

The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

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A PHILIPPINE CONFERENCE

THOUGH for the moment obscured by domestic problems and European diplomatic conversations, the Philippine question waits to be answered by the Roosevelt administration. The so-called independence law passed by the last congress is vicious legislation.

It is acceptable neither to public opinion in the islands nor in the United States. If the Filipinos are to have freedom, they want it and have a right to it without the impossible strings attached to the new law.

The law, in its final mutilated form, was written by and for selfish interest lobbyists who had at heart the welfare of neither the Filipinos nor the Americans.

If the Filipinos were to accept alleged independence under the offered terms, they would have no freedom to determine whether the United States retained naval and military bases in the islands; their freedom of foreign relations would be restricted.

On the economic side their liberty would be restricted even more. After having made them dependent on the American market, he would limit their freedom of export.

To avoid the lasting disgrace to the United States in unloading its responsibility in such cruel fashion, and to avoid the economic ruin of a friendly people who have lived under our flag for thirty years, the responsible leaders of the two governments should co-operate.

President Manuel Quezon of the Philippine senate, whose statesmanship is valued as highly in Washington as in Manila, just has arrived in this country. We hope that President Roosevelt and Mr. Quezon can arrange a representative conference to find a better way out.

HAIL THE TWIN JONAHs!

REAPPEARANCE of Andrew Mellon and Ogden Mills upon the public scene comes at a most opportune time and brings high encouragement to a distressed people.

Mills, incidentally, will speak here Friday and his "message" will be of especial interest. Emerging for the first time from the snow-bank of ballots with which only a few brief months ago their official policies were submerged, they will lead the opposition to the Roosevelt reflation program.

So completely and consistently wrong did these two prove themselves, as they guided us so swiftly cellarward, that we all shall take heart in the assumption that they will continue to run true to form and be wrong today, as ever.

Their shields should go through, unscathed, their records remain unbroken, their stalwart reputation for economic awkwardness and fiscal futility be undimmed; the very momentum of their past performance carry them to even greater heights of error and ineptitude.

Hence the wave of reassurance that sweeps over us, as they add their potent bit to the cause of national rehabilitation.

Much has been written and said about the need for restored confidence as a factor in recovery.

Mellon and Mills are contributing more than they ever will realize to that happy end.

JUDGE THAYER

THE death of Judge Webster Thayer of Massachusetts removes from the bench a jurist who attained about as odd a variety of fame as any man could get.

In the course of a long career on the bench, Judge Thayer tried many cases; but his name will be remembered—for a long, long time, probably—because of just one case, the Sacco-Vanzetti trial.

Whatever the opinions about the justice or otherwise of the verdict rendered in that case, one must at least admit that its memory will be kept green for years to come. It is one of the celebrated cases in American legal history; it will have its place in the history books a century hence.

And as long as it is remembered, and read about, and examined by students, the name of Judge Webster Thayer also will be remembered.

Whatever the verdict which history ultimately hands down about him, he at least will not be forgotten.

LOOKING BEYOND THE HORIZON

THERE is abroad in the land these days a peculiar kind of excitement.

It is an excitement that arises from expectation more than from actual accomplishment. Many things have been done in Washington recently, but even more remains to be done.

Unemployment, low commodity prices, frozen bank assets—these things still are to be remedied, and the job of setting them right is going to be one of almost incalculable difficulty.

Nevertheless, a start has been made, and there is a hopeful expectancy in the air. Perhaps the most important thing that has happened in the last month is the fact that America once more is picking up its old faith in the future.

And it is precisely that fact which puts on the administration and on congress the heaviest responsibility any American government could be asked to face.

There is a faith that can move mountains, and it is a faith that operates in the lives of nations as well as individuals. During the disasters of the last few years we lost that faith.

Now we are regaining it; and the main job of the people at Washington is to see that, having regained it, we are henceforth able to keep it. We can not stand one more disillusionment.

The faith itself is as old as the nation.

It crossed the ocean in the holds of a

thousand immigrant ships; it struggled over the mountains, filled up the plains, felled forests and settled wildernesses; it made the very name, America, shine like a good beacon before the eyes of the people of the world.

Define it? It is that deep and unspoken confidence that in this land we are hitting upon a new way of ordering human society—a way which is to mean a better life for the ordinary man and woman, so that all people may have a chance for freedom, happiness and plenty.

That faith is our most valuable possession; if we ever really lose it so that we can not get it back, we shall have lost everything.

The undercurrent of excitement today signifies a rebirth of that faith. We are looking beyond the horizon again and seeing great things.

Once more we are willing to believe that America shall yet live up to the dreams that brought it to birth.

NEW FOREST LANDS

THE activities of the "forest army" recently enrolled for emergency reconstruction work have aroused a new interest in the general subject of reforestation and construction. It is worth noting that a survey made by the United States forest service shows that public agencies should in the near future acquire 224,000,000 acres of additional forest land.

Whatever may be the comparative merits of public ownership in other fields, it is fairly clear that to put through an intelligent, large-scale forest conservation program the government must own a vast acreage of forest land.

In the very nature of things, the long-range and all-inclusive plans necessary for such a program can not be evolved when ownership of the land involved is split among a great number of individuals.

Here is a very important field where national planning is necessary. It is to be hoped that the government will go forward with the work in a far-reaching manner.

In the past, forest conservation has been largely conversational. This is proved by a plain-spoken report of the United States forest service, just issued to the senate by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace and his assistant, Dr. Tugwell.

"Practically all the major problems of American forestry center in, or have grown out of, private ownership," says this report. "The avowedly planless policy of private ownership is failing to meet the situation."

The situation, as described by the report, would make the gods weep. Through what is called "the cut-and-get-out-policy," more than fifty million acres of agricultural land, once timbered, have been abandoned.

The forest capital of the east, where 96 per cent is in private hands, must be increased by 250 per cent to meet current demands. The west, containing 80 per cent of the remaining saw timber, is being burned, slashed, and depleted at an alarming rate. Of the devastated and poorly stocked forest lands, 90 per cent is privately owned.

Problems of erosion, wild-life, watershed destruction, and devastation of timber resources grow each year through neglect. Even the federal public lands are overgrazed and under-forested. Tax delinquencies on deforested areas are spreading this domain.

The report urges:

1. A large extension of public ownership. It recommends federal and state purchases of 224,000,000 acres of timber land, including a part of the abandoned rural regions now available, "at the earliest possible date." The federal government should buy 134,000,000 acres, the states 90,000,000 acres.

2. More intensive management on all public lands.

"Nothing can be gained and much will be lost by delay," the report declares.

Here is a concrete land utilization program for one-third of the nation.

GROPING FOR A BETTER DAY

WHILE many dogmatists have their cut-and-dried solutions of the current depression, it is likely that we shall have to do a vast amount of experimenting in the solution of the rather unique situation in which we find ourselves.

There will be much fumbling and groping, but in the end we may reach light and recovery. A new group of books contributes in one way or another to the search for a path to better days.

The eminent poet and playwright, John Drinkwater, has written a thoughtful and amiable assessment of our age in "This Troubled World." He finds that our major difficulties lie in improper adjustment to machine production, the perpetuation of war, and the breakdown of conventional political institutions.

He speaks for a greater attention to art and individuality in the future. Nobody will can question the nobility of Mr. Drinkwater's ideals, but one legitimately may question their practical adaptability to the elimination of economic maladjustment, starvation and misery. They may be useful in solving the problems of leisure which lie beyond the achievement of recovery.

Dr. Elizabeth Faulkner Baker has made a study of the displacement of men as a result of mechanical improvement in commercial printing in the last generation in "Displacement of Men by Machines." While there have been enormous advances in the technology of printing, she does not find any alarming displacement of men.

This has been due in part to the fact that the machinery has not been of the type which throws a vast number of individuals out of work, and in part to the large increase in the demand for printed products. Nevertheless, there has been a very considerable revival of technological unemployment.

Critics of Technocracy will be unwise to base their dogmas too exclusively upon this book which deals with a very special and complicated type of industry. As Dr. Baker points out, one man with a new type of machine can not produce more than two or three men could have turned out with the older machinery.

In other industries there are automatic machines which enable one operator to do the work formerly carried out by more than a score of men.

Nearly four years ago Ralph Borsodi published a very striking criticism of modern capitalism and mass production, urging a return to the land and the development of

small, self-sufficing household units. In the days of the bull market and of the prosperity-around-the-corner talk, such a book seemed chimerical.

But after four years of depression, his doctrine possesses far greater attractiveness and practicality. Many would prefer the simple life to no life at all. Not a few communities have turned to Mr. Borsodi as a guide. Around Dayton, O., considerable groups are putting his plan into practical operation. For this reason the country may welcome the new edition of his stimulating book which may prove a bible to many thousands who despair of mass production and "the great industry" under the system of society. It is called "The Ugly Civilization."

The disappearance of wages and the failure of bank credit have forced many people in various parts of the United States to develop substitutes for conventional exchange media. Barter has been resumed on a large scale, and in most communities which have reverted to barter various schemes of scrip money have been worked out.

This movement has passed beyond the stage of bizarre experimentation and is enabling many thousands to get along passably well outside the pale of conventional capitalistic finance. Wayne Welshar and Wayne W. Parrish have written a clear little introduction to the development of barter and scrip money in the United States since the depression in "Men Without Money." It is an amazing and truly significant movement which may produce more interesting ultimate developments than the late bank holiday.

THE ELECTRIC TAX

THE sense of outrage which has been accumulating for a year over the electric tax, designed for producers and shifted to consumers, has expressed itself in the house of representatives.

In one swift rebellion against its leadership, the membership of the house put the tax back where it belonged, on the companies whose monopoly profits have kept them in relatively comfortable condition throughout the hard times of the past three years.

The senate, which levied the tax originally upon producers of electricity, should welcome this reinforcement in its old fight to place taxes where they can be borne most easily and should lose no time in seconding the action of the house.

The men who transformed a production tax into a consumption tax in the secrecy of the conference room have been retired from public life by the voters. The internal revenue administration which forbade state utility commissions to assist in protecting householders from the tax has been changed.

If the senate acts promptly, the country soon will be rid of one of the most unjust sales taxes ever levied and one that reminded every citizen monthly of the political power of the electric industry.

Butter and egg futures make new high price marks on Chicago mercantile exchange. Everything's all right; soon we'll have the Big Butter and Egg Man back with us.

New York professor says the boy in the poem "who stood on the burning deck whence all but he had fled" was a moron, not a hero. The heroes were all the school kids who had to learn the poem by heart.

Congressman punched in the eye a neighbor whose radio annoyed him. Now all we need is a supreme court decision that such an action is entirely constitutional.

No, Doris, a sweatshop isn't a Turkish Bath.

France sends a new governor to its penal colony at Devil's Island with orders to reform it. Only giving the devil his due.

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So Far-So Good!



:: 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 Factory Employee.

Isn't it about time something was uncovered concerning the proposed thirty-hour week bill?

I am neither student nor legislator, but I can see the injustice of such a law and, in the event of its passing, would suffer from it more than the learned class.

Would the people who advocate such a bill, particularly the heads of organized labor, consent to such curtailment of their working ability? No! They will boast that they work early and late to secure their ends, for the benefit of the laborer.

Could any manufacturer consent to have his hands tied by such outrageous rules? He must make his goods as the market demands it or lose his orders. Do men and women want to trifle with less than an eight-hour working day?

Is not the poor relief the begging and the vandalism already more than business can bear up under?

Do our legislators realize that work must be done by people who can and will do it right? Forcing the capable man out on six hours, or less, not only cuts production for the manufacturer, but cuts the support of a family that may become a burden to society.

Fast workers will be the only class considered in the employment office. What about the slow, but dependable type? Shall we rob them of their self-respect as independent citizens and turn them to the charity of their speedy brother? Or shall we dole them some unemployment insurance from our depleted treasury?

By Taxpayer.

Of all the added-pated, muddled-brained jackmules, Governor Olsen of Minnesota takes the pre-eminent position. Only a fool or a demagogue would imperil his political career and his social standing with threats of martial law, provost guards, and confiscation of capital to provide relief for those improvident, unthrifty people who are unable to care for themselves and who would refuse honest work if it were offered.

Does this Governor, or any thinking man, believe that we, who by skill, ability, and intelligence have accumulated property, and who by thrift and wisdom have preserved it and provided the necessary good things of life for ourselves, owe anything to the great unwashed horde?

Does this Governor, or any thinking man, believe that the solid, substantial people will stand for any such radical, Socialist, Communist drive? Does he not know that there is very definite sacredness about property rights that must be maintained at all costs?

Does he not know that capital and interest must be held inviolate?

A Tax Strike

By Indianapolis Citizen.

Last year, when the budgets were being made up for the civil city, school city, and county units, there was talk of a tax strike.

The tax strike seems to be upon us. According to figures released by Pay Wright, deputy, spring collections are running 25 per cent behind last year.

Some people, unquestionably, are not paying their taxes, as a gesture of protest. However, much the greater part of the people simply haven't the money to pay their taxes. They might be able to pay them, if the rate were \$150 a hundred.

The officials of Marion county say, "The people must pay so much." But the people do not pay the set amount.

The answer? The officials will not have the amount they want to spend, whether they like it or not.

Now they have me listed at \$25 a room, and after I have used them for three or four years you might say they aren't worth anything.

though the heavens fall? And inviolate they shall be, eternally.

If the unskilled lower classes have harbored the delusion that, because during the development of this great wealthy nation they received much more than their share of the national income, they are entitled to receive as much now, let them be at once undeceived.

American needs, and will have, a peasant class, to perform the menial tasks, and has, and will continue to have, an aristocracy that rules over the peasantry. This condition always has prevailed and always will, in spite of the piffle and poppycock of such radicals as Governor Olsen.

By Times Reader.

Have they any right at the assessor's office to raise your household furnishings without coming and looking at them, just going by the room? I have some rooms that didn't cost me \$10 a piece to furnish. I went around to an auction room and got old things and painted them.

Now they have me listed at \$25 a room, and after I have used them for three or four years you might say they aren't worth anything.

So They Say

In a certain measure I am remarkably like the rest of the English. First I convince myself that a thing is not going to happen and when it does happen I say perhaps something will turn up—Rudyard Kipling, English author.

Federal legislation should provide for the careful and rigorous regulation of the granting of loans by banks to their own officers and directors—Leonard P. Ayres, banker and economist.

He did not fret himself for things or place or power.—Mrs. Pearl S. Buck, novelist and missionary.

Typhoid Death Rate Rapidly Reduced

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEN

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

England and Wales, in the years from 1871 to 1875, there were 37.4 deaths per 100,000 population from typhoid fever.

By 1911 this number had dropped to six, whereas in the United States, in 1911, the rate still was twenty-one. However, the rate had dropped to 4.5 in the United States in 1931.

Certain states have much lower rates than others, and in general the rates in the southern states are much above those in the north.

Indeed, the rates for Minnesota and Wisconsin were 0.6 and 0.7 per 100,000, as contrasted with 10.7 for Tennessee, 12.6 for West Virginia, 14.5 for Louisiana, 16.6 for South Carolina, and 16.7 for Georgia.

Even here, however, there has been improvement, because Tennessee and South Carolina had rates exceeding 20.0 in the year 1927.

So far as foreign countries are concerned, Polish cities have rates

of 34.3 for 1920, with a drop to 10 in 1930, but with a marked increase in 1932. Chile and Spain still have rates between 10 and 15.

Japan has had a rate constantly rising until 1924, when it almost reached 25 per 100,000, but it since has dropped. Greece, Hungary, Italy and Portugal also have rates still above 15 per 100,000.

The rates generally are comparable, although there is difficulty in some places of making certain of the difference in diagnosis between what is called typhoid fever and paratyphoid fever.

The condition called typhoid fever is spread largely by contaminated food and water which get in contact with typhoid germs either through sewage improperly disposed of, or through the medium of typhoid carriers.

It has been a fairly simple matter to control typhoid fever and to prevent proper disposal of sewage, but the control of carriers is difficult.

In some instances, typhoid carriers even have become cooks, and as such may contaminate all the food they touch.

Means now are available in most states for proper control of carriers when discovered, but the discovery is in itself a technical procedure, demanding the services of trained investigators.

There is reason to believe that typhoid eventually must be stamped out. The rates have been steadily falling, and six deaths per 100,000 population is not a great many.

When the world's fair was held in Chicago in 1893, typhoid was a constant menace. If the rate that obtained in 1890 still persisted, there would be at this time 60,000 cases of typhoid in Chicago, with thousands of deaths.

:: A Woman's Viewpoint ::

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

THERE is nothing like hard times to promote common sense. We're even getting some these days from the postoffice department. Mr. Farley announces that the abandonment of mail delivery in small towns is contemplated as an economic measure.

Now this is not only practical, but will be welcome news to the small towns. I don't want to see free delivery in the first place, although he probably signed all the petitions. That official little racket was conceived and executed by the politician who made medicine for himself.

The resident upon whom the boon was bestowed may have been pleased at first by his metropolitan airs, but he regretted, and did not entirely abandon the pleasant custom of going after his own letters.

One of the nicest things about life in a small town is the daily trip to the postoffice.

Immediately after the sacks are trundled up from the railroad station begins the slow procession in that direction. One by one the inhabitants emerge from their shops and offices and homes; banker and grocer, and merchant and mechanic, inn keeper and peanut vendor, farmer and minister.

They all each other gaily and stand chatting together in the lobby while the letters are sorted and

flipped expertly into their boxes. Pleasant anticipations of happy messages to come—although some of them never do—lend a vicarious happiness to the friendly groups.

The housewife shopping for her groceries drops in to gossip for a while with an acquaintance from the other side of town. The preacher jokes with the bootlegger.

And by the time the general delivery window is open and the traveling salesman has received his orders, every little item of news has become common property.

And what a place for romance is that postoffice lobby! How willingly the youngsters offer to "go after the mail!" Sweethearts whisper together and plan their trysts, and rough, grimy little boys chase shrieking little girls through the open doors.

The small-town postoffice is as popular as the old-town pump used to be. Its official comeback will do much to lighten the gloom brought by 25-cent wheat.

Q—Have suicides increased in the last few years?
 A—In 1929 suicides totaled 16,260 and in 1930 the number increased to 18,551. The estimate for 1931 is 20,000.
 Q—When will the world's fair at Chicago open?
 A—June 1, 1933.

It Seems to Me