

The Indianapolis Times

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

One Oversight

However long it may continue, we are in the midst of a difficult economic condition. Property values have declined. Business earnings and personal incomes have been seriously impaired, in some cases wiped out. Prices of staple commodities have fallen. Business and personal affairs have had to be adjusted to meet these conditions. Taxes, almost alone among major items in the cost of living and the cost of producing commodities, have failed to recede proportionately.

This is the statement of Will Irwin, capitalist, philanthropist, financier and now the head of an organization devoted to the great task of reducing the cost of government.

He will find support for his movement. Public opinion will go along in the direction of eliminating waste and extravagance, whether it exists in the frills of the schools or the washing of the statehouse.

But public opinion would move much faster if this same organization of very powerful men, who sit on directorates of banks and utility companies, would also announce that the same indictment against high taxes applies to high utility rates with even more force and emphasis.

The injustice of the utility taxation—for that is a very direct form of taxation upon all industry and upon living costs—is made more intolerable by the fact that the rates have been levied, presumably, upon fictitious valuations.

They were fixed on valuations that implied high cost of labor, high cost of commodities, even speculative increment, and not upon invested dollars.

For at least a decade the utilities have taxed the people on their prosperity. They have not even receded to a basis of invested dollars while other business, as Mr. Irwin suggests, has suffered to the point of confiscation.

One of the big factors in the high tax emergency is the amount charged for utility service to cities, except where these are publicly owned. In those cities high taxes are not a problem. In Indianapolis the city pays two utilities approximately one million dollars a year.

As a means of obtaining immediate relief, can it be suggested that this new and powerful organization demand at once a cut on rates charged by every utility—telephone, gas, water, and electric power?

Why the Silence?

With numerous citizens indicating a willingness, not to say eagerness, to become the Governor of the state, as yet the people have received no indication as to what these citizens would do if elected.

The people of the state are quite fed up on the lack of any utility regulation. The mayors of cities are publicly owned. In those cities high taxes are not a problem. In Indianapolis the city pays two utilities approximately one million dollars a year.

Plenty of outdoor jobs remain for prisoners without making new jobs from the one bit of emergency unemployment relief money the federal government has stirred itself to provide.

Convicts will be fed regardless. The same, unfortunately, can not be guaranteed the law-abiding unemployed and their families, desperately in need of money from these road jobs.

Now Metropolitan-Opera will be broadcast. Judging from the size of most opera singers, it's never been anything else.

A dermatologist states that the average woman has sixteen square feet of skin. But of course that statement covers a lot.

While financial ills are besetting the world, Mussolini has taken to motorcycling. But even in that he's got to keep his balance.

A writer says Poland is rattling the saber. So is Japan, and if India starts it's likely to become a racket.

Black painted lips are the latest fad. Just another evidence that when things look darkest they're usually pretty soft.

Probably ought to extend that moratorium to include leap year. First the depression gets a man down and then the women leap on him.

If Socrates had lived in these days of prohibition, he probably would have learned to take the hemlock and say, "Not bad with a wash."

Songs have immortalized the corner where the gang used to hang around. The depression has immortalized the corner where prosperity is still hanging.

Experts say unless world powers step in and halt Japan's invasion, China will turn red. But if world powers did step in, Japan probably would be blue.

To Pretty War

Hostility of the United States government to any effective world disarmament was demonstrated again Tuesday by the American plan presented to the Geneva conference. European delegates were surprised and disappointed that the United States, which is spending more on armaments than any other nation, should have nothing better to offer a deficit-ridden world than this lame program.

But Europeans are no more disappointed than American citizens will be, who have been fed for months with administration propaganda about this Geneva conference.

The American plan, as presented Tuesday, is divided into nine so-called points:

Point one merely expresses willingness to join in the conference discussions.

Point two expresses the pious hope that France and Italy will adhere to the abortive London naval treaty, and "suggests the possibility of prolonging the existing naval agreements."

Point three advocates "proportional reduction" of the London and Washington treaties' naval quotas if and when France and Italy adhere to the London treaty—a very unlikely event.

Point four advocates "total abolition of submarine." This is as absurd as it is hypocritical. The American government knows there already is one treaty restricting submarines, which is unratified.

The American government knows that submarines will be used in war time, regardless of treaties. The American government knows that the submarine is an inexpensive defense weapon of small nations which have no other protection against mighty naval powers, such as Britain and the United States.

Point five says "we will join in formulating the

most effective measures to protect civilian populations against aerial bombing." But the American government knows that the International Red Cross report states—what is clear to every one—that effective protection of civilians against air warfare is impossible.

Point six advocates "the total abolition of lethal gases and bacteriological warfare." But the American government knows there already is a 1922 anti-gas war treaty which has not been put into effect, and that there is a Geneva anti-gas protocol which the United States has signed, but never ratified.

The real policy of the American government was stated last year by the secretary of war in his annual report: "It would, moreover, be an extremely hazardous policy to rely on an international agreement as a complete protection against chemical attack. In a death struggle for existence, there always would be the danger that a nation in dire straits would resort to chemical weapons if it saw in that agency the means of escaping defeat and achieving victory."

Because peacetime chemical industries can not be restricted, but can be converted into war industries over night, any talk of effective abolition of gas warfare by treaty either is stupid or deliberately deceptive.

Point seven about computation of the number of armed forces is so vague that it is meaningless.

Point eight advocates "special restrictions for tanks and heavy mobile guns"—another obviously futile gesture.

Point nine is a left-handed refusal to accept unconditional budgetary limitation of armaments. The only method which has much chance of international acceptance is to cut armaments on the basis of costs.

The American plan is not a disarmament plan, it is only another plan to make war pretty—which can't be done.

Free Men Need the Jobs

A plan is said to be planned in the senate by Senator Carter Glass and the southern guard to block the La Guardia bill making illegal the employment of convicts on federal aid highways. It is to be hoped they will not succeed.

Granting that in some states convict road camps have been beneficial to prisoners and that extension under certain conditions is in line with good penology, it seems bitterly unfair to subsidize prison labor at a time when 8,000,000 and more free workers are begging for jobs.

Prior to last year, federal aid to states for roads totaled only \$75,000,000 annually. As a measure of jobless relief, congress increased this to \$125,000,000 in the 1932 budget. A pittance, indeed, is this additional \$50,000,000, but it was voted for free workers, and to free workers it should go.

If Florida, Virginia, Alabama and New Jersey insist on misusing this money to work convicts, as they are reported to be doing, then they should be restrained by law.

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Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

MANY of our 100 per cent patriots talk about the danger of entangling foreign alliances. "Let us stay out of international affairs," they say, "and leave Europe and her leagues alone. Let's attend strictly to our own business."

Yet even then, it seems to me, they leave things dangling. They fail to go far enough with this idea. For they never state in definite terms what is not America's business abroad.

From what we gather, however, the general opinion is that it is not our business to help foreign powers out of their trade slump or with their post-war adjustments. And it is our business as individuals and corporations to get all their resources we can acquire.

Perhaps some candidate may catch the idea that the people are more interested in principles than in personalities this year. Thus far the old parties have left the field to Ward Irwin, about whose stand on any subject radio listeners are left in no doubt whatever.

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M. E. Tracy

Says:

If the Country Is Sore at Republicans for Doing Nothing, Why Should It Enthuse Over Democrats for Doing the Same Thing?

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—Regarding triumph as virtually assured by dissatisfaction with the Hoover administration, many Democrats believe that their party's one and only problem is to avoid offense. They see no need for a candidate with positive ideas, or a platform with specific pledges. In fact, they look upon both as unnecessarily dangerous.

The weakness of such an attitude should be apparent to any one. If the country is sore at Republicans for doing nothing, why should it enthuse over Democrats for doing the same thing? If the big idea is to straddle issues and play safe, why swap horses?

THE dissatisfaction which exists is economic, not political. What people want is not another party, but another plan.

Millions of citizens are convinced that something really heroic must be done, something that touches bedrock with respect to credit, the distribution of wealth and the readjustment of industry.

These people may not represent a majority, but they do represent the balance of power.

They are going to say who will be the next President, and if the Democratic candidate has nothing better to offer than Mr. Hoover, it will be hard to convince them that a change is desirable.

THE demand for relief goes much deeper than partisanship, and it can not be satisfied by Fourth of July oratory, or torchlight parades.

Strong and intelligent elements of the electorate believe that certain conditions are responsible for the nation's plight—conditions which have resulted from stupid laws on the one hand, or the lack of wise laws on the other.

There is a steadily growing demand for the right to express an opinion regarding these conditions, or some of them at least.

Under our system of government, this right can not be exercised, unless one party or the other takes a specific stand.

THE new discoveries of science

are not, always unmixed benefits to the human race.

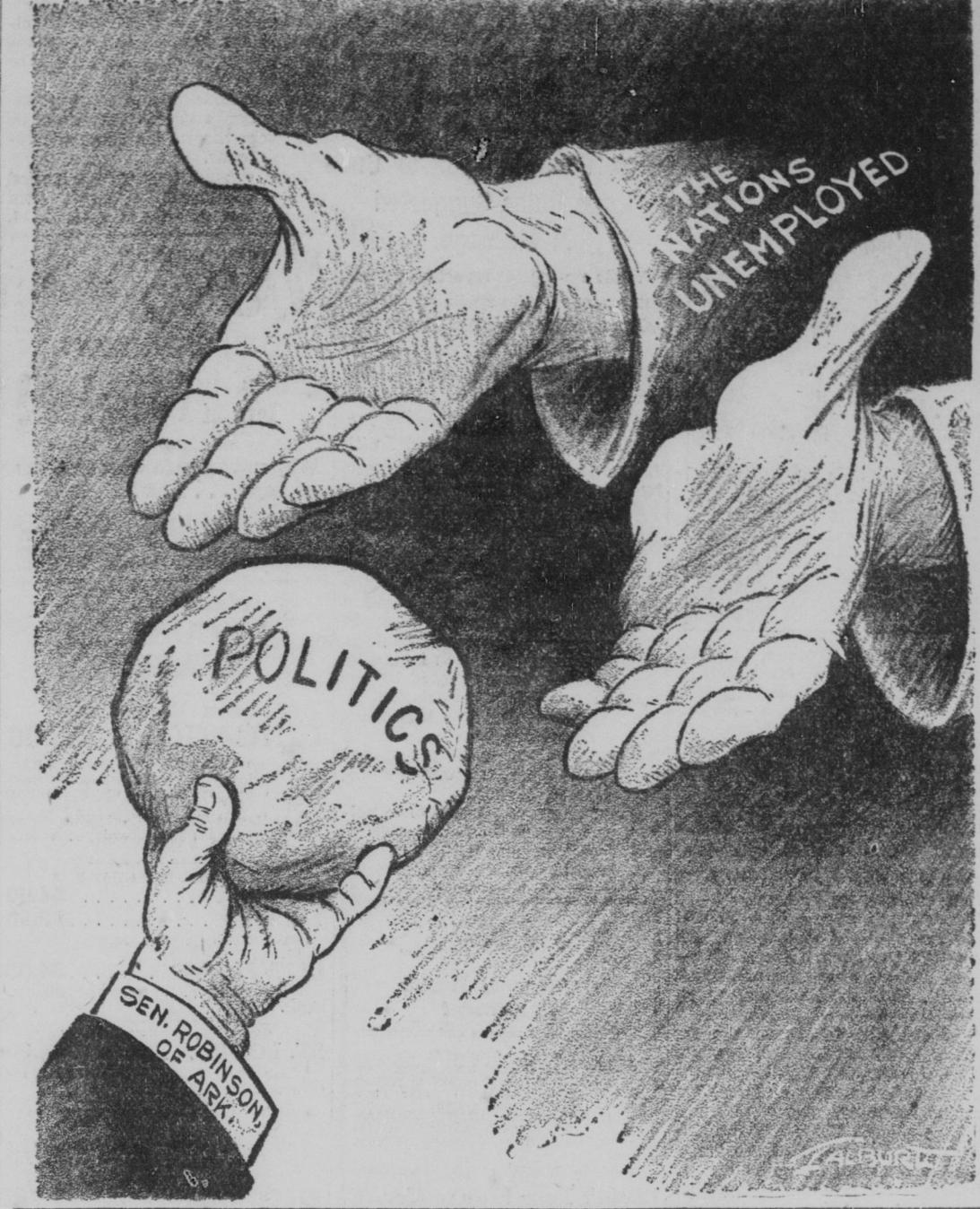
Only a few years have passed since modern chemistry discovered an element called thallium. It was found to be related in its action to the action of lead and arsenic.

Among the first uses to which the product was put was to mix it with various grains and other substances in the form of a paste which permitted its use as a rat poison.

Its special value as a poison was due to the fact that it would not warn a rat away by any special odor of taste. It would do so to the heart severely and injure the nervous system and thus produce death.

The very factors which made it especially useful as a rat poison

They Asked for Bread—



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Thallium Poisoning Grave Danger

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

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

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made it dangerous to human beings, and particularly to children.

Some time after the product was first introduced as a rat poison, it was found to have the special virtue of causing the hair to fall out.

Great numbers of people are sorrowful because they have hair on parts of their body where it should not be and because constant shaving and the application of various caustic substances are annoying.

Furthermore, there are diseases of the scalp, particularly in children, in which the first process in treatment is to cause all of the hair to fall out so that the disease may be reached.

Physicians, therefore, began to use the drug both internally and externally, in the form of cream, to overcome the disease.

Occasionally reports appeared of thallium poisoning in children who had received overdoses. Then nu-

merous reports were received of serious poisoning, though not fatal, from the use of depilatory creams containing this substance.

Now newspapers record the death in California of four Mexican children and five adult Mexicans from eating grain which had been mixed with thallium chloride in order that it might be used as a rat poison.

The starving Mexicans, who were concerned in this serious incident, had made tortillas out of the grain.

There is, unfortunately, no certain antidote for thallium poisoning.

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