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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 1934

FOR THE AGED
INCREASE in the maximum old age pension from \$15 to \$25 and reduction of the eligible age limit from 70 to 65 are to be considered this week by the Indiana senate of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, meeting in Evansville.
Members of the Eagles lodges have blazed a trail across the nation in their successful battle to provide for the needy and destitute aged. No section of the long route to success was rougher than the road traveled in Indiana. For years Indiana members of the lodge attempted passage of the pension law in many sessions of the legislature. And for many years each effort was met with rebuff.
The maximum pension, as provided in the law finally enacted by the 1933 Democratic legislature, now is \$15. That, remember, is the top figure. Some persons will receive as little as \$2 a month, depending on the amounts appropriated by county councilmen and commissioners.

A campaign for an increased maximum figure would be well founded. The day must come in Indiana and other states when money will not be so hard to get and old people of that new era will stand to benefit.

The Times always has supported the old age pension law, believing it is the inherent right of every worthy citizen to be able to look forward to old age without the haunting fear of the poorhouse or poverty on the streets of a great city.

We heard a story the other day that went like this:

An old couple, during the height of the prosperity era, invested capital in an internationally-known firm. The firm collapsed, leaving them without funds.

When the husband became ill, he and his wife went west, hoping to remain indefinitely with relatives and hoping regained health might answer their problem of poverty.

But they did not figure that the relatives, too, might be in dire straits. The man's illness became worse and physicians said he would die in a short time.

He wanted to stay with his wife, but lack of finances brought him back to Indiana, 2,000 miles away from her. He found that his relatives neither could afford to bury him nor to send his body back to Indiana.

So, to save them the increased debt and to remove himself as a burden to his aged wife, he made his way back to Indiana where a family burial plot will receive him soon.

He has told his friends:

"I am going to die. I couldn't afford to die away from home so I came back to Indiana."

That is a pitiful story. Some may not be as extreme but there are many with the same tragic basis.

In cases like these, old age pensions probably would save lives. At least the guarantee of funds would give any person who had served his or her community properly, the hope of peace in later years.

That the nation needs a guarantee for the aged was stressed last week by President Roosevelt in his outline for a greater new deal.

"... I am looking for a sound means which I can recommend to provide at once for security against several of the great disturbing factors of life—especially those which relate to unemployment and old age," he said.

Coming from the man who has battled with his people through a period of terrific stress, this surely is an approval that can not be ignored.

It will be well for Indiana legislators to think now about better provisions for the aged. The Eagles will demand additional aid and their pleas should be heeded carefully by the legislature of 1935.

PROBATION'S GAINS

REDUCTION of inmates in Indiana penal institutions and reduction of the cost of penal affairs administration are forecast under the new state probation department's functions by no less an authority than Charles L. Chute, New York executive director of the National Probation Association.

If those forecasts prove true, no greater advancement ever has been made in Indiana penal activities.

Probation found one of its earliest followers in James A. Collins, former judge of the Marion county criminal court. Mr. Collins, in his many years on the bench, was convinced that probation served chiefly to preserve the citizenry from the stigma of prison life and also saved the state money.

Naturally with the reduction of inmates, the cost of prison and reformatory administration will drop. There can be no other answer. But far more important than that is the possibility that many young men and women, who might spend years in prison for a first and minor offense, may have the opportunity to make something of themselves.

The community suffers when a first offender is given a long term for a minor crime and finds that his mind is occupied more seriously with continuing to thumb his nose at the law than in attempting to become a decent, law-abiding citizen.

Former Judge Collins found some cases which turned out badly. The majority, however, were successful, he discovered.

Probation always has been a great theory. If, when it operates in Indiana, it will save people and money, no greater reward can be reaped from any social measure.

HONORING JEFFERSON

WASHINGTON is full of statues and monuments, some animate, some inanimate.

Now Representative John J. Boylan is pretty excited about something that every Washingtonian has known for years—that

Mr. Minton's Nomination

AN EDITORIAL

THE selection of Sherman Minton as the Democratic candidate for the United States senate is thoroughly sound. He is the strongest man his party could have selected to defeat Arthur Robinson. He is in thorough sympathy with the new deal. He will be a credit to Indiana.

Mr. Minton goes before the voters with an intensely practical record of accomplishment. Even the worst enemies of Governor McNutt's administration admit that his policies on public utilities have been excellent.

During Republican administrations the cost of electricity steadily went up. During the brief period in which Governor McNutt has been in office they have come down. The Republican state platform tacitly indorses the McNutt utility policies by its failure to include any mention of them in its platform.

To put it baldly—the users of electricity in this state have been saved about \$4,000,000 in annual rates during the last eighteen months.

As public counselor before the public service commission Mr. Minton has been largely responsible for those savings. On this basis alone he earned the senatorial nomination from his party.

But Mr. Minton's qualifications go beyond this. He is not a man of great wealth. He knows what it is to have to scratch for a living. Yet, clever lawyer that he is, he never has permitted himself to become entangled with the forces of special privilege.

Unlike many other members of his profession he has not sold out his legal talents to the highest bidder. He may be depended upon by the people of this state to look out for their interests at large rather than the interests of any small, self-seeking groups.

Mr. Minton is young, without being inexperienced, liberal without being radical, sympathetic to the needs of the ordinary man without being mawkishly sentimental.

He is not the conventional type of politician. He finds it extremely difficult to kiss babies and slap backs to get votes. He apparently thinks that the old school type of campaigning is outmoded. He would far rather saw wood than pump wind. Yet, withal, he is easy and approachable.

It is unfortunate, we think, that the Marion county delegation at the convention failed to go along with him when it was obvious that they could not nominate Mayor Sullivan, their own candidate. There is no doubt that Mayor Sullivan would have made an excellent senator, but when it was obvious the party was not going to accept him, his backers should not have acted like spoiled schoolboys.

After all, the American system of government is based upon party responsibility. Responsibility is impossible without leadership and discipline. Marion county leaders should remember that they are merely cogs—important ones, perhaps—but cogs in a state-wide organization.

Yesterday's convention decisively settled where leadership of Indiana Democracy lay. Governor McNutt emerged as the general. His power was challenged and he won. He now has the power and with it goes the responsibility.

We believe that Mr. Minton, who is the Governor's candidate, truly represents the things which the American people have declared they want. His opponent, Senator Arthur Robinson, is, we think, a perfect example of all that the people have repudiated. The choice for Indiana is obvious.

OIL UNION CONTRACT

SIGNING of an agreement between Harry F. Sinclair's big oil companies and the new A. F. of L. industrial union known as the Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers, is a step toward labor peace.

Here, for the first time, a major oil concern promises to deal with its workers' union in a contractual relation as an equal. Aside from the coal miners' contracts this one is among the first to carry out the spirit of NRA's Section 7-B, encouraging mutual agreements, on a nation-wide scale. Unlike them it does not, however, provide for the closed shop.

The improved wage and working conditions provided for in the agreement are important, but not so important as the peace machinery it sets up.

There are, doubtless, troubles ahead for the new union. It has grown in one year from 3,000 to an estimated 90,000 membership. There may be jurisdictional and other disputes. But the agreement is in the direction of orderly labor relations.

The astronomer who discovered the planet Pluto has taken a bride. No sooner does a man start star-gazing than he finds a woman beside him.

Funny how the same people who object to brain trusts in Washington would yell if there were a lack of any in their own businesses.

Finland has paid in full again, on its debt to the United States. But it has hopes of becoming a first-class nation, too, some day.

Capital Capers

BY GEORGE ABELL

TALLER than the average American and quite amazingly tall for a Japanese is President Konohe, powerful president of the house of peers of Japan, who lunched the other afternoon at the White House as the guest of President Roosevelt.

The prince has had small opportunity to wear anything except formal clothes since his arrival. A big dinner Thursday evening at the embassy—a luncheon Friday—more dinners—and a reception at the embassy yesterday—these are a few of the events in his honor.

His grace appeared at the White House luncheon smilingly radiant and towering above Japanese Ambassador Saito in a silk hat which added eight inches to his height.

It was a stag luncheon, with Prince Konohe in the place of honor, beaming at President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull, amid an array of pink roses, pink delphinium and ferns.

PRINCE KONOHE brought his "brain trust" with him to Washington. In his wake as he stepped off the train came a little, round gentleman (as diminutive as the prince is tall). He was introduced as Professor Royama, instructor at the Imperial university in Tokyo, a student of American politics and a close friend of Konohe.

There is also an interpreter, Mr. Tomohiko Ushiba, but sometimes Prince Konohe manages to answer questions in English without help either from Professor Royama or Ushiba. He speaks English—not fluently, but sufficiently well.

Two more friends and a valet complete the retinue.

AT the station to meet his grace were Ambassador Saito, the Japanese embassy staff, newspaper men, and photographers. The first thing one noted was his surprising height. The second was his geniality.

He answered all questions. What is his favorite sport? Golf, of course. His teeth flashed in responsive smile. He loves golf. He has played it everywhere. He hopes to be able to play some here.

Konohe's son is even a better player than his father. He's so good in fact that this summer he enters the intercollegiate tournament at Greenwich. In the fall he enters Princeton.

"Why are you here?" was the first question fired at Konohe as he detrained.

His teeth flashed. He replied (speaking very slowly and precisely):

"I am here to make a few official friends unofficially."

'NOW MAYBE BABY WILL GET SHOES!'



The Message Center

[I wholly disapprove of what you say and will defend to the death your right to say it—Voltaire.]

Urges Justice for Reformers

By Hiram Lakey
Letters condemning reformers have appeared in The Message Center. This abhorrence of moralists deserves attention. The significance of these letters lies in the fact that their scorn and sarcasm is representative of our American attitude of contempt for reformers.

To reply that men who speak the truth and condemn evil are always unpopular is not the just or adequate answer which these letters deserve. Probably, the lovers of goodness can deal most intelligently with this cynicism by the use of neglected sympathy and honesty. For example, just how much am I to blame for the just odium surrounding the word reformer? How greatly has my bigotry, intolerance, fanaticism, prejudice and hypocrisy added to this hatred of moralists?

Can I see both sides of a question? For example, can I appreciate the grace, music, rhythm, beauty and gaiety of dancing, or is my mind too much cluttered than the minds of dancers that I can only see bodies in contact? But with your mind as pure as that of an angel, how can you realize the dangers that dancing holds for passionate young people? Would you make an ideal reformer to guide you? Are both eyes on one side of our heads?

Editor's Note:—The home referred to is operated by the transient bureau. These men, transients, are given food and lodgings with 50 cents a week for spending money, and are given light work to keep them occupied, state officials said. They explained that the work done by the transients is work for which no appropriation has been or would be made, and that the improvements otherwise would not be made.

SUGGESTS FENCES AROUND GARDENS
By J. L.
Why don't owners of gardens put fences around their prize vegetables and stop squawking about dogs running through them?

It is evident that G. R. R. is no great fancier of canine, who occupy the position of "man's best friend." Perhaps if the bearer of these initials would stop worrying about his or her garden long enough to enjoy the love and faithfulness of a dog, he or she might have a different idea.

I advocate following the advice of a subscriber, namely to put a pan of water in the back yard and thus eliminate the mad dog and the dog catcher.

CAPITALISTIC PRESS GIVEN LAMBASTING
By Jack Dolan
As a subscriber to your paper I would like space to take issue with an editorial of June 5 stating a group of Communists booted a lone Civil War veteran in a Memorial day parade.

Whatever else we can accuse the capitalist press of, we must hand it to you for your consistency in inconsistencies. We might accept this as fact if we had not seen the press forced to back up on a million lies it told about Communist Russia and compelled to admit today it is the best governed country of all time.

The millions of starving humanity must get a great kick out of reading the articles of your faithful army of high powered columnists who are assigned to the task of mingling with aristocracy, forced to travel, attend socials and feasts of all kinds, sports of every description, and frequently compelled to indulge in whoopee parties all to prove to the innocent world that all would be well if it were not for the Communists.

Men so abysmally ignorant of American psychology can never convert many Americans," the editorial stated. They also are ignorant enough to believe the people of this country are not poor because the country is poor, or that it does not take twelve years to determine the result of an experiment; that the hundreds of millions of dollars appropriated for so-called relief projects are being consumed in the form of nice salaries for the chosen few.

That has a strong odor of politics and the discarded factory workers are not getting it. They believe the housing proposition alone would keep everybody busy for a generation if all were as comfortably housed as editors; and if editors were sincere, officials could not be corrupt.

TRAFFIC SYSTEM OF CITY CONDEMNED
By Clarence K. Throck
As one who, in the normal course of business and social pursuits, finds it necessary to drive an automobile on city streets, may I venture to inquire whose fiendish ingenuity is behind the system of traffic signals in the city of Indianapolis?

In most of the larger metropolitan centers of the country, it has been realized that the best safeguard against jammed thoroughfares is a steady flow of traffic.

Here it seems that the greatest ambition of the city fathers is not to expedite traffic, but insure its remaining forever bogged in a mire of motors on some street.

You come to a stop for a red light and after a lengthy pause it shifts and you proceed to the next crossing where the green light turns to red before you have shifted into high gear after your preceding stop. And so it goes. Why not some type of stagger system or co-ordinated traffic light system?

ANOTHER FOE OF NUDISM

By Times Reader.
To "Merely Intelligent":
"And, behold, God made for Adam and his wife coats of skins and clothed them." Genesis 3:21.

God is all intelligent, not merely so, and if He saw fit to clothe man, even if man was created in His image, don't you think He and all wise purpose in it and knew what He was doing?

It profits us to follow God in His acts rather than follow our own ways, which lead to sin, or do you cast God and His way behind your back?

Man after his fall in the Garden of Eden, God clothed, and we'd better stay clothed.

The eighteenth chapter of Leviticus deals with uncovering nakedness and God declared it was wickedness and all wickedness will be punished as God's word will stand forever, and we'd better take heed to it.

Jesus, with the purest of minds and who knew no sin, wore clothing while here on earth and was seen, still wearing a garment, after He arose from the dead. Read Revelations 1:13. He is the pattern for us all and following Him we can't go wrong.

HE'S SKINNY AND OPPOSES NUDISM

By Anglo-Saxon
After reading the letter of "Merely Intelligent" in The Message Center of June 9, I wish to say the letter should have been signed "Merely Dumb."

Those who wish to run around in the nude should do so in the privacy of their homes or the old family bath tub.

Plenty of fun for them with no harm to public morals. I don't want to run around in the raw myself for I am too skinny and I am very certain that I don't believe in any of my female relatives appearing a la mother Eve.

Those who believe in nudism should buy a one-way ticket to the Sandwich Islands.

MY BOOKS

BY EFFIE L. WORKMAN

They quietly stand Side by side, in a row. Dressed in various colored gowns; Red and blue, yellow and green. Here and there, a dignified brown.

They never speak Unless I ask. And then—what tales they tell. You would never believe that the yellow one Could weave a mystery spell.

If my mood is low, One dressed in red Seems to slip into my hands And before I know it, my spirit is free, Soaring high over distant lands.

The brown can relate A story of love. They bring hot tears to your eyes. They are all such understanding friends. In silence, their wisdom lies.

Dressed in gay array, They patiently wait. Side by side upon the shelf. These books of mine, to which I turn When I grow weary of "myself."