



# The Indianapolis Times

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

## Labor's Day

In other years, this day set aside by law for labor, working men marched in celebration of their victories over unfair wages and unfair conditions.

Speakers pointed with pride to the rise in the standards of living, of education and of culture. They prophesied an era when drudgery would be abolished, when the worker would live without fear, in comfort and in the enjoyment of all the luxuries made possible by science, invention and machinery.

Today millions of men and women who want to work are denied the right to work. Their families live upon the crusts of charity and doles. They find the schools being reduced in efficiency, branch libraries closed, even churches struggling for existence.

On every hand are the natural resources and the machinery to accomplish the most extravagant dream of any labor leader of two decades ago.

There is machinery, unfortunately idle, that could turn out enough clothing for the millions who now wear patches or rags.

The granaries are filled to overflowing—and yet there is hunger.

The railway yards are filled with cold engines and empty cars waiting to bring the products of the farm to the city and the products of the factory to the farm.

Great cement highways stretch, in a network, across the land for the convenience of the modern miracle of the automobile—and the automobile factories are reduced to a small percentage of their capacity production, all of which could be used and enjoyed by human beings.

There is no lack of either the tools of production or the raw materials.

Thousands upon thousands of builders are idle and families crowd together in slums or uncomfortable dwellings.

The youth who has spent his four years in college and university, training for the tasks of leadership, finds himself denied the opportunity to use his knowledge.

The big tragedy is that the high living standards reached by this country through invention, science, machinery, is being deflated even more than prices of commodities and stocks.

This Labor Day might well be used for a serious consideration of the conditions and a search for a solution that would end the intolerable, useless, senseless and thoroughly evil paradox.

For unless the solution is found, all the traditional rights of mankind written into the charter of human liberty will disappear.

The right to life means the right to a decent living. The right of liberty means freedom from fear of pauperism and of dependence.

The pursuit of happiness becomes impossible for the man in bondage to conditions beyond his own control.

All depend upon the right to work. For it is only through work, labor, that independence or character can be achieved or self-respect maintained.

The real struggle of labor in this era is not more wages or better conditions, but the right of all workers to work continuously, and to work at a saving wage which will permit freedom in age from the almshouse and a grave in a potter's field.

Business, industry, statesmanship have failed. Perhaps labor will not fail to find its own way out.

## Pride and Alarm

Friends of the children's bureau of the United States department of labor, celebrating this month its twenty years of service, may point with pride and view with alarm.

There is ground for pride in the fact that under its two chiefs, the late Julia Lathrop and her successor, Grace Abbott, this bureau has grown to be one of the government's most useful institutions.

It has worked in city slums, in western prairie towns, in mining camps and southern mountains, to make easier the tasks of child bearing and child rearing.

It administered through seven years the Sheppard-Towner act so faithfully that it saved an estimated 60,000 American babies' lives. It has led the fight for this law's re-enactment in the interest of maternity and infancy aid.

It has delved into and realistically described conditions of child labor, coal mine hunger, the problems of the transient boy and other children.

It has stood between American childhood and the forces that would destroy that childhood, and always it has fought fearlessly and well.

There is ground for alarm in the effort to starve this essential social function of government and in the new power vested in the President to shift this bureau into another and less friendly department, where the cry of the children might not be heard so distinctly.

The sincere friends of healthy, happy childhood wish for the children's bureau many more decades of unhampered service.

## Not Important

Roosevelt wasted a campaign speech at Bridgeport, Conn., Saturday night. What he had to say was of no consequence. Touching lightly on one subject after another, he finally brushed the vital issue of taxation and the need for local government economy and reorganization. But when, where, and how? He didn't say.

This performance was a letdown from his vigor and courage in handling the Walker case.

Only two months of the campaign remain. To date Roosevelt has been specific on the subject of prohibition and vague on almost everything else. Several times he has announced that he would bring his generalizations to earth in future speeches.

The voters still are waiting.

## Calles Changes Presidents

A diplomat, Ortiz Rubio, resigns as President of Mexico, and the minister of war, General Rodriguez, takes his place. The quick election is by congress, under an ambiguous clause in the Constitution.

The country voted for Obregon, but he was assassinated—and in Obregon's term three other men have served in succession, Portes Gil, Ortiz Rubio, and Rodriguez.

Behind all of them has been Mexico's strong man, Calles. Ortiz Rubio resigned when Calles' support was withdrawn from him. Then the national revolutionary party picked General Rodriguez. The party controls congress through a virtual monopoly, and Calles controls the party.

Such in brief is the story of Mexico's not unexpected change of presidents in the middle of a term.

Viewed as a peaceful change in contrast to the former method of violent overthrow, this represents progress in popular government. But judged by the

# M. E. Tracy

Says:

What Was Life Like, More Than Fifty Years Ago, When We Had No Electric Lights?

PEOPLE always have, and no doubt always will, find it hard to imagine what the future holds, but for the first time in history they are finding it almost as difficult to picture what the past was like.

The world of 500 or even 100 years ago has become unreal. Mechanical power has wrought a violent revolution, not only in habits of work, but in habits of life and thought. It has been a revolution at the bottom, rather than at the top, reaching down into the homes and customs of the masses.

Tin cans, telephones, bathrooms and oil burners, not to mention a hundred and one other innovations—what would life be like without them? What was it like, and how did people manage to get along so well?

Above all else, what was life like without electric lights? We have had them only fifty years, and yet they seem quite indispensable. Can you think of a great city at night without its blazing store fronts and well-lighted streets?

What did the inhabitants of Babylon and Rome do after the sun went down? Was it safe for women, or even men, to be out? What luck did the authorities have in suppressing crime, or were honest folk obliged to stay indoors?

At 3 o'clock on the afternoon of Sept. 4, 1882, the first electric light plant in this country was turned on. It was a great day for Thomas A. Edison, the 35-year-old inventor, and his backers. It also was a great day for skeptics.

New York City had been awaiting the event for months. There had been a deal of arguing, pro and con, though mostly con. The incandescent lamp had been flickering at Menlo park nearly three years. Vast numbers of people had crossed into Jersey for the express purpose of seeing it.

It had been written up in newspapers and magazines. A corporation, capitalized at \$300,000, had been formed to perfect and promote it, and now the New York Edison Company, capitalized at \$1,000,000, was about to try it.

It had been written up in newspapers and magazines.

In two of the common diseases that affect children, namely, scarlet fever and diphtheria, many, if not most, of the symptoms relate to the throat.

For this reason, the question as to whether removal of the tonsils is of any help in preventing scarlet fever or in making it less severe is of importance.

Children who have diphtheria, and who have large tonsils, frequently suffer more than those whose tonsils have been removed.

Frequently those who have diphtheria continue to carry the germs in their throats after recovery from the disease.

Apparently the presence of infected tonsils is likely to encourage the development of a carrier rather than to discourage it.

Recently, Dr. William L. Bradford studied all children in the schools in Rochester, N. Y., who had had

their tonsils removed and compared them with children who had not had their tonsils removed, so far as concerns the relationship to scarlet fever.

Of 600 children with scarlet fever, 122, or 20 per cent, had had their tonsils removed previously.

The degree of severity of the disease was about the same in those who had their tonsils removed as in those who had not.

About the same percentage of both groups developed complications, and the rate of disappearance of the germs from the throat was about equal in children with and in those without tonsils.

However, the children who had had their tonsils removed had a few less organisms in the period of convalescence than did those who still had their tonsils.

Apparently therefore, removal of tonsils is not extremely important so far as relates to the severity of scarlet fever or diphtheria, or with occurrence of complications in these diseases.

These studies are an indication of the way in which medical science continues to test and retest its procedures.

They do not in any way indicate the desirability of keeping enlarged or infected tonsils in the throat.

Such tonsils are a menace and should be seen by a physician who will determine when and how they are to be removed.

The studies do indicate that the tonsils are not particularly associated with the prevention of scarlet fever or diphtheria, or with occurrence of complications in these diseases.

One group of dinosaurs were

beasts of prey, feeding upon other reptiles. They had birdlike feet with great claws.

Their front legs were small, but

their hind legs were large and

powerful, their appearance.

The most important development

in the world of life in this era, however, was the rise and fall of the Mesozoic.

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