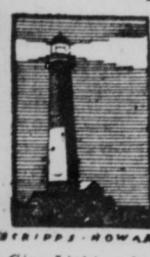


## The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the  
people Will Find  
Their Own Way

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1933.

## AMERICA VS. CHAOS

THE swift devastation of American mass buying power must be curbed at once. If this is not done, misery will multiply. The danger is seen by labor and by every thinking employer. And the Roosevelt administration is moving up for an offensive along the whole front.

Having provided for emergency hunger relief, the administration proposes to attack the deflation which is sapping American trade, commerce, and industry. Through Secretary of Labor Perkins it is learned that the administration will support three measures for immediate relief: (1) A big public works program; (2) The thirty-hour week, with certain flexible amendments to the Black bill; (3) minimum wages to put a bottom to the sinking American living standard.

Labor has asked for a \$6,000,000,000 public works program. Secretary Perkins thinks this not excessive for a spending project for federal, state, and local communities. But more important even than the amount is the type of work to be undertaken.

This is to be work that will not further depress wages. Also, it will be the type of construction that will add permanent wealth to the nation. Modern homes for working men to supplant the dingy, germ-breeding tenements of the cities, rural and village sanitation works, schoolhouses, parks, grade crossing elimination, and similar works are urged by Miss Perkins.

She thinks upward of \$3,000,000,000 worth of such projects could be put under way by this summer. Surely, with commodity prices low, public credit in fine shape, and labor and business in desperate straits, this is the time for such program.

The Black thirty-hour-week bill, recently passed by the senate, furnishes opportunity for absorption of possibly 6,000,000 industrial workers now jobless. With administration amendments, it can be made less rigid and more enforceable.

The third proposal is most important of all, since it would bulwark the shorter work week against efforts of blind employers in many industries to spread misery by shortening wages along with hours.

The administration is considering a proposal for joint capital-labor-government boards to regulate hours, wages, and production.

The purpose is to prevent wholesale pauperization of American workers and restore purchasing power.

The offensive can not begin too soon. It is a fight between the United States and chaos.

## THE GUARANTEE MISNOMER

THE nation should learn from the experience of the states in the matter of so-called bank guarantee.

In the early years of the century, a group of western and southwestern states tried the "guarantee." In each case the trial failed.

The failure was due to false labeling and false advertising of the plan. The public was led to believe that the state, with all its resources and all its power of taxation, was behind the guarantee. As a matter of fact, there was no guarantee, in the common understanding of the term.

There was a protective fund, subscribed to by the banks. It represented only a portion of the total deposits. The state did not contribute and was in no way responsible as an administrator.

But because the fund was advertised as a state guarantee, the public ceased to discriminate in the matter of where it made its deposits. One bank looked as good as another so long as the state seemed to be back of it. Result, any banker, skilled or unskilled, honest or crooked, could get his share of the public's deposits.

A bank charter was much to be prized. Politics entered into that. Too many banks resulted—and loose banking practices thrived.

The first failure was "bailed out" by the fund. And the second and the third. Each of the early failures therefore favorably advertised the "guarantee." It worked. But the fund was shrinking. Finally there wasn't any more.

And the whole thing blew up, along with the banks.

Had the system not failed under false colors, had the general assumption that the state was the guarantor not been allowed to grow up, had the plan been called what it was, a bankers' protective fund, instead of a state bank guarantee, the vicious misrepresentation and the loose banking which grew out of it would have been avoided.

Now most of the present national proposals involve the same general formula that was tried by the states—a fund subscribed to by the banks to protect depositors in banks that fail, but only up to the amount of the fund. The responsibility for the guarantee would run to that fund, not to the government.

Insofar as such a plan is put forth and described and labeled for what it is, it might be helpful. But if it is allowed to masquerade under the misnomer of government guarantee, it will be as dangerous as was the state system, and will come to the same pathetic end.

## RETURNING OPTIMISM

THERE is no question that America today holds more optimism than at any time since the depression began. People at last are beginning to believe that the end of their troubles is, if not actually at hand, at least in plain sight.

The administration is acting with speed and determination, and the people are giving it a support such as few administrations have ever even hoped to receive.

That much of this optimism is justified seems pretty certain. The only danger is that we carry it too far, so that we forget that

many weighty problems still remain to be solved.

The upward climb has begun, but it is probably going to be a long one and a hard one, and we shall probably be asked to make further sacrifices before it is accomplished. We need now to guard against overconfidence.

## A NEW RADICAL?

THE depression is said to be making few radicals out of the poor. What of the millionaires?

Connecticut's G. O. P. Senator, Frederic Collier Walcott, is a Yale man, former banker, manufacturer, one of New England's Brahmins. In a speech the other day, he made the snare gasp by coming out for nation-wide and mandatory unemployment insurance to free charity "from paying industry's wages," for public employment exchanges, for a 36-hour week, for a big program of public works. Said he:

"Individually we have set up high standards for labor; collectively wielding the club of mass starvation for bargaining power, we use labor to the point of physical exhaustion, slash wages to a cruel subsistence level, call the chaotic protestations of gnawing bellies and outraged dignity radicalism, and in the name of liberty and the Revolutionary fathers attack it with machine guns, night sticks, and gas bombs."

"In the year of our Lord 1933, in the year of our progress 1917, individually we stand—collectively we reel."

## G. B. S.

THE ancient kings had to have court jesters to tell them the truth about their royal selves. Democracy has George Bernard Shaw. And like the old jesters "G. B. S." mixes a lot of nonsense with the truth he speaks. His hour-and-a-half speech in New York was about 50-50.

True were such comments as—"When it comes to millions of unemployed, then the capitalist system really has broken down."

"Your farmers are enslaved, they are bankrupt and they are in open revolt."

"The employer of today belongs to the proletariat. He is an employed manager . . . . Your country is run by financiers. At present it is run into the ditch by them."

"Instead of your ridiculous Uncle Jonathan, your ridiculous 100 per cent American, you really are coming to the point in which America may take the lead and possibly help save the world."

## ROOSEVELT LEADS WORLD

MOST Americans, probably, get a thrill of pride out of the fact that their President is trying to lead the whole world back to prosperity. To have an American President inviting the rulers of nearly a score of nations to confer with him and with one another about ways of restoring good times, to know that the hopes of the world once more are centered about the White House—all this is very gratifying to our self-esteem.

What we don't so quickly recognize is the fact that a very heavy weight of responsibility rests upon us, as individual citizens, in connection with this venture.

It is hardly going too far to say that one of the biggest obstacles in President Roosevelt's way, as he moves toward this world economic conference, is made up of the prejudices, the misconceptions, and the mistaken judgments of his own fellow-citizens.

You can't get anywhere with a conference of this kind without being ready to make some sacrifices yourself. That goes without saying. But there has developed in this country since the war an iron-headed obstinacy quick to assert that we can make no concessions, that the other side must do all the sacrificing and that we need not and must not relax any of our old creeds.

This finds expression in various ways. For example:

There must be no cancellation of any part of the war debts.

We must not make any agreement under which we shall buy any goods of foreign manufacture.

We can not bind ourselves to co-operate with European nations for more than two weeks at a time.

All American diplomats are helpless and innocent babes and all European diplomats are cunning and conscienceless schemers, so that Uncle Sam is bound to lose his shirt every time it sits in an international conference.

Those are some of the most widely held planks in the platform on which some of us have been standing for a good many years. And if this world conference is to amount to anything at all, those are planks which we must be prepared to discard.

## CONTROLLING DRUG TRAFFIC

ONE of the bits of good news in recent days from abroad is the fact that twenty-six nations finally have ratified the international convention under which the League of Nations will be able to control world manufacture and distribution of narcotics.

Under this scheme, a board established by the league will set strict limits on the amount of narcotic drugs which each nation will be allowed to produce and distribute.

This, incidentally, is something new in world affairs for the plan undeniably is an infringement upon the national sovereignty of the governments involved—of which the United States is one.

But it represents a great step forward. Until the world supply of narcotics is put under definite control, no nation can handle the illicit drug trade within its own borders effectively.

A splendid new implement has been put in the hands of those waging war on the drug curse.

ENVIRONMENT AND CRIME

WHEN the Illinois Tax Service Association went before that state's board of pardons and paroles to plead for the life of Russell McWilliams, 16-year-old condemned murderer, it advanced an argument that every citizen in the land profitably might have listened to.

This argument was a bold assertion that the state of Illinois itself has a share in the responsibility for this lad's crime, and that, having such share, it properly can not put him to death.

McWilliams lived in a blighted "slum area,"

in a home which, in the words of the association's brief, "offered no normal amusements or wholesome opportunities for happiness."

The modern world, furthermore, has evolved commercialized pleasures so rapidly that to many minds "pleasure is identical with purchasing." The only way, then, in which a lad like McWilliams can get pleasure is by getting money.

In other words, an abnormal temptation to steal is put in front of him; and the state, instead of counterbalancing such temptation, "tolerates an antiquated and socially inimical tax system that directly contributes to the dissatisfaction and delinquency of youth through its degrading influences upon housing and home life."

This plea is something new in American criminal procedure. The state, always ready to take the responsibility for ending a murderer's life—on those rare occasions when it can catch and convict him—has not yet thought of assuming partial responsibility for his crime.

It always is ready with Cain's plea—"Am I my brother's keeper?"

But the responsibility is there. The least sentimental of men, walking through a city slum, can not escape realizing that children brought up in such a place start life with the cards stacked against them.

Society, in the last analysis, creates all of the evils that afflict it. Gangster, murderer, harlot, thief, dope-smuggler—we provide the forcing-ground that produces them; and when they are brought to book we belong in the dock with them.

Man reports his canary, silent thirteen years, began to sing the day Roosevelt was inaugurated. Sure it wasn't a bluebird?

The Italian who invented the post card just has gone to his reward. While we hope he is having a fine time, we are glad we are not there.

Easter is one time when a woman may be depended upon to use her head.

News item says there is a cave on Manhattan Island that was used by the early Indians as a home. Bet if you look it up you'd find it full of bankers.

Speaking of deflation, it ought to bring the bloated bondholder back to normalcy.

Shoe strike in Massachusetts promptly settled. Maybe they found out where the shoe pinches.

Gambling casino at Monte Carlo is to be closed for "spring cleaning." The customers already have been cleaned, we presume.

Hot time promised in senate investigation of private banking firms. Wonder if it'll be hot enough to thaw out any of the frozen assets?

Japanese penetrating south of the Great Wall. Most too late in the year to explain they are just going south for the climate.

Efforts being made in several states to eliminate suits for breach of promise. Never mind. Love will find a pay.

The initials R. F. C. used to mean Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Now they mean Rising Flood of Conservators.

## M. E. Tracy Says:

IN spite of all that has been done to provide work, stabilize the banking situation, and liberate credit, we are not paying our debts. Instead, we are trying to ease or postpone them in one way or another, which only tends to reduce income, decrease buying power, and lower wages.

It all goes back to the unreasonably high price of the dollar as measured by work or commodity values. The average American has to get about twice as much or sell twice as much to get an ounce of gold as he did four years ago.

The result is that an incalculable number of citizens and corporations find it impossible to pay the interest on what they owe, much less anything on account.

The substitution of public for private loans, the lowering of interest rates, and the establishment of moratorium will not and can not solve the problem. Wages and prices must be brought back if the American people are going to pay anything like what they owe.

Facing a similar situation, other governments arbitrarily have cheapened money—England by going off the gold standard, France by stabilizing the franc at 4 cents, Germany by starting the printing press, and so on.

As far as I can see, the only way to get out of this mess is to have the world's currencies convertible into gold at a fixed rate.

Meanwhile, the cheaper money of other countries enables us to produce goods at less cost and undersell us in most markets.

We can destroy this competition at home by boosting tariffs and keeping foreign goods out, but we can not destroy it abroad. Other countries slowly are taking our markets away from us, and they will continue to do this as long as the dollar remains so high in comparison to the pound, the franc, the lira, the mark, and the krona.

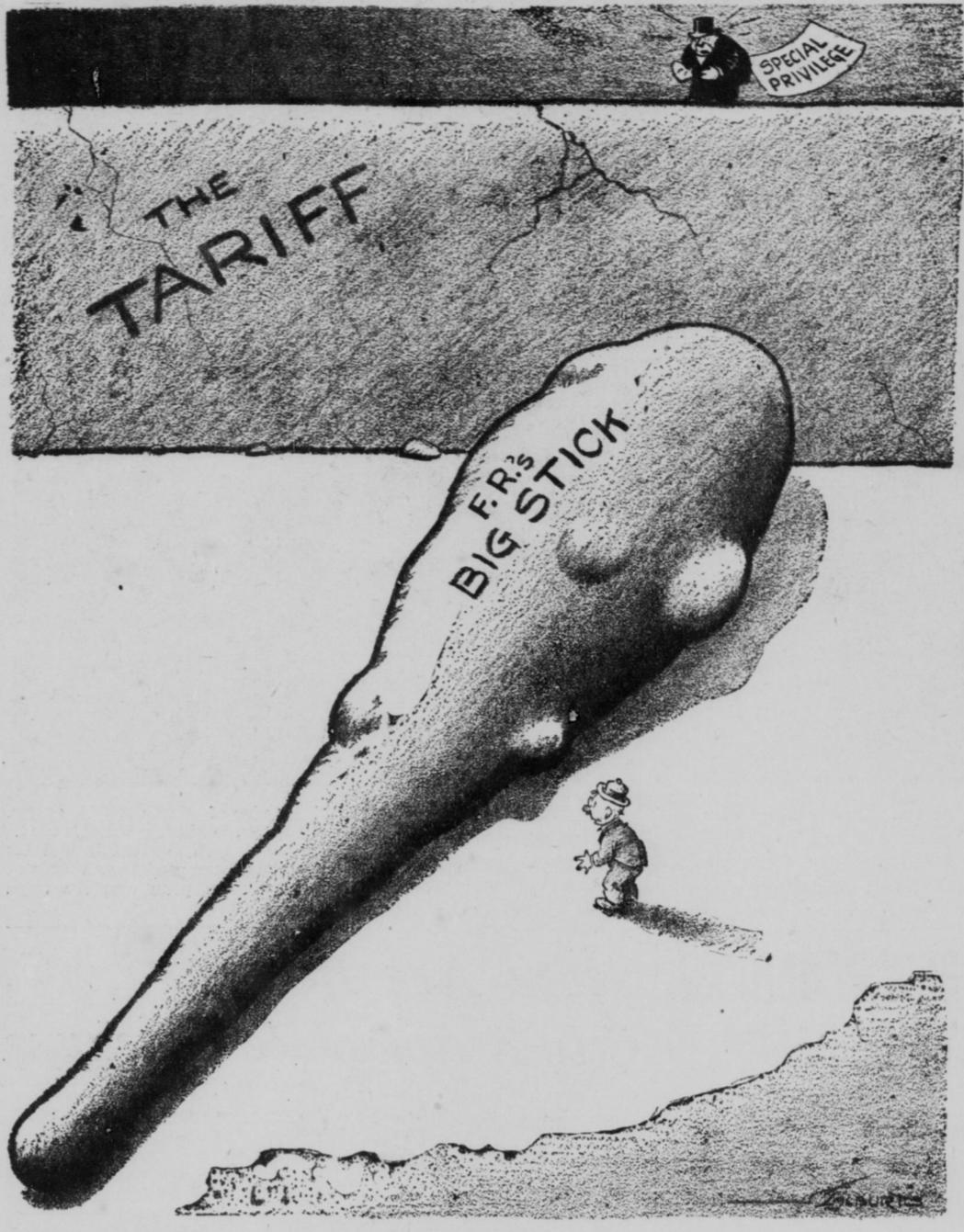
Inflation still is the most practical remedy and the easiest way to bring it about is by changing the gold content of the dollar, which can be done simply by authorizing the government to pay a greater number of dollars for an ounce of gold than is called for by the prevailing standard.

That protects everybody against loss, against hoarding and against a money jam which slowly is robbing the American people of their power to pay or regain their foreign trade.

Existing conditions are rooted in the fact that gold is out of line with the value of work and other commodities, and that people can not get it except by exchanging a double portion of labor for it.

That is not only unfair, but dangerous, because of its effect on business and debt. It is not just for the government to permit such a burden to be imposed on tradesmen or tolls when it can be lightened and distributed more equitably by a legitimate exercise of government power.

## It Would Make a Grand Battering Ram!



## : : The Message Center : :

## Ride Is Painful

By a Reader.

I just have read, for the third time, the article that appeared in the pink edition of The Times on Monday and headed "Husband Intervenes, Wins Freedom for Love Rival," and the more I think of it, the greater sap I think the husband has.

This man was supposed to be a great friend of the husband, and then behind his back tries to steal his wife. I haven't any use for this type of two-faced friend, and an example should have been made of him.

I know the husband, the wife and the man in the case.

The husband is a hard worker and has provided a home and comforts for his wife that any woman should be proud of.

The man in the case has nothing to offer her compared to what her husband can do for her.

The couple have been married eleven years and were, I think, very happy until this man showed up. When the husband has the man arrested, she sides with the man. There should be some sort of law to protect a man's home under conditions like these, for happy homes and couples are the backbone and prosperity of the nation.

I would greatly appreciate it if you would publish this letter in your paper, invite opinion on what other people would have done in this case, as this is something that would interest the entire nation and serve as a warning to other men of this type.

There is a great field for educational work in this respect. In my opinion there is much modernism and not enough religion in the modern marriage ideas.

This letter is written to you by a woman who would give several years

of both God and nature for them to be working.

A universal thirty-hour week may make enough work for everybody, but what have you gained when both husband and wife have to work to earn what the husband could earn by himself in normal times?

There is no use arguing. We simply have too many workers for the number of jobs we have on hand. Therefore