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THURSDAY, JAN. 5, 1933.

THE LEGISLATURE OPENS

Today the lawmakers of Indiana meet under conditions which can be compared only to those of war days.

The emergencies of peace are greater, because there is lacking the solidarity of opinion and the drama which draws together men for a common cause.

The problems they are to solve are more difficult, because they are bewildering in their extent.

The farmer finds himself unable to grow enough food at present prices to pay the taxes which are fixed, to a large degree, by public debts incurred at high prices.

The city dweller finds himself in a similar predicament, due to loss of income and reductions of wages and salaries.

The public servant, as distinguished from the public official, is faced by wage reductions because of reductions in taxation.

On all sides are the pressing problems of poor relief, with their mounting costs, and the more menacing problem of unemployment which has more of the same tremendous aspects.

In this situation, special groups will fight for advantage as never before. There will be desperate efforts to pass the burdens on to the other fellow.

It may be expected that the utilities, as a habit if not from desperation, will be on hand to protect their holding company exactions and secrecy, their domination of rates at a time when all other factors are depressed, their power over regulatory bodies.

The farmer will be important for he is now organized as never before. His interests in the matter of taxation will clash with those of industry which will not sympathize with the limit of \$1.50 if that limitation means added taxation upon either its products or its income.

The financial interests, always in the background and generally knowing exactly where they want to go to protect the sacredness of dollars at any cost, will be on hand.

In this chaotic clash of interests, strong leadership will be needed if a sane solution is to be achieved.

Fortunately, the political complexion of the legislature is so strongly of one party that there will be little chance of obstruction for partisan gain. Responsibility is definite and fixed. There can be no chance of the minority group to do anything but protest.

More fortunately, the party in power is pledged to a very definite course of action. It has definite bargains with the people.

The people look to this legislature with hope. The individual members of the legislature will write their own laws. Those who try to deliver the state to the forces of greed against their party pledges will only invite attention to their own betrayal.

The task is not hopeless. All that is required is a very definite understanding that the "new deal" means more than a phrase and that human beings are the only important factors in any social organization.

IMPORTANT POSTS

Because the positions carry no compensation, many citizens may regard the jury commissioners as unimportant.

As a matter of fact, they are as important, if not more important, than the judges themselves.

These men, one from each of the larger political parties, select the names of those who will serve on juries which will determine not only the liberty of individuals, but the chance of justice in civil courts.

Manipulation of these lists have not been unknown in remote years. As a result, justice has been thwarted.

For this reason, the selections made by Judge Earl Cox of the circuit court are a matter of congratulation. Their standing in the community is a guarantee of clean courts.

THE CHILDREN'S YEAR

Crusaders are launching a new drive upon the forty-four state legislatures meeting this winter for uniform laws to abolish the old evil of child labor in America.

Their attack will be on a new front. Instead of pushing only for ratification of the child labor amendment, they will urge laws setting the minimum school age at 16, regulating the labor of minors 16 and 17 years old, fixing minimum wages for all children under 18, the eight-hour day maximum, harsher punishments for violators of child safety and welfare laws.

Here is a splendid program, and one surely conservative enough. It is to be hoped that ratification of the amendment also will be urged. The very fact that only six of the needed thirty-six states have ratified the eight-year-old amendment shows how difficult it is to get action.

But if any principle deserves to be written into the Constitution, it is that children shall not be worked for wages in this country.

Present conditions plead for quick success to this humane project. With 12,000,000 adults looking for jobs, the most ignorant or selfish employer must admit the folly and cruelty of keeping at work 2,000,000 minors under 17.

No share-work plan compares with this as a depression remedy. No cause more eloquently calls to its colors Americans of good will.

Let us this year take these child workers out of the mines, the factories, the mills, the sweatshops, and send them to school. Let the jobs now performed by their immature hands and brains be taken over by the natural bread winners, their elders.

Let us make 1933 the children's year.

WAR DEBT PRESSURE

Week by week, the demand by American citizens for settlement of the war debts problem increases. In reading the scores of New Year's forecasts, it was noteworthy that the business men, bankers, and economists almost without exception listed war debt settlement as essential to business revival in the United States.

In addition, there have been this week two outstanding statements on the subject, one in the program presented to President-Elect Roosevelt by

twenty eminent economists and the other in an article by Alfred E. Smith.

In asking for a debt agreement approached "in the same spirit of generosity with which we went into the great war," Mr. Smith points to the very practical consideration that by insisting on all we may end by getting nothing.

Using the overthrow of the pro-American Herriot government of France on this issue as an example of our folly, he asks: "What shall we gain if we upset the coalition government of England or the conservative government in Germany? Does any one think we shall collect debts through radical governments which will have as their first plank complete repudiation of all public debts and perhaps even private debts to foreign nations?"

The twenty economists, headed by the financial adviser to many governments, Dr. E. W. Kemmerer of Princeton university, and Dr. B. M. Anderson Jr. of the Chase National bank, state:

"The urgent immediate problem is the foreign trade situation. Lacking an adequate export market, agricultural products and raw materials bring ruinously low prices, and there is an immense imbalance between them and manufactured goods.

"As a result, even the relatively scant output of the factories is marketed with difficulty. There should be prompt reciprocal lowering of tariffs and prompt settlement of inter-allied war debts...."

"Settlement of inter-allied debts should be on a negotiated basis . . . which, promptly accomplished, will be immediately beneficial to all countries."

Most of the business men who have expressed themselves, most of the economists, most of the newspapers, most of the church and peace groups, are of the same opinion.

ANOTHER CONGRESS ACTS

The venerable congress in Washington has been offered a valuable suggestion by a congress of youth sitting in Chicago.

The Student Congress Against War, with 650 delegates from universities and colleges in all parts of the country, has condemned military training in schools and summer camps as "integral parts of the country's war machine and methods of disseminating jingoistic propaganda."

They were thinking of the cost of the training in terms of human values. But their resolution has meaning also in terms of tax dollars.

The training so bitterly rejected by young men in a position to know it most intimately is costing this country \$6,692,000 in the current fiscal year. This money goes for army instructors, rifles, and other equipment, summer camps for college men not in financial need of vacation at government expense, summer camps for others who do not go to college, but are recommended for these pleasant vacations by their congressmen.

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The Orphan



M. E. Tracy Says: SHALL MEN OR ROBOTS RUN THE WORLD IN THE FUTURE?

CONSERVATIVE or radical, the cry is for more organization, efficiency and control. Those advocating regulated monopoly in America work toward the same end as those experimenting with Communism in Russia.

In each case, the idea of producing finer, stronger human beings is subordinated to that of building bigger, better machines.

As a minority of one, I think that civilization has come to a parting of the ways, and that its immediate problem is to decide whether men or robots shall run the world, whether progress is a matter of mechanical speed or in

leisure. It requires ambition and ingenuity to develop an automatic machine, but it requires neither to sit down and watch one operate.

Consolidate the Gains

DOING things, especially in a creative way, seems to be man's destiny or, if not that, his surest method of attaining a reasonable degree of satisfaction in life.

The last few generations have been quite happy in their work. They have been discovering, inventing and improving all sorts of devices. They have wrought a great change in methods of work and habits of life.

They have gambled with Fate, some of them winning and more of them losing, but all of them getting a kick out of the play and all of them a little stronger because of it.

Now we propose to consolidate their gains, take the mechanical set-up they have left and stabilize it.

We are going to provide jobs for everybody, even if we have to get down to a three-hour day and a three-day week.

After we have planned industry,

we are going to plan leisure, since that is the only way to keep industry going—so many hours for the movie, so many to drive the automobile, so many for the radio and so on.

It's Old Stuff

THERE will be a stop-and-go signal not only on the street corner, but in the apartment, to satisfy us to feed the baby as well as when to step on the gas.

The eighteenth amendment is mild compared to what some of our best minds are cooking up by way of regulation, whether through a board of directors or a

we are going to plan leisure, since that is the only way to keep industry going—so many hours for the movie, so many to drive the automobile, so many for the radio and so on.

It is by no means certain that the immediate way out will be by radical readjustment under radical leadership. That can happen only in a radical party has the courage and the vision to see itself as a

part of power.

It takes no vision to talk about what is going to happen a hundred years from now. The real test of keen eyes is a recognition of what lies immediately at your feet.

Mr. Everyday, the American toiler, can make himself one of the hundred million rulers of America. There's only one catch in the scheme. He must do it now.

It Seems to Me:

BY HEYWOOD BROUN

THE three-year study of American life made by the President's committee seems mild enough if one is to judge by the headlines.

There is nothing particularly startling, for instance, in "Hoover Board Warns of New Social Trends." In fact, in this slipped version nobody knows whether he is expected to put his shoulder to the wheel or lock the brakes.

In fact, we have been talking about trends for so many years that we are a little slow to grasp the fact that a tendency has become an actuality. I even have a vague feeling that the revolution concerning which so much has been shouted already is here. It got off at One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street and was recognized by no one.

"Don't You Know Me?"

IT is always very hard for a revolution to get itself recognized. The conservative will call it a "readjustment" or even "business going as usual during alterations." The radical will chase the child back into the house and warn it to quit skipping phases.

Around here no revolution will be considered until the full length portrait of Karl Marx walks out of his gold frame, pats Morris Hillquit on the head, and sings the "Internationale."

For the Communists the official indication will consist of Corliss Lamont calling up Malcolm Cowley at the New Republic office and saying, "Guess who this is?"

But while the orthodox and the dogmatic are looking to the sky for signs and portents of the genuine, unadulterated revolution, it is quite possible that some less addicted to set formulae may carry through the work right under the noses of the star gazers.

The gentlemen who call themselves technocrats have aroused a vast amount of attention, although there is nothing in their philosophy or in their machine which was not said by Socialists in America years ago, and before the Socialist movement here by the followers of Edward Bellamy. Incidentally, that somewhat forgotten New England author assumes with the years increasing prophetic inspiration.