

## The Indianapolis Times

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

### The Tax Solution

Efforts of the propagandists for the larger tax paying corporations to cut the city tax rate may be commendable, but they are not directed at the real cause of trouble.

No one charges that Mayor Sullivan is wasteful or extravagant. If there be any criticism, it should be that he is too conservative with city funds. No one charges that the practices that prevailed in the old days under Republican administrations are now in effect and that public funds are now used to pay political debts.

Practically all the expenses are controlled by law or fixed charges. Huge interest bills on bonds form no small part. Salaries of those who actually serve are not exorbitant.

Yet property owners find the tax for government burdensome.

The truth is that real property is not paying the returns in other days and that taxes may easily become confiscation.

The same people who are now demanding tax cuts fought any suggestion of income taxes as a means of raising revenues when such a proposal was made last winter. The same forces opposed any way of forcing on the tax rolls the personal property or the so-called intangibles.

It is quite possible for rich men to hide their fortunes when invested in securities or to transfer them when movable to other states at tax listing times. It is because the form of fortunes are changing that the real estate owner finds himself in a dilemma. Real estate does not run away.

As a matter of fact it will be necessary to shift the burden from real estate very soon. The taxes on industrial plants that give employment to men should be entirely lifted. That might stimulate industry and help to bring back prosperity.

Even if this sensible thing should be done, there would still be problems. They will always exist until we fix the laws to fit the changed forms of wealth.

The real property basis was established in a day when real property and income meant the same thing. All property produced practically the same proportion of revenue. That is no longer true.

A straight income tax, with very high rates on all earnings above the average basis of needs, may be forced by circumstances as it is suggested by Justice.

### The Mortgaged Party

While Democrats are rejoicing over the best national election prospects they have had since the war, and laughing at Hoover's hairshirts, they are forgetting that they are a mortgaged party.

The Democratic national committee owes its chairman, John J. Raskob, \$355,250. He also is reported to be on notes for much of the remainder of its \$748,150 debt.

It is not necessary to suppose—as some Republican opponents would charge in the heat of campaign battle—that Raskob will use his financial control of the party for unworthy purposes. We doubt very much whether Raskob would or could "own" a Democratic President in the sense that charge usually is made.

But even if Raskob were as much a spiritual angel as he is a financial angel, the present relationship is one which no self-respecting party can tolerate long.

The relationship is just as damning to Raskob as to the party. As one example of many, take prohibition. As a sincere wot, Raskob is trying to persuade his party to take that position.

But now he can not speak as a party leader or a committee chairman; he speaks—whether he wants to or not—as the party "owner" and the drys merely point to him to obscure the prohibition issue. On any other issue it is the same.

The Democrats can not be a national party if they are content to be a one-man party financially. Some Democratic politicians may forget this, but the Republican campaign strategists will not.

### Thinking Our Way Out

Labor day proved one thing. The country is thinking about unemployment. We may be at the bottom of our worst national depression, but at least we have progressed to the point where we face facts. That is a big gain. If we had faced facts some time ago we could have prevented much of the present havoc.

That is what most business men, labor leaders and politicians who made speeches Monday were doing—trying to understand this depression, so that the suffering may be shortened and may be avoided next time."

In general, the discussions centered around the need for advance planning in future industrial production and in public works projects. Fortunately, that has become a truism. Others pointed to the high tariff and prohibition as contributing causes of depression and general deficits—causes which, unfortunately, are not understood as generally as they should be.

Partial remedies proposed by Labor day orators included:

The five-day week, maintenance of standard wages, abolition of child labor, unemployment insurance, government economies and a fairer distribution of wealth through increased taxes on the rich.

The problem of emergency unemployment relief for this winter was uppermost. President Green of the American Federation of Labor and Senator Harlan, ranking Democrat on the senate finance committee, agreed that relief must be adequate, even if the federal government has to help the communities.

We believe that Senator Borah was voicing public opinion when he said of the estimated six to seven million unemployed:

"If the wealth of the country does not contribute voluntarily to the end that we may take care of them, there is only one thing to do, and that is to feed these people from the treasury of the United States, and increase the income tax, particularly in the higher brackets, to enable us to do it."

"If the public dole system is established in this country it will be forced by those who, having the means, refuse to do their part in feeding the hungry."

### A Better Answer

The administration already is threatening to veto any legislation congress may pass for immediate payment in full of soldier bonus certificates.

Payment would require two and one-third billion dollars, which would have to be obtained by bond issues or new taxes at a time when huge deficits are being piled up, and would wreck the financial program of the government, according to administration spokesmen.

There are valid arguments against payment of such a large sum to a small and selected group, irrespective of individual needs, at a time when suffering is general among all classes of the population. Some of these we have discussed previously in these columns.

Veterans are well aware of the situation, but they

are not likely to be deterred by threats. They are used to them. And they may be pardoned if they are skeptical of the warnings from Secretary Mellon's domain.

Mr. Mellon, from the beginning, has opposed any sort of bonus legislation. He has backed his position with staggering figures purporting to show dire consequences to national finances, which usually have been erroneous.

As for the government's financial program, veterans and other citizens will be interested to learn that it has one—aside from that of issuing bonds to provide safe investments for idle money and passing on to future generations the bills for present expenditures. And, of course, praying for better times.

There are abundant reasons for resisting the proposed legislation, but the administration has not yet employed the best argument at its command, and perhaps the only one that will keep the veterans from using their political power to force through liberalized bonus legislation, over a presidential veto if necessary.

That argument is the assurance that there will be no need for the cash payments because general unemployment relief measures will be adequate—even if this requires direct federal participation in relief where communities are not able to shoulder the whole burden.

### Obsolescence and Progress

Many tests of progress are now offered. A forceful, if not wholly original, one is suggested by Richardson Wright in the current issue of "House and Garden." He says we can measure industrial and social progress by the size of our junk heaps:

"If America had contributed nothing else to the progress of the world, it well could rest on its reputation for introducing into the scheme of economics the factor of obsolescence. We have made progress by deliberately junking the old-fashioned and time-worn machinery of our civilization.

"Each major improvement in a factory building, in an office building, in a piece of machinery, in a motor car tends automatically to put into the obsolete class all buildings, offices, machines and cars that lack these improvements.

"And instead of leaving them about to clutter up the progress of business and manufacturing and transportation, we, cold-heartedly, tear down these obsolete factories and erect better ones, we wreck old office buildings and build the newest possible kinds in their places, we discard old-fashioned machinery, we junk old motors.

"This tearing down and building afresh is the counterpart of the metabolism—the constant discarding and refreshing—that keeps life in the human body. Health in the body is evidenced by what it throws off as useless; health in civilization by what it junks. The sign of progress is an increasing junk pile."

Mr. Wright is interested chiefly in applying this conception of obsolescence to American homes. He states that probably 50,000,000 persons, about half of the people in the United States, are living in obsolete homes. These extend from the city slums, once the homes of the well-to-do, to the shacks of pauper farmers.

When a machine no longer is adequate, we usually scrap it. Not so with out-of-date homes. The more fortunate leave such places, but they soon are occupied by the poor and thus create our great slum areas.

"It never occurs to us to destroy those homes. That is what America today is sadly lacking—a junk heap of the homes that no longer are worth living in."

Mr. Wright points out numerous advantages which would arise from junking obsolete homes. The building industry would be stimulated. We would have higher standards of comfort and health. We would gain much space in crowded centers of population, giving ample room for the greatly needed parks and recreation centers. The eye sores of modern civilization would be replaced by exhibits of beauty and healthfulness.

If the doctrine of obsolescence as a test of progress possesses any validity, it is certainly in the field of home-planning. The Socialist government of Vienna recently has proved that actual marvels may be accomplished in the way of building model apartments which may be occupied by the poor at low rentals.

Soviet Russia also has done wonders along this line. In New York City the Amalgamated Clothing Workers have led the way. The fact that slums exist in America is one of the most striking proofs of how the social phases of our civilization lag behind the mechanical. Slums are a challenge to our humanity and our ingenuity.

Yet we need to be on our guard against accepting hook, line and sinker, this doctrine of obsolescence as a chief test of progress. It is linked closely not only to mechanical progress, but also to one of the outstanding defects of our civilization; namely, conspicuous waste and incomplete consumption.

It is one thing to junk the obviously obsolete. It is another to cast aside still highly serviceable goods as a result of the tyranny of fashion and fad.

### Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

M. S. wants a woman's viewpoint on this question: "A young woman, intelligent, presentable, married ten years, has one child and is intensely in love with her husband, though she knows he is unfaithful. His infidelities have caused her untold agonies, quarrels and separations.

"Still her affection for him is undiminished. She can not interest herself in other men. Is that what you would call a one-man wife?"

It is what I would call a fine, upstanding, decent woman. May her tribe increase.

Doubtless this wife believes that hers is the saddest of all fates, although her problem is that of the eternal feminine.

Yet the man who can incite faithfulness from a woman intelligent enough to understand their situation, must have something splendid about him, too, something worthy of her continued devotion. For love can not feed endlessly upon nothing.

And she may assure herself that it always pays to be true to one's love, and that God never created anything more wonderful than the one-man wife. She is the salt of the earth.

I DO not believe it is possible for a woman to be perfectly happy living with, and loving a husband who betrays her, but she may come nearer to happiness even in such a situation as in a state of separation and divorce. And she should invoke the aid of the god of patience.

For ten years, after all, is not the whole of life. Marriage goes on, and we forget past griefs, and sometimes we find happiness only after we have experienced sorrow. It is true also, that countless husbands who stay do so only in the body.

When the heart stays at home, a victory, it is certain that hers will be the eventual victory. Men are only little boys grown tall.

Sometimes it is long before they learn what it is they want of life, and in the end they come to see that the most desirable possession is this: One true heart, one faithful love, to light them down the years.

There are valid arguments against payment of such a large sum to a small and selected group, irrespective of individual needs, at a time when suffering is general among all classes of the population. Some of these we have discussed previously in these columns.

Veterans are well aware of the situation, but they

## M. E. Tracy Says:

Three Years Ago, We Americans Swallowed the Fiction That a Political Party Was Guardian of Our Good Fortune.

NEW YORK, Sept. 8.—An unusual tone of seriousness marked the observation of Labor day. That was in harmony with the times, especially as they affect labor.

Labor has ceased to be a convenient issue for politicians. It has even lost caste as an inconvenient source of controversy between employers and employees.

As a result of the depression, some people are beginning to understand that labor is essential, not only as a means of production, but to maintain consumption.

We Swallow Fiction

THE world never knew what prosperity was until it saw well-paid people steadily at work, and even then it failed to recognize the true cause.

Three years ago, we Americans swallowed the fiction that a political party was the guardian of our good fortune.

That having exploded, our brightest bankers are trying to present Wall Street as the tin god.

With six or eight million out of work, however, and with wages being cut, business shrinks, stocks continue to fall, and government revenues decrease.

It Takes Time

THE idea gradually is dawning that our prosperity was just a matter of steady, profitable work for everybody and that the consumption which this created was quite as important as the production.

How to get people back to work is coming to be accepted as the one and only cure for existing conditions. As might have been expected this problem played a conspicuous part in Labor day pronouncements.

Self-Made Beggars?

DESCRIBING the present situation as capitalism's "full and final test," Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia university, warns industry that it must shoulder the task of guaranteeing workers greater security.

He thinks we may have to adopt some scheme to make the program complete and workable, but opposes federal insurance which, he fears, would lead to the dole and convert us into a nation of "self-made beggars."

On This Volsteadism

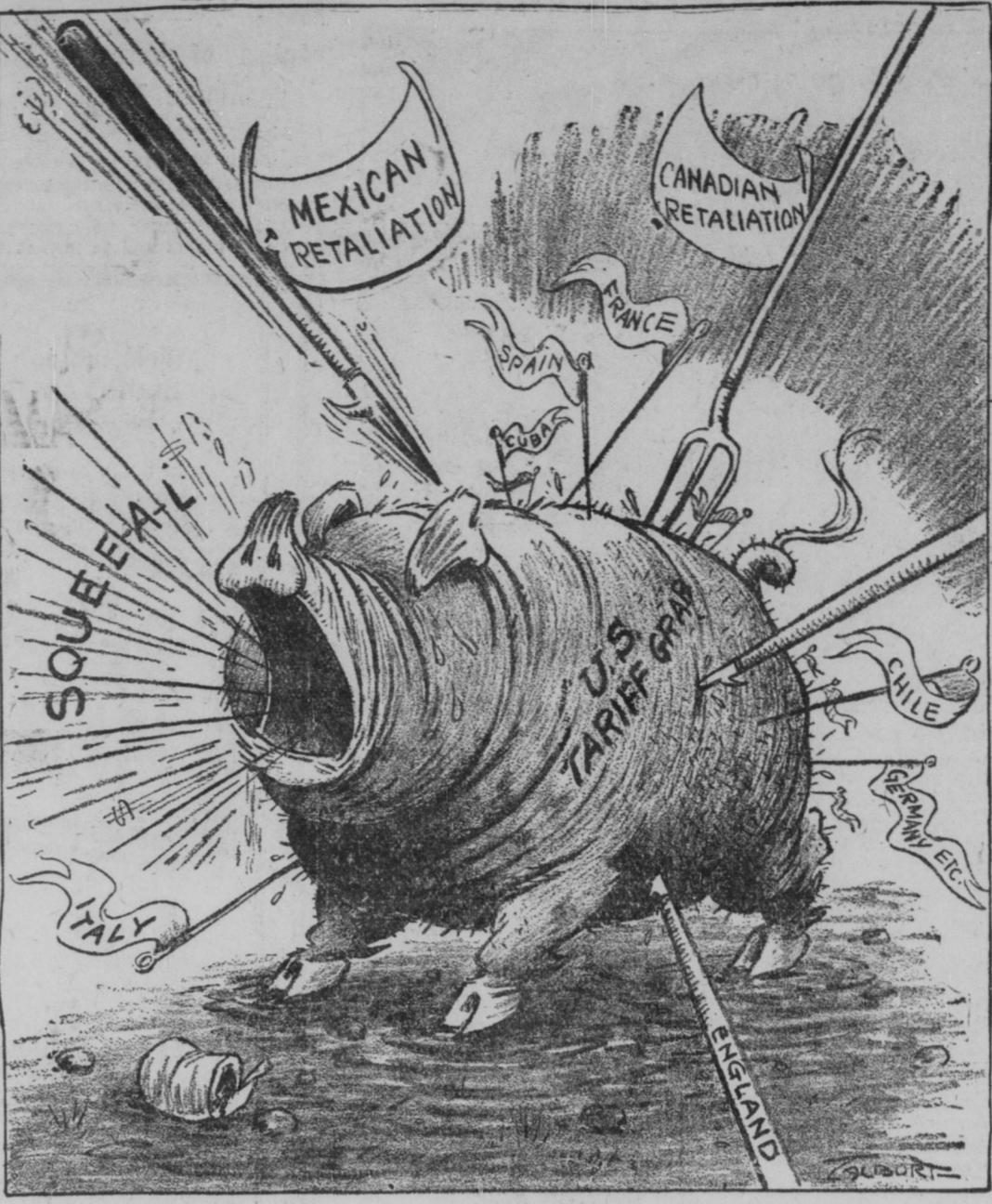
ASSERTING that Volsteadism is the basic cause of unemployment, the labor committee on modification calls on wage earners to show a united front in favor of changing the prohibition law this winter and predicts quick success if they do.

Whether one agrees with this view, Volsteadism has an economic side, as is illustrated vividly by the number of income tax suits being brought against beer barons and rum runners.

It is known that deficiencies of any of the vitamins act adversely toward this process. However, one substance has been shown by Evans and Bishop to exist in foods and to be specifically concerned with the promotion of fertility.

This is fat soluble vitamin E,

## The Stuck Pig



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

## Vitamin E Essential to Reproduction

This is the last of a series of timely articles by Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of "Food Truths and Follies," dealing with such much discussed, but little known subjects as calories, vitamins, minerals, digestion and balanced diet.

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN  
Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association

ONE of the most complicated processes of which we have any knowledge is the process of reproduction.

It is known that deficiencies of any of the vitamins act adversely toward this process. However, one substance has been shown by Evans and Bishop to exist in foods and to be specifically concerned with the promotion of fertility.

This is fat soluble vitamin E,

abundant in certain seeds of vegetable origin, such as the oil of wheat embryos.

Deficiency of vitamin A interferes seriously with reproduction, but the interference is not the type which results from a deficiency of vitamin E.

It may prevent the formation of the female egg cell or prevent fertilization of that cell by the male cell on implantation of that cell in the uterus, but a deficiency of vitamin E results in destruction of the implanted cell, which is a specific type of interference with reproduction.

It has been thought possible that vitamin E is concerned with other functions of the body, perhaps particularly with certain blood building characteristics, but upon these subjects much investigation is going forward.

It must be realized that the first announcement of the possibility of this vitamin came in 1923, and that much remains to be learned beyond what has been learned in these few years.

Vitamin E is found in many tissues