



# The Indianapolis Times

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BOYD GURLEY, Editor  
EARL D. BAKER, President  
W. W. HOWARD, Business Manager  
PHONE-Killey 5551  
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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 falling market for necessities and luxuries."

"The commission feels that the companies will be able 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 Brien of Illinois suggested that the pending Hull-O'Connor beer bill be brought up for a house vote, John N. Garner, Democratic Speaker and vice-presidential candidate, protested 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 beer bill: "I am against it. The recently adopted platform pledges the candidates for the coming election."

Democratic Senator Sheppard, supporter of Repeal 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 pious Senator Smoot:

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

Gentle 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 embargoes upon pact violators, 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 insensate nationalism stirred by the World War is dying out.

We are one big family, and common woe is drawing us closer together.

## Calming Down

In Chicago Heights last Monday, the suburb city's only bank was paying out fast. The people were excited, and by Thursday a bank crisis was at hand. Mayor Daniel Bergen proclaimed a week's holiday, shutting down bank, stores, and shops. In two days the folks were back at work, their sanity restored.

"Everybody grabbed a fishing pole and made a holiday of it," said Mayor Bergen, "they got calmed down and came back ready for business."

Of course, we can't fish ourselves out of a depression, but neither can we get out by becoming hysterical. The main thing is to keep cool and unafraid. And what better antidote for jangled nerves than watching the willows dip into the shade of a sluggish river or the sun set over the vista of a placid lake?

As Emerson reminds us, nature always is asking: Why so hot, my little man?

A radical says we need a government devoid of hypocrisy, but the veteran politicians will dismiss that statement as just another attack on our good old American customs.

Build a good mouse trap and the world will beat a path to your door, says the old proverb. And the same thing will happen if you have a sharp lawn mower.

A Chicago bandit who robbed a pedestrian of \$500 recently gave his victim \$10 to "get another start on." That's the difference between a bandit and a lawyer.

That vaudeville actor who married the ventriloquist certainly is taking a chance. Imagine hearing yourself suggest that your wife needs a new summer outfit when that thought is farthest from your mind.

At last the Soviet government is beginning to show signs of real efficiency. A recent order issued by railroad heads require all locomotive engineers to carry watches.

"Pretty Boy" Floyd is getting in the limelight again. If he keeps going at the present rate, he'll soon become important enough to try for income tax evasion.

Infernal machines have been bothering police a lot lately, but the only one that really bothers the average man is the one just in front of him on Sunday afternoons.

Dr. Millikan, the eminent scientist, says the great problem these days is to find something to do with our leisure time. During the depression, we would say, the answer to that one is easy. Spend it looking for a job.

An African tribe which confines its language to grunts has been found. That language is known in the United States, too, but is used only at breakfast.

After all, it makes little difference to the taxpayer whether his money is squandered or stolen.

## Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

THE average taxpayer generally is ignorant of the sort of propaganda that goes on in the public schools.

Entirely too large a part of it pertains to the spread of sectarianism and ballyhoo for the eighteenth amendment.

Most of us give respect to those men and women who sincerely believe in our present prohibition law. But so long as a good many people who also pay school taxes do not regard it as a good thing, it seems somewhat high-handed for the ardent ones to seize upon the entire machinery of free education to put over their opinions, no matter how fine they may be.

Yet the other day the head of schools in a good-sized city was heard to say that he never would hire a teacher, no matter how good, unless he or she belonged to some church—meaning a Protestant church.

And the chairman of the national committee on education for the eighteenth amendment in the Parson-Teacher group is the superintendent of schools in one of our largest southern cities. After reading some of his "facts," one sees that even this title is a misnomer, since most of his deductions are rather flimsy.

NOW, it seems to me that any man who holds such a position has no business working either for or against repeal. He is entitled to a personal opinion and that is all. His job is to run the schools in a fair and impartial manner, and he should no more strive to teach Methodism in his classroom than to instill there the principles of Buddhism.

Neither the women's organization for national prohibition reform, nor the W. C. T. U., has any right to invade the study halls with their arguments. Children should be preserved from all intimations by any group or faction.

And the rich who can send their children to private institutions can not sidestep duty in this way. Every man who pays taxes and who believes still that education means a drawing out rather than a closing of the mental powers is at fault when he permits his schools to be used for propaganda of any sort.

## 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.

Most greatness consists of the same simple stuff.

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

## Foolish About Contracts

MOST of our statesmen are run-ning around yelling that "a contract's a contract," even if it can't be fulfilled.

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 twist 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.

## Attitude Is Negative

EVER since the war fever engulfed it, humanity has been having under a reign of childish emotionalism, in which fear of the future has combined with provincialism of the past to make anything like bold, constructive leadership impossible.

Russia and Italy have cut loose, but only to breed consternation among other people. Even here in America, we are more concerned about what Bolshevism or Fascism might do to us than what we might and should do for ourselves.

Our attitude has been negative since the war ended. We have spent most of our time studying what not to do, have elected three Presidents largely because we believed that they not only would refuse to undertake anything new, but would exert themselves to break all implied commitments by which we might appear obligated to try anything new.

## Questions and Answers

Is the word "girl" in the English version of the Bible?

In the singular number it is found only once, in Joel 3:3, "they have sold a girl for wine that they might drink." The plural "girls" also occurs once in Zachariah 8:5, "the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls, playing in the streets thereof."

On what day did Nov 11, 1905, fall?

Saturday.

"What is 'the dark of the moon'?" The expression "dark moon" or "dark of the moon" is a popular one indicating that portion of the month when the moon is not visible. From two days before new moon until two days after old moon is the appropriate time of invisibility, and constitutes the "dark of the moon." All the rest of the lunar month is regarded as the "light of the moon."



BALKAN CAMPAIGN July 6

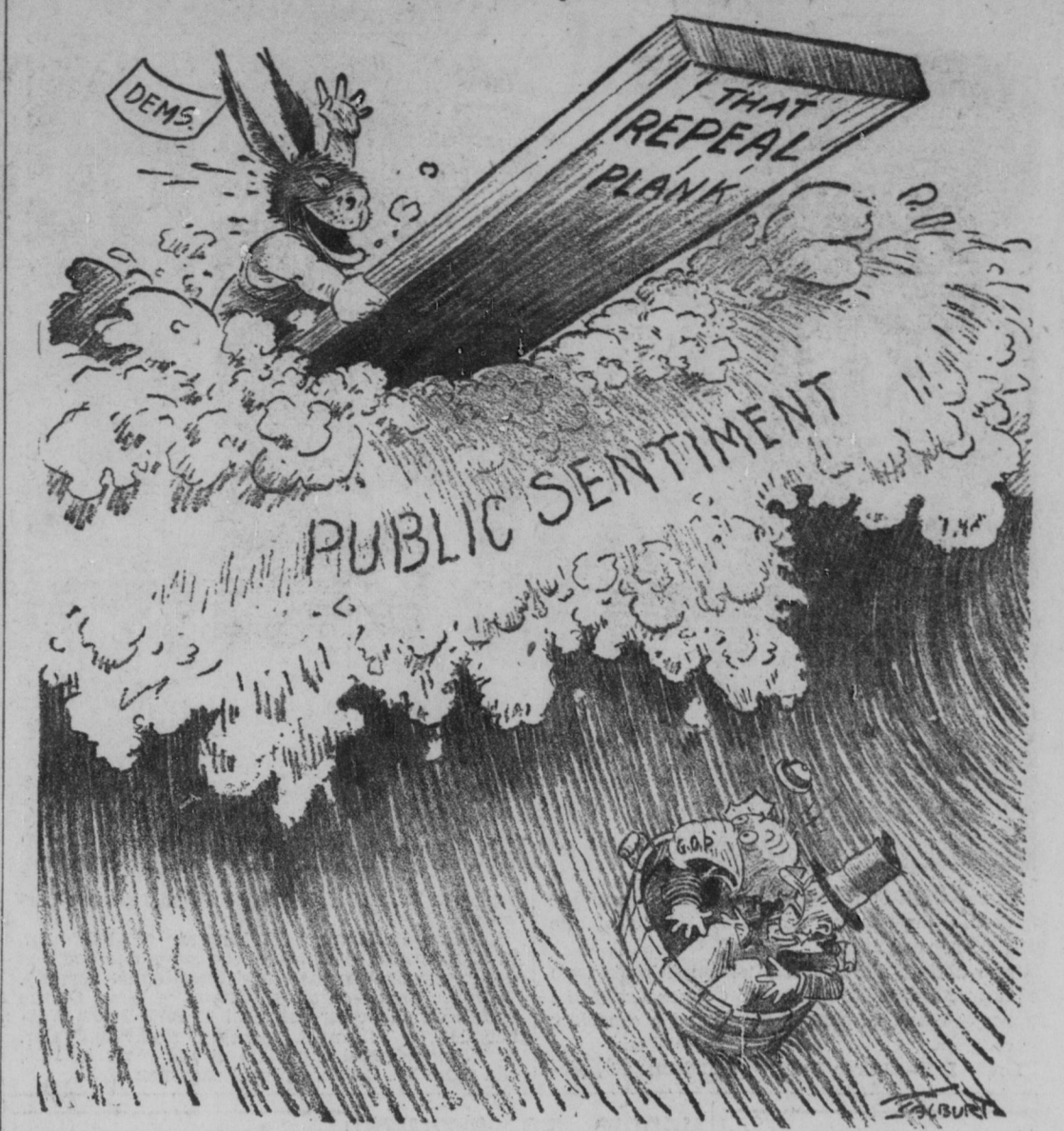
ON French troops in Albania started the Balkan campaign, beginning a drive between the coast and the Tomorica valley.

Italian troops were jubilant and ready for further action along this front when they learned that fellow soldiers finally had expelled Austrians from the western bank of the Piave river.

Australians and Americans, doubling up on a front northeast of Villers-Bretonneux, advanced along a range of almost 40 miles. Americans also successfully repulsed a raid at Xivray.

Russia's internal strife continued. General Count von Mirbach, German ambassador to Russia, was assassinated by two social revolutionists.

## On the Crest of the Wave!



## DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

## Toll Heavy Among Expert Swimmers

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEN  
Editor Journal of the American Medical Association, and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine.

SIXTY per cent of all drownings occur from May to August. Contrary to the usual belief, the majority of people who drown are expert swimmers and not amateurs. The expert swimmer takes chances to which the amateur never submits himself.

Weissmuller, most famous of American swimmers, never swims out in deep water without an accompanying boat. The good swimmer sometimes overestimates his strength and disregards common sense rules of safety.

Dr. E. H. Lines, medical director of a great life insurance company, after an examination of the records of that company concerning persons who drowned while swimming, offers the following twelve rules of safety for special consideration during the swimming season:

1. Do not go swimming alone or at night.
2. Don't overestimate your strength. Because you have been able to swim a certain distance several times that day, that does not mean that you will be able to do it again.
3. Never swim across lakes or rivers or from headland to island, etc., or in unknown or dangerous waters, unless accompanied by a boat and a strong, level-headed companion trained in life saving.
4. At the first opportunity, learn how to rescue drowning persons without unduly endangering your own life and learn how to administer artificial respiration.
5. Do not attempt to swim to a drowning person's rescue in rough or deep water unless no other help is immediately at hand and you are confident you are capable of effecting a rescue without sacrificing the drowning person's, as well as your own life.
6. If possible before starting to a rescue, call to someone to get a rope, or a boat. If you are dressed, remove shoes, coat and trousers.
7. Don't swim for at least two hours after eating, and never swim beyond your depth in very cold water.
8. Never drink any cold beverage immediately before going swimming.
9. Skydiving in a boat is dangerous. Learn how to enter and leave boats and canoes and how to manage them properly.
10. Don't duck or "tease" your friends who are not good swimmers as yourself. This may create a panicky mind which in an emergency may result in death.
11. Teach your friends who are poor swimmers to go bathing in pairs (preferably with some one else who is a good swimmer), to stay in shallow water, to beware of hidden holes and sudden drops in the sea shelving, and to beware of heavy breakers and undertows.
12. Never dive in unknown, shallow or rocky waters. Even in clear waters, remember that a "deep dive" is a dangerous dive.

## Times Readers Voice Their Views

Editor Times—It seems that the unemployed relief forces in this city are playing out. The colored Y. M. C. A., which has been housing the homeless and unemployed Negroes in its basement and giving them breakfast now is turning these men out.

They plead lack of funds. I happened to be one of the men given invitations to try the outdoors. I am not at all worried about a place to sleep, for in nice weather I would much prefer to sleep out doors than to be lodged in that dismal underground hole, where the cockroaches have their orgies and the sunlight never strikes, but I am worried about where I am to get my breakfast.

While they didn't give us much more than enough to feed a canary, yet it is some comfort to a fellow to know that when he gets up in the morning he won't have to wait until 10 or 11 o'clock when the soup house opens, before he will be able to get a little something to eat.

This depression hardly had started when the officials of this Y, using it as a pretext, began making salary cuts. Naturally they started at the bottom, with the domestic maids. These three maids, poor souls were making only a pittance at first, but they even had that pittance reduced.

And as the depression progressed, they laid off one of the maids, thereby further reducing their expenses by one-third while adding 50 per cent more work for the two remaining maids. But never once have they made any reduction in their charges for room rent. Their rates are the same that they were in the most prosperous times.

Some officials of this Y not only are holding down fat paying jobs, but their wives also are holding lucrative positions. It doesn't mean anything to them that in thousands of homes in this city neither husband nor wife is employed. They justify and prate incessantly about justice and Christianity, but they have no more conception of either than has a gorilla.

I happened to be present one morning this spring when one of these officials came into the building and I witnessed a scene that made my heart ache. It was a cold, blustery March morning. Held around the radiator were some of the unemployed men, wretched and despair pictured in their faces.

With less feeling than an ordi-

nary man would show for a stray dog, this official brusquely ordered these men out of the building, and he had the nerve to tell them to go out and look for work.

Every Sunday morning, bright and early, one of these officials hurries to the Y. He gathers the unemployed men about him, and, assuming a reverent mien, lectures them on their duty to the church. He not only urges them to attend church, but he actually commands them.

These officials are regarded as exemplary Christians. They go to church on Sundays and shout glory to God, hallelujah I believe their Sunday worship is purely perfunctory, but in their worship of Man they are passionately sincere. He is their 6 to 0 favorite.

CHARLES MYERS.

Military park.

Editor Times—Quoting from the Congressional Record of May 1932, on Page 109,103 "Mr. Archibald Roosevelt, heads the self-styled national economy committee, which wants to reduce veterans' relief. In 1930 the Roosevelt Steamship Company of which Mr. Roosevelt was part owner and a director, secured a ten-year contract from the government to carry the mail from Baltimore to Hamburg."

"The distance is 4,077 miles. The contract price is \$6 a mile for fifty-two trips a year, which amounts to \$24,462 a trip, or \$1,272,014 a year. The service commenced July 1, 1931. "To date the government actually has paid, by reason of that contract, the sum of \$807,246. Other steamship lines would have rendered the same service for not to exceed \$28,246. Therefore, Roosevelt's company received a gift from the government amounting to \$779,004."

"The Roosevelts are interested jointly" with J. P. Morgan in several steamship lines that have contracts to carry ocean mail. One of their vessels went from New York by Plymouth to London a short time ago. It carried two pounds of letters. The statutory price for such service is 80 cents a pound.

"The Roosevelts and Morgan received the contract price of \$6 a mile, \$20,214 for the trip, or a gift of more than \$20,212. Another steamship company rendered the fiscal year rendered service of the value of \$95, but received from the government for this service \$607,792."

The names of representatives of favored shipping interests and international bankers appear on the list of economy committee members. This committee would like to distract attention of the people from ocean mail subsidies and Colombian bonds to veterans' relief."

According to an editorial that appeared in your paper a while back, this Mr. Archibald Roosevelt was your idea not only of a real patriot, but a super patriot. As intelligent as I have always believed you to be, it can not be presumed that you were not aware of the facts as presented by Representative Patman of Texas in the foregoing quotations.

If you were aware of the gifts Mr. Roosevelt and others of that wonderful economy committee were receiving from the government, how could you hold up these men to the public as superpatriots because they petitioned against a measly \$12 a month pension to ex-servicemen when they were receiving hundreds

of thousands of dollars a year from that same government? It looks as if your paper also was party to the scheme of distracting the attention of the people from the favors and grafts of a favored few by making an ignoble and unwarranted attack on disabled war veterans of the United States.

It is possible that you also have an individual graft on the government, that you are trying to hide by your heartless attacks on the widows and orphans of the veterans of the World War?

Years for more subsidies to the rich and less pensions to the soldiers.

ROBERT A. HOFFMAN.

Greencastle, Ind.

Editor Times—An Indiana organization has circulated a letter attacking old age pensions, on the basis of cost.

There is ample evidence, including statistics of the United States department of labor, that the worthy aged can be pensioned at a cost about half that of maintaining them in poorhouses.

The old age pension principle has been endorsed by a committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. Thus a great business organization joins hands with labor unions in approving a great humanitarian movement.

California's old age pension law, passed by a vote of 15 to 1 in this one of seventeen in effect in this country, has been in operation two years. The average monthly cost for a pensioner is \$23; the average monthly cost for poorhouse maintenance is \$44.74. Simple arithmetic shows the savings possible under the pension system.

J. PIERCE CUMMINGS.

3601 Kenwood avenue.

Editor Times—Apropos of the discussions and suggestions put forward by many well-meaning committee members and individuals for the relief of taxation, and involving as most of these suggestions do, the suspension of a large part of the state highway commission's activities and work, I will be glad if you will print these comments on the various points which ought to be given very careful consideration, and which I feel sure will be dealt with by the far-seeing men entrusted with affairs of state during the session.

In the first place, to curtail the valuable work that the state highway commission has rendered to the public, particularly to those resident in the state, at this time, necessarily means laying off thousands of men throughout the state engaged directly or indirectly in the building of roads, and this is a practical application of the theory mentioned in the article of the June 27 copy of The Times.

No other body could absorb a like number of men, representing at a moderate estimate, eight to ten thousand families.

It is proposed to give the cities and counties a considerably larger portion of the gas tax so they may spend the money to succor the unemployed, find them jobs, and improve and build their own roads.

The man who thinks the unemployed problem will be solved along these lines is a prize optimist, as very little of this money ever would reach the needy. The work on the

## SCIENCE

BY DAVID DIETZ

Traces Found by Explorer of Hitherto Unknown Race of Cave Dwellers in Texas.

REMAINS of a previously unknown race of cave-dwellers, discovered in the mountains of southwestern Texas by an expedition of the Smithsonian Institution, may have important bearing on one of the most disputed questions in American archeology, the question of how long man has been in the new world.

The question is not only one of the most disputed, but also one of the most fundamental. There are two schools of thought.

One, headed by Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, famous anthropologist of the Smithsonian Institution, claims that man made his way into America from Siberia by way of Alaska and that human beings have been on this continent less than 15,000 years, perhaps less than 10,000 years.

The other school, whose adherents incidentally include some of the Smithsonian experts, insist that man has been in America for a much longer period.

The expedition which just has returned from southwestern Texas was headed by Frank Setzler, Smithsonian archeologist. It brought back a large amount of material, most of it basketry, from seven caves spread over a wide area in the Big Bend and Chisos mountain region.

## Cactus Chewers

THE new-found prehistoric race appears to have made permanent homes in caves from forty-five to fifty feet in depth. They depended largely upon the cacti of the Texas mountains for food, clothing, and utensils.

Setzler describes them as a "cud-chewing people." He found a great accumulation of partially masticated balls of the lechuailla, a local cactus, in the caves.

He believes that the people chewed the leaves of this cactus until all the juice was extracted and then discarded the remaining fiber.