

## The Indianapolis Times

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People Will Find  
Their Own Way

TUESDAY, NOV. 28, 1933.

## THE SAN JOSE LYNCHING

THE San Jose double lynching is widely condoned. Governor Ralph, the chief law officer of California, announces that he will pardon the lynchers if any attempt is made to punish them. Governor Ralph speaks, of course, not as a responsible public official, but as a particularly low order of politician. He senses that his appeal to the mob spirit is popular.

There is no denying that Governor Ralph's attitude is representative of a rather large block of public opinion not only in San Jose, but elsewhere in the nation. Even many persons who usually abhor the crime of lynching are saying now, "They had it coming to them."

Obviously kidnaping provokes a blind rage greater than almost any other crime. And when the kidnaping turns into flendish murder, the brutality of the criminal fires the mob brutality. In this case also there doubtless was something of the spirit of the old California vigilantes. Though there was no reason to fear that these criminals would escape legal punishment, the kidnaping throughout the country has inspired a terrorist mood on the part of the public which demands vengeance.

Until very recently the law was not catching and punishing kidnapers. Our legal system was too inefficient or corrupt, or both. That now is being remedied, especially by the federal government. But we still are paying in mob spirit for the old breakdown of justice.

So it is easy enough to explain, in one way and another, the tendency of many persons to condone the San Jose lynching. But this newspaper can not condone it.

The reasons against lynching go much deeper than the conventional arguments against barbarity.

This is a time of vast unrest. Otherwise law-abiding citizens are taking law into their own hands. Farmers are using violence against officers and judges. Strikers are being shot down. The country is on edge. For many months whole communities and classes have been under nervous tension almost to the point of breaking. And now we enter another winter of mass suffering.

In such an explosive situation for Governor Ralph or any other sworn officer of the law to feed the mob spirit is worse than criminal. The mob is madness. The mob is no respecter of persons or institutions. Those who raise up the mob must be prepared for the destruction of the nation.

Fortunately the federal government and most state governments today are more intelligent than Governor Ralph.

## PAYING FOR A 'CRIME'

A MAN walked into a hardware store in Sunbury, Pa., recently and told the storekeeper that he would like to settle up for a very old debt.

Thirty-one years ago, when the man was a small boy, he wanted a sled. Lacking the money to buy it, he calmly had taken one from the store; a sled valued at 75 cents.

Ever since then, this had preyed on his mind, so finally he went in to settle up—and, after some discussion, relieved his conscience by paying the storekeeper \$2.25.

It is hard to read this story without wishing for more facts about it. Did the youngster who took the sled thirty-one years ago get as much fun out of it as he had hoped? Did the pangs of conscience that afflicted him afterward counterbalance the ache of unsatisfied desire he would have felt if he had not taken it?

A youngster who wants a sled and can't get one is a pathetic spectacle. This long-forgotten "crime" somehow is one that is very easy to understand.

## OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

HERE'S some plain talking going on about our commercial relations with the rest of the world, about our tariff, our place in the family of nations henceforth.

There's a new and important tariff and trade plan evidently in the making; and no more important problem confronts the Roosevelt administration.

Frontright nationalism doesn't seem so popular now as it once was. Take the words of Commerce Secretary Roper, for instance:

"We have learned in these times that we can not plan from a national viewpoint solely. Any well-balanced program for our ultimate future must comprehend a national and international study. We must sooner or later learn, both nationally and internationally, that agencies and conditions which disrupt or embarrass the flow of trade and commerce must be better controlled and regulated in the interest of all concerned, both at home and abroad."

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace spoke in more detail. "Before we go all the way toward nationalism," he said, "it might be wise to consider the extent to which we can restore foreign purchasing power by systematic efforts to lower our tariffs and negotiate reciprocal trade agreements."

And then, swinging at the tariff log-rollers, Mr. Wallace added:

"A truly scientific readjustment of our tariff policy would involve the careful examination of every product produced in the United States or imported, and the determination of just which of our monopolistic or inefficient industries we are willing to expose to real foreign competition. This problem should be approached not from the standpoint of Democrats or Republicans but from the point of view of a long-time national plan which we are willing to follow for at least twenty or thirty years. Obviously, the doctrine of differences in cost of production at home and

abroad has little to do with working out this program in a sound way.

The problem, in case we do not care to keep fifty million acres of crop land out of use either by processing tax or by government purchase, is to increase foreign purchasing power by vastly greater imports of foreign goods. In determining which goods to accept, we must be willing to sacrifice a great many inefficient industries even though they are run by our friends, unless, of course, they are gravely needed in time of war."

"The great question," the secretary said, "is where we shall find the courage and the tenacity that will be required to take, and to stick to, either the international path, the national path, or to a planned path between the two, for long and perhaps trying years of readjustment."

Mr. Roper and Mr. Wallace are talking sound sense on this subject, not merely from the standpoint of the government but from the standpoint of business and agriculture, whose interests they represent in the government.

## SIX DOLLARS A WEEK

NO business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country," said Franklin D. Roosevelt the day he signed the industrial recovery act. He added:

"By 'business' I mean the whole of commerce as well as the whole of industry; by workers I mean all workers—the white collar class as well as the men in overalls; and by living wages I mean more than a bare subsistence level—I mean the wages of decent living."

That was a credo which put a glow of gratitude and hope into men's hearts.

But today the recovery administration has before it a code for the laundry industry which provides a minimum wage of 14 cents an hour for workers in the south. A woman working the full forty-five hours permitted her by the code would earn just \$6.30 a week at this rate. If she did not miss an hour's work all year she would receive \$327 for that year, a record impossible to achieve.

Most of those who will receive this wage are Negro women, but there is nothing in President Roosevelt's pledge of decent living to indicate that he intended it for white workers only.

Six dollars and thirty cents a week is not a decent living wage in the south or any other part of the country. Those who are opposing it argue logically that higher wages, even if they mean slightly higher charges, will not ruin the laundry business.

For the load of debts is simply too great to be borne. It is easy to find good reasons for disapproving the way in which Washington is trying to reduce it; but in listing those reasons we are bound to suggest some other way of accomplishing the same end. And it seems reasonable to insist that the "other way" has to be one that the people would tolerate.

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And if it did, the women thrown out of jobs probably could earn more taking in washing in their homes.

Indorsement of a \$6.30 minimum wage by NRA would shake the country's belief in the recovery program.

## HISTORY REVIVED

WHILE verbal warfare continues to rage about the moot points of the recovery program, it is refreshing to look the other direction for a moment and notice that 3,500 members of the civilian conservation corps are going to be at work this winter restoring some of the nation's most famous battlefields.

Four groups of men will work at Yorktown, where Continental and French troops squeezed independence out of Cornwallis' helpless army. Two more groups will work at Morristown, N. J., another historic spot in the Revolutionary war.

Six hundred will work at Chickamauga, scene of some of the Civil war's bloodiest fighting; others will be assigned to Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Shiloh, Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania and Chancellorsville.

In each case the workers will start by clearing away underbrush, vegetation, and so on, that hide the outlines of trenches, gun emplacements, and the like. Old fortifications will be cleaned up, trails will be laid to make access to all parts of the field easy, roadsides will be cleared away and landscaped.

Just enough actual restoration will be done to enable each battlefield to tell its own story to the visitor.

When the work is finished, a small staff of experts will be installed at each battlefield. Little effort will be made to give visitors guides; instead, maps and leaflets will be prepared so that the visitor can find his own way about and piece the historic story together for himself.

The whole project seems to be one of the most intelligent moves that could be made.

These battlefields of ours, made sacred by the blood that has been shed on them and by the high principles that were at stake there, are national shrines of the greatest value. There is no better way to get the "feel" of national history than to visit one or another of these places.

A few hours at Gettysburg, for instance, are worth whole volumes on the Civil war; a visit to Lexington and Concord, or to Ticonderoga, makes the Revolution seem real as nothing else can.

From such visits comes understanding; and from understanding grows a hardy and unshakable patriotism.

By restoring the battlefields and enabling us as visitors to reconstruct in our imaginations the tragic and heroic moments of our history, the government is offering us something of the very highest value.

## AN NRA TESTIMONIAL

THE American Iron and Steel Institute's report on conditions in the steel industry in the last few months constitutes one of the most striking testimonials imaginable to the value of the NRA.

This testimonial gets its force not merely from the fact that both the number of men employed and the amount paid out in wages have risen, but from the fact that these increases have taken place during a period in which the actual volume of business handled by the industry was shrinking.

On Oct. 14 the number of men employed was 28 per cent above the number employed on June 17, while the pay roll had risen by 32 per cent. But the industry as a whole was operating at 44 per cent of capacity in October, whereas it was operating at 47 per cent of capacity in June.

Here is a most graphic example of the good the NRA program can do under adverse circumstances. It is a bright omen for the future.

Debating contest judge says small schools produce the best orators. The larger schools are too busy perfecting the football players.

Things are so arranged that if we fail to produce the wealth of this country once every five years, or turn over the volume of money in circulation ten, or a dozen times each year, we can't make the dollar at its last March level, or with the debt load unrelieved.

## INFLATION CLOUDS

STATEMENTS and arguments about the government's monetary policy are arising to heaven these days like a drifting fog about a mountain peak; and the peak which they will—if you care to continue this metaphor—is that enormous mass of debts which we ran up back in the boom days.

That pile of debts, in other words, is, after all, the central fact in the whole matter. The long series of claims and counter-claims about the ins and outs of inflation, managed currencies and the like simply hangs over it, sometimes revealing it and sometimes obscuring it.

Up to a certain point, the thing is fairly simple.

Back in the boom times, when something that looked very much like money grew on every bush, we went deeply into debt. Farmers went into debt, business houses went into debt, industrial concerns went into debt. A flood of paper covered the land, like a lava flow from a volcano.

This flood eventually congealed to form the mountain mentioned above. Meanwhile, money became scarcer. It ceased to grow on bushes; for a lot of people it ceased to grow at all. We found it necessary to conduct our business and personal affairs with fewer dollars than we had had before.

But the mountain of debt remained unchanged. It stands today, its crags gloomy and bleak, with chill blizzards swirling about them. And in one way or another we must whittle that mountain down to its size before we can stand up on our hind legs again.

What is being attempted at Washington today may look altogether too much like an effort to move mountains by faith alone to suit practical men. But the job has to be done, and if we disapprove of the way that is being tried, it is up to us to suggest another way.

Suppose we do not like the idea of reducing the mass of debt by monkeying with the currency. What do we want? A general scaling down of all fixed charges, from freight rates to utilities rates, coupled with a straight horizontal slash in all mortgages, all bonds, and all commercial loans? Now is the time to speak up.

For the load of debts is simply too great to be borne. It is easy to find good reasons for disapproving the way in which Washington is trying to reduce it; but in listing those reasons we are bound to suggest some other way of accomplishing the same end. And it seems reasonable to insist that the "other way" has to be one that the people would tolerate.

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