



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)
Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 West Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Price in Marion County, 2 cents a copy; elsewhere, 3 cents—delivered by carrier, 12 cents a week. Mail subscription rates in Indiana, \$3 a year; outside of Indiana, 65 cents a month.

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

Learn to Play

There is room in every community this year for a leader—not a political leader, nor a financial genius, but some one who knows how to play and can get other people to play.

In all probability, there will be many families whose budgets for amusement will be in red ink instead of black this winter.

As a nation, we have never learned to find amusement in groups except by the spending of money. We have bought our laughs and our smiles. We have bought relaxation and escape from worries.

The old day of the church social has gone and the old spelling bee of the little red school house has been replaced by magnificent moving pictures, prize fights or concerts. We have not learned to amuse ourselves in idle hours.

Perhaps out of the depression may come a better social era if we find time to get together and find our pleasures in just being friendly folks.

Perhaps we can turn the school houses into real social centers this winter—not for serious gatherings with lectures and stilted manners, but as play places for families who will have no money to spend for the usual relaxations from the realities.

As a people, we have not learned to work together or we would not be faced with many of our present problems.

Perhaps we can learn to play together, innocently, and find our resources for mental occupation within ourselves.

And if the people ever learn that trick, they will learn the others that are necessary for social progress in a mechanized age.

When Watson Comes

The legislature having adjourned, the state is presumably safe territory for the return of Senator James Eli Watson to again plead his cause before the people.

The senator announced that he would not come while the law makers were in session as some one might grab his coattails and ask for an opinion on how to get out of the tax difficulties or prohibition tangles or some other governmental problem.

But the legislature has gone, the senator is not on record, he contributed nothing to either the success or failure of the session, unless he pulled wires from a distance.

Undoubtedly his first campaign speech will be devoted to the praise of his record in the matter of worthless notes for worthless stock.

The people remember—even if he forgets—that he accepted stock in a company that was interested in sugar tariffs at a time he was a powerful factor in fixing schedules. He gave his note for the stock.

Undoubtedly he believed and the seeker of privilege believed that the tariff activities of Watson would increase the selling price of the stock and there would be a profit. But something slipped. The stock went down.

The senator, so the people remember, justified the deal on the ground that the stock became worthless and that his note was worthless.

That is the kind of stuff the people want to hear—how to trade off worthless notes for something that may increase in value. They need a prescription for the old army game of "heads I win and tails you lose."

Of course the fact that the people would pay more for sugar if the scheme had gone through will probably not be mentioned—by the senator.

More Trade War

America will suffer more trade losses from the agreements of the British imperial economic conference just ended at Ottawa. Our agricultural products will be blocked in the British market to the advantage of Canadian products entering free, while Canada will give British steel and many manufactured articles preference over the products of our mills and factories.

Estimates of American losses run into hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

But we have no right to curse the British, the Canadians and the other dominions entering their agreements. They merely are taking a page out of our book, trying to protect themselves in the world trade and tariff war largely started by us.

Though we can not take a holier-than-thou attitude toward these neighbors of ours, we can question their wisdom. It is just as silly for them to attempt to interfere with the natural flow of world trade as it is stupid for us to do the same.

Canada and the United States have natural trade relations. We largely complement each other. Large trade between these two countries is mutually advantageous.

In the long run, those natural channels of world trade will re-establish themselves. But, meanwhile, the man-made trade barriers prolong the world depression, which they did so much to create.

We started the trouble. We shall have to start the reform.

President Hoover, in his acceptance speech, defended the monstrous tariff rates of the Hawley-Smoot act, and even intimated that some of them might be raised. So apparently there is no hope to be expected from the Republicans.

Logically, we might turn to the Democrats as the traditional low-tariff party. But the Democrats helped to pass the Hawley-Smoot bill. Now they make great ado about the iniquities of that alleged Republican measure, but they are very careful not to commit themselves to any definite downward revision.

The Democratic platform, admirably frank in many ways, evaded this issue. Candidate Roosevelt is equally evasive when it comes to making lower tariff pledges.

If this means that the next administration, whether Republican or Democratic, intends to continue this economic world war, the result can only be more disaster.

These British empire agreements are only the beginning of a large foreign drive against American trade—unless America has sense enough to call a halt.

Superspecialism

Like business, the professions are finding time these dull days to do a bit of soul-searching and stock-taking.

In this process one doctor, at least, has discovered a malady in his own calling. He calls it "superspecialism," a tendency among physicians to shun much of their work on hospitals and specialists, thereby adding greatly to the cost, without always increasing the efficiency of medical care.

In recent years, the practice of medicine, not unlike finance and industry, became a bit frenzied, writes Dr. Abraham J. Rongy of New York in The

M: E. Tracy

Says:

The Average Always Is Below the Desired Standard; the Caveman Was Aware of That and Sought His Mate With the Idea of Getting Away From It.

NEW YORK, Aug. 23.—By taking the measurements of 100,000 World war veterans, scientists have produced a plaster model of what they will call the composite, or average, American male of this generation.

The thing is on display at the New York Museum of Natural History, its immediate purpose being to entertain, enlighten, or horrify delegates to the third International Congress of Eugenics.

Outside of the information it may afford tailors, haberdashers, car designers and others who make or sell things which must be accommodated to the human body, it means very little.

Neither tape nor caliper is needed to prove that the average is below the desired standard. The caveman was aware of that and sought his mate with the idea of getting away from it.

"Specialism, properly linked to the general practice of medicine, is beneficial both to patient and doctor," writes Dr. Rongy. "Superspecialism is a canker sore grafted, a monstrosity created by and with the help of the family doctor, to the detriment of the public and the medical profession.

This sounds like sense. Specialized treatment has accomplished miracles since the old days of the barber-surgeon. But, like every virtue that is carried too far, it may become a referring agent for the specialists."

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