

The Indianapolis Times

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

The Highway Workers

Now comes the highway commission and its close friends with the plea that a diversion of its many millions to cities and counties would throw 10,000 construction workers out of jobs.

It is precisely because that commission has failed to either provide work or to enforce the payment of decent wages that the funds should be sent back to cities where men can be employed on street repair at decent wages.

The number of men employed by the contract system of building roads is very small when compared with the total expenditure of more than twenty millions of dollars. Most of the men employed under the commission are for maintenance of old roads and not for new ones. New roads are built by machinery.

Where common labor is employed, the contractors, taken as a whole, have paid wages that amount to a scandal.

Within this county men have been paid as low as 15 cents an hour on state road contracts.

The commission has on repeated occasions declared that it would prevent these outrages. The Times has exposed such conditions in many parts of the state. And the commission never has stopped the conditions nor declared a slave-driver contractor who profits by the necessities of human beings an unfit contractor.

The contracts are still awarded to men who have so little regard for human beings or social values that they buy labor in the open market without regard to the ability of men to live upon their wage.

It is now too late for this commission to appeal for public support on the ground that it provides work for workless.

It provides slaves for profiteers. It has pleaded helplessness when slave wages have been paid.

The legislature will fail in its purpose if it does not divest this commission of its funds and turn the money back to cities and counties which are struggling with the almost impossible task of providing relief for the workless.

The cities have a much better record than the highway commission in finding work. Most of them have "made" work. Most of them have some regard for human values and human problems. No city has permitted men to be employed, when they received any wage, at the low standards permitted on state roads.

The state can get along without more roads until prosperity returns or is brought back. The roads now built will be used less and less until men get work. The cities are faced with the problem of feeding hungry men and women.

The cities pay the gasoline tax and automobile licenses in far greater amounts than do the agricultural counties in which roads are built.

A Job for Investors

Don't let any one tell you Americans aren't slick and resourceful folks.

Just read, for instance, about some of the devices recorded at the United States patent office and described in a book called "Beware of Imitations."

To furnish the female face divine are two inventions—one for reshaping midday's upper lip into a permanent cupid's bow, the other a mechanism to create and preserve dimples. To insure gallantry, another clever fellow evolved a device that automatically lifts the hat when the gentleman bows, the said "saluting party" requiring not "the use of the hands whatsoever."

Humane was a rat trap that instead of killing the beastie simply attached a bell to his neck so that when he returned to his hole he would frighten away all his fellows. Thoughtful was an invention of water wings for horses. Ingenious were overshoes with elastic pads for persons accustomed to jump out of burning buildings.

Happy were the thoughts that inspired the invention of a rocking chair that churns butter while the farm wife takes her ease, another rocking chair with a bellows that blows cool air over the occupant's head. But deceptive was a fishing tackle equipped with a mirror, when, submerged, betrayed the fish into thinking he saw a companion and making him "more eager to take the bait before his competitor seizes it."

So don't worry about this country. Some people say we invented our way into this depression. Well, with some of these inventions working for us, we'll just naturally invent our way out again.

An Economist Speaks Out

If there is any one fact which the depression has brought home to us, it is the intellectual bankruptcy of most of our so-called industrial giants.

Most business men do not know the way out of our difficulties. The few who do seem too selfish to speak out boldly against the system which produced them.

The first-rate economists know well enough what is the matter with us, but they dare not tell. They are fearful about holding their jobs if they express themselves candidly on important subjects.

This leaves us in a sad state when it comes to working for a better order. Those who have power are lacking in knowledge. Those who know are lacking in both courage and power.

One highly capable economist, however, spoke out candidly. This was in a recent address, "Discourse in Depression," delivered by Professor Rexford C. Tugwell of Columbia university before the faculty and student body of Teachers' college in that institution.

The lecture received no publicity, but there have been few comments on the current situation so succinct and so thoroughly competent. In it, he said: "It is a mistake to suppose that economists do not know what causes depressions or how to avoid them."

They have enough knowledge from which to generalize. The difficulty is that they think the cure might be worse than the disease—or at least they have a shrewd notion that no western people would swallow the medicine they might be forced to prescribe."

Dr. Tugwell, however, does not shrink the responsibility.

The reasons for the economic debacle since 1929 are plain enough. They are to be found in excessive profits, derived from high prices and low wages. This discouraged sales and reduced purchasing power.

Intrenched privilege, gorging on irresponsible profits, led us into a condition of general insecurity for both capital and labor.

When the bubble burst, those who had betrayed us were able to pass the burdens of the present collapse to the mass of the people, thus escaping for the most part the penalty for their own sins.

Dr. Tugwell distinguishes between immediate plans for "turning the corner" and more fundamental reconstruction which will save us from the rapidly altering ups and downs of the economic roller coaster of capitalism.

The key to the immediate recovery is to be found in repairing "our nationally damaged purchasing power. . . . Practically, this means extreme income taxation and distribution by government to consumers who will spend for goods, start the productive processes again and gradually restore their own earning power. . . .

"The support of purchasing power is the point of attack which has the most possibilities. Lacking this, the whole institutional structure is built on sand."

Roosevelt and His Campaign "Cabinet"

How Franklin D. Roosevelt rises or falls is tied to the size of the job that is before him and indicated in no small way by the company he keeps as he swings into the campaign upon his return from his yachting trip.

Nature of the "administration" in event of election is foreshadowed with a fair degree of accuracy by associations that grow up in the months between nominating time and election day. From those associations can be deduced the kind of a cabinet that will be selected.

Therefore, if Roosevelt restricts himself during the campaign to those most immediately instrumental in his nomination, that will mean one thing. If he enlarges his list of his close advisers and takes fully into his counsels others of the party, who, though not active for him at the convention, nevertheless stand high in the country's estimation, that will mean another thing.

His course in this regard will be watched with interest and will have vast bearing on the decision of those voters who class as independent and do not cast their ballots merely for party labels.

Those most prominently mentioned at the time of nomination and since as being directly responsible for the Roosevelt victory in Chicago are Messrs. Hearst, McAdoo, James A. Farley, John N. Garner, Huey Long, A. Mitchell Palmer, along with other and lesser lights.

If these remain in the picture to the exclusion of others, it will be only logical to assume that should Roosevelt be elected their influence in the administration will exceed the influence of the many other outstanding party figures who do not now appear on the scene.

The next few weeks will tell whether the nominee is to broaden the range of his close campaign associations to include names which will make his organization representative not only of Roosevelt and of Roosevelt's Chicago victory, but of the Democratic party as a whole.

We trust that he will measure up to the full possibilities that lie in taking counsel in these critical times with all the best men that the Democratic party affords.

The speed of the clubhouse of a driver has been established at 125 miles an hour at the point of impact, or one-tenth the rate the news travels in the event the ball trickles into the cup for a hole-in-one.

University of California has added a course in air law for its prospective barristers. Now they'll have to know the law of the landing as well as the law of the land.

From what they're saying now, it would seem that a lot of people think the inflation bill is just a lot of hot air.

A statistician tells us that the motorist pays one-third of a cent a mile for the use of the highways. The cost of the abuse hasn't yet been figured out.

Just after the last windy spell, a Danbury hat manufacturer comes out with the statement that at last the straws are blowing in the right direction.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

"MUZZLE war!" cries Romain Rolland, famous European novelist, calling for a world movement by peace lovers to outlaw war.

Without doubt, the most effective and the only way we can rid ourselves of this curse is to rouse public opinion over the earth against it. To say this is not possible is like saying that we never shall find a cure for cancer.

Possibilities of the future are uncertain, but boundless. We do not yet know what heights men may rise. It therefore is short-sighted to assert that war never can be abolished.

Every man knows—and every honest man will admit—that the common people never want war. They are afraid of it. They die in it. All those who have taken the trouble to study history realize that wars always have been made and that they always will be made as long as the dissemination of propaganda that is more often than not built upon falsehoods.

Men and women who cheer the parades and watch their sons and brothers and lovers march away to die are aroused to that pitch of renunciation by emotional hysteria fostered by groups employed for that purpose alone in every land.

NO war spirit is the honest, sane, natural expression of an honest, sane, natural feeling. Its spark must be kindled by some outside factor; it must be vitalized and kept aglow by incessant care, and its effervescence is as transient as foam upon a glass. Charges have been made that pacifists are hysterical. That will make be true. But is it not as sensible to become emotionally excited about war before it starts as to fall into ecstasies about it as soon as the drums begin to beat?

A little excitement today may prevent bloody excitement tomorrow.

And the clang of the cymbals sending forth their call for men and men to enlist in a war to outlaw war is as high and fine a cause as any crusader or patriot ever essayed.

M. E. Tracy

Says:

European Governments Have Decided to Pool Their Interests for a Concerted Drive on the United States.

NEW YORK, July 16.—European statesmen virtually have contradicted one another as to what happened at Lausanne. One or two even have come pretty near contradicting themselves.

But let's dismiss all that as so much political froth. The result speaks for itself. In view of the treaty proposed, the gentlemen's agreement made, and the accord reached between France and England, there can be no misunderstanding over the kind of strategy Europe has decided to pursue.

To put it bluntly, European governments have decided to pool their interests and submerge their differences for a concerted drive on the United States. They would prefer, of course, that the United States yielded without a fuss. Barring that, they are prepared to exert pressure.

Lausanne Decision Counts

THIS talk about decisions having been reached on European debts without regard to American debts just as well might be dismissed as sheer bunk. Whether the subject of American debts was mentioned officially makes little difference.

Whether certain prominent Americans mentioned it unofficially over tea cup, or wine glass, makes less difference. It is unnecessary to analyze the method pursued to know what we face. Nothing counts but what the conferees at Lausanne finally decided.

The fact that their decision was put on a tentative basis should not be taken seriously. Like astute diplomats, they opened the campaign for debt revision, or cancellation, with soft music. They wanted to see how the United States would react to a hint, wanted to find out just what they were up against.

The Tune Changes

FOR the first few days there was considerable frankness in high European circles regarding the debt settlement, as tentatively arranged. There were expressions of hope that the United States would fall in line and intimations that this hope was based on something more substantial than guesswork.

No sooner did unfavorable news from Washington arrive, however, than the tune began to change. Europe was not trying to influence, or coerce, the United States; Europe had not taken American debts into account while adjusting her own; Europe had not acted on unofficial American, either official or unofficial. You can pick phrases out of the polite balderdash and prove anything, but the treaty, the gentlemen's agreement and the accord remain.

European governments have united on a definite program of action. The fact that this program is a mere pretense, that the United States does tell the whole story.

Germany Their Alibi

WE face a carefully mapped out campaign for debt revision, which, if necessary arises, will culminate in repudiation.

European governments have come to the conclusion that they can get out of paying most, if not all, of what they owe us. They wouldn't say anything so crude, or impolite at this time, but that is what they have in mind.

Germany is their alibi. They haven't collected anywhere nearly as much from her as they expected, and think we should share the disappointment as part of the war. They also think that we have scads of money through the trade which our loans made possible and that we well can afford to write off the debt.

This kind of reasoning may not be talked of plainly in official circles, but it is talked of plainly in drawing rooms, hotel lobbies, and restaurants, and has woven its way into European politics from London to Rome.

While sound policy for the future has a profound bearing on the course we should take toward the debts owed us, there are certain principles at issue.

In the first place, we did not loan European governments money with any implication that it represented part of our share in the war. In the second, if default occurs, it should be brought about in such way as to put the blame where it belongs.

People's Voice

Editor Times—I see in the paper where the public is kicking about wages being paid on state road jobs. This is a dirty shame. But if a man on one of these jobs has \$10 to call his own at the end of the week he is much better off than the men working direct for the state.

Did Mr. Sapp ever have anything to say regarding the 5 per cent the state workmen must give to help pay the campaign fund? We still are being asked to give 5 per cent of our wages, not salary, back to the sharks. The men and women who draw salaries are not being forced to pay anything to this fund.

About the middle of this month those of us not able to give all will find we have no jobs. Almost all the men employed at the main garage are married and have big families, and when they make all contributions every week and pay their own bills the pay checks are small. Eight hours a day and docked fifteen minutes for being one minute late, and it is go, go all day. No time for even a drink of water.

And the ones who are sitting in the office with feet on the desks and smoking good cigars and giving orders do not know enough to put gas in a tank, but they know how to rob the poor fish working under them.

We saw only one call of Mr. Sapp. Did your feet get cold? We surely hope you have backbone enough to get Mr. Simpson or Sapp or the Governor and stop this bleeding of poor men.

ONE OF STATE EMPLOYEES.

What is the name of the wild goose of the Hawaiian highlands? Nene.

Who was the Socialist party candidate for President in 1924? Verne L. Reynolds of Maryland.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

On request, sent with stamped addressed envelope, Mr. Ripley will furnish proof of anything depicted by him.

BY RIPLEY



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Fleas Can Be Driven From House

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

ONE of the most annoying of all common insects is the lowly flea. He moves about on the skin, biting as he goes.

Few serious cases are reported from flea bites, and most of them are infections which had their beginning with an insignificant looking irritation, but fleas can be and are a nuisance wherever they occur in quantities.

And that nuisance is one that no home-owner need endure. Fleas can be eliminated if proper steps are taken.

In fighting fleas, it must be remembered that their principal breeding places are on soil or in dust containing vegetable or animal matter.

Moisture must be present and the breeding place nearly always is one protected from sun and rain.

Usual breeding places are damp spots under porches, in barns, and henhouses.

These breeding places can be made non-productive so far as fleas are concerned by spraying them frequently with creosote oil.

Ground in which baby fleas usually develop should be sprinkled thoroughly with salt and then given a generous wetting down.

If these steps are carefully followed, breeding of fleas virtually will stop.

As for the fleas you already have, you face still another problem. They usually are brought into the house by pet animals and so you must remove the fleas from these animals.

Washing in a creosote solution usually will accomplish this purpose, and by following this step with a thorough bath with soap and water, the desired result nearly is always obtained.

For houses already infested with fleas, the problem is not so simple. Application of gasoline to the floors after the rugs have been removed,

followed by a scrubbing of all floors, usually will kill them.

Sometimes this process must be used a second time to get all the fleas.

Fortunately, plague, the principal disease carried by fleas, has been eliminated in the United States.

Flea bites, if painful, should be treated with a weak solution of menthol or camphor.

And you should remember in bathing the household pets that a cat's skin is very tender and that the creosote solution for him must be very weak.

Much has been said and written about the remarkable jumping power of the ordinary flea. Authoritative tests show that his maximum is thirteen inches horizontally and about half that distance vertically.

That means that a flea can't come jumping in the window after you have eliminated his brothers and sisters in the manner recommended in this article.

IT SEEMS TO ME BY HEYWOOD BROWN

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 with the editorial attitude of this paper.—The Editor.

THE much-vexed question, "Who won the war?" grows just a bit more puzzling every day. Americans are beginning to learn, with quite understandable surprise, that we did not win any material advantage by our participation.

I hardly think that any one will contend we were spiritually enriched by the conflict and its consequences.

As a matter of fact, the whole world is just starting to comprehend that nobody won the war. We were all losers. Even the prosperity of the munition makers was no more than a brief jamboree.

Recent events in Europe have shown that it will not be possible to make Germany finance the recovery of the allies. Some startled folk now exclaiming, "Why, Germany was beaten, and yet she may soon come out of all this as well as or better than the victors!"

But in all this I can see no permanent cause for sorrow. Such a reversal of the battlefield decision may serve to bring home the fact that the fate of nations never really lies in the hands of arms. As far as the great economic problems are concerned, decisive battles do not exist.

After the Guns Are Silent
THE tides of international life are deeper than that, slower and much more certain. It has been written that it shall not avail a man to gain the whole world if thereby he loses his own soul, and this is just as true of nations.

Accordingly, I believe that the men of all the contending armies fought for nothing. Indeed, I think it was rather worse than that. They fought for less than nothing. And

Whether we like it or not, there is no feasible way of declaring ourselves out of the family of nations. Our present system of standing on the edge of the pond and making faces at our neighbors is a good deal less than successful isolation.

Moreover, it seems a little illogical that in American public life the men who shout the loudest for an American self-contained behind a Chinese wall are the very ones who make the speeches in which it is

asserted, "Europe must pay to the last penny."

I don't quite see how Uncle Sam can play the double role of hermit and bill collector at the same time.

H. I. Phillips, in the Sun, has sagely observed, "There is no sense looking for good times in a non-stop brawl between a group of debt collectors and a man with a tin cup."

Quibble About Words

INDEED, as far as I can see, the dispute is not even an economic one.

It is a philologic fight as to whether "repudiation" is a prettier word than "cancellation." I think "repudiation" is sweeter than either.

At the moment the public temper is wholly set against any further reduction in the debt. The general mass of Americans believe that the money to make up for the non-payments would have to come directly out of their own pockets.

They seem to have a simple faith in the efficiency of saying, "Europe must pay." Nobody has come forward with an answer to the simple inquiry, "But if Europe doesn't pay, what then?"

The plain truth is that the consequent trade revival following a settlement of the debts and reparations would make the sum at issue seem a trifle. We are behaving like Sam Smith, who sued Joe Brown for 10 cents.

Sam won, all right, and collected his dime, but a cursory examination of the time expended and the lawyers' fees showed that it had cost him just \$25.36 to gain his point.

I do not think we need be a people too proud to use a little common sense. There is no wisdom in crying over spilt debts.

Daily Thoughts

All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, which say, The evil shall not overtake nor prevent us.—Amos 9:10.

Hatred is nearly always honest—rarely, if ever, assumed. So much cannot be said for love.—Ninon de Lenclos.

What quotations from the Bible are on the tomb of the English unknown soldier in Westminster abbey? "Greater Love Hath no Man Than This" and "In Christ Shall All Be Made Alive."

When was the Declaration of Independence signed? John Hancock signed it on July 5, 1776, and it was signed by other delegates to the congress on Aug. 2, 1776.

Of what metals is brass composed? Chiefly copper and zinc.

SCIENCE

BY DAVID DIETZ

Tesla's Dream of Communication With Other Planets Is Extremely Doubtful of Success.

NICOLA TESLA, who just has celebrated his 76th birthday, believes that there is life on other planets and that the day is not far distant when radio communication with these planets will be effected.

The name of Tesla, perhaps, is unfamiliar to the present generation of radio fans. The youngsters to whom a radio set is something you buy in a store in all probability never heard of Tesla.

But in the old days when a radio was a "wireless," something you put together laboriously out of wire wound around a rolling pin, when Amos and Andy were not yet famous, every wireless experimenter knew of Tesla.

In those days a radio wasn't much to listen to. All you heard was the buzzing of ships talking to shore stations in telegraphic code.

And so the wireless enthusiasts of those days was an experimenter interested chiefly in building apparatus and experimenting with it. And every experimenter built and experimented with a "Tesla coil." This was a coil, invented by Tesla, which furnished electric currents of extremely high frequency.

You could draw six-inch sparks from the terminal of a Tesla coil and do interesting experiments like lighting up an electric light without any wires attached to it.

In those days Tesla dreamed of transmitting electric power by wireless, lighting homes and running machinery with no connecting wires. But that dream of Tesla's has not been realized.

Venus and Mars

TESLA'S dream of communicating with the other planets hinges upon two things: First, it assumes that there is intelligent forms of life on other planets.

Second, it assumes that radio waves can leave the earth's atmosphere and reach other planets.

As to life on other planets, astronomers generally are agreed that there are only two planets in our solar system which might support life. They are the earth's immediate neighbors, Venus and Mars.

Little Mercury is too close to the sun for life as we know it. The other planets are too far away and therefore too cold.

Tesla thinks that some planet might have beings more intelligent or in a higher state of civilization than mankind. He says, truly enough, that communication with them might be to our benefit.

There seems little reason to think that civilization would be more advanced on Venus than on the earth. The planet Venus is just about the size of our earth.

There doesn't seem much reason to believe that evolution would have proceeded any more rapidly on Venus than on the earth. In fact, it may have gone slower, for the telescope reveals that the planet is surrounded with a dense mantle of clouds, so heavy that the telescope can not penetrate it.

This may have influenced the course of physical evolution. It seems entirely sound to suppose that if human beings were on Venus, this environment of dense clouds would have slowed up their cultural development.

Gifts of the Stars

POINCARÉ, the mathematician, pointed out that science began with astronomy. Sometimes a man who prides himself on being what he calls practical asks me what "good" as astronomy.

The answer is that he received all his "practical" gifts from science—automobiles, airplanes, electric lights, and so on—about 2,000 years sooner than he otherwise might have received them, because of astronomy.

For it was by the study of the stars that man first learned that the universe was a cosmos and not a chaos, that nature was ruled by order and not by caprice, that there were laws of nature which might be learned and put to use.