



The Indianapolis Times

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

Utility Burdens

With wages falling, more men out of work, the prices of all other products in the cellar, the utilities of this city maintain their prices and burden the citizen with an inevitable tax that is no longer tolerable.

The petitions of the city and the south side civic clubs for relief in the matter of rates for electricity and water are still in the compromise stage. So far that has meant a threat of the water company to raise its rates and a smirk from the electric company that it can not be caught in its little holding company tricks to take exorbitant profits out of its operations.

The amount of money taken from this city in the most prosperous days was unconscionable. In times when every citizen and every business is looking for relief, that situation can only be described as criminal in its exactness.

The utilities have very successfully evaded any legislation in the past few years which would give the people a chance for even a semblance of justice.

The real barrier to regulation comes through the defeat of measures that would place the holding companies for utilities under public scrutiny.

Through these holding companies the transactions of the companies are hidden and disguised. Even were the members of the public service commission eager to protect the people they would find the task difficult. Lacking eagerness or, apparently even a willingness, to secure justice, the whole system of regulation has become a farce. Rather a fence for the lot of those who understand how to capitalize the necessities of the public.

The tax by the public utilities in this city is a greater burden than the tax by organized government. It is larger in amount and more imperative in payment. Failure to pay taxes can only mean a loss of property after months of delay. Failure to pay utility bills may mean the loss of life itself, for the people must have water and heat and light in order to live.

It is to be hoped that next fall the attention of the public will not be so completely centered on the presidency and governorship as to ignore the necessity of electing legislators who can not be bullied, bribed or flattered by the utilities into the same servility which past legislatures have shown to these interests.

Inviting Disaster

Efforts on the part of those still comfortable to prevent a special session of the legislature can only be construed as an invitation to disaster.

The cold fact stands out that the farmers of this state are in distress in the matter of taxation and that the state will be in distress when the time comes for another tax collection.

Delinquencies in tax collections are forcing the problem to the fore as emphatically as the farmers have presented it in petitions.

Hesitation on the part of politicians about the matter is understandable. They do not wish to take a stand with an election so near at hand. They fear the people may remember in November any delinquencies of their own in February or March.

Quite as distressed as the farmer is the jobless worker in many parts of the state.

The plight of the miner has been brought to the attention of the national government, and as far as he is concerned in Indiana local charity has failed. The Red Cross is promising to care for these citizens of the state who can no longer be dismissed with the curt statement that they have been out of work so long that they have become inured to privation and to poverty.

Any session of the legislature, regular or special, which fails to take some measures to give work to the workless would be useless.

Holmes' Successor

The best tribute that can be paid to Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes is to name as his successor on the supreme court a jurist of the Holmes type.

There are not many men whose names can be linked with that of the great Holmes. The one usually mentioned by eminent lawyers and judges is Chief Judge Benjamin N. Cardozo of the New York court of appeals.

His reputation is international. For seventeen years he has served on the New York high courts. He has the regard of both political parties. Many universities, such as Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Michigan and New York, have given him honorary degrees.

His book, "Nature of the Judicial Process," generally is regarded as having had deeper influence upon the American judiciary than any other work published in the twentieth century.

President Hoover is said to recognize Judge Cardozo's unique qualifications as Holmes' successor. The President is described, however, as hesitant about appointing a third supreme court member from New York state—in addition to Hughes and Stone.

Surely geographical accident should not be allowed to determine such an important decision. There is a precedent for naming a third member from one state—Taft was appointed despite the membership of Clark and Day from Ohio. But precedent is not vital. The object should be to get the best man for the place.

It may be assumed that the President is under political pressure to name a second-rate man to improve Republican prospects in some state, just as Assistant Secretary of the Interior Dixon two years ago urged him to appoint Judge Parker as "a major political stroke."

But it is to be hoped that the seven weeks' fight and revelation of White House intrigue which finally led the senate to reject Hoover's nomination of Parker will discourage any further effort by the President to stack the court with unfit candidates.

"Under our form of government," declared President Roosevelt, "no other body of men occupy a position of such far-reaching importance as the justice of the supreme court."

The supreme court is more powerful than the President and congress; it can and does restrict the power of the President, it can and does unmake the laws of congress and in effect make new laws of its own. Therefore, the most important decision made by a President is his choice of members of the supreme court.

President Hoover should choose from among men whose qualifications are above question—if not Judge Cardozo, then some other man of real caliber and eminence.

Facing the Realities

Within the last few weeks, as our national thought relates to strictly domestic affairs, we have begun to face realities.

We have emerged from the just-around-the-

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

The Financial Record of the Average American City Is Disgraceful. Cheap, Irresponsible Politics Largely Is to Blame.

NEW YORK, Jan. 13.—The controversy now going on between Mayor Walker and the bankers of New York City represents a country-wide difference in viewpoint.

With tax collectors to back them up, politicians appear to have the idea that they can do most anything.

Bankers, on the other hand, have learned how foolish this is from their experience with foreign securities.

There were tax collectors in Brazil, Peru, Bolivia and Germany, but it didn't seem to help much.

Also there were tax collectors in Chicago, but the school teachers of that city have received only six weeks' pay during the last seven months.

But as Europe relates to our predicament, our vision still is blurred with half-truths, catch-phrases and wishes that are substitutes for thoughts.

The foreign realities are these:

Germany has declared she can't pay her reparations. Public sentiment in France and England says: "No reparations, no payment of war debts."

Which is putting up to us, whether we like it or not, the next move.

What will that move be?

Will we go to war and try to collect?

Or will we take a new look at the European situation, in light of the facts prevailing, and join in such adjustment as may seem sensible, trimming to what our debtors can afford to pay, or admitting, if necessary, that you can't get blood out of a turnip?

That choice is what Uncle Sam is up against.

And the sooner he decides, the quicker he will begin to get somewhere out of the maze he is now in.

This nation won't go to war to collect eleven billion dollars. That is unthinkable, in view of our national sentiment for peace.

Therefore, there is just one alternative—joining in a new and open-minded discussion with our debtors.

In that discussion we should find out how much we can collect on the dollar, and we also should see that disarmament is made a condition preliminary to whatever concessions we agree to make.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

The trained military man, when he hears the call of duty, obeys without hesitation and without question.

In this tradition, Oliver Wendell Holmes has resigned from the supreme court, because "the condition of my health makes it a duty to break off connections that I can not leave without deep regret."

The gallant old fighter, who has resisted so long the marauder, old age, says now "the time has come and I bow to the inevitable."

This is the sort of surrender a brave man makes when he must. And before Holmes was a great jurist, he was a distinguished fighting man, and a philosopher. "The universe has in it more than we understand," he said once, ". . . the private soldiers have not been told the plan of the campaign or even that there is one . . . we shall still fight."

He has done that. And now, though the flesh is failing him, the indomitable spirit, whose essential quality always has been the fire of youth, shines as brightly as ever and will shine as long as records of the United States supreme court are preserved for men to read.

F. Holmes was no exponent of a rigid, fixed jurisprudence, but taught the living doctrine of movement, experiment, readiness to test new ideas; and the flame of such a spirit burns on forever.

So while the supreme court is losing one of the greatest judges ever to serve upon it, the wisdom, the tolerance, that this judge has taught us, so quietly and so tellingly through the last fifty-one years, remains deeply engraved in the laws, and in the minds and hearts of Americans, where they will not perish.

Cities in Disgrace

Under ordinary circumstances such a situation could be met by borrowing, but most of our municipalities have exhausted their credit.

Last month, the great city of Philadelphia had to stand, hat in hand, and agree to humiliating terms in order to borrow a measly \$2,000,000.

Chicago, second city in this country, and fifth in the world, can't borrow anything.

The financial record of the average American city is disgraceful.

Unscientific management through a reign of cheap, irresponsible politicians furnishes a large part of the explanation.

Milwaukee's Example

MILWAUKEE stands forth as a shining exception to the general confusion.

Thanks to a Socialist element which forced old-time politicians to forget and forego the usual charter, Milwaukee has been able to approach her fiscal problems in a purposeful way, substituting expert accountants for spellbinders and formulating financial plans instead of political platforms.

It is judges alone against whom lese majeste is a crime. One may revile the President of the United States with impunity, one may utter blasphemy against the Most High without even attracting attention, but if one is bold enough to protest against an abusive tirade by a judge, one may have to expiate it in prison.

This is another of the quaint, old-fashioned ideas still held by legal men.

A Canadian gypsy asked police to find his daughter-in-law, for whom he had paid \$2,500 and who had been kidnapped. Tough break, what with the depression and all.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

THE most joyous message of the new year comes from the psychological squad, which now announces that it is all right for mother to kiss the baby.

I suspect most of us paid slight attention to the opposition at any time, since the chief compensation of having a baby is that it provides you with something deliciously sweet to kiss.

It is interesting and significant to observe how the gentlemen who posed as scientific child raisers have changed their tune in the last few years. Most of them have discovered that their theories are not good, after all. Somehow the children are just about like they have always been.

And when we consider the many and varied schools for infant upbringing, we can't help but feel a little sorry for the kids, who have somehow become children no longer, but mere subjects for experimentation.

Questions and Answers

Who was Secretary of War during the McKinley administration who was blamed for the "embalmed" beef applied to the army?

Russell A. Alger.

When did Washington Irving die?

Nov. 28, 1852.

What was the name of the automobile that was first sold commercially in the United States? When was the first Ford automobile sold?

The first was a Winton, sold April 1, 1898. The first automobile was manufactured by the Ford Motor Company in the early part of July, 1903.

Who is the president of Columbia University, New York?

Nicholas Murray Butler.

How much of an iceberg usually is above the water?

About one-seventh.

Who was the author of these lines:

"Man's love is of man's life a thing apart; the woman's whole existence?"

Lord Byron in "Don Juan."

Why are the shores of the Strait of Dover called chalk cliffs?

Because they consist of chalk.

How many acres of forest reserves are there in the United States and Alaska?

Approximately 159,000,000.

Where is the American Museum of National History?

In New York.

What is the distance from New York to Los Angeles through the Panama canal?

It is 5,677 statute miles.

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