

The Indianapolis Times

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

The Water Controversy

Once again the public is being educated to the fact that regulation of utility rates under the present system is cumbersome and impossible.

Months ago The Times suggested that in the present era of depression a reduction of rates for water was strongly indicated.

Mayor Sullivan and the South Side Civic Clubs filed a petition for a decrease in rates.

They had no money with which to prepare evidence or to employ experts. They were compelled to depend rather largely upon the justice of their cause.

No group of rich and influential citizens came to their aid with money, time or interest.

The study of the situation showed clearly that for years the small home owner had been charged at an unfair rate as compared to those who use huge quantities. Just how much they were being overcharged was not determined.

As a result of conferences, in which the mayor was properly interested in a reduction of city bills and the clubs were interested in the small user, a compromise was effected by which the city received a reduction and the rate was cut for the man who had not been using the minimum limit allowed under the minimum charge.

Large property owners were raised to make up the difference between the loss on the small user and the city obtained a reduction of \$66,000 a year.

The courts have now declared that no increase can be made without a hearing. So the matter will go back and lag in the courts for months and possibly for years.

Past experience indicates that the courts will protect the company from any reduction until the last word of expert evidence has been given. It is quite possible that the little fellow, thousands of him, will be forced back to his old rate as a result.

Before the matter ends, the conflict is quite likely to be between classes of citizens rather than between all citizens and the company.

Relief comes too slowly through regulation. Cities should own their utilities, especially water service. That is too important to be a matter of private management, no matter how efficient.

The people will do well to remember the facts next winter when the legislature meets. The path to public ownership should be made easy.

The cities, especially this city, could stand depressions much better if they were rid of utility monopolies and private taxation.

Your Health

Doctors and hospital bills to the average American family are a heavy burden.

In this healthful country are 200,000,000 cases of illness a year. At any given time, 2 per cent of the population is "laid up." The average American is ill nearly twice a year.

Wage-earners lose 250,000,000 working days, or \$1,250,000,000 annually from illness. Over \$3,000,000,000 sick bill falls heaviest upon the self-respecting working and middle classes. The poor go to free clinics and public hospitals and the rich have means of preventing and curing their ills.

Aside from the wholly inadequate preventive health establishments in city and rural communities, the American health plant appears to be fairly adequate. We have 1,500,000 health workers and a \$3,125,000,000 hospital equipment.

The American doctor averages around \$5,000 net income, while the big majority of private hospitals operate at a loss. They are modern and efficient, as shown by their ability to conquer such great killers as bubonic plague, malaria, typhus, yellow fever and typhoid fever, and their brave fight on tuberculosis.

Why, then, is this vast health plant unavailable, economically, to the class that needs it most? "A substantial portion of the American people has been cut off from the benefits of modern medical art and science because of the costs of medical services," says Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, secretary of the Interior. "At the same time, many doctors and other practitioners are not receiving incomes commensurate with their long years of training, and hospitals are facing financial difficulties."

To reconcile this paradox a committee of physicians, called the committee on the costs of medical care, has been working for five years, and will report its findings this fall.

In answering the question of how the nation's health facilities can be laid at the door of the average American, we suspect that it will have to go deeply into the fundamentals of our economic system.

Whether the committee's answer will be socialized medicine, such as Germany has, or the public physician, such as Canada is trying, or group health insurance, such as certain industries are evolving here, the problem will simmer down largely to the question of increasing the buying power of the masses.

Dr. Wilbur says that if our present scientific knowledge and service were distributed equally, it could be "bought" for between \$35 and \$50 a year a family. And it would add ten years to the average American's life span.

The Truth About Debts

Out of London comes one of the frankest statements about American war debt policy that we have seen anywhere in a long time. It is an editorial in the London Times—reported to be inspired officially.

It states that the United States expects European debtors to resume payments after expiration of the one-year moratorium, July 1, and that the British government now is arranging to make its payments. There is nothing surprising about that. Being a large creditor nation herself, Great Britain, of all countries, can not afford to set the precedent of default.

But the surprising part about the London Times editorial is its apparent understanding of the American position on war debts—that we are neither suckers nor Shylocks.

The proof that we are not Shylocks is usually ignored by anti-American propagandists abroad and by sentimentalists at home. That proof is the fact that we already have canceled those war debts from 25 to 75 cents on the dollar, without getting much in return, even in good will.

The net result was that the European nations used more money on armaments, which not only made their own economic condition worse, but which made us in turn spend more on our expensive armaments. We would be suckers if we passed on the European debts to the hard-driven American taxpayers without any hope of improving world economic and financial conditions and foreign trade.

But America is ready to make further debt sacrifices if they will lead to better world conditions. Basic improvement in world conditions waits upon European nations getting together in their disputes over debts-reparations and disarmament.

Purpose of the one-year Hoover moratorium was

to give Europe that period in which to get together on those problems. But the reparations conference has been postponed repeatedly, and the arms conference is a failure.

If Europe is determined to perpetuate the conditions of chaos leading to bankruptcy and war, unconditional American debt cancellation would not save Europe, but merely would hasten the downward plunge by liberating more munitions money. Europe must begin to help herself before America can aid.

"What is not realized so generally is that a substantial step toward disarmament is a necessary condition for settlement of those intergovernmental debts which are paralyzing international trade," says the London Times.

"A final debt settlement can be reached only with the co-operation of the United States, and Mr. Borah undoubtedly spoke for the great mass of his countrymen when he said that the American taxpayer would refuse to consider any concession over debts until assured that it would bring about a real improvement in world economic conditions."

That, in our judgment, is a fairly accurate statement of what the American attitude on debts should be and is.

We only can regret that America's hands are not so clean in the matter of starting a tariff war, which is so much more destructive than debts to international trade and peaceful relations.

High and Dry

Stanley High is a dry. He is a minister in Connecticut, former editor of the Christian Herald and, in his own words, a prohibitionist. "In background, practice, and conviction." Now he admits that thirteen years of crusading has proved it impossible "to persuade a whole generation that the use of liquor is a personal sin."

"The facts of the current liquor situation in the United States are sufficient," he writes in the leading article in the current Harper's, "to arouse against our present-day traffic the same moral indignation that routed the saloon."

"Liquor, in these post-prohibition years, has attained to a more respectable place in American society than it has held at any other time during the last half century."

He thinks the dries have forgotten about the liquor traffic in their zeal for the prohibition law. They must, he says, submit their cause to the people by referendum.

"The case against liquor still is as sound as it ever was," he says. "The case for prohibition is increasingly debatable."

The Kreuger Disclosures

The farther the investigation into the affairs of the late Ivar Kreuger is pushed, the more astounding the whole thing becomes.

The disclosure that the famous "match king" had personal debts and indirect liabilities or more than \$168,000,000 at the time of his death is one of those things that ordinary folk hardly can credit.

Here was a man, apparently, who built up a house of cards on a more colossal scale than any one before him ever had dreamed of. Great financiers and small investors seem to have been alike in the way they were hoodwinked.

The tragedy of it, of course, is the fact that it is the more or less innocent bystander who suffers the most.

A revolver bullet took Kreuger beyond the reach of financial worries; but his debts are very real, and present indications are that many of his creditors will get little or nothing on their claims.

Ballots used in the Ohio primary election were found to contain several typographical mistakes. They were used nevertheless, on the grounds that mistakes made by the printers would be small compared to mistakes made by the voters.

The senate holds up its hands in horror at the suggestion that the United States take silver in payment of war debts. Well, we'd say silver was better than nothing.

Petroleum was about the only thing the Russian unofficial ambassadors to the United States were willing to discuss on their recent visit. They must be an oily lot.

Bombing of the American consulate at Nagasaki really was nothing to get excited about. The same thing has happened to plenty of buildings over here.

A writer says 4,000,000 inhabitants of New York can not tell you the name of their congressman. Maybe they know, but are ashamed to tell.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

WE are informed that Dr. John Watson, eminent behaviorist, is giving his two small sons ample opportunity to fathom the vagaries of the opposite sex.

These little fellows are not going to be taken in by feminine wiles later on if their father can help it. They are encouraged to regard nudity from a critical point of view and to think of girls as very ordinary creatures.

For a behaviorist, this is uncommon good sense. And it is to be hoped that the small Watsons will profit thereby. But the chances are they won't.

There is nothing so futile as making plans for or about your children. Indeed, it seems to me that this takes away from their essential charm. What satisfaction, for instance, does a lawyer get merely by training his son to become another lawyer? This is the kind of thing that marks the tiresomeness of the adult.

The only real fun in having a family is that one never is sure just how it will turn out. It is the unexpectedness of your children that makes them fascinating and that constitutes the very lure of life itself.

To tell the truth, most parents lack imagination and the spirit of adventure about their children. They always are setting up rules and evolving plans for them to follow. A father seldom is content to watch the development of a child's personality, because he is so engrossed in shaping it into the thing he believes it should become.

He is so taken up with his precious theories of training that he fails to thrill over the stupendous fact that the very young child is a distinctly different individual from other young children.

A parent always should be at hand for advice and counsel, but outside of this he is more often a hindrance than a help to his children.

No individual can spring from infancy into full-fledged maturity. We all must go exploring into the enchanted forest of adolescence and each must go alone. None can take a parent's word for that experience.

We have had slight luck, I believe, in instilling into our children a proper consideration for the rights of others, mainly because we are so reluctant to concede to them their own.

M. E. Tracy

Says:

We Have Been Dawdling With This Depression for Nearly Three Years, Without Result.

NEW YORK, May 26.—First, the senate votes a 10 per cent tax on auto tires and tubes. Then, changing front within the space of hours, it reduces the tax to 2½ cents a pound on tires and 4 cents a pound on tubes.

The change means a loss of some \$20,000,000 in prospective revenue, wherefore, the senate restores the tax on cosmetics, which it previously had eliminated.

Such action reveals the senate as not only uncertain of its ground, but as wasting time in useless argument.

Men have spent 5,000 years trying to determine what tax system was best and how to be fair with respect to details. About every plan has been tried and rejected.

After all the discussing, analyzing, and experimenting, the civilized world is unable to agree whether a real estate tax is better than an income tax, or a single land tax is better than a sales tax.

Under such circumstances, the idea of trying to be perfect with regard to a thousand and one details is ridiculous.

Old Problem Revives

THE senate could argue for a century and still be uncertain as to whether a 10 per cent tax on tires and tubes was exactly right, or whether it ought not to be reduced and some of the burden placed on lipsticks.

Meanwhile, it must be apparent to every one that the country's need for quick constructive action is superior to all other considerations.

Before we get out of this mess, millions of people will have to pay more than they think they can stand, and eventually the bulk of the burden will be passed on to those at the foot of the line who least are able to bear it.

We are up against the same kind of proposition that we were fifteen years ago, when we paid bootblacks \$12 a day as ship carpenters and sent our best boys overseas to face death in the trenches at \$30 a month.

Time to Quit Quibbling

QUIBBLING over unimportant details can spoil, or destroy, the best plan ever conceived. There comes a time when men must quit it for the common good, when minor differences must be laid aside to clear the way for co-operative action.

Congress could go on fighting over items of taxation until the United States went bankrupt. Maybe some of the members would be right in their contentions, but what good would it do?

The one essential thing is to get the budget balanced and provide an effective program of relief.

Getting No Place

WE have been dawdling with this depression for nearly three years, telling each other what the government couldn't or shouldn't do, and what everybody else had to do.

As President Hoover says, the government can't do it all, but there is a great deal the government might have done and should do. Most of the problems with which the government is grappling have been with us since the fall of 1929, and most of the remedies which it is preparing to try might have been tried many months ago.

The American people have suffered from inaction on the part of their government quite as much as from anything else.

It is an admission that the crash caught us all off guard and still believe that those in authority should have realized its causes, scope and character long before this.

Putting that aside, there is no excuse for delay, for frittering away time in futile quibbling, for playing politics while millions of people suffer for lack of work.



GERMAN DRIVE EXPECTED

ON May 26, 1918, German shock troops were reported concentrating on the Chemin des Dames sector of the western front for their third major offensive of the year. French forces opposing them had been reinforced, but only to a slight extent, and allied experts were fearful that the German storm troops might again break through, as they had against the British in their March offensive.

It was estimated that nearly 250,000 American troops could be thrown into the breach in case of necessity, and several divisions were being held in readiness.

The railway station at Liege, Belgium, was destroyed in a raid by allied planes. Twenty-six persons were reported killed there.

Questions and Answers

How many Civil War veterans of the federal army are available?

Exact figures are not available. About 60,000 are drawing pensions and the membership of the Grand Army of the Republic is about 57,500, but these figures may not include all who are living.

What was the longest baseball game ever played in the major leagues?

A twenty-six inning 1-1 tie game between Brooklyn and Boston of the National League, May 1, 1920.

Did George Arliss star in both the silent and the talking film versions of "The Man Who Played God"?

Yes.

Daily Thought

Resist the devil and he will flee from you.—James 4:7.

Many a dangerous temptation comes to us in fine, gay colors that are but skin-deep.—Matthew 23:28.

Comfort!



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Wear False Teeth When You Sleep

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN
Editor Journal of the American Medical Association, and of Hygeia, the Health Magazine.

THERE has been for years an argument as to whether a man with a beard should sleep with the beard inside or outside the covers. Patients with artificial teeth constantly are confronted with the question as to whether the teeth should be taken out or left in at night.

If the denture fits well, it may be worn at night, because it will help to keep the face in normal shape and comfort. Of course, the plates should be cleaned thoroughly before retiring and again in the morning.

Dr. B. L. Hooper points out that it may be seen necessary to remove the denture, to rest the mouth. Under such circumstances, the teeth may be taken out, rinsed in cold water (the mouth also may be rinsed with cold water) and the dentures replaced.

If they are left out of the mouth, any irritated places on the ridges or tissues may swell, which may make it difficult or impossible to put the teeth back in the mouth.

The average mouth and gums may be difficult to keep clean, because of tenderness. The person with artificial dentures may keep his teeth clean because he can take them out and clean them with a special tooth brush that is stiffer and stronger than the ordinary tooth brush.

Tartar will gather on artificial teeth just as it does on natural teeth. The average person should go to the dentist at least once every six months to have the tartar removed and the teeth cleaned and polished.

The person with artificial dentures has the advantage of being able to leave his teeth at the dentist's office, to have them cleaned and polished and ready for him on his return.

In second childhood, the teeth being gone, the stomach digestive tract are provided with soft food such as is given to a child.

Artificial dentures enable the elderly to eat food that is hard and more difficult to digest.

The elderly should keep this fact in mind and not overload a deficient digestive tract. There are artificial teeth but not, as yet, artificial stomachs.

Ideals and opinions expressed in this column are those of one of America's most interesting writers and are presented without regard to their agreement or disagreement with the official attitude of this paper.—The Editor.

IT SEEMS TO ME BY HEYWOOD BROWN

MILWAUKEE, May 26.—I have been a reporter at political conventions, but this week, at the National Socialist convention here, I served for the first time as a delegate. I think it's better to be a reporter.

Almost always it is difficult to sleep at a convention. I mean in your room at the hotel. When you want to go to bed you generally observe that there are six or seven other reporters sitting around. I generally make it a point of asking them whether they are tired. They answer that they never felt better in their lives. This makes it difficult.

But a delegate is a little worse off. When he tries to go to bed there are five reporters in the room and six or seven fellow delegates. Some of the reporters do not like some of the delegates, and it works the other way around. But none of them is tired.

Unaccustomed as I am—STILL I should not complain. Still I should not complain. Nobody ever interviews a newspaper man, but here in Milwaukee a delegate can get himself misquoted in almost any paper.

Probably nothing much happens in the city. It has no gangs and very little crime, and so the local reporters get lonely and come around to ask delegates what they think of prohibition and Karl Marx and bimetalism.

I didn't tell anything about bimetalism, because I must hold the appetite of the news sleuths and also afford myself a chance to do a little research into bimetalism before preparing any public statement on the matter.

In addition to being interviewed, I am told that it is also possible to get yourself photographed by the camera men if you loaf around the lobby long enough. That hasn't worked for me yet.

I did manage to get my picture taken once, but it was at the wrong time. A man I knew trapped me into it. I had just come off the train—in fact, it was three trains. Karl Marx must have said at one time or another that you can't be a good Socialist unless you keep changing cars.

Anyhow, I was what you might

call travel-stained, and in the lobby was a newspaper man I knew. He greeted me warmly and said, "Come on upstairs a minute."

Naturally I misunderstood him. When you have just come off three trains and a man you know says, "Come upstairs a minute," it is no more than reasonable to expect that you are going to get a drink. Particularly in Milwaukee, where it is possible to get a large glass of beer for 20 cents.

Here's Looking at You BUT the man did not have any beer or gin or light wines. He had an accomplice with a camera. I wanted to shave and take off my traveling shirt. I look pretty terrible in a picture after even a couple of trains.

All that was carefully explained. But the man who had the camera and the man who didn't both insisted that in their opinion it would not make a nickel's worth of difference.

After the picture one of the men interviewed me about politics. I talked with animation about a number of things, and he took notes in a small pad. When he got back to his office he tore up all the sheets except one about prohibition.

The next day there was a picture and a headline which said, "Broom Dripping Wet." You can see that it doesn't take much to make a quarter column news story in Milwaukee.

But the picture, as it turned out, didn't do me or the Socialist party much good. I seemed a half-faun, half-oaf. Maybe a little more than half-oaf. And there I was leering from under the label, "Dripping Wet."

If I hadn't known the subject of the current camera sketch intimately I would have said that just as he stood he was a living and walking example of the horrors of non-enforcement. And yet, as a fact, the trouble with my right eye was entirely due to cinders from the New York Central.

This was the portrait of a man who had first put vine leaves in his hair and then spent the night in a haystack. At least, that was the suggestion. Of course, I'd much

rather spend the night in a haystack than in a Pullman. I tried that stunt of standing up in the middle of the berth to get undressed, but it's not a knack you can master the first time.

Sources Close to Brown AFTER I read the interview I no longer felt that the picture was the worst part of the exhibit. It's funny how silly your words sound when you talk them and somebody else writes them. I mean even in the places where he wasn't making up as he went along.

I suppose that is why public men always are complaining about being misquoted. Cold type can hit you right in the spine, like a cold shower.

If I ever get to be a public man as a regular thing, I am going to go in for the strong, silent stuff, or I will get me a White House spokesman.

Maybe I did say some of the fatuous things about prohibition which I found in the paper. After all, how can you expect anybody to talk brilliantly when he thought he was going to get a drink and ended up with nothing more than a nose-ful of flashlight powder?

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People's Voice

Editor Times—Prohibition seems to be the scapegoat for a lot of our troubles, and, if true, many of us long for the time when all our troubles will be saddled on to the William and led out into the woods and lost.

And if the return of alcoholic drinks signifies that officers will enforce the law by letting a Christian civilization country, perhaps we would better compromise and so get the laws enforced. For it seems the law enforcement body of our country is not coping with the increasing crime, or are we just going to the dogs?

I believe I am safe when I say that the Anti-Saloon League generally has ganged up with the Republican party, and especially do I think it was true of the last Hoover and Smith campaign. Now, after four years of observation, I am reminded of what Mr. Hoover said shortly after his inauguration. Something like this: "That it was more important to obey the law than to enforce the law," or that it was easier to preach than to act as an executive.

The Republican party, in its twelve years of power, stands to answer to one of three charges: That it is incompetent to enforce the prohibition law as written in the Constitution, or that it is double-crossing the people, in that it is not trying, or it should know in twelve years' trial whether it may or may not be enforced and so should declare.

If the prohibitionists and the Republicans will caucus and confer, and after due deliberation come out and tell the people which of these three they are guilty, some of us will be delighted and enlightened.

However, Al Smith, viewing the presidency from afar, together with other Democrats, absolves the Republicans from a dirty slate by declaring that prohibition can not be enforced, that being their humble opinion.

We do know that since 1921, the

SCIENCE

BY DAVID DIETZ

Anthropologists Clash on View of Who Settled America, and When.

AN archeologist of the Smithsonian Institution will explore the black caverns of western Texas this summer in an attempt to trail the oldest Americans. He is Frank M. Setzler.

One of the riddles of anthropology is the settling of America. There are two schools of thought. One, championed by Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, famous anthropologist, claims that man has been on the American continent since about 15,000 years, perhaps only 10,000.

Dr. Hrdlicka, after many expeditions into Alaska and northeastern Siberia, believes that the original Indians entered the American continent by way of Alaska, crossing over from Siberia via the Bering Strait.

The other school believes that man has been in America at least 25,000 years, since the close of the glacial age. There are even some authorities who insist that man has been on this continent for as long as 100,000 years. But the holders of this view are in the minority.

Setzler, while he thinks the view that the first Indians entered America by way of Alaska may be correct, nevertheless hopes to establish that man has been on this continent since the close of the glacial age, a period of 25,000 years or so.

Spear Heads