



The Indianapolis Times

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

The Right Track

Community clubs in other parts of the city should join the movement started on the south side for lower rates for public utilities.

While sincere and insincere groups are advocating lower wages for public employees especially teachers and policemen, the south side citizens have hit at the real source of private "depression."

The cost of utility services in this city is beyond reason, can be proved to be greater than that allowed by law, and is extortive under the rules of valuation established to protect utility robberies in prosperous days.

These utilities, given a monopoly under the law, really tax the people. They serve necessities of life. No one may escape tribute and live.

Very carefully, during the days after the close of the war, the utilities established as a legal principle that they had the right to charge on a valuation based on the cost of reproduction of their plants, and not upon the original cost.

The utilities wanted this rule because they then proceeded to collect on all the increased prices of labor and commodities that came after the war.

They wanted to collect earnings on money never invested or spent.

Now things are different. The price of labor has dropped to the disappearing point. The price of the materials that go into telephone and electric and water plants have gone into the cellar.

The south side citizens believe that the time has come for a new valuation of these plants for rate purposes and that the rule of valuation that applied in days of inflation should be used in days of deflation.

Outside of this simple and just demand it can be shown that some of the utilities through their holding companies are practicing robberies and extortions from which a Jesse James would turn away in disgust.

The operation of the plants by holding companies has been costly. It has been political. The robberies and extortions have been protected. The people have paid.

There should be a city-wide instead of a sectional crusade for justice.

Before we cut down the wages of policemen and teachers, needed now more than ever before, we should cut out the larcenies of the utility barons who pacify with gifts of pipe organs.

Relief Through Public Works

It has been heralded widely through state and nation that we are meeting the unemployment situation through a greatly extended system of public works. We imagine that all sorts of public and semi-public structures and improvements are being rushed at us at no time since the World war.

A rude blow is struck at this benign illusion by Laurence Todd in Labor's News. Citing the totals given in the F. W. Dodge Corporation's estimates for the first five months of 1931 as compared with the first five months of 1930, he shows that the amount spent on public works from January to June, 1931, is some \$235,000,000 below the figure for the comparable period in 1930. And much less was spent for public works in 1930 than in 1929.

In short, all this talk about vast increase of public works construction in the country is so much bunk. We are doing less building in this field than in times of prosperity and slight unemployment.

An excellent appraisal of this deception and hypocrisy is contained in the August issue of The Constructor, the trade magazine of the Associated General Contractors:

"The failure of municipalities to undertake street and alley paving work under the exceptionally favorable conditions prevailing this year is nullifying the efforts of the federal government to increase federal aid through accelerating highway work."

"Present indications are that the totals for concrete street, alley, and highway paving will not exceed those of last year, despite the increase in federal aid appropriations to \$125,000,000, and the \$80,000,000 emergency federal aid money loaned to the several states."

The Sweating Male

There is no doubt that one of the most convincing proofs of the stupidity of the human race in the face of convention is the persistence of the male in wearing coats during warm days in the summer.

No American male who puffs along the street with the temperature at 90 and the humidity at 70, wearing the same coat which adorns his manly shoulders on Washington's birthday, appropriately can scoff at the Chinese woman who binds her feet.

Despairing of any hope that the perspiring males will help themselves, Mrs. Madge Blair Barnwell has launched a movement to save the American males before they become extinct or intolerable as a result of the fatal effects of the coat in hot weather.

She sets forth her convictions in an article in the Clothing Trade Journal. Some of the main points in her pithy indictment are the following:

"Men are fools! Can you deny it? Men take the wool from the sheep's back, cover their sensitive bodies, from neck to heels, in wool in hot weather.

"Men act as if they owe a religious fealty to the coat—this uncomfortable armor, designed about 136 years ago by the grandson of a boarding-housekeeper, Beau Brummell. Wool merchants and tailors found it a lucrative vehicle of commerce and as it was they make the styles, they have chained you to its torture."

"While making money, they are suffering with you and going with you to premature graves."

"Man's dress in summer has distressed me since I was 8 years old. On summer evenings when the white moonlight of the 'deep' south was distilling the fragrance of magnolia blossoms and jessamine stars, my stepfather, Professor Augustus Radcliffe Grote, a gifted musician, composer and scientist, would be playing on the piano, accompanied by Monsieur le Rue on the flute and Mr. Léon Joseph on the violin."

"With their coats off, the talented trio would seem to be enjoying their divine music. Presently a group of women, in gauzy gowns, would come in. The men instantly would put on their coats. Now their faces

would flush crimson and perspiration stream. Their music would lose its spontaneity and brilliance.

"Their arms now were bound by the seams in the back of the coat. 'Why do you put on your coat?' I would exclaim. 'Why, it would not be decent to receive the ladies without our coat,' my stepfather would reply. 'But,' I would retort, 'the women do not put on winter clothes in summer to receive you!'

"With incredible speed, Post and Gatty flew around the globe—then put on their coats in the hot weather which greeted them on their return. Their attractive wives were dressed tastefully and appropriately for the needs of the day, but did the masters of a gigantic, herculean, heroic feat have the courage to dress sensibly? Did they not cling to a false idea of propriety? To foolish convention?"

Even without a coat, Mrs. Barnwell warms up to her subject. She finds that the sufferings of men from hot coats in summer lower their resistance and brings them to a premature death. This leaves their children without support and drives them into crime.

Even the males who survive get pimples and eruptions all over their faces and bodies from the heat and are horrible to look at. Indeed, Mrs. Barnwell sees in the male coat a potential cause of nearly every evil save halitosis.

We may doubt whether all the dire results which she attributes to the becoated male in summer actually come about. But certainly she has a case in the vast increase of comfort which would result from sartorial common sense in the male during high temperatures—and with no serious moral or esthetic jeopardy.

Mrs. Barnwell says in conclusion that she does not know whether to weep or swear over the obdurate persistence of the male in his self-imposed tortures.

She should do neither, but rather seek consolation in history. There is hope for our males. Five hundred years ago they were wearing steel armor. A tropical worsted coat in 1931 is no little step in advance.

Alfred Pearce Dennis

One of the ironies of federal government is that citizens judge it by the office holders who make the most noise, but sometimes have the least influence.

Dozens of officials in the Washington spotlight—congressmen, senators, cabinet officers—were better known than Dr. Alfred P. Dennis, who died Saturday.

As a member of the United States tariff commission for the last seven years, he was one of those brilliant and devoted experts in government whose services are so little understood and appreciated by the country.

It is no exaggeration to say that the federal government virtually would break down if it were dependent on the politicians chosen by voters or party bosses to head important commissions, bureaus and departments. The brain work usually is done by the non-political experts who prompt the office holders out in front.

Absent from the heart of U. S. Authorities just have discovered a ten-acre patch of "locoweed" in Philadelphia.

"Loco weed," or marijuanna, contains a powerful habit-forming drug which dope peddlers can use as a substitute for cocaine, morphine, Indian hemp, and so on.

Experts estimate that the patch in Philadelphia would have yielded a gross of \$125,000, according to underworld prices.

For obvious reasons, the exact location of this patch has not been revealed, but owners of the land have been notified that it will be burned within the next two days.

He was one of the first to preach the dependence of the United States on foreign trade. His selection as vice-chairman of the tariff commission in 1925 was on merit. In the line of Costigan, Culbertson and Lewis he carried on the fight against suicidal high protective rates which helped destroy American prosperity and helped provoke the world economic war.

When President Hoover comes to fill the three tariff commission vacancies, it is to be hoped that he will select men of the Dennis type, rather than members like Henry P. Fletcher, who is resigning, and Lincoln Dixon, whose term is expiring.

The National Woman's party finds it a selfish attempt on the part of the cotton industry to save itself at the expense of women workers, since the women are reported being dismissed not only from night work, but from all work.

A fair judgment probably lies somewhere between these two opinions.

It is decidedly regrettable that women must work at night, or that any one must work at night for that matter.

Also it is regrettable that a mother with home and family to care for in the day time should have to work at night, while her children are asleep, so all may eat.

And it even is more regrettable that such a mother should be left without a job of any sort, day or night, and without anything to eat.

Until that happy time arrives when industry is organized that neither men nor woman need sacrifice health and life doing night work, it seems to us the only humane and just way is to retain those workers, men or women, whose earnings are essential to the support of a family.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

YOU were listening to your heart instead of your brain when you discussed old age infestation," writes a man of 71, who contends that children who do not ask to be brought into the world should not be obliged to care for their parents.

I will confess forthwith that when it comes to this question I always give my heart the right of way. For I do not believe we can establish satisfactory human relationships without brains alone. The heart must have the last word so far as duty to one's own is concerned.

If this were not the case, all of us would be in a most unhappy state.

To be sure, I am one who never has been moved greatly by the argument that because parents have the temerity to bring forth children they forever should be apologetic to that.

Life is the inestimable gift after all. A good many find it hard, I know, but a great many more delight in it, and bad as we think the world is, I notice that most of us are rather reluctant to leave it.

I am aware, too, that brains are necessary to establish a happy family. Indeed, the person who creates harmony and content in the home is a person who has achieved the highest sort of success. Brains alone can not bring about this atmosphere of an earthly Eden. Only a loving heart coupled with strong mental powers can do so.

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M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

To an Ever-Increasing Number of People, the Problem Is Not How to Survive Old Age, but How to Get There.

NEW YORK, Aug. 31.—New York entertains two famous ships—Old Ironsides and the DO-X—the one bequeathing a glorious past, the other a still more glorious future.

Old Ironsides has been on the job for 134 years. Where will the DO-X be in 134 years hence?

That brings up the question of whether changes will be as great during the next century as they have been during the last.

Would Renew Life

DR. JULES STOKLASA, Czechoslovak radio expert, hints at immortality through radium rays.

Explaining that old age is due to the deoxidation of cell tissues, and that death occurs when the deoxidation has become complete, he declares alpha rays arrest this process, while beta and gamma rays reoxidize the cell tissues, thus giving them renewed life.

"There would appear no reason," he says, "why wornout cell tissues should not be renewed perpetually."

Want to Get There

IT sounds fine, if not convincing, until one remembers all the havoc being wrought by auto, gangster bullets, and other interruptive forces.

To an ever-increasing number of people, the problem is not how to survive old age, but how to get there.

It Has Drawbacks

OUT on the African desert, an American scientist, Dr. Darwin O. Lyon, is conducting rocket experiments by which he hopes to learn something about the upper atmosphere.

It doesn't sound half as interesting as it would if he were trying to "shoot the moon," but it's vastly more sensible.

The worst feature of scientific progress these days is the superstitious gullibility with which ignorant people swallow the quack side of it.

An equally dangerous feature is the way criminals take advantage of it to impose on the weak and helpless.

Dope—in Heart of U. S.

AUTHORITIES just have discovered a ten-acre patch of "locoweed" in Philadelphia.

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Experts estimate that the patch in Philadelphia would have yielded a gross of \$125,000, according to underworld prices.

Even Sacrifice Lives

IT'S a strange thing that some people will pay for drugs and what other people will do to get their money.

The passion for artificial dreams is as old as the passion for long life. While quacks have searched for the "elixir of life," or the "foundation of eternal youth," criminals have produced stimulants and narcotics.

Thousands upon thousands not only have impoverished themselves, but sacrificed their very lives to make the traffic profitable.

Forgetting Human Nature

SUCH progress as we have made that the real problem is to save men from themselves.

We have done a far better job in protecting ourselves from human nature.

A large part of our medical skill is devoted to patching up on injuries we inflict on each other.

What's Been Done?

HEROIC measures have been adopted to prevent the spread of infantile paralysis, which is right, but the auto has killed, or crippled five times as many children since the first of January, and what has been done?

Most emphatically in solving social problems, before we get too excited over the prospect of immortality, and we need to rearrange our perspective and sense of value.
