



# The Indianapolis Times

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

Bread Without the Circus  
Release of 40,000,000 bushels of farm board wheat for use by starving Americans is a noble humanitarian measure which no man with a modicum of human kindness would criticize.

Yet it produces one of the most ironical conditions in all human history. Our individualist politicians and economic leaders have fought bitterly so sound a policy as unemployment insurance on the ground that it is a dote.

It would, they say, demoralize the American working class and impose a great financial burden on the government. The success and invaluable contribution of such insurance systems abroad has not been sufficient to expose shallowness of this opposition.

Now, by this free distribution of state-owned wheat, we have reverted to what has been the classic example of the dole throughout all history—the Roman dole of wheat. When anybody wished to point to the horrible results of public charity, he invariably brought up the Roman distribution of grain to the impoverished masses.

"Bread and circuses" has been the phrase which has rung down through the ages to symbolize the corruption and demoralization of state and populace alike.

Not only has government distribution of grain been regarded as the worst type of public charity, it also is far more expensive to the state than unemployment insurance.

The state never bears the total burden in unemployment insurance. Usually it bears one-third, the other two-thirds being assessed against labor and employers.

Some recently have suggested compulsory unemployment insurance, in which the state would be released almost entirely from any financial obligations.

American workers, by hundreds of thousands, are near starvation today. Free wheat is a necessity. But it is well to emphasize the actual crudity of this wheat dole, so we may take steps to prevent any necessity of its repetition in the next slump.

## Why Not Now?

When the drys were fighting for prohibition they appealed to congress to let the people speak. For instance:

Give the people of the separate states an opportunity to decide for themselves whether they desire this amendment.—Bishop James Cannon Jr. (May, 1914).

We simply are asking congress to submit to the people this amendment for ratification or rejection.—Dr. Edwin Dinwiddie of the prohibition board of strategy. (May, 1914.)

The people have the right to be heard. All the people never had a chance to be heard, and this proposed amendment will give them that chance.—Mrs. Ella Boole, president of the W. C. T. U. (April, 1914).

The member of either branch of the American congress who denies the power of amendment to the states, especially an amendment which vast numbers of the people desire the states to consider, violates the basic principles both of the Constitution and of popular government, repudiates the fundamental rights of the states and overturns the two most sacred privileges the people possess—the privilege of referendum and petition.—Senator Morris Sheppard of Texas. (July, 1917.)

After twelve years of experiment this dry law has been challenged by "vast numbers of the people," by organized veterans, organized lawyers, organized workers, by the President's own Wickersham commission, by the voters in virtually every recent test. A poll by the literary Digest reveals that now this country favors repeal by nearly 3 to 1.

Yet the Anti-Saloon League threatens that any congressman who votes for resubmission will be opposed at the polls. Rights that were fundamental, privileges that were sacred, twelve years ago, now have become to the drys frivolous and profane.

## Uncle Sam, the Cop

The federal government's police ventures have been singularly unsuccessful.

Bootlegging has flourished under federal prohibition as it never did under state option. The Mann act has been used widely for blackmail purposes. Representative Dyer says the courts are sending young men to jail for long terms under his automatic theft law because they crossed a state line during a joy ride.

Federal police laws which duplicate state and municipal laws are responsible for the clogged dockets of courts, and for creation of dozens of new federal judgeships at \$10,000 a year each in salary alone.

Now it is proposed that congress enact laws to unleash the federal sleuths we have—and to employ more spies, jailers, and judges—to punish kidnapping, racketeering and traffic in illegal firearms and stolen goods, in all cases involving crossing of a state line.

Attorney-General William Mitchell has pointed out that the main problem of administering justice is a local one, and Calvin Coolidge, in discussing proposals for further federal concentration, warned that the remedy would be worse than the disease.

Fundamentally, the function of a central government is to govern the whole people, not to police them.

## Civil Liberties in the South

The action of the state supreme court upholding the conviction of the Negro boys for alleged rape in the Scottsboro (Ala.) case, indicates the special dangers of mixing the red and black issues in the south.

It is probable that the boys would have been released or granted a new trial if their defense had been left to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. But this only would have vindicated fair play for blacks.

The International Labor Defense intervened, implying that the boys were red as well, though to the defendants Karl Marx was as unknown as Max Planck, Goethe, or Ben Jonson. This brought into play the economic fears of the southern capitalists as well as the conventional mob spirit directed against sex relations between black and white.

The Communists claim that they can not get justice in American courts. The dice certainly are loaded in favor of this thesis when they take the cases of alleged red Negroes accused of rape in the far south. But it is hard on the boys.

There is, however, an excess labor supply in the south and martyrdom may provide a more glorious exit for these Negro youths than would accompany a normal ending of their days.

The Alabama supreme court played into the hands of the Communists by affirming their conviction in lower courts. There was every ground and opportunity for granting a new trial and disconcerting the

communists, but, as usual, the courts preferred to prove the Communist thesis about American jurisprudence.

In Georgia action at last has begun on the effort to impose the death sentence upon those—white or black—who presume to disseminate Communist propaganda.

Six persons, including two young girls, are charged with inciting to riot because they distributed Communist literature and some of them proposed to speak at a Communist meeting.

Action is being taken under the old pre-Civil war law designed to prevent rebellion among Negro slaves. It was revived to check disorder in reconstruction days. It imposes the death penalty for inciting to riot and for rioting.

The public prosecutor has announced that he will seek the death penalty for "every Communist who comes to this state and publicly preaches the doctrine of violent opposition to the state."

It is to be hoped, however, that Georgia has no ambition to emulate Massachusetts or California.

## The Children's Bureau

Just twenty years ago today President Taft signed the Borah bill creating the children's bureau of the department of labor. Today, false economy threatens its usefulness.

This bureau stands high among all government bureaus in possession of efficiency, integrity, and sympathy. It was born of storm and stress.

Lillian D. Wald, a New York settlement worker, first urged its creation in 1906. Over the stubborn opposition of Speaker Joe Cannon and other reactionaries, it finally came to being in 1912. Since then—chiefly because of the devotion of two women, its founder, Julia Lathrop, and its present head, Grace Abbott—it has kept doggedly at work.

No other bureau has asked less and accomplished more. Housed in shabby, wooden structures, burned out at one time, pinched always for funds, ever the target of child labor employers, the children's bureau has helped more than 12,000,000 mothers to save and raise their little ones; administered wisely an infancy-maternity welfare law; opposed child exploitation; saved thousands of mothers' and babies' lives.

Today, its ministrations are more than ever needed. It is charged with extra work in saving standards throughout the depression. But the senate committee originally voted a slash of \$100,000, or 25 per cent, from its meager budget of \$355,000—compared with the general cut of 10 per cent ordered by the senate.

Out of a \$4,000,000,000 federal budget, it would seem that sufficient economies could be made without crippling this friend of friendless children.

## Backdoor Tariffs

While two Democratic presidential candidates, Governor Roosevelt of New York and Governor Ritchie of Maryland, on Thursday were speaking against the high tariff, Democrats in congress were trying to raise the tariff.

Attacking the high tariff, Roosevelt and Ritchie were repeating the campaign arguments which the public has come to expect from Democratic candidates, but which seem to be forgotten after the candidates get into office.

The Democratic house, which just has written an oil and coal tariff into the tax bill, was elected in 1930 on a lower tariff campaign. Just as President Hoover and the Republicans violated their 1928 campaign pledges in enacting the Hawley-Smoot monstrosity, so the Democrats today are breaking faith with the voters.

Now, in the senate, Democrats are trying to tack on the tax bill additional tariff levies on lumber, copper, jute, manganese, fluor spar, and other commodities.

If the Democrats succeed in making a higher tariff bill out of the revenue measure, it will mean long rolling and long delay in passing the needed tax law and in balancing the budget, and it will mean further destruction of trade.

That would not be a very promising start for the Democratic presidential campaign.

Trans-Atlantic steamship executives have cut fares. If they were run by railroad presidents they still would be sitting around complaining about how badly they needed government aid.

Archeologists say that the world is only three billion years old. Maybe we ought not to expect too much of it until it grows up.

Many states are advocating that their officials take vacations without pay this year as an economy measure. Most of them would save more if they would pay the officials to take longer vacations.

New York City has one jobholder for every ten families. Almost as many in the pie line as in the bread line.

## Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

JACK LONDON's daughter has come home with the news that the average Russian takes his marriage quite as seriously as the average American with his strict divorce laws.

I do not believe it makes much difference where men and women live or what their laws may be. They long for permanent marriage. This is civilization's most dream—a love that will endure.

Every girl who walks to the altar carries this high hope within her heart. Every man who repeats his vows is sustained by a vision of the beauty and the everlasting of love.

And in spite of the marital disasters we see about us, each longs that some miracle may preserve his faith. All are disappointed and dismayed when this does not happen.

The reason our dreams are shattered so often is because we make so little effort to keep them whole. Love disappears because we do not coax it to remain.

What do we do?

The story of our disgraceful behavior at Reno is not the story of the failure of marriage; it is not even the story of the mistakes caused by our diversified divorce laws. But it is the sorry tale of a nation of individuals who haven't the courage to fight for their happiness.

Three-fourths of all divorces are unnecessary. And a larger percentage than that brings more misery to the individuals than permanent marriage ever could.

We never shall discover love by searching for it in the mire of the flesh. The fabric of marriage is interwoven closely with physical and spiritual affection and our chief error is made when we discount the importance of black and white.

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## M. E. Tracy

Says:

Our Children Are Learning Too Much About Games Played on the Ground and Too Little About the Ground Itself.

NEW YORK, April 9.—Children are still the most important people on earth. White, black or brown, humanity gives more thought to their care and comfort than to any other problem. Editors seldom become so cynical, or hardened that they turn down a story concerning children.

Out in Kansas City, a one-pound infant is fighting for life on twelve drops of milk a day. Blase New Yorkers are glad to see a report of it on the front page of their favorite paper.

A Coney Island baby, fatally poisoned by salt, was accorded similar distinction.

Though they have been doing it for more than six weeks, the first thing millions of people do when they get their newspapers is to see whether little Charley Lindbergh has been found.

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## A Good Sign

NOTHING can go permanently wrong with this old world as long as human beings feel that way. No matter how crazily they may act, or how completely they may lose their heads the love of children can be depended on to bring them back to normalcy.

Lenin once said, "Let me have the children, and I will form any kind of government." Why? Because, no matter where the children go, parents are bound to follow.

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## Love Has Risks

ONE of children has a risky side. It can be carried too far for their own good. Sheltering them is not always the best idea. Some day, they will be called upon to shoulder the burden of life. They should be trained with that in mind, should be made to assume responsibilities as an essential part of their education.

The weakness of present-day life is the artificiality with which it surrounds children, the false illusionism it creates by giving them so much and by allowing them to do so little.

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## Topsided Education

MANY a young man, or young woman comes out of college without ever learning what a square meal costs, not in money alone, but in labor. Very few have an appreciative understanding of what it takes to provide the sheer necessities of life, much less the luxuries.

Parents and teachers always should remember that the big idea is not to produce efficient gadgets for a machine, but well balanced human beings.

Man-made laws are of small consequence to natural laws, and the same is true of man-made contraptions.

We are overemphasizing the value of those duds and gewgaws which adorn the show-off side of civilization, while paying scant attention to the stronger forces back of it.

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## Forget Fundamentals

OUR children are learning too much about games that can be played on the ground and too little about the ground itself.

They are getting an excited idea of skyscrapers, paved streets and bright lights, while they know little about the sweat and toil required to produce and maintain them.

Their idea of milk is a bottle left at the apartment each morning. They think of meat as a red, cold substance which one buys at the market.

Their conception of flowers goes little deeper than the odor and the price per dozen.

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## Let the Boss Worry

SINCE school is supposed to prepare them for life, they naturally look upon it as like life, and they get to thinking that life is a place where one studies more or less uninteresting books, takes an examination every so often, passes from one grade to the other and gets a diploma, while somebody pays all the bills, and so on.

They wind up with the assurance that nothing counts for much outside of an office, or a white-collar job, that the country would perish if it weren't for the city, that modern machinery has made physical effort obsolete, except in sport and that the chief problem is to get a job, preferably at a desk, and let the boss do the worrying.

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## Does Russian mink differ in appearance from American mink?

Russian mink is a deep shade brown and the fur is flatter.

What is the record depth for deep sea dives?

The record of 306 feet is held by Frank Criley, formerly of the United States navy, who made it while working on the sunken submarine *F-4*, off Honolulu, in 1917.

What proportions of the adult male population of the United States is single?

In 1930 there were 43,881,021 males 15 or more years old in the United States, of whom 14,953,712 were single.

What is the location of the Empire State building in New York?

West side of Fifth avenue, between Thirty-fourth and Third streets.

When was the