



The Indianapolis Times

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

A Fundamental Decision

The people of this city expected a decision protecting self-government from Judge John W. Kern. The very name stands in Indiana for the preservation of fundamental principles of Americanism at its best. Judge Kern has ruled that the state tax board had no right to cut the city tax budget and declared emphatically that the people of this city are entitled to run their own affairs.

He very clearly points out that there was no question of superiority of judgment as between city officials and the tax board, although had that question been raised the verdict would have been decidedly in favor of officials who were chosen to redeem the city from the rule of a machine which is ancestor to the present membership of the tax board.

One slash attempted by the tax board illustrates the danger of moving the government of cities to the statehouse.

That board ordered a cut in the small fund asked by Mayor Reginald Sullivan to finance the fight of the people against high utility rates and the completion of the effort to obtain legal control of the gas company.

The tax board attempted to leave the city weaponless against these forces of organized pillage and greed. It tried to shackle the city, to send it into any legal conflict with no funds while these plunderers are amply supplied with loot with which to hire all sorts of experts to confuse and bewilder the issue.

That one act revealed the animus behind this board which claims the right to rule this city.

The power to fix budgets means finally the power to rule cities. In this instance, the one reduction would have the effect of helping to perpetuate the slavery of the city to utility extortions.

The other cuts made had the same imperial ring. One of these reductions was in pay rolls of the park board. The state Caesars declared that the parks might use jobless who obtain work from the emergency funds.

That was their policy. It will have little sympathy from those who believe that in days such as these, there should be every effort to maintain regular pay rolls and not try to reconstruct society on the basis of pauperism.

The truth is that the tax board is dominated by partisan politics and is endeavoring to penalize every community which has had the courage to rid itself of the old order.

Judge Kern has performed a fine public service. But, of course, every one knew that he would stand firm for justice and for right.

The Arrogant Utilities

The stage is now set for a demonstration as to whether public utilities are under any control by the state.

The city of Indianapolis and a group of citizens under leadership of the South Side Civic clubs have demanded a reduction of rates on water and electricity.

At once the public service commission, through one of its members, suggested that an appraisal of the plants would cost a large sum of money and that months would be required to give any relief.

At his suggestion the city and the utilities are arranging to see whether there can be obtained a "voluntary" reduction of rates.

In plain language, the city will be forced to decide whether it will take a concession or try to obtain justice.

The utilities, arrogant, demanded that all petitions be withdrawn. Still arrogant, they now state that they will not insist upon such a retreat, but will talk things over.

Of course, there would be no necessity of making a new appraisal to fix rates that are more nearly fair to the public. Just an investigation of the books of the companies into the one item of how much the holding companies are grafting would show vast sums charged to their operation that do not belong to such operation.

It is these sums which go to make up the profits for the holding companies that make them so profitable.

The purchase of coal by the electric company, the fees for management by the holding company for the water company, alone would give a basis for a reduction.

The saloons were once as arrogant as the utilities are today. The saloons are gone. Some day the people may get as tired of utility arrogance as they were of saloon stupidity.

More Dry Dictatorship

Once again the dry forces are using their power to block reform. This time the fight is over liberalization of the rules of the national house of representatives.

Under the old rules, a small group of majority party leaders has been able to hold powers of dictatorship over all legislation. This group has been able to determine which bills shall come out of committee and which bills shall be buried.

It has been able to shut off floor debate even on such major subjects as the tariff. In the last congress this dictatorship was held by a triumvirate consisting of the Speaker, the chairman of the rules committee, and the majority floor leader.

As the life of most progressive legislation depends on changing these rules of the house, this test is one of the most important to be met by the incoming congress.

When it became clear through the additional loss of Republican seats in special elections this autumn that the Democrats would organize and control the house, it was believed generally that this fight for liberalizing the house rules had been won.

The slight Democratic majority, plus the Republican progressive minority, was believed to be strong enough to put across this reform over the heads of the Republican old guard and the reactionary fringe of Democrats.

Now, however, certain dries have discovered that liberalization of the rules if carried far enough actually would allow the house to take direct votes on the subject of prohibition. They will try to prevent that at all costs—even at the cost of perpetuating a general dictatorship over all legislation.

Under the suggested reform, one house member could not block bills on the private or consent calendars, and no committee could bury a bill on which a fair number of petitioning members desired a debate and a vote. The dries are trying to keep the number required for discharging a committee larger than the number of wet votes in the house.

Perhaps these dries justify their tactics by the questionable philosophy that the end justifies the means. But even an extreme dry should hesitate before he chooses prohibition as a higher end than the preservation of representative government.

That is the issue in this fight to reform the house rules—the preservation of representative government.

A Disappointing Report

The new federal power commission, organized in the interest of better enforcement of the federal water power act, presents a distinctly disappointing document in its first annual report. Its omissions and silence are significant and disturbing.

Congress created the new full time commission because administration of the water power act had been neglected so flagrantly during the last ten years by cabinet-member commissioners.

Congress was specifically indignant at the failure of past commissions to scrutinize capital investment accounts of its licensees and squeeze from them the millions of dollars of water which mean high rates and unfair recapture prices.

The report of the new commission contains nothing to indicate it appreciates the importance of this situation. Only recently has it begun hearing on this subject, after a year's delay.

The commission's report suggests mildly that perhaps the federal government should regulate interstate power transactions, after gathering more data on the subject. The importance of immediate action in this matter has been appreciated in congress and elsewhere for considerable time.

The federal trade commission has made an exhaustive survey of the extent of unregulated interstate power transactions, but the power commission ignores its figures.

Carefully drawn legislation will be considered by congress this winter to provide federal interstate regulation and regulation of holding companies, but the power commission ignores this.

It takes occasion to praise the power industry, and to express its keen interest in the welfare of the power company investor.

The report's ineptitudes and indifference raise the serious question as to whether further responsibility should be placed in its hands. Of the need for a competent body to guide federal policy toward power utilities there can be no doubt. The Hoover commission has not yet demonstrated that it fills this requirement.

Mississippi Slavery

Reports of American Federation of Labor investigators describing conditions "of slavery in its most hideous form" in the Vicksburg area of the government's Mississippi levee project call for a sweeping probe into the manner in which federal contractors are doing public work.

This disgusting report includes charges of beating and slugging of Negro workers, forced work of from twelve to eighteen hours a day, wages running from 75 cents to \$2, and "intolerable" camp conditions.

Unfortunately this scandal is not the first involving government contractors. It follows vigorous protests over wage and housing conditions imposed by the six companies, builders of the great Hoover dam, and a resolution by the A. F. of L. convention citing the "pressing need for speedy action to improve" these conditions.

Since the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage act went into effect last April more than 100 complaints have come into the United States labor department as to wage-cutting on federal buildings—from Tacoma to Key West, Oklahoma to Virginia, and even in the nation's capital.

According to Representative Bacon of New York and President M. J. McDonough of the A. F. of L.'s building trades department, the chief violators are wage-cutting southerners and also a species known as "contracting brokers."

These latter, hiding under an unfortunate ruling by the comptroller-general that any bidder with a large enough certified check is "responsible," often underbid decent contractors and then farm the contract out to irresponsible subcontractors.

Three things, it appears, should be done. One is to redefine the word "responsible" in the law and regulations, so as to eliminate the parasitic brokers.

Another is to widen the scope of the Davis-Bacon act to include all government work, rather than limiting it to federal buildings as at present.

The third is to give the Davis-Bacon act teeth, by providing a penalty for under-cutting the prevailing wage.

American public opinion will not tolerate slavery on government work, nor endure a public works relief program that, under guise of helping labor, degrades its living standards.

Now that the navy squabble is back in the headlines again it's plain that Hoover and the Navy League are still at sea.

A Philadelphia youth was sentenced to two years for yelling something belittling at Grandi. He might have failed, but for the next two years he'll succeed in making little ones out of big ones.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

EVERY now and then somebody pops up and begins harping about the "Good Old Days." One of the favorite contentions of this group is that everybody from grandpa to the baby went joyfully to church on Sunday.

It follows accordingly that everybody was good and pious, and that all the children minded their papas and mammas.

Nothing is more remote from the truth than this pleasant fantasy. People went regularly to church years ago because there was nowhere else to go. In many small communities where the blue laws are enforced rigidly today, the congregations worship for exactly the same reason.

I am not saying that these meetings were not delightful experiences for grandpa and grandma. But I do assert that a good many individuals hated the duty cordially.

You can't make me believe that children ever sat contentedly through long platitudinous sermons with hell fire and damnation flaunted in their faces. Anybody who, as an infant, ever endured such harangues and is honest about it will testify to the contrary.

The faithful church attendant today deserves a great deal more credit than his ancestors ever did. For the latter had no automobiles, no glittering movie shows, no radios, or other diversions to lure him away.

Men and women attend church now because they want to, and not because they must, which is a higher form of religion.

It is our happy faculty to forget the unpleasant things of life and to fasten our memories upon the glad and merry ones. We view our childhood through a rosy haze and recall our intentions instead of our deeds.

Thus most of us believe we were very good little boys and girls and tell our children so. They listen with incredulity and well they may, because we probably were no better behaved than they are.

It's time we ceased looking regretfully into the past. We are as good as our grandparents, about twice as intelligent, and have at least a hundred more opportunities for happiness. What's more, I think we're just as likely to land in heaven.

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

It Is Feared That Many of Our Charity Efforts Are Succumbing to the Plan Where the Promoter Gets 50 Per Cent and Expenses Take the Other 50.

NEW YORK, Dec. 2.—Radio announcers appear to be having a tough time of it with football this year. One was banned from the Harvard stadium not long ago for calling a play "putrid." Now Lowell Thomas is being taken to task for reading part of an editorial which criticized the Boston College-Holy Cross game.

That game was played in the Harvard stadium on Thanksgiving day. It was supposed to help the unemployed, but resulted in a deficit. Whether Bostonians understood it before hand, they know now that the game was played provided money for unemployment relief only after \$2,000 tickets had been sold.

Such an agreement was quite all right, but it hardly warranted all the advertising for "charity's sweet sake."

'Charity' Must Pay

IN this connection, Uncle Sam has decided that "charity" prize fights in New York must pay the federal tax.

It sounds kind of narrow, until one remembers that they always have been subject to the state tax and that, as a usual proposition, a large percentage of gate receipts goes to the fighters, promoters, managers, and others directly concerned.

In issuing his order against future exemptions, David Burnett, commissioner of internal revenue, sharply scolds this practice. Because of it, he points out, the specific charity supposed to be benefited "nearly always gets less than the amount of the tax the government would have received had the exemption not been allowed."

Dimes From Dollars

IT is to be feared that many of our charitable efforts are succumbing to the good old-fashioned bazaar plan in which the promoter got 50 per cent, while expenses accounted for the other 50.

Direct giving for a direct purpose not only would save a lot of trouble, but produce more money. Somehow that idea seems to have gone out of style, except where bankers and business men take charge.

The newer and commoner theory is to get a little for charity by getting much for something else. So we endeavor to collect dimes for meat and drink by charging for bridge, football or prize fighting.

Aha! The Reason

PRIZE fighting reminds you of boxing and boxing reminds you of the newly appointed senator from New Jersey, who was amateur champion of this country some twenty years ago.

He is Warren W. Barbour, and he makes linen thread by the million miles for a living. Besides being an ex-champion, he is an ex-mayor, but what endears him to certain Republicans is his steady belief in the protective tariff and his handsome campaign contribution.

In 1928, he helped raise a fund of \$40,000 and last fall donated \$5,000 to the state Republican campaign fund.

Should Be Interesting

SENATOR BARBOUR should make a valuable accession to the old guard, not that it matters much, since a Democratic-Progressive coalition seems destined to run things in the senate, while the Democrats can run things alone in the house.

All things considered, this ought to be an interesting session of congress, not only because of the call for drastic revision of some of our laws and policies and the nearness of a presidential election, but because neither party is in control.

President Hoover should be in a good position to put through non-partisan, constructive legislation, and, heaven knows, we need it.

Questions and Answers

What is the best way to clean hair brushes?

Put a dash of household ammonia in warm water and dip the brush in it several times, with the back up. Do not rinse. This stiffens the bristles. Wipe the back with a soft cloth and lay the brush on its back to dry. Silver backed brushes must not be put in water. Rub the bristles well in flour until they are clean; then use soft paper to remove the flour. Polish the back with silver polish.

Was the United States coast guard ever attached to the United States navy?

It has always been under the supervision of the treasury department. In time of war, however, it is attached to the navy.

Do stones ever grow?

Real stones are what is known as dead matter and belong to the kingdom of inanimate things. Some of the elements found in stones are also contained in living things, but stones are not alive and therefore can not grow.

Is there any difference between a sanitarium and a sanatorium?

Sanatorium is a locality conducive to restoration or preservation of health, especially when used as a resort of invalids. Sanitarium is the same, except that sometimes it is restricted to a place where conditions are prophylactic instead of using therapeutic agencies.

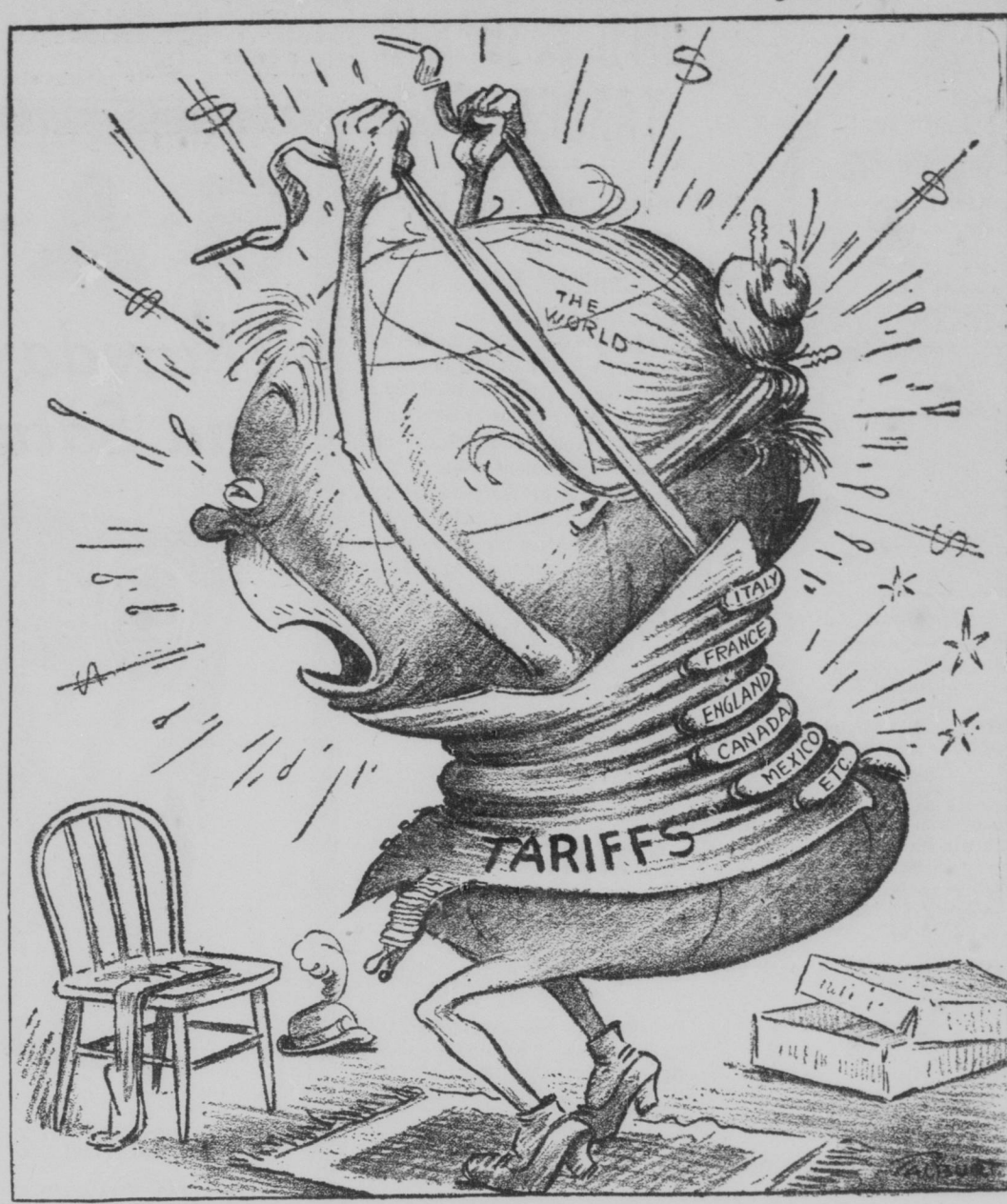
Are persons who die on board ship buried at sea?

Sometimes it is necessary to bury them at sea because of facilities for keeping bodies are lacking. Whenever possible, however, the captain brings the body to port if members of the family of deceased person do not instruct him otherwise.

How many states have representatives in the United States house of representatives who are elected at large in the state?

Illinois is the only state that elects at-large. It has two.

And to Think We Set the Styles!



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Serum Proves Check to Meningitis

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

ONCE one of the most feared of all infectious diseases, meningitis today is susceptible to medical control because of the discovery of anti-meningitis serum.

The condition occurs all over the world. From time to time there are epidemics beginning with extremely serious cases which frequently die before much can be done, and gradually lessening in their virulence.

It has not been established whether this type of meningitis is due to the introduction of a new form of the organism in the community or due to the fact that the organism already present, for some unexplained reason, takes on unusual virulence.

It is also quite possible that a new generation of mankind brings into the situation a soil easily infected, or what is called a susceptible host.

Trained bacteriologists have not been able to show that the organism which occurred in the epidemics in the far west, in Indianapolis, in Chicago and in Detroit, in 1930 were due to a new strain coming from Japan or developed from some other source.

The conditions that seem to underlie these outbreaks, according to Dr. Augustus Wadsworth, are those that favor epidemics of respiratory diseases in general; namely, indoor life, crowding, inadequate ventilation and the exceptionally bad weather that occurs in the late winter months.

There is evidence to indicate that one of the most important factors in spreading meningitis is the carrier who has the germs of the disease in the throat and who, while himself uninfected, may spread the disease.

The value of the specific serum against meningitis, as in all infectious diseases, depends on early and adequate treatment. In the very severe cases considerable damage sometimes to the point of death, has been done before the serum can be applied.

Because the infection concerns primarily the coverings of the spinal cord and the brain, direct injection into the spine or into the brain is of exceptional value and may be aided by direct injection of the serum into the blood.

Ideals and opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and are presented without regard to their agreement or disagreement with the editorial attitude of this paper.—The Editor.

IT SEEMS TO ME BY HEYWOOD BROWN

SOME of the California papers take the attitude that it is "impertinent for an outsider to meddle in the Mooney case." These editors would have us believe that the problem constitutes purely a local issue. Of course, any such claim ready is subject to effective rebuttal. The facts point in quite another direction.

It may be remembered that many Americans were unfamiliar with the name of the prisoner or the nature of the case until it was called to their attention by a protest meeting held in Russia around the American embassy. Woodrow Wilson thought it a national issue, and it was through his mediation that the death penalty was averted.

Since that time the Mooney case has attracted interest all over the world. Very probably the average German and Frenchman is just as familiar with the facts as the news reader in San Francisco or New York City.

Under this system of jurisprudence hardly one of us could escape jail. We have in various parts of America numberless crimes which never have been solved. It is necessary that some scapegoat be found for every case.

For instance, I might be hard put to it to prove beyond the shadow of any doubt that I did not kidnap Charles Ross or murder Vivian Gordon. My alibi could be quite imperfect. Indeed, it is not fantastic to suggest that many American communities are satisfied as soon as somebody has been put in prison, whether he is the right man or not.

Southern lynchings rest wholly on this strange theory. Honor appeared as soon as some Negro has been killed. It is not surprising that a checkup reveals the fact that several persons of undoubted innocence and many whose guilt was highly questionable have gone down under the hands of the mob.

This is true. Billings and Mooney were fighters in a labor war in which both sides had recourse to violence. But I never have believed in approximate justice. As a matter of fact I do not think that the same case falls nicely under that head. For there were no punish-

ments visited upon organized wealth as a sequel to California's civil war. Both sides sinned, but only one side received jail sentences.

I hardly think anybody would contend that in a new trial before an impartial jury it would be possible to convict either Mooney or Billings. The chief witnesses discredited. They have confessed to perjury, and as things now stand the trial judge and ten of the living jurors seem convinced that they were mistaken.

Shifting the Burden
BUT the official attitude of California appears to rest upon the argument that Mooney and Billings must shoulder the responsibility of proving their innocence. The reasonable doubt rests not with the defendants, but with the prosecution.

"If they didn't do it, who did?" is a familiar saying among the dwellers along the Pacific coast. But under this system of jurisprudence hardly one of us could escape jail. We have in various parts of America numberless crimes which never have been solved. It is necessary that some scapegoat be found for every case.

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SCIENCE

BY DAVID DIETZ

Electricity Uses 5,000 Alloys, but Cries for More to Meet Constantly Changing Demands.

THE complexity of modern industry and its demands can be realized from the fact that industry continually is crying for new alloys.

At the present time more than 5,000 alloys, as mixtures of metals are known, are in use in industry. If the layman is surprised that 5,000 alloys are not enough, he will be more surprised still when told that variations in these 5,000 alloys are now possible which have the result of really putting tens of thousands of kinds of materials at the service of industry.

"An alloy may be so manufactured and treated as to yield a large number of properties," says Dr. Zay Jeffries, consulting metallurgist of the General Electric Company and the Aluminum Company of America.

"Suppose we consider a steel with 2 per cent carbon as an example. It may be melted and poured into a mold and result in a steel casting. The steel casting may be used as cast or it may have its properties changed in a number of ways by heat treatment.

"Or the steel may be rolled hot and used for the structural members of buildings or bridges, or for pipe. It may be rolled cold and used for machinery parts, such as shafting. It may also be drawn into wire.

"Any of these operations is capable of changing certain physical properties throughout a considerable range without changing the chemical composition—that is, without changing the alloy. So it is to a greater or lesser degree with each of the 5,000 different alloys. Instead of 5,000 different sets of properties, therefore, we have tens of thousands."

Variety of Needs

IT is this richness of physical properties of metals and alloys which makes possible our modern industrial civilization, Dr. Jeffries says.

"We need the low melting point of mercury or quicksilver, which is 40 degrees below zero, for thermometers, gages, etc., and the high melting points of tungsten for lamp filaments," he says.

"We need the softness of lead for foil and the hardness of steel for cutting tools. We need the magnetism of iron and of its alloys, and we need other metallic products which are nonmagnetic. We need aluminum and magnesium in part because they are so light in weight.

"We need copper because it is such a fine conductor of electricity. We need certain alloys because they are poor conductors of electricity. We need gold, platinum, nickel and so-called 'noble' alloys because they are so resistant to attack by air, water and chemicals.

"We need tin because it makes good bearing alloys. We need zinc in part for galvanizing iron. And so we could go on indefinitely, reciting the outstanding characteristics of the various metals and alloys.

"In addition to great variation in the main requirements of alloys, the engineer desires different combinations of properties for different uses. These requirements conspire to promote the use of so many alloy compositions and treatments."

Search Is Fascinating
SCIENTISTS and research engineers are now searching for new alloys by the scientific study of metals. High-powered microscopes and the X-ray are enabling scientists to find out what is going on within metals.

"The scientific study of metals and alloys is most fascinating," Dr. Jeffries says. "To the metallurgist who examines metals with high-powered microscopes and even determines the very positions of the atoms by X-ray analysis, the interior of a metal becomes an active microscopic world, exhibiting wonders comparable to those which we see about us.

"A piece of steel containing 9 per cent carbon is magnetic at room temperature. When heated above a red heat, say 1,350 degrees Fahrenheit, it becomes nonmagnetic. The carbon which normally is in the form of a very hard compound with iron at room temperature is dissolved completely in the iron at the higher temperature, much like salt dissolves in water, except the iron is still solid, not liquid.

"The iron atoms are arranged in one form of crystal pattern at room temperature and another at the higher temperature. "If the red-hot steel is cooled slowly it changes crystal structure again, at about 1,250 degrees Fahrenheit, becomes magnetic, and the carbon recombines with enough iron to form the hard iron carbide in particles so large that they can be seen under a microscope at a magnification of 100 diameters."

Daily Thought
Use hospitality one to another without grudging.—1 Peter 4:9.

It is not the quantity of the meat, but the cheerfulness of the guests which makes the feast.—Clarendon.

People's Voice