



The Indianapolis Times

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

Quo Usque Tandem

Centuries ago an old fellow named Cicero began in these words to berate another man named Catiline. Both are dead. The words still are studied in public schools.

What Cicero was trying to say was that Catiline had insulted the intelligence of the day and he was asking just how long Catiline would continue to abuse the patience of a long-suffering public.

Catiline today means Harley Clarke and Samuel Insull and the public service commission.

The latest abuse of public patience is the announcement that rates for electricity are to be cut in seventy-six southern Indiana cities, an announcement heralded with glee by the Insull publicity agency, within a suspiciously short time after the commission had made its decision.

So brief a time, in fact, as to make it plausible to believe that the crocodile tears had been mimeographed in advance.

If there had been a reduction in rates, the cut has been so small that the rate payer never will feel it. At the best, it gives an average saving of only \$4.20 a meter a year to all the people of each city. At its worst—and it probably is the worst—the people who pay will find their bills larger.

More important is the fact that the advertised cut, if it is permitted to stand, means an end to all regulation of electric utilities in the state, for at no time in the future can any single city ask and receive any reduction of rates.

The decision ushers in a period of regulation by sections which may be the right way of regulation, but is the end of the present law. It means that the commission will be compelled, even if it were inclined to serve the public, to delay for months and years before giving any relief.

The commission set a precedent for itself when it ordered a cut of 20 per cent in rates for electric users in the city of Marion.

The rates in Marion were among the lowest in the state where private ownership prevails. There are lower rates in enlightened communities which own their own plants.

The commission is still inactive on the petition filed by the city of Indianapolis and the South Side Civic Clubs for relief in this city.

Were the rates given to Marion applied to Indianapolis, the people of this city would save millions of dollars of the tribute now paid to the electric monopoly.

On Saturday night, over the radio, Ward Hiner amended the advice of The Times on telephone calls. He suggested that the people call not only the public service commission and Member Cuthbertson, but also call the office of Governor Harry Leslie and tell him that his hired men on the commission are loafing on the job.

It is good advice. The telephone number of the commission is Riley 6551. The telephone number of the Governor is Lincoln 9535. If you find that Cuthbertson and the others are "in conference," call the Governor. It may work.

(The rest of what Cicero said was, "How long are you going to abuse our patience?")

The Pastors, Twain and War

In the most militant attack on war ever recorded by the clergy, the membership of the Ohio Pastors' Association says in formal resolutions:

"We never again will sanction or participate in any war."

But won't they?
Without desiring to be cynical, we want once again to quote Mark Twain on war:

"There never has been a just one, never an honorable one—on the part of the instigator of the war. I can see a million years ahead, and this rule never will change in so many as half a dozen instances."

"The loud little handful—as usual—will shout for the war. The pulpit will—warily and cautiously—object—at first; the great, big, dull bulk of the nation will rub its sleepy eyes and try to make out why there should be a war, and will say, earnestly and indignantly, 'It is unjust and dishonorable, and there is no necessity for it.'"

Then the handful will shout louder. A few fair men on the other side will argue and reason against the war with speech and pen, and at first will have a hearing and be applauded; but it will not last long; those others will outshoot them, and presently the anti-war audiences will thin out and lose popularity.

"Before long, you will see this curious thing: The speakers stoned from the platform, and free speech strangled by hordes of furious men, who in their secret hearts are still at one with those stoned speakers—as earlier—but do not dare to say so."

"And now the whole nation—pulpit and all—will take up the war-cry, and shout itself hoarse, and mob any honest man who ventures to open his mouth; and presently such mouths will cease to open."

"Next the statesmen will invent cheap lies, putting the blame upon the nation that it attacked, and every man will be glad of those conscience-soothing fables, and will study them diligently, and refuse to examine any refutations of them, and thus he will, by and by, convince himself that the war is just, and will thank God for the better sleep he enjoys after this process of grotesque self-deception."

Twain wrote that years before the World War.

Making Germany Safe for Democracy

Foremost of Woodrow Wilson's war ideals was making the world safe for democracy. In particular, he wished to make Germany democratic—to liberate it from its "military masters" and to establish free and democratic institutions. What are the results and the prospects thirteen years after the birth of the German republic?

The German people radically altered the political institutions and traditions in accordance with Mr. Wilson's alluring suggestions. They hoped that as a result they would receive justice and decent treatment.

Had not Mr. Wilson said that we had no quarrel with the German people? We were concerned only with lifting from their backs the bellicose octopus saddled on them by their rulers.

Did their conquerors meet the Germans half way and make good the Wilsonian idealism? The answer is contained in an excellent survey of Germany at the end of 1931 by John Elliott in the Nation. Mr. Elliott is no Bolshevik or Hun. He is the Berlin correspondent of the New York Herald-Tribune.

After the proclamation of the Weimar constitution, there was real enthusiasm for republicanism in Germany. By 1925 even Marshal von Hindenburg was converted to the support of the new regime. With even half-way encouragement from abroad, German republicanism would have been assured of permanency and success. But the thirteen years of re-

pression, reparations and revenge have all but ended the republican regime.

Chancellor Brüning rules with dictatorial powers which make Bismarck, "the iron chancellor," seem almost a democrat by comparison. Even that foremost of German liberal newspapers, the Frankfurter Zeitung, holds that a frank dictatorship would be preferable to the ineptitude of the present Reichstag.

Hitler and his Fascist National Socialists have a larger popular support than any other party. They are destined almost inevitably to govern Germany, either alone or through a coalition with the Catholic Center party. One or more persons are killed and a score or more wounded every day in the clashes between the National Socialists and their opponents. These things are so common that they no longer are "news" in Germany.

The republican regime is attacked on the ground that it has gone on its knees before France, and that it has wasted its substance in social welfare expenditures. Neither charge is true in any significant degree. The dubious or criminal speculations of great German bankers and industrialists have done more to bring on the present financial crisis than any expenditures for social relief.

Reparations have been a colossal problem, to be sure, but something worse might have come if payments had been suspended or repudiated earlier. Germans remember the horrors of the Ruhr invasion and the winter of 1922-23.

The chief reason for discrediting of democracy and republicanism in Germany is the disastrous economic situation into which Germany has been driven by reparations and other aspects of the post-war policy of revenge. Some 4,600,000 are unemployed, and the figure will probably reach 7,000,000 before the winter is over. Artillery caissons rattle through the streets picking up old clothes for the destitute.

Except for three weeks, the stock exchange has been closed since the middle of July. Reichsbank reserves are as low as 27 per cent, compared with 40 per cent, once the legal minimum. Wages still are being cut, in spite of the fact that it already is hard for the workers to live under the existing price schedules. Taxes are terrific. Even salaried persons often pay as much as 20 per cent of their income.

And the end is not yet. The chancellor, with frank realism, recently warned that additional burdens would have to be imposed.

Mr. Elliott concludes that "after almost two decades of war, famine, blockade, inflation, reparations payments, and economic depression, Germany finds itself worse off than at any time since Jena and perhaps since the Thirty Years' war."

The collapse of Germany, or a definite swing to Fascism or Communism, would have momentous if not fatal results for Europe. The reverberations would be severe in the United States, still further depressing our already groggy business conditions.

It is high time that temporizing and vacillation be superseded by resolute international statesmanship.

Children Work; Elders Idle

There is one fact even more inglorious than the great American paradox of millions of men and women beggared because they have produced too much wealth and food. That is the fact of American children working for wages while their elders search in vain for jobs.

Today being Child Labor day in the public schools let us do a bit of national self-searching, even at the cost of national pride.

While 27,000,000 children are building minds and bodies through study and play—in the nation's schools, 3,326,152 others under 18 are habitually absent. Of those absent 2,120,000 are known to be at work in gainful occupations.

Of those in gainful occupations, at least 1,000,000, we learn from the National Child Labor committee, are "at work under conditions which, if not actually injurious, are depriving them of the fundamentals of education, which are becoming more and more indispensable to educational progress."

"The great mass of working children," says the White House conference committee, "enter occupations monotonous in the extreme, lacking all educative content other than a certain amount of training in habits of work."

Tens of thousands are under 13, thousands are not yet in their teens. One child of 4 was found recently working in a southern cannery. The beet fields of the west, the factories of New England, the sweat shops of New York and Chicago, the cotton fields and mills of the south, all have their child workers.

Next year forty-four legislatures meet. Only six states of the needed thirty-six have ratified the child labor amendment giving the government right to regulate and prohibit child labor.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

A MARYLAND gentleman offers this column the suggestion that American women could relieve the crisis in Manchuria by refusing to buy silk, most of which comes from Japan.

He failed, however, to say how one could persuade the women to this course of action. Excellent, there, for, as the idea is, it is impractical. And here is the reason:

In the same mail came another letter which says, "Your constant championing of women leaves me, a woman, cold." And there follows a long account of the worthlessness and viciousness of women in general and of how splendid, altruistic, and kindly all men are.

It is impossible to muster feminine forces because of the antagonism which so many of them feel for one another. Hundreds of thousands of women despise their kind. The old sex appeal is always working and it does a very good job of setting the females against one another.

DISCOUNTING the biological causes for this hostility, we also are confronted by the fact that only until comparatively recent years have we made any attempts to stand by one another.

Many soft hands cast stones at the Magdalen. And from that day unto this, there has been but a slight decrease in the barrage.

One of the surest proofs that we are making intellectual progress is the knowledge that within the last three or four decades there has been genuine and concerted action on the part of women to help one another.

And still I pessimistically must assert that it would be impossible to prevail upon American women to get behind any member of our sex for any cause, as we did in the 1928 crusade for Mr. Hoover.

So the gentleman who would have Japan rebuked by curtailment in the sale of her silks best would get the men together to withdraw them from the markets.

I regret to state that my sex has not yet the strength of mind or the ability to co-operate that would make his plan feasible.

M. E. Tracy

Says:

Men Can Stand Suffering, but They Can't Stand Idleness Indefinitely and Keep Their Heads.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—Japanese marines are pouring into Shanghai, British and American ships are pending for Salvador, strikes are spreading in India and the Jesuits are getting out of Spain.

France stands by her program of no cut in reparations, no change in the Versailles treaty and no peace without guarantees of security.

The struggle to boost revenue and stimulate home trade by means of increased tariffs goes merrily on, while travel shrinks and freighters are tied up for lack of cargo.

Those who feel the pinch of all this grow bittener and more bewildered with each passing day.

'Give Us Work'

THE man out of work may have ideas as to why society can find nothing for him to do, but they are overshadowed by his feeling of complete helplessness.

That is the most dangerous and destructive feeling known to human nature.

The millions of unemployed, not only here, but abroad, are not without appreciation of what has been and is being done in their behalf.

They are grateful for the soup kitchens, breadlines and other evidences of a charitable inclination on the part of those who can afford it. What they want most, however, is an opportunity to do something for themselves.

Idleness Disastrous

YOU can call the problem by any name you like and attribute it to any cause you like, but its solution lies in finding a normal amount of work.

Men can stand low wages and small profits, even to the extent of suffering, but they can't stand idleness indefinitely and keep their heads.

Idleness as a by-product of prosperity is bad enough, but as a by-product of poverty it represents nothing less than a threat to orderly life.

Nor should this threat be measured in terms of petty, personal crime, or interpreted as including no more than sporadic outbreaks at the worst, since it generates a distrust and lack of confidence which may endure for generations.

Russia's Example

THE secret of Russia's success is the fact that she has been able to do what no other country could do worse than keep that in mind.

The Russian people may be getting comparatively little to show for their labor, but they are busy, and that inspires them with hope. No matter how we out people may be, they fall easy victims to despair when placed in a position where they can do nothing to help themselves.

You have seen this illustrated in dozens of suicides during the last two years.

Dictatorship Next?

WHETHER we can provide a sufficient amount of work through monopoly and mass production, without going in for state control and dictatorship, is something which deserves a great deal of attention.

Our forefathers were able to provide by encounter small enterprises, home-owning and individual initiative. They did not escape panics and depression, but they were in a better position to meet them than we are.

When the ordinary lines of employment failed they were not compelled to walk the streets. They always could find something to do about the house, or in the garden, and generally in such a way as brought meat and drink.

Our Theory Unproved

WE are pursuing the theory that everybody can be put on a parcel of land in a rented house, that wealth can be coagulated into vast pools, that property can pass into the hands of a few, that big business can be permitted to eliminate little business, that boards of directors can exercise more intimate control of life than state legislatures, and how in a rented house, that wealth can be coagulated into vast pools, that property can pass into the hands of a few, that big business can be permitted to eliminate little business, that boards of directors can exercise more intimate control of life than state legislatures, and how in a rented house,

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The New Issue



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Typhoid Requires Constant Vigilance

BY DR. MORRIS FISHER

Editor Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine

TYPHOID is controlled largely today by proper control of food supplies, milk and water through municipal agencies. It is difficult, however, to eliminate the source from which food, water and milk may be contaminated when the contamination is caused by a human carrier.

If typhoid fever is to be eliminated entirely, the possibility of continuous spread of the disease from the human carrier must be prevented.

In Chicago from April 1, 1890, to April 1, 1892, there were 2,372 deaths from typhoid fever, representing approximately 24,000 cases.

In Cleveland in January, 1903, notwithstanding that some knowledge of typhoid and its control had

already developed, there were during the sixteen months following 4,578 cases and 611 deaths.

In each instance the outbreak was traced to some contamination of water by the carelessness of an individual and the lack of suitable control.

In 1885, an epidemic occurred in Plymouth, Pa., a mining town with only 8,000 inhabitants. There were 1,104 cases reported and 114 deaths.

In this instance the outbreak was caused by the careless disposal of excretions of one patient with typhoid fever who happened to live in an isolated house on the bank of one of the small brooks which joined the river from which water was put into the reservoir for the town.

Every now and then a dramatic outbreak occurs in some city which has not given sufficient attention to

the dangers of water polluted by sewage.

When the situation develops, committees get busy, the city fathers are notified and a pure water supply is insured. Prevention is far cheaper than cure.

The mortality from this disease has been reduced by 98 per cent. The control of carriers indicates that there are about half as many now as there were in 1910.

Dr. James G. Cumming estimates that it will require at least another twenty-five years to eliminate carriers entirely.

In the meantime, the barriers against transmission can not be lowered. Public water supplies must continue to be purified and chlorinated; milk must be pasteurized, and human beings generally must be taught the importance of everyday hygiene, particularly cleanliness of the hands.

Ideals and opinions expressed in this column are those of one of America's most interested citizens and are presented without regard to their agreement or disagreement with the editorial attitude of this paper.—The Editor.

IT SEEMS TO ME BY HEYWOOD BROWN

A PUBLISHER who need not be nameless, since it was Max Schuster of Simon & Schuster, ventured an excellent suggestion at the luncheon of the Wednesday Culture Club recently. Mr. Schuster thinks that they should be re-examination for holders of college degrees. Five years after graduation a Bachelor of Arts should be called upon to justify his right to retain his diploma.

It is Mr. Schuster's contention that many a man says "Well, that's that" as soon as he has heard the news that he has graduated from his final examinations. Thereafter he makes no attempt to keep abreast of the thought of his times.

Mr. Schuster's concern with this problem is not wholly a matter of disinterested public spirit. He has found that some of the most inveterate and stubborn of nonreaders are college men.

Being a publisher, Mr. Schuster believes that there should be a moral obligation upon anybody who belongs to "the company of educated men" to read something some time. He agrees that it need not be anything under his imprint.

I THINK the scheme is a good one, but since no test papers have been prepared as yet, the best that I can do is to answer a set of queries which I found this afternoon in the lower right-hand corner of the desk. I was rummaging around the hopes of finding an old column.

I do not know whether it was an uplift organization or a life insurance company which prepared the

examination paper. Nevertheless, in the interests of the continuation of education after graduation or thereabout I will take a try. Here goes:

"What is my name?" Heywood Campbell Brown, pronounced to rhyme with tune.

"What is my age?" Forty-three.

"Where do I live?" In West Fifty-eighth street.

"What is my occupation?" Newspaper man.

"Am I making a success of it?" Different on different days.

"How much do I know?" Very little.

"How did I acquire this knowledge?" By reading the newspapers.

"Am I using what I know in connection with what I do?" Yes.

"Am I still learning?" Yes.

"What is my character and reputation?" Unreliable and charming.

A Difference of Opinion
"WHAT do you think of me?" Unreliable.

"What do I think of myself?" Charming.

"Am I just and kind in my judgment of others?" I try not to be. I need more prejudices than I have.