



The Indianapolis Times

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

The Third Party Threat
Politicians insist upon calling the presence of a third party in the next election in Indiana a threat. To them it means that a large vote might disturb their calculations as to the number of those who would vote straight tickets.

Third parties become threats in exact proportion to their appeal to independent voters and a lack of appeal to the independent voter by the regular political platforms.

At the present time, one Indiana insurgent is promising relief from the high utility rates and the control of the public service commission by the utilities.

That, so believe the politicians, might attract a large enough number of votes to defeat one or the other of the old parties.

Of course, the obvious way of avoiding such a disaster would be to find a candidate for the regular parties who would promise the same thing.

This particular "threat" also declares against prohibition and the Indiana dry law.

That contrast to the usual regular stand of contributing to the Anti-Saloon League with one hand and distributing sympathetic words to wets with the other might prove serious.

Just why any candidate for Governor, senator or congressman should avoid taking a positive stand on these two important matters can not be explained to the voters.

There are other grave questions this year which must be answered by candidates for office if they do not desire to see the third party threat become a real menace to their hopes.

The matter of unemployment is one of these. The attitude toward federal aid will be important. Men who have been out of jobs for months are quite likely to forget their usual political traditions if some one offers them hope. They will see no threat in third parties if they approach the polls and discover both the old parties avoiding these major proposals for social justice.

The best way to prevent third party growth is to get in line with public thought and public demands on party platforms.

The sure way to invite them is to pussyfoot on utilities, dodge on prohibition and duck on unemployment.

Aiding the Needy

This city owes a debt of real gratitude to those city officials who have carried on a very extensive work of relieving distress in these distressing times.

Today and every day, literally thousands who would otherwise be hungry receive food from the commissioners that are supported, for the most part, by a fixed percentage of wages and salaries of all public employees. The food is prepared with little cost. It is wholesome. It is, more importantly, very much needed.

Now there is need of clothing and much has been donated. More can be used. The recipients of this clothing are not troubled with having to choose which suit of clothes, which overcoat, which pair of shoes, which dress will be worn today. They need any suit, dress or pair of shoes.

If you have two suits, this is the time to share. You can get in touch with this movement by calling the office of Chief of Police Morrissey.

This service corresponds to the first aid hospitals of war. That means help without delay.

Over the Week-End

This week-end has ushered in a series of political and economic events, national and international, which will have far-reaching results in the coming months.

These include: The Smith-Dawes upset of Roosevelt and Hoover election plans; prospective enactment of the economic rehabilitation bill, of wheat relief to the unemployed, of tariff bill abolishing presidential powers over flexible rate changes, and bill to abolish lame duck sessions of congress; publication of the secret Wickersham report on the unfair Mooney trial and renewal of the drive for release of the victim from prison; transfer of young Theodore Roosevelt from Porto Rico to be governor-general of the Philippines, coincident with independence demands from the islands and from American farm organizations; Germany's virtual repudiation of reparations and France's interpretation of this as attempted destruction of the Versailles treaty; rumors that Great Britain and France will repudiate American war debts; Japan's apparent decision to continue her aggression against China in defiance of the American note, and the British and French decision not to support the United States with similar notes to Japan.

Although many of these week-end events are without definite connection, some are related. In general, they reflect the drift toward a crisis in international affairs and a counter American reaction toward increasing isolationist sentiment and concentration on domestic troubles and politics.

Dawes' denial that his resignation as a diplomat opens the door for him as a candidate to challenge the renomination of Hoover has not convinced the politicians. They discounted his denial in advance. In private conversation, virtually all of them say Dawes is a potential candidate against Hoover.

We can not understand why he chose to embarrass the President by this resignation at this particular moment. Why did he not follow the customary course of permitting the President to announce the resignation, rather than spring it as an apparent surprise on the White House and state department?

If this is not a sudden decision to cut loose from his political commitments to Hoover, why did he accept the appointment as chairman of the American arms delegation to Geneva just a few weeks ago, and why does he now jeopardize the success of the American delegation to the Geneva conference by such an announcement?

Whatever Dawes' intentions, the fact remains that he was the chief presidential candidate of certain New York banking interests four years ago and that this winter his name has been used in efforts to blurt Hoover into withdrawing, on threat of withholding campaign contributions.

It is also a fact that Republican politicians, almost without exception, think that Hoover can not win, and have discussed ways to break the renomination tradition.

For our part, we do not know that Dawes would make a better President than Hoover; indeed, we doubt it. But we would like to see broken the vicious political tradition that renomination must be accorded the President automatically and regardless of his record.

That tradition is a violation of representative government. The presidential nomination is too big a thing to go to any man by default.

All the speeches at the Washington Jackson dinner, opening the Democratic campaign, reflected the swing of public interest from foreign to domestic affairs. The criticism of the Republican record was

almost exclusively on domestic grounds. And the appeal for reform was pointed chiefly at domestic issues.

Al Smith's unexpected subordination of prohibition to unemployment relief, as the supreme issue of the moment, undoubtedly has increased his already great influence with the Democratic rank and file.

It has put him in a better position to fight for the presidential nomination for himself, or for some one of his choosing to stop Roosevelt. By taking the liberal side of the federal relief dispute, which is dividing both parties, Smith has put the administration in a worse hole and started a fire which may smoke out Roosevelt and other candidates on this issue.

The statement by Chancellor Bruening that Germany will be unable to continue reparation payments leads toward the final step of repudiation, foreshadowed by the impossible economic terms of the vindictive treaty of Versailles.

The attempt to make Germany pay for the costs of the war has failed, as economists have long predicted that it must fail.

Bruening only is saying in a blunt way what the recent Basle conference of official experts stated in academic terms. All the French protests are to change the fact that Germany has been able to pay out only what she has borrowed from abroad, and can pay no longer, because her borrowing power is exhausted.

Such an obvious economic truth, however, can not be swallowed easily by some French and British politicians and their propaganda-fed supporters. Some of these will misuse this as new evidence of German villainy and a new excuse for refusing to limit armaments.

If there was any chance of a successful disarmament conference or an intelligent reparations debt settlement, that chance now is almost gone.

In the circumstances, there is danger that this will produce a chauvinistic reaction in the United States of the type recently voiced by Senator Johnson, and that this growth of extreme American nationalism will be carried into the coming presidential campaign.

Here is a danger to be fought—along with the depression. Future American peace and prosperity will depend in large part upon having a government capable of intelligent international co-operation.

Fewer Babies

The United States overproduces on most things, is restricting its most important industry—babies.

According to the United States department of education, there are today 128,840 fewer babies under 5 in the 1930 census than there were a decade ago. Whereas in 1920 we had 11,573,230 babies under 5, now we have only 11,444,390.

In the last forty years the American family has lost one member. In 1890 the average American family had three youngsters.

Scientists are worried. They see America losing its youthful dynamic spirit, becoming a race of oldsters. What with shutting out new blood through immigration restriction on the one hand, and birth control and conquest of old age diseases on the other, we are becoming "old" and stable.

"Movements" have started. A fashionable girls' school in Manhattan has begun a baby-raising course, using live specimens to stimulate mother-love among its freshman girls.

Professor Frederick J. Taussig of St. Louis proposes increasing the \$400 federal income tax exemption for each child. Soon we may expect another Rooseveltian campaign for bigger American families.

But why worry? When we have created a system that will make families secure, jobs steady and remunerative, and childhood universally happy, we will begin having more children.

The first task is to care for the babies we have. In that we have a long way to go.

Experts say we must either adjust or revise our war debts. Probably meaning we've got to fix it up some way so we know we aren't going to get our money.

A Yale professor says even microscopic germs have fleas. Now all the scientists have to do is find some way to increase the fleas to keep the germs so busy scratching them off that the germs will not have time to attack humans.

The Japanese government learned that several Japanese warships had left mysteriously for Manchurian waters. One of these days the Japanese government is going to find out a lot of its generals are doing something or other over there.

It's evident the nation has decided to gird against the depression. Knowing, of course, that a good grille supplies support.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

IN a fantastically conceived tale, "The Coming of the Amazons," Owen Johnson voices disbelief in women's sense of humor.

He hero, resuscitated 250 years in the future, finds the world run by huge females who have forgotten laughter.

This idea, far-fetched as it may be, is worthy some feminine cogitation, because it contains an uncommonly bit of truth.

Only occasionally does one find a woman who has a hearty, full-throated laugh. And what a joy she turns out to be! Most of us smirk, grin, giggle or titter hysterically. But we do not laugh.

This may be due to the fact that for generations we have been taught we must be ladylike at whatever cost, and boisterous laughter has never been considered good form for women.

Shakespeare's "Merry Wives of Windsor," who consort with Falstaff, rend their throats with merriment. But then, they were not all ladies. Juliet, Portia, Ophelia, who were, remained modestly quiet and mirthless.

SO we assiduously have cultivated the lady and driven out the human being within ourselves. Girls have been handicapped hopeless for any true appreciation of wit or humor, and do not know how to surrender themselves to animal spirits, because of their carefully cultivated fear of vulgarity.

Down through the ages our quest for becoming behavior and tea table manners has resulted in a courting of melancholy. Somehow gravity, megrim, doldrums, sadness, despondency and dejection have become synonymous with feminine culture.

Buoyant young tomboys who strived to be the first across the Atlantic ocean?

Thus women have succeeded in making themselves as dull as ditch-water. We have become hypochondriacs, victims of neuroses, wet blankets upon the hearty gaiety of men.

We brood, mope, sulk, pine. Life is a too serious business unlightened by genuine mirth. We have become ladies, but at what a cost!

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

Because Debts and Disarmament Have Been Linked Inseparably Nothing Should Be Expected of the Lausanne Conference.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—Coming so soon after his powwow with Herr Hitler, Chancellor Brueing's statement that Germany can not pay her private debts and reparations at the same time is doubly significant. Evidently, he and the German government have accepted the Nationalist party's viewpoint. There can be little doubt that Germany intends to move for a complete cancellation of reparations.

It is a foregone conclusion that the allies never would agree to this, or anything like it, without first attempting to gain some remission of their debts to the United States.

The stand of congress puts any remission out of the question, unless European countries offer genuine disarmament, and perhaps not even then.

Debts, Arms Linked

THE German move accomplishes nothing so distinctly as to link debt and disarmament. For this reason nothing should be expected of the Lausanne conference which has been called to consider debts.

No matter what may be done at that meeting, the larger and all-important question is bound to go over to the Geneva conference on disarmament, which will meet in February.

That statesmen are preparing for just such an eventuality is indicated by the fact that every government on earth has been invited to attend the Geneva conference, and by recently issued statements that it might last one year.

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