



# The Indianapolis Times

A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER

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

## Who Rules You?

The people of this city believed that they had elected a mayor and a city council to administer their affairs.

After misrule under the old gang machine and a brief respite during the receivership under Mayor Slack after a crisis of moral bankruptcy, the citizen thought he had solved his problems.

Mayor Sullivan went into office with the confidence of the people. That confidence has increased. He has been cautious, conservative, careful and constructive.

Now it develops that the forces that flourished under the Duvalls are more powerful than the elected heads of the city government and that their final bulwark is the state board of tax commissioners, who assert the right to tell the people of this city not only how much they can spend each year but how they shall spend it.

This commission should receive the attention of the next legislature and certainly of the next candidates for Governor. A promise to either abolish the board or to banish its membership would be welcomed.

Just what interests are being served by this commission and by those organizations in whose names protests against the mayor's tax budget is being made is shown in the demand that the city chop off a comparatively small sum needed to fight the battle for public ownership of the gas company.

The utilities do not like public ownership. In that battle the city is pitted against high finance and the whole brood of utilities.

Successful operation of the gas plant might lead to a municipal water supply, a municipal electric system. That would cut out the opportunity to gain millions by extorting for these necessities.

It is proposed to tie the hands of the city as it battles with these financial giants. At the best, the city is a David fighting a Goliath. The commission proposed to steal his sling shot. The objectors would steal the stone in his hand.

The tragedy of it is that the commission may have the legal right to carry out this immoral purpose and thus help the utility magnates defeat what has been a battle of years.

When this phase of the situation is understood, the other objections can be dismissed as unworthy of consideration.

Any group that proposes such treason to this city at this time is not worthy of any consideration. For it is treason to all the years to come. It is treason to growth and safety and justice.

The battle for public ownership has only begun. It will be bitter despite the victory in the first skirmish.

There will be appeals to courts until the last semblance of technical plea has been exhausted. There is no question as to the moral rights of the city. The people own the plant. They do not yet have what they own.

Incidentally any organization that does not repudiate such a demand on the part of its representatives is destined to forfeit any claim to public confidence.

The people of this city should rise in indignation against this attack on Mayor Sullivan. He is fighting the fight for the people. He should have and will have public support.

## Calling the Bluff

Few political movements ever have won the varied support which now is being thrown behind the campaign for senate ratification of the world court protocol. The roster of sixty national organizations joining in this campaign very nearly blankets all the public opinion bodies in the country.

The group, as announced Wednesday by the executive committee of the national world court committee, includes the following: Federal Council of Churches, American Federation of Labor, National League of Women Voters, General Federation of Women's Clubs, World Alliance of International Friendship, American Association of University Women, American Federation of Teachers, Central Conference of American Rabbis, League of Nations Association, Y. W. C. A. and Y. M. C. A.

Leading the campaign are such jurists, educators and diplomats as Newton D. Baker, Everett Colby, John W. Davis, Nicholas Murray Butler, Major-General John F. O'Ryan, Dr. James T. Shotwell and Ambassador Alanson B. Houghton.

The protocol for American adherence to the world court was drafted by Elihu Root and negotiated by the Hoover administration. It is backed not only by the eminent leaders and representative organizations listed above, but also by a large majority of the newspapers of the country and by most of the senate.

Hitherto, partisan political maneuvers by a small minority have bluffed the administration and prevented ratification. We are glad that the national world court committee intends to call that bluff.

## Hoover Sticks to Gold

President Hoover has spoken out promptly and wisely against the latest drive of silver-producing states for bimetallism. We have enough worries already without stumbling and chasing after the silver mine.

That the temporary departure of Great Britain and some other European countries from the gold standard has complicated international finance and trade no one will deny. Nor will any informed person deny that foreign inflation, if carried far enough, may drive the United States to some form of inflation in self-protection.

But that is a far cry from bimetallism.

Great Britain is expected to return to the gold

standard—either by devaluation of the pound or at the old rate. Germany already has established a new currency on gold, and is not apt to flirt with a worthless mark disaster again. France very successfully has devaluated the franc on a gold basis.

Any American decision now would be premature. But if the United States, to meet competition with Britain and other foreign countries, is forced to permit a limited and controlled inflation, that can be done by the government bond route, without dangerous tampering with our gold standard.

## The President and Mooney

The National Bureau of Education, an unofficial body, has asked President Hoover to intercede in the Tom Mooney case in his own state to prevent an American repetition of the years of tumult engendered in France by the Dreyfus case.

The Wickersham commission's outraged comment upon the California law's inadequacy, the President is told, gives an opening for federal intervention.

When, during the war, Mooney-Billings revelations were creating unrest among our allies, President Wilson acted quickly and courageously. His appeal to former Governor Stephens resulted in saving Tom Mooney from death on the gallows. Today the situation is no better.

Labor unrest is growing all over the world. A constant irritant is this California scandal. Recently, threats of boycott and protests have come from the workers of Arizona, of Sweden, of Australia. Mass meetings are being arranged in New York, California and elsewhere. Repeated reference is made to Mooney and Billings as "class war victims."

This is no time to allow a judicial crime to stir further resentment and class feeling, especially when stubborn officialdom alone stands in the way of removing the cause.

## Wives Who Work

When all men and women who have sufficient income to live without working generously turn their jobs over to the unemployed and retire to a life of golf, or bridge, or whatnot, it will be time to consider seriously the suggestion of Representative Harald Knutson (Rep., Minn.) that married women with able-bodied husbands be discharged from government service and all other positions.

This suggestion has been advanced frequently during the course of the depression and as frequently rejected by sensible employers.

If all the married women workers who are without dependents were discharged today, the move would not solve unemployment. Even if an unemployed woman could be found capable to fill every position thus left vacant, hundreds of thousands still would remain without jobs.

To do as Knutson suggests would be to attempt to cure an evil with an even greater evil. To end suddenly the careers of workers who have spent years building them, and probably could not build them over again, to transform these successful workers suddenly into the status of dependents, would be drastic and unjustified. It would be to single them out deliberately as a future dole-receiving class.

Unemployment's problems can be solved only by giving every one, man and woman, an opportunity to work, not by transferring the bitter cup of idleness from one hand to another.

A Los Angeles pastor says New York city needs man like Mussolini. Expect it to demand an immediate apology.

Gelatin is a mass of holes, says a scientist. That would be some consolation if they could get the holes to match your tie.

Al Smith refuses to admit his hat is not in the 1932 presidential ring. It's brown, but not out, as it were.

When a Californian feels a quake, it's an incident, but when an Ohioan feels one, he says he's had great luck with his last batch.

A headline says a man "fled from death in pajamas." You don't catch death wearing a nightshirt.

The United States will stand pat on its Russian policy. No skis for us this winter.

An optimist in these times is one who hopes to marry for money.

Rudy Vallee is appearing in a naught Broadway show. They'll spoil him yet.

A Connecticut hospital has installed a golf course for its mental cases. Making them all bogeymen.

Prohibition notwithstanding, the St. Lawrence still is the most desirable waterway.

A professor said jail was torture. Now, there's a deduction.

## Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

AMONG the valiants of 1931, let us not forget to include the 18,000 Chicago school teachers who, though they have not been paid since April, were all on hand for the beginning of the fall semester.

I doubt whether so many unpaid workers could be mustered in any other calling. It demonstrates, at least, that the teaching profession understands its responsibilities and is unwilling to shirk them.

Chicago is preparing for a world's fair in 1933. It might be a good idea to exhibit some of these teachers as specimens from the dry era. Their flat purses would make a splendid foil when contrasted with the vast, unbelievable sums that have been expended in Cook county on illicit liquor.

And no doubt a city that has paid Mr. Capone so well will get around to paying its teachers one of these days.

Of course, we do not know, we can but wonder, whether other public servants of Chicago have lived for so long on scrip. Do the alermen and the police force and other political henchmen stay at their posts so faithfully and for so small a reward?

It stretches the imagination, but let us cogitate upon how many of our congressmen, how many of our state legislators, would show up for work with no prospect of salaries.

No item of news has shown us what a low state we have fallen as has this one. No other ever could call our attention more forcibly to the evils that threaten our government.

To a parent, to a school teacher, to any one who has the welfare of children at heart, the outlook's discouraging. For these Chicago pupils will march out of their classrooms by the hundreds of thousands into a world whose adults have so lost their sense of honor that the municipal government of the second city of the land makes its racketeers rich and leaves its school teachers in penury.

Every now and then he fired and picked off an ant, until his score reached fifty.

## M. E. Tracy SAYS:

We Do Things in Politics We Wouldn't Do With Anything Else, and Demagogery Is Responsible for Most of the Laws.

NEW YORK, Oct. 2.—A terrific wind storm over short selling, just as though it would, or could, settle the question. Some say it's the worst possible menace to business, while others call it indispensable.

It reminds one of two proofreaders arguing how to spell a word for half an hour with a dictionary right between them.

Stop short selling for six months, or a year, and we all shall know more about the part it really plays.

Up to this time, we have seen only one side of the picture. Common sense suggests that a look at the other side is necessary before we can come to an intelligent decision.

It Isn't Being Done  
CAN'T conceive of doing anything like that. It isn't according to custom, or rules of the game.

The basic idea of politics is that you mustn't change an old law, or adopt a new one, until you are ready to make it permanent.

That's why we have so much arguing and so little experimenting.

In other lines, we experiment first and argue afterward, but when it comes to law, or regulation, we proceed on the theory that it is possible to arrive at sound conclusions through talk.

Now See the Mess

IT'S a curious thing that we can not perceive the wisdom of adopting temporary measures just to see how they work.

If we had put prohibition on a purely experimental basis, agreeing to try it for five, ten or even fifteen years, we wouldn't be in the mess we are.

Couldn't think of anything so simple, or sensible, but we had to have it in the Constitution, or not at all.

Jefferson Had Idea

THE inclination of permanency is a tragic factor in our political attitude.

How can we expect to make progress with inflexible laws?

What is statecraft but the expression of life as developed and altered by education?

Thomas Jefferson said that the Constitution ought to be re-written each twenty years or so, because no generation had a right to impose its will on the next.

We Make Mistakes

WE are forced to make the law flexible, whether we like it or not. That is illustrated every time congress, or a state legislature acts.

Instead of recognizing this as a primary factor, however, we proceed on the theory that we can keep all the old stuff. The result is a mountainous accumulation of statutes and regulations, many of which are in conflict.

More often than not, we find that we have made mistakes, but instead of trying to prevent or diminish, this through a system of trial and error, we go right on piling up official regulations on a permanent basis.

It's Just in Politics

FORTY years ago, the American people were in a great stew over trust-busting, as they called it. We have the Sherman act and Clayton act to show for it. Most everybody would like to see them materially altered for one reason or another, yet the big idea is to do nothing, until we are ready to commit ourselves permanently.

That is something we would not think of doing with a new type of dynamo, or a new auto model. We'd try the thing out to see how it worked. If it didn't work, after a fair trial, we'd scrap it. If it did, we'd consider putting it on the market.

Just a Smoke Screen

THE people would approve many more experiments if they were assured of not being committed so definitely as the present methods of law-making imply.

Lacking such assurance, they have fallen back on argument, which gives the best debaters, though not the best thinkers, a great advantage.

Oratory and demagogery are responsible for most of the laws in this country. Catch phrases have formed a smoke screen to conceal the purpose as well as the result in many instances.

Worst of all, this habit has prevented the development of anything like a scientific frame of mind toward law and law-making.

Though demanding methods in every other important field, we are content to legislate on a primitive, semi-barbaric basis.

The idea of experimenting for a given length of time still is beyond our conception and, of course, we have failed to devise any adequate method of determining results.

REPULSE GERMAN ATTACK  
October 2

ON Oct. 2, 1917, the English repulsed a mass attack between Polygon wood and Menin road in Flanders, causing great losses to the Germans.

Ready for the attack, the English mowed down the Germans with rifle and machine gun fire.

A correspondent wrote:

"There was one officer who spent all his time sniping from a little patch of ground that had once been a garden. He lay behind the heaped ruin and used his field glasses to watch the slopes of rising ground on his left where human ants were crawling.

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## To the Hills, Men! The Dam's Busted!



## DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

### Posture Affects Blood Circulation

This is the fourth of a series of four articles by Dr. Morris Fishbein, health authority on the