



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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

Are People Helpless?

Are the people really helpless when they face injustice from the public utilities?

Apparently, the present machinery for regulation is not operated at a speed that will give relief when relief is needed.

Some weeks ago the city government and the South Side Civic Clubs asked the public service commission for reduction in rates on water and electricity.

There seemed to be no question as to either the necessity or the justice of such a request.

The water company has taken enormous dividends on the Geist investment in common stock on the theory that it would cost many more millions to reproduce the plant than Geist paid for it.

So far the record shows no claim on the part of Geist that he is collecting on invested funds. He is collecting on war prices for labor and commodities and a writeup in the value of the canal which was originally constructed by the people.

As far as the electric interests are concerned, their own reports show vast profits made for its holding company through coal purchases, engineering fees and other tricks of high finance which take its operation out of the realm of a fair and square deal for the people who furnish the streets and also the money.

One member of the public service commission suggested that the matter might be settled by compromise. It was his thought that the utilities be satisfied. No such spirit has been shown. The water baron sends his army of lawyers to the hearing with the arrogant statement that he is entitled to levy still greater tribute on his Indianapolis serfdom. The electric interests, weasel in words and unctuous in manner, show no inclination to stop any egg-sucking habits.

There the matter stands. The public service commission shows no interest in speeding up the legal processes. The threat is made that a hearing is too costly to be had at this time.

That means that regulation of utilities has become a farce and that the net result is protection for the utilities in their greed and none for the people.

It is time to start now planning tickets for the next legislature of men and women who are out from the influence of these interests and who will pass laws with teeth in them.

Indiana must be freed from these extortions.

Salvage the Treaties

Secretary of State Stimson has repeated that the United States will not recognize any Manchurian settlement resulting from violation of American rights and treaties, but he fails to say whether those rights and treaties have been violated. Thus Stimson's identic notes to China and Japan fall far short of the mark.

For all his belated talk about American rights and responsibilities, about Chinese political and administrative integrity, and about the Kellogg pact, he still had done and that it did not invoke either the nine-power or Kellogg treaty. They pointed out, accurately, that it merely reserved American freedom of judgment and action in the future.

To the average citizen, all this may seem like a quibble over technicalities. Unfortunately, however, it is precisely these same technical subterfuges by the United States government since Sept. 18 that have given the Japanese militarists a free hand.

On reading the Stimson note, Japanese officials declared that it did not protest against what Japan had done and that it did not invoke either the nine-power or Kellogg treaty. They pointed out, accurately, that it merely reserved American freedom of judgment and action in the future.

Today the world crisis is too serious to trust to seven years of Japanese occupation and aggression in China. Every one knows that if the peace treaties fail in Manchuria the danger of European war will be nearer.

With his round-about and secret diplomacy Stimson is evading the specific nine-power treaty obligation for him to confer and act jointly with the other treaty signatories against Japan as a violator. By refusing to use that treaty machinery, he is encouraging the destruction of that and other peace machinery upon which the hope of the world depends.

Instead of holding secret conferences with British and French envoys—in the medieval spirit of a few strong powers ready to impose their will upon another power—it is the pledged duty of the United States government to act under the treaty and openly and jointly with the other signatories in the name of the treaty.

As the record stands today, the United States is open to the charge which is made abroad that it does not formally invoke the treaties now for fear these same treaties may some day be invoked against American imperialism.

If the administration continues its unexplained refusal to declare Japan a treaty violator, and to call the nine-power treaty signatories together for joint action, the only remaining course will be for the United States independently to break diplomatic relations with Japan as evidence of American loyalty to American treaties.

Great Silences

Governor Ritchie's frankness about his presidential ambitions is as unusual as it is admirable.

"Of course I would like to be President; who would not?" he told his admirers at the Jackson day banquet in Baltimore Thursday night.

Realizing the appealing nature of his own frankness, the Governor went a step farther and chided President Hoover for the "great silences" which characterized the recent presidential message to congress.

It may come as a complete surprise to Ritchie that many readers of his candidate speech will find in it "great silences" and many other sections which might have been taken bodily from the Hoover speeches of which the Governor is so critical.

Ritchie's chief text is the glory of American individualism and the evil of government in business, a theme made familiar by a long list of Republican Presidents, including Hoover.

Specifically, he apparently joins Hoover in opposing federal aid for local relief agencies unable to cope with the national unemployment problem. At

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

Kentucky's Coal Fields Represent a Clover Patch for Doctrinaires, Especially if They Can Back Up Their Promises With a Bowl of Soup.

MIDDLESBORO, Ky., Jan. 8.—From a strictly industrial standpoint there is no well-defined issue back of the trouble which has afflicted the Harlan coal mining district since last spring.

With wages down, thousands of miners idle and only part-time work for the rest; with coal selling at a lower price than it has for many years, and with poor prospects for selling it at that; with not a coal company paying dividends, and most of them barely able to meet operating expenses, the usual cleavage between capital and labor has been eliminated.

No general lockout has been ordered, and no general strike has been called until one week ago, but there has been a multitude of irritating incidents.

Miners have been evicted from company-owned houses in the Harlan region for joining the union, various attempts have been made to organize them on one basis or another. sporadic strikes have occurred and more have been threatened. The number of mine guards and special deputy sheriffs has been increased, and relief measures have proved inadequate.

** * * * Attempt 'Self-Help'

SPEAKING of relief measures, it is not true that the home folks have been so negligent as some of the stories coming out of this district would indicate. In Middlesboro, for instance, a fund of \$19,000 has been raised to provide part-time work for the unemployed this winter, while Pineville has raised a fund of \$6,000 and Harlan county is undertaking to raise one of \$10,000, half of which already has been subscribed.

These funds are being administered by central relief committees which are not dominated by coal operators, and members of which have told me would not discriminate between union and non-union miners.

In addition to the funds already subscribed, local chapters of the Red Cross are at work collecting food and clothing, and an appeal has been made to chapters in other sections of Kentucky which already have resulted in the promise of substantial contributions.

Even with this amount of help in prospect, the winter promises to be hard for thousands of people, including small tradesmen as well as miners, and quite a few small coal operators.

** * * * Mines Hard Hit

MANY of the small operators either have gone broke or been forced out of business. Of twenty-seven mines running in the Middlesboro area three years ago, only nine remain in operation. Of sixty-nine operating in Harlan county six years ago, forty-seven are now open.

Three years ago, 1,785 miners were at work in the Middlesboro district. Today, there are only 1,130. Harlan county was giving fairly steady work to 13,000 miners. Right now it is giving part time work to less than 9,000.

Carloadings for the entire district, as reported by the L. & N. railroad, dropped from a daily average of 1,274 in October, 1928, to one of 564 for last December.

** * * * Radicals Flourish

WHILE it is impossible to say precisely just how many miners are out of work in Bell and Harlan counties, the number would seem to be somewhere between 5,000 and 7,000, which means that at least 20,000 people, or one-fifth the population, are without regular means of support.

Worse still, there is not a miner with full time work in prospect throughout the entire field. Obviously, such a situation could not be corrected by controversies between capital and labor, and, as far as I can find out, neither the miners nor the mine owners think it could.

But it represents a clover-patch for doctrinaires whose remedies run all the way from a new kind of union to a new kind of government, especially if they can back up their promises and predictions with a bowl of hot soup.

** * * * Strikes Are Futile

MUCH of the recent organizing while this column does not advocate the pro-miscuous beating of women, it does feel that the enraged citizen who pommel a lady friend when she tried to blackmail him by filing a \$5,000 breach of promise suit was justified in his behavior.

The love racket is growing altogether too raw these days. Everything a man does can be twisted by an attorney into claims for cash, and we all know these weak-minded gentlemen of the jury seldom can withstand feminine tears.

Thus the dame who allows her gangster instincts to run away with her has an excellent chance to clean up.

But if we are going to endure these ridiculous breach of promise suits, if the shyster lawyers are allowed to trump up such business, and our dignified judges are willing to sit through days to hear them out, then certainly the thing should work both ways.

It should be possible for a man who is out of cash temporarily to sue a rich woman who has made ten-year promises to his pleadings. Love letters from the lady might also make rich and humorous reading in the courtroom.

** * * * People's Voice

Editor Times—Our Governor insists that the relief agencies are entirely adequate to take care of situation in Indiana.

I am an ex-service man, 37 years old in good health and always have endeavored to provide for my family honestly.

I am now unable to secure work of any nature and have humbly begged these relief agencies for assistance, which doesn't seem to be forthcoming.

I am now faced with eviction and the loss of the home that we have tried so hard to make.

Must I stand idly by and see my wife and children put out in the street?

I don't want charitable relief. I want an opportunity to work.

Cases like mine, and even worse, are plentiful. What are we to do?

DISCOURAGED.

Rubber Stamp



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Child May Have Blood Pressure Ills

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the *Health Magazine*.

WHEREAS the average adult is

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