

The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

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A BEER JOKER

The chief value of the federal beer bill is as a revenue measure at a time of debt and deficit. The only danger involved is that it may be used by organized drunks to delay ratification of the repeal amendment.

In this moment of enthusiasm over prospects of beer and more revenue, that fear may seem far-fetched. Nevertheless, it is well to be on the safe side.

Therefore, congress, before final enactment of the beer bill, should throw out the Borah amendment. That amendment would prevent the sale of beer to minors under 16.

There are two objections to this. One is that this further would involve the federal government in a police regulation properly belonging to the individual state. The other objection is that the prohibition of sale to minors implies that the drink is intoxicating in fact.

Clearly, if 3.2 or 3.05 per cent beer is intoxicating in fact, the proposed law is unconstitutional until the eighteenth amendment is repealed; and, under those conditions, would be declared unconstitutional by the supreme court.

Why cross that bridge before we get to it? Why worry about that now? For the simple reason that the dry organizations already are preparing definitely to test the constitutionality of the statute as soon as it is passed.

The revenue emergency, which was great enough to force President Roosevelt to request quick action by congress on beer, is great enough to cause congress to use reasonable caution in drafting the law so that it will not be thrown out by the courts.

Congress should drop the Borah amendment, and then send the beer bill to the White House for signature, so that it can proceed with farm relief, unemployment relief, and the rest of the reconstruction program.

RECOGNIZE RUSSIA NOW

With wars spreading in the far east and South America, and war threatened in Europe, the United States is adding to international chaos and tension by failing to recognize Russia.

The Roosevelt administration can not move too quickly in this matter. The President wants to co-operate for world peace. That co-operation will be dangerously incomplete unless it includes Russia.

Russia is the key to the far east. Russia may be the balancing force between peace and war in Europe. Russia is the only nation which officially has offered total disarmament. Russia is the only nation still fighting for America's forgotten arm's limitation proposal. Russia, like the United States, has everything to gain by peace and everything to lose by war. Russia wants to co-operate with us for world peace.

And Russia wants to trade with us. We virtually have killed her valuable trade. Since 1930 our annual sales of \$136,000,000 have fallen off 88 per cent. New contracts amounting to upward of a billion dollars are possible upon resumption of normal relations—and, unlike others, Russia never yet has defaulted on her commercial debts.

The biggest corporations in America have dealt with the Soviet government for years and found it trustworthy. Russia probably is the most stable country and safest customer in the world today.

Our closed factories, our unemployed millions are desperately in need of the orders which Russia can provide.

Immediate Russian recognition by the United States would help American business and world peace.

ANOTHER BATTLE FOR BEER

Champions of beer have won their first great battle, but ahead of them looms a conflict of almost as great magnitude.

It centers on the question: "Will the American people drink beer?"

A swelling roar, "Of course we will," answers. But in that roar is as much noise as fact.

Back in the days when foaming schooners slid deftly across the bar legitimately, this was more or less of a nation of beer drinkers. There were hard liquor devotees galore, but the brew fans were in the majority. Could we pick up where we left off when prohibition became the law of the land, the problem would not be such a baffling one.

But times and tastes have changed radically. In the old days of which the poets and barroom bingos sing so feelingly, the most expert drinker was the one who could imbibe the largest quantities and still stay on an even keel. Now, it appears, from cursory examination of a modern drinking bee, that the one who "goes out" the fastest is the most accomplished.

You can't go under with any great rapidity quaffing brimming beakers of brew. It takes time and patience, and capacity also is a big factor.

The younger set wants action and authority in its drinks. And alcohol with ginger ale, or straight gin, turns the trick with amazing celerity.

A city business man (business not specified), who shall be nameless here, confides that he intends to sell beer when the lid comes off. "But," he adds, "I'll still sell something stronger, because most of my customers will demand it."

So here is the second great battle that the champions of beer face. The modern tippler must be re-educated. And, strange to say, no one can help more than the dregs.

They have talked of temperance. Here is their chance to help achieve it. Even the most

dense of the liquor foes knows by this time that prohibition and temperance have nothing in common.

Great Britain, by a campaign of education, has reduced her consumption of hard liquor and beer, year after year, until the figure is far below that of a decade ago.

The United States can do the same. There still will be enough beer consumed to satisfy the brewers, and the dregs will be that much nearer the goal of temperance, if only they will temper their fanaticism with good sense and aid in the educational campaign.

The hip drinker must be taught the error of his (and her) ways. He (and she) must be taught that the only proper way to drink, if one must drink, is after the fashion of the French and Germans.

They can sit patiently, hour after hour, over a bottle of wine or two or three bottles of beer. This may not be so profitable for the house, but it's far better for the constitution, and your innards will last far longer. So let's make our motto: Don't gulp. Sip.

A SHOE FROM THE PAST THAT FITS THE FOOT OF THE PRESENT

"The original function of the investment banker was that of dealer in bonds, stocks and notes, buying mainly at wholesale from corporations, municipalities, states and governments which need money and selling to those seeking investment.

"But they were not content merely to deal in securities. They desired to manufacture them also. They became promoters, or allied themselves with promoters. And adding the duties of undertaker to those of midwife, the investment bankers became, in times of corporate disaster, members of security holders' protective committees; then they participated as 'reorganization managers' in the reincarnation of unsuccessful corporations and ultimately became directors."—"Other People's Money," by Louis D. Brandeis (now United States supreme court justice), written twenty years ago.

IT MIGHT BE A BLESSING

CENSORSHIP in peace time, speaking in a broad sense, is as much of a calamity as it is a benefit. It has been used with poor judgment on many occasions in the motion picture world. It has become a ghastly joke in the realm of books, with the cheapest brand of lurid fiction passing the barrier and the classics being barred.

But one is inclined to wonder if censorship or some more desperate remedy should not be applied to the radio. The fever for cluttering every program with an overdose of advertising blash seems to have abated somewhat, only to be followed by a more alarming ailment.

This disease seems to be growing more virulent. It is the wave of horror programs which make the evening hideous and send the children of the house to their beds with the chattering fitters.

From 6:30 to 9 p. m. the living room is filled with the moans and strangled shrieks of radio performers dying in indescribable agony, the garbled threats of gangsters talking out of one corner of their mouths, and the squalling of police sirens.

Father grinds his teeth back of the evening paper and mother leaps hysterically from her easy chair as the carnage proceeds. But Junior sits without a sound, his face a study in rapt interest, till the death rattle of the last victim drifts away.

Then the spell breaks and he goes to bed to dream of battle, murder, and sudden death, and arises shrieking out of a nightmare.

Maybe censorship is a blessing, if applied to the proper spot.

50,000 PER CENT PROFIT

In putting Uncle Sam's federal house in order and on a smaller budget, President Roosevelt and his administration have the difficult task of reducing expenditures and continuing those functions of government profitable to the people as a whole.

Scientific research is one of the government functions least supported by a political lobby and most useful to the people. All federal scientific research, for agriculture, industry, health, shipping, and a thousand other essential activities costs little more than a dollar out of every hundred spent by the federal government.

Careful computations show that typical scientific research expenditures by Uncle Sam in the past have paid dividends to the public of some 50,000 per cent annually on the money invested.

If it is necessary to prune the fruitful tree of science, for the sake of future generations, let us hope that trimming is done upon the advice of those who know the intricacies of science and its relations to the public welfare.

The National Academy of Sciences, by congressional charter adviser to the government on matters scientific, may be relied upon to give, upon demand, reliable and sympathetic advice to those charged with balancing the budget.

LESSONS IN BANKING

One of the things the national bank holiday did for us was to give us a little education about the relative places which currency and credit occupy in the economic life of any community.

The ingenious way in which a relatively small amount of actual cash gets pyramided, through credit agencies, into a large amount of working capital could not have been better illustrated.

It was dramatically, and in some cases painfully, proved to us that we can not do business on a currency basis—not even though the present supply of currency were doubled or quadrupled. We must have credit, and to have credit there must be complete confidence.

It is for that reason that the outlook today is encouraging. Confidence has been restored. We have had a useful lesson in what happens to us when depositors and bankers freeze on to their cash.

From now on the way to full business recovery should be much smoother.

JUSTICE DEALS WITH A MOB

A BAND of alleged klanmen some weeks ago raided the home of David Milder in Long Beach, Cal. Milder was supposed to be a more or less radical labor agitator, so the members of the mob burned a fiery cross in his yard and administered a beating to him, to members of his family, and to a guest.

But in this case justice proved able to deal

with a mob. The raiders were caught, identified, and taken into court and fifteen members of the mob were convicted, and heavy fines and prison terms are now in prospect for them.

Officers of the law everywhere might well make a note of this action. The danger of mob violence of any kind would be extremely small if the authorities everywhere were as quick to punish such lawless outbreaks as were the authorities at Long Beach.

THOSE POSTOFFICE PENS

CHALK up one score to the credit of Assistant Postmaster-General Evans, who has ordered 4,500,000 new pen points for Uncle Sam's postoffice desks.

"The inconvenience of patrons of postoffices because of improper writing materials has been widely commented on for years," remarks Mr. Evans.

That is putting it mildly. One of our oldest and most successful gag is the one dealing with the scratchy, unreliable and spluttering pen points provided by Uncle Sam for his customers.

Its origin probably dates back to the time of Benjamin Franklin. Administrations have come and gone, but the postoffice pen has remained unchanged.

And now we are to get new ones—a new one each day for each pen, if necessary! Here, surely, is a minor but welcome triumph for this "new deal."

BEAUTIFYING ROADS

Gutson Borglum, famous sculptor, has become chairman of the Texas highway park board and is to have charge of a vast program of beautifying the state's highways in preparation for the Texas centennial in 1936.

This program calls, among other things, for the planting of oleander trees along both sides of 8,000 miles of state roads, the planting of palm and date trees along 1,500 other miles of roads and the planting of still other semi-tropical trees along still other highways.

Texas is buying wide borders of land by its highways to develop parkways, which will be planted with evergreens. And billboards are to be demolished.

Here is a scheme which hardly can be praised too highly. People who motor through Texas in years to come will have much reason to thank the state officials who thought of this program.

A "POCKET BATTLESHIP"

News dispatches describing the launching of the U. S. S. San Francisco, newest of Uncle Sam's "treaty cruisers" of the 10,000-ton variety, referred to the ship as a "pocket battleship," and it is worth noticing that that is just about what these new warships are, in spite of the fact that technically they are not battleships at all.

Treaty limitations prevent the building of new capital ships. Nevertheless, there is in existence today a naval armament race, and in it the heavy-duty cruiser is the most important element.

This ship would be unable to fight for a minute against a dreadnaught; but since the dreadnaught has suffered a decline in relative importance, it is the treaty cruiser which would be apt to bear the brunt of the heavy fighting in any naval war now.

These ships are cruisers, but they yet may have to fill the role traditionally filled by battleships.

Representative Tinkham of Massachusetts, a Republican, is the only member of congress who wears a beard, says a Washington correspondent. Doubtless all those other Republicans won by a close shave.

Uncle Sam faced a real problem during the financial holiday. Keeping both the banks and the speakies closed at the same time must have been a real job.

M. E. Tracy Says:

IN economics as well as Nature, this is spring. We have called on President Roosevelt to burn the refuse, dig out the weeds and clear the land for sowing. We are granting him unusual power, to get the job done quickly and thoroughly.

We are thrilled by the novelty of such an experiment, delighted at the prospect of action and, possibly, a little too optimistic for our own good.

The nation is being mobilized, not to celebrate an easy triumph, but for a long, hard fight. The call for leadership, the willingness to grant dictatorial powers, the abandonment of normal methods, originate in a feeling that disciplined co-operation has become necessary.

It's going to be rather tough on some of us, especially those who have looked upon recovery as including little more than safety for themselves at the expense of others.

We have taken steps which promise not only a drastic revision of financial, industrial, and political methods, but an equally drastic revision of the prevailing attitude toward work and sacrifice.

WE have tried to beat this depression by safeguarding the strong, while the weak carried most of the load, and our idea of strength has been institutional rather than personal. We have looked to the great organizations of private enterprise for help.

For three years we have permitted them to dominate public policy and draw on the taxpayers, but only to find that they were powerless to overcome the effect of unemployment, poverty, and distress down below.

Now we must go to the bottom and rebuild. At present, we merely are getting set for the real task, straightening out our banking system, reducing governmental expenses, expanding currency, liberating capital and credit for the greatest peace-time mobilization of men and money in our history.

We are embarking on a campaign of reconstruction which seems bound to result in some rather profound changes in our social, industrial, and financial alignment if it succeeds.

No one can observe the various moves President Roosevelt is making and not believe that he is setting the stage for stupendous operations. Apparently, he is pursuing a well thought out plan, in which the bank crisis had been foreseen and considered, but which includes vastly more.

Apparently, his great objective not only is to provide work and increase buying power, but to do so in such way as will bring about considerable decentralization of industry and redistribution of population.

Apparently, he is looking for something bigger than the completion of a single project in the development of Muscle Shoals. Apparently, he hopes to interest the whole nation in similar undertakings, and thus divert its energy and resources to a sounder purpose than creating congested centers, with skyscrapers, subways, and double-decked streets.

What the President has in mind is consistent with American traditions and performance. It opens up a prospect like that our grandfathers faced when they started out to win the war. It gives us something worth while to dream about and do.



By A. H.

It has been my lot to review such a drama of real life as I will describe in the following article. I have spent time and money to alleviate this outrage on humanity, but my efforts were in vain. As a last resort, I beseech you to use your influence and authority by publishing the following article:

I think most Hoosiers are proud of their state. I wonder how proud they would be if they knew that a so-called court of justice had committed a little 12-year-old boy to be confined in a ward in Central State hospital, where, instead of any other juveniles, there are raving maniacs. Naturally, the child's fear is unspeakable, since his mentality is such that he knows where he is, and consequently he cries almost incessantly. I wonder how many grown-ups would rest well, thrust in a dark room at night to listen to the moans and ravings of some of the worst patients in the institution.

In such environment, it is not to be expected that this child will improve. On the contrary, it is doubtful if he will continue in his present degree of mentality.

It seems quite obvious that any parent who would submit a child to such conditions unquestionably belongs in an institution, rather than the child.

No doubt, if this is published, there will be many who will read it and feel indignant or sympathetic, but it is rather to be hoped that it will be read by some one with initiative and authority enough to act in some way which will benefit this child.

By Disgusted and Retiring Subscriber

A SPOONFUL of water dipped from the ocean will not lower the water level, we all know.

Neither will the loss of one subscriber affect in the least the business career of The Times.

Many subscribers lost will, however, in the end be felt by any newspaper and this is very likely to happen in the case of The Times.

Indianapolis people generally were displeased with the editorial policy of your newspaper for months past, because with one agile leap it mounted the McNutt band wagon after it appeared that McNutt would win.

When the people's rights were removed by action of McNutt and his Four Horsemen in the regrouping bill, many of your subscribers—and they principally are Democrats like myself—expected you to attack this passing of an entire state in the hands of a college professor. But what you did was to shove further

Speaking of Wine

By Reader

SPEAKING of the comeback of wine, I visited Los Angeles in 1910. They told me it was the land of wine and money, rock candy mountains, lemonade springs, and cigar trees. I noticed many drinking wine.

I said, "What is the great idea, when whisky and beer are so plentiful here?" They informed me that wine was a blood purifier and blood builder. Knowing that I required a good blood tonic, I began to drink freely of the Golden State wine, but I got an overdose and landed in the Hill street police station.

This was Saturday night and Christmas eve, and on Christmas day I had bean soup for dinner. On Monday the judge took my case under sympathetic consideration, fining me \$5 and suspending the sentence. And so that's wine.

to the front seat of the band wagon. I always have been and expect to be a Democrat, but no real Democrat sanctions such a rapine policy of seizure by a small group of a whole state's elective and appointive authority. Yet you applaud rather than criticize this administrative action.

I am afraid the owners of your newspaper made a mistake in replacing the old editor with an eastern man, no doubt a believer in Tammany politics, which now seems to be the order of the day in Indiana. You, new in the Indiana political game, hurl yourself at the feet of King Paul I and, with hands in supplication, make your bid for favors. To hell with such a newspaper policy.

I note where you attack the Jacksons, McCarrys and Leslies for their shortcomings. Regardless of what they did, nothing developed in their official lives even to approach the theft of a whole state like McNutt already has put over and with your consent. Why don't you name some one in the Governor's office as your editor in chief?

[Editor's Note: Disgusted Subscriber is mistaken. The editor is no Tammany man, but for nearly a decade has waged war on Tammany. If he has any real enemies in the world they are to be found in Tammany Hall.

This newspaper has abrogated its independence to no one. It merely believes that, for the duration of the present economic crisis, people should put aside partisanship and follow their duly elected leaders.]

Iris Infection Attacks Insidiously

By Dr. Morris Fishbein

Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine.

This is the seventh in a series of articles by Dr. Fishbein on diseases of the eye.

THE iris is the colored circle surrounding the pupil. Any condition which affects the surface of the eye also may attack this tissue.

The condition is likely to come on insidiously. Then there is persistent redness of the eye, pain, dimness of vision and aversion to light.

Such an infection is dangerous, because there is a tendency for adhesions to form between the edge of the iris and the lens. This will produce a deformity of the pupils and interfere with vision.

It is, of course, necessary for a physician to find out as soon as possible the cause of the infection and to control it.

The lens does not have blood vessels or nerves, but receives its nourishment from the fluid material in the eye. The lens is surrounded by a capsule which acts as a filter, keeping out undesirable materials.

Should this capsule be broken, the lens is infiltrated with material from the fluid of the eye; then it becomes cloudy, and the person has what is called traumatic cataract.

As people get very old, the capsule gradually becomes less efficient and the nutrition of the lens is interfered with.

As the lens becomes clouded, it gradually becomes cloudy from the outside toward the center.

When finally the center becomes clouded, it is exceedingly difficult for the person to see. This condition is called senile cataract.

It must be remembered that the human eye is like a camera. It has a lens; it has a shutter, which is the iris.

The pupil is the hole in the shutter through which the light enters. At the back of the eye is the retina or sensitized plate on which the image is cast.

Next—Behind the lens of the eye.

: : A Woman's Viewpoint : :

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

STORIES of sweat shop wages being paid to women in metropolitan centers are enough to make every decent American blush for shame. But blushing unfortunately will not help. Action is imperative.

We must have legislation whereby a minimum wage is assured every worker, regardless of sex.

Women are astonishingly patient under economic wrongs, just as they were for so long astonishingly patient under matrimonial wrongs. Within them has been fostered a deep timidity.

To be exact, they are afraid of men. Deprived of sexual attraction, they always have been afraid of men, afraid of the power that men possess.

And well they may be, since this power so often has been used to destroy them. It is not strange that women should lack self-confidence, or that they should feel inferior, or that they should be willing to work for less money, since they worked for so many ages for nothing.

never have known what it was to be without the spiritual independence that paid labor assures, can not comprehend the attitude of women.

"Have we not," they ask, "always taken care of our women?"

In a sense, they have. That is, the individual American man has assumed responsibility for the women of his household. But he never has taken care of women—as a class.

He usually has regarded her as a mere adjunct of the male, a sort of Lazarus at the Big Business feast.

He does not yet, it seems, think of her as an American citizen, or as a contributor to national prosperity and progress, or as a complement, not just of one man, but of men.

Future remedial legislation should and must include women's problems. And the quickest way to insure justice to male workers in this country is to see that there is no wage discrimination against women workers.

Q—Does the United States Constitution provide qualifications for voting in presidential elections?

A—The matter is left entirely to the states.

Q—How many elements now are recognized by chemists?

A—Eighty-eight are recognized generally and claims have been made for the discovery of four more, for which places can be assigned in the periodic system; namely, elements of atomic numbers 43, 61, 85 and 87. There is still some uncertainty about each of these.

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