

The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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

You Pay the Bills

What does it mean to you when the holding company which owns the common stock of the local electric company also owns a coal mine?

At the present time it means that when you pay your electric light bill you pay the holding company at least 50 cents a ton more for the coal it buys from itself for itself than it could buy that same coal from other coal operators.

The company uses more than a half million tons of coal a year to make electricity for Indianapolis. That means that the people are taxed a quarter of a million dollars a year for the benefit of the holding company.

Last winter there was a determined effort to pass a law placing such holding companies under regulation of the state. The measure was killed by lobbyists who used unquestionable methods to influence members of the legislature against the proposal. Those members belonged to both political parties. There were members in both who wanted to protect the people, but one outstanding member who fought against the people is now a member of the public service commission. His plea then was that the commission had all the power necessary to protect the people.

But as a member of the commission and with a sworn report before that commission that such an outrage is being perpetrated, no move has been made by him to correct this evil.

This extortion is but one of many that are so bold and brazen that they can be discovered by a casual examination of the reports on file before the commission.

The total tax taken by the holding company amounts to many times the quarter of a million grabbed through the purchase of coal.

Every dollar taken in extortion by these utilities is a tax on industry, business and labor. It reaches into the pocketbooks of the housewife and the treasures of factories and stores. It makes life more difficult and adds to the lines of jobless.

The water company, with its bold charge of 44 cents out of every dollar paid for service as dividends on a small investment, should also be listed as a public enemy in these days of dire deflation.

The people must now test the question of whether they own their own government or are owned by these utilities. Up to date, the betting is all on the utilities. That can be changed.

Out on the south side the civic clubs are organizing for protest. The mayor and his advisers have struck against the extortions for street lights and fire plugs. It is time for concerted attack.

Unregulated Utilities

Senator C. C. Dill of Washington reminds the country that although jobs, food and taxation are the pressing problems of the winter, legislation to control the power industry also should be enacted without fail.

He is right. If long-standing problems are neglected during a time of emergency, they will be harder to solve in the end.

Dill points out that city and state governments no longer are able to control the power industry. He outlines a program by which the federal government might do so. He proposes:

That congress direct the federal power commission to fix rates for interstate power on the basis of actual investment for the production and distribution of power.

That congress prohibit the issuance of watered stock by any licensee of the power commission, or by any corporation engaged in interstate power business.

That congress build a few great dams and power plants in different sections of the country to demonstrate at what price electricity can be sold fairly.

There are, perhaps, other items which might be added to this program to provide adequate federal control of utility holding companies. But certainly something should be done soon, before most of the country's hydro-electric resources are lost to the public and before the utilities barricade themselves behind a financing structure that will make public regulation impotent and put users of electricity at the mercy of a few corporations.

Save the Treaties

For more than three weeks, Japan has been waging aggressive war against China in violation of treaties. The United States is a party to these treaties.

For more than three weeks, the United States government has been patient. It has not called Japan to account under the nine-power Pacific treaty, or under the Kellogg anti-war treaty. It merely has expressed the modest hope that neither China nor Japan would complicate the situation further. It has refused the request of the Chinese for direct diplomatic intervention under the treaties.

Meanwhile, Japan continues her military aggression. Last Thursday, Japan carried the war into a new sector—far from the Japanese-owned railroad, which was a screen for the first invasion. Japan bombed the Chinese city of Chinchow.

The state department's answer to this is not a formal protest to Japan, but a message to the League of Nations. This message, which was released by the department Sunday night, states:

"The (league) council has formulated conclusions and outlined a course of action to be followed by the disputants; and as the said disputants have made commitments to the council, it is most desirable that the league in no way relax its vigilance and in no way fail to assert all the pressure and authority within its competence toward regulating the action of China and Japan in the premises."

This is known in diplomatic parlance as "passing the buck."

That the United States government has expressed willingness to co-operate with the League

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

The Thorough Trial Which England Has Given the Dole Probably Will Prove a Blessing to Other Countries.

NEW YORK, Oct. 12.—The French press has made a startling discovery with regard to our dollar. The poor old thing is headed straight for inflation. Too bad, of course, but what can one do? Nothing at all, except offer condolence and then exchange it for something—preferably francs.

The French press made a similar discovery with regard to the pound sterling some months back, and it worked.

Some people never know when to let well enough alone.

England's Example

FRENCH financiers certainly took the pound sterling for a ride. They would have found the job much harder without the mistakes made by English politicians.

American politicians are just as capable of making mistakes, but thus far they have avoided some of the more serious ones, particularly the dole.

The thorough trial which England has given the dole probably will prove a blessing to other countries. It has proved a blessing to this one.

But for England's unfortunate experience, heaven only knows where the depression might have led us by now.

Dole Brought Crisis

IT was the dole, more than anything else, that brought on the present political crisis in England, with an election which, no matter how it turns out, may be of serious consequence to the whole civilized world.

While that election appears to be between a coalition of moderates and the Labor party, it really is between Democrats and Socialists, with some of the latter quite red.

Mr. Lloyd George throws in his lot with the Laborites on the issue of free trade, and though he has a comparatively small following, it is enough to cast doubt on the outcome.

Caterpillars

The other day a man was picked up on a street dead of starvation. Around him were wealth and plenty.

In China, more than 12,000,000 people have died recently, due to drought, flood, and famine. On this side of the ocean that Pangborn and Hendon spanned in forty-one hours, barns, granaries, and warehouses are bursting with food and the farm board urges farmers to plow under crops.

Over America this winter will wander an army of homeless men who will sleep under newspapers in public parks, camp under bridges, gather in "jungles" like beasts of the field.

The war department has 3,000,000 surplus army blankets, 226,000 army cots, 31,000 tents, 185 great field kitchens, armories. The stabilization board has 150,000,000 bushels of wheat, equivalent to 9,000,000,000 one-pound loaves of bread; and it has 1,050,000 bags of Brazilian coffee, enough to make nearly six billion cups of steaming coffee.

Whole nations suffer, yet America and France, choking with gold, hesitate to do the simple, charitable essential thing of writing down reparations and debts and lowering the tariff walls that have stifled world trade.

Henri Fabre, French naturalist, is quoted by Dr. James Harvey Rogers in his recent book, "America Weighs Her Gold," as marveling at the stupidity of pine caterpillars. These, he says, will travel in an unswerving circle about the rim of a vase for days, starving in sight of food, freezing in sight of their nests, simply because one caterpillar has set the route with a silken path.

Surely we humans should display more gumption than pine caterpillars.

SPEAKING of elections, the people of Peru voted Sunday under some rather interesting new laws. Among other things, these new laws provide that every male citizen 21 years or over shall register and vote. In registering, he is photographed and finger-printed. Before voting, he must identify himself by producing both the photograph and finger-prints. If he fails to comply with any of these provisions, he is subject to a heavy fine.

Whatever else may be said of such a system, it precludes the necessity of candidates and party workers dragging voters to the polls and thus removes what has become the biggest excuse for collecting campaign funds in this country.

Peru Bans Repeaters

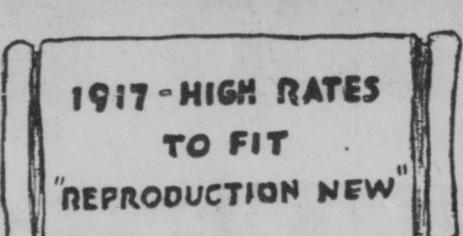
IT has been found that the serum of people who have recently recovered from the disease contains a substance which is of the greatest importance in attacking the disease.

It is therefore desirable that an injection of such serum be made into the muscles and into the spine of the child that is affected as soon as possible.

This seems to be of particular importance in preventing paralysis, which is one of the most serious results of this disorder.

During the first few weeks of the disease, the child must be kept absolutely at rest because inflamed or irritated tissue will always do better when quiet.

Later a competent physician, by



R. ROBERTS

DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Serum Combats Infantile Paralysis

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor, *Journal of the American Medical Association* and of *Health Magazine*.

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A machine was invented which does the breathing for such people until the muscles get back their

function. It has already been the means of saving many lives.

Dr. William H. Park, of the New York city department of health, emphasized the very great importance of early diagnosis and the way in which health departments can be helpful for this purpose.

Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York, who himself suffered from infantile paralysis, has aided in the development of an institution for this special purpose, but the method is also available in most of the large cities of the United States.

Frequently people with infantile paralysis die because the muscles of the chest, which are concerned with breathing, have become paralysed.

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