

The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1933.

FOR 250,000 MEN.

TO those whose sympathy and indignation have been stirred by labor's wrongs, labor's denunciation of President Roosevelt's first action in its behalf comes as a rude shock.

The President proposes organization of 250,000 men for work in national forests, at \$30 a month, with food, shelter, clothing, and medical care. Labor sees in the plan regimentation of free workers, and danger of a general dollar-a-day wage scale.

As details of the President's plan have been disclosed, the error in labor's objection has become more and more apparent.

Unemployed workers who want to go to the camps will volunteer. Those who prefer to stay at home on relief, part-time work, or any other basis, will do so. From those who apply, the secretary of labor will select the most deserving.

These men will go to army camps, not for army training, but to be fed and built up physically until they are strong enough to do outdoor work. Medical treatment will be given those who need it.

Free transportation will be furnished to camps in the nearest national forests. Work will be done under supervision of the forest service, not the army. Men will not be free to come and go at will—obviously they could not be, because of the problem of maintaining adequate work crews and adequate supplies in remote forest camps.

But if men wish to leave before the end of the year during which the government is willing to care for them, they will be allowed to do so under "common sense" regulations.

It should be obvious to labor that this is so, for the government hardly will insist on caring for men against their will.

The primary purpose of the project is not to get work done, but to provide work for men who need it. It is not proposed to take over the regular work of the department and deprive men now employed of their jobs.

So much for "regimentation." Labor objection to the payment of \$30 a month to members of the corps is even less appealing. As Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins pointed out, this is in no sense a wage, and the fear that it will establish a low wage standard is not justified.

Payment of 25 cents a day to unemployed men working in municipal wood yards has not established 25 cents as a standard wage, nor has it called forth objection from organized labor. Hundreds of lumber camps and farms under state, municipal, and charitable auspices are operating for the benefit of men glad to work for shelter and clothing only.

The \$30 actually is intended to provide for the men's families. Would the American Federation of Labor withdraw its objections to the President's plan if no money were paid to the men he proposes to aid?

There remains the complaint that other public works will be halted for a time by diversion of this money. This is an argument that probably frightens congressmen more than labor. Only a small part of the money that might be spent for this purpose between now and July 1 would go to workmen.

There are three parts to the President's relief program. Relief for those unable to work, healthful outdoor work for those needing rehabilitation, and, finally, regular jobs at regular wages on the contemplated construction program.

The first need is being met temporarily by R. F. C. funds, the conservation camps are designed to care for the second, the third will be dealt with at this session of congress, as soon as plans can be drawn.

Nothing in this program will batter down wage scales or violate labor's right of contract.

OUR SIBERIA

THE savagery of men toward men! Los Angeles earthquake kills and maims; the same city's red squad just has been accused of brutally beating a labor lawyer. The Mississippi at flood takes life. So do Illinois coal mine guards.

The tornado that cracked its cheeks over Dixie was not half so cruel as the south's prison chain gang system, just described in the current Harper's magazine by Walter Wilson as "Our American Siberia."

Few southern states escape this investigator's indictment. Tortures—the sweatbox, the stocks, the lash, starvation, outright murder—are the lot of the shackled unfortunates of the chain gangs. Work under pressure of the task system lasts from dawn till dark, often under incredibly cruel heat and insect torment.

The victims are housed in fire-traps, in tents, or in barred cages on wheels. In a border county one sheriff was found feeding his prisoners on 8 cents a day, collecting 45 cents from the county.

The evil of this system lies in the dollars made from the prisoners' labor. In this it resembles the chattel slavery that preceded it. Forced prison labor, often contracted out, is said to net the south \$25,000,000 a year.

Because of the profits from this free labor, men often are committed for trivial offenses—playing cards on Sunday, labor organizing, public profanity, letting an employer's mule bite a neighbor's corn.

And, says Mr. Wilson, "the tortures of the 'third degree' frequently are utilized in getting 'confessions' in these crimes."

Mr. Wilson believes that humane campaigns are futile until the profit is taken out of prison labor. Reform should include wages for prisoners, safety rules, adequate medical and hospital care, shorter hours of labor, decent food and shelter, trained prison guards and officials.

"Can the spirit of reform thrive in an atmosphere of constant humiliation, degradation, and brutality—slop buckets, rotten food,

steel cages, steel chains, steel shackles, sweat-boxes, stocks, bull whips, brutal guards, frame-ups, murder?" the investigator asks.

Of course not. Enlightened nations and states long since have abandoned torture. Unless these southern communities are indifferent to the shocked opinion of other states, they will abandon this brutal system in favor of a modern penology which is not only more humane, but more effective.

WAGES AND HOURS

AMONG the matters high on the agenda of the labor conference called by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins for March 31 are higher wages and shorter hours.

These two reforms are the white oxen that can drag the treasure box of prosperity from the depression pond.

In South Carolina the other day a group of workers building a school struck because their wage was reduced from 10 cents an hour to 8 cents. Such starvation wages, while not universal in the United States, indicate a trend. It is one of the most dangerous trends this country must face and check.

If wages do not rise along with the attempted increase in commodity prices, strikes, lockouts and other disorders may be expected. Every post-depression period in the past has been marked by such troubles. Our enlightened leaders can prevent this sort of history repeating itself.

"The purchasing power of the masses must keep pace with whatever increase in commodity prices may occur," says President Green of the American Federation of Labor.

If employers refuse to see the logic of this warning, the government should supply the vision, and will. If this means minimum wage laws for all workers, then minimum wage laws should be adopted.

As to shorter hours, if labor and capital can not agree, the government should intervene here, too. To absorb the more than 12,000,000 jobless, hours must be reduced.

The other reforms to be discussed at the coming conference—jobless relief, public works, unemployment insurance, home mortgage aid—are essential to a well-rounded industrial policy for America.

But the cornerstone of such policy is high wages and short work hours, to redistribute wealth and provide a mass market for mass production.

GERMAN SUPER-PATRIOTS

THE thoughtless frenzy of the German Nazis could not be illustrated better than by their recent action in raiding the villa of Prof. Albert Einstein in a futile search for a cache of weapons.

Professor Einstein assuredly is one of the greatest and most famous of living mortals; and, as far as every-day, practical politics is concerned, he is alone one of the most harmless.

His work has been revolutionary, but it has been carried on in a field as far removed from the hurly-burly of daily politics as could be imagined.

The persecution which some Nazi leaders seem to wish to direct at him is almost incredibly petty and small-souled.

In fact, to get right down to it, it is about on a par with the actions of those super-patriots in this country who tried to have him shut out of America on the ground that he was a dangerous and subversive radical.

SHAW SCORES

BERNARD SHAW arrives at last at our western shore, amusing reporters with his double-edged sallies against things sacred and profane.

This eminent Irishman is not always fair to America and Americans. In San Francisco his rapier went home, however, at its first thrust.

"What do you think of the Mooney case?" he was asked.

"I hesitate to express an opinion," he replied. "Generally, I would say that to bury a man alive in a vault for seventeen years is extremely foolish. I am a foreigner and as such would not criticize your courts and police."

"But if Mooney is not fit to live, have the courage to shoot him. It would be a great relief to me if the Governor of your state would pardon Mooney. He has, unfortunately, been made a political mark."

It is probably well for our reputation that Mr. Shaw is not staying over to attend the coming Mooney "trial," just granted on Mooney's request on an old, undiminished indictment. This trial, destined to be even more of a farce than the first one in 1916, would give our critic a new plot for a super-satire on American justice.

TRAVELING ALONG NEW PATHS

THE country needs and, unless I mistake its temper, the country demands bold, persistent experimentation. It is common sense to take a method and try it; if it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something.

This paragraph comes from President Roosevelt's own book, "Looking Forward," and it is a declaration of principles that is immensely encouraging. It seems to set forth precisely the attitude which a leader must have today.

We not only are struggling to climb out of a very deep depression. We have come, as far as we can tell, to the end of an era in our history. Whatever we are going to do in the future, it is going to be something new, something different.

The old ways have proven their inadequacy, and since we lack perfect wisdom, about the only thing we can do is go ahead by a trial and error method until we have found a new way that will work.

It is a long time since we have had a President who demanded "bold, persistent experimentation." It is a long time since our own temper has been of a kind to support such a President, even if we had had one.

Ever since the war we have tried to play safe. "Don't rock the boat" has been our national slogan. We have asked our Presidents to keep their hands off things and let well enough alone.

That worked all right, or seemed to, as long as things were indeed well enough. But when they went from bad to worse, and from worse to worst, it was a catastrophic policy.

That we have at last discarded it, and have a President who has discarded it, is perhaps the most encouraging fact on the horizon.

No one knows just what is going to get us finally out of the depression. No one knows just how, having got out, we are going to keep

from slipping back in again. We can do nothing less than make some experiments.

Some of them, in all probability, will not work, but that does not matter. Our only chance is to keep trying, over and over again, until we have found what we want.

WARNING SIGNS

MISS PAULINE MURRAH, Red Cross nutrition expert, disclosed in a study of Greater New York's school children that malnutrition increased 55 per cent in the last five years in all boroughs and has nearly doubled in the Bronx.

If this is happening in our richest metropolises, one wonders what is going on in poorer and more careless communities.

The report, of course, gives another lie to the cheerful beguilements that came out of Washington during the late Polyantha period. It justifies the pleas of social workers for steady and adequate relief to stricken families.

It posts warnings in every hamlet and city that any slackening of relief standards at once translates itself into the stunted and sickly bodies of children.

Dr. E. E. Free recalls that doctors know of only six causes of disease. These are injury, deformity, defect in diet, poisonings, parasitic infections, and "neoplasms," such as cancer.

Of these six enemies of health, at least one is conquerable—defect in diet. Good food in ample quantities enables bodies to fight off other disease-breeds.

There is too much food in this country to permit of famine statistics such as these from New York. What shall be said of a country so glutted with food that it can not feed its children?

ROMANTIC SOLDIERING

IF you read in the papers recently of the death of Brig. Gen. Charles King of the United States army, you may not have remembered having heard about the gentleman before. But you might be interested to know that he was the famous "Captain Charles King" who wrote those exciting and readable romances of army life on the western plains which were so popular twenty or thirty years ago.

General King saw just about as much Indian fighting, in the old days, as any man in the army; and he wrote a good many stories about that life, and those stories were very widely read a generation ago.

They told of army life in a day when a soldier's life had in it other elements than routine drill and inspection; and to those who like the flavor of those old days, the news of General King's death is exceedingly unwelcome.

He was another of those links connecting us with a colorful past—those links which, these days, are disappearing all too rapidly.

PRAISE FROM A BRITON

LORD MARLEY, deputy speaker of the British house of lords, made a fine impression during his recent tour of America. But he made an even finer one when he sailed for home with words of praise for American airways, American trains, and the general sympathy and understanding of the American people.

English visitors don't usually say that sort of thing. They come over to collect such dollars as may be floating about loose, but they leave with the air of those who escape from a dreary desert, and as they leave they let us know, condescendingly, that we are a benighted and witless folk whose ways are outlandish and whose institutions are devilish odd.

Lord Marley is a refreshing exception. One trusts that he isn't deprived of his position in the house of lords because of his break with the oldest of British traditions.

New methods of knitting produces stockings that will not get runs. That's fine, but what we need is a bank that won't get 'em.

M. E. Tracy Says:

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT frankly admits that the pending farm bill is an experiment. The same thing is true of every plan of farm relief thus far proposed. No precedent exists for meeting the situation, simply because it never has been met.

It was more than sixty years ago that statesmen and economists began to talk about farm relief. Since that time innumerable measures have been proposed, but few have been adopted, and as a general proposition those few have done more harm than good.

Remedies have run all the way from flat money to price-fixing. Half a dozen political parties have sprung up in support of one scheme or another—Greenbacks, Populists, Nonpartisan Leagues, among the rest.

Out of it all has come little of constructive value. American farmers are in as bad shape as they ever were, if not worse, and experimentation still furnishes their only hope.

ADMITTEDLY, the pending bill contains doubtful, if not defective, provisions. For one thing it imposes a sales tax. For another it seeks crop reduction through the withdrawal of marginal lands, though most crops easily could be doubled by the intensive cultivation of remaining lands.

But when all is said and done, this bill stands for action, and action of any kind is better than no action at all.

Up to this time, most of the proposed remedies have been discarded for fear that they would prove worse than the disease. Maybe they would, but the disease continues, and we must try.

The country can't go on that way unless it is willing for the disease to continue. Since there is no exact knowledge of what ought to be done or how it will work, the only alternative is to experiment and find out.

No doubt this farm bill can be beaten or spoiled by adverse criticism, but where would we go from there? What substitute has been proposed that is any better or does not lend itself to a similar fate?

What substitute has been proposed that does not involve a large expenditure of money on the one hand and taxation on the other? How can we gain knowledge or assurance by repeating the process of destruction through criticism which, more than anything else, has prevented effective action during the last half-century?

LET'S quit the back seat driving for once, even if the road does look rough. Let's take a chance, even though we realize that it is a chance.

The administration at Washington not only is trying to do something, but is sufficiently honest to concede the possibility of mistakes.

Whatever else may be said of such attitude, it cannot lead us very far astray because of the open-mindedness with which it is proceeding. It certainly can not lead us far astray as the scared inactivity by which other administrations have played safe.

There are two underlying facts of the farm problem which should be kept clearly in mind. First, it ought to be solved. Second, no living man has a sure-fire solution.

They now consider themselves, I believe we shall make a world in

The Prussian Diet



:: The Message Center ::

(Times readers are invited to express their views in these columns. Make your letters short, so all can have a chance. Limit them to 250 words or less.)

By a Dissatisfied Rural Subscriber.

I see in an issue of The Times last week that it is possible to take a crack at you via the editorial page. Now, as far as I am concerned, you and your politics are O. K. But your paper's spelling and composition are terrible.

Most of it seems like carelessness to your readers. Here is one instance: On Feb. 14, on Page 2, was an item regarding the release of four Hawaiians in the Massie case. This was in the upper right hand corner of the page. In the same issue, Page 5, same position, was the same story, stretched a bit. Now, I ask you, is that fair to your readers?

Numerous articles have appeared two or three days in succession. Repeatedly have dates, ages, etc., been incorrect. Some time ago a railroad mechanic 12 years of age received a marriage license. In a recent killing, the victim had two different ages, two on two different pages. If that isn't carelessness on some one's part, then name it, please.

My family has been a subscriber of the News since 1914, but bought The Times whenever possible. When your paper established a route in our community, we promptly dropped the other paper because of its political attitude.

We want news, fresh news. Besides this, we never can depend on when we are to receive our paper or its condition. More than once we have had to wait on papers while ours either was being dried or being taken to Danville.

I don't expect you to print this, but I do want you to know how some of your subscribers feel toward your paper.

Editor's Note: Rural Subscriber's criticism is just. Typographical errors have been too frequent in The Times. Necessary economies in man power and equipment are the cause, but not the excuse. They will be less frequent in the future.

Insulin Saves Thousands of Diabetic Children

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill.

such as tuberculosis or secondary infections, accidents, heart disease or similar causes, or as occurs in some instances, because they have not been able to prevent diabetic coma, due to a disproportion in the amount of insulin given and the amount of sugar taken.

If a child with diabetes develops coma, a form of unconsciousness due to overaccumulation of material because of the absence of insulin, it should be taken promptly to his physician, preferably to a hospital, where all the means are available for giving it proper treatment in its emergency.

The diabetic children who have had insulin have grown normally, both physically and mentally. Indeed, their mental equipment has seemed to be somewhat above the average.

Apparently the hereditary factor in diabetes is extremely important. Sometimes the development of diabetes in the child has led to careful study of the parents with the finding of cases that have been overlooked.

The hereditary characteristic seems to pass through males rather than through females.

Two people who are diabetic should not marry and have children, because of the danger of this hereditary factor.

Diabetes is much more frequent among the Jewish race than among other groups, and they, particularly, should guard against the marriage of two persons with diabetes.

I've had everything, so why should I complain at this momentary difficulty?—Fritz Scheff, light opera prima donna.

People become disillusioned with life because they expect things they have no right to expect.—Dr. Dwight Witherspoon Wylie of Cleveland.

What did he (Senator Glass) say? Oh, he said I was a scoundrel, and a few other things like that, which I don't mind.—Senator Huey Long of Louisiana.

So They Say

Supervisors will visit the gardens all summer and report to this committee through the agent's office if the gardens are not being tended properly.

I have had a great deal of experience in gardening, and I am fully aware of the fact that seeds planted in May will not make canned vegetables on the pantry shelves in September without a great deal of work during the intervening days. Every gardener applying for land through our office must sign an agreement.

Ready to Garden

By Mrs. Perry E. O'Neal

IN answer to your editorial in The Times last week relative to community gardening, I would like to say that the committee which has this movement in charge will make this work an all-summer task.

Arrangements have been made with the county agricultural agent, H. E. Abbot, for instruction for those who do not know about making a vegetable garden.

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It Seems to Me

BY HEYWOOD BROWN

THE farm relief bill marks the beginning of a new chapter in the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

This is not the first fight the President has had on his hands, for the potential opposition was much stronger in the case of the economy measures. But this bill brings about a realignment of the congressional forces. It is the first radical step in the Roosevelt program.

Up to date the dissenters have been on the left. Both the banking bill and the cut in allowances to veterans mustered in part highly conservative support. But now the attack comes from a new quarter. Representative Martin of Massachusetts, said: "When you send out this army of tax gatherers to tell the farmer what he can plant and what he can sell, you are well on the road to Moscow."

Old Bugaboo

REPRESENTATIVE HART fell back on the familiar reactionary device of abusing the Civil Liberties Union. He mentioned the fact that Professor Rexford G. Tugwell, assistant secretary of agriculture, formerly was allied with that body, which Mr. Hart described as an organization which "defends anarchists when they shoot somebody."

As a matter of fact, the Civil Liberties Union deserves the warmest sort of commendation and support from all who really believe in the American tradition of freedom. Roger Baldwin, its moving spirit, is a man singularly divorced from all dogmatic political or economic faith. He is the most one-tracked man I ever have known.