

# The Indianapolis Times

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SCRIPPS-HOWARD  
 Give Light and the  
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## A CHANGED COURT

THE depression or the new deal, or perhaps both, have penetrated to the United States supreme court.

The same court which held, a few years ago, that 7.44 per cent return and anything thereunder on the property of utility companies was confiscatory, now has decided that 7 per cent return on the property of the Los Angeles Gas and Electric Company is reasonable and is not confiscatory.

More than that, it has sustained the rate base fixed by the California railroad commission, which had trimmed \$39,000,000 from the \$95,000,000 valuation claimed by the gas company.

The supreme court recognized that "reproduction new" is an element in the rate base that can work to the advantage of the public in time of falling prices as well as to the advantage of the utilities when prices are going up, and it looked with leniency upon rejection of a \$9,228,667 "going concern value" claim made by the company.

In a dissenting opinion, two disciples of the old school of thought on the court—the group that used to compose the majority—lamented that the decision does not adhere to mandates laid down in the past.

They apparently are correct in this, and the change they protest is a signal for rejoicing on the part of those who regarded the old remoteness of the court from current conditions and current thought as one of the greatest dangers to the American government.

The victory of the liberal California commission has encouraged the people of that state to drive for lower utility rates from other companies. It should encourage the people and commissions of other states to do likewise.

When the supreme court finds that lower rates of return are not confiscatory, we can be assured that reductions will not damage the plaintive power companies.

## DEPRESSION TRAGEDY

ONE of the saddest of all the stories of the depression is the one about the 14-year-old Indianapolis school girl who tried to end her life because her schoolmates taunted her when they found her wearing a shabby pair of shoes which one of their number had thrown away.

The girl was one of sixteen children of a jobless miler. The family had no money for shoes or anything else. She had to wear the discarded shoes, which had been found on some scrap heap, or go without.

It often has been remarked that the weight of the depression rests most heavily on the children; and this pitiful little story is a reminder that it is not only the physical deprivation which counts.

The mental anguish inflicted on this youngster by the thoughtless cruelty of her schoolmates is the sort of thing that is a long time healing.

## FRANCE'S WAR DEBT

SENATOR BERENGER of France, chairman of the senate's foreign affairs committee, remarked in the French senate recently that his fellow countrymen ought not to count too much on getting substantial concessions from the United States government in regard to the war debts.

President Roosevelt, he agreed, seems well-disposed—but there is still the American congress to deal with; and he warned his hearers that "we don't want to repeat the experience we had with Wilson and Hoover."

That, when you stop to think about it, is probably fair enough, after all. If Presidents Wilson and Hoover could be questioned about it, they probably would say, quite fervently, that they didn't want to repeat the experience they had with France, either.

## BUSINESS CONTROL IDEAS CHANGE

IF some one sat down to write a history of the Sherman anti-trust law, and the varying attitudes which the public has displayed toward it, he would find when he got through that he also had written the history of one of the most significant phases of the whole industrial revolution.

The Sherman act bridges the gap between two diametrically opposite ways of looking at the fruits of the machine age.

It was born when the whole nation looked with suspicion and an uneasy distrust on the giant combines of industry and finance. Mere size, in itself, seemed bad in those days.

Our ideal still was the small business man, the small industrialist, the man who knew all his employees by name and carried most of the details of his business in his own head. That seemed to be the only kind of business that jibed with our traditional concepts of freedom.

But the tide was running the other way. Instead of small shops, we got vast plants employing men by the thousands; great networks of interlocking businesses that blanketed the entire country, with a maze of security setups that seemed to put ownership and management above the reach of public control.

So we adopted the Sherman law, hoping to stem the tide.

But the tide kept on moving; and as it moved our ideas changed.

We began to discover that "big business" was an inevitable outgrowth of the age of machinery. The trend couldn't be stopped.

The day of large-scale operations and giant combinations had arrived and we could do little but make the best of it.

And this, we began to see, might not be so bad, after all. If we could somehow foster

this bigness, help it to become even bigger and more widespread, and at the same time work out some scheme by which social values would weigh just as heavily as profits, we might do very well for ourselves.

So now leaders in the administration discuss with industrial leaders the possibility of modifying the Sherman law—partly in the interest of business, but chiefly in the interest of the ordinary citizen.

It is a strange and significant shift which has taken place.

## CHILD SLAVES

EXPOSURES by the Pittsburgh Press reveal conditions among striking child workers in Pennsylvania reminiscent of those that turned Robert Owen into a Socialist in England a century ago.

More than 12,000 children under 16 are working in clothing sweatshops for \$2 to \$3 a week, wages below relief doles to the idle. One sweatshop employer was arrested for working his force twenty-three hours in one day. The sixty-hour week is common.

Little workers are assessed from 10 cents to \$1.50 for "mistakes." One mill charges \$10 to "teach" them to be silk operatives. Girl minors are debauched under coercion of bosses.

Such conditions are not isolated. The National Child Labor committee reports the mushroom growth of sweatshops all over the nation. Children 14 and 15 are paid as low as \$1 a week in New Haven, Connecticut tobacco workers, New Orleans cannery hands, Salt Lake City factory-boys and girls suffer with those of the clothing regions.

What shall be done about this revival of child exploitation? President Roosevelt's appeal to employers to "lay aside special and selfish interests" will not suffice. Neither will William Green's demand that sweatshops be "held up to the public scorn."

Boycotting the product of sweatshops, as urged by the Consumers' League and Women's Trade Union League, will help. But without strict laws even an aroused public is helpless.

First, the federal government should move to stamp out child labor. This social disease must be treated nationally as are epidemics. If the states lag in passing school age limit laws or in ratifying the long-overdue child labor amendment, congress should enact a new child labor law and take its chances with a more enlightened and humane supreme court majority.

## DRIFT TOWARD CRIME

JUVENILE delinquency has increased 50 per cent in New York City during the last year, according to the Boy Scout Foundation.

The district attorneys are bothered by the growth of boy gangs in the streets. George H. Chafetz, director of the Board of Education's Bureau of Attendance, told the New York Principals' Association that economic conditions must be improved before there can be much hope of dealing with juvenile delinquency.

Miss Henrietta Addison, deputy police commissioner in charge of the bureau of crime prevention, said at the same meeting that reduction of money spent on playgrounds and similar activities was a handicap in crime prevention.

Here is a powerful additional incentive for those now toiling to bring the country out of depression—while hundreds of thousands of juveniles of both sexes roam the country the stationary population of youth in the cities tends to grow more unruly and to drift faster toward crime.

So does the depression threaten to visit itself upon the future generation.

## HARVARD'S NEW PRESIDENT

THE late Dr. Edwin E. Slosson once said that we could solve many of our problems if we only knew as much chemistry as a tree.

Harvard university just has chosen as its new president the one man in America who comes closest to possessing that knowledge. He is Prof. James Bryant Conant, who at the age of 40 has succeeded to the office which Dr. A. Lawrence Lowell at the age of 75 has resigned.

A tree, or any other green plant, grows by a process known as photosynthesis, a process by which it turns the carbon dioxide of the air and the water of the soil into the substance of its tissues.

Dr. Conant is America's chief authority upon photosynthesis. Last year, he was awarded two medals for his discoveries relating to the chemical composition of chlorophyll. They were the Chandler medal of Columbia university and the Nichols medal of the American Chemical society.

Dr. Conant was born in Massachusetts and educated at Harvard. During the war he was a major in the research division of the Chemical Warfare Service and spent considerable time at the Chemical Warfare laboratory in Willoughby, O.

In a day when science seems to hold much of the future hope and welfare of the world, Harvard university acts wisely in calling a distinguished scientist to its leadership.

## BARGAIN-COUNTER JUSTICE

IN the current drive against the depression one must not overlook the necessity of curbing crime and rackets. These cost the country every day, by conservative estimate, some twelve billion dollars annually. This is roughly equivalent to one-fourth of our total national income at the present time.

It is a sum equal to more than twice the principal of the war debts, and twice as large as the maximum proposal made for a public works outlay deemed sufficient to restore prosperity.

If we repress crime, justice must be sure, swift, and impartial. This seems to be one of the main reasons that the crime rate is kept within the bounds of reason in England and other European countries. That it is notoriously not the case in the Empire state just has been brought out by a report of the New York State Commission on the crimes and sentences of prisoners, of which Sam A. Lewisohn was the chairman.

It is all the fashion for reformers in this field to lambaste the jury system, and there is little doubt that their attack is just. But it is a little recognized, though very important, fact that in New York state today the jury trial has been superseded in large part by pleas of guilty on a bargain-counter basis.

In the year 1931 at least 70 per cent of the convicts received in state penal institutions in New York had not been convicted after a jury

trial. They had made and had accepted pleas of guilty to lesser offenses than those of which they had been indicted.

There often is little relationship at present between the crimes for which persons are arrested in New York state and those for which they are convicted. The reason for this is the utterly foolish system of severe mandatory sentences produced by our recent hysteria about the crime wave.

Judges, with some spark of decency and humanity, hesitate to impose the atrocious sentences made mandatory for a particular crime. Hence, they are prone to accept a plea of guilty for a lesser crime.

"It is as if the courts themselves, realizing almost instinctively the essential injustice inherent in these mandatory sentences turned with relief to any methods, however clumsy, to avoid imposing such long inflexible terms of punishment."

"In doing so they unconsciously often rendered the whole system of prison sentences absurd and gave to the prisoners and their families a sense of being able to frustrate or evade any of the laws of punishment and correction."

This system is particularly vicious, in that it gives a special advantage to the clever and experienced criminal who already has had contact with our criminal law and knows enough to get statute lawyers who will help him to make the best possible bargain with the judge.

The committee wisely suggests the logical remedy; namely, that the judge shall impose automatically the maximum sentence provided by law for the crime of which the offender has been convicted.

Then the power of release should be transferred to the board of parole, with authority to act at any time after the convicted person has served one year in a penal or reformatory institution. They emphasize the utter illogicality which prevails today in our system where the sentencing judge is allowed to consider only the crime, while ignoring the offender, and the parole board is expected to consider the offender rather than the crime.

This logical contradiction brings confusion and inefficiency into our system of criminal jurisprudence from the moment of arrest until the final discharge of the convict.

## WOMAN DIPLOMAT

MRS. RUTH BRYAN OWEN, America's first woman minister, who leaves soon to take up her duties in Denmark, declares what she believes to be President Roosevelt's policy regarding women in public office. It is a sound policy. As stated by Mrs. Owen it is:

"No woman in public life should be given any distinction because she is a woman, but, on the other hand, she should not be barred because she is a woman. Let us appoint them or promote them on the same basis that we would if they were men—on their abilities and their records."

None can doubt the ability of a Ruth Bryan Owen to perform the duties of minister in a highly creditable way. Daughter of a man who hardly breathed outside the spotlight of political life, she has spent her life with public problems.

Possessed of an extraordinary personal charm, she has become a diplomat in the sheer process of living in a political world.

German minister of propaganda suggests extending 1936 Olympic games at Berlin to include "a competition of minds" expressing typical feeling of each country "toward the human problems of freedom, love, beauty and God." We await with interest the contributions of Mussolini, Hitler, Kemal Pasha and Stalin on those subjects.

## M. E. Tracy Says:

WHERE young people formerly danced and sang around the garlanded maypole, they now wave red flags and make bitter speeches. The white bloom of the Hawthorne bush has turned crimson before a rising tide of pitiless intolerance.

Chemistry and cold storage have taught us to regard Nature as rather feeble and inferior. With warehouses full of last year's meat, fruit, grain, and vegetables, why get so excited at the advent of spring?

"Maying," as they called it, might be all right for the simple, down-trodden proletarians of old England, but this is an age of steel—steel in the mind, the heart, and the soul. The modern road to salvation requires a certain degree of cynicism just to prove that one is fit to travel on it.

Let us be strong, comrades, and work for that glorious time when the government will set concrete flowers in everybody's garden, and provide an exhaustless vineyard of synthetic grapes.

Bombs for Chicago, hunger marchers for Boston, and a flock of war planes darkening the sky above Moscow to impress Japan with Russia's new-found strength! What a merry world this would be for men with a grim sense of humor, like Hitler!

He stole May day for the Nazis, leaving the German reds to cool their heels in amazed retrospection. The celebration was just as noisy, but with far less violence and for a very different purpose.

It all goes back to a bit of emotionalism and a sense of direction. No doubt, Henry the Eighth thought that he was displaying political wisdom when he made that legendary visit to Robin Hood on May 1, 1515, or when he hanged some London apprentices for staging a riot on the same date two years later.

No doubt, Louis XVI imagined he had chosen an auspicious date when he called for the States General to assemble May 1, 1789.

Red flag, bomb, and May basket, all stand for something which we seek through the empiricism of hope or fancy, and there is about as much superstition in one as in either of the others.

Civilization, if it properly can be described as such, happens to be in a singularly bitter mood right now, finding more pleasure in quarreling over beliefs than in observing the recurring phenomena of life.

A lurking taste for cut flowers lingers on, but largely as the hangover of an obsolete era. Some still sow and reap for the sheer love of it, but a constantly increasing portion rather would roll down some smooth, hard road.

WE don't realize it, but pleasure is as powerful a determinant of human destiny as is necessity. Weep people like, whether wisely, or foolishly, eventually will become their guiding force in politics, business, and society.

For the moment, we think of work largely as a means of supplying our wants, not as an agency of achievement. In other words, we have nothing big or inspiring in view, unless a partial distribution of what we already possess so can be classified.

The weakness of radicalism lies in the fact that it swivels largely around the idea of dividing the loot already garnered. The thrill will end once the division has been made, and, save as organized tyranny can prevent it, a season of chaos will ensue.

## Says Which?



## :: 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.)

### Hail Roosevelt!

By F. L. M.  
 MR. ROOSEVELT should be heralded as the man of the hour. The manner in which he has come to the rescue of the American people has appeared to be a miracle. It is almost unbelievable that any man possesses the dauntless courage and iron will that Mr. Roosevelt has displayed since he took the oath of office on March 4.

We now can rest assured that we have a man in the White House whose interests are at home, as well as abroad, a man who is a true friend to the laboring class of people.

Mr. Roosevelt has not tried to trick the people by telling them that prosperity is just around the corner. He knows, as well as every other intelligent citizen, that our country is in a most serious and desperate plight.

He has made it manifest to the people that their problems are his problems, which one readily can see by looking over a few of his major accomplishments to date—the return of beer, the reduction of federal expenditures, the reforestation program, employing 250,000 men, and the establishment of friendly international relations.

In the future he has promised to relieve the farmer, aid American industries, and take up the question of tariff.

Mr. Roosevelt's excellent work has been nobly rewarded by the real optimism that now is prevailing throughout the nation. He has restored the people's confidence and the rest will be easy.

just a little of that Democratic enthusiasm out of our blood. I'd like to have some one try to prove to me that this hiring and firing was done in an efficient manner.

ner. One well-known sleep walker, who does his sleeping on the job at his desk in the statehouse, still is there because he has a cousin with a pull.

I wish Governor McNutt unlimited success in anything he may do to relieve conditions in our state, and if he proves to be the Governor we need, I'll also wish him success when he is a candidate for the presidency in 1940, but I don't think I ever again could give him my vote.

By An American.  
 May I comment through your paper on the letter written by Tax payer of April 24?

It seems of late that men of his breed are taking a little too much liberty with the word "Bolshevik." Are men who, driven by dire poverty and the cries of hungry children, steal a loaf of bread or revolt against the confiscation of their homes by mortgage holders who sit like vultures waiting for the day when their debtors can not pay to be called Bolsheviks?

I'll venture to say, not so long ago, when some of these "unwashed" were "over there," fighting what they thought was the war to end war, Mr. "Taxpayer" was "over here" making some of those dollars he now is afraid are going to be confiscated.

Thinks he not also that some of his so-called successful men would not have not sold their souls and the confidence of their government for thirty pieces of silver?

'Tis true there is nothing in the Constitution against the right to hold property inviolate, but neither is there anything in the Constitution that sanctions such as the "yellow dog contract," the working of women and children long hours at starvation wages, and calling a man a dirty neck red because he protests against the old order that Mr. Taxpayer proudly boasts still prevails.

The revolution already is here. It came last November, when the great majority chose its present leader to carry on toward that Utopia of which he so lightly speaks.

## Ringworm of Feet Spreads Rapidly

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor Journal of the American Medical Health Magazine.

DISEASES change in their incidence from time to time. A condition which hardly attracts serious medical attention over a number of years suddenly may loom prominently through the fact that it afflicts large numbers of people.

Just why ringworm of the feet began to spread so rapidly during the last decade, and now affects tremendous numbers of people, is not certain.

The spread has been related to the increasing use of gymnasiums, swimming pools, shower baths in golf clubs, and other conditions associated with modern craze for sport.

The condition has been brought prominently into public notice through advertisements of various antiseptics and lotions for so-called athlete's foot.

It should be realized, however, that the condition also affects the skin in the groin and also may attack the skin of the face and the scalp.

Once entrenched in the human

body, this condition is hard to control, particularly in people who seem to be susceptible to it.

Apparently the ringworm grows much better in the bodies of some people than in the bodies of others. It has been suggested that this is due to a chemical factor or a physical factor, but just what this factor has not been determined.

During the war there were eruptions of the skin between the fingers of women who constantly were knitting. Apparently the irritation of the skin and the association with the wool was related to the outbreak.

In many instances the eruption appears between the thighs when tight-fitting woolen bathing suits are worn. Certainly the infection between the toes persists when woolen socks are worn.

Among the most prolific sources of infection is repeated wearing of athletic clothing without washing

after the person has been perspiring.

It is customary to leave trunks, jerseys, and stockings in a locker after they are worn. The mold or fungus which causes ringworm of the skin can live for long periods of time in clothing kept under such conditions.

Ringworm of the skin usually appears as a red eruption between the thighs, between the toes or between the fingers.

There is scaling and in some forms the appearance of cracks and fissures. There also is mild itching and blistering.

It is well to warn people against contact with leather or woolen objects of dress, toilet, and sport. Wool and leather should not be worn next to the skin by such people.

Any clothing which has come in contact with the infection should be washed only once, and then boiled separately from the rest of the household linen. It may help to destroy the fungus.

## :: A Woman's Viewpoint ::

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

ceremony as a sort of gun to hold up their men.

DECENT women should begin steps to ban such a cursed custom. It is true that we have learned to expect slight justice from the law courts, since in nearly every controversy the question of right or wrong does not enter into the thing, but decisions hinge upon which of

several men can outstick the others. However, when decent and otherwise law-abiding husbands are jailed because since 1929, the power of these female James gangs should be curbed in some manner.

It's incredible that a woman can become so self-important that she believes a man should support her when she does not live with him. Even the old-fashioned prostitute did not go to such lengths. And compared to certain arrogant wives, the prostitute, I think, was rather a noble figure.

We have perjured ourselves in many ways and broken many sacred oaths. But it has remained for the alimony grabbers to pile up the last insult against matrimonial honor.

To sully the title of wife, to collect indefinitely for the brief surrendering of one's body, is as low in the mire as we should be able to drag marriage or womanhood.

Q—Who played the role of Dr. Frankenstein in the motion picture of that title?  
 A—Colin Clive.  
 Q—Has Henry Ford ever been a candidate for United States senator?  
 A—No.

## Questions and Answers

Q—Who played the role of Dr. Frankenstein in the motion picture of that title?  
 A—Colin Clive.  
 Q—Has Henry Ford ever been a candidate for United States senator?  
 A—No.

## It Seems to Me

—BY HEYWOOD BROWN—

NEW YORK, May 10.—The Steuben Society thinks that it is wrong for Americans to protest against the Nazi regime in Germany.

The argument of the organization covers the usual phases, such as the assertion that stories in the newspapers have been exaggerated greatly, that anti-Semitism exists in America, and that some of the Jews expelled from professorships and other public posts were removed for their own good.

But I think I catch a note of even more familiar protest. It is the old cry of "Why don't you mind your own business?" I never have been impressed by this complaint, although I have met it with a fair degree of frequency.

It is held, as I understand it, that an "outsider" has no right to voice an opinion, because the people on the ground know how to handle things so much better. This is very often the attitude of the southern press toward any northern writer who ventures to criticize the handling of any case involving the Negro question.

## View From High Hill

BUT it seems to me that the people who are close to a problem are very often the least qualified to discuss it with any clarity or detachment. No man in the middle of a rumphus has any accurate conception of what is going on. A spectator "way out in the right field" is likely to see the situation in its entirety.

I venture to say that there must be at least a dozen newspaper correspondents in Germany who understand Hitlerism a great deal better than Herr Hitler does.

Adolf is that unfortunate thing which we call an orator. Judging from the newsreels, most of his waking hours during the last few years have been spent in addressing huge meetings. And, worst of all, he is a facile and effective orator.

Now, an orator never can learn very much about the conditions with which he deals in his speeches. In the first place, he generally is called upon to speak to his own followers. And, no matter what he says, his own crowd will shout, "Hoch!" and throw their hats in the air.

An orator soon learns that audiences are moved much more quickly by generalized slogans than by calm argument or the recital of facts. And so the orator speaks moves further and further away from reality into a dream world of his own, where assertion is taken as the equivalent of accomplishment.

## Over 4 Per Cent

ACCORDING to some of the recent biographies of the Nazi chief, Herr Hitler is strongly opposed to alcohol. That is natural enough. He is stimulated by a far more heady wine. Like all effective charlatans, he is by no means pure charlatan. That takes a very finely organized intellect. A complete faker has to be an extremely clever man.

As a rule, the leader of the Hitler type develops the habit of intoxicating himself with his own words. The usual technique is to speak calmly and then increase the tempo and the volume of the sound. The words come rushing out. The speaker begins to grow red in the face. He waves his arms in the air. The cries from the multitude spur him on.

Finally the frenzy of actor and of audience reaches a point where it makes no difference whether one makes to the sense of the address. Any word will do if it is shouted enough and carries infection of vehemence.

Every habitual orator is a fit and interesting subject for a psychiatrist. He must, of course, be a person with a hidden neurotic personality. That is why the Hitler of the world take up such cruel and punishing policies against whatever minority is most convenient.

By directing scorn, anger, and penalties at some group in the community, the little men with the loud voices make themselves seem more important. They fight to forget their own insufficiency.

## Conduct Losing Fight