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

Calling Their Bluff

Muscle Shoals is on the congressional legislative scene again. In both houses bills have been drafted; in the senate one has been reported. It is around the Norris senate bill that the new controversy will swing.

For years farm organizations and others have clamored for utilization of Muscle Shoals in the manufacture of cheap fertilizer. The new Norris bill makes this mandatory.

The country has been told by President Hoover that Muscle Shoals should not be operated by the government, but should be leased. Hoover's Shoals commission urged that preference among lessees be given to an organization of farmers. The Norris bill provides for this, permitting the government to retain only the power facilities.

Norris and others have insisted for years that the Shoals power facilities must be made available to states, counties and municipalities as a national yardstick with which to measure private utility costs.

The new Norris bill provides for this, and makes arrangements for construction of transmission lines to transport this power.

Norris has gone so far in the leasing provisions of his bill that he practically has given carte blanche to those who want the nitrate plants leased, suggesting that if his leasing provisions are too harsh that they rewrite them.

His only conditions are that the lessee must produce fertilizer, and that the lease shall not give the lessee a direct bonus from the federal treasury.

The President's commission has demanded that the government build Cove Creek dam in east Tennessee as an integral part of Muscle Shoals; the Norris bill also provides for that.

The Norris bill, in short, calls the bluff of those who have been seeking to turn Muscle Shoals over to the power interests, while hiding behind American agriculture by claiming that the Shoals should be used for the farmers.

The Norris bill protects Muscle Shoals for the taxpayers, whose millions paid for its construction.

The Camel's Nose

Be not deceived by the general sales tax propaganda that it is only a temporary expedient. Powerful interests are eager to substitute a system of consumer taxes for our traditional tax system. They will work for its extension.

At recent ways and means committee hearings, United States treasury experts let it be known that they fear the sales tax as a permanent change.

"I have one definite conviction," testified Dr. Thomas Sewall Adams, fiscal adviser to the treasury. "That is, that it is not worth your while to adopt a Canadian sales tax for a short period of time, because to put it over you ought to have an administrative machine so well built up and so large that you would not be justified in creating it for a temporary tax of two or three years."

"I agree with Dr. Adams," said E. C. Alvord, a treasury specialist opposed to the general sales tax. "As an emergency measure I think it would be subject to very serious consideration as to whether it would be worth while to interject the entire machinery for a short period of time."

Alvord added that the only way to make the sales tax work as an emergency measure is to give the treasury complete arbitrary power and "vest necessary finality in the administrative officers."

Canada imposed the sales tax as a war measure. After bitter assaults from farmers and workers, who pounded the rate down to 1 per cent, the tax now is up to 6 per cent. France took it as an emergency in 1914 and still has it, in spite of vigorous popular opposition. Since Emperor Augustus began it in the year 9, nations have tried this easy but insidious impost upon the people's necessities. Great Britain and the United States so far have held out against it.

Congress should not be fooled into thinking that this general sales tax plan is merely to "balance the budget in 1933."

The two-year "emergency" sales tax will be, if it passes, the camel's nose in the American fiscal tent. Once the nose is inside, the camel is apt to follow.

The Whipping Post

Delaware on Saturday made its contribution to capitalization by staging a public whipping in the yard of its Newcastle county workhouse.

While seven men convicted of theft stood with hands tied aloft and back bared, Warden J. Elmer Leach, a bitter opponent of whipping, was forced to flog each man with a great cat o' nine tails. Each man got forty lashes. After this, the men were treated in the hospital and began serving their regular sentences.

Delaware at least is open in its brutality. Unlike many wardens who beat, torture and break men in the darkness of prison cells, Leach wielded his whip before spectators.

Such punishment, of course, brutalizes its victims and makes them more revengeful toward society, without acting as a deterrent to others. In England, not so very long ago, men were hanged in the public square for pickpocketing. While the crowds watched, other pickpockets went among them, stealing in the very shadow of the gallows.

Vienna Tackles Housing Problem

It has been suggested sensibly that the housing problem in the United States offers one constructive way out of the depression.

Millions live in rented tenements or hovels. Why not put some private and public capital into building decent living quarters, thus furnishing work for unemployed capital and labor, and creating civilized living quarters for American citizens?

Vienna had to work under terrible handicaps. The peace treaty left the city an unnatural metropolis, containing one-third the population of Austria, with the supporting hinterland shorn away.

The great city was left high and dry, compelled to import most of her food and raw materials. She had to compete with the new states which had been favored specially by the treaties. She was crushed by taxation and by financial burdens imposed by the treaty.

Standards of living were abominably low. If Vienna could overcome such conditions, any American city should have easy sailing in any plan of municipal housing.

Down to 1919, housing conditions in Vienna were a menace to health, decency and efficiency. Three-quarters of all domiciles consisted of small flats, of two rooms or less. Overcrowding in limited quarters

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

M: E. Tracy

Says:

What Some Politicians Mistake for a Red Revolt Is Nothing but Natural Resentment Against the Unbearable Pressure of Taxation.

NEW YORK, March 21.—Bewilderment at Washington is the result of inaction. Instead of doing things, the Hoover administration has been trying to convince itself and every one else that there was no need. Instead of calling congress last spring, as it should have attempted to blunder through alone.

The nation comes to the brink of a precipice without warning, much less without a program.

One dominating obsession stands forth amid the confusion. The budget must be balanced with cash, no matter how it is wrung from the people. Naturally enough, there is a wild scramble to make profit from rentals no longer possible and to reduce land values.

The city bought up about one-third of its entire land area. The new tax system thus gave them power and land on which to build.

Since 1919, Vienna has spent more than \$100,000,000 on these municipal apartments, and the program is being continued actively. Compare with the pre-war flats a typical flat in a new Vienna apartment:

"It consists of a very small entrance hall, a kitchen, one larger and one smaller room, and a lavatory—covering in all 430 square feet. All have lavatories and running water within the flat. Each flat has electric light, a gas stove for cooking, and a small metal stove burning coke for heating, both furnished by the municipal gas company.

The flats are arranged in units built around large courts, with gardens, playgrounds, and sometimes wading pools for children in the center... The building must not cover more than one-half the area of the site, and often occupies less. All rooms have direct light and air...

"In buildings housing 300 families or more, a central steam laundry has been constructed, equipped with the most modern devices. Here housewives may do their own laundry work. Central baths for tenants are provided in the large housing units... Kindergartens to the number of 100 already have been established in these municipal buildings."

These flats rent for 7 shillings a month (about \$1.05). There is a slight additional charge for use of the central laundry and baths. The rental is designed to take care of upkeep of apartments.

The good results already are apparent. Vienna's working population can live in decent quarters at low cost. Number of householders has increased greatly in spite of shrinkage in the population of the city as a whole. Infant mortality and tuberculosis rate already have been lowered notably.

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Billion-Dollar Squeeze

UNDER a tax system like that of the federal government, lower revenue means lower earning power on the part of taxpayers.

Income taxes are down for just one reason, and that is the shrinkage of incomes. The tariff fails to produce because foreign trade is not what it was.

Most every one admits that free capital and liberal credit are essential to recovery, yet the government proposes to squeeze another billion dollars in cash out of the people.

The government proposes to do this, moreover, while bootleggers gather in an equal amount with which to finance organized viciousness.

Sales Tax Curbed

THE sales tax was seized upon as an easy way out. Adding 2½ per cent to manufactured goods was not difficult to authorize, or figure. Besides, the big boys could pass it on to the ultimate consumer in the form of a price boost and, perhaps, make a little for themselves while doing so.

The ultimate consumer has nothing but a vote. Usually that doesn't count for much because he is a forgetful, if not a forgiving soul.

But he seems to have made himself heard this time. At any rate, quite a few congressmen have sensed the iniquitous thing that was about to be done, and have created what approaches a stampede in opposition to it.

Like all stampedes, it threatens chaos for the moment, with the possibility of some pretty raw substitutes. Already, it has led to the re-enactment of war-time income tax rates by the house.

What some politicians mistake for a red revolt is nothing but natural resentment against the unbearable pressure of taxation. All over this country people are being driven out of business and out of their homes by the constantly rising cost of government.

Because of the country's reduced income, taxes have risen automatically by 30 or 40 per cent during the last two years; that is, it requires 30 or 40 per cent more effort on the average man's part to pay them.

And now government leaders want to increase federal taxes by about 25 per cent. In addition to the rise caused by diminished income, that would mean a jump of one-half, if not more, since 1929.

A scientist has just perfected what he claims is a perfect stabilizer for ships. If he really wants to be famous, he should start on one for business.

Once upon a time there was a disarmament conference delegate who wouldn't budge for his plan for peace.

The Literary Digest poll really should have provided three squares to check. One for the dry, one for the thirsty and one for the wet.

Dry rot costs lumbermen millions, says a scientist. But just think how much it costs the United States government.

Japan insists that the Shanghai problem is entirely different from the Manchurian. One would judge to be true, just from the fighting.

When Ely Culbertson, bridge czar, was about to undergo an operation, he probably said, "Your cut doctor."

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Reading the writing on the wall, "Puddler" Jim Davis turned wet. Which makes him a bigger puddler.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

TODAY IS THE WORLD WAR ANNIVERSARY

GERMAN DRIVE BEGINS

March 21

ON March 21, 1918, the great German drive began, with an attack in great force against British positions on a fifty-mile front from Arras to La Fere.

Nearly one million men were hurled against the British lines by the Germans, who claimed they had broken through the British lines and had advanced to a depth of more than five miles in places.

British divisions opposing the drive were clinging stubbornly to their ground north of Arras, but were forced to fall back in other portions of the front.

German losses in killed and wounded for the first day of the great battle were estimated at more than 50,000.

All available British reserves were ordered into action, as the gravity of the situation became apparent.

The objective of the German drive, it was believed, was the separation of the British and French armies.

WHAT our teachers ought to do, it seems to me, is to sit down with the children and study this Constitution of ours. Hitherto, we have taken out our enthusiasm for it in rather bad oratory, until, to good many of us, it has become something of an old woman's fetish.

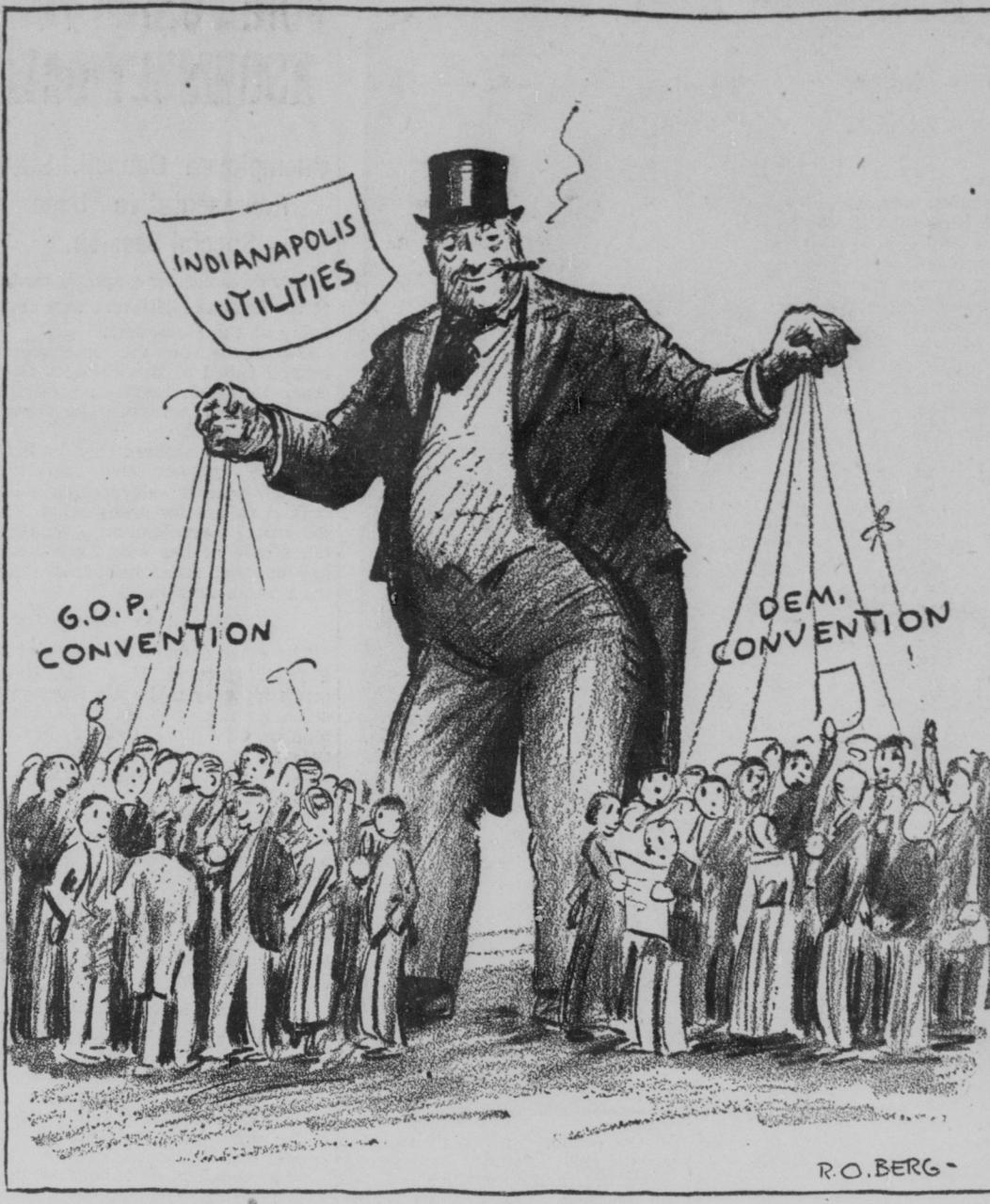
To attempt to make a strait-jacket of the Constitution is almost as bad as teaching youngsters to flout it. Its true worth lies in the fact that it is, always has been, and, heaven grant, always will be, a flexible document.

The American child should be made to understand, first of all, that he is superior to the Constitution, because as a citizen of the republic he can help to change and improve the laws by which he is governed.

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Your Vote Can Cut These Strings



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Several Cures Are Known for Warts

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

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

AMONG the most common growths on the human skin are warts of all types. Almost everybody has a "cure" for warts and some rather foolish idea of how they originate.

The ordinary wart can be removed by many methods; sometimes merely through softening by the application of corrosive chemicals; sometimes by cutting or sandpapering, and sometimes by the application of an electric current, which kills the blood supply and causes the wart to fall off.

This last process is painful, but the pain may be eliminated through use of local anesthetics. The X-ray sometimes is used to cause the disappearance of a wart.

Warts sometimes disappear spontaneously, but the disappearance usually is credited to the fact that some has murmured a potent charm at midnight in a cemetery or buried a string containing as many knots as there are.

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