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ROY W. HOWARD President
BOYD GURLEY Editor
EARL D. BAKER Business Manager

Phone—Riley 5551

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MONDAY, JAN. 9, 1933.

A NEW NAVIGATOR

Today the state of Indiana welcomes Paul McNutt with hope and confidence as the navigator of its ship of state.

The ship, it may be stated, is sadly in need of repairs if it be entirely safe for the perilous seas on which it rides.

Through the last dozen years there have been too many leaks in the fuel tanks. And very frequently it has been steered along dangerous routes.

Governor McNutt goes into office at the most critical period in the history of the state. The hour demands even greater wisdom and stronger hearts than were required when the nation was at war. The problems are most difficult because they are less easily seen. There is missing the emotional solidarity which commanded universal support for necessary war programs.

The farmers of the state face confiscation through tax burdens. The home owner in the cities meets the same situation. On every hand there is a demand for rigid economy and a reduction of the costs of government. And yet, only through government does it seem possible to care for the increased number of unemployed workers who must be fed or reduced to banditry or rioting.

Mingled with the tax problem are burdens placed upon business, industry and living costs by the actions or utility services, which have escaped regulation through the holding company method of obtaining revenues far in excess of a reasonable return on real investments.

Most pressing of all, some real solution must be found for the problem of unemployment, either through the release of business from some of its burdens or more direct action in furnishing jobs.

Because the problems are grave and the responsibilities great, the opportunity of Governor McNutt for real leadership is great.

It is a situation in which to be successful he must command, by his wisdom and his braveness, the support of all citizens. He will succeed only in the measure that he can wipe political prejudices from the minds of people and join them in a movement for the common good.

To that task he brings an exceptionally well-equipped mind and a real determination for accomplishment. He is essentially a man of action. The needs action, not bearded waiting.

On this day the people welcome Governor McNutt with enthusiasm and every wish for his success.

AGAIN THE GOBLINS

As the legislature goes into session, the Indiana organization of Insullism floods the state with advertisements in small newspapers warning against the passage of laws that will make ownership of public utilities easier and possible.

While the founder of this vast utility empire remains in Greece, away from the indictments of the Illinois courts, his tradition carries on.

The advertisements are a frank appeal to the farmer to prevent the passage of any law that would aid public ownership on the ground of increased taxation.

The statement, of course, is false. Fortunately, the people have come to know something about Insullism, and no longer accept statements from that quarter without challenge.

Public ownership of utilities in this state, and in other states, has meant a saving for all the people and freedom from extortion.

The city dweller will have more money to buy food from the farmer if he can escape unnecessary and unfair charges for water, gas and electricity.

It seems impossible that any representative, with any honesty of purpose or any sign of intelligence, can be fooled by this parade of goblins.

The organization of mayors and officials of cities demanding freedom is much more reliable and much more patriotic.

IMMEDIATE RELIEF

If the reason for a federal relief act at this session of congress seemed obscure to any one when Senators La Follette and Costigan introduced their new bill, facts developed in the hearings by experts in closest touch with this problem should banish all uncertainty.

"Families have been reduced to the basis of prowling alley cats in Philadelphia," Dr. Jacob Billikopf, executive director of the Federation of Jewish charities of Philadelphia, testified.

"Our people are living on daily rations," said Linton B. Swift of the Family Welfare Association of America. "If the system existing here were described as existing in any other country, Russia for instance, we should be horrified."

"God only knows how the people in the mining districts of West Virginia are living," said Van A. Blittner, representative of the United Mine Workers of America.

"Semi-starvation is sweeping across the country with the ravages of a plague in its wake," said Dr. Sidney E. Goldstein, chairman of the joint committee on unemployment.

Last year, also, conditions were painted as distressing in the extreme when the first La Follette-Costigan relief bill was pending in congress. But now—

"One-third of all the unemployed now are on relief," according to H. L. Lurie, quoting a survey made by the American Association of Social Workers. "More are in need of relief, and relief that is given is reverting to primitive methods."

"Fears are expressed that mounting unrest may begin to assume violent forms of expression more frequently if constructive and adequate measures for relieving distress do not materialize in the near future."

Lurie told of some localities where large portions of the population are receiving no aid at all, and of cities where relief needs have increased as much as 300 per cent in a year, while relief funds have increased only 30 per cent.

Samuel A. Goldsmith, director of Jewish charities of Chicago, declares that the present estimate of unemployed in that city is 1,400,000.

"Now less than 30,000 families in urgent need are

not being cared for in New York," William Hodson of the Welfare Council of New York City, testified.

"We spent \$8,300,000 for relief in 1932," said Dr. Karl Schweinitz of the Community Council of Philadelphia. "In 1933 we shall have to spend \$14,000,000, with no increase in standards."

But why should the federal government, which provided loans for relief last summer, now provide direct grants for relief?

"Unless federal aid be changed from a loan basis to direct aid, American cities are going to have defaults which will shake not only municipal credit, but the whole credit structure of the United States," says Paul V. Bettens, executive director of the American Municipal Association.

"Cities already are asking us to petition congress to let the R. F. C. assist them in refunding plans. They are crippling essential services to meet relief needs. They are facing default. The present system is only stimulating financial chaos."

And Professor Simeon D. Leland, economist of the University of Chicago, adds extensive data about constitutional limitations on the taxing power of cities, counties, and states, pointing out that these make it impossible for local governments to act quickly enough to meet the present emergency.

It seems fair to conclude, from this evidence, that there are overwhelming reasons why the Costigan-La Follette direct relief act should be adopted at the soonest possible moment.

OUR CHANGING HOME LIFE

Those figures on the "average family," presented to the Association for the Advancement of Science by Professor William F. Ogburn of the University of Chicago, make interesting reading—and, perhaps, upset a few of the commonly accepted notions about the way Americans live.

Professor Ogburn demonstrates that the average family has either three or four members, lives in a \$5,000 home and, if it pays rent, shells out \$27 a month for its living quarters.

Only one family in eight lives in an apartment. One family in three contains more than one wage earner.

This brief collection of figures bespeaks profound changes that have taken place in American life in the last generation. It also contains important hints about developments which are apt to come in the near future.

It would repay earnest study by sociologists and economists. The "average family" today is vastly different from the family of a few decades ago.

WHERE THE BLAME RESTS

Congressman George Huddleston of Alabama, interviewed at Washington by Rodney Dutcher, utters a few truths that all critics of congress ought to bear in mind.

"The responsibility of congress," says Mr. Huddleston, "is secondary, for the people of the country are primarily responsible for what congress does. Whatever we do here is what public opinion requires of us, and there is now no informed, coherent, intelligent public opinion."

This, of course, is self-evident—but we seldom stop to think about it. We assail congress for its purposelessness, its inefficiency and its changeableness, forgetting that congress is a most accurate reflector of the nation's state of mind.

In the last analysis, the shortcomings of congress trace directly back to the ordinary citizen; and when we wail about congress, we simply are indicating ourselves.

Difficulties in learning to read are four times as common in boys as among girls, says a neurologist. Which may account for dad's consistent failure to read what's on mother's mind.

Wouldn't it be refreshing to read some time that the old theatrical tradition had been broken by some touching incident and that "the show did NOT go on"?

Hardened to Chicago's rigorous climate, Samuel Insull professes a sudden delight in the mild winters of Greece, and Robert Elliott Burns, the "chain gang fugitive," disavows Georgia's temperate clime in favor of a habitat in wintry New Jersey. So it goes.

Well, it appears that the folks who were afraid President-Elect Roosevelt would do something radical were right. He says he'll keep every campaign pledge.

Most comedians, says a producer, have a conviction they can play tragic roles. And so, alas, do a lot of misguided tragedians.

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The Hit and Run Driver!



It Seems to Me . . . by Heywood Broun

I'd like to be masterful. And, failing that, I wish I could make myself masterful within the space afforded by twenty-four hours or a little less.

Several years ago I decided I would sail for somewhere. That seemed a reasonable enough decision at the time. The gripe I had insisted on lingering. I had what is called a very nasty cough.

People mentioned the matter, particularly in theaters and other places of public assemblage. They said, "You ought to do something for that cough." I took syrups and lozenges and hot lemonades, and still I coughed without much diminution.

Things got so bad that finally I hardly had energy enough to keep from going to bed by midnight.

The column was set down wearily and in perfunctory fashion. I gazed at friends and was coolish toward acquaintances. Even the revolution grew a little less important in my eyes.

"I won't do me much good," I thought. "Not with this nasty cough."

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So They Say

We're going to demonstrate that bad luck is nothing but imagination. When every one is convinced that 1933 is going to be a good luck year, business will pick up and the depression will be routed—Sidney Strotz, Chicago, president of the "Anti-Superstition Society."

People have lost the art of listening—John Masefield, poet laureate of England.

There can be no national recovery so long as we have 10-cent corn, 5-cent cotton and 30-cent wheat—Representative Marvin Jones (Dem., Tex.), chairman of the agricultural committee.

The desire to possess completely the person one loves makes much of the unhappiness in family relationships—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, wife of the President-elect.

One boat stops at Martinique, but it's a Pernod boat which gives you shore leave at Haiti.

Besides, the problem comes up as to whether you want to leave yourself in a Pompeian swimming pool or something simpler done in Dutch tiles. There are those liners which pitch and also the holy rollers.

The whole problem of world cookery comes into the scope of the discussion before you are done. Should one trust his fate upon the high seas to swedish hors d'oeuvres or to the cheeses of the Dutch?

There are maps and plans to study, and a brief survey of desert islands in case anything goes wrong in the hurricane belt. I know this isn't the season for hurricanes, but fate may do almost anything to a columnist except make him alone and unprotected.

I've tried to equip myself with such valuable information as is available. Tony's, but I'm not sure that everything supplied me was authentic. For instance, I asked Edward J. McNamara whether the rule of "women and children first" was still prevalent; I would not like to do anything conspicuously tactless.

He told me not to pay any attention to it. He said that business all went out along with the practice of taking off your hat in the elevator.

The biography of her by her husband, the present prime minister, is one of the most beautiful books in our language—to read which is to renew our faith in God and man.

The memorial shows her figure, wrought in bronze, seated with her arms outstretched, her robes so falling over her arms as to suggest a brooding mother-bird, and underneath the hovering wings little children nestle and play.

Nearby is a tablet in tribute to her, written by her husband, the last words of which are: "She took no rest from doing good." It is quite literally true; she gave her life in self-sacrifice love.

Often, in the dark days of World War, I used to stop and study the memorial and it taught me many things. Whence comes the beautiful brooding, all-giving love which spends itself for others, giving time, money, strength, and even life itself, in play.

It must be that there is love in the heart of nature, else it would not be in man.

Thus, when I sought the source of love in the life of a good woman, I traced it back to the compassionate heart of God, who is our final solace. To what other source can we trace it?

Here, truly, is the basis of our faith that God is more than power, more than might, and that there is a heart of tenderness behind the hardness of creation.

The laws of thermodynamics are the basis of all life; they are the laws of the universe. The universe is a system of matter in motion, and motion is the source of all life.

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