



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### Our Duty in This Crisis

Never has the need for cool heads and warm feet been more necessary than today. Inexcusable vacillation in Washington has bungled the Sino-Japanese situation hopelessly. For lack of decision and of a program, this country has been maneuvered into an absurd position.

Absurdity must not be converted into tragedy.

We had an opportunity to co-operate with the important signers of the nine-power and Kellogg-Briand pacts when they were assembled at Geneva in September, and to join them in demanding that Japan abide by her treaties.

When our representative, Prentiss Gilbert, sat in with the League of Nations for a few days and it appeared that the United States was going to unite with the other major powers in holding Japan to her pledges, the effect of the co-operation was immediate. The Japanese sweep across Manchuria was halted in its tracks.

Then Washington weakened. In response to the howls of the isolationists at home, Gilbert was withdrawn from the league sessions.

Japanese militarism, reassured that it was not to be outlawed, went berserk. America's chance to co-operate for enforcement of peace went by the board.

Today, new conditions govern. Opportunity knocked at our door, got no response, and passed on. The nationalists of England and France, the militarists and the scoffers at international co-operation, seized the opportunity to deal a knockout to the league.

It was our duty to co-operate to save the anti-war pacts. It is not our duty to become their lone defender. It is unfortunate if the rest of the world is not interested in curbing a nation gone mad with the lust of conquest. But it would be more unfortunate for America to attempt the task alone. We are not keepers of the world's conscience.

Form the start of the Manchurian incident, The Times has pointed out that America's interest was not primarily in the dispute between China and Japan, but in preservation of the world's peace machinery.

That position we once more reiterate, but America's interest, to continue, must be a joint interest, shared by the other treaty signers. The obligations to uphold these treaties never should rest solely on our shoulders.

Even though a bungling policy in the state department wrecked the chances of presenting a united front of the Kellogg-Briand pact signers against Japan, it is too late now to think of that.

The important thing is to recognize that the Sino-Japanese situation has entered a new phase, with new implications and new elements of danger. A course that would have been wise in September might be disastrous now.

We are under no obligation to make a war to prevent one. The public will not follow the administration on any steps that lead in that direction.

Believers in democracy for citizens, we should believe in democracy for nations. The majority must rule. If, with the United States acting in consultation with the others, the majority of the signers of the anti-war pacts later should decide that these treaties should be invoked against Japan, our duty would be clear.

Until we speak as a part of a chorus of nations, the less America has to say to Japan, the better.

### One Mayor's Plan

On Monday, Mayor Pietro of Mishawaka will visit the Governor and ask for a special session of the legislature.

His plan will be based upon the needs of his city of funds to provide food for the unemployed. He offers the suggestion that the law be changed and that gasoline taxes be shifted for the present from the building of new concrete roads to funds that will be available to give work or food or both to the workless.

Only a crisis prompts the appeal. His particular county is in difficulties. Large sums of tax money are tied up in closed banks. Investors no longer look kindly upon offerings of bonds that supply funds for poor relief. The wholesale grocers can carry the distributors of food but little farther.

His belief that an emergency exists is based upon conditions in his city where factories are idle. The emergency is human need. It is not an academic question of how to distribute the tax burden. It is the demand of hungry people for relief and an orderly means of meeting that demand.

Many citizens will agree with the proposition that the state can get along with fewer cement highways if it can get more food for needy men and women.

Many will agree with the argument that road building can be postponed, but none will admit that the problem is not to salvage very little.

Mayor Pietro brings a solution. Perhaps other mayors will find his method useful in solving vexatious problems.

### A Real Fight

When the mayors of many Indiana cities declared that the time had come to band themselves for a real fight against the intolerable rates charged by public utilities, the chances are that the fight will be real.

These mayors know that their communities are being robbed by the present system. They know that regulation has become a farce. They know that even if the members of the commission were named without the political interference of the utilities, they would be blocked by the courts in any effort to give justice.

It is significant that while the mayors were meeting and boasting over an ordered cut of rates in Marion, a federal court, following precedent, issued an injunction against any reduction and that the best hope of Marion citizens is a delay of years before a decision.

The utilities have been in politics. That is the reason the law lacks teeth. Designed in 1913 to protect both utilities and the people, it is now lacking in provisions that meet the new tricks of the utilities.

When it was written, there were no other thought than that any community could own its own utilities when it tired of monopoly. That power has been destroyed by edict of the present commission.

When it was written, the holding company for utilities did not exist. Now the holding companies have been pyramidized into a huge burden.

The mayors believe that the laws must be changed. It is significant that they are not talking in terms of buying present plants. They want the right to build new ones for cities that want to be free and also that cities which own their own plant be released from bondage to political commissions.

They also demand that the people have a right to regulate the holding companies.

The fine thing is that the mayors have a program and will tell their people about it. Candidates for the legislature on both tickets will be examined for

any secret or open fidelities to utilities. The people will be told about them.

There was a universal agreement that in these days of bad business, the utilities of the state are adding to the burden with excessive costs.

The men who declared for a new freedom were elected by the cities to represent them. They can be depended upon to point the way. The fight for justice is on.

### A Better Tax Plan

Two of the worst features of the Hoover-Mellon tax program have been eliminated by the house ways and means committee, which controls such legislation. Democrats and Republicans on the committee have agreed to throw out the retroactive parts of the administration plan, which would have applied to incomes earned in the calendar year 1931.

They further have agreed to eliminate the administration proviso that the tax increase run only two years.

Retroactive taxation at any time is unjust. But it would be especially unfair at a time of national depression, when individuals and corporations alike must account for every penny. The Hoover-Mellon plan would have meant double taxation for 1931, the original tax plus the new tax.

Part from the theoretic injustice involved, there is the serious practical difficulty of collecting money already spent. Few corporations or individuals in these hard times can pay a tax unless it is budgeted and set aside in advance.

In the case of poorer classes of taxpayers, they would not have the money to meet this unforeseen charge.

In the case of wealthier, but embarrassed, corporations and individuals, they would have to unload more securities on the market at sacrifice prices.

That would pinch not only those who sold, but further would depress a market which can not stand many more blows without catastrophic results to business generally.

An equally bad feature in the Hoover-Mellon plan was the limitation of the proposed tax increase to two years. It is precisely because of that same Mellon short-sighted policy of cutting the corners of federal finance that the government operating deficit is so overwhelming today.

If the last tax increase had been allowed to stand, creating a rainy-day surplus, the country today would not have such a deficit and would not have to assume an additional tax load when the country is least able to bear it.

This obvious policy of precaution, favored at the time by the liberal press and by senate progressives, was swept aside by Mellon, who was more intent on protecting big taxpayers in prosperous times than to enforce it.

The result is that, though recognizing the necessity of a constable to back up the law in every village, humanity proposes to make law for the whole wide world without any authority to sustain it.

## M. E. Tracy

Says:

**The League of Nations Has Demonstrated Its Futility. The Problem Is Not to Salvage It as It Is, but to Rebuild It.**

NEW YORK, Jan. 30—A great battle at Shanghai, with the city set on fire by bombs, with hundreds dead and thousands homeless, with the entire population terror-stricken, but nobody has declared war.

By the record, there isn't any war.

By the record, Japan is merely partitioning an anti-bandit campaign.

By the record, China's integrity is not being threatened.

By the record, neither the Kellogg pact, nor the nine-power treaty has been breached.

Try to explain it to some 10-year-old kid and see where you get.

League Worth Saving?

WE began with a great hue and cry to save the peace machine, just as though a peace machine which couldn't take care of itself were worth saving.

Let's get down to brass tacks. Was the peace machine created as an ornament to protect, or as an agency to do the protecting?

In nations must rush into war every time the peace machine breaks down, especially nations that haven't signed up, wherein lies its advantage?

This drama in the Orient continues nothing so distinctly as a test of the peace machine.

The peace machine broke down before it ever got started. Those in charge of it are left no choice but to admit that if the United States does not come forward and do the job which it was intended to perform, it will have been proved a complete failure.

A Piece of Junk

THE point is that we have been sold a piece of junk, an unworkable, impractical contraption which, though designed to carry out a perfectly sound idea, was so full of flaws and defects as to be incapable of standing the slightest strain.

If the peace machine couldn't stop this fuss in Asia, what could be expected of it in case of a European war?

Twenty years ago, the late William Howard Taft said that the only hope of world peace lay in a league to enforce it.

Individuals didn't like the thought of enforcement, and when the time came to establish a league, they just left it out.

The result is that, though recognizing the necessity of a constable to back up the law in every village, humanity proposes to make law for the whole wide world without any authority to sustain it.

Futility Proved

WEll, this fifth-rate rumpus in the Far East has served to set us back where we started, as far as the peace machine is concerned. The League of Nations has declared its futility.

The great roar for China's protection shrivels to practical, hard-headed talk concerning American and British rights. Washington is pleased to inquire what Japan's intentions are. England and the United States will co-operate to see that property and persons within the international settlement at Shanghai are not injured.

Some careless Japanese does not drop a bomb in the wrong place, or shoot the wrong kind of a human being, the chances are that we won't get into trouble. If, on the other hand, something of this sort does occur, who can tell?

1914 Over Again

THE civilized world is sitting on about the same kind of a volcano that it was in 1914.

Because of that has been said since the armistice was signed, and especially because of present economic conditions, there is probably less sentiment in favor of what there was then, but there is more than enough to cause bloodshed if the right event occurs, and there is plenty of room for the right event.

In other words, the peace machine by which we set such high hopes has accomplished very little. The problem is not to salvage very little, but to rebuild it.

A doctor told a senate committee that beer is indispensable. And that is precisely what people used to think about money.

A school of 500 porpoises was discovered cavorting in the Connecticut river. With things as they are, they probably didn't want to get into deep water.

Yet, even if the Soviet government had a birthday cake on its recent fourteenth anniversary, it would be hard to hold a candle to it.

## Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

ON Jan. 30, 1918, Americans were reported for the first time to be in the front line trenches. The next day Germans made a raid on the American lines, killing two Americans and wounding four others. One was reported missing.

Announcement was made on this day that since Feb. 1, 1917, when Germany launched her campaign of unrestricted warfare, sixty-nine American ships, totaling 171,061 tons, had been sunk by submarines, mines and raiders, and 300 persons had been drowned.

To offset this, 107 German and Austrian ships, having a gross tonnage of 868,494, were seized and added to the American merchant marine.

The All-Russian Congress of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates adopted the constitution of the Russian Socialist Soviet Republic.

TO do so, however, he probably will have to try to make himself as pleasant and charming, as unselfish and as kind as possible. Lovely ladies are not going to fall into his arms, nor is it likely that a man of mediocre intelligence will be able to find a rare and beautiful damsel endowed with all mental and physical lure.

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## The Light of Asia



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

## Albumin Is Clew to Bright's Disease

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygeia, the Health Magazine.

BRIGHT'S disease refers to

a chronic inflammation of the kidney without the infection-producing pus. It is seriously damaging to the ability of the kidney to carry on its functions.

One of the first signs of importance in diagnosing this disease is the occurrence of albumin in the excretions from the kidney.

When the term "albumin" is used, it refers to any protein material, but the word albumin has been used so long that it now comes to include all of the protein material that may develop.

The tests for the presence of albumin are relatively simple and can be carried out by any physician in his office. The albumin that appears is due to the material which comes from destruction of the kidney itself and that which may come

from other parts of the tract through which the fluid is passed out.

If the physician finds albumin, it is customary for him to examine the material under the microscope.

It is more susceptible of influence at camp than at school," Hackett added. "The school year of forty weeks, five days a week and five hours a day, for example, comprises 1,000 hours.

These usually are spent by children almost wholly indoors under a number of different teachers and supervisors.

"In the ordinary eight weeks of camp, boys and girls spend in the open air over 800 waking hours, four-fifths of the total school time, in close contact with relatively few counselors.

These, moreover, are not teaching lessons from books. They are living with children, participating in their fun and informally imparting their standards, skills and personalities."

Qualities Needed

HACKETT believes, therefore, that the camp rapidly is becoming an increasingly important institution. This is what makes it so important to find the right sort of counselors.

"Both in teaching and in counseling, personality is supremely important, it is more so in camp than in school," he says. "The