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ROY W. HOWARD President
TALCOTT POWELL Editor
EARL D. BAKER Business Manager

Phone-Riley 5551

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MUST REFORM THEMSELVES

FOUR out of five have it." This slogan may be applied with some justice to the personnel of the newly appointed teacher training survey committee for the Indiana state schools.

The "it" in this case means "educationists," our own word, meaning intensive training in teaching teachers to teach.

Purpose of the survey, as announced by the state superintendents, is to determine to what extent this business of educating educators has gotten out of bounds.

It has been charged that the curriculum in the two state normal schools and also at Purdue and Indiana universities has become cluttered up with "nonsense courses" in educational technique.

When Floyd I. McMurray, new state superintendent, decided to learn the truth about the matter the survey committee idea was used.

Personnel of the survey committee was selected by the teacher-training committee of the state board of education. These selections were approved by the full board.

Out of the seven named, four are "professional educationists," and at least one has been instrumental in inaugurating the courses which are causing the problem.

This is Dean Henry L. Smith of the Indiana university school of education.

When effort was made to reduce teacher training hours required for a high school teacher's certificate, Dean Smith was first in the field to defend the present setup. He sent circular letters to members of his educational fraternity to rally support for the status quo.

The nineteen-hour requirement still remains, despite the pica of some 250 professors in various colleges of the state to reduce it to twelve. They would shift the time from teaching to teach to learning something about the subject taught.

Other "educationists" on the survey committee are President Ralph N. Tiey of Indiana State teachers' college, Terre Haute; Dr. George L. Brandenburg, head of the Purdue department of education, and Dr. Earl Bowmen, director of student teaching at De Pauw.

Mr. Tiey, until last month, was superintendent of the Bloomington schools and taught summer school classes in school administration at Indiana university under Dean Smith.

Criticism already has arisen regarding the committee on the grounds that the "no nonsense" viewpoint is not represented sufficiently.

The question now arises, will the committee be courageous enough to admit errors, if they are its own?

Will it recommend reducing courses in technique to bare essentials, thus giving time for prospective teachers to learn something to teach?

TRUE PATRIOTISM

POLITICAL graft could not exist if no one would pay to receive special privileges from corrupt public officials. Big business has frequently yielded to temptation to place a big return with some governmental department.

That is why the conduct of the Marmon-Herrington Company in the present scandal over war department truck contracts is so reprehensible.

The story runs that a couple of smooth gentlemen offered to have truck specifications rigged so that the Marmon concern could place a big truck order. A motor car company can not afford to turn down big orders in these days.

But did the Marmon officers talk business with these alleged fixers?

They did not. Instead they went to Washington and talked to the department of justice.

Indianapolis well may be proud of these men: Colonel A. W. Herrington, president of Marmon; Daniel C. Gossbrenner and Bert Dingley. Colonel Herrington and Mr. Gossbrenner are veterans and members of the reserve corps. Mr. Dingley could not serve in the World War because of physical disability, but he had an important part in the development of the Liberty motor.

These three gentlemen had too much respect for the United States army, for good government and for their own business integrity to become involved in a shady deal.

They acted the part of true patriots even though it cost them money to do so.

We feel certain that the financial loss only will be temporary. Men with such a high sense of public duty and honor must be producing a mighty fine product in their factory—one which the public at large will be quick to recognize and purchase.

THE STOCK MARKET BILL

THE stock exchange regulation bill, which this newspaper and others have been demanding, at last has been introduced by the administration. Detailed study of this measure may reveal defects, and certainly later experience will produce future amendments. But our initial impression of the bill is that it is an excellent compromise between the hands-off school and the strait-jacket advocates.

The administration's original intention of delaying this legislation until next session was an obvious mistake, which is now happily to be corrected. With the experience of the unregulated boomlet of last summer, and subsequent stock rigging, fresh in our minds—not to mention the prospects of another boom this spring—it is essential that the law be put on the statute books promptly. Under ordinary circumstances it might be wise to await completion of the senate's banking and stock market investigation, which probably will require

another year, but this emergency calls for emergency legislation.

Two different approaches were suggested. One was for congress to pass detailed legislation outlawing improper practices, and leave it to regular law agencies to enforce. The other was to give a special federal agency wide discretionary power to fix and enforce regulatory measures. The latter approach was suggested last week by the President's committee of experts. At that time we expressed the opinion that the advantages of the two methods could be combined; that the law specifically should outlaw clear abuses, while leaving border line cases to the federal trade commission with wide discretionary power. In general, this line has been followed in the administration bill introduced yesterday.

Thus, while pools and certain forms of manipulation are outlawed by the bill, other devices such as short selling and specialists' activities are to be controlled by the commission's regulations. On the difficult subject of margins there would be a flexible standard with loans up to 80 per cent of the lowest price of the security during the preceding three years or up to 40 per cent of the current market price, with further discretionary power in the hands of the commission.

This illustrates the effort of the administration authors of the bill to make it as flexible as possible to meet regulatory requirements of the most erratic business in the country at a very critical time.

Drastic administration action on profiteering by aviation and ship companies with army and navy contracts, and even worse practices by army motor contractors, also is needed to steady the public's nerves.

In announcing cancellation of all domestic air mail contracts the President has ordered the postmaster-general to operate necessary routes with army pilots, planes, equipment and funds. Even as a temporary measure, in some cases this may run for five years.

Whether the government later will revert to the private subsidy system under stricter federal regulation, or will extend this temporary method into permanent government operation, is a question on which the administration is open-minded. If the investigations reveal more muck in the private operation system and if experience shows that government operation is successful, there will be no public incentive to return to the now discredited subsidy system.

AIRMAIL GOES THROUGH

WHEN anything is as rotten as the air mail subsidy business the remedy is to dump it down the sewer. That is what President Roosevelt has done. It required courage. Patronage and congressional feelings are involved. The biggest financial interests in the country are involved. But the President has done the job that had to be done.

For awhile it was hoped that only a few companies were mixed up in the obvious favoritism, and the alleged collusion or fraud. But as the revelations continued it appeared that many if not most of the lines were infected.

The administration had to move in a wide front. It was necessary not only to restore honest dealings in government contracts and clean out an essential public service. It also was necessary for the administration to restore public confidence. The scandals flowing out of Washington during the last fortnight have been injuring the morale of the country at a very critical time.

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EATING AND WORKING

PEOPLE who have to work for a living—which, in one way or another, includes just about all of us—will be interested in the recent statement of Dr. N. I. Krasnogowski, famous Russian physician, that the human brain needs to loaf for about an hour after one eats a meal.

To be sure, most people who have enjoyed the feeling of mental lassitude that follows a good dinner always have suspected this. But the Russian doctor made laboratory tests to prove this point.

Nerve reactions are definitely slower after one has eaten, and usually about one hour elapses before they attain normal speed again.

And the worker profitably might take heed of this fact when he goes to lunch. If the brain loafes after a meal, it logically follows that it loafes more after a heavy meal than after a light one.

The wage-earner who does anything resembling brain work will find his efficiency badly impaired if he stuffs a big feed into himself every day at the noon hour.

Liberal Viewpoint

By DR. HARRY ELMER BARNES

ONE should extend hearty congratulations to former Secretary Ogden Mills for his enlightenment and courage in recommending a modification of the high protective tariff in that at Topeka recently. Among other things he said:

"I prefer to turn my attention to the possibilities, among others, of recovering lost markets and to the stimulation of increased consumption, not only through the restoration of purchasing power at home, but through the promotion of a greater prosperity and a higher standard of living the world over."

"Granted that the difficulties are enormous and that much time and patience will be required, this is even more true of the self-contained program."

"We will have to abandon the present policy of isolation and intense nationalism and to some extent modify recent tariff practices."

We will give Mr. Mills the benefit of the doubt and assume that this represents his real belief. If so, our regard for political campaign as a means of public education is not increased by this fact.

Mr. Mills opened the campaign for the re-election of Mr. Hoover by a speech at Faneuil Hall in Boston on July 11, 1932. At this time he talked a different language. Vigorously assailing Mr. Roosevelt's proposals for liberalizing the tariff, he said:

"I don't know any subject in American political life that is responsible for more buncome than the tariff controversy. Let this be said in favor of the Republican party: It has stood steadfastly and still stands by the protective principle, and can without violation of policy apply this principle to natural resources."

It is also interesting in this connection to remember the speech of Mr. Mills' chief in the autumn of 1932 when he predicted that blades of grass would rear their ugly heads through the pavements of New York City if we tinkered with the sacred principles of protection and national self-sufficiency.

A little thing can bring it up. In 1789 the French government was unable to balance its budget. Out of the ensuing deliberations came confusion, and in the confusion the tocsin was sounded; and the mob swept up from nowhere, to tear down the Bastille, roll a king's head in the dirt, turn raw democracy loose on a startled world, set off a ferment that is still working—and to subside, finally, only before Napoleon's famous whiff of grapeshot.

It rose again in 1830, and again in 1848, and again in 1871. It has fought with paving stones and pikes, with clubs and with rifles. It has ruled all of France and it has set Europe to shuddering. Because of it the guillotine has clanked, and soldiers have killed one another in Spain and Italy and on the plains before Moscow. Forever repressed, it is forever arising anew.

In the broad Place de la Concorde, where the mob of 1934 battled the troops, Louis XVI lost his head—and Danton, and Marie Antoinette and Charlotte Corday, and many another. And as the barricades went up the other day, and all of France rocked with turmoil, the specter of the unaccountable once more leered at Europe.

The mob of Paris was up again!

A professor suggests a new capital for the United States to be a city midway on the Mississippi. But what good would it do the people, as soon as all the congressmen find out about it?

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