



The Indianapolis Times

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MONDAY, OCT. 19, 1931.

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

Organize for War

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Of course, such an appraisal will be ordered. The law makes such an action mandatory. The members of the commission have no power to refuse. They can only make it expensive, dilatory and worthless.

The commission might and should have ordered a reduction of rates long ago upon the facts presented in the annual reports of these concerns.

The profits shown are so exorbitant and excessive that a public body with the interests of the people at heart would not have waited for an aroused public to force the issue.

The holding company which owns all the common stock of the local electric company has taken millions of dollars from Indianapolis in the last four years under the guise of fees and services in management.

The management from long distance consists mainly in charging from 50 to 90 cents a ton more for coal than current market prices. The cost of administration locally has more than doubled in four years.

The one fact that 44 cents out of every dollar paid by water consumers goes to Clarence Geist as profits would have suggested to a commission which really intended to regulate in behalf of the people that a real deal is long over due.

The city and the civic clubs which have taken leadership must have public support in the way of funds, of expert accountants, of engineers. An appraisal of by and for the companies under the independent supervision of a commission with a long record of protective care for corporations would amount to nothing.

The war is on. The people must organize and fight.

Edison

Symbol of light wherever his electric lamp shines, symbol of peaceful revolution of old-fashioned ways of doing things, symbol of youth despite his more than four-score years—Thomas Alva Edison.

In history there have been outstanding personages of science: Leonardo Da Vinci, Galileo, Newton, Pasteur. Edison joins them.

To many, Edison is known principally as the inventor of the incandescent lamp. This achievement alone would have enrolled him, forever on the list of human benefactors, but he worked in many other fields, often with brilliant success and only occasionally with partial success.

Hardly a human activity today functions without the touch of his genius. Electricity, cement, radio, telephone, stock tickers, motion pictures, rubber, phonograph—to all of these he brought origin or improvement out of his marvelous inventive faculty.

"American Men of Science," that Who's Who of American scientists, which lists him as a physicist, gives his chief subjects of research, presumably a list of his own selection.

"Science as applied to invention; universal stock ticker and unison device; quadruplex and sextuplex telegraphic transmission; 'etheric force'; microtachometer; phonograph; 'Edison effect'; incandescent lamp and light system; moving pictures; naval rock breakers and crushers; long kiln for burning Portland cement; alkaline storage battery; mimeograph; poured concrete houses; transmitter of the telephone; microphones; magnetic separator."

You may hear it said: "What a pity that Edison was not a financial success!" It is true that Edison is not ranked among the world's richest men, although his inventions now are capitalized at billions of dollars.

But financially he could have retired to a life of luxurious idleness in his twenties. Money meant to Edison the luxury of more hard, interesting work that made him rich beyond the reach of dollars and cents.

Perhaps Edison's greatest contribution to civilization is not listed in his more than a thousand inventions, is not a material product of his laboratories.

It's his inspiration to youth, his example to those who dare to dream new worlds, his challenge to accomplishment that will always spur onward those who fight the past with the future.

Capone's Conviction

The natural reaction of the people of America to the conviction of Chicago's No. 1 public enemy, Alphonse Capone, will be one of gratitude to the government for having stepped in and done what the nation's second largest city could not do. If they examine the situation a bit more closely, they will find there little to cheer them.

Here is the world's most notorious gangster chief, who has defied the law for years in the commission of no end of high and sanguinary crimes.

Yet it took the United States of America three years of expert and arduous work finally to convict him for conspiracy to evade the income tax law.

And when this flashy crook is behind the bars, his own and other gangs in every large American city will continue to "bootleg," to "muscle in," to high-jack," to take their enemies "for a ride," to shoot up one another under the noses of the police.

Worse, they will spread the reign of noise, corruption and terror further and further through our society until the ultimate cause of it all is stamped out.

What is this cause? It is, first, the economic basis that lies beneath all crime. It is, next, the hypocritical prohibition law that seeks to punish the purveyors of liquor while tens of millions of Americans declare the law an impudent invasion of their personal rights and consider its violation a moral act.

We need no longer preach this obvious lesson. Let Mr. Hoover's own Wickersham commission speak.

"The activities of the bootlegging gangs," say the Wickersham experts, "termed the greatest menace in organized crime by the Illinois crime survey, with their consequent toll of homicide, murder and violence, would not be possible without the demand for intoxicating liquors and the tremendous profits to be made in supplying it."

Al Capone's career brings again into relief the need of facing prohibition with candor and realism.

Blundering Diplomacy

Technicians should not be allowed to block a settlement of the Manchurian crisis. Since Japan objects to an American joining in the league council's deliberations, why shouldn't we withdraw? We have no face to save. Our only interest is to help preserve peace and to save the treaties. If we can not do that inside the league council chamber, we can try it outside.

So far as the league goes, our interest is to co-operate with it in this emergency. The state department is to be congratulated on that co-operation.

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

The Career of Edison Is Without Precedent and His Contributions to Life Without a Parallel.

NEW YORK, Oct. 19.—Turn out the lights, stop the movies, and silence the phonographs for a moment.

In no other way can we make the children of this generation understand what Edison did for them.

His career is without precedent, his contributions to life without a parallel.

He not only made things a little more comfortable and enjoyable for people throughout the civilized world, but lived to see them acknowledge it.

No man ever caused a more complete revolution in the home, or workshop. No man ever remained in the public eye by virtue of his own activities and achievements for a greater length of time.

He Proved Things

YOU can fall back on the abstract and prove that Edison was not a great scientist. He advanced no theory for some later genius to upset and propounded no hypothesis of creation for hired scholars to argue about.

His work consisted in the practical application of known, or supposed, principles.

While others debated the theory of sound waves, he proved it by inventing the phonograph, and while others speculated on the possibility of an incandescent lamp, he perfected one that would work.

His Life an Illustration

DARWIN said that the mystery of all things is in the beginning, and one could ask for no better illustration than Edison.

A country school rejected him as impossible and a telegraph company dismissed him as incompetent.

Toward the end of his life, he attempted to pick a successor by subjecting a carefully selected quota of young men to competitive tests and examinations.

No one ever picked him that way, and he probably would have failed had it been tried.

Men who have led the world mock our assumptions and efforts in this direction.

It's a Deep Secret

EDISON is gone. Who will take his place? Maybe no one for several generations.

Even those who deny the influence of heredity will admit that such men are not born every day.

How do they happen to be born at all? What peculiar combination of circumstances is required to produce them?

That is a secret which we are as far from understanding as was Adam. Apparently, when the stage is set, nature knows how to perform the miracle.

Came at 'The' Moment

WITHOUT the peculiar background into which he emerged, Edison might have proved a complete failure.

Without Edison, the present era would not be quite what it is.

There was reciprocity between the man and his generation—a singularly favorable atmosphere, uniting with singularly appropriate talent.

He came on the scene at a moment when the world wanted nothing so badly as a man of his type, when the appetite for novelty had been whetted just enough to make it keen.

But when we have said all that, what have we explained?

U. S. Proud of Him

OUTSIDE of the peculiar methods by which he worked, Edison was a rather normal man. That has endeared him to the public.

It is reassuring to know that genius does not necessarily imply freakishness, especially with regard to political and social life.

America is proud of the fact that her greatest inventor and, perhaps, the greatest inventor of the age, lived a long, happy life in accordance with her highest ideals and best traditions; that his romance lasted through, that his family circle held together, and that he died surrounded by those who loved him.

Nothing Turned His Head

RADICAL as Edison may have been in his scientific ideas and eccentric as he may have appeared when tense over some problem, he was a solid, substantial man.

He lived in one place and kept his workshop in one place for more than half a century. Neither fame nor fortune turned his head to the end.

He was more interested in what he could put into life than in what he could get out of it. To the end, he had the good sense to realize that the nearest approach we mortals ever can make to happiness comes through self-expression, but in the employment of our abilities.

For what title do the letters A. E. stand?

Aeronautical engineer.

What is the meaning and derivation of Clarinda?

It is derived from the Latin and means "worthy of fame."

What is the area of Alaska?

It has 590,884 square miles.

Name some Jewish legal fraternities?

Nu Beta Epsilon, Lambda Alpha Phi and Tau Epsilon Rho.

Questions and Answers

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With the help of the bootlegging gangs, we made largely in vain. If your son has had it, you need not fear to trust him to life.

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Still Anybody's Ball



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Undulant Fever No Longer Curiosity

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association

Health Magazine

PREVIOUS to 1927, undulant fever in man was regarded in the United States much as one would have regarded other disease curiosities.

During 1929, cases of the disease were recorded in every state. Unquestionably this signifies a far greater number of cases than actually were recorded because confirmation of the presence of this disease depends on an examination of the blood that can be made only by a competent laboratory.

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