



# The Indianapolis Times

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

## What Would He Do?

Today, in all parts of the nation, groups will gather to praise the record and revere the memory of Andrew Jackson, courageous soldier and more courageous President.

His hold upon the imagination is imbedded in the fact that he stood for what he believed to be the best of the greatest number.

When he saw the welfare of the people threatened he did not hesitate. He acted. He had no fear of bankers and financiers. He was not intimidated by the disapproval of the "best people," who wanted special privileges for themselves.

In this state, those who gather might discuss with profit what Jackson would do were he a citizen of Indiana today and head of the government of this state.

Would he view with complacency the fate of farmers who are unable to pay taxes and who see the sheriff hovering around their farms, ready to sell them for failure to pay?

Would he smile as industry pays high rates for electricity and power while workmen receive small wages or no wages?

Would he look without interest on the thousands who eat the bread of enforced charity and wander the streets looking in vain for work?

Would he refrain from explosive wrath at the unfair distribution of tax burdens which are confiscating the small homes in cities while those whose wealth is in the new forms of intangibles escape their share?

Would he be listless as his state board of health issues warnings as to the danger to the future that comes from malnutrition in the coal fields and would the plight of children fail to reach his heart?

What would Jackson do? He might do the wrong thing. But he would do something and do it according to the Constitution.

It would not be a bad guess to believe that Jackson would have his legislature in session to deal with real problems before their solution becomes impossible.

## Tax Absurdities

The proposed \$600,000,000 federal sales tax is a breed of wrongs.

It would further impoverish the poor, add to the cost of living and introduce a new and discredited theory in our fiscal policy.

Secretary of the Treasury Mills Saturday night virtually admitted that the tax he indorses is bad. "A low rate will cure most of the defects of even a very bad tax," said Mills. While Mills excuses the sales tax evil on the ground that it is just a little sin, another of its sponsors, a newspaper publisher, on the same day urges that it be adopted universally as the American system in place of the "bolshevist confiscatory" income tax.

This bill is not only a revenue but a higher tariff measure. Having added 2.25 per cent to the manufacturers' prices at home, its authors automatically place an added 2.25 per cent tariff on the same items coming from abroad. Thus does the Democratic majority of the ways and means committee increase the trade-killing rates of the Smoot-Hawley law, imposing the new rate even on articles now on the free list.

Then, to out-Grundy Grundy, they write into the bill a new tariff of 1 cent a gallon on imported petroleum and gasoline. This oil tariff, which a Republican-controlled house refused to pass a year ago, would bring in only an estimated \$5,000,000 in revenue, but probably would take from the pocket of motorists some \$150,000,000 a year.

Having woed the oil states with an oil tariff, the authors next set out to woo the farmers by sales tax exemptions on fertilizer, seed, stock food and other things. Yet the farmers, being one of the two great consuming classes, must bear under this sales tax new and ruinous burdens in increased cost of electricity, farm machinery, clothing, books, tools, processed foods, coal, gasoline and automobiles.

To woo the workers, the authors claim that necessities are exempted. Yet virtually everything the worker uses will be taxed. Representative La Guardia estimates that a man getting \$1,200 a year will be taxed by this bill on \$1,000 of the necessities he buys.

To woo the drys, the authors propose to tax the "makings" of illegal wine and beer. Instead of saving the millions it now spends in vain effort to stamp out drinking, the government proposes to take \$50,000,000 from the farmers in a confiscatory tax on malt syrup, wort and grape concentrates, on the mistaken theory that these articles are contraband.

And so it goes.

This bill piles absurdity upon absurdity, wrong upon wrong.

## War Profits

Last year's hope that modern statesmanship might turn to the most promising of all peace proposals—the elimination of profit from war—was perished with the final report of the federal war policies commission.

Twelve of the fourteen men directed last year to draw plans for amending the Constitution so that private property might be drafted when war descends upon us, just as men are drafted, have come to the conclusion that this should not even be considered by congress.

Instead they suggest that the President be empowered in wartime to "stabilize" prices at a level which will minimize inflation. Only one member of the commission was able to remember with sympathy the original task to which the commission was assigned.

Of course, with the utmost sincerity and idealism it would be impossible for a government to equalize the burden of war between a man whose life is taken from him, and a man who merely loses his property. It would make little difference to a man lying mortally wounded on some future battlefield to know that the folks safe at home were doing without the regulated profits which the war policies commission thinks they should be allowed.

But it was the hope of the men who conceived the plan, for elimination of profits and for confiscation of needed property, that war might occur much less frequently if it were known in advance by munition makers and their bankers and all the thousands of business men who might be affected that war would mean acute financial suffering for them, instead of profiting.

Fortunately there is little prospect that the inadequate, unsatisfactory recommendations of the war policies commission majority will be acted upon at this session of congress.

## Why Farmers Fail

Congress did not err when, in passing the agricultural marketing act, it laid down a policy favorable to national organization of farmers.

But the act's creature, the federal farm board,

shunted its co-operative work into the background and heeding politicians and frightened bankers, endeavored sensationality to peg prices by pouring government millions into the wheat and cotton markets. Its vast hoards of these commodities still are threatening the market; pegged prices failed to stay pegged; government millions still are tied up.

The board's co-operative work was for a long time a sort of side line. Even after the board abandoned its "stabilization" efforts and went back to the fundamentals of the act, its co-operatives were assailed as not truly co-operative.

Now, apparently, the board belatedly is beginning to realize that if farmers are to be benefited, it will be through national organization. And Chairman Stone pointed out important facts in this connection in a recent speech.

"The earnings available for dividends to common stockholders of concerns handling dairy products were 42 per cent greater in 1931 than in 1928," Stone said, "whereas in that period the gross income of agriculture dropped 41 per cent, resulting in farmers suffering a deficit of upward of one billion dollars last year."

"Comparable earnings of auto and truck manufacturers decreased 75 per cent, and the steel industry was reduced to a deficit basis."

"Earnings of baking and flour milling concerns were off only 2 per cent and tobacco companies increased their earnings 41 per cent, notwithstanding the fact that farmers were paid record low prices for what tobacco they were able to sell."

"We of the farm board," Stone went on, "stand ready to do everything in our power to help bring about co-operation."

The farmers' hope is in powerful co-operatives, intelligent farm management, tax reform and abolition of the gold-brick tariff.

The Battle for Intellectual Freedom

The national council on freedom from censorship is waging an active battle nowadays for decency, civilization and intellectual freedom. It is advancing several measures designed to frustrate those who would impose tyranny over the minds of men.

It is introducing a bill in the senate and house of representatives to remove censorship powers from the postmaster-general. This is one of the nuisances hanging over from wartime.

It is preparing a bill to amend the federal radio act in such a manner as to give controversial public issues the same rights over the air that now are open to opposing candidates for public office.

This will make it more difficult for broadcasting companies to exclude important subjects on the ground that it is just a little sin, another of its sponsors, a newspaper publisher, on the same day urges that it be adopted universally as the American system in place of the "bolshevist confiscatory" income tax.

Controversial subjects freely are admitted now, but usually only when the conservative side of the controversy is presented. "Controversial" almost has come to mean "liberal" in radio language.

The committee also is moving to secure the removal of the padlock clause of the Wales theater censorship law. It favors a new "bad book" bill which will make publishers rather than retailers responsible for books charged as obscene.

## That New Hampshire Primary

Results of the Democratic presidential primary in New Hampshire not only have stirred new talk about probable outcome of the summer's Democratic convention; they also have emphasized the way in which the presidential primary has failed, in recent years, to tell the folks how wicked it is.

Prohibition a Symptom

THIS country has succumbed to an epidemic of hypocrisy and pretense. Prohibition is but one example. We're all willing to be good if we can take it out in talk.

We have done more jabbering about world peace than any other people, but we won't join the League of Nations and we haven't entered the world court.

Our statute books are cluttered with blue laws which we will neither repeal nor enforce.

Prohibition is a symptom of what ails us, rather than its cause.

Capone's Allies

IT is mere sophistry to deny that this generally ignored law against liquor has any connection with gang racketeering, or that such cases as that of the Lindbergh kidnapping are rooted in the era of hell-raising to which our ostrich attitude gave birth.

The foreigner who drinks and ad-lays it, even in violation of the law, shows a better concept of good character than the native son who patronizes him and supports prohibition.

The fact that foreign names bulk large in the liquor trade does not mean that foreigners constitute its main support.

The Capones could not get very far without the help of the Smiths, Browns and Joneses.

Nearly 2,000 deer were killed by accident in 1931, the Pennsylvania game commission estimates. Getting to be nearly as dangerous for the deer as for the hunters.

Would you say that the hoarders' money was about to get socked?

## Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

WISE old Mencken! He always has been the gospel of common sense. For this reason it long has gone unheeded. Amid the clamor of the noonday luncheon clubs and the boastings of the Chamber of Commerce, his voice has been but a whisper.

But it has been raised persistently and fearlessly against all our bogus quests, and his scorn has been magnified as he hurled maledictions at the empty gaudy rainbow pots we have chased.

The fundamentalist area will have none of him. He is not popular with the super-salesmen. The pious bristle at the mention of his name. Yet he continues to shout, as he has done for the last decade, against our puerilities, pleading for a return of our lost sanity.

His has been throughout the years one of the few level heads America can boast.

And, wonder of wonders, he, Henry Mencken, our monumental pessimist, at last, by reason of the changing times, has become the only optimist among us. Our prophet of disaster has turned into the oracle of good tidings.

FOR he sees right through the present gloom to the real values underneath, just as he saw through all the flimsy fabric of our affluent days. And he asks us this question:

"Why should there be two cars in every garage and a chicken in the pot every day?"

No man can answer. The propaganda for luxuries which we neither need nor appreciate when we had them was essentially unstable and disastrous.

So Mencken, after having watched our orgy of extravagance, is glad to see us emerge from our golden dreams into a dignified reality. He does not believe that America will disintegrate because the value of our stocks and bonds have vanished.

He has higher hopes than ever for the future, now that we are sobering up after our economic spree. If we had listened to him long ago, rather than to our service boys, we might not have had so hard a fall.

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## M. E. Tracy

Says:

This Country Has Succumbed to an Epidemic of Hypocrisy and Pretense. Prohibition Is but One Example.

NEW YORK, March 14.—The Methodist board of temperance, prohibition and public morals is quite confident that Volsteadism should not be charged with the Lindbergh kidnapping, or any other crime.

In its opinion, those who break the law, not those who made it, are responsible.

British authorities held a similar opinion with regard to the stamp act and duty on tea.

Many troubles could have been avoided in the past had people only shut up and obeyed orders.

## Fact or Fancy

THE Methodist board has another argument with which to whitewash the noble experiment. It rests on the attorney-general's statement that racketeers derive only 20 per cent of their income from the liquor trade.

Twenty per cent often spells the difference between failure and success, but that is not the most interesting part of the story.

What the attorney-general knows and what the income tax department knows stands out in sharp contrast to what they are doing.

The underworld has become one of our major industries, and the best we seem able to do about it is write down the statistics.

## Blame the Foreigner

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At present in several hospitals new-born infants seem to be particularly subject to this infection. Once started in any group of children, the condition is most difficult to stamp out.

Frequently when a child develops the condition, the mother will remember an occasion when her child was in contact with some other child or adult that had the disease.

When the disease starts in a group of children in a school, an orphanage, some similar institution, it usually attacks practically every child in the group.

The germs in the pus are active, so that the infection may be transmitted not only on the hands, but also on clothing, handkerchiefs, towels, toys, washcloths, or any part of the wheels. None of the men was harmed in the least by this extraordinary shot.

With two men on the firing spot the gun, a German shell suddenly found its mark in the muzzle of the Canadian gun, and exploded, blowing the barrel apart, destroying the sandbag wall and

Canadian field artillery unit on the French front in 1917.

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