

The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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Member of United Press,
Scripps-Hardow News-
paper Enterprise Association, Newspaper
Information Service and Aut-
dit Bureau of Circulations.Owned and published daily
(except Sunday) by the In-
dianapolis Times Publishing
Co., 214-220 West Maryland
street, Indianapolis, Ind.
Price in Marion county, \$1
elsewhere, 3 cents—delivered by carrier, 12
cents a week. Mail subscription
rates in Indiana, \$3 a
year; outside of Indiana, \$5
cents a month.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 30, 1933

MR. BROUN, MEET MR. HULL

HEYWOOD BROUN, in his column on the resignation of Assistant Secretary of State Raymond Moley, says:

"Now certainly no national executive of any caliber willingly would choose Cordell Hull for any cabinet post. . . . I have never regarded Raymond Moley as an authentic whirlwind, but he certainly is a man of far more ability than Cordell Hull. After all, who isn't?"

Our disagreement with Mr. Broun's opinions are frequent and pass without comment. We are replying to the columnist in this instance not because of his opinion, but because we think he is wrong in his facts. The standards which we and Mr. Broun would fix for a cabinet officer, and particularly for a secretary of state, probably are similar.

Secretary Hull, with all his faults, is superior in intelligence and integrity to most of the secretaries of state since Mr. Broun can remember.

Indeed, Mr. Hull has two virtues which probably would commend him especially to Mr. Broun if the latter were familiar with his record. Mr. Hull is not on terms of intimacy with the international bankers and business interests which hitherto usually have dominated American foreign policy. Though not a radical, Mr. Hull has not taken orders from those special interests, as most of his recent predecessors have done.

Secretary Hull has another virtue which is not common in the Roosevelt or any other cabinet. He is not a yes-man. He had the courage, the conviction, and the ability to fight—virtually alone among Democratic politicians—for tariff reduction when Raskob and his party worshipped the Hooverian gods of protectionist prosperity. That is not the way a political hack operates.

At the London conference, Secretary Hull had sufficient courage to attack economic nationalism even to the point of holding apart from the new Roosevelt-Moley policy. He continues to oppose economic nationalism.

And the fact that Mr. Moley, rather than Mr. Hull, has resigned, is fairly strong evidence that the President is turning toward the Hull foreign policies.

Now, of course, Mr. Broun is free to agree or disagree with the Hull policies. But he is not free, if we understand the Broun code of sportsmanship, to hit below the belt.

When Mr. Broun implies that Secretary Hull is merely a political hack of no ability, we believe he is guilty of a foul—doubtless because he is unacquainted with the man and ignorant of the man's record.

Mr. Broun could have a good time, if he liked, discussing the inadequacy of Mr. Hull's old-fashioned brand of economic liberalism. But that's another matter, one which Mr. Broun, busy calling names, didn't bring up.

MILK AND BREAD

TO balance the lean years against the fat and to plan agriculture, Secretary Wallace announces that American wheat acreage will be reduced 15 per cent next year.

This is part of the new deal plan to raise farm purchasing power and bring order to a basic industry that heretofore has been operating on the basis of "rugged individualism" to the detriment of itself and the whole world.

The basis for world agreement on wheat production, wheat export and import has been laid at the London conference. No greater step in international co-operation has been taken in recent years.

Now, in line with that agreement, the American government, with the American farmer co-operating, is prepared to reduce acreage planted in wheat by nearly 10,000,000. If the plan works, if the international accord is fulfilled, this means that those who need bread in this country will have a better chance of getting it, for farm prosperity, especially wheat farm prosperity, helps national prosperity.

The secretary's announcement of his wheat plan coincides with the decision of a District of Columbia judge upholding the constitutionality of the agricultural adjustment act. The court, with congress, recognizes the national emergency in agriculture and on this basis, chiefly, approves the law that permits the government to do its utmost to meet the emergency.

The court decision upheld the right of the government to impose licenses upon milk dealers in the Chicago area.

In the agreements between processors of farm products and the right of the government to license these markets lies its ability to enforce its plans to increase farm purchasing power.

A HERO OF HEROES

FIRE CHIEF JOHN B. LONE of Kearney, N. J., is dead because he tried to keep a Christmas from being spoiled for a group of orphaned children.

The story goes back a long way—nearly six years, in fact.

On Christmas eve in 1927 a Kearney orphanage caught fire. The orphans were all saved, but after they had been rescued Chief Lone noticed that they stood around watching the flames, crying disconsolately.

"Why the tears?" he asked.

And he learned that all the Christmas toys for the youngsters were stored inside the building. Santa, it seems, had left them there, and he was due to come back and distribute them very shortly; now they were going to be burned up, and Santa would be so disappointed that he probably never would visit the Kearney orphanage again.

So Chief Lone—well, if you know firemen you don't need to be told, do you? He made a dozen trips into the burning building, coming out each time with his arms full of toys,

until he had saved the whole lot. Then he collapsed.

Mr. Kinsey thinks he is qualified to speak as an expert. He has been married nine times and is about to be married at Springfield, Mo., a tenth time—this time to wife No. 8 again.

Now that's all there is to the story. And it's not especially remarkable, because the woods are full of firemen who would have done precisely the same thing. But there is something about it that puts a lump in one's throat, just the same.

Every once in a while some perfectly ordinary human being comes along and does something which proves that the human race has a whole lot more nobility and splendor than most of us ever imagine.

Self-preservation may be the first law of nature, and selfishness may be the motive power for most of our actions—but a sweating fireman can toss his life into a burning building to keep a few ragged kids from having an unhappy Christmas, and can consider the achievement well worth the cost.

If you like to hunt for proofs that human beings can be, after all, only a little lower than the angels, you must chalk this stunt of Fire Chief John B. Lone up near the head of the list.

EDUCATED DETECTIVES

DR. RICHARD H. PAYNTER, psychologist of Long Island university, makes an appeal for college trained sleuths in the nation's police departments. Police efficiency and progress, he declares, depend upon thorough training in detective science.

Detective work is one kind of work which, in a way similar to engineering, ought to require scientific preparation. Too much fuss, however, is made over mere college training.

Colleges, by delaying entrance into active life, harm many a person while helping many another. Certainly an individual gifted with a fine detective sense would be wasting his time if he spent too long in academic halls.

But it seems that police departments far from inviting, place obstacles in the way of bright minds who naturally would take to crime detection. The foremost barriers are the low pay and the long period of night club swinging required, for detectives are drawn from the ranks of patrolmen.

Pennsylvania dispatch says man was injured seriously by bursting truck tire. Another argument against inflation?

We've just been waiting for some reformer to insist that the nudists should be covered by a blanket code.

California's governor refused to approve state income tax law, on ground it was "unsound in principle." No doubt Californians received this news with a great deal of interest.

In the opinion of most husbands, the man who "tells his wife all he knows" doesn't know very much.

Research experts at Ohio State university are trying to develop better chinaware. How about a self-washing dish for tired housewives?

A palmist seems to devote so little thought to his work—he always gives his opinions just off hand.

Scientist claims blonds are the most economical women. Probably it's because of the lighter overhead.

That leather-junged Illinois farm woman who won a "husband calling contest" at Chicago fair shouldn't be too proud of her laurels. Plenty of soft-voiced city women are experts when it comes really to "calling" a husband.

The clothing industry deserves a lot of sympathy. Just as it thought it had the depression licked, along came this nudist fad.

Judging by the experience of many farmers, the hardest thing to raise on a farm is money.

Even if this peak is not attained, but instead wheat prices are stabilized at a somewhat lower figure, and the dangerous surplus of grain removed, the wheat agreement will be about the only important accomplishment in international co-operation during the depression to date.

Upon the basis of this agreement, the Roosevelt administration now may go ahead with its program to reduce wheat production here, knowing that while it endeavors to plan United States agriculture, other nations will not dump millions of bushels of grain.

Generally, and when artificial pegs are not used, the United States price of wheat is set in the world market. Reduction of production here would have been in large part a useless gesture if other wheat-growing countries meanwhile increased their acreage.

Not the least important phase of this international agreement is that providing for a general scaling down of wheat tariffs when the bushel price is stabilized at about 63 cents gold (about 91 cents at present; exchange rates) over a four-month period.

A PRESIDENT'S POWER

A VIRGINIA coal mine owner, irritated because his employees insisted on joining unions—as they are entitled to do, under the industrial recovery act—is said to have declared angrily that "neither Franklin D. Roosevelt nor any one else can run my mine."

It isn't hard to understand the gentleman's state of mind; but some one ought to point out to him that he made a pretty broad statement which might, just conceivably, have to be taken back some day.

More than a quarter century ago there was a Roosevelt in the White House, and he came within an inch or so of demonstrating that the President can run any coal mine he pleases.

He was ready to march the United States army in and operate the mines himself, to break a strike deadlock; the operators, however, yielded, and he didn't have to.

Today's emergency is more serious than that of twenty-five years ago; and the present Roosevelt seems quite as ready to take drastic measures as the other one was.

BAN THE MACHINE GUN

THE New York legislature has passed a law putting the submachine gun, favorite weapon of gangland, under the ban.

This law makes it a felony for any person except a peace officer to possess such a gun. It provides that the presence of a machine gun in any dwelling or vehicle is prima facie evidence of guilt upon the part of the occupants.

Here is what seems to be a very excellent law, and it is hard to think of any good reason why every other state in the Union should not copy it at once.

The way in which sale and possession of murderous weapons like submachine guns—which can not conceivably be needed by any honest persons—has been permitted to go on unchecked is nothing less than astonishing.

A law like New York's, properly enforced, ought to put quite a crimp in underworld activities.

The question is, can we run them at the bottom?

EXPERT TESTIMONY?

MARRIAGE, according to Clyde Kinsey, is a very fine thing.

Mr. Kinsey thinks he is qualified to speak as an expert. He has been married nine times and is about to be married at Springfield, Mo., a tenth time—this time to wife No. 8 again.

Mr. Kinsey's case reminds us that all of us do a great deal of generalizing on insufficient evidence. Most of us who are married have been that way only once, but we all have our own opinions about marriage, anyhow.

Of course, the same word is capable of meaning different things to different people.

It is possible to hold the view that Mr. Kinsey is the one who doesn't know what he's talking about. We can imagine some couple celebrating a golden wedding anniversary who might take the view that Mr. Kinsey's views about marriage are quite worthless on the ground that in one sense of the word he had never been married at all. And they might be right.

A HOSPITAL'S MISTAKE

A MAN who was taken for emergency treatment at Lakewood hospital, Cleveland, was turned away without adequate care and died shortly afterward in jail from a skull fracture and brain concussion.

It is reported that the hospital attendants thought the man was drunk. They say they smelled liquor on his breath. Investigation is going forward to determine whether the man had had any drinks, before or after the accident in which he received his head injuries.

Whether he had anything to drink, and whether he actually was drunk, bears not at all on the question of the hospital's negligence. A drunken man is susceptible to serious injury no less than a sober man, and the examination should not be any less thorough in such a case.

Doctors probably make fewer mistakes at their business than the rest of us do at our business; but the consequences of their errors are far more serious.

At hospitals treating emergency cases, vigilance must correspond to responsibility.

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Not the least important phase of this international agreement is that providing for a general scaling down of wheat tariffs when the bushel price is stabilized at about 63 cents gold (about 91 cents at present; exchange rates) over a four-month period.

I am well aware that many people think that the plan works, if the international accord is fulfilled, this means that those who need bread in this country will have a better chance of getting it, for farm prosperity, especially wheat farm prosperity, helps national prosperity.

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In the agreements between processors of farm products and the right of the government to license these markets lies its ability to enforce its plans to increase farm purchasing power.

It strikes me that the cry for retrenchment, insofar as it throws people out of work and curtails legitimate activities is opposed to the basic idea of our National Recovery program.

This cry has little to do with honesty or efficiency, but concerns itself with a definite demand for reduction of taxes, even when it is perfectly obvious that such reduction will hurt rather than help, the employment situation.

As a general proposition, we are taking a very different attitude toward public business than toward private business. While we insist on expansion for the latter, particularly in all phases of local self-government.

When it comes to the federal government, we are more liberal.

This paradoxical attitude is one of confidence or lack of it. To a measurable extent, we have lost faith in local government, which is curious, since we obviously can exercise a greater voice in its conduct than in that of the federal government.

And here is what seems to be a very excellent law, and it is hard to think of any good reason why every other state in the Union should not copy it at once.

The way in which sale and possession of murderous weapons like submachine guns—which can not conceivably be needed by any honest persons—has been permitted to go on unchecked is nothing less than astonishing.

A law like New York's, properly enforced, ought to put quite a crimp in underworld activities.

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