

# The Indianapolis Times

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ROY W. HOWARD  
 One Light and the  
 People Will Find  
 Their Own Way

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MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1933.

## THE SCOTTSBORO VERDICT

THE conviction of Haywood Patterson, first of the Negro defendants in the second trials of the Scottsboro cases, will be appealed. It should be.

Among other things prejudicial to a fair trial, the defense attorney was able to show that the jury law apparently was administered to exclude Negroes from the panel for this case. On more than one occasion during the trial, the state attorneys conducted themselves in such way as to prevent orderly and judicious consideration of evidence by the jury.

In repudiating her testimony at the earlier trial, Ruby Bates last Thursday swore that the other girl in the case, Victoria Price, had framed the Negro youths. Lester Carter, a white friend of the two girls, confirmed the testimony of Ruby Bates.

To execute boys on the discredited evidence of a woman of Victoria Price's character, and following a trial in which racial discrimination seemed to operate in the jury panel, would be unthinkable.

Just as the chief justice of Alabama dissented from the first Scottsboro conviction, and just as the United States supreme court threw out that conviction as a violation of the fourteenth amendment of the Constitution preventing states from depriving "any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law," so the Decatur verdict appears certain to be set aside by a higher court.

## THE LAST OF LIFE

TO the seventeen states that had substituted old-age pensions for poorhouses, five more have been added by the legislatures meeting this year. These five—Oregon, North Dakota, Arizona, Indiana and Washington—bring the total to twenty-two. At least three more states are expected to join before their legislatures adjourn.

These twenty-five commonwealths are not allowing themselves merely the luxury of being humane; they are showing good, hard sense. Old-age pensions have proved far cheaper than poorhouse maintenance. In times when states, counties and cities must count their pennies, why continue an institution that is both costly and wretchedly cruel?

Pensions also will remove from the cluttered labor market competition from elderly folks, whose desperation causes them to work for wages far below standard.

Pending before congress is the Dill-Connelly bill for federal aid to old-age pension states. Its passage now would bring all states into the pension picture and liberate from the fear of want a million aged poor.

President Roosevelt, who has been urged to make this bill subject for a special message, not only advocates the pension plan, but is backed by a party that has made it a party plank.

## BANKERS' FORESIGHT

THE New Republic for April 5 contains a little item that compresses a column-length editorial into a few lines.

This item points out that last spring, when the senate committee was just beginning its search for banking abuses, the Harriman National bank in New York decided to voice a protest against such impudence. An advertisement inserted in a New York paper by the bank contained this statement:

Washington is ill-equipped to investigate important matters of commerce and finance affecting the public welfare; and, in the present instance, there is no certainty that it will not uncover things much better left sealed."

It is the Harriman bank, you remember, which was unable to reopen when the bank holiday ended, and whose chairman is now under arrest. . . . Who says our bankers have no foresight?

## SELF-SUSTAINING FARMERS

THE department of agriculture predicts that American farmers during the coming year will produce a far higher proportion of their own foodstuffs than has been the case for many years.

An ever-increasing percentage of farmers, the department has found, are grinding their own flour, keeping more eggs and milk for home use, canning and preserving more fruits and vegetables and slaughtering more animals for their own consumption.

Although this development was brought about by hard times, it probably represents a healthy trend. The one-crop farmer, who buys all his food at the village grocery and turns his farm into a kind of factory for the production of one staple commodity, is especially vulnerable to any depression.

The farmer who raises his own food at least is sure that he never will go hungry. And that, in times like those through which we have been passing, is an assurance worth having.

## FUTURE OF DIRIGIBLES

"THERE won't be any more big airships built," says Congressman Carl Vinson. "Those things never were safe and they never will be," says the man in the street.

These remarks probably sum up pretty accurately the reaction of the nation following the tragic loss of the Akron. A country which had become one of the two foremost advocates of giant lighter-than-air craft seems now, stunned by an unexpected disaster, to be ready to wash its hands of the dirigible altogether.

Certainly there seems to be plenty of warrant for such feeling.

The aviation records of the last decade are full of dirigible accidents. In this country we have seen the Shenandoah and the Akron. England still recalls the loss of the

R-101; going back a little farther we can remember the destruction of the Roma, the ZR-2, and others.

Each ship, when launched, was the "last word" in aerial safety and comfort; each came, inexplicably and suddenly, to disaster. Is the giant dirigible an invention which can not, in the very nature of things, be made safe and reliable? Is this triumph of the inventor and the engineer a development which, having been experimented with at great cost in lives and money, must be abandoned?

Must the conquest of the air depend henceforth solely on the airplane?

Right now probably most of us would answer all of those questions in the affirmative.

And yet, even now, we might be wise to delay rendering a final verdict. Herr Eckener and the Graf Zeppelin stand as cogent arguments on the other side of the case. Lieutenant-Commander Wiley, fresh from the wreckage of the Akron, urges that development of the dirigible be continued.

The new Macon is yet to be tested, and the navy contains plenty of men ready to stake their lives on her soundness.

Meanwhile, we can only sorrow over the loss of the men who died in the Akron. Their deaths, and not the destruction of the dirigible, constitute our greatest loss.

## NATIONAL PLANNING

TWO years ago proposals for national economic planning were pushed negligently aside by government and business officials, who still believed that things would take care of themselves if let alone.

Today, though economic planning has not been accepted openly as the way out of our difficulties, its philosophy is being incorporated rapidly into our national thought and legislation. And none of the measures proposed for rescuing us from economic chaos has more promise than this.

Several years ago economists pointed out that production could be controlled if the government kept a watchful eye and a firm hand on new investments, preventing over-expansion and over-competition. Business men held up their hands in horror.

But today the administration securities bill proposes to give the Federal Trade Commission power to bar from interstate commerce securities of any enterprise which it finds "is not based upon sound principles" or to bar any securities "in the interest of public welfare."

There is no way in which this authority could be exercised intelligently except by means of economic planning.

The bogey which business always has waved in front of economic planning—price fixing—emerges even more plainly as part of the administration's plan to restore agricultural purchasing power.

With agricultural prices fixed, the need for control of some sort over the prices of other commodities will stand forth in glaring relief.

It already is being discussed in connection with the short work week legislation now before congress. If minimum wage legislation, now for the first time seriously proposed, should be enacted, some form of regulating prices probably would follow.

National planning appears frankly in the recommendations of Secretary of Agriculture Wallace for preservation of the nation's forest lands, and even the United States supreme court, last stronghold against social change, recognized the need for planning and control of industry when it invoked the welfare clause of the Constitution to find a trade agreement legal in spite of the anti-trust laws, in the Appalachian Coals case.

The change in sentiment was forecast a few months ago by the Hoover committee on social trends.

"It seems inevitable that the varied economic interests of the country will find themselves invoking more and more the help of the government to meet emergencies, to safeguard them against threatened dangers, to establish standards and to aid them in extending or defending markets," said the committee.

These changes the committee viewed without alarm. "Our property rights remain, but they undergo a change," it pointed out. "We continue to exercise an individual initiative, but that initiative has larger possibilities, affects others more intimately, and therefore is subject to more public control."

## POLITICAL LEADERSHIP DECLINES

THE remarkable start made by President Roosevelt indicates the great value to the nation of a cultivated, trained, and alert statesman. It certainly is true that Mr. Roosevelt is entitled to the highest credit for his notable achievements to date.

But he stands out in the nation not only because of what he has done, but also on account of the lamentable absence of many men of similar qualities in our national government.

One always needs to be on his guard against lapsing into sentimental worship of past heroes, but no student of American history can fail to be impressed by the remarkable contrast between the nature of our federal leadership in the years following 1789 and in recent years.

This striking and challenging fact has been set forth admirably by the "American Observer," journal for the current information of teachers of history and the social sciences:

"A well-known American historian has made a study the results of which surely must be disquieting to those who care greatly for American democracy."

"This historian read hundreds of addresses delivered by American statesmen during the first forty years of the republic. He examined these speeches to see how many of them gave evidence of a knowledge of history and economics."

"He then read a like number of addresses delivered by American statesmen of first rank during the last forty years and these, too, he subjected to the test to see what evidence they gave that those who delivered them were students of history, economics, and government."

"He found between three and four times as many evidences of historical and economic scholarship in the earlier addresses as he found in those recently delivered."

"Studies such as these—and they will occasion no surprise to those who have followed closely the course of American politics—are genuinely alarming. They indicate that something has been happening during the last century or so that has caused a deterioration in politics."

"They show that the tide is running against democracy in this country. They furnish

proof that from some cause or causes it has come about that leadership of a poor quality is coming to the top.

"There surely has been a vast increase in scholarship in America during these years. But the thinking and reflecting people are exerting a smaller influence in the determination of public affairs."

"The coarser elements, despite all the educational advantages that people have had, are being thrown into positions of power."

"This is no small matter. If the tendency which has been at work continues to operate, it surely must mean the eventual failure of the American experiment. There have been moments of inspiration. From time to time great leaders have appeared."

"But year by year, decade by decade, the direction of affairs has been slipping from the hands of the well trained and the thoughtful."

"We need not, however, admit defeat. We may turn back the tide and set it going in the other direction by heroic action. The responsibility here rests with the schools."

## TOO TECHNICAL

MEMBERS of the house of representatives, including the leaders, have done a good deal of grumbling about deflationary recommendations of the new administration. They have, nevertheless, been "regular" in their support of them.

Now, however, an important inflationary measure has been laid before the house—the emergency relief bill. Instead of greeting it with open arms, the leaders have permitted it to slumber in committee.

Concerning the President's recommendation that \$500,000,000 be granted the states to relieve human suffering, there has been no sign of "regularity" among house leaders of his party.

Delay is being excused in the house by dispute over a technical point—whether a bill such as this legally could originate in the senate. The dispute is an interesting one and may be contested for weeks.

But there is not one valid reason why it should prevent immediate passage of the relief bill. A substitute measure has been introduced in the house. If it is passed, it will be accepted promptly by the senate, which cares more about helping suffering people than quarrelling over precedents.

The house has demonstrated how quickly it can act when it desires. The difference in its behavior now will not escape the attention of the country.

"We would have better government if fewer people voted," says Professor Raymond Moley. Certain Republican congressmen buried in November's Democratic landslide probably will agree.

Hollywood chorus girls, though beautiful, are not dumb, reports a California professor of psychology who tested fifty-four of them. Perhaps the girls did best in the tests where figures were involved.

The gembcock, a newspaper cartoonist informs a breathless world, can exist without drinking water. Some talk of making the gembcock the national mascot instead of the eagle.

Forty nudists attended a basketball game at Culiacan, Mexico, says a news dispatch. Tough for the pickpockets if this sort of thing takes on.

Prussia restores student dueling. Possibly they hope to produce a successor to Scarface Al Capone.

It's hard to say which is worse for an automobile, a loose tire or a tight driver.

## M. E. Tracy Says:

GERMANY was fortunate in electing Hindenburg president before Adolf Hitler became chancellor. Once more this grand old man is called upon to save the reich, but that seems to have been his allotted task ever since the war ended.

But for Hindenburg's personal prestige, the chances are that Hitler would have won the last presidential election, and what a calamity that would have been!

As it is, the progressive elements in Germany have been paralyzed temporarily by Hitler's elevation to the chancellorship.

It has been supposed by many, and still is by some, that Hitler's object was the restoration of monarchy. His conduct since entering office, however, suggests that he prefers to create a mob of his own. Mob is the correct word, as illustrated by Hitler's flirtation with the Jewish boycott.

Apparently, this so-called man of iron has very little in mind except to supply his followers with excitement. This is logical enough, since it was the method by which he attained popularity and power, but it is far from being statesmanship.

Heaven only knows where it would have landed Germany but for the obstacle which Hindenburg presented.

HINDENBURG alone stood between his country and the undigested schemes by which Hitler thought to assert and maintain control. The Nazis seem to have been more than willing to obey orders, regardless, while the rest of the population stood helplessly before the "storm troops" and "steel helmets."

It was a precarious situation not only for the Jews, but for Europe.

The Jewish boycott is chiefly significant because of what it promises for all opposition movements if it worked. While protests from abroad, as well as the warnings of business leaders from within, contributed something to its failure, Hindenburg can be credited with squashing it.

It was the grim old field marshal who put his foot down at the last moment and told the reckless house painter where to get off.

NO doubt Hitler and his more rabid henchmen are very sore, but if they only knew it they have been saved from the consequences of their own folly. They stand revealed, however, as too weak, childish and impetuous to carry out the responsibilities that have been thrust upon them.

In spite of the fact that they have been able to force a subservient reichstag to grant them dictatorial power, the chances are that they will not exercise it very long.

It is inconceivable that intelligent people will submit to such antics as those with which the Nazi regime began. It is inconceivable that the people of Germany will be lulled by such a brazen exhibition of stupidity.

Hitler's efforts to justify mistreatment of German Jews on the ground that they were responsible for, or could have prevented, news reports published abroad can be regarded only as the cheapest kind of sophistry.

Like every demagogue, Hitler dislikes publicity and is loath to be held together by such a brazen exhibition of stupidity.

His basic idea of government is arbitrary control of conscience, free speech and all other agencies which serve to promote or express honest opinion.

## Speaking of April Showers



## :: 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 F. A. B. L.  
 Now that our good and strong Governor has returned from his Washington trek, isn't it fitting and proper that he give the beer situation in Marion county some of his attention?

As a good Democrat, who has worked for a matter of twenty years to see city, county, state and national representation of the party in office at the same time, I consider it asinine that the Governor kick the party out of the back door in the next city and county election.

Any 4-year-old boy knows that the methods of licensing importers, wholesalers and retailers so far, by the man behind the scene, Frank McHale, is not for the good of the party, but to take care of a few of "the chosen cohorts."

Buck Sumner, sheriff of Marion county, is looming up as the big beer baron of the same said county, and is reported to be trying to create a monopoly of all retail beer placed outside the city limits. You readily can see how he could do this, being a law enforcement agent, and a seller of the golden brew.

And by the way, how is it that all leading places, tourist inns, clubs and places where numbers of persons gather outside the city limits are cluttered up with slot-machines?

Isn't it possible for The Times to call all this to the Governor's attention, so that he can not plead inattention? Isn't it possible for him also to resume his "unfraid policy," curb the politicians and once more enjoy the good wishes of all good Democrats and public-spirited Republicans?

By George Brown.

What has become of the city's motorcycle policemen?

It has been only a short time since police officials howled that they

## Need Protection

By F. A. Smith.

Many of us who are taking advantage of the offer of garden spots this summer are wondering how we are going to protect our vegetables from thieves, who will slip in at night, and even in the daytime, and steal the crops for which we will put in many weary hours.

The free garden sites in many cases will be a long way from our homes, and we will have no way to safeguard them at night. It would be a great help if the city garden committee could devise some way of having a watchman on the job or plan some other way of protection, so all our labor will not go for naught.

needed twenty-five motorcycle officers. The department has more than a dozen motorcycles now (I have seen that many at one time taking part in parades), but the sight of a motorcycle policeman in the residential districts now is such a rarity that it brings the natives running to stare.

As a result of the hibernation of the dreaded cycle cop all last winter, motorists of the city have gotten in the habit of "running wild."

The average motorist no longer can remember the speed limit in the city, because it has been so long since it has been necessary to observe it.

Spot street signs might as well be printed with invisible ink, for all the good they do. It has gotten to the point where it actually is dangerous for a driver to obey the law and stop at a stop signal, if several cars are following him.

Brakes squeal and cars following swerve to the right and to the left to dodge him, their drivers shouting imprecations, as they shoot by the law-obeyer, disregarding the signal.

The poor frightened motorist who committed the offense of obeying the law feels like a rabbit diving

into concealment in a clump of weeds and hiding there shivering as a pack of hounds races past on either side of the hiding place.

Once in a while, a motorcycle cop is sent out to dash up and down a street a couple of times, cut-out open and engine roaring, and traffic slows up to a snail's pace until he is out of sight, when the race is resumed.

A little quiet enforcement of the city's traffic regulations, continuously and not spasmodically, would have a wholesome effect on reducing the number of traffic accidents and fatalities.

## So They Say

The reason Communism won in Russia and China is because there were no Socialists there to defend the old order.—Scott Nearing, Socialist.

It does not matter what you do—but get going and keep going. This old world is starting to move.—Charles Edison, son of the late Thomas A. Edison.

"I've no doubt that the whole business structure is due for a basic overhauling, and it will be a good thing for the country—first class.—Henry Ford.

All the great powers with the exception of France practically are off the gold standard.—John Hays Hammond, mining engineer.

We should be trading with Russia for the mutual benefit of us both.—Senator Key Pittman, chairman of the foreign relations committee.

Size alone gives to giant corporations a social significance not attached ordinarily to smaller units of private enterprise.—Justice Brandeis of the United States supreme court.

who were confronted with an old age full of pain and distress.

Very few people indeed die of a simple, gradual wearing out of living tissues. This physiological old age, if it occurs, takes place around 90 years.

Most people die instead from some sudden breaking down of an organ or tissue. Doctor Barker points out that no human organism can live longer than the potential period set by the energy charge of the fertilized egg cell from which it starts.

This energy charge, or inherited vitality, gradually is worn out during life.

However, it is possible to save energy by leading a good hygienic existence and by avoiding accidental death from infectious disease or other types of accidents like those which occur in traffic.

Hebrew has endured pillages and pogroms, he has been driven from long-established homes and suffered the loss of property and business, not because the Christians have feared so mightily the Jewish creed, but because they have wanted that which belonged to the Jew.

We have desired that which the Jew spent his life in accumulating and we have taken it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the sacred cause of patriotism.

Men do not fight holy wars for holy causes. They fight for filthy lucre. They persecute their fellows, not to further high principles, but to obtain riches for themselves.

It would be perfectly safe, I imagine, to surmise that Herr Hitler wishes to repudiate all debts owing to Jews and intends to procure their wealth, if possible.

So as a last vile aftermath of the disastrous World war, we see confiscated the money and property of Herr Einstein, who is easily the most famous of the sons of unhappy Germany.

But we insult God if we believe that He is a party to any such tyranny.

## It Seems to Me

BY JOE WILLIAMS  
 (Battling for Heywood Brown)

A FEDERAL judge has sentenced a Prince Mike Romanoff to ninety days in a detention prison, and such is the unique social position of the gentleman in the metropolis that it is a page one story in the newspapers.

To a great number of New Yorkers, the prince is what loosely is known as a picturesque character, a rare bird, and a hot sketch. To others whose critical standards are more severe, the prince, I suspect, is just a plain bum.

His square monicker is Gerguson, and about as close as he ever got to any royalty was to meld kings in a pinocle game. For as long as any one can remember, he has been a big-time dealer in small-time frauds.

The prince's revealed adventures range from blatant imposture to luxurious larcenies, and yet, the eyes of the law seldom bestowed so much as a full glance on him. For some reason his living room misadventures were accepted as mischievous rather than malicious.

It gives me no personal satisfaction to know that the bogus Romanoff has been incarcerated, but I do not question the intelligence and justice of surrounding him with impressive legends of the unusual. Personally, I should call him a One-Eye Connolly with a cane.

## The Art of Indolence

PERHAPS no other country in the world is so susceptible to practical bumming and studied loafing, if presented with a stage setting, as ours. Any aromatic hoodlum can build himself up an act and sell it to the public for something more than cakes and coffee.

By any normal standard, Mr. Connolly is strictly a vagabond, but he manages to make a comfortable and altogether effortless living by exploiting the fiction that he crashes gates, though just why this should excite any one's interest or generosity, I do not know.

Mike the Bite—as the prince would be known along Broadway—sponsored a different form of bumming, and a more pleasant one, since it brought him in touch with the nicer people of the city, and a profitable touch, it should be added. He exploited barroom amiability and drawing room gullibility, and did all right for himself.

Several years ago Mr. Connolly sailed for England. There were feature stories and pictures and pictures in the New York newspapers. An amusing and interesting man. "Tell the king hello!" Mr. Connolly wasn't even allowed to dock. England shipped him back on the next boat, explaining, "We have enough loafers over here now."

I have had the tingling delight of bumming for Mr. Connolly and cocktails for the prince, and while I am firmly persuaded that both are members of the same fraternity—Many the Moochers—I will concede that there is a difference. The Romanoff smells a little better.

## When You Can't Lose

EVEN so, nevertheless and notwithstanding, I am not so sure that Mr. Connolly and the prince haven't been at least a step and a half ahead of the citizens for a number of years, and particularly so in the very recent years.

By substituting indolence for enterprise and waste for thrift, they succeeded in accumulating beyond anything and everything, and as a consequence when the economic clouds broke, drenching the just and the Mitchells alike, the Connollys, the Romanoffs and other of their slothful ilk were able to yawn and mock and say: "Goodness gracious me, isn't it all just too depressing?"

Our government has taken a very determined stand against the evil practice of thrift as is shown in various anti-savings bills, the situation having taken on the gravity that if you are found to have as much as \$100 in gold stashed between the mattress and the bed springs you are liable to a fine of \$10,000 and a ten-year jail sentence.

Not only is it a criminal offense to lay up a little gold dust for a moist afternoon, but if you have money in the bank and do not put it in circulation by one means or another, you are not entitled to consider yourself a patriot. Boot! If that frightened you, it served you right.

## Poetic Bow Ties

NOW I can remember when I was what the mid-Victorians called a cut-a-cute little brat, too, what with curls, ruffled collars and long, curly bow ties, but thoroughly manly with it all—as I say, I can remember when lessons in thrift formed a vital part of one's early training for the grim battle of life.

The teacher would read in open class the profound platitudes of Ben Franklin touching upon among other romantic items, the great strategic value of saving pennies instead of dollars, because if you saved pennies presently they would grow into dollars, and—"are you listening, children?"

The children were listening, but the chances are they were not completely overawed, because they recalled that Mr. Franklin, when a very elderly man, used to fly kites, and such eccentric forms of diversion in maturity, they must have concluded, are not always indicative of infallibility.

I don't recollect of seeing Mr. Connolly or the prince in that particular class, but if they were their slavish respect for habitual slothfulness probably saved them from the embarrassment of getting up from a winning table with a mess of stage money.

What that song Johnson sings? "Hallelujah, I'm a Bum!" (Copyright, 1932, by The Times)

## Significance

BY LIONEL WIGGAM.

I am too trivial to know The breath of shadows on the snow. I am too vain and arrogant To see the tufted trees afloat. Infinitesimal is this brain, Too brief to grasp the hush of rain. Too wanly weak is this frail thigh To hold the massive beam of sky. But I may plug a leaking roof And shoe a limping horse's hoof