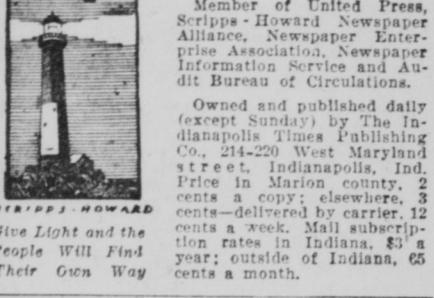


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SATURDAY, OCT. 28, 1933.

LAW AND POLITICS

PPOLITICIANS with cream puff heads and chocolate spines are responsible for the shocking demoralization of Indiana's agencies of law enforcement. And a heedless public is responsible for the politicians.

Prosecutor Herbert Wilson ably pointed out in Thursday's Times that he has not the necessary funds for paying traveling expenses of witnesses and policemen. He related how it was necessary for relatives of Lafayette Jackson, murdered grocer, to pay many of the expenses of the prosecution in order to convict the killers.

The Indianapolis police force is undermanned. Its members are driving ancient automobiles that can not compete with the speedy cars of the underworld.

The state police is made up of only fifty-eight men to cover ninety-two counties. Al Feeney, state public safety head, is up against the humiliating necessity of borrowing and begging equipment from every possible public and private source.

Indiana's regular authorities have had to call upon the national guard and private citizens to aid in cornering eight thugs.

There is something seriously wrong here—something that cuts deeper than the present situation.

Every one realizes that government costs must be lowered. They can be reduced without crippling law enforcement, which is the basic and outstanding function of government.

We have the spectacle of the city police rattling around the streets in "one hoss shays" and at the same time the park board allowing Coffin golf course to remain open at a loss. The same is true of the swimming pools, and a score of other municipal functions which are highly desirable, but not indispensable in times of financial emergency.

Coffin golf course lost \$4,000 last year. That sum would have purchased two swift automobiles which might have been the means of catching the convicts the night they visited Indianapolis.

Politicians are too timid to tell the public frankly that if it wants an up-to-date police department it can not at the same time have some of the other expensive luxuries which were added to government during the boom years. They are in deadly fear of the golfer's vote, the swimmer's vote, the social service extremist's vote.

So the politicians have temporized, tried to string along with every minority interest until they have made law and order subservient to ignorant and brutal criminals.

Politics has also entered the law enforcement situation from the patronage angle. Police positions are handed out as political plums. It is time for a general overhauling of the whole problem.

Put every policeman under civil service whether he is serving the state or city. Appoint him by competitive examination.

Build up the state police to at least 100 men with equipment as good as that of the criminals they must combat.

Provide prosecutors with adequate expense accounts to prepare cases and convict criminals.

Get the funds to do this by rigid economies in nonessential governmental functions.

Take law enforcement out of politics and politics out of law enforcement.

NRA AND THE COURTS

IT seems inconceivable," says James M. Beck, self-appointed defender of the Constitution and conservative Republican member of the house of representatives, "that the industrialists of America who have been accustomed to economic freedom will not challenge the validity of the recovery act."

So convinced is Mr. Beck that the act is unconstitutional and therefore malicious that he can not understand the failure of business to rush into the courts against it.

The fact remains that four months have gone by with the act under closest scrutiny from industry and not even the richest and most powerful business groups have invoked the law to fight it. The answer may be found in a statement made a few days ago by Walter C. Teagle, chairman of the industrial advisory board of NRA and president of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, to the effect that so far as he can learn, business is profiting under the recovery act far more than it is suffering from the necessity of increasing pay rolls and permitting labor to organize.

Mr. Beck sees NRA as involving "no question of economics or social philosophy" but only the strictly legal one of the powers of the federal government. It may be that his pitiful search for a business champion to rise and attack NRA's new charter for industrial self-government will be successful in spite of the evident delight of business in its freedom to organize, but those administering the recovery act do not fear such an attack if it is made.

Donald R. Richberg, general counsel of NRA, summed up the matter when he said:

"If my brethren of the bar will read again certain opinions of the supreme court they will find there written down that the supreme law of government, as of the individual, is the law of self-preservation. A government sworn to protect and to defend the Constitution can not permit that Constitution to be used as a shield for the enemies of constitutional government. The constitutional right of individual liberty can not be made a shield of anarchy. The constitutional right of private property can not be made a shield of tyranny and oppression."

Apparently Mr. Richberg has sound judicial support for this declaration. In test cases brought under the agricultural act in the past few months, the courts have invariably found

in favor of the act and have stressed Mr. Richberg's philosophy of the power of self-preservation.

If this were not enough, Counsel Richberg has other heavy artillery to bring up.

"There is no change of any provision of the Constitution attempted in this law," he points out.

"There exists no constitutional right to do anything which is forbidden by this law. There is no constitutional right to compete unfairly. If the Constitution protected the right of a few to profit in such manner at the expense of all the people, it would be a charter of anarchy and not a bulwark of law and order."

PAINLESS DEATH

THE German government, under Herr Hitler, proposes to legalize euthanasia, or the provision of a painless and peaceful death. In the preliminary memorandum it is proposed by the government that "it shall be made possible for physicians to end the tortures of incurable patients, upon request, in the interests of true humanity."

Such a proposal is by no means novel or unheard of. It has been recently discussed by Dr. Warren S. Thompson in his monograph "Population Trends in the United States." The present proposal in Germany seems to be safeguarded properly. No one can be put to death except upon the request of himself, or, if the patient no longer is able to express his own desires, upon the request of his nearest relative.

If properly enforced, this would insure against arbitrary action contrary to the personal wishes of those immediately concerned. Likewise, there is a proper assurance of careful scientific scrutiny. Before euthanasia can be invoked and applied, not only the attending physician but two official experts appointed by the state must certify as to the incurable character of the disorder and recommend the infliction of painless death.

If carried out in an honest and straightforward fashion, this measure is one which can most heartily be endorsed by every educated person of humane sentiments. It would put an end to a vast volume of unnecessary human suffering which lies beyond the reach of the physician. The most pathetic cases of human misery are those in which the victims linger on helplessly for weeks, months or years after it has become absolutely certain that death is the only possible outcome.

It is nothing short of scandalous that such an untold volume of human suffering has been made necessary by theological and other considerations which have prolonged the pain and misery of hopelessly incurable types of human beings. It is probably no exaggeration to state that such a law, fairly and efficiently administered, might eliminate almost as much unnecessary human anguish as is averted through the curative labors of physicians dealing with patients for whom there is a good prospect of recovery.

The opposition of some religious groups in Germany and elsewhere to such a measure need not concern us greatly. The old religious resistance to such a law as this has been based upon the notion that God alone gives life and, hence, He alone can take life. This argument does not stand up in the light of modern biological science. Human life is produced as a result of certain bio-chemical processes which are participated in by man alone.

If man uses his discretion as to when he will bring life into existence, he certainly has a full moral and social right to decide when life shall be ended. So far as I can see this whole question is a purely secular and sociological one, and the arguments appear to me to be wholly in favor of the measure.

At the same time, one may be legitimately suspicious of any such proposal when it comes from Hitlerite Germany. The sterilization measure which has preceded it was equally admirable on paper, but has been abused greatly in administration. It has been applied to Jews, radicals and other opponents of the Nazi as well as to the incurables and defectives for whom the law theoretically was enacted.

If the proposed law to put to death incurable types become no more than an alibi under which Hitler can dispose of his enemies, it will be only one more proof of the vicious character of many policies now dominant in Germany.

ART FOR THE CRITICS

ONE of the pleasantest things about the people of the United States is the fact that in a time like the present, when history is being made by wholesalers and signs and portents are crossing the sky so fast that they tread on one another's heels, they can devote themselves whole-heartedly to a little song about a big bad wolf.

The song itself is of the simplest. It points no moral, and, if it adorns a tale, the tale is nothing but a moving picture version of an old nursery fable.

But somehow everybody is going for it, whistling it, humming it, grinning fondly over the memory of a couple of pink porkers dancing across a colored celluloid landscape.

There is, in fact, only one disturbing thought in connection with it: the thought that the highbrow critics will "discover" it, and will write erudite articles for the rough-paper reviews telling about the "significance" of these cartoon comedies, discussing their artistic value, and using a lot of four-bit words to say what the ordinary movie-goer already knows—that these things are a lot of fun, and clever as the dickens.

That sort of thing happens every so often. Ring Lardner was acclaimed by the highbrow critics as a genius when he died. But the great American public discovered him long before the serious critics so much as knew his name; they discovered him when he was writing for the newspapers and the nickel magazines, and they knew that he was uncommonly good without waiting to be told.

It was the same with Charlie Chaplin. He had sent millions of ordinary folk into convulsions of laughter for years before the graybeards began to write soulfully about his "great art" and his "cosmic significance."

A great artist? Assuredly; but the man in the street, who knows nothing of art, was the first one to find it out.

So it was, too, with newspaper comic strips. Several years ago a critics wrote a book to point out that the comic strips were not only funny, but offered a valuable sidelight on

American life and constituted a true expression of the American spirit.

But what of it? Newspaper readers knew it already.

Presently, then, we shall be hearing fine things about three little pigs and the big bad wolf. Meanwhile—well, why do the critics lag behind the public in their appreciation of what really is good?

LOOKING TOWARD PROSPERITY

A WASHINGTON correspondent points out that one of the developments of the business revival has been a great increase in the trade of public laundries and cleaning and pressing establishments.

There is a very neat little moral in that bit of news.

The years of depression, evidently, failed to destroy the self-respect of the man who had to go without work. For it looks as if his first thought, on getting a new job, was to fix up his personal appearance.

He might go about looking seedy when he didn't have any money, but he had not lost that regard for his looks which is part of the ordinary mortal's self-respect.

And as soon as money was coming in regularly once more, he hurried to spruce up and make himself look like a responsible, steadily employed citizen again.

PUNCTURING THE MYTH

IF continuing revelations of the shady methods of some of the country's largest banks accomplish nothing more, they at least have punctured the myth that Wall Street is wise enough to rule the nation. Even worse for the country than the financial racketeering of big bankers was the dangerous public belief that these men had ability to do more than make money for themselves.

Mr. Wiggin and his Chase National bank and affiliates seem to have competed with Mr. Mitchell and the National City group in kicking public considerations out the window.

Mr. Morgan and Mr. Kahn had their preferred lists of stock gratuities for influential men in high places.

These particular gentlemen of high-blinding finance were not distinguished by originality. They were more or less typical of an American era. They were the natural products of our dog-eat-dog system of success. The truth is that in the late period of so-called prosperity a great many people—big and little, high and low—lived by the principle:

"Anything goes, if you can get away with it."

The mere fact that Mr. Wiggin has been shoved out of his high office and now has given up his big pension is now awfully important. Nor is the pleasing fact that Mr. Aldrich, Mr. Wiggin's successor in the Rockefeller bank, is shocked and desirous of reform, particularly important.

Our financial system—as revealed by the crash and subsequent exposures—is too vast, complicated and rotten to permit complete reform from within. The public stake is too great to trust such reform wholly to those interests which already have betrayed the public confidence.

Mr. Aldrich and other interested heralds of a new day in banking may be of help in assisting government officials to prepare the laws and the enforcement machinery for a safe and honest financial system. But it is the government, and not private interests, that the public hereafter will hold responsible for keeping the money temples clean.

In banking of the future — as in other business—there will be both good men and bad. Either the government will see to it that those who handle other people's money are not crooks or gamblers, or the government, as a last resort, will become the people's banker.

Mr. Albert H. Wiggin has asked the Chase National bank to cancel his \$100,000 a year pension. But it might have been worth the 100 grand, anyway, to keep Mr. Wiggin re-

lating his story to the public.

It's all right to follow Mae West's advice and hold on to your man, but don't do it while he's driving.

M. E. Tracy Says:

BAD as the philosophy of curtailed production may be from an economic standpoint, it is worse from a psychological standpoint. When the government pays farmers to raise less, why should any class of people do more?

Beyond that, the theory that we have reached a point where we must wall ourselves in and live off each other represents a vision of hopelessness.

The trouble with our national recovery program is and has been a negative philosophy.

There was merit in sharing work in order to make fairer distribution of earning power, but there is no merit in the idea that shorter hours and curtailed production are necessary on the theory that we have reached the limits of consumption.

While consumption is constantly substituting new commodities for old, and while obsolescent lines of endeavor may be credited justly with overproduction because the demand for their output is dying away, there is not and there never has been overproduction in a general sense.

THE people of this world never have been able to obtain a superabundance of the good things of life. From the dawn of consciousness, a vast majority of people have lived and died without enjoying a just share of the comforts, conveniences and advantages which the age afforded.

The fact that there was no market for a certain product and that people who had it could not sell it because an improved substitute had been discovered, should not be interpreted as meaning anything but a minor phase of progress. We have a serious overproduction of coal, but oil and natural gas furnish the explanation.

We have an overproduction of oil for the time being, because of the insane wildcatting that has been permitted. We have an overproduction of wheat, which largely is attributable to a collapse of foreign trade on the one hand, and to a domestic craze for avoiding fat on the other.

IN spite of this apparent overproduction, millions of our own people will suffer from lack of warmth this winter, while a vastly greater number will suffer more acutely from the lack in other lands.

Under such circumstances, is it good sense to risk the increase of this suffering by a policy of subsidized destruction? Can we hope to overcome the manifest inconsistency of glutted markets on the one hand and starvation on the other by reducing our visible supplies or potential output?

Do not the fundamental principles of progress as well as the recorded experiences of mankind suggest that the task before us and all other nations is to seek and encourage greater production?

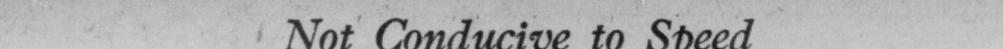
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Not Conducive to Speed



It Seems to Me

BY HEYWOOD BROUN

NEW YORK, Oct. 28.—The taxi driver asked me how I was going to vote. I told him "La Guardia."

He expressed a certain doubt as to the wisdom of this decision, and I refrained from carrying on the argument at the moment, as we did not miss a truck and a mail wagon by very much.

But as soon as the lights were against us, I brought up the subject again. "What have you got against La Guardia?" I wanted to know.

"He's all right, I guess" said the driver, "but he's running for this fusion business. That's the reformers. I don't want to see any reformers. This business is tough now without somebody telling people they've got to be home at 1 o'clock in the morning, with their lights out."

"Draw up to the curb," I