

# The Indianapolis Times

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

## One Tax Burden

Building for the public through the device of a "holding company" is declared by Lawrence Orr, chief of the board of accounts, to be one cause of huge tax levies.

The law fixes a very definite limit on the borrowing power of any community. That limit is presumed to be the danger point for tax limits.

But during the past six or seven years, under complacent administration of state affairs, the profiteers have succeeded in evading the bonding limit by creating holding companies which entered into long term contracts with the public for rentals on school buildings and armories.

The armories built during the Jackson regime probably constitute the largest tax burden of this sort. They were built under such a brazen scheme that the legislature ordered an investigation. Unfortunately the inquiry was delayed for many months by a lack of funds, promised immediately by Governor Leslie. When the report was made, it was incomplete.

Now Mr. Orr, who made that investigation, lists the holding company for public buildings as one of the tax-eating monstrosities of our system.

That scheme was put over by a professional patriot who spends considerable time and worry about the activities of Dr. Oknam of De Pauw.

His bank handled the securities at a profit. The buildings were erected by a subsidiary of the bank at a profit. Every part of the transaction was in the hands of his bank and the people are compelled to pay and will pay for a long term of years for the benefit of this particular banker.

In looking for means of lifting the burden from the home owner, the farmer, and the worker, some way ought to be available for repudiation of bargains which may have been legal but were immoral at the start.

The people should not be compelled to pay forever for evasions of the law, for jugglery of public funds, for debts that are of doubtful authenticity.

It may be remembered that Arthur Gilliom, then attorney-general, warned against the illegality of such contracts.

Perhaps a successor may take enough interest in cutting taxes to legally extricate the state from any obligation.

## "No One Will Starve"

Director Walter Sherman Gifford of the President's organization on unemployment relief, who commands the assistance of every relief group in the country, can not measure the job assigned to him accurately. Gifford admitted "this in his radio talk.

"But if we can not measure the total job accurately," Gifford said, "it may be asked how we are to know how to meet it."

Indeed, that question may be asked. It should be asked—and answered.

Gifford's answer was a unique one. He said that while the national problem could not be measured, that the "large proportion of the communities of the United States not only do know their problem, but likewise know how it is to be met—in fact, most of them are at this minute energetically at work."

Now there is a mathematical law which says that the whole is the sum of its parts. Gifford says the "parts" are known. The sum of these should make the whole. But the President's organization on unemployment relief says it can not determine the whole.

Then, in the next breath, Gifford made this statement:

"These same places," he said, "met the problem last winter; they have been meeting it all summer, and they are organizing to meet it this coming winter."

This leads logically to another question, which Gifford did not ask. And that question is:

If these communities met their problem last winter, have been meeting it all summer, and are prepared to meet it again this winter, why did the President become so fearful of the outcome that he called an outstanding business leader to Washington to help provide unemployment relief?

Gifford evidently is enthusiastic in his hope that the unemployment relief problem can be met locally this winter. We hope it can.

But we fear there will be numerous resourceless communities, both large and small, unable to handle their distress.

Gifford and his aids have said solemnly that no one will starve this winter.

When his great drive is ended Nov. 25, if it is proved that the situation can not be met locally, we hope Gifford will be among the leaders in asking congress to appropriate supplementary funds for local relief agencies, so that, in fact, no one will suffer from hunger and cold.

## The Silver Question Bobs Up Again

Bryan is dead, but the silver question has come to life again six years after the Great Commoner was laid in his grave.

Bimetallism is simple in principle. We must have acceptable medium of exchange—a standard of value—which everybody wants, is durable, portable, coinable, and the like. Many objects have served as a standard of value throughout history, but in our day precious metals have become the standard of value and coined money has been limited chiefly to gold and silver, with some coins of convenience made of nickel and copper.

When both silver and gold—or any two metals—are used as a standard of value, we say the country is on a bimetallic basis. This means that either metal is a common measure of the value of commodities exchanged and services purchased.

The United States legally operated on a bimetallic standard from the administration of Washington to the inauguration of McKinley. The law establishing this system was passed in 1792 and provided for the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at a ratio of 15 to 1; that is, as standard money gold was fifteen times as valuable as silver per unit of troy weight.

Not until 1900 did we formally adopt the gold standard and cease to coin silver except on a mono-metallic basis. The 1792 ratio overvalued silver in the coinage ratio. According to Gresham's law, that cheap money drives out dear money, silver drove gold from circulation. Then in 1834 the ratio was changed to 15.98 to 1, which overvalued gold and drove silver out.

Strenuous efforts were made by the silver interests to keep silver money in circulation through special legislative favoritism, such as the coinage act of 1853, the Bland-Allison act of 1878 and the Sherman act of 1890, but their attempt met with little success. For example, of the \$215,000,000 in silver coined under the Bland-Allison act in twelve years, only \$50,000,000 remained in circulation in 1890.

The last great effort to rehabilitate and save silver

as a standard of value came in 1896. Great quantities of silver had been discovered in Nevada and elsewhere following 1875. But the demand for silver as coins fell off throughout the western world because most important countries in Europe went on the gold standard after the German example of 1871, and powerful political and financial interests fought silver in this country.

Therefore, the silver interests, backed by the harassed western farmers and laborers who wished cheap money, launched a drive to capture the Democratic party in 1896. They were successful and the most drastic plank in Bryan's historic platform was the proposal for free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1.

The market ratio of silver to gold in that year was 30.59 to 1. Bryan's plan would have made silver nearly twice as valuable for coinage as it was for the arts.

Whether Bryan's election would have brought abysmal ruin, which the Republicans predicted, may be doubted, but there would have been a serious dislocation of prices if free silver had triumphed.

Gold would have been driven from circulation at once by a coinage ratio which so grossly undervalued it as money. If a standard of value is worth more in the commercial arts than in coinage, it will not be offered to the mint.

The 1896 campaign was the last squawk of the silver interests. We adopted the gold standard in 1900. Europe very generally had preceded us in so doing. By 1900 Mexico was the only important western state not on a gold standard.

The Orient still clung to the silver standard for the most part, though a great commercial state like Japan introduced the gold standard in 1898.

Now a series of novel world situations presses the silver question once more on our attention—the hoarding of gold in the United States and France, the scarcity of it elsewhere in the west, the cutting off of the purchasing power of silver standard China and other parts of the Orient in western markets, the suspension of the gold standard in England, and the like.

## Another White Man's Burden

An unquestionably well-intentioned couple in New York have created a foundation for the education of the natives of American Samoa, so they can take "their proper place in present-day life." They are to be instructed "in all the arts of living and of government" under modern conditions.

We shudder for the poor Samoans. For their proper place in present-day life will be what the administrators of the foundation think it ought to be and not what the Samoans themselves would like.

Virtual extinction of the Polynesian race as a result of contact with traders and missionaries of the so-called Christian countries has been a tragedy. The natives of American Samoa, we have been told, escaped some of the corroding influence of the white man's civilization because they were pretty much left to their own devices, and permitted to follow the ways of their fathers.

The Samoans are a peaceable and friendly people, who enjoy living and are not greatly concerned about acquiring wealth, or with depressions, merchandization, and similar things.

Now we suppose, they will be taught to wear conventional clothes, which they do not like, and about work, for which they have a natural and deep-seated aversion, and which they have been able to avoid because Nature was so good to them.

And doubtless they will forget to loaf and dance and laugh and sing and play in the ocean, and fish, which things they reputedly are fond of. They will learn acquisitiveness and will know what riches and poverty and hunger mean, if they are to be truly modern.

Or perhaps the foundation has a better plan of "education." We hope so.

Sing Sing's football team is out for practice and already the back field is doping out how to get past the guards.

Of course the Outlets of Boston had beans ready for the bacon Francis carried back home.

It's hard to be a bull or bear on Wall Street and a social lion at the same time, says the office sage.

Smile: Takes as much time to read as the help wanted column.

More United States fruits are being exported to Europe, says a news item. So they won't mind getting the raspberry, we hear.

Lowell Bayes, the coal miner who became the speed king of the sky, is one who probably had some foundation for building his castles in the air.

Gandhi, irked by stalling at London, probably isn't aware of the tendency to talk in circles at a round table conference.

The Indians, it can be seen, are only talking through their mahatmas.

## Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

A NEWSPAPER correspondent in Paris says that while American women have greater individual freedom and many more legal rights, they do not get as much homage as French women.

And why, pray, should we desire homage? I never have been able to understand the reasoning that causes a woman to strive after reverence from men, unless she wants to long for her job.

Throughout a long period of time we have professed to think that women were, or should be, marble goddesses. Because nature ordained us to bear the children, we were told to imagine ourselves as finer, purer and more nearly divine than men.

And, inconsistently enough, along with this theory, we were taught that we were weaklings. So long has this last idea been fostered that we almost have forgotten what true courage means.

CERTAIN social conventions have been set up for both sexes to observe. Though many of them are immeasurably stupid, I suppose it does no particular harm to hang on to them.

But it does harm to take it for granted that it is easy and natural for woman to be good, and pretend that the sole feminine monopoly should be virtue.

Here is a most ridiculous fallacy. I suspect it has prevailed over such a length of time because it affords such a slick alibi for the brethren.

Homage, in the strict meaning of the term, implies deference, a reverence as to a superior, a feeling akin to religious awe.

It, therefore, is a word that should not be used in a discussion of the relationships between men and women. To eliminate hypocrisy from that relationship, woman must be given credit for her evil as well as for her good impulses.

# M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

With the Right Kind of a Leader There Is Plenty of Pent-Up Steam in Either Party's Camp to Cause a Stampede.

NEW YORK, Sept. 29.—It's a long way from London to Denver, but cheap gold means high silver, and things done at 10 Downing street a few days ago find a curious reflection in things being done in Colorado right now.

Colorado banks are displaying bars of silver in their windows and advising people to use silver dollars, instead of paper money.

Colorado mining men are talking hopefully, if not confidently, of another silver boom, while real estate agents, tradesmen and gamblers are keeping a weather eye on those ghost cities which played such an important part in the state's history when silver brought good prices in a ready market.

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## Bryan a Liberal

YOU are reminded of 1895, when the stage was being set for Bryan, though no one guessed it at the time, and when the "free and unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1" was the great cry.

Those of the younger generation are apt to think of Bryan not only as a failure, but a reactionary. That is because of the role he chose in his latter years, particularly in connection with religion and, more particularly still, in connection with the Scopes case.

It was as a liberal in politics, however, that Bryan made his reputation and came within a few thousand votes of being elected President of the United States.

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## Was Big Difference

TO a certain extent, the situation that enabled Bryan to captivate the Democratic party with a short speech, and upset the most carefully laid plans of its supposed leaders, resembles the one now existing.

The country then was emerging from a great depression, just as it is today, and though the great industrial centers had suffered much, the agricultural west was the seat of upsurge.

There is this difference, however. Industry had not awakened to a realization of its responsibilities.

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## Attitudes Are Changed

HAD any great business leader come forward with a proposition like the Swope plan, heaven only knows what would have happened. Bryan certainly would have lost the spotlight as the country's prize radical.

Whatever else may be said of our progress since that time, it has brought about a singularly liberal viewpoint on the part of some of the biggest business men.

Such a thing could not occur without changing those attitudes and cleavages which determine the political drift.

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## History May Repeat

IN 1896, it was the Democratic party which split on the rocks of discontent and radicalism, turning against its own administration and advancing a new scheme for national recovery.

Whether the Republican party will reach such a point next year, it contains large and important groups that are not enthusiastic over the present administration's conduct and that would slough away with very little encouragement.

As in 1896, both of them contain volcanic forces.

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## Ready for Stampede

BECAUSE of the political repression under which we have suffered since the war, the silence which has been forced upon us by the organized control of both parties, it would not be surprising if one or the other of the conventions blew up.

With the right kind of leader, there is plenty of pent-up steam in either camp to cause a stampede.

To be specific, if former Governor Smith were so minded, he could make plenty of fireworks for the Democrats, while Senator Borah could put on an equally interesting show for the Republicans.

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## Stage Is Set

WE are not approaching next year's election under normal blood pressure.

Lack of leadership might pull us through along seemingly orthodox lines.

It does, we only shall have postponed the agony.

The American people have suffered from the worst decade of compromise and inaction that they have experienced since the Civil war. They virtually have been made inarticulate on several important issues.

These leaders who construe their acquiescence as meaning acquiescence merely are making an unnecessary mistake.

The stage has been set for another "cross of gold" oration.

## Questions and Answers

How were conscientious objectors punished in the United States during the World war?

There was no specified penalty of punishment for conscientious objectors. Government records show that of 3,989 objectors in camps, 1,299 were assigned to non-combatant service; 1,299 were furloughed for alternative service; 450 were sent to prison by court martial and the remainder were still in camp when the armistice was signed.

What is the meaning of the name Wiggins?

It is a British family name meaning "son of Wigand." Wigand is an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "a champion."

Is there anything that can be put on the skin to make it tan quickly without blistering?

Vinegar applied to the skin is said to do this.

## 'Here's Mud in Your Eye!'



## DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

## Posture Is Factor in Health Care

This is the first of a series of four articles by Dr. Morris Fishbein, health authority, on the importance of good posture to health. With the coming of the indoor season this short series is particularly fitting at this time.

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

THE Council on Physical Therapy of the American Medical Association is interested in all physical forces that influence the human body and particularly in attempts to treat disease by exercise, massage, manipulation and similar methods.

Recently Dr. Robert B. Osgood, at the request of the council, summarized our present knowledge of body mechanics and posture. The mark of good body mechanics is good posture.

The head should be held up with the chin, pulled back until its point is nearly over the breast bone and balanced properly above the shoulders, hips and ankles.

The chest must be held in such a position that the breast bone or sternum is the part of the body farthest forward. The lower abdomen is held in and flat.

The legs are lined up with the trunk and head so that the body weight is supported with a minimum amount of exertion.

Good body mechanics provide for proper distribution of weight in such a manner that the joints and ligaments of the feet are protected.

In good posture, the back curves well within normal limitations. If they are within normal limitations, there will not be any joint or muscle strain and the mobility of the back will be sufficient.

The process of evolution which caused a four-footed animal to stand and walk on two feet threw extraordinary strains on portions of the body that were not constructed at first to bear such strains. It made necessary balancing of a peculiar delicate type.

Because of the necessity for such balancing, special organs developed in the human body which aid the sense of position in space, and the human being developed a muscle sense which makes him aware of the position of any particular portion of his body.

However, a healthful individual with proper body mechanics should not feel at any time a sense of strain on any muscle, ligament, bone or joint.

Correct tone in the tissues and correct carriage of the body mechanics makes balancing an automatic and therefore unnoted function.

The tissues of the feet particularly are forced, in the animal that walks on two feet, to carry twice the weight that the feet are compelled to carry in animals that walk on four feet.

For this reason painful feet have come to be one of the most serious conditions complained of by a tremendous number of people.

Proper body mechanics tend to distribute the weight and thereby to avoid early disability due to breaking down of arches.

Posture standards: A, excellent; B, poor; C, bad.

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# SCIENCE

BY DAVID DIETZ

Filterable Viruses, So Small They Never Have Been Seen, Are the Cause of More Than Seventy Diseases.

INVISIBLE objects, invisible even in the most powerful microscope, are the subject of one of the most important phases of scientific research today. The health and welfare of a large part of the human race is tied up with these studies.

The invisible objects are thought to be living plants, a sort of sub-bacteria. They are known to medical science as the filterable viruses. It is very difficult, however, to say just what they are.

"No one yet has offered a suitable definition of a filterable virus," says Dr. Earl B. McKinley, director of the School of Tropical Medicine of the University of Porto Rico.

"The term filterable virus has come into general use chiefly because most of these agents have been shown to pass through the pores of porcelain or diatomaceous earth filters.

"Until we learn more about these agents, we must be content with the present state of affairs and for the time being, define a filterable virus as an agent, probably endowed with life, of a size and carrying an electrical charge which permits it to pass through the pores of filters.

"And since disease phenomena have focused our attention upon them, they appear to be capable of inducing pathological processes in many forms of life including man, lower animals, fishes, insects and plants.

Cause Many Diseases  
THERE are no less than seventy diseases caused by filterable viruses, according to Dr. McKinley.

"Among the diseases affecting man concerning which there is evidence of a filterable or ultramicroscopic causative agent," he says, "are 'smaltpox,' varicella, measles, epidemic parotitis, poliomyelitis, dengue fever, rabies, psittacosis, the common colds and epidemic influenza.

"Other important diseases such as cancer and multiple sclerosis have adherents that believe that their inciting agents are of virus nature.

"Among the diseases of lower animals we have the various forms of pox (cow-pox, sheep-pox, horse-pox, goat-pox, swine-pox), rabies, distemper, encephalitis in horses (Borna disease), Nairobi disease of sheep, African horse sickness, catarrhal fever of sheep, foot-and-mouth disease, hog cholera, rinder-pest, pleuropneumonia, influenza and others, all of which are thought of as present as probably virus infections.

"Then there are fowl-pox and fowl distemper, fowl-plague, the sarcoma of fowls, leukaemia of fowls and others.

"There are the diseases of insects which include sacbrood disease of bees, the wilt disease of the gypsy moth and the European spruce sawfly, jaundice of silk worms, etc.

"There are the epithelioma of fish, carp-pox and lymphocystic disease of fish, and finally in the plant kingdom we have that large group of mosaic diseases which include mosaic of tobacco, sugar cane, tomato, potato, cucumber, lettuce, cabbage, mustard, turnip, spinach and many others.

"Among the rickettsia diseases of man we have typhus fever, trench fever, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and possibly others."

More Study Urged  
DR. McKINLEY urges that more attention be given to the study of the filterable viruses. He says:

"As a subject the filterable viruses offer tremendous opportunities for scientific study.

"A great deal of knowledge has accumulated during the past four decades, but as yet investigation of the filterable viruses seems to be in its infancy when one takes into account the many important and fundamental questions which need to be answered.

"Most of the field is unexplored territory, but it is a hopeful sign that the extraordinary activity which has been focused on these problems during the last several years.

"One American university has, with vision and foresight, established a department for the study of this group of diseases.

"Another has added a course in the filterable viruses to its curriculum. No doubt further developments along these lines will occur as awakened interest and vision take the place of reticence.

"Looking ahead, the filterable viruses may offer a special field in the diseases of the various systems are specialized today in our medical institutions.

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