

The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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Member of United Press. Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance. Newspaper Enterprise Association. Newspaper Information Service and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

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.

MONDAY, JAN. 23, 1933.

BALANCED BUDGETS

While merchants from all parts of the state plan to meet in Indianapolis this week to protest against the sales tax locally, Senator Boran strikes at the same method to balance the national budget by declaring that the time has come to balance the budget of the taxpayer.

His declaration that the total amount needed for taxes and interest of debts amounts to approximately the national income should be the signal for serious thinking.

No ordinary palliative will remedy such a situation and no step should be taken which will aggravate an almost intolerable situation.

While the merchants are making the protest against the sales tax, the consumer is the one who will really be hit by any new impost on the things he is compelled to buy.

On the other hand, officials who are faced by the task of finding funds for governmental expenses have the right to ask those who protest exactly what other course is to be pursued.

Will the public stand for a reduction of services now furnished by the government and if so, what services must be discarded?

Will the schools be closed in order to save money? Or will cities prefer to dispense with firemen and policemen and the garbage collector?

Governor McNutt has hit at one expense when he declared that there will be no more building by the state until there is more money in sight. It may be necessary to declare for the same policy on roads and divert auto and gasoline taxes to the general fund.

The present protest is more than a revolt against a form of taxation. It may mean that the people are unable to pay it all.

MILK FOR CHILDREN

No one can afford to refrain from participating in the musical festival planned by the Federation of Civic Clubs in March for the purpose of raising funds for milk in the public schools.

The announcement reveals the fact that there are 8,000 children attending the schools who are in need of milk.

Physicians state that milk in the first years of child life is most necessary and that society pays a terrible toll if it fails to provide its future citizens with this food.

That the number of children now served is 4,000 and that there is double that number whose parents are unable to provide this necessity is an alarming condition.

No other public question is more important. In fact, so vital a matter is too big to be left to the chance of charity. Those children should not wait until March and music for their milk.

JUST FLYING HIS KITE?

Much has been put in print about Technocracy by the newspapers, the magazines and by certain of the associates of Mr. Howard Scott. But little has been written by Mr. Scott himself. It has, in fact, been stated that only 1,400 actually authentic words have been transcribed.

Reading those words as recorded by the high priest of Technocracy, himself, personally, we are reminded of the George Ade fable of the "Preacher Who Flew His Kite." As the fable goes, "A certain preacher became wise to the fact that he was not making a hit with his congregation." He had been trying to expound in a clear and straightforward manner, omitting foreign quotations, putting the stumpy old English words ahead of the Latin, and rather flying low along the intellectual plane to the aggregation that chipped in to pay his salary.

"But the pew holders were not tickled. They could understand everything he said and they began to think he was common."

"So he studied the situation and decided that if he wanted to win them and make everybody believe he was a nobby and boss minister, he would have to hand out a little guff. He fixed it up good and plenty."

"On the following Sunday morning he got up in the lookout, sized up his flock with a dreamy eye, and said: 'We can not more adequately voice the poetry and mysticism of our text than in these familiar lines of the great Icelandic poet, Ikon Novrojk.'

"To hold is not to have—

Under the sealed firmament,

Where chaos sweeps, and vast futurity

Sneers at these puny aspirations—

There is the full repulsion!"

"When the preacher concluded with this extract, he paused and looked downward, breathing heavily through his nose.

"A stout woman in the front row put on her eyeglasses and leaned forward so as not to miss anything. A venerable harness dealer over at the right nodded his head solemnly. He seemed to recognize the quotation.

"The preacher wiped his brow and said he had no doubt that every one within the sound of his voice remembered what Quarolius had said, following the same line of thought. It was Quarolius who disputed the contention of the great Persian theologian Ramotzak that the soul in its reaching out after the unknown was guided by the spiritual Genesis of motive rather than by mere impulse of mentality.

"The parishioners bit their lower lips and hungered for more first-class language.

"The preacher quoted copiously from the great poet Ambius. He recited eighteen lines of Greek and then said: 'How true this is!' And not a parson batted an eye.

"It was Ambius whose immortal lines he recited in order to prove the extreme error of the position assumed in the controversy by the famous Italian, Polenta."

The fable concludes:

"Did they give him the joyous palm that day?

"The venerable harness dealer said he wished to indorse the able and scholarly criticism of Polenta. The stout lady could not control her feelings when she told him how much the sermon had helped her.

"The only thing that worried the congregation was the fear that if it wished to retain such a whale it might have to boost his salary.

"In the meantime, the preacher waited for some one to come and ask about Polenta, Ambius, Ramotzak, Quarolius and the great Icelandic poet,

confess his ignorance."

Novrojk. But no one had the face to step up and "Technocracy makes one basic postulate: That the phenomena involved in the functional operation of a social mechanism are metrical. It defines science as 'the methodology of the determination of the most probable.'

Technocracy therefore assumes from its postulate that there already exist fundamental and arbitrary units which, in conjunction with derived units, can be extended to form a new and basic method for the quantitative analysis and determination of the next most probable state of any social mechanism.

Technocracy further states that, as all organic and inorganic mechanisms involved in the operation of the social macrocosm are energy-consuming devices, therefore the basic metrical relationships are: The factor of energy conversion, or efficiency; and the rate of conversion of available energy of the mechanism as a functional whole in a given area per time unit."

It is strange that one should comment on the similarity between the technocrat and the preacher in the fable, or wonder whether Mr. Scott may not be laughing in his sleeve at the furor he has stirred?

HUNGER MAKES CRIMINALS

The lame duck congress has used up seven weeks of its short lease of life, and has but six weeks to go. Outside of routine matters, it has enacted only eleven laws, including a Philippine "independence" act that the Philippine legislature may reject.

This congress has worn the nation's patience by weeks of filibustering and idle speech making. It will earn the nation's anger and contempt if it adjourns without providing emergency relief for the 3,500,000 needy families and the 1,000,000 wandering youths now practically shelterless.

In spite of the obvious limits imposed by lame duckery, the present session could pass several measures for reconstruction. Among these are the Glass bill, the Wagner bill to liberalize the Reconstruction banking bill, the La Guardia-McKeown debt relief Finance Corporation loans for a large building program, farm relief and adequate economy.

The minimum of congress' duty is to help allay the hunger and misery of desperate Americans. If any doubt remains that these people need their government's help, let members of congress read the testimony taken before the senate manufactures committee in support of the Costigan-La Follette relief bill.

Or let them listen to the stories being told today in behalf of the Cutting bill to help states give shelter to wandering boys.

The testimony of two-score social workers on the need of family relief fills 500 pages with heart-breaking stories, authentic and unadorned, or undernourished babies, jobless workers, wholesale evictions in many cities, families packed in tiny rooms, men and women driven to suicide, boys and young men being made into criminals for lack of food and shelter.

The La Follette-Costigan bill would appropriate \$500,000,000 for federal aid of the states, a sum only about 2 per cent of that raised to fight the World war. The Cutting bill would grant the states \$15,000,000 for adequate care of itinerants, a sum that is about 1 per cent of what the Reconstruction Finance Corporation already has loaned for relief of banks, insurance companies and railroads.

"The fiber of the nation is being weakened steadily," Donald Richberg told the senate subcommittee. "Self-respect, courage and initiative are being destroyed in millions of homes by years of idleness, malnutrition and despair. We must check this national degradation at any cost."

An eminent cleric says if we were to treat the ganger with satire we might do away with him. The next time a gunman pokes a gun in your back and commands "Hands up!" mow him down with "Don't be silly!"

Gene Sarazen says a lot of golfers grip their clubs as if they were milking a cow. If this practice results in faulty drives and puts the cow in bad light, reflect how Bossie would retaliate should Gene go a-milking with his interlocking grip.

Mexico complains it has been flooded with \$2,500,000 in spurious United States money, including bogus "silver" coins made from the lead of old batteries. Probably those "electric dollars" we've been hearing about.

It's no wonder Babe Ruth objects to a reduction of the \$75,000 salary he drew down last season. If he yields one penny, he'll be making less than the President of the United States!

His best argument is that the

Just Plain Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

FROM a general and sweeping view, it looks as if women were standing hard times better than men.

And this is not strange. By nature we are far more resilient than they, and the exigencies of our situations have accustomed us to swift and sometimes evil change. Through centuries, women have had more down than ups in the world.

In many periods, while men rode upon the crest of the wave, we still wallowed helplessly in the depths. Ill fortune so often has wallowed us that we have acquired the habit of smiling as we bob back again.

And then our dress styles! How are we to estimate what these may have had to do with the shaping of feminine character? For if a new hat can have an uplifting effect upon the drooping spirits of a woman, consider if you please what a succession of new hats, each different in shape and decoration from the last, may have had upon our outlook on life and its vicissitudes.

FOR instance, no woman rises up this morning knowing for sure what kind of headgear she may be called upon to wear tomorrow. The gown which she contemplates this month with so much pride may in sixty short days be completely out of fashion.

Realizing that the mode sneaks best probably will be discarded and forgotten next week, she has, after long years of such uncertainty, become inured to any and everything. Public opinion, therefore, reasonably may mean less to her than to her husband.

Linking it in her mind with the vagaries of fashion, she is aware that it probably will not last out the season. So, too, all economic fluctuations are weathered with the same assurance that they can not long endure.

Men, on the contrary, seem singularly unable to make these swift mental and physical readjustments. They hang on to their most worthless and worn-out fallacies exactly like they cling to a five-year-old hat.

Because it feels comfortable, they are convinced that no other ever will do. It's extremely difficult to get them to alter their opinions.

Can this be due perhaps to the fact that they have not changed the essential style of their dress for a hundred years?

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

What Kind of a Game Is This?



It Seems to Me . . . by Heywood Broun

NEW names seem effective in the promotion of new worlds.

Technocracy, for instance, is sweeping the country on account of a new label, in spite of the fact that most of the assertions which it makes are entirely familiar.

And so I think I'll try to start a movement of my own. It will be called "Artisocracy" and inevitably must be in violent conflict with the theories of Mr. Scott.

I understand the new messiahs, they believe that we can be saved only by handing over our lives and beings to the engineers. The Utopia which I have in mind is not only willing, but graceful, in its reception of the statistics of the technocrats. But we would like a different sort of leadership.

We have not enough of engineers great or otherwise. We want the world turned over to the artists as generalissimos, or is this still another subterfuge by which Fascism may be introduced under some other name. The artist ever has been a dictator, since he understands better than anybody else the variances in human personality.

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The time has come to shew these men who can not see more than twenty-four or even less beyond the end and of their long noses. The world now is in a state where it could call upon the impractical for advice and counsel.

I have said that there is a certain shrewdness in the children of darkness, but I would keep a strong tsring on that admission.

The advantages which they gain are largely fallacious.

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