



The Indianapolis Times

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

Rate Revisions

Just as an indication of what might happen if the public service commission really desired to apply its own methods of valuation to fit present conditions and prices, the action of the Colorado commission in Denver is illuminating.

The plant of the electric company of that city has just been revalued for rate purposes. The plant and service closely approximates that of Indianapolis, where a valuation of forty or more millions is claimed as the just basis.

The Denver plant has just been valued by the commission of Colorado at twenty-two millions.

In arriving at this figure, the generating system went in for ten millions. The distributing system was valued at six millions. The transformers and substations came for another three and a half millions.

The Denver plant serves 89,100 customers. The Indianapolis plant serves around 100,000.

Deducting the generating system, the charge against each consumer for distributing and other parts of the plants averages \$130. The same materials and labor are needed in Denver to reconstruct such a system.

Under a similar valuation, the distributing system here would amount to thirteen millions. Add to that any fantastic figure for the generating plant and there would still remain many millions of unjust valuation here on which rates are charged.

The appeal of Indianapolis has laid dormant for months. When first filed, the answer of the public service commission and the public service utility was that appraisal would cost huge sums and would result in a raise instead of a decrease in rates.

Denver took a different course. It seems to believe that if people are forced in prosperous days to pay on cost of reproduction, based on inflated labor and commodity prices, the people should have advantage of deflation in depression.

The Denver rates have been cut as a result of the investigation.

No action is taken in Indiana. There may be a reason. The people will probably discover the remedy next November, or next January at the latest, when the legislature meets with a lot of new faces.

Aristide Briand

Briand will be missed. The world will miss him more than his own country; at least, at first, because other countries had come to depend upon him to temper with wisdom the destructive nationalism and militarism of the French extremists.

He died at odds with some of the French politicians, but secure in the affections of his people.

Starting as a Socialist in his youth, he swung to conservatism in middle age. But unlike Clemenceau, who also began as a Socialist and turned conservative, he swung back toward radicalism in the evening of his life.

Premier eleven times, foreign minister sixteen times, and a cabinet member twenty-five times, Briand probably was the most widely respected French political figure of his day.

Many titles were given him by friends and enemies. "Apostle of Peace" was the one he liked best—even though it probably cost him the presidency, which was denied him by the Nationalists last year.

The high point in his career was his labor for reconciliation between Germany and France.

Working with the great Stresemann of Germany, who preceded him to the grave, he tried to build a Franco-German political and economic entente.

He lived to see much of that foundation of a better peace swept away by the fury of Hitler's fascism in Germany and Tardieu's nationalism in France.

With Kellogg of the United States, he shared the authorship of the world-wide treaty outlawing war as an instrument of national policy.

Last autumn when the Japanese armies of conquest defied the Briand-Kellogg pact and the league covenant, he stood almost alone among world statesmen in defense of the peace machinery. Before the state department in Washington was ready to act, Briand as president of the league council challenged Japan.

Lacking the support of his own country and of the British and American governments, Briand failed to stop the Japanese war.

Now, when the United States is leading the defense of the treaties and calling the league to follow, there is no Briand in Europe to rally the friends of peace.

The Lindbergh Kidnapping

The kidnaping of the young son of Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh was a peculiarly dastardly act. Not only red-blooded, but even kind-hearted, men and women will hope that the perpetrators of this atrocious felony will be apprehended quickly and suitably punished. They will wish that this may be accomplished without injury to the unfortunate innocent victim of greed and degeneracy.

Yet the main lesson of the whole tragedy will have been lost if it does not direct public attention beyond this particular and deplorable crime. The bitter anguish of the parents will not be compensated by return of the child. It also must serve to call the attention of the public to the humiliating and truly remarkable state of affairs which can make an episode of this type possible.

The father and the mother of any child, however poor and obscure they may be, have as much affection for their kidnaped offspring as do Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh. Their hearts are as much torn by the loss of their loved one. Moreover, such parents do not have either fame or fortune to offer a partial solace. They may have to bear their grief in penury and want. There are scores of kidnaping cases yearly in this fair country of ours. They are not confined to children alone. Not so long ago a distinguished St. Louis physician was captured. On the very day of the Lindbergh kidnaping, the papers told us that the 12-year-old Dejute boy had been stolen from his parents in Niles, C.

Kidnaping is a peculiarly repulsive and atrocious crime. Perpetrators should be apprehended quickly and certainly. They should be given stiff sentences to protect society from their further depredations.

But it is not enough to punish those who execute a particular crime of this sort. We need to get at the causes of such acts, so that we may protect society from a repetition. In any civilized society parents should feel secure from this variety of barbarism.

There is more misery and want in Germany than in the United States. There is as much incentive to obtain funds through ransoms. But one of the most distinguished of Germans, now traveling in the United States, assured me today that kidnaping cases like this are absolutely unknown in Germany.

They are rare in most other civilized European countries. There is nothing unique about the United

States to make the frequency and persistence of such a crime within our boundaries a necessary thing.

We shall need to get behind this and other kidnapings and study the psychology, motives, organization and operations which make them possible. We shall have to understand how they are related to the getting-something-for-nothing psychology, so powerful in the United States, that lies at the bottom of racketeering.

Kidnaping is a specially atrocious application of the prevalent notion that "only says work"—to use Courtney Terrell's striking characterization of the ethics and psychology of racketeering.

But we also need to pass beyond an understanding of the pattern of kidnaping activities, and let this case focus our attention upon the prevalence of other revolting crimes—murder, robbery, war, and the like.

We must come to realize the disgraceful condition in respect to crime which exists in the United States. This can not be blamed on prohibition alone. It is due to a traditional lawlessness.

It is due to the lack of the development of highly trained professional police, entirely incorruptible, such as exist in most European countries. It is due to an intimidated populace which does not dare to testify against gangsters.

Even more humiliating than the commission of a crime is the fact that eyewitnesses do not feel sure enough of public protection to attest their knowledge regarding a reprehensible felony. All of this creates that confidence of probable escape which is a chief influence in the encouragement of crime in this country.

Let the Lindbergh calamity dramatize our national disgrace and stir us into a determination to rid ourselves of it. And such determination must be based upon something more vital and intelligent than temporary indignation and high blood pressure.

Holmes at 91

He has a weakness for detective stories, so he has to ration them out to himself.

He sat for a portrait painter and wanted to hurry the sitting, but his wife said to the artist: "Take as much time as you need; he only wants to get away to one of those naughty French novels."

He fought to preserve the Union and was five times wounded, thrice very seriously.

He thinks of the law as a loom: "When I think of this law, I see a princess mightier than she who once wrought at Bayeux, eternally weaving into her web dim figures of the ever-lengthening past—figures too dim to be noticed by the idle, too symbolic to be interpreted except by her pupils, but to the discerning eye disclosing every painful step and every world-shaking contest by which mankind has fought and worked its way from savage isolation to organic social life."

He—and it could be no other—is Oliver Wendell Holmes, just retired as associate justice of the United States supreme court, who today is celebrating his ninety-first birthday.

It particularly is fitting that on this birthday Silas Bent's able biography of him is published by the Vanguard Press. Bent has written not only of Holmes the great jurist, but also of Holmes the man of unusual charm and super character.

On his ninety-first birthday, Justice Holmes can look back on a life such as few men are permitted to live; a very full life; and a very satisfying life, marked by clarity, courage and poise.

Because of the nobility of his life, it is easier for us to share his vision:

"I think it is not improbable," he has said, "that man, like the grub that prepares a chamber for the winged thing it never has seen, but is to be—that man may have cosmic destinies that he does not understand. And so beyond the vision of battling races and an impoverished earth, I catch a glimpse of peace."

Dangerous

The police lost their heads. They shot into the unarmed crowd, according to news dispatches. Four of the crowd are dead and others wounded. That, in brief, seems to be the story of Monday's riot at the Ford plant in Dearborn, Mich.

It was not the fault of the 3,000 demonstrators that they were hungry. It was not their fault that they had no work and wanted work.

Their only crime was to rush an employment office when ordered to halt. They were victims of a greater crime—the crime of a civilization which denies the right of work to men with hungry families.

Under the extreme provocation of many months of suffering the American unemployed have been heroically patient and peaceful.

The way to turn those 8,000,000 peaceful citizens into angry and destructive mobs is to use guns on them as the Dearborn police did Monday.

It is imperative in this emergency that federal, state and local authorities use their heads instead of clarity, courage and poise.

Until the Lindbergh case is solved, there is little impulse in the heart of any newspaper man to write about anything else. Inevitably it has captured not only the interest, but the heart, of the American people.

The situation contains many ramifications concerning both public and private psychology. My own feeling at the moment is that practically all of us want to see the safe return of the baby. Whatever theories we may have can wait until later. If my child were kidnapped, his safety would be my first consideration.

But why be discouraged? It took 500 years and more to found a modern republic after the ideal was born in England, and it took even longer to scrap the superstitions of polytheism.

It takes many air castles to build a real one, but there is no reason why we should stop dreaming about them, or quite trying to realize our dreams if they seem good.

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How old is a middle aged person?

In the medical profession the term applies to persons between 45 and 60 years. The characteristics of middle age come earlier to some and later to others, but that is a fair average.

What is a legitimate theater?

One presenting stage productions of drama excepting vaudeville and burlesque.

How did the term "round robin" meaning a petition or protest signed by a large number of people, originate?

It was originally used to designate a neck ruff worn in the sixteenth century. Gradually it came to be applied to a form of petition on which the names were signed in a circle to obviate giving particular prominence to any name or names.

What percentage of registered automobiles in the world are in the United States?

The total world registration in 1930 was 34,603,176, of which number the United States had 26,523,779.

Is the word "lawyer" in the New Testament?

It is there eight times, three in the singular and five in the plural.

How many labor unions are affiliated with the American Federation of Labor?

About 107 national and international unions, besides numerous directly affiliated local bodies.

How many Japanese are there in California?

The 1930 census enumerates 97,456.

M. E. Tracy

Says:

Why Be Discouraged by Collapse of the Peace Machine? It Took 500 Years and More to Found a Modern Republic After the Ideal Was Born.

NEW YORK, March 8.—Aristide Briand passed out while the guns at Shanghai mock his greatest work. A sad requiem, but typical of life. Those who undertake really great things must not expect to see them finished.

Inability to realize the time and education required to put it on a solid basis must lead to "get it working smoothly," has been the one great weakness of the peace movement. It represents the most revolutionary idea since the birth of Christianity, yet there are those who expect it to be put over in a generation.

Age-old habits of thought can not be overcome with any such speed.

The peace movement will not mean much until a majority of people throughout the world has been committed to it, not in theory, but as a safe, practical program.

That involves little less than a wholesale revision of human history, especially from the standpoint of conclusion and conception.

collapse No Surprise

To those who have anything like a clear perspective of the problem, the present collapse of the peace machine means neither surprise, nor disappointment.

No matter how enthusiastic they may have been over the idea, they have not shut their eyes to the stupendous labor its translation into action imposes.

They have understood that there would be wars in spite of what was done at the outset, and more wars to keep up the work.

In other words, the world is due for a more or less extended period of strife, regardless of courts and peace pacts, and after that it is due for another period of strife in their defense.

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Job for Fighters

PACIFISTS are not going to make this world peaceful. The job is for fighting men. The sooner we realize that, the better it will be for all concerned.

Had the world sincerely been committed to peace through a reign of law, Japan would be surrounded with a cordon of steel today.

Let such an example be set by once and any nation will think twice before starting war.

We are a long way from being ready to set such an example.

If war becomes too annoying, we are willing to join others in a general effort to stop it, but that is all. In spite of the many declarations we have made we do not regard war as a crime, unless, or until, it has reached certain proportions.

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Japan Unchecked

JAPAN has violated the spirit, if not the letter, of every peace agreement that has been made, particularly with reference to far eastern affairs.

Had she been in sympathy with those agreements, she would have consulted other interested nations, and the League of Nations, before entering Manchuria. She would have done the same thing with regard to the Chinese boycott before attacking Shanghai.

Had the rest of the world been honestly and sincerely committed to the ideal back of all the councils and conferences that have been held, it would have acted immediately after Japan's initial move.

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Why Be Discouraged?

WE have far to go before human sentiment is sufficiently crystallized against war for effective action to be taken at the first sign of its outbreak.

But why be discouraged? It took 500 years and more to found a modern republic after the ideal was born in England, and it took even longer to scrap the superstitions