

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, 43 a year; outside of Indiana, 65 cents a month.

SATURDAY, JAN. 28, 1933.

CUTTING COSTS

The plan to give the Governor approximately absolute authority to employ and discharge state employees, to fix wages, to limit expenditures, has much to commend it.

The Governor of the state is held responsible for results. He can not function without the proper authority.

State administration, in most of its aspects, is a purely business proposition. Business men have long held to the theory that if the same principles that are used in business were applied to government, the cost could be reduced materially. Now it is proposed to give the Governor a chance to do exactly that thing.

A more timid man than Governor McNutt might shrink from the responsibility that such a reorganization of state government will bring.

While the power of patronage is looked upon as a mighty weapon in politics, it works both ways.

If the cost of government is not reduced, if the service is impaired, the protest is not to be much greater than political results inspired by those who have received jobs.

Under the present system, the public can not locate responsibility for any shortcoming. Numerous boards, commissions and minor officials have authority. The Governor, who gets most of the blame, is helpless, unless he wishes to be in a continual quarrel with his board members.

Complete authority and inescapable responsibility should get the necessary results. The cost of government must be reduced. The Governor should be given a free hand to cut out the extravagances. It is not an enviable job.

KEEPING THE SCHOOLS

The proposal that the state pay the minimum wage of every teacher in the state calls attention to the fact that there are many districts and localities which are no longer able to pay for the maintenance of schools.

No longer will the tax receipts stretch far enough to provide for education. Farming localities, once prosperous, can not pay. In the mining regions, children must grow into manhood and womanhood illiterate, unless some drastic change is made in the method of raising money.

There will be general approval of the declaration of Governor McNutt that the children shall not be neglected and that the deflation shall not hit at the rights of the boys and girls to an education, or the start toward an education.

But what is happening to the schools will soon happen to other agencies of government unless men are given work and prices of commodities, especially farm commodities, are increased.

Some cities will run short of money to pay policemen and firemen and the garbage collector. Hospitals may be closed. The health departments will suffer.

The proposed sales tax to raise the revenues for the schools is much more likely to add to the difficulties now encountered by the districts which face the abolition of schools unless the state comes to the rescue. That will decrease the buying power of the consumer of the products of farm and mine.

All will agree with the decision that the schools must be maintained. Getting the money is a different problem and will force a frank facing of facts.

THE WAR ON HUNGER

A hunger relief bill has been voted out of committee and is before the United States senate for action in the short session. Combining the Costigan-La Follette and Cutting bills, it is a lifeline for 3,000,000 destitute families and 1,000,000 homeless youths.

The revised bill separates hunger relief from business and public works loans. A separate board of three, including an expert social worker, would administer outright grants to the states. Of the \$500,000,000 set aside for the next two years, \$15,000,000 is earmarked for transient care. These sums are needed desperately.

The country is spending \$1,000,000,000 a year now on relief. More than a third of the unemployed are on charity. But every report proves that the states and communities are about at the end of their resources.

Private charities and local public funds are depleted. We have reached the third phase of the relief campaign—federal aid.

At the senate committee hearings, two-score relief workers from many states testified. They had come from the firing line. Practically all of them said that the fight against hunger is going against them. Practically all urged quick and ample federal grants.

If any one doubts that this rich country's enemy today is hunger, let him listen to these hunger fighters:

Harry L. Hopkins, New York state chairman of emergency relief: "At a conservative estimate, 500,000 families in the United States not getting relief should be receiving it."

Van Bittner, United Mine Workers, Fairmont, W. Va.: "Our people are hungry. Our children are crying for bread. They do not have sufficient clothing to protect them from the blasts of winter."

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

Dr. Jacob Billikopf, Philadelphia Federation of Jewish Charities: "Many states have no resources to fall back on. The majority of cities are smashed and crippled financially. You can't expect unemployment relief from them."

H. L. Lurie, Bureau of Social Research, New York: "Few of the large relief agencies are giving as much as \$1 a week a person for food and in some of the organized cities the amount has fallen to as low as 50 cents a person a week."

Miss Helen Hall, University Settlement, Philadelphia: "Philadelphia has gone through four periods when there was no money for unemployment relief. 37 per cent were not getting the normal three meals a day."

Clarence E. Pickett, American Friends Service Committee, on conditions in Kentucky and West Virginia mine regions: "Warm clothing is almost non-existent. In Kentucky I received notice that

three schools had to close because of trachoma. One looks with a certain amount of trepidation on what might happen if millions of our people come to feel that the state is their enemy."

Karl De Schweinitz, Philadelphia Community Council, on overcrowding, due to evictions: "Out of every 1,000 families applying for help, 220 families are living with somebody else. One child said: 'In the last year we have lived with six different families. At first they were glad to have us, but after a while they got very tired of you!'"

Samuel A. Goldsmith, Chicago Jewish Charities: "With Chicago standards, you would need a federal fund of well over a billion dollars. It is a terrific figure, but we are in a war."

We are in a war. In the last war we spent \$35,000,000,000 in two years to beat the enemy overseas. Shall we refuse to spend one-seventieth of that to beat the enemy at home?

THROWING AWAY \$2,500,000

Constituents of those congressmen who voted \$2,500,000 for citizens' military training camps next summer, in the war department appropriation bill, will have good reason to laugh when economy is mentioned in future appeals for re-election.

If there is any activity of the federal government which well could be dispensed with in hard times, this is it. These summer camps, at government expense, for boys selected by their congressmen, have little or no military value, and high officials of the army so have admitted. Their political value is, of course, a different thing.

President Hoover recognized this fact when he recommended that the appropriation for 1934 be drastically cut, and only \$1,000,000 allowed. With even greater courage and regard for duty, the house appropriations committee recommended that the camps be eliminated altogether. The house has overridden both objections and provided \$2,500,000 for free vacations.

If this money were being spent by the government to feed, for a month, residents of the different congressional districts who would have little or nothing to eat, otherwise, during that period, the expenditure might be justified.

It is very probable, however, that candidates will be chosen either for their theoretical value to national defense—and that surely requires a strong, well-nourished body—or else for their potential value to the recommending congressman the next time he runs for office.

Taxpayers who will provide the money for these camps, and hungry Americans whose needs certainly should command any money the government can find to spend, alike will be justified in feeling that the lame duck house of representatives has treated them badly.

It remains to be seen whether a lame duck senate will exhibit greater devotion to the cause of economy.

OUT OF THE DARK

The final report of the Hoover national advisory committee on illiteracy is cheering. Illiteracy in the United States has been reduced by one-third in the last decade. The 1930 census shows a 648,152 reduction in those unable to read and write.

Since there was an increase of 17,044,426 in population in that decade, the actual decrease in illiteracy is substantial.

Outstanding in the ten-year crusade against ignorance were various state projects in adult education. Louisiana, for instance, brought 90,000 of her citizens out of the dark. Georgia gave instruction in the rudiments of learning to 118,000.

The national committee organized forty-four state branches, all of which are at work carrying on where it, because of lack of funds, must cease work. Apparently the committee has succeeded in making the nation "illiteracy conscious."

The next decade should see an end to the disgrace of illiteracy in this republic. There still are 4,283,753 Americans unable to read or write. In a "Bad Manners" to Be Shown at Playhouse," says a New York headline. And here we had been thinking every theater in the country had its late arrivals.

democracy, this is 4,283,753 too many.

Young married couples seem to get along best when near relatives are far away.

A scientist says we could live indefinitely, like the 21-year-old chicken heart, if it weren't for our heads. Bad as they are, who'd want to be without 'em?

Further proof that silence is golden—"Kingfish" Long's one-man filibuster cost the taxpayers \$15,000 a day.

Just Plain Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

SAY what you will about the Victorians, they had too much sense to spend good money to hear barber shop jokes. If they wished to indulge their sense of indecency or to satisfy an inner urge for smut, they went to the poolhall and regaled themselves with ribald conversation, while the women whispered behind their hands at home.

Nowadays we pay three, sometimes four, dollars to hear the same kind of thing from the stage, and think ourselves smart while we do so. We are certain that this proves that we understand life and its profounder implications.

One of the oldest New York productions now is touring the country. It advertises "the most beautiful girls in the world." A great deal of money has been spent, the girls really are young and lovely, and the scenery gorgeous, so that it might have been a glamorous and entertaining spectacle. But jokes are just plain nasty.

WITHOUT being blessed with a too delicate esthetic sense or even a slight degree of prudishness, most of us enjoy now and then an off-color wisecrack, if it is clever. But most of the stuff one hears on the stage these days is not clever. It is only vulgar.

It is the sort of thing that dirty-minded little boys used to giggle over behind the barn. Because it bears the New York trademark, it is accepted in most places as "the thing," even though it is obvious trash, without the slightest appeal to our sense of humor or fun.

Personally, I don't believe that the majority of any audience, anywhere, really likes three hours of vulgar bedroom scenes, hoary jokes based upon the natural functions of the human body and moron antics.

Most of us, although we may pretend, to impress others, really feel a faint shrinking, a ghostly sense of shame, a spiritual humiliation. This is the only reasonable way to excuse our taste.

As a people, we can't have degenerated into such a company of driving perverts as a good deal of our stage entertainment purports to be.

If this is where sophistication has led us, then we have been traveling in a great circle, and are right back where we started from—the old livery stable.

Passing the Bier



It Seems to Me . . . by Heywood Broun

I TRIED to say in this column the other day, "It must be remembered that we are confronted by a theory rather than a condition."

Somebody got the notion that I was adding and changed it around into the more usual formula. But I meant to twist the familiar phrase in just the way I set it down.

It is my conviction that the world has wasted too much time in trying to solve deep-seated difficulties with skin lotions.

We have used means which everybody recognized as fundamentally unsound, under the plea that if we only could alleviate the morrow would take care of itself. It is not religion, but optimism which has been the odium of the people.

There was and probably still is an old vaudeville yarn about a man in a hotel who called a bell-boy and ordered a glass of ice water. Two minutes later, he asked for another, and after a brief interval, he asked again and again.

And so the bellboy finally said, "I beg your pardon, but would you mind telling me why you want all these glasses of ice water?"

"Oh," said the hotel guest, "didn't I tell you? Well, you see, my bedroom is on fire."

Should Turn on Hose

AND we have met the world conflagration by calling for turners of water instead of turning on the hose.

To be specific about it, there is the policy of emergency relief as a curative for the unemployment of many millions. It has failed, and no man of any vision could have expected anything else.

Sooner or later, there must be a dole, although it might be well to call it something else, since the word has earned a quite undeserved unpopularity. Of course, even a dole is no cure, but it does represent the organization of a bucket brigade to take the place of bellobys bearing ice water.

The whole point is that, we are not dealing merely with what is euphemistically called "an emergency." I am in no position to be severe with people who still cling to this psychology, because I once ran a campaign—more than two

years ago—under the slogan of "Give a job till June."

Even if the entire city had heeded this exhortation no great amount of good would have come from it, since there have been two June's since and there are more to come.

But even in those days I must say in justice to myself that I did not regard the campaign as having any particular utility except in so far as it called attention to the fact of unemployment at a time when it was still being played down by those in power. There are few, if any, today who dare deny the fact.

Facing Facts

It is so far from enough that the condition should be recognized. This is assuredly the time for theorists. And that the world is not ready to admit. Many still believe in the muddle-through philosophy.

I do not even deny the possibility that the world may stagger out of many of its difficulties through blind luck and inertia. It is not even impossible that within five years we might again see so-called boom times and the sky-rocketing of stocks.

And that, I think, would be the final piece of telling testimony against the folly of our organization. It would be the crowning piece of evidence that we live in a mad world which has no mechanism to assure stability and freedom from fear.

Once upon a time economics was an academic subject reserved almost entirely for college professors and their occasional pupils. Nobody paid much attention to the tariff, because it was heard of only every four years in campaign speeches.

The gold standard was accepted as readily as the sunrise and sunset. As the phrase goes, we "settled" that issue in 1896.

We Face a Theory

BUT now these theories of trade and banking and currency are matters of life and death to every one of us. Four years ago Technology never would have made the first page. As a matter of fact, from present indications it is about to take its departure for some more obscure spot inside.

And yet the flurry of attention which it got and deserved shows that at least part of the public is intent upon listening to men who attempt an appraisal of fundamentals, whether their conclusions are solid or marred here and there.

If we are to go on living and planning from day to day dependent upon it, that tomorrow will be precisely like the twenty-four hours which preceded, and so on and so on.

We can not face simple and immediate conditions. We must look ahead and weigh all the available theories. In other words, the year 1933 can be a period of betterment only if we begin here and now to plan for 1943.

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M. E. Tracy Says:

WAR DEBT PARLEY DOOR OPEN



TRACY

THE door has been opened for war debt discussion, which is a triumph for President Hoover, but the discussion will be carried on through regular diplomatic channels at Washington, and that's a triumph for President-Elect Roosevelt.

The compromise was on method, rather than objective, leaving revision, if not cancellation, as the almost certain outcome.

In other words, our government now is committed to a course which promises to wipe out much, and possibly all, of the eleven billion dollars due from European countries.

Many Americans view the prospect with optimism; some from mere sentiment, others because they believe it represents good business.

The idea prevails that trade would boom and private debts be made more secure if these inter-governmental obligations were gotten out of the way.

Bound Up With European Situation

THERE is another angle to the situation which should not be ignored or treated lightly.

Debt revision abroad and debt revision at home are hopelessly linked.

What we owe each other and what we are going to do about it is bound up with what European countries owe our government.

The hard-pressed American taxpayer should not be expected to see the wisdom of granting revision in one case without asking for it in another.

In this connection, it is well to recall that, before seeking relief from us, European governments took drastic measures for relieving their own people—Germany by use of the printing press; France by stabilizing the franc at one-fifth of its normal value; and England by going off the gold standard.

Still those governments can't meet their bills in full and are coming to us for further concessions.

Probably they are entitled to further concessions, but to no greater extent than are many corporations and individuals in this country.

The "inability to pay" argument is no sounder for a government than for a citizen.

Excuse as Good for One as Another

WE are going to hear a lot about it from now on.

You just can't apply a philosophy to one field and then exclude it from all others.

The average American will not get much relief through revision or cancellation of war debts. He is far more likely to get a bigger tax bill, and whether he does or not, he is sure of getting a new idea.

We are trifling with the philosophy of economics, rather than routine methods; drifting right down to the whys and wherefores of the system.

The average American will want to know whether the government should be kinder to a European government than to him, whether debt is more sacred between individuals than between nations. He will want to know whether "inability to pay" is much as good an excuse for the Kansas farmer or New York real estate owner as for Great Britain.

And the paradox of it all is that a war to maintain the sanctity of contracts should have confronted us with such a situation.

Sometimes you wonder whether human ingenuity is not asking too much of human understanding, whether we have not developed a mechanism which is too big and complicated for us to operate, whether something besides war debts doesn't need to be revised downward.

SCIENCE

Dentistry Old Science

BY DAVID DIETZ

DENTISTRY is at least 3,500 years old and the notion that bad teeth can affect the general health of an individual goes back about 2,500 years. So says Dean Leroy M. S. Miner of Harvard university dental school.

Egyptian documents, 3,500 years old, contain remedies for toothache and for tightening loose teeth. Egyptian documents, 3,500 years old, dug up in the ruins of Nineveh, contain a diagnosis by the court physician of a royal toothache.

"I have spoken with the king, my lord," wrote the ancient doctor. "The fever of his head, his hands, his feet wherewith he burrs, is because of his teeth. His teeth should be drawn. He has been brought low. Now he will be well exceeding."

One hopes that the physician was right and that when the king lost his teeth, he regained his health. Modern medical research has shown that there are many instances in which infected teeth are to blame for ailments.

Artificial teeth likewise are very old, according to Dean Miner. "The testimony of the tomb," he says, "shows that artificial teeth are almost as old as dentistry itself. A number of examples have been found among the Inca relics and other ancient civilizations."

Artificial teeth were common in Rome, Dean Miner tells us. "The Roman poet Martial notes with a sarcastic eye the efforts of the beauties of the day to maintain their charm," he continues, "and remarks that 'the belle lays down her teeth at night just as she does her slippers robes.'"

"In another place he unkindly remarks that 'she now has removable teeth and would have removable eyes if they were for sale.'"

These quotations from Martial will be particularly interesting to vaudevillegoers, who will note that at least one group of vaudeville "gags" had its inception in the writings of a Roman poet—that is, unless he borrowed it from the Greeks.

In the ancient days, dentistry was looked upon as a first aid to beauty more often than to health. Excavations among the Inca remains in Peru have revealed that the teeth of the Incas frequently were ornamented with thin gold discs, Dean Miner says.

In Ecuador teeth were almost entirely covered by an overlay of gold. In ancient Mexico and India, they commonly were adorned with turquoise and other precious stones.

It is only today, however, Dean Miner thinks, that we are beginning to realize the role of dentistry in maintaining general health.

"The health idea underlies the new dentistry," he says. "It is a change from a mechanical to a biological basis."

Modern Problem

DEAN MINER points out that dental ailments are gradually becoming the most nearly universal maladies of our civilization.

"How they can be met and conquered is the vital problem of the new dentistry," he says.

Some authorities think that common colds and dental decay are the costliest diseases in existence today.

In addition to what they cost in time, money, and suffering, they probably pave the way for many more serious ailments.

Dr. A. H. Hooton, professor of anthropology at Harvard university, says that the trend of evolution in man has been toward bigger brains and weaker jaws.

He says that there is some

Times Readers Voice Views . . .

Editor Times—It is common talk that what the country needs is more money and more revenue from untaxable property, and at the present an emergency exists.

I will suggest that Uncle Sam announce that there is an emergency existing in business conditions in the United States about the same as when the boys of the United States went to war and ask each municipal bondholder in the United States to volunteer and send a small per cent, or more if needed, of their bonds to Uncle Sam at Washington. Uncle Sam, in turn, would agree to print real United States money and send it back to the bondholders, giving them 100 per cent on the dollar for their bonds.

Uncle Sam could hold the bonds until they became due, when the municipal bond debtors could send the money to Washington and pay off the bonds, and at that time the money could be destroyed by the government.

By this system the money will be paid to all parts of the United States and the people would have money to do business with, the money would become taxable and the bonds would draw interest for Uncle Sam, which would be a very inexpensive and just way for him to balance the budget.

This system, which we need, could be put in force quickly, and there would be no limit to the amount of money which could be placed in the public's hands, and in turn the government's worry about the need of more gold or silver during this emergency would end.

This system would solve five very important questions—money, taxes, business, interest income for Uncle Sam to help balance the budget, the need of gold or silver.

If these bonds are safe for the public to hold, they undoubtedly would be safe for Uncle Sam to hold during an emergency.

I would like to hear from readers of this paper and the Taxpayers League on this suggestion through this paper.

GLEN BROWN,
126 North Belmont avenue.

Questions and Answers

Q—How much of the Netherlands is below sea level?

A—Nearly one-fourth.

Q—How many nurses and volunteer workers served with the American Red Cross during the World war?

A—There were 23,000 nurses, 55,000 nurses' aids, and 6,000,000 volunteer workers.

Q—How many railroads, of all classes, are there in the United States?

A—1,497.

Wet Cloths Ease Erysipelas Pain

BY DR. MORRIS FISHEIN

This is the last of three articles by Dr. Fishlein on the nature and treatment of erysipelas.

NUMEROUS remedies have been developed for treatment of erysipelas, including all sorts of antiseptics and antitoxins. The frequent use of hot or cold cloths helps to diminish any pain associated with swelling by taking down the swelling.

If the eyelids are involved, it is customary to drop some mild antiseptic solution, which any physician can supply, directly into the eyes.

Efforts used to be made to control the disease by painting on iodine, silver nitrate or similar preparations, but modern authorities feel that these accomplish little and besides may so hide the spread of the disease as to interfere with its control.

Furthermore, these solutions stain the sleeping garments and bed linen.

Dr. Konrad Birkhaug, who has made special studies of this condition, recommends instead the use of compresses soaked in an ice-cold saturated solution of magnesium sulphate (or Epsom salts).

If these cloths are kept cold and applied repeatedly, they offer great relief, but will not stop the spread of the erysipelas.

In 1926, Dr. Birkhaug developed specific antitoxin to be used in erysipelas only by a physician. When this antitoxin is injected, there usually is a prompt improvement in the toxic depression, a lessening of the fever and a slowing of the rapid pulse rate within twelve to eighteen hours.