed in the universe. The nearest star is 25,000,000,000 miles away, while many stars are a thousand times as far away.

Age of Stars

ESTIMATES of the age of the stars is based on slender evidence. It is a source of satisfaction to astronomers, however, that three different methods of approach all yield approximately the same answer.