



# 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 treasuries 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

of Nations in a situation endangering world peace is a matter for rejoicing. But how can the United States expect—much less order—the league to put league treaties in operation against Japan when the United States refuses to co-operate with the league to the extent of invoking the nine-power and Kellogg treaties?

Washington's message to the league states that the United States will act independently to reinforce league action, by invoking the nine-power and Kellogg treaties, "should a time arise when it would seem advisable to bring forward these obligations."

This is notice to the league, the world and to the advancing Japanese armies in Manchuria that the state department does not think that time has yet come—despite more than three weeks of war.

We agree with the growing belief in Washington, as described in our news columns by William Philip Simms, that the United States and the league "have both blundered," and that their "timid handling of the situation seems to have been taken in Japan as a sign of weakness," thus "playing into the hands of the militarists." He reports that:

"It is admitted in high circles in Washington that the future of international peace machinery is in the balance. If the Japanese general staff gets away with what it is doing in China, the Kellogg pact is a dead letter, the League of Nations has lost its usefulness, the nine-power treaty is worthless and the world is back where it was in 1914, when might was right and nations put their only trust in heavy armaments."

To help save the world peace machinery, we believe the United States government should act under its treaties at once.

## 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 Herndon 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.

Potawatami Indians, claiming they were cheated, plan to sue for a billion dollars for lands in the heart of Chicago. If the suit against Chicago were for 40 cents, the Indians still would have to be classed as incurable optimists.

Three major scandals are brewing in Hollywood, says a writer. Say, just what is a "major scandal" in Hollywood?

Now that Al Capone's income has been cut to \$2,000,000, we can expect the gangs to take matters into their own hands and bring back prosperity.

The government is lining up to prosecute tax plotters. Well, maybe the line had to be drawn somewhere.

Moving pictures, says a doctor, are easier on the optics than books. And yet people are operated upon for film on the eye!

Now psychologists say the slow driver causes most of the automobile crashes. The fast ones probably just get into them.

Those Brooklyn legionnaires who are clamoring for beer apparently aren't men about town.

Anyway, wine bricks make excellent foundations for certain cellars.

## Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

"A CQUAINT yourself with the pleasures which cost nothing in dollars and cents," Dr. Mabel Douglass, dean of the New Jersey college for women, wisely advises her undergraduates.

How badly youth needs this admonition is proved by the vast host of American amusements and the utterly inadequate satisfaction they seem to give.

No man is successful unless he has found for his soul some source of inner content. To teach us how to do this should be the main purpose of education. Yet the vocational ideal, coupled with our materialistic conception of success, has contrived to upset this purpose.

We all know that it is possible to live contentedly without a great income. The trouble is that so few of us have learned how to do it. Our development has been limited to the narrow confines of one vocation. Our ideals have been built on money standards alone.

WE have, therefore, thousands of individuals who do not read for themselves, but who get their literary ideas from the movies. We have very little enlightened conversation, but a great deal of bridge playing for high stakes.

Instead of enjoying the esthetic pleasure one gets from playing a musical instrument for oneself, however badly, we tune in on the radio and listen to other people play.

Our entire system of education, our whole civilization, in fact, has been erected upon the theory that the more luxuries we have the more contented we would be. This, without doubt, is a false theory.

The way to true happiness lies in being intellectually alive. We have before our eyes today the proof of that.

Probably Mahatma Gandhi of India is the world's happiest man, and his only garment is a loin cloth. But he dresses his intellect in many-colored raiment and his soul is a flame that warms the world.

## 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.

## Peru Bans Repeaters

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 of age or over shall register and vote by registering. He is photographed and fingerprinted. Before voting, he must identify himself by producing both the photograph and fingerprint. 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.

## Farm 'Abandonment'

ACCORDING to the census bureau, nine out of every ten Americans now live in metropolitan areas containing more than 100,000 people. There are ninety-three such areas in the United States.

The cityward drift about which we talk so much evidently has done as much to draw people from small towns as from farms. Disregard of that fact is one reason why its effects are not more clearly appreciated.

We have not abandoned agriculture to any such extent as some folks imagine. What we have done is to concentrate in fewer and larger communities. A perfectly logical result of improved transportation methods, when you come to think it over.

## Farming Overstressed

EXCEPT at the very outset, this nation never was so wholeheartedly agricultural as current writing would lead us to believe. Even in Colonial days, trade and manufacture played a large part in its prosperity.

If you happened to be born in a village of 500, or 1,000 people, you do not need to be told how few of them actually depended on farming. There were the blacksmith shop, the carpenter's shop, the harness shop, the grocery store, the lawyer, the doctor, minister and so on.

We really haven't changed the proportion very much.

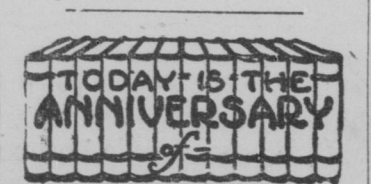
We just have moved up our minds that if living in town is preferable, it might as well be in a good town.

## Distances Reduced

LOTS of farmers live in good towns and lots of country people live in good towns. The old, hard-surfaced highway, busses and electric lines have made it possible.

To the man who has to get somewhere morning and night, twenty miles is no farther these days than three miles was fifty years ago.

The convenient distance between office and home, or home and the bright lights has been multiplied about seven times during the last two generations.



## BONAR LAW'S SPEECH

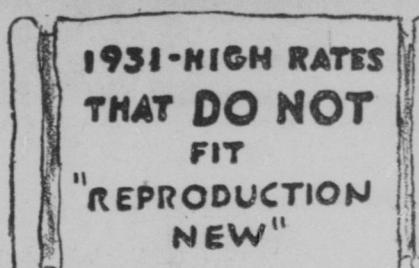
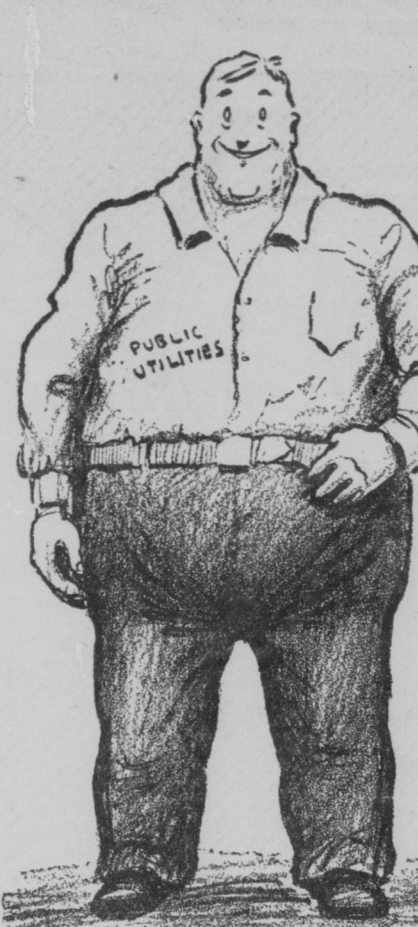
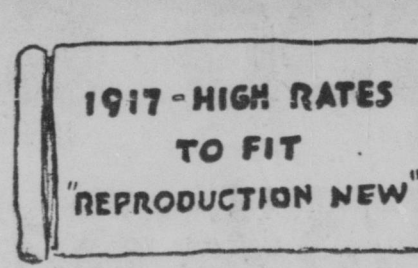
October 12

ON Oct. 12, 1917, Bonar Law, British chancellor of the exchequer, acting as representative of the prime minister, speaking at a dinner tendered to Congressmen Medill McCormick in London, told of Britain's reliance upon the United States. He said:

"I see it constantly stated in German newspapers that that is the last hope of the allies. We do rely upon America, and with good reason, for I, as chancellor of the exchequer, have to say, 'And if I should have been very sorry to admit six months ago, that without the aid of the United States the financial position of the allies would have been in a very disastrous situation today.'"

"We have reason to be grateful for the readiness of the help which has been given by our allies on the other side of the water in this respect."

"But while we rely on the United States, that does not mean that we are ceasing our own efforts."



## DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

## Serum Combats Infantile Paralysis

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

IT has been found that the blood 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

the use of electrical stimulation and careful massage, can begin to do much to restore to the paralyzed tissue the function that has been lost.

Of particular value in this work is the system of controlled exercise under water, or so-called water gymnastics.

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 paralyzed.

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.

If a child has headache, drowsiness, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, pain, stiffness of the back, legs and spine, and general irritability it may be coming down with this disease.

A competent physician can remove some of the spinal fluid. When this is examined in the laboratory, changes in the fluid may be found which are suggestive of this disease.

At such a time an immediate injection of suitable serum may be the means of prompt recovery and of prevention of the paralysis.

Ideals and opinions expressed in this column are those of one of America's most interesting writers and are presented without regard to their agreement with the editorial attitude of this paper.—The Editor.

## IT SEEMS TO ME BY HEYWOOD BROWN

DR. NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER has to his credit an expression of wise opinion on many themes in recent years. In fact, I hold that Dr. Butler is one of the bright and shining proofs of the theory that the world can be changed through education.

Here was the head of a great university whose mind remained for many years tightly closed upon vital questions of the day. He was in most important respects an ignorant man.

At the time of the war he reacted with all the fury and emotionalism of a backwoods klanism. Then suddenly something miraculous happened. I don't know whether it was on the road to Damascus or elsewhere. But this pillar of stodgy conservative thought did become illumined.

Dr. Butler came out of his cloisters and saw the world. It is too much to say of any individual, but he saw it whole, but he did see it in the large. The metamorphosis from the standpat Republican to the liberal leader was almost unparalleled in American public life.

A canvas of the married women who are working outside the home would show that 99.9 per cent of them have certain obligations and responsibilities which only their employment will help fulfill. A very minor number may be working to buy fur coats, expensive cars, and live in fine apartments. Personally, I do not know of one.

I do know one who is making a home for and educating her two nieces; another keeps an invalid brother, who has been bedfast for eight years; still another is maintaining a home for her two motherless cousins and her own boy; another is helping buy a home and aid her own brother, also her husband's brother, in clothing the children and has given (not loaned) a very substantial sum to prevent lapses of insurance and in time of illness and unemployment; another is furnishing a home for her sister and baby, and saving to buy a home at some future time.

"Working Wives" do not have many privileges of church, lodges and club work; however, well as a chance to live our lives as our obligations require. We may not all have "dependents" but do feel partial responsibility, at least, for members of our families.

As your editorial so finely expresses it—"give every one man and woman an opportunity to work, not by transferring the bitter cold of idleness from one hand to another."

ONE OF THEM.

Editor Times—The most extravagant and nonsensical use and waste of public funds is in the statehouse in every department and in almost every room in each department, even in the janitors' room. There is a very fancy bottle of drinking water there. The good old taxpayer drinks city water, well and out of springs and creeks, but he must pay high for the special drinking water for state employees, and I'll bet plenty the state pays well for that water. (The joke of it is, I was told by one who witnessed it, that the bottles are filled with city water, the stand of Indiana paying two water bills.

J. F. WALKER.

How can an unassisted triple play be made in baseball?

By the second baseman or the shortstop in the following manner: With runners on first and second bases, batter hits a hard line drive toward second which appears to be going to clear the infield and both runners start to advance; fielder leaps high in the air, catches the drive, steps on second base thereby automatically retiring the runner originally on that base and then runs down and tags the other runner before he can get back to first base.

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