



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 somber realities.

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. Our \$3,000,000,000 sick bill falls heaviest upon the self-respecting working and middle classes. The very 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 the buying power of the masses.

Dr. Wilbur says that if our present scientific knowledge and service were distributed equally, it might 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 tell the truth, most parents lack imagination and the spirit of adventure about their children. They always are setting up ruses 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 older youth, a child.

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.

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 Sterne.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

M. E. Tracy

Says:

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

NEW YORK, May 26.—First, the senate voted 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 cosmetics.

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 is that?

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 which it has 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.

One can admit 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 it.

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

TODAY IS THE WORLD WAR ANNIVERSARY

GERMAN DRIVE EXPECTED

May 26

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 living?

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 Sterne.

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.

HERE 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 seem 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 place 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.

Tarter 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, as yet, artificial stomachs.

Ideas and opinions expressed in this column are those of one of America's most interesting and controversial figures. They are not necessarily agreed to or recommended by the editor of this paper. —The Editor.

Centuries Elapsed

THE amount of earth which had accumulated over the spear point and animal bones found by Howard would indicate that many centuries had elapsed between their burial and the coming of the Basket Maker culture.

Authorities also point out the significance of the finding of the bones of the musk-ox as far south as Texas.

Such animals today are restricted to the circumpolar region, the herds grazing on the tundra at the edge of the Arctic.

The finding of the bones in Texas, suggests that the animal must have grazed there in the day when most of North America was covered with the ice-sheet.

At that time, Texas might have been a tundra on the edge of the ice.

Setzler this summer will start in the southern part of the Big Bend region of Texas, a few miles from the Rio Grande, and work north up the Pecos toward the Guadalupe mountains.

This is all hilly and mountainous country, with numerous caves—both limestone and caverns in the sedimentary rock and big gas pockets in the volcanic rocks.

Last year, in one cave in this region, he found a few remnants of an ancient Indian culture which archeologists have been unable to definitely identify.

It is thought to represent a fore-runner of the Basket Maker culture.