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

Help for Indiana

Sending Red Cross aid to the mine districts of Indiana, not to relieve suffering that comes from those expected explosions and disasters, but from unemployment should jar those who pride about doles and their infamies, but do nothing to get jobs for men.

Governor Leslie's unemployment committee had told the nation that Indiana is taking care of its own problems and would need no outside aid.

That pledge was expected, it is apparently Hoover politics to demand just such statements and to manufacture them when needed. That was disclosed by The Times a week ago when the head of the state unemployment committee confidentially asked for mutual concession, are in the right direction.

But, obviously, such international conference recommendation to the President is no more than an ineffective gesture so long as Hoover is in the White House. And, by taking on the reservation barring all foreign debt discussion from such international conference, the Democratic proposal defeats itself.

Repeated failure of separate conferences on debts, tariffs and disarmament during the last decade has demonstrated rather thoroughly that a successful settlement depends on handling these interdependent problems together.

In this demagogic attitude toward foreign debts, and in their evasion of the tariff cut issue, the old line Democratic leaders may think they are playing clever politics in a presidential election year. We doubt it.

There is no reason to believe that a policy of straddle will help the Democratic party any more than it has helped the Republican party.

Murderous Cities

Professor Kenneth E. Barnhart of Birmingham Southern college has conducted a survey of thirty-one American cities that reveals the United States as the world's most "murderous country."

The homicide rate in 1929 in all these cities was nineteen times that of England and Wales.

Strangely, it is not the metropolitan centers that lead the list. Of the fifteen "most murderous" cities, all but two are in the south, a fact explained by Professor Barnhart as due to the gun-toting habits of southerners and the race problem.

There is before congress a measure providing for the stabilization of employment. It was introduced by Senator Edward P. Costigan of Colorado, asking for one hundred and twenty-five millions of dollars for relief in just such cases as those of the Indiana miners.

You might write to the Indiana congressmen and to Senators Watson and Robinson calling their attention to these measures and demanding their quick enactment.

The time has come to do something when the Red Cross nurses start their hunger marches into Indiana.

Speaking of Frills

It is common for critics of the public schools to demand a return of the "three R's," but it can not and will not be done.

"Readin', ritin' n' rithmetick" sufficed for pioneer days, but they will not suffice for modern society.

Art, music, civics, hygiene, and calisthenics are not "frills." They are as basic a part of modern education as the "three R's."

We can no more go back to the simplicity of the little red schoolhouse than we can go back to the horse and buggy and the tallow candle.

When it comes to the point, parents will not be willing that their children shall not be taught the things which enable them to appreciate the good things of twentieth century civilization.

Nor would it be economic to do so. Our business prosperity is dependent on people learning to enjoy the good things of life, for only if they are enjoyed can the luxury industries, which employ so many of our working men, do business.

Many children now in school will find employment and their life work in luxury industries, or they will not find employment at all, for luxury industries form an ever-growing part of the total. If they are denied art and musical education in the public schools, their opportunity to earn a good living would be taken from them.

The recent breakdown was not due to too much consumption of luxuries, but rather to under-consumption of the vast quantities of luxuries being produced. We can not go backward; we must go ahead with faith and courage.

Nevertheless, school budgets must be balanced. But this purpose can be accomplished, not by attempting to turn the course of education backward, but by finding ways to accomplish modern aims more economically.

The Democrats Straddle

After all the Democratic verbal protests against the Hoover high tariff for destroying our foreign trade and prolonging depression, the party leaders in congress have introduced a tariff bill straddling the issue.

Since Candidate Al Smith in his 1928 campaign speech at Omaha bid for high tariff support, and Democratic votes in 1930 helped pass the administration's billion-dollar monstrosity, nothing much in the way of lower tariff action has been expected from the old Democratic management.

It was hoped, however, that the low tariff minority of the party—led by Representative Lewis of Maryland and the new senators, Hull of Tennessee and Costigan of Colorado—might grow into a majority under the stimulus of the most disastrous depression in American history.

The new bill sponsored by Speaker Garner and Senate Leader Robinson does not provide for lower rates, or indeed for any rate changes. It remains to be seen whether the Lewis-Hull-Costigan group, in co-operation with the Republican progressives, can force a reduction—say, to the already high rates existing before the Fordney-McCumber act of 1922.

There is something to be said for the argument against a sudden and complete shift from an extremely high to an extremely low tariff. But there can be no reasonable argument against a return at this time from the 40 per cent average rate to the 34 per cent rate which the Republican arch-protectionists themselves considered high enough when they passed the Fordney-McCumber act of 1922.

While criticising their evasion of earlier pledges to lower excessive rates, much credit is due the Democratic leaders for incorporating in their new bill the proposed Norris-Simmons amendment, passed by the progressive-Democratic coalition in the senate in 1930, but defeated by the Republican house.

That proposal would strengthen the independence and nonpartisan nature of the tariff commission, free it from presidential domination, and restore a consti-

tutional power to congress, by giving congress instead of the President power to act upon the commission's rate change recommendations.

By providing that only one rate could be considered by congress at a time, the old root evils of log-rolling and periodic general tariff revisions would be eliminated as completely as possible. This would be a basic reform.

The remaining Democratic proposals for a consumer's counsel to represent the public interest before the tariff commission, for an international economic conference, and for reciprocal trade agreements with mutual concession, are in the right direction.

But, obviously, such international conference recommendation to the President is no more than an ineffective gesture so long as Hoover is in the White House. And, by taking on the reservation barring all foreign debt discussion from such international conference, the Democratic proposal defeats itself.

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"Even the people are so afraid of themselves that they place their most intimate social affairs under control of laws which they then resent and their personal morals into keeping of the police.

Human experience demonstrates that those subjects to fear may not know freedom, for fear is the father of repression, and repression the breeding ground of lawlessness and crime."

Colombia bull fight fans were disappointed in an American bull fighter's performance because the bull was lazy. Hereafter the American will realize that if the public must have bull, it must be interesting.

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