

The Indianapolis Times

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

Government by Slate Makers

Tomorrow the voters will go through the formality of selecting candidates for the two major parties.

In all probability these nominees will be determined by the activities of slate makers.

The voters will be besieged by agents of small groups, each with its particular purpose. It being an impossibility to get an intelligent and unselfish ballot without some guide, the citizen will necessarily depend on the advice of slate makers.

Before any slate is voted, it would be wise to know who wrote it—and why.

Citizens interested in defeating income tax legislation have their slate. Those interested in preserving prohibition and bootlegging have their list. Those who want labor legislation will urge votes for their selections.

Coffin has his list of those who will put him back into power in his party and in the way of patronage if elected. The regular Democratic organization has its list of those it wants to protect its interests.

Some day the Constitution will be rewritten and democratic government will be restored by limiting the number of elective offices to a very few, perhaps one at each election. Then the people will have a chance at self-government again. Today it is destroyed by the long ballot.

But tomorrow the one chance lies in casting your lot with a group that you prefer to other groups.

Before you vote for any slate, if you do vote for an entire slate, be sure to find out who is handing you your dope.

The Prohibition Issue

If you happen to be one of the rapidly growing number of citizens who believe that something must be done with prohibition, tomorrow will be your last chance to insure a real vote on the question in the fall. When the candidates for congress are chosen, the stage will be set.

If both candidates in the same district are the selection of the Anti-Saloon League, the voters can not vote on this matter.

Very many citizens who, in the past, have given allegiance to prohibition have changed their minds in these days of depression.

They believe that it has not solved the liquor problem, but has introduced government by gangsters, blackmail by gunmen, vast sums spent for futile gestures of enforcement, curtailment of revenues that formerly provided funds for government.

Many citizens believe that the government and not the gunmen should receive whatever tax is levied on the drinking habits of the people.

Many have become appalled by the fact that the government has apparently been unable to prosecute successfully for violations of this law and is driven to the expedient of sending its Capones to prison for failing to return incomes from crime for taxation.

In voting for candidates for congress, unless there is a compelling discrepancy between two candidates, those who wish to solve, not intensify, the prohibition question should vote for those who pledge themselves to the submission of a repeal for the eighteenth amendment.

Two Shoals Bills

The house this week is expected to pass its Muscle Shoals bill, a measure designed to permit lease of these valuable properties. But the Shoals issue will not be disposed of in the interest of the people who paid for these vast developments unless the Norris bill, or one very much like it, is enacted.

The house bill makes government operation an alternative, if no lessee is found within eighteen months. But even after the government starts operation, the plant can be leased if suitable terms are offered by some private corporation.

The Norris bill recognizes this as an unsound provision, and forbids private operation if no lessee is discovered in the very liberal time of a year and a half allowed for the search for such a company or corporation.

The house bill contains provisions for disposition of surplus power to states, municipalities and counties, but this power only is delivered to a switchboard. The Norris bill recognizes that the people will not benefit from this surplus power unless the government makes arrangements to construct transmission lines.

The house bill ties new strings about construction of Cove Creek dam in east Tennessee. But the senate's Norris bill recognizes Cove creek as an integral part of the Shoals development, necessary for flood control and for manufacture of the maximum amount of hydro-electric power at Muscle Shoals below.

The senate should not dilly-dally with the Norris proposal, which has been given a place on its calendar by the steering committee. If permitted to remain in its present place, its chances of passage this session appear remote; for ahead of it are scheduled the Glass banking bill, the economy bill, and the appropriation bills.

The senate could pass the Norris bill in a few hours, for it is identical with the measure passed last year.

And it should pass the Norris bill soon, so that, in conference between the two houses, the unsound provisions of the house bill can be deleted or rewritten.

Enemies of Children

By proclamation, President Hoover set aside the first of May as Child Health day.

If Child Health day means anything, it should signal a new and relentless war on enemies of children. This means a war on ignorance, poverty, unemployment, and insecurity and, chiefly, upon child labor.

Sentimental appeals in behalf of programs are useless while 6,000,000 American children are undernourished; while 150,000 babies die annually because of poverty; while one-third of American families live in 9,000,000 homes which Dr. Edith Elmer Wood calls "bad enough to be abolished"; while 150,000 children are ill each year from preventable diseases; while 100,000 juveniles become wards of the courts each year because of improper environment; while 16,000 children are killed by autos annually, largely because

they have no playgrounds but the streets; while some 3,000,000 children under 18 are employed gainfully in mines, factories, shops, and streets, though 9,000,000 adults are looking for jobs; while at least 16,000,000 children are growing up under conditions that doom them to clouded, precarious, unhappy futures.

"Children are not safe and happy if their parents are miserable," said the late Julia Lathrop recently, "and parents must be miserable if they can not protect a home against poverty. Let us not deceive ourselves. The power to maintain a decent family living standard is the primary essential of child welfare."

Children do not work for wages because they enjoy it. They respond to the call of the factory whistle because their parents must have the extra money and because employers can buy their labor more cheaply than that of their elders.

When we have made adult life secure, child life will come into its own. Then May day will be what it was to the little May Queen of Tennyson's poem, "the gladdest day of all the glad new year."

The Economy Test

If the house of representatives stands by its refusal to consolidate the war and navy departments, congress may as well abandon any serious attempts at further reduction of the federal budget.

It has become apparent, even to members of congress, that enough money can not be cut from the allowance for operation of the civil services without dangerously crippling the government and adding to the numbers of unemployed.

The house economy committee spent weeks going through the budget with a fine tooth comb, looking for ways to save. The house refused to accept the only recommendations that involved large amounts of money. And the senate is learning, by bitter experience, that 10 per cent cuts are not always desirable or possible.

The alternative, if there is to be economy, is to cut the great military services of the government. Twenty-seven and a half per cent of our annual budget goes for interest and principal of the public debt, practically all incurred for war; 25 per cent of the budget goes for payments to veterans and expenditures in their behalf; 17 per cent goes for maintenance of army and navy.

Of this last item, one-fifth, or \$140,000,000, could be saved by consolidation of army and navy departments, Chairman Byrns of the appropriations committee estimates. He bases his estimates on information furnished by officers of both services.

Byrns charges that the Washington social lobby, as well as military discipline, has defeated his proposal every time it has been considered since first made by the Harding commission.

This is a serious charge and it raises an issue which tests the sincerity of every economy advocate more directly than any of the other issues involved.

The consolidation contemplates no weakening of the national defense, no abandonment of any existing services. It does propose to prevent duplication and overlapping of functions; to stop the practice of having army and navy flying fields side by side, each with overhead expense; to do away with duplicate supply stations in the same cities; to effect saving in purchases of food and clothing, in transportation, training, maintenance and administration.

The vote Saturday was very close, with the Hoover administration lobbying against the measure. A few level-headed representatives will may swing the balance toward sane economy when the final roll call is taken.

Ten years of excessive taxation have brought us to the brink of ruin, an economist says. And the politicians at Washington think ten years more will bring us back!

The eleven new limousines purchased by the White House ought to come in handy for use in taking the President to the numerous economy conferences with the Democrats.

From the claims of the mine owners, it looks as if it would pay Kentucky to shut down the mines and charge admission.

Al Smith suggests that we tell Europe to forget its war debts for twenty years. It's too late for that now. They've already forgotten them.

The man who says the right thing at the right time is rare. But not half so rare as the man who says nothing at the right time.

The man who said a profit was without honor should have lived in 1932.

One reason for the depression is loss of foreign trade. Another reason is loss of money.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

ONE of the most significant changes ever witnessed in America is the feminine attitude, past and present, toward prohibition.

While there still are many sincere souls who believe this law can be enforced, hundreds of thousands of women have changed their minds entirely about it. Once we presented an almost solid phalanx of dry advocates to congress, but now we find multitudes of our sex who are shouting vociferously for repeal.

One thing is sure; that these reformed drys are no less one or honest or decent than they were before. They merely have learned certain facts about human nature.

Another thing we must not forget. A great many members of organizations that annually pass resolutions for more enforcement feel hopeless that this can be done, and would like some kind of a change.

BUT let us not make the same mistake twice. Before 1920, women most of whom were unversed in politics or the strange ways of men who pass laws only to break them, really believed that liquor would disappear after the Volstead act.

We know now how badly mistaken they were. But we dare not fool ourselves into thinking that if congress and the states ever do muster up courage to repeal this sinister amendment, we at once shall step into Utopia. We should profit from our former error.

By the passage of a too rigid prohibition measure, we created an incredibly difficult situation for ourselves. In those bygone glamorous days, no half measure would do. Because of that fatal belief, we now suffer and probably shall suffer more in the future.

This country will not present a pretty picture after repeal, unless our legislators use a good deal more sense about that than they ever have shown before.

Modification of some sort we must have. But it will require wisdom to make a slight adjustment, much less a radical one. It is going to take the combined intelligence of men and women to get out of our unpleasant prohibition predicament. But unless we do get out of it, we are lost.

M. E. Tracy

Says:

Efforts to Improve the Budget-Balancing Plan Have Accomplished No Purpose Except to Destroy All Semblance of a Plan.

NEW YORK, May 2.—If anything, prospects of a balanced budget are dimmer than they were a month ago. The senate has modified and amended the tax bill to such an extent that it is a different measure from what it was when it left the house.

No one can tell whether it would produce the required revenue, even if the house were to accept it. That the house will accept it without a determined and equally long drawn out struggle is equally doubtful.

Meanwhile, the house has torn the economy bill to pieces, until about half the prospective savings has been lost.

To state the situation bluntly, efforts to improve particular provisions of the budget-balancing plan have accomplished no purpose so distinctly as to destroy all semblance of a plan.

Sales Tax Abandoned

CONGRESS began with the idea of increasing revenue by \$1,000,000,000 and cutting down expenses by \$250,000,000.

It was proposed to raise about half the needed revenue by a general sales tax, and the remainder by various excise and nuisance taxes, as well as a sharp increase of income taxes.

The general sales tax proved so unpopular that it had to be abandoned, whereupon the nuisance and excise taxes were multiplied.

The tax bill was adequate, if imperfect, as it left the house, but everybody who had been subjected to a special tax began to yell, and the senate has been trying to quiet the rumpus by altering this, or that provision.

Savings Are Eliminated

THE economy bill, designed to save some \$250,000,000, included two major items. First, it provided for consolidation of the war and navy departments, which was expected to reduce overhead expenses by \$50,000,000. Second, it provided for an 11 per cent cut of all federal employees receiving more than \$1,000 a year, which was expected to save \$67,000,000.

The house has raised the exemption to this pay-cut provision from \$1,000 to \$2,500, thereby eliminating more than \$50,000,000 of the expected saving. It also has voted against consolidation of the war and navy departments, which eliminates another \$50,000,000.

Must Have Hardship

HOUSE and senate can continue trying to perfect the details of each other's work until there is nothing left.

You can take each detail and demonstrate that there was excellent reason for efforts to perfect it, but you can't take the plan as a whole and demonstrate that much has been accomplished, except mutilation and destruction.

Architects know that you can spoil the appearance of a house by changing the style of the front entrance, though you may have made a decided improvement in the latter as a front entrance.

This scheme of trying to make a structure fit details is all wrong.

We are not going to raise an additional billion dollars through taxation without causing hardship and distress. We are not going to save \$250,000,000 without lowering the pay of many employees and discharging others.

There just isn't any painless process of digging into people's pockets or of cutting down expenses.

Just Another Joke

EFFORTS to find taxes that won't hurt, or economies that do not involve sacrifice, rapidly are leading us toward the morass of quack remedies.

The cash bonus plan has intrigued many, not so much because of what it means to ex-soldiers, as because of the pretext it furnishes for inflation.

Then there is the Goldborough bill, which makes restoration of the dollar's purchasing power a matter of public policy and charges the federal reserve board and federal reserve banks with the duty of restoring the dollar's purchasing power.

Why laugh at the little Danish prince who ordered the sea to open up and let him and his juvenile followers pass through without getting their feet wet?

Daily Thought

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon you.—Hosea, 10:12.

There is no happiness in life, there is no misery, like that growing out of the dispositions which consecrate or desecrate a home.—Chapin.

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Keep Your Eye on the Ball!



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Science Cuts Infant Death Rate

This is the first of a series of six articles on "The Health of the Nation." Others will follow daily in The Times.

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN
Editorial Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine

ONE of the principal accomplishments of the medical profession in modern times has been the great work done in decreasing the death rate for infants from nearly 300 a 1,000 to a rate varying between 50 and 80.

This has been done with the aid of the infant welfare organizations and by campaigns to educate prospective fathers and mothers.

A further decrease in the infant mortality rate, however, not only is possible, but it is the ambition of every public health organization.

Much work remains to be done and it is not too pessimistic to say that the present death rate is entirely too high.

At the end of the nineteenth

century scientific medicine and public health officials began two great campaigns: (1) control of infant mortality; (2) campaign against tuberculosis.

Fifty years ago such great cities as New York and Chicago had infant mortality rates of 250 to 300 or more, which meant that 250 or 300 out of every 1,000 babies died before they were 1 year old.

The fight to decrease infant mortality really began in 1854, when the mayor of a French town started a baby-saving campaign which cut the infant death rate in his village from 300 to 200 for 1,000 live births. Forty years later his son, who succeeded him as mayor, took up the campaign and put into effect the following regulations:

1. The reporting of every pregnancy.
2. Provision that every baby should be nursed at least a year.
3. Fortnightly weighing for every baby.
4. Report of every case of illness in a young child within twenty-four hours.

The regular attendance of a physician in the village at least once each week.

A properly selected herd of cattle was developed to supply clean milk to nursing mothers and children. It is reported that the infant death rate of the village stood at zero from 1893 to 1906.

The rules there put into effect well might guide modern communities in similar campaign.

Today the infant welfare campaign includes regular inspection of school children for the earliest signs of disease, so that they may have prompt medical attention; proper control of milk through inspection and pasteurization; setting up of milk stations for poor mothers; health teaching of children in the public schools, and nutritional control through a number of special agencies.

Next: Child hygiene.

IT SEEMS TO ME BY HEYWOOD BROWN

Ideals and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and are not necessarily endorsed by the newspaper or its editorial staff.

THE questions and requests which come to a columnist from time to time are curious. Here, for instance, is a letter from H. R. J. of Washington, D. C., who writes:

"Please, on the enclosed card, give me your opinion of Wordsworth's change in politics. In 1814 Wordsworth changed from a liberal to a conservative. Your opinion will mean so much to me."

But all I can say regarding Wordsworth's switch in faith is that I am very sorry to hear about it.

And speaking of Wordsworth, some of my friends want to know whether some recent columns expressing admiration for Al Smith mean that I have become converted to the Democratic party. Certainly not. It seems to me not impossible or even illogical for a Socialist to admire some of Al's program and most of his personality.

As a potential office holder, I would prefer him vastly above Hoover, Roosevelt or any of the likely remote candidates of the two major parties.

Not Far Enough

BUT, although Smith has grown a great deal in social vision in the last ten years, he is still a man committed by belief and emotion to the preservation of the present world as we know it. As far as immediate remedies go, Smith would travel much farther than any of the others. But in regard to things which seem to me to be fundamental, I would find Smith and all his competitors of approximately the same mind. I'm on the other side.

Some hold it heretical for a radical to have any such thing as a second choice among political candidates. Among the more dogmatic there is the contention that nothing of good can come from the Democrats or the Republicans. They are all to be lumped together as among the lost, without regard even to headline distinctions.

Indeed, from this point of view

The Drawing of Lots

THE price for any such program is staggering. It must be paid in agony and woe. Moreover, gravely doubt that salvation ever is to be purchased with such coin. Catastrophe is not a springboard by which man springs lightly to new effort and freshened intelligence.

Dark ages beget dark ages. Fellowship does not increase, but diminishes among the starving. Surely no one would pick a lifeboat ten days adrift as the best possible place for creation of a co-operative commonwealth.

Unless man is a reasonable being, it is a waste of time to talk in terms of organizing a new society built upon the principle of mutual service. I think we are reasonable beings in the long run, but very slow-witted in short ones. The brain works a little better at the bottom of a precipice than at the bottom of it.

A great many leaders have been found of declaring, "I never compromise." But none of them ever

lived up to this mistaken formula. At least, none of the great ones. To be sure, a compromise should never be accepted as if it were a gift horse. There ought to be searching dental examination.

After all, the important point about a compromise is whether it constitutes a step forward or a step backward. Or, as in too many cases, a step backward. But it is the fate of men and causes that progress is and always has been a hitch-hiker.

Though "Pike's Peak or bust" may be your motto, there is no point in scoring a lift from the traveler who says, "I'm not going that far, but I'll take you across the Alleghenies."

Fair for Both Sides

ON the ride the Pike's Peak advocate may be able to convince the man that this is really the only authentic mountain top and that it is foolish for anybody to stop short of it.

It may be argued that, on the other hand, the long-haul traveler runs the risk of being talked into an acceptance of the nearer mountains as being tall enough.

But that is a risk which should be courted rather than avoided. No believer is very staunch unless he craves a chance to mingle with heretics and put his own faith to the test.

If it is a creed which has been sufficient to stir himself, why not try it out of others? If a single person has been captured, why not ten? Why not ten thousand?

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Here Are Some Puzzlers and Their Answers

How many kilometers are there in a mile?
One and six-tenths.

Where and when was John A. Roehling, engineer in charge of the building of the Brooklyn bridge, born and how did he die?
He was born in 1803 in Muhlenhausen, Prussia, and emigrated to the United States in 1831. His death was caused by an accident while engaged in fixing the position of the Brooklyn tower in 1869.

When did Antonio Stradivarius, the violin maker, die?
Dec. 18, 1737.

Can cob honey be made artificially?
No.

Is it true that the hog is immune from the poison of venomous snakes?
The skin of hogs is tough and thick, and beneath it is a heavy layer of fat which keeps the poison from entering the circulation system.

Where and when was Clark Gable born?
Cádiz, O., Feb. 1, 1901.

Are all state employees exempt from the payment of federal income tax on their salaries? Are the salaries of the President of the United States and federal judges also exempt?
The salaries of the President, federal judges, and employees of states

and political subdivisions of states are exempt from the federal income tax. This law has been questioned when applied to employees of the state or political subdivisions who are engaged in non-governmental activities, such as employees of public

ly-owned street railways and waterworks.

How many Chinese immigrants arrive annually in the United States?
The immigration of Chinese into the United States is prohibited by law. The only classes of Chinese who may gain admission to this country are government officials and their wives, children and servants, students, tourists, professors and merchants. They may not become naturalized in the United States.

How many saloons, breweries and distilleries were there in the United States prior to the adoption of the eighteenth amendment?
There were 177,790 saloons, 1,090 breweries and 236 distilleries.

People's Voice

Editor Times—If you could persuade the various candidates to publish their platforms in The Times this week, regarding the restoration of our primary rights, public ownership of various utilities, and revision of our state tax laws, etc., it would enable us to complete our own lists intelligently by the time primary day arrives and thus speed up the vote, and on a more intelligent basis.

Will you please call their attention to this through your columns?
B. LITZENBERGER.

SCIENCE

BY DAVID DIETZ

Ancient Burial Places in India Reveal Customs of Centuries Ago.

ANCIENT burial customs are responsible for much of our knowledge of man's early history. Our knowledge of ancient Egypt, for example, is so complete because of the elaborate tombs and burial customs of that civilization.

For that reason there is unusual interest in announcement of the findings of an archeological expedition reported by Dr. George Roerich, director of Uruvati, the Himalayan institute of the Roerich museum at Naggar, Kulu, India.

Dr