



## The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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

### Private and Public Taxation

After several days of discussion, members of the city council have discovered only a very few thousand dollars which can be eliminated from public pay rolls and permit the government to function in its protection of life, health and property.

The members of that body are sincere men. They have the interests of the city at heart. They would like to reduce the tax burden because they help to carry it and, besides such an achievement would bring thanks and applause.

But they have found that the people have fixed a certain standard of service for themselves and that reduction of expense is possible only by either the uneconomic method of reducing wages or by the worse alternative of reducing service.

The situation should call to mind that big burdens on the people are not those fixed by public taxation, but those which come through protected and regulated looting by private interests.

The utility holding companies take away more money from the people in a month than is wasted in a year by public officials.

It would require only the most casual glance at the accounts of the holding company for the electric company, for example, to show any business man how to reduce expenses by thousands of dollars and still give all better service than is now received.

It would require only a glance to convince the powers which regulate rates that there is something phoney in charging "excise" tax to the operating cost of a utility.

All of the money charged for extras by the holding company, which in turn owns this company, comes from the pockets of the people of this city.

If only the grabs were eliminated on this one concern, the sum saved to the people would amount to more than any tax cut imaginable.

Perhaps the Chamber of Commerce, very active in trying to cut the salaries of school teachers and policemen, will join in the fight of the south side clubs to secure justice in these rates.

Or will the fact that the present head of the electric light company was formerly a high official of the chamber stop any action of that sort?

### If They are Wise

In explaining the purpose of the announced federal billion-dollar bond issue, officials admitted at first that it was hoped to forestall increased taxes to cover the deficit. But that story created such a bad impression officials now are saying that the bond issue merely has no current financing before congress meets and is for relative tax rates.

All of which strikes us as pretty thin.

If it only were a case of borrowing money to cover the deficit until congress meets and possible increased income taxes could be collected, obviously there would be no need of twenty-four-year bonds at 3 per cent.

Instead, short-term financing at much lower interest rates and at a large saving to the government would be adequate. And that, in our judgment, would be the wise policy.

Apart from the financial loss to the government in the announced policy, we believe that long-term borrowing to cover a mounting operating deficit is a vicious principle. The budget should be balanced.

The billion-dollar deficit of last year and the prospective deficit of an additional billion and a half this year should be met directly. Some expenditures can be cut, especially military and naval appropriations.

Income can be raised by lowering the tariff and thus reviving our foreign trade and dwindling deficits. But that in itself would be inadequate.

A tax increase is essential. No one disputes that. The only argument is whether the tax increase should be postponed for political reasons until after the presidential election, and whether it should be a tax on the poor or the rich.

Political expediency should not be allowed to delay a necessary financial operation. Nor should the pressure of large campaign contributors and bankers be allowed to shift the tax burden to the poor.

More than justice is involved. It is a matter of business revival. The only quick and easy way to break up part of the overconcentration of wealth which was produced by our one-sided prosperity, and which in turn has been a major cause of the continuing depression, is by increased upper-bracket income and inheritance taxes.

Any attempt to make the mass of the people carry a heavier financial load, either by direct or indirect taxation, would curtail purchasing power still further and prolong the depression.

If the administration and its large campaign contributors are wise, they will see that the rich can afford to pay for a revival of prosperity, from which both rich and poor will profit.

### The Operators' Move

President Hoover's attempt to bring about a conference between bituminous coal operators and miners to settle labor troubles has failed.

One hundred of 160 operators to whom invitations were addressed by the secretaries of commerce and labor either failed to answer or declined to attend. Presumably their reason was a belief that such conference could accomplish nothing.

Will the operators, having declined to participate in the government's effort, now come forward with a suggestion of their own?

Or will they sit by and do nothing to end the chaos in the coal fields, with its underpaid workers, its thousands with no work, and tens of thousands of hungry women and children?

The alternative to voluntary measures is government compulsion to keep a necessary basic industry operating and prevent citizens from starving.

What have the operators to offer?

### The Cotton Market

The cotton south, while attempting to struggle with its own problem, still is looking to the federal farm board for help.

It might purchase more cotton, but this only would increase its troubles when it came to dispose of these holdings, and probably increase its losses. The board says it will buy no more for the present.

It might advance more money to farmers through co-operatives, but it only would be advancing these persons their own money, whether or not production reduction was pledged as part of the collateral.

It might sanction the 1932 cotton holiday being proposed throughout the south, but it could do this only by refusing to look forward to the distress that would be rampant next year when cotton farms and tenants would have no incomes.

It might hold conferences with representatives of other cotton-producing countries, but any acreage reduction agreements that might result would be useless in the present distress.

It might spend a hundred million dollars, as some have suggested, but this would have to be paid, eventually, by those who might benefit temporarily.

Evidently, the board suggested its cotton-destruction plan in sheer desperation, occasioned by the immense crop forecast this year and the prospect that two years' supply of staple would be available at the end of this picking season. Its desperate plan has been abandoned utterly, as it should have been.

It must realize by now that neither "stabilization" operations, nor any other artificial means of reviving a depressed market, actually will work.

It must be known that "farm relief" is not to be obtained immediately by law, rule, regulation, or any group of them.

Farm relief means, of course, profitable prices for farm products. They are obtainable nowhere now; nor will they be until consumption equals production. That means when the unemployed and part-time employed of the United States and foreign countries can afford to buy again.

### Patented Roses

The government has issued its first patent for a "new plant," that is, a plant which has a characteristic not possessed by its parents. Heretofore patents have been granted only for mechanical devices, which were the product of human ingenuity, and not for things that grow, which are developed and patterned by nature.

This first patent was for an ever-blooming rose, which will be propagated from shoots and not from seed or by other natural processes. Scientists first determined that the rose was in reality everblooming.

The new venture of the patent office raises some interesting questions.

It is, in effect, an official recognition of the theory that evolution may proceed by what biologists call sports of mutations—that plants suddenly exhibit certain well-marked characteristics not present in their parents. Anti-evolutionists might not like that.

And suppose the patented sport produced other sports, would they be restricted, too?

What if the sport later were reproduced from seed?

What if nature, unfamiliar with federal law, should play a joke and produce the same sport for some one else?

If you owned a patented rose, could you give or sell shoots to your neighbors?

All these things, we have no doubt, will be argued seriously by learned lawyers and judges, for already the constitutionality of the law has been questioned informally.

Well, if you can bootleg gins, why not guns, or, to come a little closer home, if the New York police have been unable to close speakeasies, or catch racketeers, how do they expect to stop pistol carrying?

### A Problem of Men

UNDER existing conditions, all a matter what they provide, or by whom enforced, rest on the same theory as prohibition: the big idea being to make bad men good by depriving good men of something or other.

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### Too Many Doors Now

WE are not going to get any where in solving the crime problem until we do better job of catching and convicting criminals.

Whether outlawing weapons will do any good, I certainly will open another profitable door for the smuggler and corrupt politicians.

We have enough such doors to watch already.

I am in a position to speak with

### And Orders Is Orders

In vetoing the Norris Muscle Shoals bill, President Hoover said:

"The real development of the resources and industries of the Tennessee valley can be accomplished only by the people in that valley themselves. Muscle Shoals can be administered only by the people on the ground, responsible to their own communities, directing them solely for the benefit of their communities, and not for the purposes of pursuit of social theories or national politics. Any other course deprives them of liberty."

So the President appointed a commission.

The commission, meeting in Washington Tuesday, called at the White House. Asked the purpose of the call, the chairman replied:

"Largely to get our orders."

### Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

"WHY women fail," is discussed in a recent magazine article by Lorine Pruette, who, you will remember, was authority for the statement not long ago that the country would be better off without the men.

The woman who wishes to be famous, she writes, "should not marry. Early in her career she must give up the weakness of the wish to be pleasing."

Although we will not dispute these arguments and admit that it is possible for women to succeed in most work if they give it their undivided attention, still the question keeps popping up, "What of it?"

Women fail in careers because they usually do not care enough about succeeding. Most of them are wise enough to know that being famous gets you nowhere, so far as actual happiness in concerned.

The ruthlessness that drives the average man on his ambitious way does not strike a woman as an entirely praiseworthy attribute. In the first place, she realizes, as he should, too, that it is not possible for every citizen of a country to be famous.

It is, however, quite possible for every citizen to be happy, if we used our wits a bit.

### Questions and Answers

Is the phrase in the preamble of the Constitution "in order to form a more perfect union" grammatical? What anything more perfect?

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What is the population of China? The estimated population in 1930 was 439,753,380.

Who preceded Governor Murray as Governor of Oklahoma? W. J. Halloway.

## M. E. Tracy SAYS:

We Americans Are Developing Altogether Too Much Faith in Purely Mechanical Remedies.

NEW YORK, Sept. 2.—The farm board has a very good reason for not buying cotton. It can't. The \$500,000,000 with which it set out to stabilize prices practically is gone. Its vast holdings have shrunk by something like a third in value.

Even if it could find bankers willing to accept them as collateral, the resulting loans would be comparatively small.

Theoretically, the farm board scheme looked all right. It was based on Mark Twain's deduction that about 15 per cent of a given commodity spelled the difference between high and low prices.

Five hundred million dollars should have been sufficient to corner 15 per cent of this country's grain and cotton, but it wasn't.

Farmers planted too much and the weather was too good.

While nothing can be done about the weather, we should take the farmers' attitude as a warning.

They'll Have a Plan

FARMERS won't be so optimistic next year. They know that there are fears which even Uncle Sam can't perform.

Instead of taking it on the nose, however, they probably will come forward with some other plan by which they can plant every acre in sight and still hope for good prices.

Barring a great and unforeseen shortage in other countries, that is out of the question.

No system yet devised will protect people against the effect of overproduction. If they can't find new markets, or stimulate consumption in some artificial way, their only choice is to produce less, or take a loss.

It's Too Mechanical

WE Americans are developing altogether too much faith in purely mechanical remedies—prohibition, the farm board, anti-gun toting laws, and so on.

Governor Roosevelt of New York recommends that authority be issued from justices of the supreme court to sheriffs and police chiefs, that all those applying for permits be fingerprinted, that permits run for only one year, and that a separate permit be required for each and every pistol.

One need not quarrel with these recommendations to wonder why the judges have failed, or whether the police chiefs and sheriffs will do any better.

It's Too Mechanical

colored and ripened by exposure to ethylene gas, so also may such products as the citrus fruits, including oranges and lemons and bananas.

Products ripened with ethylene have more uniform color and firmer texture than those allowed to ripen naturally before being gathered.

The investigators, Drs. D. B. Jones and E. M. Nelson of the United States department of agriculture, have recently made a comparative study of the vitamin C content of tomatoes treated with ethylene gas as compared to those allowed to ripen naturally before being gathered.

The evidence indicates that naturally ripened tomatoes are a better source of vitamins A, B and C than any others studied.

No material difference was observed in the vitamin A content of any of the lots, nor of the vitamin B content. However, the vitamin C content of tomatoes seems to increase as they develop and as the fruit develops and as they are treated with ethylene.

It is important to point out that in their studies the investigators have used only the juice of the tomato, whereas previous investigators have used both the pulp and the juice.

Tomatoes that were mature, but green, tomatoes naturally ripened on the vines, and immature green tomatoes ripened with ethylene were tested on animals as to their content of these three vitamins.

The evidence indicates that naturally ripened tomatoes are a better source of vitamins A, B and C than any others studied.

The government investigators feel that vine-ripened tomatoes are preferable to those picked green and treated with ethylene gas to develop the color characteristic of ripe fruit.

There is no evidence that ethylene ripening has any bad effect on the vitamins that may have developed in the products up to the time when they are treated with ethylene.

IT SEEMS TO ME BY HEYWOOD BROUN

feeling on this matter. In 1930 the stars were favorable in their courses to most of my endeavors. I felt affluent. Indeed, I behaved as if the various rackets were going to last forever.