



## The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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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 milady'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, and 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, which, 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 inventors 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 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 shirk 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 to rise to the size of the job that is before him is 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.

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 clubhead 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 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 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 to 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 by 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.

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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 well may 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 women to enlist in a war to outlaw war is as high and fine a cause as any crusader or patriot ever essayed.

Verne L. Reynolds of Maryland.

## 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 would yield without a fuss. Barring that, they are prepared to exert pressure.

Emery BARKER  
Oklahoma City

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1 AND 2 = 24

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