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

Why the Silence?

If there is any one question of interest to the voters of this state at this time, it is the problem of forcing the public utilities to keep in step with the times and give rates that are in keeping with deflated prices of labor and commodities.

The problem is acute in Indianapolis. In this city, the public service commission refuses reductions on a statement of earnings that, so says the commission, is far different from the one issued by the company for the purpose of stock selling.

Governor Leslie might quite properly ask his commission what it intends to do about the matter. He might even ask the attorney-general to look over the law. Or he could keep out of it, or mix in to see that the commission does not embarrass the two-figured utility.

The people have learned not to expect much from Governor Leslie where utilities are concerned, but they are hoping that the next Governor will have fewer ties of sentiment to the utility interests.

For that reason, the silence on the part of those who are hoping to be Governor is strange.

Are these candidates all afraid of the utilities? Are they hoping for the usual big contributions?

The one candidate who is voicing his protest against the legalized larcenies of these utilities is Ward Hiner whose radio talks are given in plain words.

Thus far he has not been crowded by any mob of rivals who take the people's point of view.

Is there not one candidate on one of the big tickets who has enough courage and enough intelligence to give the people a break?

The Real Guilt

Some may find comedy in the adventure of a 17-year-old school girl who holds up eleven people with a squirt gun and robs them.

Fathers of other girls do not find the episode so humorous. They are wondering, perhaps, what may happen to their own girls when tempted by bootleg gin with minds filled with crime-worship by fiction and film.

Society will try this girl in a criminal court under laws made by adults who will not understand the psychology of the new generation.

Society would not dare to scrutinize too closely the source of guilt. If it did, there might be the discovery that this trip started in legislative halls when misguided Puritanism supplanted moral teaching with legal force.

The most notable example in this state was the passage of the Wright bone dry law, still upon the statutes.

How gashly is the farce when under that law it is possible for a young girl to be drugged with illicit poisons to the point of madness, drugged to an insanity that an hour of her young life threatens her whole future?

Before prohibition a drunken girl would have been the occasion of a most strict investigation, even under corrupt administrations, as to the source of the liquor. The vendor would have been put out of business. He might have been placed in jail where he would not sell liquor to children.

Today no one seems to be interested in that phase of the matter. The law is futile. It stands as a protector to the bootlegger. He has no reason to fear inquiry. And tonight and every night other young boys and girls of school age will easily find vendors of these poisons.

The Wright law does not work. It can not work. Its one effect seems to have made drinking fashionable on the part of the adult and an adventure on the part of children.

Just how long the fathers and mothers of this country will consent to a continuance of this menace to their children, how long they will tolerate this real protection to liquor selling which masquerades as a law against liquor selling, how long they will permit the foundations of character to be laid in written law rather than in moral teachings, is a matter of conjecture.

It would not be long if these parents had a real chance to vote upon the question.

Is Britain Backing Japan?

Fears of Americans that the Tory-controlled British government will not co-operate in the proposed international economic boycott of Japan are not quieted by the policy statement of Sir John Simon to the house of commons on Monday night.

There was no promise of any effective action in restraint of the Japanese militarists and in defense of the peace treaties.

As reported by the London press dispatches:

"George Lansbury, leader of the opposition, tried to obtain from the government some statement concerning its attitude regarding an economic blockade of Japan, but Sir John was silent on that point . . . It was evident tonight, as at previous Shanghai debates, that the sentiment of the conservative majority in parliament and in the government is firmly against taking any action that would arouse Japanese hostility toward Great Britain."

From the foreign minister's statement that "disturbances to peace do not good, and we do not seek to get trade through a boycott of other people," it seems a fair inference that the British government will continue to join in blocking effective league or other international action.

Despite the official report of the league commission at Shanghai that the Japanese army began the present fighting; despite the repeated refusal of Japan to submit the controversy to peaceful settlement, in contrast to the readiness of China to permit arbitration; despite the five months in which the British government, with its observers on the spot, has had time to investigate the facts known to all the newspaper readers of the world, Sir John, at this late day, hides behind the subterfuge that "it would be quite improper for anybody to attempt to pronounce partial or interim judgment."

We only can hope that British public opinion yet will force the British government to join in the American declaration refusing to recognize any set-

M. E. Tracy

Says:

No Party, Leader or Presidential Aspirant Is in Position to Crow Over Past Performances in Connection With the Depression.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—Some of his recent utterances suggest that if John N. Garner were to become President, he would do vastly more worrying about whether he got the credit than whether he deserved it.

That is a bad impression to create at this time.

The people are not looking for a leader who can be as small-minded as some are else.

Those Republicans who have been trying to give President Hoover all the credit for what has been done have only made things a little harder for him.

When Garner gets down in the gutter and rolls with them he only does the same for himself.

Mooney Day

February is the month in which we celebrate the birthdays of Washington, the founder of a free nation, and Lincoln, the liberator of slaves.

History is adding another anniversary to this month, a day not of pride, but of humiliation. It is called "Mooney day." It marks the fifteenth anniversary of that Feb. 24, when out in San Francisco Tom Mooney was sentenced to hang.

The day and the scene are more or less remote. Mooney himself was a mere iron molder and union leader of only local note. The sentencing of such a person ordinarily would hardly have been news on the day of his doom. Certainly it would not be agitating the minds of men fifteen years afterward, in a time when the world is a place of grim and mighty doings.

Why, then, have Governors and legislators acted for his pardon? Why has one American President intervened to save his life and the experts of another President's commission on law enforcement spent time and money to issue a rebuke to California's courts?

Why have pardon resolutions been introduced into congress? Why have the entire organized labor and church movements of America protested?

Excellent as the work done by this session of congress may be, it represents little more than a beginning.

The depression is not over by any means. Even if it were, there would be the problem of preventing others like it.

No party, no leader, and, above all else, no aspirant for the presidency is in a position to crow over past performances in connection with the existing situation.

Such an advantage means nothing unless translated into constructive work.

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