



The Indianapolis Times

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

Rushing to Cover

The voluntary offer of the Insull utility interests to cut electric rates in seventy towns in the southern part of the state is an encouraging sign. But it is not the answer.

All that it means is that this shrewd organization, whose activities in politics in Illinois and Indiana have been somewhat notorious, is attempting to dodge the results of their own carefully planned scheme to tax the people on watered valuations.

Whatever reduction is offered may be taken as too small.

The same rules of rate fixing must be applied in days of deflation as were used during the fat days when these utilities collected on high labor and commodity costs on plants built with cheap labor and cheap commodities. For years they reaped where they had not sown. Now they are merely trying to keep on with part of their customary plunder instead of being forced to do justice.

What is interesting to Indianapolis in its offer is the fact that when the rates are cut for these sparsely settled communities they will then be about what the local holding company is charging for this city.

The difference in cost of operation is, of course, evident. In the small communities serving farming and quarry communities, it is necessary to string high tension wires. The customers are scattered. It is necessary to keep up long lines and make repairs in winter.

In this city the market is compact. The customers are packed together. The investment for distribution per consumer is relatively much smaller. And yet the rates will be the same.

What the public should impress upon the public service commission is the fact that no rate is just until all the grabs and larcenies of the holding companies are eliminated.

There is no justice for the public as long as a holding company, not amenable to law, charges huge fees for engineering and management.

There can be no justice as long as these holding companies collect fees and commissions on purchases that should be bought in the open market and not from the subsidiaries of these same holding companies.

There can be no just rates until the graft, extortion and larceny is taken away.

The utilities are running to cover. They should be chased into the open.

The League Dilemma

The friends of the League of Nations are in a dilemma. They have cause for rejoicing and fear. And the same event—Japan's war of aggression against China—is the source both of the rejoicing and fear.

On the one hand, the emergency has driven the United States into closer co-operation with the league than any one believed possible a few months ago. As recently as the Hughes regime at the state department, the United States was not even answering league communications—on the theory, apparently, that the league did not exist because the United States was not a member, a system of mumbumbo that still is operated by the department in its policy toward Soviet Russia.

By slow steps, however, the state department—against its intention—has ended with representatives at Geneva. First "observers" and then delegates were sent to serve on semi-independent league commissions. Later Americans became full members of definite league organizations. And now the secretary of state is working hand-in-hand with the league council.

In this realistic process theories have gone by the board. There was the cold fact that the other nations were doing business through the league, and if we were to be in on international action at all—especially in times of emergency—we had to go where that action was taking place. Hence the state department's proper and inevitable co-operation with the league in the Manchurian crisis.

But, while the Japanese war thrust has driven the United States closer to the league, it also has revealed the inherent weakness of the league as an organization on talk and short on action.

In Geneva they are admitting that the league either must stop the Japanese war or its failure will advertise the futility of its vaunted peace machinery. That is hardly an exaggeration.

When the league failed in the Corfu crises of 1923, its advocates sought an excuse in its extreme youth. Give it time to grow strong, they pleaded. Five years later it tried without success to keep Bolivia and Paraguay from fighting. And another alibi was offered.

Today, however, even its best friends realize that it can not permit Japan to defy its covenants and authority without inviting similar future aggression by other powers. If it can not make Japan keep the peace, certainly it can not control France and Great Britain—the two powers which chiefly control it.

Failure of the league, we believe, would be a world calamity. Whatever its defects and weakness, it is the best peace machinery the world has. The Kellogg pact and the nine-power Pacific treaty virtually have been destroyed by refusal of the United States and other signatories to invoke them against Japan, who has violated them.

Therefore it is tremendously important that the league act now in defense of present and future peace.

A Wage Cut Limit

Bankers, having asked for more wage cuts, now are resorting to strange doctrines to explain their failure to improve the economic situation of the country.

The October letter of the National City Bank of New York says: "What has made wage cuts finally necessary is the great decline in the prices of agricultural and mineral products, which drastically has reduced the buying power of those who produce them and made it impossible for them to purchase products

manufactured under pre-depression wage costs. The exchange of goods has been disrupted."

This might sound like a persuasive argument if the United States census bureau had not just given us a complete picture of wage-earning America.

The bureau reports that there are 48,832,589 wage-earning persons in the United States over 10 years of age. Of these, just 10,482,232, including men, women and children, earn a livelihood in agricultural pursuits. Another 1,158,064 earn a living by extraction of minerals.

So altogether, there are just 11,640,389 persons in the classes whose buying power the banks wished to restore at the expense of the other 37,192,202.

What makes the doctrine even more remarkable is the fact that no matter how much the price of manufactured products is cut by reason of cutting wages, a great part of the eleven and a half million people still will be unable to buy. Thousands of farmers have ceased to consume manufactured goods, not because they haven't enough money, but because they haven't any money.

Meanwhile, the other thirty-seven million wage earners and their dependents are buying less, as their wages are cut.

The bankers are correct in wanting agricultural workers and mine workers back in the consuming class. They must have adequate incomes before any of us can enjoy real economic security again.

But there is a right and wrong way of bringing this about. Whatever the solution of the farm problem, it does not lie in reducing the rest of the population to want.

How They Live

Six million or more unemployed! We hear the figures and we hear stories about breadlines and soup kitchens, and every one of us has had the experience of being asked for money either by men who are down and out themselves, or from organizations which will administer public relief.

But just how are these unemployed and their dependents managing to exist? If they are not starving, how do they live? We wish the President's unemployment committee would find out and tell us. The facts would do us good. We can stand to hear them.

In England they have found out. The Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance undertook a special survey in eight industrial centers to ascertain what happens to unemployed persons whose unemployment benefit is discontinued, and in particular to discover to what extent they apply for outdoor relief from the poor law authority, and if they do not apply, how they find means of support."

The English found out a surprising thing. Comparatively speaking, very few of the unemployed whose benefits had been cut off were willing to apply for the dole. There was an intense hatred of the poor law, and millions preferred to use up all their savings first and then depend upon relatives and friends for help, rather than seek public charity.

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Back to Nature

Harried by the world depression, the South Sea Islands may do worse than abandon the gold standard. They may give up the white man's standard altogether.

In a resolution passed by the Agricultural Union of Tahiti and forwarded to France, islanders are urged to come out from under the "white shadows," cast off the import ways of missionaries and traders, eschew trousers, Mother Hubbards, schools, hymn books and wage scales.

The appeal urges a return to the carefree tribal life of the early Polynesians before Capt. Cook's ship departed, leaving a wake of drink and disease and the curse of Cain.

Some Americans have been thinking along this very line. Climate and other little matters may prevent our adopting loin-cloths and grass skirts. We don't exactly plan on diving for fish, stalking the woods with bow and arrow, eating poi and making life into one grand hula dance. But this depression has started us wondering whether we haven't made our lives too "civilized" and complex for comfort.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

D. ALFRED ADLER, in his newest volume, "What Life Should Mean to You," warns the very cockles of my heart when he says a kind word for our old and dear abused friend, the inferiority complex. This is the way he puts it:

"Inferiority feelings are not within themselves abnormal. They are the cause of all the improvements in the position of mankind. Science itself, for example, can arise only when the people feel their ignorance and their need to foresee the future. Indeed, it seems to me that all our human culture is based upon feelings of inferiority."

Now that is only psychology, it's common sense. And what a welcome relief from all this talk about the need for every one to feel superior. That has grown not only tiresome but has made nuisances out of a large number of otherwise very pleasant folk.

With these ubiquitous S. C. S. the sensations is different. You feel a good deal like a flat tire and finally come to actual dislike, what with having to listen to their cocksure opinions and the recital of their accomplishments.

It may be true, as some professors tell us, that these superior people are the only ones who will ever get along in the world. Well, let them go ahead. And I always hope they will lose along so far in front that they will not pester the rest of us, who do not believe we know everything and are a little uncertain of our excellence.

It's been my observation that the superiority complex is best appreciated at long distance.

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

Our Love of Sport Runs to Hero Worship, but How Could We Produce Heroes Otherwise?

NEW YORK, Oct. 14.—Times may be hard, but 30,000 people paid \$100,000 to see Sharkey and Carnera pound each other for forty-five minutes Monday night. Next day, the sports writers consumed \$100,000 worth of space telling what happened, why it happened, and what is likely to happen.

Millions of us read what the sports writers had to say not only with interest, but appreciative understanding. Though not expert, we knew enough of the background, rules of the game and the prize at stake to comprehend what they were talking about.

Besides that, they made it perfectly clear in column after column of readable English and picturesque phraseology.

Individualism Survives

YOU probably think I have started out to pan sport, especially as illustrated by theistic art, or take a fling at those hard-working scribes who do such an excellent job in its behalf.

Well, that is not my intention. Even if I were not interested in sport, which I am, I hardly could fail to recognize the important part it plays in life, or the utter absurdity of trying to eliminate it.

Love of sport is normal, chiefly because sport is the one field in which mass production cannot be substituted for individualism.

If you can make one automobile, you can build a factory and make 1,000,000. Like it, but you can't do that with a champion prizefighter, wrestler, or tennis player.

Worship Makes Heroes

AS long as people crave entertainment, they will be interested in sport, and particularly those phases of it in which two individuals are pitted against each other.

Of course, this runs to hero worship, but how could we produce heroes otherwise?

The great weakness of our educational system is that it puts such little premium on individual merit.

Brings Out Best

SAY what you will, but sport leaves no room for doubt that there is nothing like a contest to bring out the best in people, and nothing like a substantial reward to induce them to enter contests.

You hear folks say that we have too much sport outside the classroom. Probably we do, but did you ever stop to think that this is because we have so little inside the classroom?

Youth wants nothing so much as to try its strength and prove its ability. Give it a proper chance and it will discover through its own efforts what it can do best. Rob it of that chance in one particular line and it will create another.

Communism's Flaw

OUR schools and colleges are running to sport because youth demands opportunity to progress by means of trial and error, to risk failure for the sake of establishing prestige.

A small proportion of those thrown out of work were able to obtain some sort of intermittent employment which brought in a little money. It might not be enough to keep the family going, but it would help, and after that relatives and friends stepped in.

It would do good in this country to know just how our millions in distress are managing to keep body and soul together. We hope the President's unemployment committee and the Red Cross will give us the facts.

What's the Score?

WE need to study sport more, especially from the standpoint of its hold on people. Why do they like it? Why do they take so much more interest in it than in some serious activities?

Why does a banker run out of his office every five minutes to see what the baseball score is? Why can the average boy make a much better showing in naming the players on every team in the big leagues than in naming the Presidents of the United States?

Psychology means anything, this phase of our life is worth much more attention than it has received.

No Sport Depression

TIMES may be hard, but not hard enough to reduce attendance at the world series very much, or discourage football coaches for the coming season.

You'd never guess there was a depression, to see the crowds at wrestling matches, or polo games.

Some people say that this is all wrong, that we are only wasting a great deal of time and money, and that something ought to be done to stop it.

You'd have more patience with them if the tendency weren't as old as the hills, if innumerable wars hadn't been fought chiefly because people couldn't find any other way to satisfy their craving for sport, for the trial by combat, which seems to be woven into the very fiber of our being.

Now that is only psychology, it's common sense. And what a welcome relief from all this talk about the need for every one to feel superior. That has grown not only tiresome but has made nuisances out of a large number of otherwise very pleasant folk.

People's Voice

Behold, I am against the proths, saith the Lord, that use their tongues and say, He saith.—Jere-miah 23:31.

Large offers and sturdy rejections are among the most common topics of falsehood.—Johnson.

Does the Guggenheim Fund for the Advancement of Aviation still exist?

It was discontinued in December.

What is the capital of Lower California?

La Paz.

Have diamonds ever been found in the United States?

They have been found in Georgia, North and South Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, Wisconsin, California, Oregon and Indiana.

My, Sonny, How Fast You Grow



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Earache Must Have Expert Diagnosis

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

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

MONG the agonizing pains that afflict mankind, earache ranks next to toothache in frequency, and probably next to what is called a "jumping" toothache for painfulness.

Dr. Joseph Hopper lists some of the common causes of earache. The average man can guess at the cause of his stomachache or even at the cause of his headache, but he will do little with trying to determine the cause of the earache because an inspection of the ear by some one trained in the examination of ears is necessary in order to make a certain diagnosis.

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