

The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

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INTERNATIONAL FOLLY

ON the same day, the headlines announce the break-up of the world disarmament conference and a declaration by Secretary Claude Swanson that American policy favors a navy "second to none." The two are not unrelated. They reflect the rising tide of nationalism, the loss of faith in treaties, the failure of governments to make good their grandiloquent pledges of international co-operation.

The United States, on the economic side especially, contributed to world chaos by its debt policy and initiation of a tariff and trade war.

But our hands are cleaner than most. Even in the matter of tariffs, our government offered a truce which the foreign governments did not accept completely and in good faith. And although at the moment we are blamed for the destructive fluctuations of foreign exchanges, the currency depreciation race was started by the British and French, who now protest too much.

Despite the fog at London and murky reports that Roosevelt policy is wrecking the conference, one fact is clear: The United States government is the only one making a serious effort at home to raise prices and to increase mass purchasing power.

The United States is not responsible for the latest failure of disarmament negotiations. Year in and year out we have begged and argued with the other powers to permit effective arms reduction. But always they block us.

At the Coolidge Geneva arms conference it was the British treaty government which refused to go along. At the London arms conference it was the French and Italians. Now it is the British, French and Japanese, with Hitler's Germany in the background.

Repeatedly during recent years this newspaper has warned the foreign powers that they could not expect the United States to go on begging for international co-operation forever, that their stubborn nationalism in time would provide a revival of American nationalism. That time is approaching rapidly, if indeed it has not arrived already.

America, with all her faults, has tried patiently to prevent a costly and dangerous armament race. Secretary Swanson's declaration of policy is official notice that if the other powers persist in their refusal to reduce armaments, the richest and strongest nation in the world will begin large-scale preparations for war.

The decision rests with the foreign powers.

JUST BAD DREAMS!

SENATOR ROYAL S. COPELAND, chairman of the senate subcommittee which is probe racketeering, is quoted as saying: "It is inconceivable to me that politics would be involved in any sort of racket in New York state."

Coming from a New York senator, this is naive enough. But not satisfied with such expression of childlike faith, the senator went on to declare himself certain that responsible union heads do not favor racketeering in their organizations.

Either the newspapers have been carefully kept from Senator Copeland or he never reads court actions and judicial decisions pertaining to troubles in labor unions.

Maybe he never has heard of labor "czars" or of union officials supposedly "responsible," but nevertheless ousted on charges of oppression and coercion.

The senator seems almost too trusting and innocent to succeed on such a job of inquiry. It will be a shame to destroy his fond illusions.

Nevertheless, we advise him, in the public interest, to keep an eye out for both politics and racketeering union heads as he strolls down Racket Lane.

FOURTH OF JULY BLINDNESS

THERE is trouble enough in the world these days without adding to it the tragedy of children being blinded with dangerous toys.

This is the plea of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness as July 4 nears.

The number of children totally blinded in a year by fireworks and air rifles and other weapons is not a big figure at first glance. Just 70 children a year. But the society is asking the public to think of those 70 not as "statistics," but as 70 child victims whose homes will be saddened tragically for years.

An extraordinary proportion of the blindness accidents occur in the brief period around the Fourth. The number of children who suffer, not total blindness, but eye injuries of varying degrees of seriousness, runs to a more impressive figure—750 to 1,000 in this country in a year.

More than 100 cities in the United States have shown their awareness of the situation by making ordinances restricting the manufacture, sale, or use of air rifles and other dangerous weapons as toys, but surveys show that the vast majority of local laws are not broad enough to protect the children or else are not properly enforced. Moreover, bootleggers in fireworks and firearms infest the countryside around many towns that have restrictive legislation.

The society advocates "that all articles such as air rifles, cap pistols, slingshots, darts, other devices for projecting missiles, firecrackers, torpedoes, etc., which are being manufactured for the toy trade should be eliminated at the source by absolute prohibition of their manufacture and sale."

In addition, it believes that adults handling displays of fireworks, or explosives, or weapons should be made responsible for preventing minors from handling them.

Such regulations, if enforced, would pre-

vent more than half the present toll of eye accidents to children.

Beyond what laws can do, parents can do a great deal to lessen such accidents. Their part is to teach children to be careful and to support local authorities.

'NEW DEAL'S TEST TO COME'

THE tremendous complexity and almost overwhelming difficulties involved in the new industrial control plan grow more evident each day. It is too early to say whether Uncle Sam has bitten off more than he can chew, but it is pretty clear that he has bitten off a lot more than anybody ever dreamed of chewing before.

Study the affair from any angle you choose; problems that look well-nigh unsolvable pop up by the handful. The real test of the "New Deal" has not begun. It will come very soon, and when it does it will bring the old and the new conceptions of American economies into a conflict sharper and more bitter than anything the country yet has seen.

With one hand the government seeks to raise commodity prices and wages; with the other it seeks to restrain the rise in retail prices. It plans to spend around \$100,000,000 to get the south to stop production on 10,000,000 acres of cotton land.

It hopes to give industry most of the advantages of monopoly, but at the same time to outlaw the disadvantages. It seeks to unionize all labor, but desires to avoid industrial strife. It wants the benefits of inflation without the disastrous consequences.

All in all, it is beginning a job so stupendous that one gets dizzy thinking about it. It has a hundred chances to make mistakes.

And yet, however easy it may be to point out these mistakes, however easy it may be to say that the job is simply too big for human ingenuity—it is as clear as daylight that nothing less than this could have been attempted.

We had reached pretty close to the jumping-off place, last March. The situation called for drastic measures; the temper of the country was, and still is, ready to support measures even more radical than those which have been adopted.

The financiers and rich industrialists who are beginning to grumble about these new restrictions on individual enterprise and the profit motive ought to thank their lucky stars that the program is as conservative as it is.

Hard as it may be, this new set-up simply has to work. It may look radical, to eyes still focused on 1929; but the one certainty in an uncertain world is that its radicalism won't be a patch on the radicalism of the program that will be adopted if this program fails.

The dangerous man today is the man who puts obstacles in the way of this scheme. He is inviting measures that would make this one look like something cooked up by J. P. Morgan & Co.

DARK AND BLOODY GROUND

A YEAR and a month ago a Kentucky mob stormed a Caldwell county jail, seized Walter Merrick, a white man awaiting trial for dynamiting, and lynched him.

Under Kentucky law, it was mandatory upon Governor Ruby Laffoon to remove Jailer Jones. After repeated demands by the American Civil Liberties Union, Governor Laffoon temporarily removed Jones. But he put Mrs. Jones in charge of the jail, pending a hearing.

According to the union, Attorney-General Wootton, Commonwealth Attorney Gray and County Attorney Hardin all "united to hush up a hideous crime." No attempt, the union says, was made to search out the lynchers. As was expected, Governor Laffoon reinstated Jailer Jones.

The union reminds Kentucky that under Commonwealth Attorney Gray's administration there have been six lynchings in the fourth judicial district. During that time no man has been convicted for having participated in these crimes.

Under such administration of the law, Kentucky easily may live up to its Indian name, popularly translated as "the dark and bloody ground."

EXIT THE ATHEISTS

IT is possible to get two or three little smiles out of the news that the depression so sharply has reduced the number of militant atheists that the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism is threatened with extinction for want of funds.

This organization's annual report shows that its membership has declined steadily during hard times and that its income has been reduced by one-half.

On the other hand, the report complains that church membership has increased constantly all through the depression, so that more than 50,000,000 Americans today are regular church communicants.

And all of this, somehow, sheds an interesting little sidelight on human nature. It's easy enough to be an atheist, militant or otherwise, when everything is going swimmingly and every stock market flurry increases the size of your bank account.

But when the bottom falls out of things, and you find that you aren't quite as all-wise and eternally lucky as you had thought—well, atheism becomes a nonessential luxury then, in short order.

LADIES

WHEN is a lady a lady? Never! says Inez Haynes Irwin in her new book, "Angels and Amazons."

There are no ladies; there are only women in the new world, she declares. A lot of aristocracy has gone over the dam since the turn of this century when ladies were ladies. In the process woman has emerged into a new being.

The title or designation "lady" (a very pretty sounding word) had many variations of meaning, from that in "Lady Be Good," to "Lady Dalrymple," wife of the lord of that name. "Lady" implied aristocracy, social superiority.

In smaller places it implied also refinement or the possession of a certain grace in carriage and dress, or even goodness. It marked off those favored by fortune or nature from those less favored—the rank and file of women.

Once women wanted to be ladies. Now ladies would like to be women, in a common cause of emancipation of the sex.

Certainly this implies a fundamental democratization far surpassing the importance casually accorded the great change. This has

arisen out of wider educational advantages for women and out of general liberalization of thinking.

But it has come also with the rise of the poor to wealth and position. Not that this process had not proceeded throughout the history of this country and the world, but it has proceeded upon an infinitely vaster front in this industrial era of multiplied national wealth.

The rigid barriers of an older and highly limited aristocracy have broken down before the deluge of new wealth pouring from machines.

Into that deluge "ladies" have vanished and upon its bosom "women" universally have been lifted to a new dignity and a new freedom and into a new hope.

WHAM!

FROM the standpoint of national defense, the moral of Mr. Carnera's victory over Mr. Sharkey would seem to be that maybe the big, heavily armored battleship carrying 16-inch guns is not so obsolete after all.

To be sure, the speedy cruisers with light armament can sail rings around them, and register all kinds of hits with their more rapidly firing guns of lighter caliber.

But when one of those 16-inch shells hits something, it stays hit.

DANGEROUS BILLBOARDS

THE billboard long has been famous as a nuisance. Now it is becoming apparent that it is actually dangerous, as well.

Col. Frederick S. Greene, superintendent of public works of New York state, declares that the billboard distracts the attention of speeding motorists on country highways and thereby causes traffic accidents.

"If a sign does not attract attention, thereby distracting the driver from his business of handling his motor car, it fails in its purpose," says Colonel Greene. "In my opinion, the more important objection to the billboard is that it does cause accidents rather than that it mars the scenic beauty of the roadside."

The logic of this remark is obvious. How long, do you suppose, will we continue to put up with the billboard blight?

"Rubber Makers Disagree at Code Hearing"—headline. Couldn't they have stretched things just a little bit in the interest of snapping up the industry?

Wisconsin girl who will inherit \$6,000 if she remains single three years, says no husband is worth that much. Lots of wives have spent years in finding that out.

In case you don't know how to pronounce the name of Lieusszuisszeisselz Willhiminiszistidziuz Hurizisszeisselz, a Siamese who was arrested in Chester, Pa., recently we can assure you that it is pronounced exactly as it is spelled.

No matter how popular a young chiropractor tries to be girls always turn their backs on him.

South American naturalist reports the discovery of fish that bark like dogs, but an angler friend assures us there are no barking fish in this country—and very few that bite.

A new Delaware law requires all pedestrians on the road at night to carry a light of some kind—which, we suppose, now will be used by some men as an excuse for getting lit up.

Story says "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Oklahoma bandit, has killed at least six men. Perhaps he's still looking for the one who gave him that nickname.

M. E. Tracy Says:

GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON, administrator for the recovery plan, is right in warning us of the necessity of causing wages to advance faster than prices, if buying power is to be increased.

Buying power does not depend on the amount we earn of get, but on the relationship of that amount to what we must spend to live. If prices were to go up faster than wages, we should lose. Cutting down the hours of labor will not increase buying power, unless the volume of business in increased. This hardly can be done without developing new lines of work.

There is an obvious overproduction in certain well-defined fields. Putting more people to work in those fields by shortening the hours of labor may be desirable from the standpoint of distribution, but it can not increase aggregate buying power.

The economic structure rests primarily on consumption, and there are definite limits to consumption in each particular line. A man can not be made to eat more bread than his stomach will hold or drink more beer.

Neither can he be made to wear out more than a given amount of clothing, except through waste and extravagance. Consumption is determined by the variety rather than by the quantity of products. The one hope of greater consumption lies in a more diversified life.

THE road to progress lies through the multiplication of activities, comforts, and conveniences, rather than through the reorganization of old enterprises and institutions. This is especially true because of the way machinery has affected production.

If people were to restrict consumption to what is regarded as necessary right now, there would be little hope of restoring prosperity. To make this perfectly clear, just suppose what would have happened if people had decided to restrict consumption to the necessities of 75 or even fifty years ago, to get along without electric lights, telephones, autos, airplanes, and many such accessories of modern life.

The true advantage of machinery does not consist in the fact that it enables us to do old things faster, but in the possibility it offers of doing so many new things.

At no time in human history would it be so disastrous to stop pioneering and experimentation as at present. The only way we can keep our industrial structure functioning is through expansion. The only way we can get expansion is through development of new activities and enterprises.

DESIRABLE as the reorganization of well-established enterprises may be, it will fail to answer the need of increased consumption, unless it is visualized as merely setting the stage for innovations and improvements.

Our power to consume a given article or a given service is limited, which means that our power to earn through the production of that article, or the performance of that service, also is limited. The only limitless prospect we face is the improvement of living conditions through human ingenuity.

Nothing must be allowed to interfere with the discovery, invention, and exploitation of new devices or the development of new activities. In fact, everything possible must be done to encourage them, if we are to make proper use of mechanical power and scientific knowledge.

'One Side, You Bums!'



:: The Message Center ::

I wholly disapprove of what you say and will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire

(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 J. C. R.

What kind of laws do we have to protect us against dogs? It seems that we have none.

Hardly a day passes that city newspapers do not carry stories of from one to six children being bitten by roaming dogs and nothing apparently ever is done about it, except to put the animals under observation.

It would be only justice if the owners who insist on keeping these menaces should be fined heavily for the pain and danger to life that they cause, and also be made to pay all doctor and hospital bills of the victim.

By Puzzled.

During the 1932 presidential campaign, the voters were given to understand that Franklin D. Roosevelt favored recognition of the Soviet regime in Russia. We were told that this would be done so that American workers by the thousands would benefit, with this country getting millions of dollars in trade.

Apparently Mr. Roosevelt has changed his views, now that he is President. Nothing seemingly has been done about the matter, though we are told the news from the London economic parley that the American and Russian representatives engaged in "friendly conversation."

With millions out of jobs, it seems strange that something is not done to end this senseless break with Russia. We seem willing to deal with Mussolini, Hitler, and the Turk and Polish dictators, as well as with other rulers whose hands are not so clean. So why not Russia?

This inconsistency is harming many Americans who could get jobs if we renewed trade, diplomatic and credit relations with the Soviet. It is well enough to talk of domestic recovery, but why not get a little foreign trade along with it?

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Daily Thought

The just man walketh in his integrity; his children are blessed after him.—Proverbs 20:7.

INTEGRITY is the evidence of all civil virtues.—Diderot.

Absolute Rest Vital in Infantile Paralysis

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

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

AMONG the remedies used in the treatment of infantile paralysis is the absolute rest in bed. This is important in avoiding unnecessary irritation to the affected tissues.

Many investigators are convinced of the value of injections of blood serum, which is the fluid matter of the blood taken from patients who recently have recovered from infantile paralysis.

In the absence of such human blood serum, materials obtained from animals which have been injected with the poison of infantile paralysis may be used.

It is especially to be emphasized that nursing in infantile paralysis must be exceedingly gentle. It must minimize as much as possible any movement of the patient.

The physician can prescribe

various drugs to keep such patients quiet. Warm baths help in bringing about relief.

A recent discovery which already has saved many lives is the artificial respirator. In the past, any child who developed a paralysis of the muscles of breathing was likely to die. Now there are machines into which the child's whole body may be put and its breathing motions kept up automatically.

Thus as the infectious condition subsides, it is possible, through good training and care, to bring about a restoration of natural breathing.

Once the active disease has passed, it is necessary to make a complete examination of all muscles, to find out which have become weakened or lost their functions en-

tirely. In cases where some functions have been lost entirely, re-education of the muscles may be used to enable the patient to walk and to carry on other activities.

It is important to guard against too much fatigue. Children should not be encouraged to walk too soon. They never should be allowed to stand in a deformed position. If the legs are too weak, braces may be worn.

Exercise in water has developed a great vogue, particularly through the encouragement of President Roosevelt. The chief advantage is the aid derived from supporting the limbs by the buoyancy of the water.

However, the swimming pool itself is not a cure for paralyzed muscles. It is the training given in the swimming pool by competent teachers that brings restoration.

:: A Woman's Viewpoint ::

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

OUR Movie-Made Children," by Henry James Forman, is a book that presents facts that should be considered seriously by every American parent. Mr. Forman has ferreted out statistics about the influence of the moving picture upon the modern child that are the result of a four-year research, and truly alarming.

The conclusion he arrives at is not surprising. The pictures are a tremendous force for the molding of our children's habits and lives. There is cause therefore for worry when we consider that so many of them emphasize sex and crime.

This, then, is a problem for our solving that no thoughtful person can overlook. But it may be that the worst thing we have to fear is a fear of

the movies. Granting the foundation for every alarm, the individual still is helpless before the fact. To be sure, intelligent parents could refuse to attend or to permit their families to attend worthless productions. But you see, there are so many unintelligent parents in the country that very little could be accomplished in that way.

Imagine, and little girls, although we had no statistics upon their psychological processes, thought a good deal about love and sex.

The parents of a former generation worked in the same fashion over dime novels and surreptitious cigarettes and white slavery.

We should, I believe, make every possible effort to obtain better moving pictures, because if they hold possibilities for evil, they hold equal possibilities for good. But I despair of perfecting them. Or of regulating them entirely.

And the movies alone can not be held responsible for our delinquent boys and girls. They are the products of our urban, sophisticated, unwholesome, complex civilization. The movie, like many another danger, is the result and not the reason for such civilization.

It Seems to Me

BY HEYWOOD BROWN

NEW YORK, July 1.—"I thought it was sort of silly, but I went through with it, just the same," said Thomas Patrick Morris, indicted Wendel claimant, after a session with the psychiatrists.

There seems to be some justice in the assertion of Mr. Morris, for, according to the papers, one of the queries ran: "What would you do if you had \$50,000 in cash and only one month to live?"

I should think it would be difficult for even the best mind to frame an adequate answer, because it is impossible to predict anybody's conduct, even your own, under circumstances which merely are speculative.

Thomas Patrick Morris answered: "I'd pay Charlie Mitchell's income tax." That probably was scored against him by the alienists, who are not frequently rich in a sense of humor. It seems to me as good as any other answer, except the only fully truthful one, which goes, "I haven't the slightest idea."

Good Work or High Jinks

I HOPE my own sanity never comes under official examination, for I would not like to face that quiz. I might be a little tempted to give a pious answer and tell the doctors that I would devote the money to good works. And, in fact, that might be the way it would work out.

How can I tell? It would all depend upon just what would happen to me upon being told that I had one month to live. The first reaction would probably be incredulous, and naturally the victim would want to know, "Do you mean a month like February or like March?" Under the circumstances the precise count of days would become important.

In life it sometimes happens that sentence is passed. Judges and physicians are in a position to make predictions of this sort, but, in spite of their authority, I suppose the defendant remains a little skeptical. He seeks another healer or appeals to a higher court.

Crispers in the death house often keep their victims up to pitch in a surprising manner. The fact of extinction is not within human experience, and so the mind rejects it. Something will turn up. And on occasion that something does.

In spite of scenes in plays, I imagine that doctors are a little chary of naming the day or the month or the year. They prefer, "I think you ought to know that you are a very sick man." And they tell me that, as a rule, patients are not perceptibly shaken by even the harshest diagnosis.

There are ailments before which men quail because they suggest pain, humiliation, and a curious sort of psychic degradation. But death itself is not distinctly feared as long as it waits in the wings.

Even I, a very timorous person, might be much more afraid of present lightning than a liver calculated to lay me by one year hence. Or, for that matter, one month away.

A month is so great a span. One might write a novel, compose an enduring poem, have his heart broken or break that of some body else within much less time.

The Test of Sanity

BUT what is the test of sanity under the circumstances? Is the rational man the one who says, "I will sit down forthwith and get to work," or the fellow who answers, "Time enough for one terrific jamboree."

I often have wondered just how much posterity has to do with current conduct. My guess is that it enters rather slightly into most men's minds. Most of us are well aware that we can't be Shakespeare. We are not going to fret too much to be Bacon.

There are authors who are said to live who survive in the world only in a dim and academic way. You can put a stethoscope upon the cover of many a classic and find no heartbeat.

In Max Beerbohm's short story, "Enoch Soames," the poet sold his soul to the devil for the privilege of being projected into the British Museum 200 years hence in order to ascertain what men said about him when he was gone.

I'd make no such bargain, for I never had any patience in research work. I rate my soul much higher than a potential but most improbable footnote.

The Hope of a Good Press

THE only form of survival on earth which interests me is the newspaper obituary. I have a real curiosity to know whether I'd get as much as a stick outside my own paper. In all deadness I'd expect a good notice in my own.

Just the other day a well-known syndicate writer, erroneously was reported as having been killed in an automobile accident. He came down to his office the next day extremely irate. It wasn't the false report which annoyed him, but the fact that the shirital concerning his name and fame had been no more than 150 words long.

And so, if I had a month to live and \$50,000 in cash, of course—I doubt that I would decide to pay up my debts and get back in the poker game. I would not care to Haiti or play contract at 25 cents a point. Instead, I believe I'd lay in a stock of paper and a few carbons and set to work to do something. Not for posterity by a long shot. What do I care about them? We've never met.

I'd simply want to have something accomplished which might let me rate the morning after the sad event some small newspaper notice a little better than a one-line reading, "Ex-Dramatic Critic Exits."

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BY MARGARET E. BRUNER</