

The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the
 People Will Find
 Their Own Way

SATURDAY, NOV. 11, 1933.

TAX STRIP MINING

INDIANA is sustaining heavy losses in tax revenue because of strip mining. The gigantic steam shovels of such miners are eating away huge sums which should be applied either for public improvements or for the reduction of the general tax burden.

The situation is peculiar. If a man builds a factory and then expands it for greater profit a certain proportion of that profit reverts to the state. His tax assessments increase because he has improved his plant.

Precisely the reverse is true of the strip miner. The bigger his steam shovels the greater his production and the more his profit, but the nature of his operation reduces tax assessments upon the land which he exploits for personal gain. After he has taken out the shale, coal and clay the property is nothing but a mass of spoil banks and ditches. It has no taxable value.

The remedy for this inequitable situation is easy. Place an occupation tax on the strip miner. Mine companies will argue that this would be an unwarranted interference of government in private business. They will contend that they are being deprived of property without due process of law.

Such arguments are without force. Long ago the United States supreme court decided, in the Oliver Mining Company vs. Lord case, that a state might levy an occupation tax upon the mining of iron ore equal to 6 per cent of the value of the ore produced during the previous year.

None can question the right of Indiana to make special regulations and levy special taxes whenever the natural resources of the state are concerned.

Sound reasoning does not permit what is in effect a subsidy to strip mining. The public interest should forbid the wanton destruction of tax values by any industry unless that industry makes a commensurate return for the damage it does to the taxpayers as a whole.

A MISCONCEPTION

WHEN Stanley Baldwin, former prime minister to England, declared the other day that the American Constitution has broken down and that Americans today are "practically under a dictatorship," he expressed a misconception which his distance from the scene of action makes quite understandable.

What is much less easy to understand is the fact that there are some people on this side of the water who share in that misconception.

In part, this misconception represents a genuine bewilderment over the puzzling things that have happened since last March. In part, also, it stands for one of those "synthetic dead cats" which General Hugh S. Johnson has been talking about. Either way, it deserves a little straight talk.

If we have a dictatorship today, it only can be said that it is by all odds one of the queerest and most unrecognizable of dictatorships ever erected anywhere.

Every single thing that is being done today is being done as a result of the vote of the people of America, either directly or through their representatives.

The President was put into office by popular vote. The powers he exercises were given him by vote of congress. The whole framework of emergency legislation which we call the recovery program came through congress.

And that is only half of it. A new congress takes office in January. It can, if it chooses, repeal every paragraph of this legislation. If it disapproves of what the executive has been doing, it can render him impotent.

It has the power to throw him out of office if he steps over the boundary of the executive's proper sphere.

On top of that, it is an obvious fact that success of the new deal depends first, last and all the time on popular support. The minute the public at large disapproves of it, the cards go back into the deck.

A program which appeals for the voluntary co-operation of millions of people is not the sort of thing a dictator can shove down a country's throat.

Why is all this worth saying, since it is so obvious? Because we are beginning to hear this talk of a "dictatorship" more and more frequently of late, and because most of it is a cloak of selfish opposition, which prefers not to appear in its proper guise.

This is not to say that no one can oppose the recovery program. It simply means that any such opposition must rest on the right foundation.

There are plenty of reasons for criticizing the administration's acts—but this dictatorship business is not one of them.

IN THE PUBLIC CAUSE

MADAME ERNESTINE SCHUMANN-HEINK fell ill in San Diego the other day, and the news story which told about it added that "she was near exhaustion from work in the NRA campaign."

And you might know, somehow, that if this gallant old lady suffered from overwork it would be because she had been exerting herself in a public cause. That's the kind of person Mme. Schumann-Heink is.

Americans still can remember how she threw herself into war work. Up and down the land she went, using her magnificent voice and her marvelous personality to weld public sentiment into a loyal unit.

This year she has been doing the same sort of thing—giving of herself, without stint, at the call of her country.

That she may have the speediest sort of recovery will be the hope of every American. This land holds few finer or more lovable characters than Mme. Schumann-Heink.

Government by Amateurs

An Editorial

EVERY thoughtful man makes periodic appraisals of his business. So should each thinking citizen pause from time to time and estimate the assets and liabilities of his government. The administration of Governor Paul V. McNutt nearly has rounded out its first year. The present is an appropriate time for a dispassionate balancing of the ledger.

To do this properly it is necessary to expunge from the record testimony from two sources. The evidence is wholly unreliable because of extreme self-interest. One source is the disappointed job seeker. His—or her—bellowings have made the Indiana air hideous ever since spring. The other source is the defeated candidate.

Now let us turn calmly to the debit side of the McNutt balance sheet:

First comes beer control through a system of importers who are semi-political in character. It is bad because a public matter is being carried on with a secrecy usually available only to private corporations. It is impossible for an impartial observer to determine where public administration leaves off and private enterprise begins in this beer matter. Every transaction of the importers should be open to public scrutiny.

Second, there is the handling of patronage. The McNutt regime was not placed in office by Democrats. It was elected by liberals of all parties. Jobs should go to those best qualified to hold them, regardless of political affiliations. Instead it is evident that certain of the Governor's advisers, notably Pleas Greenlee, have an obsession to build a powerful political machine.

This is utterly stupid. The outstanding reason for the election of Governor McNutt was that the voters were tired of a political machine, tired of the Leslies, the Jacksons, the Watsons, the Stephensons and all the other professional vote-snarers. People wanted a new deal in the state. They believed they were gentlemen amateurs to run Indiana. Powerful, selfish party machines are in extremely bad odor just now. Remember what happened to Tammany.

Third, there is the American Legion. It is no secret that legionnaires have received preference from the Governor. The legion is an excellent and public-spirited organization with many important duties, but among these is not that of operating the state of Indiana.

THE MONTEVIDEO CONFERENCE

SECRETARY OF STATE HULL and the American delegation leaving today for the Montevideo Pan-American conference probably will have very little, if any, smooth sailing. World conditions, which contributed to the failure of the London economic conference last spring, also may help to wreck this one.

Under the circumstances it would have been better to postpone the Montevideo conference a second time. But this is easier said than done, when so many nations are involved and while face-saving considerations impress some governments as important.

The President, however, is trying to escape some of the rocks on which the London conference piled up. At that meeting it was known in advance that no agreement was possible on tariff and monetary questions, but it was hoped that a harmless though impressive formula might be worked out which would satisfy public opinion and disguise the fundamental disputes.

Instead, the conference cracked-up in a very harmful manner with all of the powers, including our government, jointly responsible for making a bad international situation worse.

Now the same tariff and currency stabilization issues which caused the trouble at London are also on the Montevideo program. But, having learned from the London experience, the President is endeavoring to eliminate these questions from the agenda—which doubtless is the next best thing to postponing the conference altogether. As the President explains it:

"Internal economies in nearly every country concerned have made necessary certain temporary policies regarding a number of important phases of economic and trade conditions which obviously will render impracticable at this time useful conclusions as to some items on the old agenda."

He lists specifically "such matters as currency stabilization, uniform import prohibitions, permanent customs duties and the like."

This newspaper agrees with the large number of persons here and in other countries who believe that international monetary stabilization and tariff reduction are essential to world recovery. But it would be absurd to attempt such stabilization until the United States and Great Britain, the two chief nations, have reached the points in their internal economy where joint action is possible. Therefore it is both honest and expedient to postpone the monetary and tariff questions at Montevideo.

In addition to the communications problem, the most important issues remaining for the Pan-American conference will relate to peace and intervention. The United States will be embarrassed seriously by its non-recognition policy in Cuba, the unrest in Puerto Rico, and the protest against our dictatorship in Haiti.

Perhaps during the three weeks before the opening of the conference the United States government can remove these barriers to Pan-American co-operation and peace.

AFTER SPANKING TAMMANY

TO Fiorella La Guardia comes a chance for public service such as is given to few Americans.

The misrule of Tammany Hall in New York has been notorious for many years; equally notorious, too, has been the apathy of New York voters in the face of corruption and woeful incompetence.

Now, at last, the metropolis has had a new deal. La Guardia goes into office with a clear mandate to make the kind of clean-up the city has needed for a generation. Not for many years has any man had such a chance to make a record as an honest and capable public official.

That the eyes of the nation will be on this fiery little Italian goes without saying. He has been given a tremendous opportunity. All America will watch sympathetically and hopefully to see what he does with it.

Even though England is to offer us only \$7,500,000 as a token payment on her war debt, we understand the token will be taken.

We do not believe that the legion seeks to do so, but Governor McNutt hurts himself and that fine organization by conduct which permits this impression to get abroad.

These, we think, are the outstanding liabilities in any appraisal of the present state administration. Note that they are all exactly the sort of mistakes that a political amateur might be expected to make. They are blunders which may prove to be serious, but which do not demonstrate dishonorable intent. Poor judgment and not poor ethics caused them.

Consider the assets in this appraisal:

1. A complete absence for ten months of serious scandals such as marred previous administrations. There have been rumors of graft but we have been unable to find the slightest proof.

2. Reorganization of the state government. Formerly the mechanics of government were cumbersome and expensive with many duplications of function. Now its structure is workable.

3. The return of the public service commission to the people. For years Indiana has been under the heel of the power trust because of an unwholesome alliance between the utilities and the politicians. That situation has been changed and if you don't believe it has, ask any utility man. The state now has a chance for reasonable rates and more industries.

4. An honest and vigorous campaign to eliminate stream pollution, which has grown to such proportions that most of the waters of the state are open sewers.

5. A liberal policy regarding labor. The working man should not forget how, for years, he was bedeviled with injunction and hustled about by police.

6. A saving to the taxpayers in the first nine months of 1933 of \$9,427,321.89 and a return to local taxing units during the same period of \$3,000,000 more than last year.

These are real assets. They bespeak a sound, constructive point of view. They will pay dividends not only to present but to future generations.

Take a sharp pencil, forget political claptrap and balance the McNutt books. Does the result show that the present administration is a solvent, going concern? We believe it does. We think, however, that it can only continue to succeed if the Governor and his associates jealously guard their amateur standing as politicians.

MONEY TO FARMERS

THE first government checks to be paid out under the AAA wheat allotment plan went to Monona county, Iowa, and resulted in the paying of \$52,000 to 485 farmers.

Some of the farmers promptly deposited their money in the bank—one man deposited \$1,052—and others hurried about nearby towns paying bills, settling taxes and mortgages, and buying all sorts of things that they needed.

And a person is moved to wonder just how popular the farm strike will be in that particular county hereafter.

Whatever may be the faults of the AAA program and it seems to have plenty, heaven knows, it hardly can fail to have a good effect if it pumps money into very many counties on this scale.

In relieving the dire economic pressure that brought about the farm strike, it might prove of incalculable value.

After Insull has seen all the ancient ruins in Greece, America would like to have him look over the ruins he left here.

Now that the prohibition bars have been let down, get ready to see the liquor bars put up.

France is so happy about prohibition repeal in the United States, she might even pay us a few dollars on her war debt.

Many a political candidate would like to abolish the day after election.

M. E. Tracy Says:

PRESENTATION of the Swope plan at this time is of little significance, except as it reveals the ultimate choice which NRA will compel the American people to make if continued long enough.

Nation-wide organization of industry, such as is visualized under present plans, presumes virtually absolute control by one of three agencies—labor, employers, or the government.

Control of industry by employers through a nation-wide association, or even a group of affiliated associations, would force a similar set-up on the part of labor. In the same way, control of industry by labor through anything like a nation-wide association would force industry to organize.

It requires no straining of the imagination to realize that such a condition would develop a cleavage between employers and employees such as we have never known in this country, and such as our entire system of government was designed to avoid. It would divide the people into two great camps, with an inevitable struggle for mastery, and with farmers holding the balance of power.

THE only alternative to this state of affairs would be government control, and it is very doubtful if government control, providing it went far enough to be effective, would be one whit less repugnant to American tradition.

Obviously, we have reached a point where a definite decision would be made as to whether NRA represents a temporary measure of relief, or a preliminary step to permanent changes in our form of government and social order.

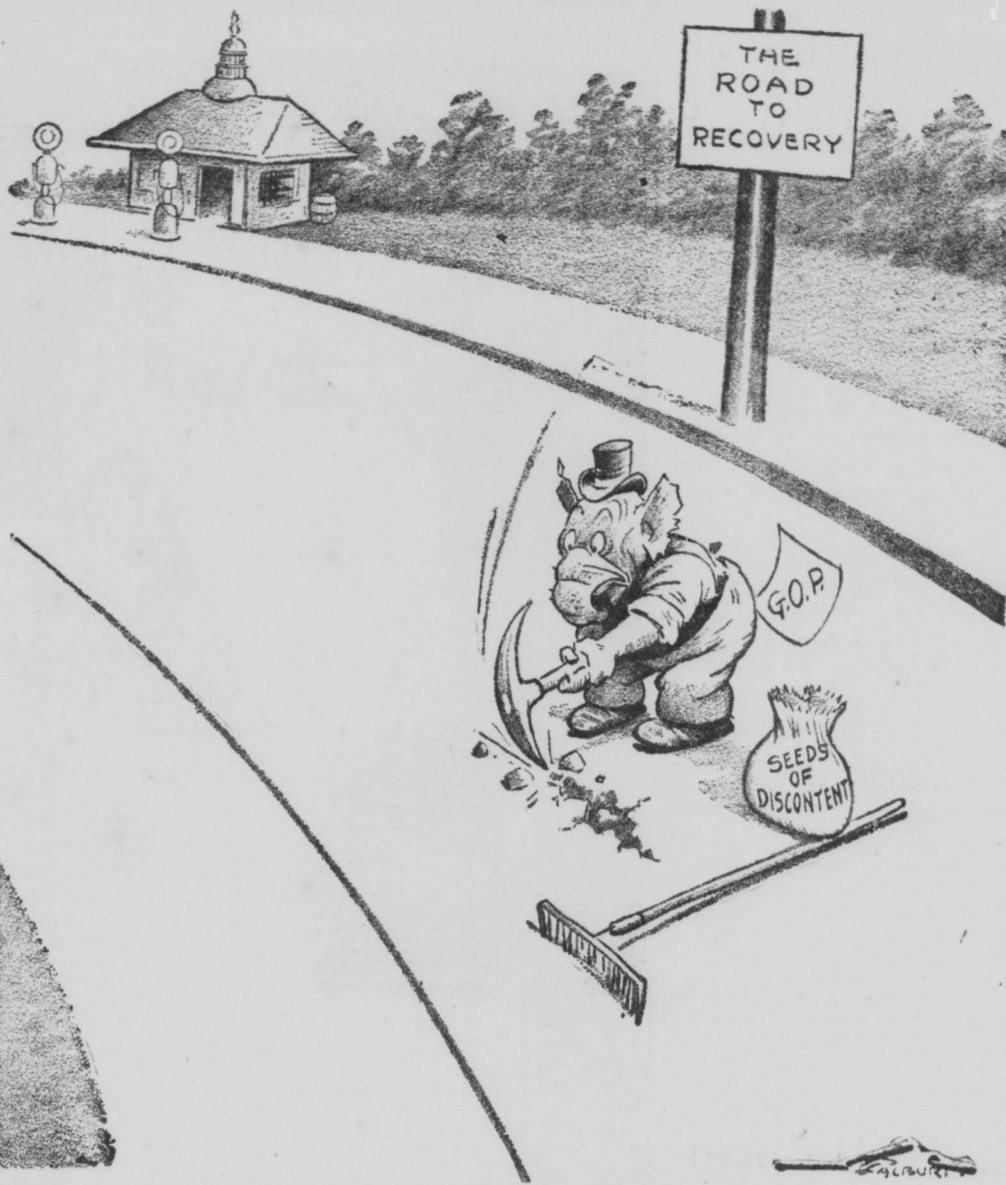
In this connection, it is only fair to assume that NRA contains certain factors of reform which might well be made permanent, and which could easily be adapted to our traditional business and political methods, but it can not be made permanent as a whole without leading us into virtual revolution, without destroying that liberty of action and independence of thought which have played a major part in our national life thus far.

THE case of Henry Ford furnishes a vivid illustration of how those in authority under such a system as NRA can deduce the right to exercise powers and privileges of reform. I hold no brief for Henry Ford or the attitude which he adopted, but I do hold a very strong opinion that the constitutional provision which protects him and every other citizen from being injured by public authority except by due process of law can not be set aside without endangering our whole system of government.

If Mr. Ford had violated any law and the government knew it, he should have been prosecuted. If he had not violated any law, neither the government nor any official in the government should have threatened him with a boycott.

Our forefathers feared too much governmental authority for that very reason.

Still Trying to Grow a Little Grass in It!



:: 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 An Unemployed

In answer to J. L. H.'s message, I, too, wonder where our taxpayers' league is and why it won't stop these farmers and small town people from taking our work. We taxpayers should make a survey of these factories and note the hundreds who do not live in town and don't even spend their money here. Let us quote an editorial from the Washington Post:

Mr. Seidensticker, the new postmaster, says he has no jobs for any one. Has he forgotten so soon that Mr. Van Nuys and a few others got him his job? Come on now, Mr. Seidensticker, and show you have a heart.

I wonder why it is when a good position is open, it is given to some one who is employed. What chance have the unemployed?

By H. E. Thibout

Since congress is about to take up the veterans question again, why does not the Indianapolis Times plainly state whether or not it believes the soldiers who fought on the front should be considered separately from the others.

Let us quote an editorial from the New York Press: Roosevelt's home state, saying—"Roosevelt has overlooked a distinction between combat and home service soldiers or at least he has not given it the proper attention that it merits."

How many lives of combat soldiers were wrecked or damaged in service overseas never can be known. No reasoning person who knows anything or saw any of the horrors of the European war possibly can doubt that there are unseen wounds in the mind and nerves of those who have been physically disabled in defending their country are to be treated like any other needy person, he is approaching a point where he is in danger of doing a grave injustice to the combat soldier.

The President's is not the final word—it can not be. There are many destitute and hungry who want to the war in good health and returned to broken lives, though they bear no physical evidence of cruel and devastating wounds.

It is a plain fact that the man who served his country in actual conflict abroad is entitled to consideration above the man who did not. They are not equals in what the nation owes them and no policy, political or otherwise, can make them so.

The combat soldier or "trench rat" seems now to be the forgotten

Progress Blocked

By a Times Subscriber.

Is it any wonder there is so much crime going on when we are in the midst of it? Is it less criminal for the bandits of today to enter banks and kidnap persons than it is for these different organizations to steal by not paying taxes, putting it on the home owners' shoulders, causing them to lose their homes or depriving them of what rightfully belongs to them in order to meet these taxes, while these colleges, club houses, lodge buildings, hotels and churches which are able to pay taxes go free? You have to be well fixed to enter college and the majority of these other places.

It is no wonder things are as they are today while such robbery as this is going on. All the NRA signs in the world can not benefit until we get some NRA in the hearts of these people. Until then we can not progress.

man. Why doesn't the Indianapolis Times, which has a reputation for fairness, take up the cause for those defenseless mud hens?

Editor's Note—The Times, more than a year ago forcefully pointed out the grave injustices suffered by men actually hurt in action. It showed that at any time the average monthly compensation for disability received in battle was more than the disability received in the United States paid a monthly average of \$18.57. Of all the nations in the world, Italy is the only one that makes a distinction for compensation purposes, between the soldier injured in action and the veteran who becomes disabled back of the lines. This newspaper will continue as in the past to have no special interest in those injured by their war service.

By Fairplay

I work for my stew with the broom and the mop. And I fill all the beds just to pay for my flop. Sometimes I'm a native, sometimes I'm a pup. Who finds here a refuge secure from the cop.

Here at this place, I am not a "favored one." I am not a member of the "staff," and have no desire to be. The oftentimes, onerous duties of these gentlemen require of their services more hours each day than I care to give for the difference in rations, which is negligible. An ex-convict, released from Indiana state prison to face an economic situation more disheartening than the penal servitude which I left, I have no special love for the "bosses." I have no special interest in the contrary, the puny and asinine efforts of society in establishing the charitable institutions which I despise.

I do, however, possess and always shall hold a sense of honor, justice and fairness. Prejudiced and unreliable reports to the contrary notwithstanding, I am by contact compelled to the private conclusion and impelled to the open confession that these splendid qualities are here predominant in both management and staff.

Daily Thought

Ye are the children of the Lord your God; ye shall not serve yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead.—Deuteronomy, 14:1.

EXCESS of grief for the deceased is madness; for it is an injury to the living, and the dead know it not.—Xenophon.

Saliva Retention Is Important

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEN

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

OUTSIDE the fact that it is a dangerous disease spreader, spitting on floors, on streets, or in other public places wastes a very useful secretion of the human body.

Therefore, for your own health's sake, don't spit. Don't lick postage stamps, if there is any other way of moistening them. And don't moisten your thumb to turn the leaves of pages or to count paper money.

Saliva, which is spit, or sputum, as the doctors call it, really is one of the most important gland products in your body. Your digestion depends, to a great extent, on the free flow of this substance.

The fluid is secreted by glands in the tissues around the mouth. There are three salivary glands on each side.

One is known as the parotid gland, which lies just in front of the ear; another is the submaxillary gland, located under the jaw; and the third is the sublingual gland placed under the tongue.

From each of these glands, tiny tubes pass into the mouth carrying the saliva.

Saliva is an odorless, opalescent fluid which contains a very small amount of salts and some enzymes useful in digestion. Mucin, which is in saliva, gives it a rosy character and has the advantages of being a protective coating for tissues of the gastrointestinal tract.

The most important constituent of saliva is a ferment which has the power of digesting starches and changing them into sugars.

The amount of saliva varies at different times. You know how your mouth waters when you smell, taste, or see appetizing food. Your mouth also becomes dry when you are frightened greatly, when you are overheated or under the influence of various emotional changes.

The parched throat associated with embarrassment or anxiety is explained by the fact that the effects of these emotions on the nerves stop the flow of saliva.

In addition to its value in digesting starchy foods, saliva helps digestion in other ways. By moistening food, it reduces it to a softness which permits it to be swallowed. Moreover, the mucin present in the saliva helps to lubricate the passages down which the food must pass.

Dry foods are not particularly appetizing to the taste and, therefore, food properly moistened reaches the nerves of taste and helps in this way to create appetite.

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Questions and Answers

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