



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### Reducing Taxes

Under any construction of the law regarding the valuation of property for taxation, the horizontal reduction on valuations made by Assessor McCloskey is justified.

The value of real estate is its sale price. No one could argue that the price of real estate has not fallen at least 25 per cent since the last assessment.

The price of everything has fallen, especially the price of labor. The price will fall farther unless some plan is devised to put men back to work and create a market for labor and commodities.

That is, the price of everything except money. The interest on debts, public and private, remains at the old figure, although the purchasing power of the dollar has increased greatly. The money lenders are receiving much more for the use of their dollars than they did in 1929, if they translate their coupons into food, clothing or luxuries.

As a matter of fact, the valuation of property has very little to do with the amount of taxes which must be paid by the people. The only way that taxes can be reduced is to spend less.

Spending less in these days will inevitably mean the reduction of salaries. Probably public officials will attempt to scale down costs by reducing wages and leave the salaries stand. There is a difference.

It will probably be necessary to cut out many public projects. The first to go should be the unnecessary building of public highways by the state. In another year or so, the number of automobiles in use will make present roads more than ample.

There will be other community enterprises, very necessary for cultural and spiritual advance, which will probably disappear under the compulsion of necessity.

There can be no relief until the burden of interest is lifted from the backs of private and public debtors.

That can not be done until prices of labor and commodities are lifted, through inflation of currency, back to the levels on which debts were contracted. Paring down of public expense will help, but not much.

In 1929 the national income was 94 billions of dollars, and of this interest and government took about 23 per cent. This year the national income will be 45 billions. The fixed charges remain the same, but amount to more than 50 cents out of every dollar.

Interest charges, utility rates, useless jobs should be scrutinized. They offer the one chance of first aid. The final answer must come with jobs for the jobless. That is the real tax problem.

### That Electricity Tax

If more states will follow the lead of South Carolina, the outrageous action of a congressional committee in transferring the 3 per cent federal electricity tax from companies to consumers may be nullified.

The South Carolina railroad commission has called on companies under its jurisdiction to pay the tax themselves, as congress originally intended they should, instead of charging it to consumers.

"In effect," says the commission, "the assessment of 3 per cent on the amount paid each month for electrical energy by the consumer is nothing more nor less than an increase in rates—and this at a time when there is a failing market for necessities and luxuries."

The commission feels that the companies well could afford to absorb this tax, and that this absorption would strengthen their relations with customers and the people generally."

So far, the South Carolina companies have not said what they will do about it, but a municipally owned power plant, at Marshall, Mo., has announced it will pay the federal tax out of surplus, and charge its consumers nothing.

If private companies don't fall in line, there is likely to be an increased demand among users of electricity for public ownership of their utilities.

### You Say It, Reader

A fine, forthright attitude is being displayed by the Democratic leadership in congress on the subject of prohibition, following their party's espousal of repeal and "immediate" modification.

A few examples show just how fine and forthright: When Britton of Illinois suggested that the pending Hull-O'Connor bill be brought up for a house vote, John N. Garner, Democratic Speaker and vice-presidential candidate, professed repealist, said:

"The chair does not recognize the gentleman for that purpose."

When confronted with the possibility of a vote on beer in the senate, Democratic Leader Joseph T. Robinson said:

"Let's wait until after the election."

Democratic Senator Dill of Washington, a leader in the Roosevelt movement, said of the bill:

"I am against it. The recently adopted platform pledges the candidates for the coming election."

Democratic Senator Sheppard, supporter of Rep. Garner for the presidency, when Senator Barbour asked for unanimous consent to consider a repeal resolution, said:

"I object."

The Republican leadership is doing pretty well, too. Said plow Senator Smoot:

"I don't care what the (Republican) party's stand is."

Gen'l reader and voter, you say it.

Isn't this a splendid response to the popular demand for an end to prohibition foolishness?

### Interdependence

Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, who recently has had an uncanny way of being right, was right again in his Fourth of July address before the American Society in London. Magnificent as were Magna Charta and Our Declaration of Independence, said this

scholar-statesman, the time has come for a declaration of interdependence of the nations of the earth.

"Our system which we propose is elastic," he said. "This co-ordination of independent units, each with its own point of view, each with its own traditions, each with its own language, if you please, each with its own form of political and religious faith in matters of detail, but working together as units with one great purpose—to keep this world in peace, to keep this world free, and, so far as human effort can do it, to keep this world prosperous and happy."

Dr. Butler voices not an ideal, but an actual trend. Both major parties in Chicago wrote into their platforms unprecedented planks urging American participation in conferences of powers in cases of breach of the Kellogg pact.

To clarify this idea, Dr. Butler's own twentieth century fund committee on economic sanctions Tuesday urged immediate initiation by the United States of a protocol to the pact of Paris, under which signatories may vote simultaneous embargos upon traitors, without the use of armed force or entangling alliances.

The Democrats urged world court participation, a tariff conference, arbitration.

Interdependence is a big word in size and importance. That it is being recognized as the twentieth century corollary of independence shows that the insatiate nationalism stirred by the World war is dying out.

Because they accepted him as such a leader, they followed him with unshakable confidence and enabled him to accomplish inconceivable things.

Looking back from the distance of more than 2,000 years, we are able to understand that Alexander's greatness was due to an ability to break away from the past and try something new.

Most greatness consists of the same simple stuff.

## M. E. Tracy

Says:

Most Greatness Consists of Ability to Break Away From the Past and Try Something New.

NEW YORK, July 6.—Young Alexander wasted no time trying to untie the Gordian knot. He just whipped out his sword and cut it.

No doubt, he horrified some of the conservatives by adopting such a crude method. No doubt, they called him a poor sport, scolded him for having so little respect for precedent, and charged him with violating the Constitution.

But young Alexander got results, which was about all his rollicking, devil-may-care soldiers demanded. They accepted him as a leader who could think fast in an emergency, and who didn't give a whoop whether he thought in accordance with custom, or not.

Because they accepted him as such a leader, they followed him with unshakable confidence and enabled him to accomplish inconceivable things.

Looking back from the distance of more than 2,000 years, we are able to understand that Alexander's greatness was due to an ability to break away from the past and try something new.

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### Man of Courage Needed

EVERY so often, men create a snarl. Sometimes, they create it consciously, but more often without realizing what they are doing.

Occasionally, the snarl becomes too complicated to be taken apart the way it was put together. Then we have to wait until somebody comes along with sufficient courage and originality to slash it.

That is what we are waiting for today.

Debt conferences, disarmament conferences, naval conferences, economic conferences—they are all failing on the futile idea of unraveling a world-wide tangle according to the method and system by which it was developed.

One day they tell us that all debts must be paid, and the next that all debts should be measured by ability to pay.

Years have been wasted forcing this or that government to recognize something "in principle," when it commonly was admitted that the government could not and would not carry it out in practice.

Like children, we seem vastly more anxious to get something in the record that we can twit each other about later than in doing what is sensible.

Nothing made Clemenceau so mad at the council of Versailles as the fact that the German delegates refused to stand. Nothing gave him more satisfaction over the allied victory than the humbling of Vienna as a rival of Paris.

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