

The Indianapolis Times

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

Work for Workless

More important than any other subject with which the special session may or can deal is the necessity of providing, when possible, work for the workless men of this state.

The necessity for rigid economy in government is admitted. The tax burden is too heavy. It can not be paid. If the government machine is operated on the present scale of costs, it will break down in many counties before December.

One of the reasons for economy is the enormous cost of charity, so-called, for those who are unable to find work.

Very few of the workless want charity. They accept it as the last resort, a choice between charity on the one side or crime or hunger on the other. They want work. They are entitled to work.

The state has a fund of many millions which now provides but little work, and then only at slave wages. That fund is under the direction of the highway commission.

At the present time few, if any, of the roads which are being built are needed. They will be needed less and less as the use of automobiles dwindles under the lessened incomes of those still at work. There could be a vacation of highway building for the next two years without any real loss to the public.

But there are streets in every city of the state which need repair and which can not be repaired because of lack of funds.

There are in these cities many men who would welcome the chance to work for their living instead of taking food in bitterness from a township trustee.

These highway funds, spent under city administrations for repair work, would lift the burden of taxation, give jobs to needy men and provide, indirectly, a market for the products of farms, not possible now under the hunger rations of charity.

There should be no hesitation on the part of any legislator to giving justice to the cities and work for the workless.

The cities have paid the major portion of the gasoline tax and of the license fees which go into the funds.

The record of the highway commission has been such as to warrant the belief that its services could be dispensed with and no great loss suffered. The cities, for the most part, have a much more admirable record for efficiency and economy and results.

But the big object is work for the workless. The twenty million dollar highway fund might save a lot of trouble next winter, if disbursed now among the cities for actual work instead of being turned over to contractors who practice peonage.

Owen Young Leadership

It is not unfair to say that while no decisive social advantage can be traced to the holding company, it is the parent of the more conspicuous economic evils and weaknesses of our day.

It is doubtful if the stock market crash of 1929 or the present depression would have occurred but for the disastrous influence of high finance as handled through the great holding companies.

They issue the greater part of purely speculative securities. They put water into the stocks and the public pays dearly for this water in increased service costs, lower wages, and the like.

We are suffering today primarily from the rape of sound industry by speculative high finance, and the holding company has been the chief instrument of high finance.

Whatever Owen D. Young's reputation as a lawyer, internationalist, publicist, and benefactor of his native village, he actually owes his wealth and power, with all resulting publicity and repute, to his achievements as an eminent figure in contemporary high finance.

Specifically, he rose along with the General Electric Company and associated holding companies which he helped to create. As an industrial leader, he is to be judged, not by his work on the Young plan or by his discourses on politics and sociology or by the beautification of his home town, but by his activities in the General Electric Company, the Radio Corporation of America, and the like.

The nature of his work here well has been summarized by William Floyd, who knows his Wall Street from the inside as a great real estate operator before he retired:

"Owen D. Young presented to Gerard Swope, in behalf of the National Institute of Social Sciences, a gold medal for his plan to organize each industry voluntarily, free from anti-trust law restraint, in order to co-ordinate production and consumption."

"Messrs. Young and Swope voluntarily organized the General Electric Company to prevent the public from knowing the immense profits made. The New York Stock Exchange record shows the following distribution of dividends in addition to the 8 per cent a year: 1902, 66.2-3 per cent stock dividend; 1912, 30 per cent stock dividend; 1917, 2 per cent stock dividend; 1918-21, 4 per cent stock dividend; 1922-23, 5 per cent in special stock; 1924, 5 per cent in special stock; 1925, 5 per cent in special stock; 1926, four shares of no-par stock for each \$100 share; 1927, one share special stock; 1928, \$5 on each share; 1929, \$6 a share; 1930, four shares of new no-par stock for each share of old no-par stock."

"By this process \$100,000 invested in General Electric in 1901 became worth \$1,033,000 in 1929 and the annual income jumped from \$9,000 to \$60,500 a year. This may be an underestimate of the ability of Messrs. Young and Swope, for they also received special dividends on the Electric Bond and Share Company stock and may have acquired their original General Electric stock at less than par."

"Naturally, they received salaries for this profitable adventure and regular cash dividends upon their stock as it accumulated. If they had not manipulated so cleverly, the public would have known that

they were receiving in 1929 dividends on their investment of 60 per cent a year, which would not have won them gold medals. The stock dividends were exempt from income taxes.

"At the present low price of \$13 a share, the original investment of \$100,000 now is worth \$420,000, and at the low dividend rate of \$1 a share the income is \$40,000.

"Had it not been for stock manipulation, General Electric now could pay Mr. Young's famous 'cultural wage' and more than 6 per cent on its actual capital."

Flight of the Stork

Scientists, analyzing the census figures, paint a gloomy picture of the white man's future on this planet.

Dr. Kuczynski of Brookings Institution concludes that "the populations of western and northern Europe, North America, and Australia combined no longer reproduce themselves."

Dr. Spenger of the University of Arizona declares that "only in the agricultural white nations, among Asiatic people, and in Egypt do we find a high birth rate." In industrial countries the birth rate has been cut in two within the last half century.

In the United States, it is predicted, birth control, urbanization, and other causes conspire to slow down the birth rate to a point that in three decades will make our population begin to decline. Already the white populations of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, and Pacific coast states and the Negro population in sixteen northern states and in all the cities are on the wane.

The 2,500,000 new babies this country would require each year to keep its numbers stationary, Dr. Spenger believes, will be fewer than 2,000,000 in a few decades.

The danger lies not only in our own dwindling race, but in the increased populations in nations more poorly endowed than ours in natural resources.

Japan, for instance, produces 900,000 new babies each year in excess of deaths. And, as Dr. Ross says, the real enemy of the dove of peace may not be the eagle, but the stork.

What to do? Dr. Spenger urges a system of wages for parents. Since children no longer are profitable in an urban civilization, the state must make them so. His suggestion of a \$5,000 subsidy for each child sounds a bit fantastic. We believe the situation will improve with better economic conditions.

If we can absorb the 10,000,000 jobless, provide steady work, and security for all, evolve wholesome homes and profitable farms, we probably will not need to worry about more babies.

In the meantime, let us give attention to the 2,500,000 that the stork now brings every year.

The Ritchie Budget

Mighty few states these days can boast of ability to sell their bonds at a premium. One of the states that can is Maryland, which this week sold \$1,000,000 worth of bridge bonds at a premium of \$4.79.

In fact, a state issue has not been sold at a discount in Maryland in years.

Wise financing that leaves a healthy surplus and a debt of only 1 per cent of the state's taxable wealth is partly responsible. Chiefly, however, the executive budget plan of Governor Ritchie is given credit.

Under this plan, the Governor calls the heads of his departments together before each biennial legislative session. Estimates are prepared and revenues provided for.

When the executive budget reaches the general assembly, that body may not tamper with it, except to eliminate items or revise downward. It may not raise appropriations without at the same time providing new revenues to meet the added costs.

Governor Ritchie urged a similar executive budget for the federal government at the Chicago convention. He says it would do away with unbalanced budgets and the evil of deficiency appropriations.

The plan has great merit. It also has dangers. Under a President or Governor becomes a budget czar. In the hands of a wise executive, the power would not be abused.

In the hands of an unwise executive, humane, regulatory, and protective functions could be starved out of existence.

In any case, Maryland certainly points the way toward balanced budgets.

Many wonder at the huge number of people just aching for a chance to step into some congressman's shoes. Maybe that's the only prospect they have of getting a pair.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

NEITHER the threat of death, nor its infliction, nor has halted the march of moral progress. Nor has the fear of death been able to impress a new order of living for which the people were not prepared by education and culture."

These are not the words of a theorist. They were written by a man who has spent his life in management of prisons and prisoners.

Warden Lewis E. Lawes of Sing Sing prison probably is moved by prejudices like the rest of us, but certainly his opinions on penology are far more valuable than those of the average citizen, because he has studied the subject.

In his splendid book, "Twenty Thousands Years in Sing Sing," which every noisy patriot should read, points out the fallacy of capital punishment and cruelty as deterrent to crime.

The entire history of prison reform proves his contention. In England, when men were hanged for petty theft, people believed that no man's property would be safe if the gallows were abolished.

Although today nearly every Russian moushki wears a beard, Czar Peter put to death 8,000 men in trying to abolish beards. The past should teach us that the fear of death never has stopped and never will stop crime.

BUT upon this opinion, which often is called sob sister stuff, Warden Lawes does not hang his arguments. He points out that sentiment plays too great a part in all judicial processes where life is at stake and that there is no justice in the death sentence unless every murderer pays for his crime with his life.

Now we all know that most of the crimes in this land never are punished at all, and that hundreds of murderers aren't even sent to prison.

I also am heartily in accord with Mr. Lawes' contention that if we as a people do kill in the name of the state, we should, like the ancient Britshers, have the intestinal fortitude to look on at the proceedings in a public spectacle.

Instead we get our vicarious shudders and thrills from the newspapers. If we think the law is good, we should be brave enough to see it enforced. And we never are.

Gangs are not obliterated by killing gangsters. Always there are new ones to take the place of those who are dead.

Crime can be wiped out only by destroying the roots of its causes.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

M. E. Tracy

Says:

Seasons of Violence Contribute Much to Art and Literature; This Gang Rule Era May Be Inspiration to Writers of Future.

NEW YORK, July 14.—Art and literature owe much to seasons of violence. Out of the Trojan war came Homer's epics. Napoleon has been made the hero, or villain, of more than 6,000 books.

Religious wars in France, struggles for the British throne, outbreaks of piracy, and similar upheavals all have given rise to a wealth of song and painting.

Such being the case, we Americans have every right to look for a real renaissance. The period through which we are, and have been, passing is one of unprecedented discontent and cruelty.

For more than a decade, organized crime not only has defied the law, but has established an unofficial despotism in the underworld. Blackmail, kidnapping, and murder have been put on a business basis.

Hundreds of killings have occurred in broad daylight, with never so much as an arrest. A well-financed and ruthlessly governed element has grown up in our midst, which is ready to burn a house, strangle a woman, or steal a child.

This element represents a definite political power. There are wards and sections where no candidate can hope for election without its help. There are judges and prosecutors who stand in awe of its power.

Its strength and mercilessness are so well recognized that countless citizens rather would perjure themselves on the witness stand than risk its displeasure.

Works With Authority

YOU hardly can pick up a paper these days without finding some bit of bloody evidence as to the terrorism which has grown up among us. By no stretch of the imagination is it to be mistaken for the normal strain of lawlessness.

It is too methodical, too precise, too calculating. It gets away with far too much for any one to suppose it lacks workable contact with the sources of authority. It operates effectively for doubt as to its system of discipline.

The inability of our regularly constituted officials to catch and punish gangsters stands out in grim contrast to the ease with which the lords of gangland can "rub out" their disobedient subordinates, or each other.

The situation can not last, of course. Self-respecting people can not, and will not, endure it for very long. Signs already have appeared which indicate a turning of the tide.

Meanwhile, we have mixed a crimson broth that ought to make a good romance for the future.

Pussyfooted Too Long

SOME day our novelists, playwrights and poets will be turning to this chaotic period in American life as a source of inspiration. Some day it will be spread on the screen and written into music. Not, however, until it has been brought to an end and laid aside for unheeded inspection.

The problem of dealing with it still is much too pressing for introspective analysis. Hard-boiled men must restore order before it is safe, or comfortable, for philosophers to sit on the porch and dream, particularly if their dreaming concerns those who have become expert in the use of sub-machine guns.

We need quiet to prepare the way for culture in these United States—quiet such as only confidence in the government and respect for the law can guarantee.

The invisible rule of thugland racketeers which prevails today makes the necessary peace of mind impossible.

We have a task to perform before we can hope to become refined and artistic—a task which calls for language that the conscienceless crew of gangland can understand. The cop who shot "Fats" McCarty spoke it.

All the country needs is about half a million more like him and the right kind of public sentiment to back them up. We have pussyfooted long over this problem, just as we have pussyfooted too long over several others.

People's Voice

Editor Times—An article in your paper sets forth the fact that ex-service men are drawing from the government more than a million dollars a year for disabilities that are not service connected and were received since their discharge from the service.

Of course it is not right for these veterans to receive or expect money from a tax-riden public, but it is that the ones who actually were overseas and in the combat and there received injuries are not the ones being benefited by this enormous expenditure.

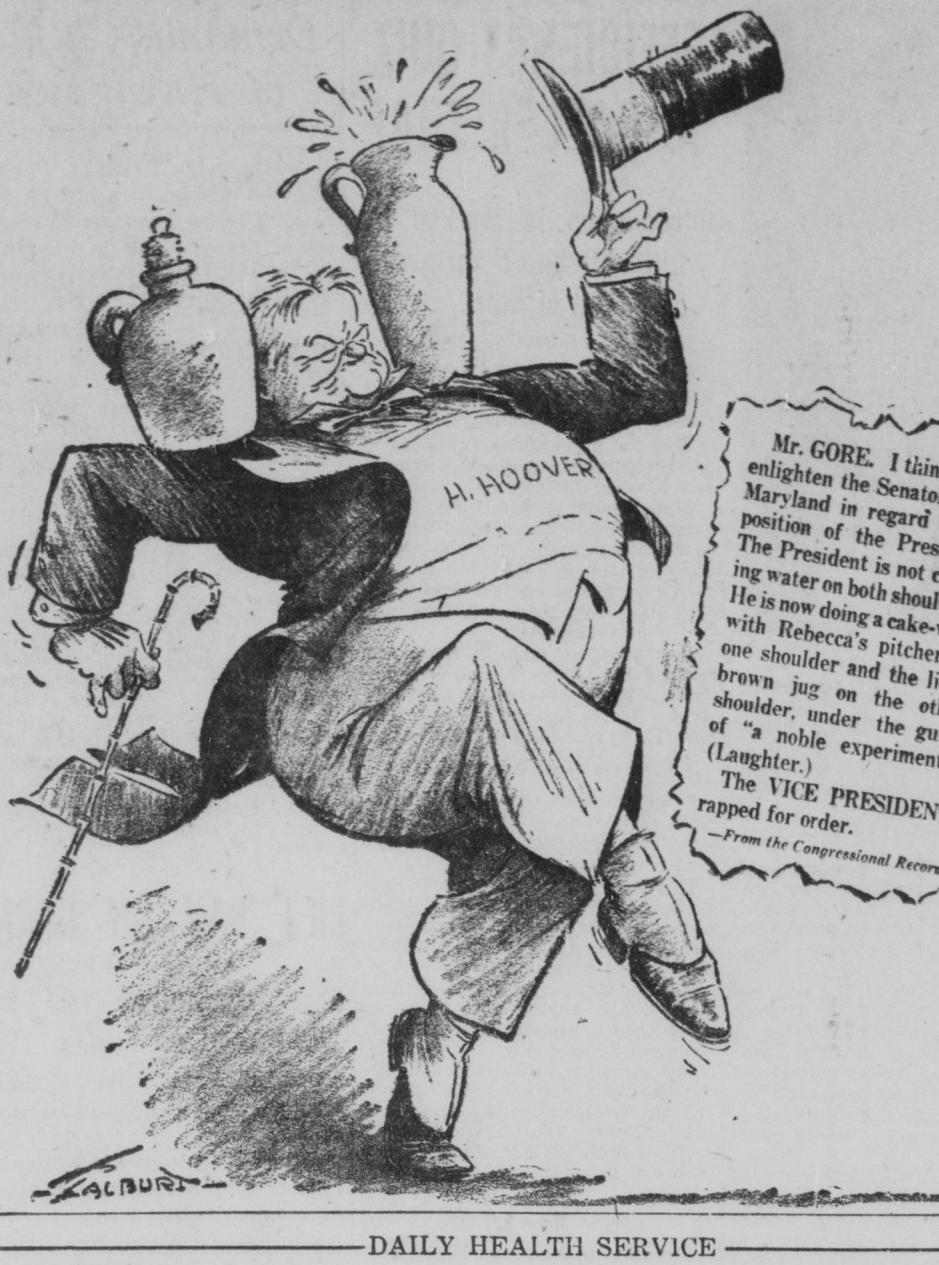
The writer knows of several examples of unjust compensations granted by the veterans' bureau and paid from the taxpayers' pocket and I will venture to say that almost every one knows of at least one of these cases.

Men now on the pay roll of the United States at a living and steady salary, men who were not out of the United States during the war, and men who are able to work every day are drawing from \$12 to nearly \$100 a month compensation in addition to their salary.

No wonder that the old kitchen when you came in and found mother "putting up" those jams, marmalades, preserves, conserves—or whatever it was that was cooking on the old wood stove? Oh, boy, and how good they tasted when mother got down a jar of them for Sunday supper!

Are you "putting up" some preserves or jams now? Our Washington bureau has a bulletin ready for you containing scores of fine recipes and full directions for jams, marmalades and preserved fruits of all kinds. If you want it, fill out the coupon below and mail as directed.

Illustrating the Congressional Record



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