

The Indianapolis Times

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REDUCING TAXES

Reduction of taxation can be accomplished only by economies and savings in cost of public service. The plan of Governor McNutt to revise many state departments is moving forward swiftly. The public will commend the major portion of his recommendations. Within a few days the state highway commission will be put on a more business-like basis. For years there has been a suspicion that the cost of roads has been too high. The people have paid in the past few years approximately twenty millions of dollars each year for this service. The work has been done under a commission which was political in its viewpoint. As an example of saving, the recent order of Governor McNutt stopping the purchase of cement at prices which were much higher than was paid a year ago may be cited. The cement interests, for some unannounced reason, discovered that the price should be increased about ten days before bids for state consumption were opened. And with one exception, the bids were exactly alike. The establishment of a cement factory at the state prison farm may be one way to save many thousands of dollars. The reorganization of state government by consolidation of bureaus and the transfer of authority from the office of secretary of state should work for the interests of the taxpayer. It is unfortunate that a past political coolness between the Governor and the secretary of state might give such a movement the flavor of politics. As a matter of fact, the secretary of state has been given powers that should never have been under his direction. The office was built up by Stephenson as a political feed box through which he expected to control the state. Patronage was thrown to this office with no regard for proper authority. Many of these powers should belong to the Governor if he is to work effectively for economy. Cutting taxes finally means cutting expenses. That can be done only by eliminating useless jobs.

DEATH OF THE LAME DUCK

One of the few good by-products of the depression is the speed with which the lame duck amendment to the Constitution was ratified. The weakness and dangers inherent in the lame duck system were revealed at their worst by this crisis. In a race Monday for the honor of being the last of the thirty-six states needed to amend the Constitution. Speaker Meredith hurriedly called the members of the Missouri house together by phone, so his state could ratify ahead of Massachusetts, whose house was scheduled to meet for the purpose in the afternoon. Ratification broke all records for speed. It took ten years of fighting to get congress to pass and submit it. It took less than eleven months for thirty-six states to act. Not one state refused to ratify. There may be a unanimous vote of forty-eight states. All honor to Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska for this victory! In battling to end this clumsy and illogical anachronism, he was opposed by what he called "the organized political machines of special privilege." How right he was is proved not only by the chorus of approving votes of the states, but by the congressional actions of this, the last lame duck session of our history. From now on it will be harder for buck-passing party leaders, frivolous filibusterers, or irresponsible politicians to block the will of the voters. Now Senator Norris has one more important amendment. He will set about now to abolish the electoral college, another survivor of stage coach days.

DELINQUENT LAND

The other day in Virginia an auctioneer put under the hammer for unpaid taxes one-fourth of once-rich Spotsylvania county. Of the 900 farms and plots offered, only 200 pieces were redeemed, only fourteen sold. The rest went back to the state. This is a familiar story. In the last five years tax delinquency sales covered 3 1/2 per cent of the nation's farms. Farm failures have resulted in creation of a new public domain of more than 100,000,000 acres, one-half the size of the federal public lands. Some are good farms that in better times will find their way back to private ownership. The bulk either are logged-over regions or submarginal farms, unfit to compete in modern agriculture. Typical of these latter are the 1,500 submarginal farms of an eastern state, recently surveyed. More than one-half had been abandoned for tax delinquencies. The farmers on the other half had incomes averaging \$98 a year. The worst sufferers are southern and lake states. Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan, paying the price of careless logging, have 20,000,000 acres of tax-delinquent lands, at least 2,000,000 of which have returned to state ownership. Florida, Oregon and the Dakotas are hard hit. The personal vice that goes with abandoned farms is matched by serious social maladjustments. New tax sources must be found, schools, roads and towns must be shifted. Some of the more progressive states are tackling their land problems with vigor and realism. New York last year planted 41,000,000 trees on its submarginal land. Michigan and Minnesota are creating state forests and parks for recreation and game preserves. Wisconsin is turning its idle land into county parks. But most states refuse to face the fact that here is land that for many years is theirs to hold. It is their responsibility to recreate social wealth. A new crop of private owners at this time means another crop of heartbreaks. What is needed is a national land policy evolved through co-operation of states and federal government. President-Elect Roosevelt has said he wants to move 5,000,000 American families back to the land. These should be colonized on good land, while the worn-out acres are put to work raising trees. National planning should be applied to agriculture.

MORE DRY TRICKERY

The beer legislation was confused enough. Now the senate judiciary committee has carried the confusion farther by throwing out the bill which passed the house and by substituting a dubious one. By the time the senate finance committee, to which the bill now goes, gets in its ticks the result may be a measure which the dregs can defeat. In the form reported by the judiciary committee, the 3.2 per cent by weight of alcoholic content provided in the house bill is reduced to 3.05. The question arises whether any large market exists for such beer. The primary purpose of the measure is to raise revenue through taxes to help balance the federal budget. But the dry wreckers in the committee did not stop there. They added amendments to prohibit the sale of this alleged beer to minors and to prevent advertising it in dry states. Of course the only possible justification for such amendments is the theory that this 3.05 per cent drink is intoxicating. So the bill carries within itself the tacit—but untrue—admission that it tries to legalize an intoxicant. The catch is obvious. No bill can legalize an intoxicant so long as the eighteenth amendment is in the Constitution. Therefore, the senate judiciary committee bill is a direct invitation to senate dregs to defeat it on the ground of unconstitutionality, and, failing that, an invitation to President Hoover to veto it on the same ground. There should be an end to this hypocritical and backhanded maneuvering. The house bill was honest. The senate dregs have a right to try to kill it in open and fair fight. But when they resort to trickery they confess they fear defeat. The trickery may or may not succeed in the lame duck session. But effective beer tax legislation probably can not be delayed later than the spring special session of the new wet congress.

A JAPANESE PATRIOT

At last Japan's military madness has been challenged in the Japanese diet. For more than a year the liberalism of Japan, which once made possible the peace treaties, has seemed dead. By every means, from assassination down, the anti-military opposition was silenced. Later, the reports have stated that opposition no longer existed, that Japan was united behind her war terrorists. But Hitoshi Ashida, former member of the diplomatic service and present foreign affairs spokesman of the Seiyukai party, had the courage Monday to openly attack army domination of the government and of foreign policy. He criticized the government's unfriendly attitude toward the United States and toward the League of Nations. He warned that unless Japan's relations with the rest of the world were improved speedily they would produce another armament race and possibly a world war. Whether Hitoshi Ashida finally is rewarded for his daring honesty with assassination or with eventual leadership in the Japanese movement, the world pays tribute to his patriotism. He loves his country enough to oppose her when she is wrong. Only patriots of this kind can save Japan. The road of conquest is the road to destruction.

COLLEGE LOANS

Representative Maas' proposal that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation be authorized to make loans to colleges for dormitories and other self-liquidating projects is worth consideration. The value of colleges and universities can not be measured in dollars and international finance. They represent ideals of advancement and culture for which we have fought and struggled many years in this country. Not to support them even in our adversity would be to give some flavor of truth to the comment upon America which Senator David Reed, in his exasperation, read in a French paper while he was visiting in Paris: "The United States was the only country in history where a state of barbarism has been followed by decadence, with no civilization in between." Colleges are hard pressed. Their incomes have shrunk, their loans have been restricted. They have let good faculty members go. Salaries have been reduced. The R. F. C. can help the colleges keep open. When it comes to vital legislation, the lame duck congress certainly knows how to pass it—up. You always can tell the hen-pecked husband. He's the one who's given the blue sky pieces to work out in jigsaw puzzles.

Just Plain Sense

HARRY F. Gerguson, adventurer, self-styled "Prince Michael Romanoff," speaking: "At least, I have the attitude of a prince—I have lived courageously and have, I think, put up the stock of princes." Now it seems to me that this statement is singularly akin to truth. Mr. Gerguson, cheat, poseur, a seeker after false honors though he may be, assuredly has done nothing unworthy of princes in their heyday. Indeed, his little game is comparatively simple and without harm to any one save himself—and this can be said of very few notables in the whole long history of kingdoms. Many men have deluded themselves with ideas of greatness and grandeur. And their delusions have been far more malevolent to their fellows than those of this "fake Romanoff."

He, like they, struts upon the stage of life, seeking to attract the attention of the multitudes, preying upon the credulity of humankind, even as princes always have preyed upon the credulity of their simpler minded neighbors. And all he asks is an obsequious, a free meal, and plenty of publicity. Would that all the princes of the earth had been so modest in their demands!

Also he holds his title as honorably as hundreds of the heirs of kings have done—by right of grab and gab.

ROYAL lineage, traced back some generations, always discloses strange figures risen from obscure origins that have become self-styled rulers and leaders of creatures less arrogant and apt than themselves. Figures often horrible and monstrous, whose whims have decided the destinies of millions of men.

But, best of all, this modern highness abdicates without flourishings of the sword. As he reigned without conquest, so he retires without conflict. Discovered in his frauds, he resigns his attitude of majesty and becomes simple "Mike."

Moreover, royal purple was evolved by the deep staining of princely raiment with the blood of common men, and of this at least Michael is guiltless. He has played a game—and that in truth is what every other mortal has done who set himself up or has been set up as lord over many men.

Can't Be Bothered!



It Seems to Me . . . by Heywood Broun

THE agreement reached between President Hoover and President-Elect Roosevelt has a dual significance. It may mark the first step in a genuine effort to achieve international economic co-operation. It is at least an admission that the old die-hard position of "We have nothing to discuss" is to be abandoned. To be sure, the agreement covers too small a field. The arrangement merely specifies that the incoming administration will be glad to receive representatives of the British government early in March to discuss the debt and also "world economic problems." At the moment, these are limited to those in which "the United States and Great Britain are mutually interested." Now, of course, if this conference is to find "ways and means for improving the world situation" there are several other nationalities which will be included. The United States and Great Britain are a good deal less than the world. It is difficult to think of concerns which touch them both which do not also involve the necessities of France, Germany, Italy, China and Japan. And in this list I have left out many others who belong to the family of nations and should be at the council board. There is, for instance, quite a sizable going concern called Russia. First Timid Step YET it is well not to be too captious. The agreement reached does mark a considerable advance from the wholly nationalistic feeling which seemed to be about to engulf America. It is a departure from the ivory tower notions of William Randolph Hearst and Hiram Johnson. While it is true that we retain our great Chinese wall, we are at the very least offering to let down the drawbridge long enough to receive a few representative foreign devils. It may even be that Mr. Hearst himself has begun to weaken on his original plan of complete isolation. In a recent editorial there was the admission that perhaps the counsel of perfection might include a distribution of world enterprise, assigning to each nation those activities to which it peculiarly was suited. It is true that this was dismissed as visionary and impractical and of no immediate help in our present time of trouble. Shoot at Bullseye BUT I hope we soon will grow up to a realization that the only possibility of betterment which lies within the choice of the world is a straight shot at the bullseye. This, among other things, is good technique. "If our concerted aim strays, we still may be somewhere near the mark. If we try for nothing more than the edge of the target, it is quite likely that the arrow will fall to earth—heaven knows where." Of course, danger still threatens from an important quarter. The best-laid schemes of Presidents, both elect and current, have often been slain by a hostile congress. The legislative I. Q. of the moment seems to be about eight and one-half years old, and, at that, I am leaving out Senator Johnson. He is unlikely to agree even to the possibility of friendly conference. His spear knows not even a second cousin beyond our national borders. One of the most discouraging things in the congressional situation is the fact that this so-called liberal and radical senators seem to be the most hidebound in their refusal to accept any phase of a new order. This was strikingly illustrated in the vote on the cloture motion. It is hard to picture anything more undemocratic than a filibuster which throttles the right to call for a show of hands. Yet in the group which gave support to Louisiana's road company Mussolini were practically all the men who like to move on parade as progressives. So-Called Liberals AMONG those who lent aid and comfort to the effort to establish a senatorial oligarchy were church champions of the people as Borah, Brookhart, La Follette, and Norris. These avowed disciples of the right of the majority rule made common cause with Watson, Smoot, and Moses. The sons of the wild jackasses took on wings and allied themselves with the quackery of the lame ducks in the Republican party. The kingfish piped them all in his puddle. And in the motley crew marched Shipstead, of the Farm-Labor party, who paid allegiance to the theory that legislation in America from now on is to be conducted not by only electing representatives, but by the whim of those whose heads are brass and whose lungs are leather. If this alliance remains unbroken, an ancient concept goes overboard. We are about to dedicate ourselves to the proposition that government of, for, and by monogolists shall not perish from the face of the earth. (Copyright, 1933, by United Features Syndicate, Inc.) Daily Thought For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.—1 John 5:3. VIRTUE is the beauty of the soul.—Socrates. DAILY HEALTH SERVICE BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEN Editor Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygieia, the Health Magazine. have a complete medical examination, to make certain that the entire apparatus is physically in order. Once this is determined, the teacher's work may begin with breathing exercises, relaxation exercises, the removal of constrictions, practice in tone placement and exercises which will lead to proper co-ordination between breathing and tone production. The last form is called dysrhythmia. It is concerned with defects in the rhythm of speech which may be due to trouble with thinking or perhaps merely with bad habits of speech. Obviously it is the duty of the teacher who is endeavoring to correct speech to find out everything that can be known about the disorder from the parents, from the physician, and from the patient himself, and to plan the system of correction on the basis of the knowledge secured. This discussion should serve to indicate how complicated the mechanism controlling speech actually is and also the necessity for extensive scientific study and care to bring about satisfactory control. M ANY people suffer with forms of the sixth type of speech disturbance—dysphonia—in varying degrees. This type includes a sudden loss of the voice, thickening, whispering, guttural noises, breathing noises, nasal tones and similar irregularities. It is possible that these may be caused in some cases by actual changes or abnormalities of the tissues, such as constrictions in the tone passage, disturbances of the vocal cords or other irregularities in the throat, nose or mouth. It is therefore important that every type of voice defect first

M. E. Tracy Says:

WE GO CRAZY OVER "SAVING" WHEN it comes to present-day ills, we Americans owe quite as much to the "saving" complex as to machinery. If we have astonished the world with new and strange devices during the last half century, we have done no less with novel and curious schemes for "saving" this or that section of humanity. Our war aims formed the crowning bit of nonsense. We were not content to help put down a rambunctious outcropping of militarism, like other nations. It had to be a "war to end war," to "save the world for democracy," to "create a new order," and several other things. We reached a point many years ago where we found it hard to get enthusiastic over any real undertaking unless it permitted us to line up with the angels. We fought Spain to "save" Cuba, and then fought the Philippines to "save" Spain. Now we are going to let the Philippines go to "save" Cuba again.

Save the Drunkards, Then the Budget

WE adopted the eighteenth amendment to "save" ourselves, or some of us at least, from a drunkard's grave. Now we propose to repeal it to "save" the federal budget, and all in the name of temperance. During the war we loaned France a lot of money to "save" her from German soldiers. Some ten years later we loaned Germany a lot of money to "save" her from French bankers. When the depression hit we tried to "save" prosperity by telling each other it was "just around the corner." That failing to work, we tried to "save" holders of mortgages and bonds through federal foreclosure. Our next move was an attempt to "save" the unemployed with charity and the government by raising taxes.

While We're Saving, We're Losing

THE more we "save," the more we lose, because we forever are trying to "save" a part instead of the whole. We "save" money from the flu or diphtheria and then run over them with our automobiles. We "save" murderers from the electric chair, and they live to kill a guard or a warden. We "save" expense by making prisoners work, but only to throw other people out of work, and the same is true when we "save" taxes by cutting down the number of public employees. We think it's fine when conditions force some poor devil to labor for less or sell his goods for less, but we lose when he can't pay his debts. We look upon every new device as grand, no matter how much pain it raises with the industrial or economic set-up, especially if it promises to "save" some of us a cent or two, or a little effort. We have "saved" labor until there doesn't seem to be enough left to go around. We have a larger volume of money in comparison to the volume of business than we have had for many years, but we are so busy "saving" it that scores of communities are resorting to scrip.

SCIENCE

25 Stages in Man's Rise

BY DAVID DIETZ T WENTY-FIVE stages in the evolution of man from a primitive "pre-fish" that swam in the ancient oceans of 400,000,000 years ago to the human being of today have been traced by Dr. William K. Gregory, professor of vertebrate paleontology at Columbia university and curator of comparative anatomy at the American Museum of Natural History. Professor Gregory calls his twenty-five stages an attempt to "piece together the broken story of the 'big parade' that nature has staged across the ages." He makes no attempt to trace men's ancestry back to the original one-celled organisms which are thought to have been the beginning of all forms of life, but starts with the earliest known "notochords." A vertebrate is a creature which has a backbone. The earliest vertebrates did not have backbones such as are known today, but rods of fairly stiff cartilage, known as "notochords." Stage No. 1 in Professor Gregory's "big parade" is the "pre-fish," or ostracoderm, to use the scientific name, of 400,000,000 years ago. They existed in the geological period, known as the Ordovician. "These pre-fishes were bilaterally symmetrical with a median axis or notochord," Professor Gregory says. "They moved by lateral undulations of the body, by contractions of W-shaped muscle segments." "The head was of the complex vertebrate type, including a braincase that contained three pairs of main sense organs." Jaws Appear STAGE No. 2, according to Professor Gregory, is represented by the "amniarchs" of the Devonian age. This was perhaps 300,000,000 years ago. "These strange-looking forms had the head and body inclosed in an armor of bony plates and propelled themselves by a pair of pointed appendages that remind us of the walking legs of crabs," he says. Their chief contribution to man's eventual appearance, according to Professor Gregory, were jaws. They mark the dividing line between true jaw-bearing forms and so-called jawless forms. Stage No. 3 is represented by the "pre-sharks," which came a little later in the Devonian age. Their scientific name is the "acanthodians." They possessed paired fins, the forerunners of man's paired arms and legs. In addition, they possessed better developed jaws. Stage No. 4, likewise in the Devonian age, is composed of the earliest known forerunners of the modern bony fishes. They are the "basal ganoid fish." Their heads were covered by bony armor. According to Professor Gregory, the evolution of the bones composing this armor can be traced through fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals, to the bones in the skull of man himself. These early fish also exhibited puddle-like fins, a step nearer hands and feet. In earlier forms the fins were mere folds of skin.

Times Readers Voice Views . . .

Editor Times—I wish, once and for all, to set the public right on south side improvements. I always have been very much interested in what is going on in the way of public affairs. I happened to look on the bulletin board in the street commissioner's office, and found that Meridian street was on for resurfacing and Union street for resurfacing and widening. Immediately called a meeting of our board of directors and officers of the South Meridian Civic Club, and we decided to have a meeting with the board of public works, if such a privilege could be granted. It was. We had nothing to do with this program previous to this. We only wanted to know what was what. The improvement we had anything to do with is Russell avenue, and parts of Illinois street to South street, which we advocated to be included, and it was, and thanks to the board members for same. Here comes the important part. I have heard it said "There is no Santa Claus. The south side gets nothing; the north and east sides get it all." I suppose they are suffering from the delusion that these people get all this without any cost. Oh, what a delusion. Those people pay their share of these improvements, and I would not ask any one to pay for any improvement which would enhance the value of my property. Anything you get for nothing is not worth much. If every one in the past would have said, "I have not the money to pay for this," to this day not one single street or alley pavement, or a single sewer, would be in Indianapolis. I am writing this because the South Meridian Civic Club is being blamed for these improvements, which are necessary, as our city has been ridiculed for the bad condition of streets leading in on state roads 31, 37 and 35 by Columbus and Treviack residents, and if some of our objectors read the paper and keep up with current events, they will read this article. But here, once and for all, we had nothing to do with it. JOHN C. KIRCH, 1633 Union street.

So They Say

Politicians are not our best minds.—Dr. Charles Clayton Morrison, editor of the Christian Century. What teachers do out of school is their own business. I never heard that matrimony ends a woman's ability, nor that celibacy assures it.—F. H. Bair, superintendent of schools, Shaker Heights, O.