

The Indianapolis Times

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TUESDAY, JAN. 3, 1933.

CURBING JUSTICES

If the legislature, which meets this week, finds time after it redeems its pledges to the people, it might take up the job of curbing the activities of justices of the peace, especially in Indianapolis and larger cities where they have outlived their usefulness.

Unfortunately the Constitution does not permit the abolition of these offices, which have, in very many cases, become the citadels of injustice.

Most of the trouble which has come from evictions can be traced to the high-handed tactics of constables who carry writs from justice courts. It has been demonstrated that very often the power of some of these justices has been farmed out to private concerns, which use the trappings of office to threaten and bulldoze the timid and the needy.

As far as Indianapolis is concerned, there is no place for these courts which exist upon fees and because of that fact, make justice a matter of money rather than of facts.

The city has its municipal courts to care for its civil and criminal cases. These are the courts to which the more reputable of attorneys take their cases, when litigation is necessary.

The justice courts, maintained on a fee system, become the catchall of cases which the less reputable lawyers, the shysters and shylocks, the shady and the unethical, take their matters.

The consolidation of all the townships would get rid of some of these courts, which in these depressed days, become even more inimical to the sense of common decency. After that, the legislature might devise new limitations upon their power and new safeguards for the people.

OR DICTATORSHIP

As we start the new year, we are warned once more that we must reorganize our economic and political life if America is to escape the danger of dictatorial systems of one sort or other. This time the warning comes from President Hoover's research committee on social trends, composed of eminent scientists, whom no one can accuse of being alarmists or sensationalists.

The committee reports, after scrutinizing the whole sweep of modern life, that social invention has failed to keep pace with mechanical invention. So we find ourselves bewildered by starvation in the midst of too much food, dazzling skyscrapers next to revolting slums, the ability to send our voices around the world in a few seconds, but no clear idea as to our place in world affairs and our relation with other peoples.

In this situation, we can drift as we have been drifting, trusting blindly to the future and running the risk that "violence may subordinate technical intelligence in social guidance."

Or we can, as the committee suggests, determine "to undertake important integral changes in the reorganization of social life, including the economic and political orders."

The committee warns that "nothing short of the combined intelligence of the nation can cope with the predicaments here mentioned." Woven together are such diverse problems as use of our natural resources and crime, the position of agriculture and birth control and immigration, mechanical inventions and the position of the church, extension of government duties and powers and mental hygiene, foreign relations and the changed status of women, public and private medicine and the use of leisure time.

The research committee has charted trends; it has not solved problems or proposed a future course. But it does warn of dangers and suggests goals. Its report is one of the most challenging documents presented to the American people in years. It is challenging particularly to the new administration, which must take the lead if positive steps toward working out our salvation are to replace our policy of drift.

The task will not be accomplished over night. The committee thinks it may be necessary to conceive new types of politico-economic organization not yet thought of, to evolve a way of living adapted to "the special needs, opportunities, limitations, and genius of the American people."

But unless a start is made consciously, the end never can be reached.

THE STRAIN OF COLLEGE

College students popularly are supposed to be care-free youngsters who spend far more time having fun than studying; but Dr. Lee H. Ferguson, director of the student health service of Western Reserve university, tells the American Student Health Association that college students in general are studying too hard and working too hard for the good of their health.

College curricula, for one thing, often are too heavy for the students to carry without undue strain, says Dr. Ferguson. For another, youngsters who are working their way through college carry a double burden, which in many cases is making them easy victims for tuberculosis.

To be sure, Dr. Ferguson reports that some collegians also are playing too hard; but in the main the picture he offers is that of a set of young folks desperately in earnest, sacrificing their health to get the education they desire.

A PLANNED SOCIETY

One of the most hopeful signs that could herald the new year would be a strong movement among employers to establish a planned industrial order for the present anarchic one.

A few intelligent capitalists are ready to relinquish their "rugged individualism." One of these is Gerard Swope, president of the General Electric Company, who repeated his plea for a planned order at a last week's meeting of American scientists at Atlantic City.

"We must decide," he said, "in what volume and what kind of products we want industry to supply and how to have industry organized to be of service."

In almost the same words, the executive council of the American Federation of Labor said at Cincinnati: "With co-ordinated planning, we may endeavor to make the things the people want, assure distribution by planning adequate consuming pow-

er, thereby making it possible for all to enjoy the benefits of social progress."

Mr. Swope goes along with labor in demanding regular employment, a maintained living standard, security reserves, and unemployment insurance. Labor departs from his suggestions by insisting that these reserves and insurance funds be replenished wholly from industry's earnings, not from wage rolls. It also insists upon labor's right to organize under social planning.

Obviously, too, since industrial planning contemplates modification of anti-trust laws, the public must protect itself by providing for strict regulation of industry.

Wisconsin has adopted a compulsory jobless insurance law. Ohio, New York, Maryland, California may follow suit this winter. The legislatures of thirty states will consider such legislation.

But industrial planning, that goes hand in hand with jobless insurance, is a national problem. To clear the way for a planned industrial order, the federal government must act.

Enactment of the La Follette bill for a national economic council and the Wagner proposals for federal aid to state unemployment insurance would speed this fundamental reform.

Private industry, now suffering from its own planlessness should be the first to seek aid in providing and maintaining a steady, ample market for its products.

IN SAN JUAN COUNTY

The news of a man biting a dog is no more arresting than that from San Juan county, Washington. This little county in the northwest corner of the United States has many stockmen, general farmers, fisher folk, and cannery hands. But it has no debts. It pays as it goes. And its county tax rate is 15 mills.

"You can't buy any San Juan county bonds, because there aren't any," says Gene Gould, banker of Friday Harbor.

The natives now crying on Uncle Sam's shoulder will envy San Juan county. So will every American city, county and state that staggers under its load of debt.

Ben Franklin's proverb, "He who goes a-borrowing goes a-sorrowing" is just as true today as it was in Poor Richard's time.

CONTENTMENT

The man who is perfectly satisfied to stay quietly at home and let other people see the sights and have the adventures always is a bit of a puzzle to most of us.

Monotony and boredom are plagues that we avert only by great exertion; it is hard to understand the man who doesn't even know what those words mean.

So there is a good deal of interest in the story of that 83-year-old Ohio farmer who set out the other day to make his first trip to the city.

Take sugar and far eastern politics

WE might as well be frank regarding this business of Philippine independence. It is not a grand, constructive gesture of altruism on our part. The big idea is to get rid of what promises to become a national disadvantage and what already has developed into dangerous competition with certain private interests.

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This man had spent all his life on a farm less than thirty miles from one of the largest cities in the middle west. But—up to a day or so ago—he never had gone into the city. He never had, for instance, seen a skyscraper, or a moving picture show, or a traffic jam, or any of the other delights of modern urban civilization.

Instead, he had lived peacefully on his farm, quite content to remain out of the main current of life.

When we read about a chap like this, our first impulse is to feel sorry for him, in a superior sort of way. We tell ourselves that he must have missed a lot; staying put so placidly for so many years.

But maybe the old gentleman hasn't missed as much as we suppose.

While other men have wrestled desperately with the noise and confusion and bustle of city life, he has had his quiet fields, his slow round of duties under the open sky, his tasks that are performed to the gentle rhythm of the seasons themselves.

In place of jangling street cars, rumbling trucks, and speeding autos, he has had peaceful country lanes with springy earth underfoot; in place of a crowded suburban subdivision or a jammed city apartment house, he has had a home separated by many acres from every other dwelling; he has been able to look at dawns and sunsets without finding their beauties dimmed by a smoke cloud; if he has missed the movies, he has had the unending pageant of spring and summer and fall and winter, the never-faltering birth of new life in the warm ground.

Perhaps, after all, this old chap who stayed away from the city for fourscore years knew what he was doing.

Just Plain Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

ARE WOMEN COPY CATS?

"IMITATION," it has been said, "is the sincerest form of flattery." If this be true, then women never before have been so flattering to men.

In a good many ways, we behave like a bunch of infants who walk behind and ape the mannerisms of adults. So we walk behind and ape the behavior of men, and the saddest thing is that, instead of imitating their finer qualities, we choose their faults to emulate.

True liberty is enjoyed only by the individual who uses it to fashion a good life for himself. For instance, thousands of men who boast of their freedom from a wife's apron string go right out and become involved with other unscrupulous women who fleece and make fools of them. In their cases independence is hardly worth having.

Just so, it is unfortunate that many women think of freedom in its narrowest terms, merely that it gives them the right to do as men do.

So far as I can see, the privilege of smoking cigarettes, sitting in speakeasies, or indulging in promiscuous love affairs is nothing to boast about.

The lowest moron can do that. And certainly it was something more than that that brave women in England and the United States once suffered ignominy and abuse.

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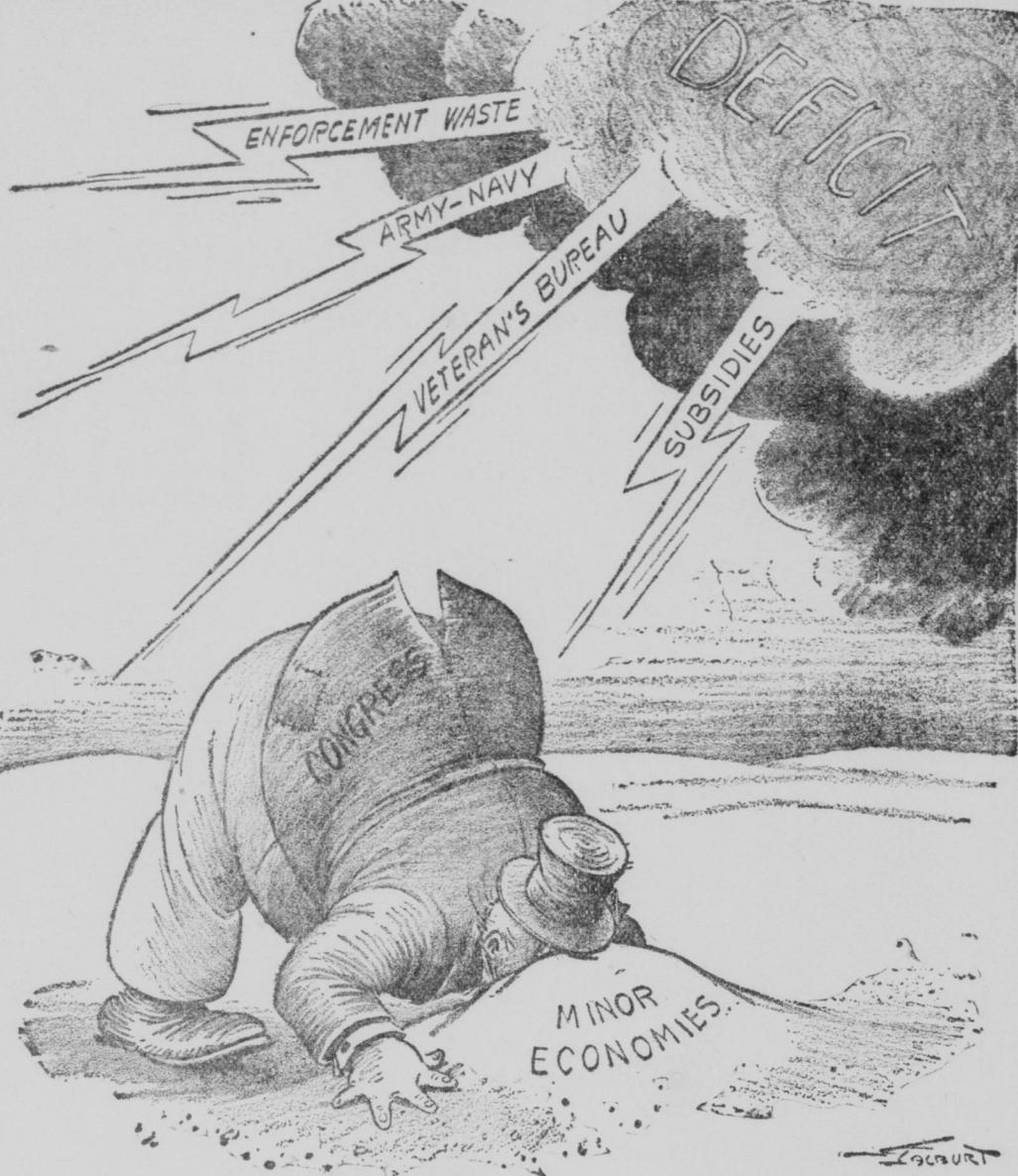
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THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

And We Laugh at the Ostrich



M. E. Tracy Says:

WE'RE WINDING UP SORRY JOB IN SORRY WAY IN PHILIPPINES

WE might as well be frank regarding this business of Philippine independence. It is not a grand, constructive gesture of altruism on our part. The big idea is to get rid of what promises to become a national disadvantage and what already has developed into dangerous competition with certain private interests.

Taking the Philippines was contrary to our traditions. We needed no such excuse for contributing \$20,000,000 to Spain. It only involved us in a war of subjugation for which we had little stomach and bound us to a campaign of education which we lack the patience to complete.

Worse than all else, it involved us in oriental politics and confronted us with a more or less definite threat of war on the Pacific.

We are sliding out from under risks and responsibilities which we failed to foresee or preferred to ignore thirty years ago, and it is useless to pretend otherwise.

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WE are tired of carrying the weight of the Philippines and scared of what it might cost to defend them in case of conflict. We also are disturbed by what their sugar, juice, and rubber crops have done to demoralize nearer and dearer markets.

We shall, of course, write different reasons for the truth looks bad, but we won't deceive anybody, least of all the Filipinos.

We are not imperialistic by nature; we merely are meddlesome.

Our attitude toward the Philippines is compounded of the same hedgehog of curiosity, fear, and money-grubbing as is our attitude toward Latin America.

For a quarter century we have kidded ourselves and our children

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The Roman women tried many silly prescriptions as are offered to the credulous adolescents of our country. They used

to put on their faces bread and milk pastes to soften the skin.

They would rub their bodies with creams, and believed implicitly in the whitening virtues of the milk of the she-ass; and in those days the Roman satirists, like Martial, were just as caustic as the skeptical men of today.

It is said that Galen, one of the fathers of modern medicine, who lived about 1,800 years ago, developed the first formula for cold cream, consisting of four ounces of white roses and a pound of oil of roses mixed with some water and perfume.

Today, the manufacturers of cosmetics offer not only the cold cream that Galen described, but also thickening creams, firming creams, protective creams, foundation creams, vanishing creams, and dozens of others in little white boxes with brass lids, which make a quarter's worth of cold cream at \$2.

Unless we can contribute to business, to politics, to religion, some of our essential womanliness, the gift of ourselves, our freedom will mean nothing for us or for civilization.

Unless we can contribute to business, to politics