



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### All So Useless

Every day brings new evidence of the wasteful and senseless situation for which the people have no remedy.

President Wilson of the school board has called attention to the condition of a number of school buildings. They require repairs and in some cases new and modern buildings should be erected to care for the education of children.

That would cost money. Today, unfortunately, the tax-burdened citizen is in no position to spend money for new buildings. He is in a hard race with the sheriff to protect his home from being sold on the auction block.

But thousands of men, trained to erect buildings, are out of work and have been out of work for months. They are idle and the factories which prepare materials are idle. The men in the mine and the forest are idle.

Large numbers of these men are compelled to ask for aid for their families in these difficult days.

There is not one of these idle builders, one of these idle men in factories, who would not much prefer to be at work erecting new buildings for the children of today and of tomorrow.

The cost of idleness is rapidly becoming heavier than the cost of erecting useful and needed public improvements.

It may be necessary to revise some other things before idle men can again build schoolhouses that are safe and sanitary. It may be necessary to change financial systems so that money and not men will be cheap.

But it is all so useless and the people stagger along blindly without leadership. The people still stand for unsafe school buildings while builders are idle. Some one will find a way to get out of a situation that would be absurd were it not filled with more tragedy and more menace than has existed in the world since the great war.

Unless we are ready to admit that our civilization is also to be deflated to the point of bankruptcy, it might be well to give men their inalienable right to work and children their God-given right to safety.

### Dollar Diplomacy

With commendable persistence, the senate finance committee is sticking to the Johnson investigation of foreign loans and concessions, despite efforts of the state department to block the inquiry.

There will be many foreign loans and concessions in the future, with the state department playing a part in such deals. If the cause and nature of past abuses can be uncovered, it will help in working out a more effective system of governmental relationship to such semi-diplomatic commerce and finance.

We do not profess to know what the exact relationship of the government should be to foreign loans. That will have to be worked out by experience.

We agree with the growing public opinion that the unauthorized power usurped by the state department in passing upon private foreign loans has had vicious results. But we can not agree with some critics, such as Senator Glass, that the solution is no governmental regulation.

The familiar assertion that there should be no connection between a private foreign loan and government policy may be very pretty in theory. But it is a complete denial of the facts of experience, not only of the United States, but of every other creditor nation.

Even though it is not necessary to restrict foreign loans almost exclusively to diplomatic purposes, as in France, or to follow the old British practice of ear-marking foreign credits for special trade advantages or imperial favors, some connection is inevitable.

For instance, if New York bankers float a loan for Japan's South Manchurian railway—as often proposed—it might make thousands of American citizens effect partners in Japan's conquest of Manchuria, and it certainly would influence American diplomatic and naval policy.

Similarly, so long as the Caribbean is considered an "American lake," essential to the security of the Panama canal, it is futile to talk about the Washington government keeping its nose out of Colombian or Nicaraguan or other Central American private loans and concessions.

Interest of private American capital in Mexico, Cuba, and other countries often are the key to state department and navy department policies.

Concessions and loans can be the cause of war, just as they often are the cause of military intervention.

Therefore, the American people have a right to expect their government to protect their interests—and the larger interests of the country—when jeopardized by the avarice, corruption, or folly of private American concerns abroad.

Obviously this necessary protection of the national interest is possible only when our government is informed fully of all such transactions, as the state department has insisted upon being informed.

The fault has not been that the government was keeping its eye and hand on such vital deals, but that the state department has been neither wise nor open in its policy.

### Wheat Relief

House shelves bill giving needy wheat, says a headline.

Will Democrats permit people to go hungry by failure to pass a simple measure, giving away not money, but wheat, that this government has and can not get rid of otherwise, without destroying the farmer's already low market?

Can it be true that Speaker Garner and Representative Marvin Jones, his fellow Democrat from Texas and head of the agriculture committee, are letting others override their own convictions, publicly expressed, without a fight?

Can it be true that Democrats will cheat the wheat farmers of a chance to profit by getting some of the farm board's large surplus stocks into channels of consumption?

Can it be true that the Democrats are unwilling actually to save the government money by permitting a part of this wheat to be taken out of the elevators? Every day the government is having to pay storage charges.

Can it be that Democrats, in the house they control, will allow hunger to persist without making a direct attempt to alleviate it?

### Scrapped

Lawrence N. Sloan, vice-president of the Standard Statistical Service, estimates that of the 7,000,000 jobless, 15 per cent are unemployed permanently as the result of machine processes. Here are 1,500,000 surplus workers, able-bodied Americans, willing to work, but muscled out of the industrial system.

What do we propose to do about this million?

We can take our choice between eventually a permanent dole or the shorter work day and week.

## THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

### M. E. Tracy

Says:

*Those Who Would Get Rid of the Fort and Battleship Should Begin With the Trade Barrier.*

NEW YORK, Jan. 21.—American delegates leave for the Geneva arms conference, which opens Feb. 2. Good as the objective may be, they might just as well have stayed at home. The world is in no mood to talk about disarmament, much less do anything. People are too nervous and too scared. Besides, the whole tendency of recent events is against it.

If the pressure of debt and taxation can't make people see the wisdom of spending less for armies and navies, what can? Certainly, it will take more than eloquence.

Strange as it may seem, the pressure of debt and taxation has driven government and opposition, dictation, influencing them to adopt unheard-of high tariffs and resort to other trade restrictions, all of which has only added to the already tense feeling of suspicion and distrust.

### Humanity Frightened

WE are not going to get anywhere with disarmament, the League of Nations, the world court, or other activities designed to bring about a reign of law, until the economic atmosphere has been cleared.

Civilized humanity is frightened, and has been ever since the war began. It is frightened not alone because of the awful things that have happened, but because of the still more awful things which it imagines can happen, not alone because of what it has suffered, but because of the innumerable ways in which it has been disappointed.

Outside of a few camp followers and munitions contractors, no one got anything of value out of the war, and the ensuing peace has turned out equally futile thus far.

### Another War?

THOUGH it has been twelve years since the battle ended, the civilized world still is laboring in the throes of misery.

Though it seems incredible, there are millions of people toying with the idea that another war might make conditions better.

There are millions more toying with the thought that revolution is possible, if not desirable.

This state of mind has driven one country after another into dictatorship, and for precisely the same reason it is driving them to arms.

### Debts Block Peace

DEBT forms the basis of fear and confusion. As long as it hangs like a shadow on the human horizon, and as long as it is reflected in constantly rising taxes on the one hand, and in declining commerce on the other, just so long will it remain an obstacle to peace.

If education is to be a preparation for life, then "How to Carve at the Table" furnishes a better talking point than many, if not most, of the courses in our present-day respectable college curriculum.

How many men who had four years of high school

Latin, followed by two or three years in college, can read their college diplomas today? The famous bridge engineer, J. A. L. Waddell, entitled his classic treatise on bridges "De Pontibus." Asked to explain this strange procedure, he stated that he had taken eight years of Latin in his educational career.

In a long and busy life, he never had the slightest occasion to use any of it. So, in sheer desperation, he resolved to drag it in before he died.

As over against the fact that perhaps once in a lifetime we might humiliate a poor lowbrow by Chaucerian philology, we have to face the fact that on seven nights out of every week and about one Sunday out of every two we are faced with the same responsibility of carving, serving, or both.

Those who think we have no interest in German reparations, or German recovery, take a most unintelligent view of the situation.

Those who think the tariff war which is forcing many American manufacturers to build branches in Canada, England, France and Latin-America, has no effect on unemployment in this country, take an even more unintelligent view.

### Tariff and Trade

BRINGING the problem right home to ourselves, how can we hope for a return of prosperity without a restoration of our foreign trade? How can we hope for that, until credit has been re-established and existing barriers removed?

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### Security First

DISARMAMENT is of necessity a follow up of economic readjustment. People are not going to give up their arms and navies, until they feel much safer than they do today.

The French cry for security finds an echo in every land, except our own, and it is beginning to have some effect here.

Those who would get rid of the fort and battleship should begin with the trade barrier.

### Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

MANY women who have fought their way into industry or have been forced there by circumstances are not accustomed sufficiently to the new freedom to bring unbiased minds to their problems.

For centuries we have battled fiercely with each other for possession of the male. It is only a recent experience, however, that has set us at each other's throats in an even fiercer combat over jobs.

And though we are now engaged by thousands in the market places, man still holds the position of arbiter of our industrial destiny. He remains the employer, the paymaster, the boss. We are in the main merely neophytes courting his notice and his favor.

Each time a new factor enters into a competitive business system such as ours it compels new adjustments. It is the strain and stress of such an adjustment through which we are passing.

Can it be true that Democrats will cheat the wheat farmers of a chance to profit by getting some of the farm board's large surplus stocks into channels of consumption?

Can it be true that the Democrats are unwilling actually to save the government money by permitting a part of this wheat to be taken out of the elevators? Every day the government is having to pay storage charges.

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In the Camp of the Enemy

W

HO stands against the return of Volksdeutsch? Who but Hoover? Who stands against tariff reform? Who but Hoover? And, indeed, there is not a single item in the creed of Dr. Butler which does not find its fiercest opponents within the party which he has helped to keep in power.

It could be argued that Nicholas Murray Butler dwells in the camp of the enemy as a sort of spy, seeking by devious ways to bring about conversion. Here are a few facts to support any such theory.

Some years ago Dr. Butler led a slight skirmish to liberalize his party's views on prohibition, but, being defeated in the convention, he played the part of the good-natured soldier and supported the goal line, scoring a safety for Georgia Tech. As the score ended 8 to 7, this mistake on the part of Riegels represented the margin between defeat and victory.

Personally, I would call real crooning an art, for I think it is beautiful. Most of us, young and old, enjoy a good symphony, or we can listen to a string band such as they had when the cardinal was a boy, and like it, but, speaking of "immoral, imbecile slush," some of their old-time hoodwounds just about "take the cake."

Not only the theaters have gone

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