

# The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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

## A \$10,000,000 Racket

All the politicians of both parties, from President Hoover down, who are crying federal economy, have been put to the test by a simple bill introduced in congress. The Maas bill proposes to save \$10,000,000 a year by the easy device of abolishing the office of postmaster in all first-class and most second-class postoffices of the country.

The postmaster racket is a form of governmental waste and luxury which the country and the taxpayers can not afford. Each party should pay for its party workers, instead of grabbing a postmaster's salary and a governmental salary while they do virtually no work for the government.

About one-third of the 48,500 postmasters are political appointees of the President, many of them living on doles through the spoils system. Describing the first-class and many of the second-class postoffices, Representative Maas is accurate in stating:

"The actual work in these offices is done by the assistant postmaster or the superintendent of mails, who is an actual civil service employee. The administration of these postoffices goes on regardless of who happens to be holding the office of postmaster."

"The technical knowledge for the actual administration of these postoffices is not possessed by the postmaster, who is appointed merely as a political award."

"The main function apparently expected of the postmasters is to defend the party and to work for re-election of the President who appointed them."

This racket of course was not invented by the Republicans; the Democrats play the same game when they are in power. We use the term "racket" advisedly, meaning a system by which the people are made to pay for something they do not get.

The only strange thing about the Maas bill is that it stops with the upper-class postmasters. It should go on up and include some of the cabinet and sub-cabinet officers who draw government pay for running a party machine and making party speeches.

There is the case of Assistant Postmaster-General Glover, who runs about the country lining up postmasters to campaign for Hoover, on threat of being fired. Postmaster-General Brown, like most of his predecessors, spends much, if not most, of his time as a party manager. The secretary of war and an assistant secretary of the navy find time for party speeches and party work.

We have nothing against these gentlemen, either as individuals or as politicians. But we object to the system by which federal funds are used to subsidize their party work, instead of being used to balance the federal budget, or to pay federal debts, or to feed the unemployed.

We would not interfere with their work. Let the postmaster-general and the secretary of war, for instance, go on with their heavy party work, and let their assistants go on doing their government jobs for them.

Merely dock the postmaster-general and secretary of war for the time they take off from government work—and all other federal executives who are not kept busy on government business.

To talk about government economies and at the same time wink at such rackets is ridiculous.

## The Tariff Raiders

The vital task of balancing the federal budget is threatened by the tariff lobby. They say they will hold up the tax bill all summer unless they are allowed to attach their tariff riders.

The anti-tariff forces reply that if oil, coal, lumber, and copper tariffs are jammed into the tax bill, they will fight to put 500 other tariff items of their own into the bill.

We happen to oppose a higher tariff, as destructive of business—as proved by the Hawley-Smoot monstrosity, which has destroyed foreign trade, started a world trade war, and prolonged the depression. But that is not the issue here.

Whether higher tariffs are good or bad, they have no place in a tax bill. Most of them are virtual embargoes, which will raise little or no revenue.

If one such tariff is accepted in the tax bill, the way will be open for all the degrading roll-backing which characterizes a tariff bill. That means unscrupulous trading. It means months of delay.

The Democratic leaders in the senate are trying to save the tax bill by fighting off the tariff riders. The Republican leaders, as usual, are on the tariff side—rule or ruin.

Here is a chance for the President, the bankers, the business men, and all sundry who have been pleading for prompt passage of an adequate tax bill to balance the budget, to help rescue the bill from the tariff raid.

## Wilbur Bedtime Story

Tut, tut, folks! Quit pitying the children of the unemployed. Have done with carping about lowered living standards, hunger and all that sort of tosh. Give, instead, a rousing Stanford cheer for adversity, led by jolly old yell-leader Ray Lyman Wilbur, secretary of the interior.

The depression is, in fact, a boon to children. Dr. Wilbur told the Conference of Social Work in Philadelphia the other night. Many children now have "better and more suitable food than in past good times." Children's problems are being met "in new and satisfactory ways." "Low prices favor the efforts to blot out slums."

"With prosperity, many parents unload their responsibilities for their children on to others," he said. "With adversity, the home takes its more normal place."

The trouble, it seems, isn't hunger. It's the hives. "My diagnosis is that our present civilization is broken out with the hives," he said. "Hives are as transitory as they are annoying, if proper living is had and appropriate remedies taken. National emergencies force realities upon us."

But not upon Wilbur.

## Singing in the Bathroom

That men like to sing while bathing long has been recognized as one of the harmless but puzzling idiosyncrasies of modern life. Now, at last, comes Dr. Vern O. Knudsen, professor of physics on the Los Angeles campus of the University of California, to explain that this happens largely because the ordinary bathroom is so beautifully resonant.

The bathroom is small, and it is usually lined with glazed tile, he explains. Consequently, it makes an ideal sounding board for the human voice, lifted in song.

The man who has no illusions whatever about his vocal gifts may, therefore, be pardoned if he warbles loudly while standing in the shower. The very laws of physics are on his side.

Can he be blamed for taking advantage of them?

# M. E. Tracy

Says:

The Democratic Party Will Have to Give Up Expediency and Opportunism to Regain the Place It Once Held in This Country.

NEW YORK, May 20.—"Cut, or quit," says Mayor Walker, just like that. Then, to avoid all possibility of misunderstanding, he adds, "I'm not appealing to you; I'm telling you."

Department heads of the greatest city should have trembled at such stinging words. Innocent customers from the sticks may think they did, but not those who have lived close to the seven-year itch of wisecracking.

"If they want a show, he puts it on," says the admiring henchman, "and if they want economy, he gives it to 'em."

Past on his feet, you have to admit, but, as he once declared, only the servant of Tammany Hall.

No doubt, the department heads already have drifted around to see John F. Curry and get the correct interpretation of Mayor Walker's cryptic remarks.

Puzzle for Roosevelt

UP in Albany, a much perplexed Governor probably is wondering on just what charges such a nimble-witted individual as James J. Walker could be ousted and just how southern and western delegates can be rallied to the cause of "clean politics" if he isn't.

Indeed, Mr. Roosevelt, what are you going to do when Judge Seabury reports?

The Sherwood box has been found quite empty and certain trading records strangely are missing.

Who started this investigation, anyway?

No Reason to Worry

IT'S a queer adventure, this political mixup in New York. It completely offsets what the Republicans lost because of Teapot Dome. Even if it does not, Governor Roosevelt has little occasion to worry.

The chances are that he couldn't get Tammany's support until he had convinced the leaders he didn't need it, and, after all, what the south and west want to convince them of a New York Democratic fitness is Tammany opposition.

Had Tammany swung to Wilson, Champ Clark would have been nominated to replace the place it once held in this country, to be what it was in the days of Jefferson and Jackson.

Not So High Minded

POLITICS, especially in the Democratic party, is not the high-minded clear-headed business one would like to believe. If it were, Alfred E. Smith's nomination would have been a foregone conclusion this year.

If a President should be given the second term for the sake of continuity in government, party leaders should be given a second nomination for the sake of coherent policy.

The Democratic party will have to give up expediency and opportunism to regain the place it once held in this country, to be what it was in the days of Jefferson and Jackson.

Smith Is the Man

THOUGH new at the game, and though fighting against the overwhelming influence of boom times, Alfred E. Smith made one of the finest and most courageous campaigns in the nation's history four years ago, polling the largest vote by any man ever cast for a Democratic candidate.

What is more, that campaign was pitched on issues which, though of vital importance, remain unsettled. The trouble with the Democratic party is that it has ceased to be a fighting organization. It is sidestepping the issues raised by Smith, just as it sidestepped those raised by Wilson.

It has not missed an opportunity to welch in the last thirty-six years, and I who say it was raised a Democrat and still believe in the Democratic principles as they were laid down by the party's founders.

I say also that Alfred E. Smith comes nearest to teaching the public that "public spirit" has hit a depression. Our professional engineers, rate experts and expert accountants placed their price, of dollars and cents, to relieve or attempt to relieve a suffering, depressed, city of public utility patrons.

I am, however, expert accountant, rate expert or engineer, but I was drafted to use common sense and "public spirit." I had no money, but was studying the legal profession and conducting a business of commercial adjustments.

I was compelled to drop it all and give my time to the recent rate protest.

On the evening of the last day of the hearing, I, with a few others, was told to go direct to the presiding commissioner's office, and avoid newspaper reporters. In that office, I was made subject to our acceptance. After some discussion as to its merits, a suggestion, not by the commissioner or utility representatives, was made to the effect that the petitioner's committee be consulted.

The commissioner objected, on the theory that general satisfaction could not be had, and he continued to say that he was inclined to write an order, and further, he said he had been ridiculed by the public and press so if anybody was to be the goat in this issue, he would assume all the responsibility.

My question is, how does he assume that responsibility, playing golf down at Martinsville? We were faced with the problem of taking the proposal or fighting to the supreme court. To the critics of my vote, I want you to tell me how we can fight a case to the United States supreme court without money and public support?

What would you have done?

During the hearings, there were not exceeding fifteen spectators from the consumers of public utility service. I even had members of my original committee that did not stand by me.

From some that I know would betray their trusts. This was not to have been a one-man fight. It should have been every man's fight, and I know we would have won.

I am absolutely opposed to any person, persons, corporation or corporations attempting to restore to these utilities, their former rates by having the court set aside the present ruling. I am convinced that whoever encourages this move,

## All Wrong!



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

## Teeth of Many Children Neglected

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN  
Editor of the American Medical Association, and of Hygiene, the

To find out how many children in this country suffer with decayed teeth, officers of the United States public health service arranged for examination of mouths of children in four states by a personnel especially trained in dentistry.

The states included in the examination were Georgia, Illinois, Missouri and Maryland. Twelve thousand four hundred thirty-five children were examined by the dental officials.

The children who suffer with decayed temporary teeth are mostly in the group from 7 to 8 years old; those who are having difficulty because of remaining roots are in the group around 8 years of age.

It is found that children 6 years of age have the highest percentage of temporary teeth with cavities.

So few children had the cavities of their temporary teeth properly attended to and suitably filled that the number was negligible. Where as the care of the temporary teeth is necessary if the permanent teeth are to be spaced properly and suitably developed, the temporary teeth once lost, there still remains the possibility of good care for the permanent teeth.

Unfortunately, however, there were vast numbers of children 14 to 15 years of age whose permanent teeth nearly were destroyed by decay. Actually, 90 per cent of all children of all ages had one or more teeth decayed, missing or filled.

It should be borne in mind that

the examinations made by the school inspectors merely are casual examinations, and not at all to be compared with the type of examination that can be made by a private dentist, with special instruments, such as mirror and explorer, to aid in detecting cavities.

For this reason parents should see to it that every child has its teeth examined at least once every six months from the age of 2 years onward, to make sure that decay will be detected at the earliest possible moment and properly controlled by cleaning and filling.

Money spent in this way during the early years of life will represent a vast saving over the funds that will have to be spent later for artificial dentures that would not be required otherwise.

## Times Readers Voice Their Views

Editor Times—To the critics of the recent compromises between the Indianapolis Water Company and the Indianapolis Power and Light Company and the committee as originated in the central committee of South Side Civic clubs, this statement is made:

"If you had been drafted to represent and defend the many consumers of these respondent public utilities, what would you have done?"

As the chief representative of the civic clubs, I tried to get money by appointing a finance committee and setting it to work. One public-spirited firm gave \$25. That was all we got. We had no expert engineers, accountants or rate statisticians. We had offers by some, but they asked for money.

One accountant made a detailed analysis and the city paid the contracted price of \$300, first, because it could use the data for equal advantage as we Civic Club representatives and second (assumed) the mayor knew and his council knew that we couldn't rally enough public-spirited citizens together to accumulate \$300.

I recently have passed through an experience which teaches me and I believe it teaches the public that "public spirit" has hit a depression. Our professional engineers, rate experts and expert accountants placed their price, of dollars and cents, to relieve or attempt to relieve a suffering, depressed, city of public utility patrons.

I am, however, expert accountant, rate expert or engineer, but I was drafted to use common sense and "public spirit." I had no money, but was studying the legal profession and conducting a business of commercial adjustments.

I was compelled to drop it all and give my time to the recent rate protest.

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I am absolutely opposed to any person, persons, corporation or corporations attempting to restore to these utilities, their former rates by having the court set aside the present ruling. I am convinced that whoever encourages this move,

will go no farther than the "upset."

I know it was not right to have any increase in rates. It was un-called for, but would you who criticize deprive 20,000 people of a saving in the act of satisfying a public utility by allowing the former rate, and satisfy another 20,000, probably more, who would not give even a widow's mite, to fight these powerful utility firms?

I solemnly swear that this fight is not over, and that it shall be continued in the general assembly of 1933.

On many occasions, the commission instructed us to get certain evidence to substantiate our allegations, and we had no way under the sun to get it. Only the commission could get the necessary data.

On the other hand, the reports of the public service commission will show that we, as taxpayers, have paid on an average, for the last ten years, the annual sum of \$179,840.61 for strict public utility regulation.

What do we get? I say no and a thousand times, No!

WALTER C. KATHERMEL.

Editor Times—Why can not Mr. Cottrell feel fully assured that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation will achieve the purposes of the act? Since he claims knowledge of the amount already distributed in Indiana by this agency, he should know also that several millions have been loaned to railroads and that a considerable portion of at least one loan has served the purpose of the act with striking precision and to the absolute satisfaction of Mr. Hoover, who approved the loan to the Missouri Pacific against official opinion to the contrary.

If, however, must have been but a singularly dull day in the affairs of the House of Morgan and associates when only the pelfy sum of five millions could be credited to the Missouri Pacific account.

How much more ideal would it be for those so faithfully served by the Reconstruction act if its applications could be made, as Mr. Cottrell supposes, "without publicity." His plea for patience in awaiting miraculous service from the corporation suggests more than we had expected. The miracle of public tolerance toward the act is quite enough for one season.

"The Reconstruction Finance Corporation is a sort of assets realization company!" Precisely what sort? Whose assets? By what magic of realization?

Of all the impalpable constructions of reason! Just what can the insignificant sum of \$370,000,000 accomplish in the liquidation of sound assets to the betterment "of the great mass of American people?" What might two billions of dollars, if it ever should be obtained by the corporation, accomplish as an inflating force beneficial to the mass of people while the government, in balancing its budget, would neutralize the effect of that force?

This in a nation with a wealth reduced \$160,000,000,000 in two years, in a nation with income reduced thirty-six billions in the same period. In a nation bankrupt, if you please. Hopeless absurdity!

Not long ago we witnessed the raising of agriculture to her feet, and all who waited to see the result saw her conclusive collapse, which prompts the conclusion that the most imperfect knowledge of many is in the subject of chemistry: They do not get a distinction between smelling salts and embalming fluid. They have been so blinded by

cruel misrepresentation that they mistake solemn obsequies for resurrection festivals.

Truly, as Mr. Cottrell suggests, there is virtue in working on a generous Providence, but it is wretchedly unkind for a public adviser to fall in calling attention to the fact that those who have the means to go ahead are acting independently of the forbearance of a God.

C. MACLEMORE.

Editor Times—What would we do without The Times? We have been subscribers since it first was called the Sun and have no fault to find with it so far. We always can tell it to The Times and get it out of our systems.

What I want to say is this. The time to investigate a public official is while he is in office. In April, 1931, the trustee of Center township, Marion county, bought two electric irons, paying the light company \$7.50 for them. Now everybody knows that there is no laundry work done in the trustee's office, so what became of them and why were they bought?

Also we want to know why our amount of food has been cut to the starvation limit? We never get any salt. We are expected to cook without it, to make fires without matches. We are tired of going hungry.

Another thing. How about those free garden seeds? My husband made three trips, walking about thirty miles in all, trying to get some seed. Finally he got this answer, "When we have some seed we will notify you."

Everything the Red Cross does is wrong. They put out that free flour, twenty-four pounds a month, and took three articles off of our grocery list. God knows we were getting little enough at first.

V. S.

For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.—Psalms 72:12.

Mirth is God's medicine.—Henry Ward Beecher.

# SCIENCE

BY DAVID DIETZ

Campaigns Save Teeth of Thousands of Children and Improve Their School Work.

BETTER care of the teeth of children is a major need of the United States, according to a survey just completed by the American Dental Association.

The survey, under direction of Dr. Alfred Walker, indicated that much remains to be done in realizing an ideal condition in this field.

"Prevalence of decayed teeth and the accompanying handicaps to children is today appalling," Dr. Walker says. "Estimates of the percentage of children needing dental attention range from 75 to 98 per cent."

But these facts completely are overshadowed by proofs found of benefits accruing to children and taxpayers from thorough dental hygiene.

The survey included statistics from Boston, New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Cambridge, Mass.; Athens, Ga.; Toronto, Bridgeport, Conn.; Cleveland, Eau Claire, Mich.; White Plains, N. Y.; Lake Forest, Ill., and Shamokin, Pa., all places where intensive research has been going on for some time.

## Bad Teeth Costly

THE survey revealed that in some localities estimates of the number of children needing dental work ran as high as 98 per cent.

Chicago authorities, estimating that many children failed in school because of bad teeth, which resulted in poor health, estimated that for this reason dental defects among school children cost the taxpayers about \$750,000 annually.

This was estimated to be the sum needed to educate "repeaters" who had failed to pass because of poor health due to teeth.

"Ninety-six per cent of the children, examined in Chicago had defective teeth, 92 per cent in Cleveland, and 98 per cent in White Plains, N. Y.," Dr. Walker says.

"Dr. Luther H. Gulick of New York City reported that of 40,000 children examined, those with two or more bad teeth averaged five months behind their proper grade. In Shamokin, Pa., more than a third of the children did not own a toothbrush, and only 155 out of 3,330 had clean teeth."

"Outstanding examples of how dental health education aids the school child to progress also were found, however. One of the best was in Atlanta, where a steady campaign has brought amazing results."

The campaign, under the direction of Superintendent of Schools Willis A. Sutton, began in 1924. In one school where dental instruction and care were installed, 1,200 school days were saved in a year's time. At the end of five years, every child in all the schools of Atlanta was 100 per cent dentally perfect."

## Benefits Reaped

"BEFORE the system was installed, 32 per cent of the children in the Atlanta schools failed to pass their grades," Dr. Walker continues.

"In a year the percentage was down to 8. Before the campaign, attendance averaged 83 per cent; afterward, it was up to 97."

"After the program, coupled with a general health campaign, had run for six years, the average percentage of repeaters was reduced by half."

"Similar results came from dental health programs in other cities. Athens, Ga., reported 100 per cent good teeth after a three years' campaign. Toronto, Canada, in ten years reduced cavities in children's mouths from an average of seven to an average of two."

"Five years after a dental health program was begun in Bridgeport, Conn., repeaters were reduced 65 per cent. Cavities in the mouths of children in Lake Forest, Ill., were reduced by one-third in ten years."

"Approximately 23 per cent of the Lake Forest school children had unclean teeth in 1920, while in 1930 the percentage was down to 1.5."

"There is only one answer to these facts. Dental health is invaluable to the progress of our children. Not only are they handicapped by bad teeth today, but they will be even more handicapped in years to come, when serious complications are bound to arise unless precautions are taken."

"Preventive dentistry, like preventive medicine, is a saving in the long run. The sooner this is realized, the better off we all will be."

## Daily Thought

For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.—Psalms 72:12.

Mirth is God's medicine.—Henry Ward Beecher.

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