



The Indianapolis Times

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BOYD GURLEY

ROY W. HOWARD

EARL D. BAKER

President Business Manager

PHONE-K. 2251

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

Milk for Babies

There will be milk for the children of this city under school age. This much is assured by the conference called by Mayor Sullivan to meet the most serious problem yet faced by this city during its dark days.

The importance of milk as a diet for growing children can not be overemphasized, says Dr. Morgan, city health officer, whose years of planning have resulted in unusually low death rates for children in this city.

If it be important, it then becomes more important that no false pride on the part of parents prevent them from obtaining milk for the boys and girls who will become the future citizens of this state.

Denied proper diet and food, the child can become an easy prey to many diseases, may become a public burden all through life, may more certainly be robbed of the chance of happiness. It is only in emergencies that public attention and interest is aroused and the public of this city was aroused by the facts first printed in The Times concerning this situation.

Had there been one child in some dramatic danger, the entire population would have stopped its ordinary work and gone to the rescue. There is no drama in a starving army of ten thousand helpless children, but there is tragedy and when that tragedy becomes known, the public demands action.

At some time milk, as Al Smith once remarked, may become a public utility and distributed under public direction.

But until that time comes, citizens can guard helpless children by demanding that they be given this food in sufficient quantities.

Old Age Pensions

The old-age pension movement finally has gained the stamp of approval from the United States Chamber of Commerce.

No longer will the cry be raised, as was raised by Governor Leslie when he vetoed a measure for this purpose, that it is radical, bolshevistic and wrong.

The men who now approve this system of caring for the aged are in charge of great industries and financial institutions. They have been led by the inevitable logic of facts to the conclusion that old-age pensions are an essential part of an industrial system and that the poorhouse is not only barbarous, but costly.

In this state an added argument for the law is found in the report of Fire Marshal Hogston, who declares that poverty in this state is met with a harsher punishment than crime, and that the poorhouses for the most part are much less comfortable than the prisons and jails.

That indictment of Indiana might be followed by prompt action to change such conditions. But the permanent cure is the abolition of the poorhouse and the substitution of the pension for the aged and hospitals for the sick.

The old age pension movement in this country is sponsored by the Eagles lodge and the labor organizations. The Eagles are accredited with being the pioneers and their leaders have gathered some seventeen pens used by Governors of states which have passed laws providing for pensions.

The endorsement by the Chamber of Commerce can be accredited to the fact that Otto Deluse of this city, one of the pioneers in the movement, was a member representing industry.

The final acceptance, of course, comes from the argument of cold hard facts that the pension system for the aged more nearly meets the modern idea of humanity toward others.

The poorhouse, a costly barbaric relic of the days of Queen Elizabeth, has become too costly as it has always been too savage.

The people will do well if they ask very pointed questions of every candidate for the legislature and for Governor where they stand on this question.

Opposition to old age pensions indicates a fundamental lack of appreciation of human needs. The man who fights that law can be put down as unsafe at a time when it is necessary to get men into public office who act with some consideration for human needs and who look at public problems from the viewpoint of the safety and comfort of the mass.

An Antidote

(From the New York World-Telegram)

As an antidote for a great mass of the depression and hoarding talk going around, we cite the response last week of investors to New York City's offering of \$100,000,000 of corporate stock. The loan, bearing an interest rate of 6 per cent, admittedly high for city financing, was oversubscribed speedily.

True, the Walker administration had to pay the high interest rate as a penalty for its extravagance and wastefulness in its conduct of city affairs, and had to pledge retrenchments before the money was forthcoming from the banks.

But the fact remains that plenty of money came forward, once investors were satisfied that the investment looked good and the interest yield was attractive.

Devised means to put more of this idle money into legal and legitimate enterprises and in addition to the antidote to depression talk you will have the end of the depression.

Bullets for Bread

What happened to the Bourbons, Romanoffs, and others who gave the people bayonets instead of bread evidently has made little impression on some of our own sword rattlers.

On complaint of the American Civil Liberties Union, the war department is investigating recent instructions issued to the Illinois national guard in the use of guns and bombs against "mobs."

The instructions, signed by Commander Major-General Keehn and Chief of Staff Colonel Gowenlock, urge the guard not to temporize with "mobs" nor permit them "to seem to be victorious for a single day."

"Officers and men should not fear reprisal in case one or more persons are killed," reads one amazing paragraph cited by the Civil Liberties Union. "The laws of most states and the common law in others provide that if it is not proved that the killing was through mere malice, wantonness, or cruelty, a soldier is not punishable for such act, even though he uses bad judgment."

Then—by way of encouraging "bad judgment"—the instruction compares with the "vulture" and "rat," Communists and "professional agitators," lumping both with "thieves, cutthroats, vagabonds and ruffians."

The Illinois guardians of law and order do not declare their war upon the bloody beer racketeers, gangsters and terrorists of their own Chicago's underworld, for these are not mentioned. They appear to have in mind only gatherings of the unemployed.

Thus Illinois achieves another distinction in being

the first state to permit such a sinister threat against the lives and limbs of jobless Americans, now in the midst of the third peaceful winter of the worst suffering in the country's history.

The war department does not control the national guard during peace time, its only connection being a contribution of \$33,000,000 annually for equipment and training. It could, however, reprimand such un-called-for incitation to bloodshed.

If federal and state officials are serious about stamping out lawlessness, they should check this Cossackism. There is no surer way of stirring desperate men to violence than by the insolent misuse of authority by soldiers and police.

Paul M. Warburg

Paul M. Warburg was one of the few if not the only prominent American banker who had the intelligence and courage to tell the truth about the stock market debauch at the time, and to predict the dire results.

The nation needs bankers with that kind of intelligence and courage today. Therefore the death of Mr. Warburg is a national loss.

It was not luck or accident that set him apart in the spring of 1929 to speak soberly while most other bankers and business leaders were talking otherwise. He always had been the kind of man who thought faster and clearer and acted with more courage than the crowd.

Thus he was one of the first and hardest fighters for the banking reform which finally resulted in the federal reserve system. Though his particular plan of reform was not accepted, he was chosen by President Wilson to help make the new system a success, which he did.

Considering his long record of superior wisdom and leadership, it seems surprising now that more people did not listen to his warning in the spring of 1929. It is worth repeating here at this late date, not only as a tribute to his author's wisdom, but as a future warning to those of us who would travel the giddy-quick road to personal happiness and national prosperity. He said:

"History has taught mankind that speculative over-expansion invariably ends in overcontraction and distress. If a stock exchange debauch is arrested quickly by prompt and determined action, it is not too much to hope that a shrinkage of inflated stock prices yet may be brought about without seriously affecting the wider circle of general business."

"It orgies of unrestricted speculation are permitted to spread too far, however, the ultimate collapse is certain not only to affect the speculators themselves, but also to bring about a general depression, involving the entire country."

One of the lessons Mr. Warburg wanted the United States to learn from the speculative mania and consequent depression was the need for basic improvement in our banking system. He proposed to strengthen the federal reserve system and to increase its independence.

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Dempsey said he would fight ten rounds with Johnny Risko in Cleveland if promoters could scrape up \$500,000 for his purse. It there's room for \$500,000 in his purse, it must be pretty flat. Dempsey is just a big-time boy coming back. But from this it would seem he never had been gone.

The United States protests that Japan's invasion of Manchuria is illegal. But Japan probably knows that Uncle Sam has been protesting for several years about selling liquor, too.

President Hoover wants to discard the word moralism. And just when people were finding out what it meant.

Hoover proposes to bring back prosperity with an eight-point plan. That's going the seven wonders of the world one better.

While all these negotiations are going on, Manchuria waits with bated breath. Well, she's sure to catch what Sherman said war was.

A Chicago woman gave her sweetheart a set of false teeth and then jilted him. Probably enabled him to snap at other opportunities.

Independence is predicted for India in five years. Well, it was declared for us 155 years ago.

A newspaper survey shows business men prefer the Bible. But do business by Dun and Bradstreet.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

FROM the viewpoint of the woman who goes shopping for her household needs, the main thing that is a distinct aversion to honest labor in our midst is the 1928 hangover.

In some instances it is almost necessary to knock down the clerk to get service, and there seems, in the smaller business especially, a general lack of enthusiasm and even of response to the patrons who walk in at the door.

One hears complaints from the office about busi- ness being bad. Yet following them there comes echoes from the housewife about how hard it is to get what she wants, and of how generally apathetic are the efforts of those whom she purchases.

I believe also that most women who respond to the various appeals made to them to supply odd jobs for unemployed will testify that in many instances the work is woefully slighted. That, at least, has been my unfortunate experience.

Suppliers have been a hundred times more interested in the pay than in the job. Perhaps this is natural. But it does not foster sympathy on the part of the one who is doing the employing.

THE truth is that we have become so used to the idea that we can get along without working that there is a distinct aversion to honest labor in our midst. I nite glorious days when the stock market always brought good tidings, business was hummus and we just sat back and waited for the customers to pour in. And they did.

During that time the big business man became a sort of Behemoth, gorged with extra profits and dividends. He spent most of his time "in conference," and to small purpose, if today's financial tale is true.

There grew up then so many wild schemes for getting rich, so many sales of fake stocks and securities, and so much actual dishonesty that we can not hope to recover from their effects over night.

The greatest harm that came to us from the over-inflation of values is not the inevitable deflation, but the fact that we let ourselves become so soft and lazy that we almost have lost our sense of the dignity of labor.

"Officers and men should not fear reprisal in case one or more persons are killed," reads one amazing paragraph cited by the Civil Liberties Union. "The laws of most states and the common law in others provide that if it is not proved that the killing was through mere malice, wantonness, or cruelty, a soldier is not punishable for such act, even though he uses bad judgment."

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The Illinois guardians of law and order do not

M. E. Tracy

Says:

Honest, Efficient Government Calls for More Than Haphazard Debate, Brass Bands and Ward Organizations.

NEW YORK, Jan. 26.—Taking a public service out of politics seems to have become a favorite indoor sport with us Americans.

We have made a rather complete job of taking the schools out of politics. We have tried, though not so successfully, to do as much for judges where they are elected.

By extending the civil service, we have taken most of those employed by the federal government and many of those employed by the states, or cities out of politics.

By adopting the city manager plan, the commission form of government, or the non-partisan ticket, some 500 municipalities have reduced politics to a minimum in the conduct of local affairs.

And now comes Judge Seabury declaring that New York City could be improved by a form of administration in which politics played a less conspicuous part.

Not an Accident

YOU can't attribute such a general trend to accident, or whim. It has been in progress too long, has accomplished too substantial results and has made too deep an impression on the public mind.

Rightly, or wrongly, we are extending an implicit faith in politics as a cure-all for mismanagement. We are groping for something better than the claptrap of blind partisanship, or the recklessness of machine rule.

We are beginning to realize that honest, efficient administration calls for more than haphazard debate, brass bands and ward organizations.

Majority Not Infallible

THE old idea that government must be good if it conforms to the passions and prejudices of the moment is passing away.

It is dawning on us that the voice of a ballyhooed majority can not always be relied on as the voice of God.

The doctor has shown us that popular fads were not very reliable when it came to treating disease, the scientist, has given us a thousand proofs of the gulf existing between real expertise and common knowledge, and industry has demonstrated the necessity of training and experience even in small affairs.

Electron Magic Fails

TO sum it all up, we are recognizing that government is a science, that an untrained, or inexperienced man can not be converted into an efficient public official by the magic of an election, that fitness must be recognized and merit rewarded.

The plight of such cities as Chicago, Philadelphia and New York merely illustrates an affliction that has become nation-wide and that is receiving serious attention from Maine to California.

The indifference and incompetence with which our public affairs are conducted in comparison to our private affairs amounts to little less than a scandal.

Dishonesty Condoned

THE financial strain we have suffered because of the crookedness and carelessness which characterize the management of public affairs is of less consequence than the social strain.

Dishonesty of a certain type actually has come to be regarded as legitimate.

We talk about "honest graft" just as though there could be such a thing, just as though it were all right for public officials to pilfer and peculate in particular ways, just as though some laws could be winked at, or violated, without threatening the whole judicial structure.

You may have read that recent raids were conducted not against Volstead violators, but on the ground that beverages were sold which had not paid proper tribute to the treasury.

To be sure, the speakeasy proprietor could not pay the tax even if that was his will and pleasure. However, learned judges have decided that this phantom offense can be prosecuted under the law.

We are not a bad people by nature, yet we are crime-ridden to an extent unknown in any other civilized country. With all we expend for courts, prosecutors and police officers, this should not be so.

Politics and Crime

IT requires no stretching of the imagination to trace gang rule, racketeering and a large percentage of ordinary crime to corruption and inefficiency as made possible by the kind of politics we have tolerated.

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