



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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

A Real Civic Enterprise

Tomorrow evening will inaugurate a new season of lectures at Kirshbaum Center by the nation's leaders in government, religion, social and industrial problems.

These lectures are an important part of city life in that they challenge thought and contribute to a more tolerant and liberal attitude toward life.

Progress is achieved only as new ideas are dissected and analyzed, the false discarded and the worthy adopted and made a part of civilization.

In other years this group has brought many illustrious and noted speakers to this city whose contributions have led to discussion of topics that demand interest and attention.

The real value lies in the fact that the subjects are generally of a controversial nature. Some speakers have aroused antagonism. Others have obtained approval. But all have aroused stimulated thought.

The center is to be congratulated on bringing as its first speaker Senator Robert La Follette, who carries on the traditions of his illustrious father.

The senator is a part of the progressive group whose power in the next session of congress is likely to be greater than in the past.

This group is not afraid of new ideas. Many of their earlier proposals, radical when suggested, are now a part of our accepted system of government.

Citizens who are curious as to what may be offered as a cure for present evils in government and industry will have the opportunity of learning first hand from one of the acknowledged leaders of that movement. Those who are tired of the bunk and platitudes of those who trust in labels rather than principles will at least not be bored.

Not Fooled

The suggestion of the Insull interests that they be given the zone system of rate making in return for a reduction of \$370,000 in electric bills for seventy cities has not fooled the citizens of the affected communities.

That the protest against utility rates is state wide and a very urgent question is shown by the following editorial from the Franklin Democrat:

The Public Service Company of Indiana announces that it has filed a petition to revise downward electric rates for towns and cities it serves in southern Indiana—seventy-six in number, in which list Franklin and Greenwood are included. It states that the annual savings to customers would be estimated at \$370,000.

Considering the territory covered and the number of patrons served, that total reduction is nothing short of a joke. To amount to anything that would be worth while to consumers the total reduction in one year ought to be ten times \$370,000.

Citizens should not be misled by this favorite method of quieting the minds of people. To give the amount of reduction in a total sum looks big, but when applied to individual consumers it does not amount to a bagatelle so far as any real relief goes.

The reduction as estimated would not amount to one dollar a year to thousands of customers. It would not exceed two dollars a year on an average to the people served. That is not the sort of relief consumers are expecting or the amount of relief to which they are entitled. The reduction should be something substantial and in keeping with the reductions that have been made in all other matters that affect materially the living and business necessities of citizens. No, a total reduction of ten times \$370,000 would be small in comparison with the real necessities of present conditions.

The Relief Campaign

Communities of the nation start Monday on a five-week campaign to raise funds for unemployment relief. This is probably the most important money-raising campaign since war days. In this effort the administration has put its hope of meeting the winter's problems.

We sincerely hope it will succeed. Before this we have stated our position: That the problem is a national one which should be met by supplementary federal appropriations if the campaign for private funds fails.

There is only one way for Community Chest campaigns to be successful—the wealthy must contribute a larger share than they have in the past.

Small-salaried persons, who too often within the last two years have had unemployed or part-time employed relatives and friends to help through this depression, will pay their share, as they have done in the past. But their funds have been hit seriously by bank failures, wage cuts and direct family charities.

Their dimes and dollars will mean much to the spirit of these drives. They are the persons who have seen and felt the effects of this depression upon themselves, their families and their friends. They give because they know the need.

But the wealthy who must bear the brunt of this fund-raising.

The cities and counties and states, in many instances, will be called on to appropriate again. They contributed 72 per cent of the funds for family welfare and unemployment relief work last year. But between them and now these treasures have been under great strain; many of them are depleted. These local governmental agencies will appropriate what money they can.

But neither this help from local governments, nor that from the wage earner and the salaried worker will be enough.

The question of whether this campaign will raise sufficient funds can be answered only by persons of means. They should give so freely that their gifts will "startle the most generous."

Back to Calles

There is nothing but comfort to Mexico's masses and American liberals in the latest turn of events across the Rio Grande. For the resignation of President Ortiz Rubio's cabinet brings back to active government life former President Plutarco Elias Calles as secretary of war. Calles is a constructive reformer-statesman.

The shift also may call to Calles' side as secretary of interior Manuel C. Tellez, former Mexican ambassador to Washington. Tellez did as much here for honest diplomacy and peace as the late Ambassador Morrow did in Mexico City.

More than ever in her turbulent history, Mexico needs men like Calles and Tellez. Mexico's course long has required careful steering between the demands of domestic economic reform and of foreign capital pressure. Now, with her two chief exports, silver and oil, at rock bottom, she is threatened with unusually hard times, low wages, unrest, and a falling peso.

There has been a noticeable swing away from the revolution's ideals, a slackening of effort to give back to the peons their land and a decent living wage to the new industrial workers. With Calles back in the government, it is hoped that the reforms started

so bravely at Queretaro in 1917 will be carried forward.

The United States should welcome the change. Never, until the Mexican peon becomes a land-owning and consuming entity, will our commerce across the Rio Grande thrive. Last year we exported to Mexico only \$16,000,000 worth of goods, as compared with the \$222,000,000 in 1921.

Mexico will try quack remedies, like a high tariff in vain. As in the United States, rehabilitation of her masses is her only assurance of prosperity.

The word "peon" means a "flattened-out person." With 12,000,000 flattened-out persons, Mexico never can prosper.

Cannon Is Not a Martyr

Indictment of Bishop Cannon of the Methodist church on a charge of conspiracy to violate wilfully the federal corrupt practices law, should not be allowed to start one of those waves of religious and anti-religious bigotry which are the disgrace of America.

Protestant prohibition fanatics, in trying to make Cannon a martyr, are on dangerous ground. And so are the anti-church fanatics who would have the public believe that Cannon is typical of the Protestant churches and the prohibition movement.

In his campaign of bigotry to defeat Al Smith for the presidency, but Cannon did not act as a bishop or as a Methodist, but as a citizen. As a citizen, he had a right to fight Smith legally. His methods of intolerance violated the teachings of Jesus and the spirit of the American Constitution.

But so long as he kept within the letter of the law, that was a matter of his own conscience. And it is important that those churchmen who wish to make a martyr of him realize that the law did not reach out to restrain Cannon in his bigotry campaign.

The law was invoked against him on a charge which has no connection whatever with any of Cannon's religious acts or beliefs. Court action was invoked when he defied the federal law for the presentation of clean elections, the law to protect the country from political crooks.

We believe that Protestant churchmen and prohibition leaders generally disapprove of the illegal political practices of Cannon. It is unfair to saddle his church with his personal sins. Nor can prohibition be cured by cursing Cannon.

As advocates of prohibition repeal, we nevertheless believe that the rank and file of drys are as good citizens as their opponents, and that it is possible to keep this necessary political battle a clean fight on both sides.

Beyond Farm Credit

Farmers and those who hold Federal Land Bank bonds as investments apparently would benefit if the capital of these banks were increased, as President Hoover has proposed.

Addition of \$60,000,000 to the capital structure of these institutions should, we are told, widen the market for their securities, drive down farmers' interest rates, and make more money available for borrowing. That is splendid.

The credit problem, however, is but part of the whole farm problem.

A farmer now can borrow from the federal institutions, from the federal farm board through a cooperative, and from private institutions. In fact, some say the numerous facilities for borrowing have led to excessive loans.

Though Washington died at 67, Thomas Jefferson lived to be 85, Benjamin Franklin to be 84, and John Adams to be more than 80.

Even if we can increase the average span to 70, we shall only have done for the many what nature constantly has done for a few.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

M. E. Tracy
SAYS:

If the *Yorktown*
Means Anything of Lasting
Importance it Is Promoting
the Gospel of Mass Welfare.

NEW YORK, Oct. 17.—They are moving on Yorktown by auto, Pullman car and airplane, where Washington's men came by foot, or on horseback. They are celebrating the victory with guns which make those that won it look like toys. The very methods by which they express themselves show how far and fast the world has moved since Cornwallis surrendered.

Descendants of Lafayette are there to remind us of what France did, and a descendant of Baron Steuben to recall Germany's part. Even a descendant of Cornwallis has come to complete the ensemble.

Only Washington, who won the fight, is without a descendant.

If Washington Returned

If Washington were to come back he hardly would know the place, much less the country to which it gave birth.

It would take him weeks to understand the idioms and slang of modern English, and even longer to operate the devices and contraptions of modern life.

He would have to ask what a cook stove was, since he never saw one, and he would have to cultivate a taste for ice cream, since he never ate it.

As for the auto, electric light, and telephone, they would represent a strange new world, and it would be difficult for him to get the idea of radio.

Racketeering Not New

WHEN it came to some of the more fundamental activities, however, such as the indictment of Bishop Cannon, the Seabury investigation, or the trial of Al Capone, Washington would feel perfectly at home.

He could name plenty of clergymen who not only went in for politics, but took the other side. So, too, he could name politicians who betrayed their trust and racketeers who bled the public. We have invented nothing new along those lines.

Politics the Same

WHAT would Washington say about unemployment, prohibition, or Stimson's policy toward Japan?

Whatever he said, it would be intelligent and to the point.

Though little children might be able to bewilder him with their knowledge of mechanics, our greatest minds hardly could tell him much about politics, whether from a domestic or foreign slant.

Politics is the same old game. General Washington could begin right where he left off.

Longer to Live

DR. WILL MAYO thinks that by another generation we shall have extended the average span of life to 70 years, which means an increase of 12 years over what it is at present and of 22 over what it was in Washington's time.

Regardless of what the average span of life has been, a few people always have lived long, fully as long as they do today.

Though Washington died at 67, Thomas Jefferson lived to be 85, Benjamin Franklin to be 84, and John Adams to be more than 80.

Even if we can increase the average span to 70, we shall only have done for the many what nature constantly has done for a few.

Improving the Average

WHEN you come to think of it, that seems to be the object of civilization with regard to most everything. About all we have done, or can hope to do, is improve the average.

The farmer can help in an effort to realize fair prices by cutting down his overproduction and, perhaps, raising more food for himself and his animals. He must realize that he will have to do this himself, or face the possibility of being forced by some outside agency to do it.

But the government can help in this effort, too. It can make its federal farm board quit speculating, improve the organization of co-operatives, and dispose of the vast stabilization stocks of wheat and cotton it now holds.

It can, also, scale down the tariff so that our exportable surpluses will, in fact, be exported.

Until these things are done, the availability of cheap credit will not solve the problem of American agriculture.

Women can vote in Spain now if they're 23. Which complicates it for the gals passing for 18.

Among other municipal ills, an eastern city says its new jail is too small. Probably has the cramps.

The world has gone mad, says one Dr. Silver. What did some one say about silence being golden?

As the bridge player with the fiery-tempered partner said: "My life is in my hands!"

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

Occasionally one meets a woman who ought to be spanked. Some of these married ones seem to be suffering from acute cases of infantilism and it might be a good thing to punish them drastically.

This tendency to name unooficial czars, or create an official bureau whenever a problem arises, is not altogether reassuring.

The Indianapolis Times is one paper which, as a member of the Scripps-Howard chain, stands for fairness and honesty. "Give light and the people will find their own way." Why not give light on the Community Fund?

Hundreds of workers are "forced" to give to this fund each year against their wishes, or give up their jobs. These same workers gladly would give if seven-eighths of their dollar did not go to organizations which are not charitable institutions.

The entire plea made for subscription to the Community Fund on the basis of helping some poor child, who is without shoes or food, etc. This, of course, touches the hearts of the people. But why not use it for that purpose?

It looks to me like seven-eighths of every dollar should go to the Family Welfare society, then let the other one-eighth go to these other organizations. Why can not the people's money really be used to help the needy, instead of most of it going elsewhere?

GLEN W. SHARKEY.

5221 Ellenberger drive.

Editor Times—I think it is about time for the public to be enlightened about the scandal surrounding the recent truck purchases and the Governor's action in ordering

a delay in the delivery of this equipment, under the pretext of investigating these awards.

While the Governor's "pick and shovel" program is commendable, it can only refer to certain districts.

Unemployment situations and can not aid ours and other cities unemployed, while the building of these trucks would give hundreds of men work for several weeks.

I wonder, too, if the public knows that the local truck company, whose product is manufactured in Indianapolis, submitted bids on the four-wheel drive trucks that were asked for and then not ordered.

This is a new company and not as yet advertised, but demonstrations were given to the highway commissioners and their various employees and everyone was quite thrilled over its marvelous performance.

This equipment is especially good for the snow-removing vehicles asked for and then not ordered.

Had the local company obtained this order, several weeks' employment would have been given to nearly a hundred men, which would be in keeping with the Governor's suggested unemployment relief.

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Surely we all understand why the commissioners were given new passenger cars. A northern Indiana