

## The Indianapolis Times

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MONDAY, MAY 1, 1933.

## CHILD HEALTH DAY

THIS is one of the days that count! By presidential proclamation, May 1 has again been designated as Child Health day, a fitting way to remind us all that on the health of our children depends the future of the race.

"Mothers and Babies First" is the keynote of this particular Child Health day, selected by the national committee in charge of the day's activities.

They, with President Roosevelt, "call upon all agencies, public and private, and all individuals having the interest of children at heart, to set aside this day for earnest consideration of the needs of the children in their communities and in their homes, and to inaugurate constructive activities to protect and promote the health and physical vigor of the youth of our nation."

A big task for a single day; but not too big, if we understand that nothing is more important than our children and the mothers who bear them.

## A NEW RAILWAY DEAL

THE President's railroad bill, intended to effect economies in our transportation system and thus strengthen it financially, will be before congress soon.

There are wasteful services and practices that should be eliminated. There are consolidations that should be brought about. There is an undeniable necessity for scaling down what President Roosevelt called the "topheavy" financial structures of some of the parts.

But we are not deluded that economies can be effected without likewise killing off some jobs; or that consolidations can be brought about without injuring some existing railway communities.

For these reasons, the bill should contain full protection for labor. Also, if the railroads thus are to be helped in this emergency by the federal government, it is their duty to follow the suggestion of labor and so rehabilitate their plant and equipment as to provide more work.

Perhaps the railway co-ordinator, who will be appointed under the Roosevelt bill, should be clothed with power to have the carriers undertake the delayed improvement and maintenance of their plant.

In this connection, the railways themselves would benefit and be provided with more traffic, from the proceeds of which additional labor costs would be paid, by the government starting a large public works program.

The bills' provision for suspending the anti-trust laws while the railroads are being co-ordinated is debatable; but there should be no debate about its provisions to bring about financial reorganizations where and when necessary.

Indeed, if there is any doubt that language of the bill, as presented, will not bring these reorganizations about, its terms should be tightened immediately and made completely explicit.

Nor should there be any dispute about having the co-ordinator's orders made reviewable by the Interstate Commerce commission. Otherwise, we would have a railway "czar" and it will be time enough to create a railroad dictator when the government takes over the carriers.

The President's program now is important, not because our system of railroad transportation so far has failed to provide adequate service, but rather because in the railway plant of the country thousands of individual and institutional investors have placed their funds.

The railroads, because their traffic has been reduced so greatly, are in a financial plight which threatens very seriously to injure the insurance policy holders, the savings banks depositors, and others whose institutions have invested in railway bonds and stocks. For this reason, the President's program is timely and important.

But, in passing it, Congress should remember that railway labor is to be considered as well as railroad capital.

## THE RACKET

ATTORNEY-GENERAL HOMER CUMMINGS is turning his attention toward the most intolerable, yet most baffling, of new evils, the Racket. He says he will seek to co-ordinate state and federal activities to "punish the criminals who are preying upon legitimate and illegitimate business and society at large." He will move "as speedily as sound judicial permits."

Here is a big adventure in law enforcement. To date the racketeers have had it pretty much their own way. A few have been caught up in the revenue men's nets. Most of them wax bolder under their spreading reign of terror and openly defy their victims and the police.

Spawned by prohibition, this terror has advanced far beyond the locus of the underworld. It preys on laundrymen, dry cleaners, merchants, shippers, producers, every sort of lawful business. The tribute it extorts through threat of death or property destruction is added to the price the consumers pay, and generally an additional sum is added by safety insurance.

It is evident that the legalization of beer or prohibition repeal alone will not end the racket evil.

The Wickersham commission pointed to the tremendous economic importance of these forms of criminal activity." It recognized "the immensity of the loss," but failed to measure it. Doubtless the annual tribute to Americans pay to these arrogant crooks runs into tens of millions.

New legislation may be needed. New de-

termination on the part of cities, states and nation is more important. If Attorney-General Cummings sincerely puts the full pressure of his power behind a national cleanup of the racketeers, he will earn the blessings of a grateful nation.

Organized society dare not surrender to this new enemy.

## JOBLESS EXCHANGE.

FEW tears will be shed over the passing of the costly and useless Hoover Employment service. Mild was the description of Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins of this unlamented service as "too unsatisfactory." It was rotten with compromise, politics, neopism.

Its passing clears the way for enactment of the pending Wagner bill. This measure, supported by President Roosevelt and Miss Perkins—passed in 1933 by congress and vetoed by Mr. Hoover—does not duplicate local and state free employment services, as did the old system. It would co-ordinate them into a federal whole, assist in financing them on a 50-50 basis, standardize and guide with expert advice.

In addition to these local-state-federal exchanges, Secretary Perkins proposes to set up regional clearing houses and establish a national advisory council to bring capital and labor together in the business of placement. Too much can not be said for an adequate, free and closely knit employment service in this broad and complex country. Such a service can aid in orderly reconstruction in many ways. It can not make jobs, but it can provide a free flow of the workers to those jobs that are available.

It can prevent a glut of labor in one part of the country and a shortage in another. It can assist in mass movements of workers from such industrial sore spots as the coal mining regions.

And it can make unemployment insurance systems work. No European country has had a successful unemployment insurance system without a federated system of free employment exchanges.

The Wagner bill should be given early hearings, and made a part of the administration's emergency program.

## VIGOR IN WASHINGTON

LEWIS W. DOUGLAS, President Roosevelt's vigorous young budget director, made a brilliant statement of the case of a balanced budget in his address before the American Publishers Association in New York last week.

In making this clear statement he gave the impression that his administration knows exactly where it is going, is determined to go there, and will go there if the rest of the division leaders have his straight-thinking vigor and the untrammelled social viewpoint we hope he has.

His reasoning was: "The budget must be balanced to preserve the nation's credit. The nation's credit must be preserved for the sake of the world as well as of America. He said:

If the budget is not balanced, falling revenues and retrenchment to meet falling revenues continue until the process become tantamount to running a race and ending at zero.

To those who say, "You must not cut the army," for instance, I say, "Which is more important, a national defense which is perfectly futile if the credit of the government collapses, or an unimpaired credit of your government?

For myself I say 'an unimpaired credit of the government.' For it is upon that all human values of our people ultimately rest.

One hope is that the London conference can straighten out world difficulties and get us back on the right path again.

Simultaneously, another cable from Paris reports that "the United States and the principal European governments have lost all hope of immediate progress in disarmament," and adds that the situation will not grow easier until "the world-wide political tension lessens."

On the heels of this, Chancellor Hitler declares in Berlin that "Germany no longer can be treated as a power of the second rank—she must be recognized as an equal partner"; and the National Alliance of German Army Officers issues a statement declaring that restoration of the Hohenzollerns is the crowning goal of a reconstructed Germany.

The all these dispatches together and you have as gloomy a picture as any Jeremiah would care to look upon. Then, to make the bill complete, lump in with them the innumerable stories testifying to economic breakdown in this country—the stories of cities that can not pay their school teachers, their firemen and their policemen, the stories of closed banks that can not reopen, the stories of mounting breadlines, of sweatshop wage scales and the like.

What you get, beyond argument, is a picture of a world in turmoil and distress.

One hope is that the London conference can straighten out world difficulties and get us back on the right path again.

At last we know who the Forgotten Man is—Charlie Curtis!

Running a matrimonial agency is just a sort of male order business.

## M. E. Tracy Says:

WHEN this conferring is all over, we are going to learn that European statesmen are interested chiefly in a debt settlement.

They will discuss tariffs, the gold standard, disarmament or anything else, but in the end they will come back to the question of how much we are willing to cut.

If the answer fails to satisfy them, they will agree to nothing of any consequence.

Europe has been sold on the idea that war debts block recovery and that the slate must be wiped clean, or nearly so.

Our theory that German reparations had no connection with what the allies owed us never has been accepted in London or Paris.

Ever since it became apparent that Germany would not pay, Europeans have contended that we should not pay.

From point to point, many of them have reached the conclusion that we should write off the entire obligation.

It is the exact cause of flat feet that we are going to learn.

When the feet grow rapidly, especially in adolescent girls, and when improper shoes are worn at the same time, flat feet are likely to develop.

Flatness of the feet appears most commonly in fat people.

1. Because the feet carry excessive weight and there is disproportion between the weight carried and the size of the feet.

2. Because there usually are as-

such as flat feet.

It is the result of accidents, such as falling suddenly from a height or similar disturbances, but these are easily determinable.

The exact cause of flat feet is not known, but it is believed that there is an hereditary tendency. Moreover, some races tend to be more flat footed than others.

When the feet grow rapidly, especially in adolescent girls, and when improper shoes are worn at the same time, flat feet are likely to develop.

These children frequently have knock-knees, the back is rounded, and the mother says that the child is awkward. The shoes are run over in unnatural ways along the borders.

The foot usually is not painful in the child because it is still flexible,

but the child manifests disinclination to run and to play.

A competent study of the feet by one who knows how to measure the arch and to determine its functional condition usually will reveal the character of the disturbance.

A mere print of the foot, the type of examination frequently given in shoe stores which promote "health" shoes on a pseudo-scientific basis, is not sufficient examination to indicate the real nature of flat foot.

The specialist in care of the feet first determines the extent of the disability and then applies his treatment specifically to the causes and the conditions found.

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