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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 1934.

DIAMONDS IN TRADE

DIAMONDS certainly trade hands in this day and age.

The other day we read how the parents of Miss Irene Gillespie, prominent in New York social affairs, had returned a \$100,000 diamond ring to none other than John Jacob Astor.

Yesterday we read that Mrs. Adolph Zukor, wife of the film magnate, had more than \$87,000 in jewelry stolen from her in a Chicago hotel.

Those of us in Indianapolis who probably don't realize what a \$100,000 diamond, or even \$87,000 worth of jewelry looks like, get a kick out of these quick turnovers. It looks as though the diamond trading business is on the upturn.

THE PALE PROCESSION

THE other day New York state did to death in its electric chair four men for the punishment of one murder. Massachusetts is about to electrocute three youthful and probably weak-minded murderers of a policeman. In every state, except eight that have abolished the death penalty, the pale procession continues its march toward gallows, chair or gas house under justice's strange illusion that it can stamp out private by public killings.

As William Green of the A. F. of L. points out, this is a long retreat from an adequate labor disputes law which the President has been advocating for several months. But it is a necessary retreat because months of congressional delay have brought the country into a state of strife in steel and other industries and there is no time left in which to debate and pass adequate legislation. In these closing days of the session a small minority in congress can prevent passage of such a law by filibustering.

So the choice now is not a whole loaf or even a half. It is a small slice or nothing. The President has chosen the small slice.

Whether he can get even that small slice depends on the intelligence of the Republicans. They, apparently, are divided. Some of them would like to defeat the mild joint resolution by amending it to death.

That, in our judgment, would be a political blunder for the Republicans. If anything is clear in this situation it is that the vast majority of voters who will go to the polls next autumn want industrial peace preserved. They look to the President to help preserve that peace. If congress refuses to give the President the minimum authority for this purpose, the voters are not going to blame the President; they are going to hold congress responsible. And they should.

If the Republicans are intelligent they will get it through their heads that the voters consider this issue above politics.

THE SLENDER THREAD

IN Nanking a hapless Japanese vice-consul, for reasons unknown or for no reason at all, disappears.

Japan decides the chip has been knocked off her shoulder. The cables hum with peremptory Japanese demands that China return the vice-consul unharmed.

Japanese tanks rumble menacingly in the streets of Shanghai. Japanese warships steam up the Yangtze. Japanese diplomats discuss indemnities and apologies.

Then, on a hillside near Nanking, a Chinese coolie discovers the unfortunate Japanese vice-consul wandering among the tombs of the Ming emperors and the mausoleum of Sun Yat-Sen, contemplating suicide.

Thus a great international crisis ends abruptly, and the sun of peace shines again on the Orient.

What would have happened if the vice-consul had not been found? What would have happened had he cut his own throat?

Would Japan then have moved in? Peace in the Orient hangs by a slender thread.

JOB INSURANCE

THE social insurance committee of the Indiana state conference on social work has approved a tentative draft of a compulsory Indiana insurance law.

That appears to be a step in the right direction and one which the Indiana legislature will be asked to approve finally in 1935.

The bill, as now written, would give the states of employment insurance to any one more than 16 whose annual pay is less than \$2,000.

The bill provides for those who most need aid. A youth under 16 who makes \$2,000 a year has no reason for not saving some of his funds, but the married man with a family who has worked year after year for less than \$2,000 and then finds himself in dire straits also will find that he has had but little opportunity to set aside something for days of ill luck.

The bill, according to the committee, "can provide a buffer to the onset of depression unemployment and it would continue throughout the depression to give insurance relief to a large percentage of the unemployed. The provision of a buffer to cyclical unemployment is one of the important functions of unemployment insurance. It gives time to get emergency measures organized and it actually reduces the amount of emergency relief required by a large sum."

Those facts certainly uphold President Roosevelt's hope of bringing home and job security to the people.

Those facts also make it mandatory for state legislators to consider the proposal fully when it is presented.

THE GOLD RUSH

THE rush is on in Indiana. This time it's not for beer or a bargain day but for the most precious of all metals—gold.

According to dispatches coming from the hills of Brown county, some one has found enough gold in new deposits to make the trip worthwhile.

Like most other Hoosiers, we have hunted gold down in "them there hills."

In fact, if memory serves us right we've covered many acres of up and down in Brown and Morgan counties chasing the elusive metal on a screened pan. About all we ever got out of it was torn clothes and a rabbit or two if the season was right.

Indianapolis actually would welcome a gold rush in Brown county. There is no doubt but what this city would benefit from the oncoming hordes.

But, frankly, don't become too elated over the prospects. There are plenty of hills to climb and brambles to battle to reach those little streams where, no doubt, the gold rushers will converge.

Douglas Fairbanks has acquired a monocle in England, which Mary Pickford now can put first among her reasons for wanting a divorce.

Wonder why congress backed the President on the tariff measure? There are no votes to get in Europe.

Green will be the most fashionable color for fall, say style leaders who have become sick and tired of Representative Hamilton Fish's red scares.

Liberal Viewpoint

BY DR. HARRY ELMER BARNES

A YESTERDAY much alarm was expressed in circles friendly to the new deal lest the supreme court might display a short-sighted and reactionary tendency and nullify basic legislation in the Roosevelt program.

During the last twelve months the supreme court has amazed even its friends and admirers by the surprisingly progressive decisions handed down by the majority with respect to new deal principles.

In the Minnesota mortgage moratorium case, in the New York milk case, and in the Washington butter case the court has swung definitely to the left and gone out of its way to approve legislation in the interests of the public. It has exhibited an almost unparalleled willingness to allow the legislatures to determine the wisdom of public policy.

It might have been supposed that the attorney-general's office and the legal staff of the NRA would have been quick to exploit this favorable trend of the court while enthusiasm for the new deal is fresh and intense.

Yet, exactly the opposite policy seems to prevail. The legal representatives of the government appear to be surrendering without a fight. They seem willing to confess that they are licked before going to the supreme court. And this confession of weakness is made without any apparent ground for fearing defeat. With victory seemingly almost inevitable and easily within their grasp, they run up the white flag.

THIS astonishing situation is well described in an article on "Planless Legal Planning," in the New Republic.

Last autumn the government played an ignominious role in its vacillation and evasions in testing the legality of federal milk control.

But the most decisive and critical illustration of the timidity and ineptitude of the legal representatives of the government is manifested in the case of the United States vs. Smith, designed to test the legality of the federal authority to control petroleum production under the provisions of the NRA.

Chief Justice Hughes has announced that the government has requested the postponement of this crucial case until autumn, despite the fact that the attorneys for the petroleum board had the case perfectly prepared and were confident of winning a victory.

It would be difficult to imagine a more favorable case through which the government might test the validity of the NRA.

The supply of petroleum is limited. The need for conservation is indispensable. Unrestricted private ownership and production not only promote reckless exploitation of oil, but also upset the possibility of national price control.

THE great majority of the powerful oil producers of the country are in thorough accord with the petroleum board in wishing to control production. Not more than 10 per cent of the oil producers are defying public control. Economic power as well as public interest would encourage the court to render a decision favorable to the government and the petroleum board.

Yet, after the government brief had been finished and only two weeks before the case was to be heard, the government weakly requested a postponement and offered in justification only a medley of absurd rationalizations.

In the opinion of the majority of the press, the chief responsibility for these weak legal tactics rests upon the legal staff of the NRA.

Perhaps the most absurd item in the whole procedure has been the sop thrown to the disappointed petroleum board. The latter has been told that the administration will support a stronger oil bill, meaning, if it means anything, a bill more likely to be set aside by the supreme court in a test case.

If the legal staff of the government does not care to go to bat in behalf of the present oil bill, how does it propose to test an act more likely to arouse the opposition of reactionary members of the court?

The government of the United States has in the past been defeated before the supreme court on issues of public policy. But, so far as I am aware, it has never, even under the most reactionary administrations, surrendered without even the semblance of a fight.

The questions revealed a frankness, a seriousness, an endeavor to know what life is all about, that opened the eyes of even this experienced lecturer.

For instance, she found that the great majority of girls asked her about the mysteries of marriage and childbirth.

And the boys asked why they must not pet, why girls can't be as good sports as their boy friends, and why parents must always know what their children do when they're out late.

In other words, the general run of questions seemed to direct both a challenge and an indictment toward the older generation. The challenge—that youth today stands as ready to face the problems of life as their parents did in their day. The indictment—that fathers and mothers have failed, as did their own parents, in the proper mental and physical development of their children.

It is most embarrassing to find youngsters of high school age revealing the fact that they have been thinking of things that their parents had planned to tell them some years hence. It is embarrassing, too, that these youngsters should go to a stranger for information that their parents should have given them.

Presently, Mr. Daniels got in his car and drove off. He thought the police would naturally follow, but they didn't. He went down to the sea alone again.

"My four automobiles were waiting. My little niece said to me: "Uncle, what a pity we can't have motorcycle cops to escort us!" I patted her hand and said: "Just you wait, now."

"I went over to the policeman, saluted and asked: 'What's your detail?' — They replied: 'Ambassador Daniels, sir!' 'That's me,' I said. They saluted and replied: 'Very good, sir. When you're ready.' I went back to my niece and told her: 'Don't worry, darling. We're going to that escort.'

"Well we did. It was a glorious ride down Fifth avenue, with the sirens and claxons going and Irish cops a block away holding up their hands and stopping all traffic! I warned the policeman not to go too fast—you see, I was afraid we might catch up with Daniels, and that would have been just too bad!"

But it is encouraging and stimulating to know that youth does think seriously along a line that promises a much better generation to come.

NOT THE LAST OF IT

THE air mail bill awaiting presidential signature effects some reforms, gives legal sanction to the temporary air mail program of Postmaster-General Farley and at the same time introduces new contradictions into the confusion of the air transport industry.

But it does provide a way to clear up the confusion through creation of a special commission to explore all phases of aviation and present to the next congress recommendations for a broad national policy. It is to be hoped that the President will act speedily and wisely in the appointment of this commission, and that the commission will do a thorough job.

John Philip seemed in radiant humor. For once, he wore no uniform.

"How is your potato field?" asked a friend, knowing that the former Representative is growing potatoes with the announced intention of making vodka.

"Rotten!" boomed Farmer Hill. "Or perhaps you should say, wonderful. The government's paying me a bonus for raising less potatoes. Isn't that marvelous?"

He sighed reminiscently and added:

"I turned all my potatoes over to be eaten by the potato bugs. What a meal!"

COURTELY Mr. Welles bowed to a lady in a large picture hat, who was admiring his flower garden.

"Oh, Mr. Secretary," sighed she. "How much I envy your beautiful blue Canterbury bells! How do you make them grow so high?"

"Humm-mm!" commented Summer. "The cold winter did them good. The hardest part has been to keep the slugs away."

"You must have learned how to keep the slugs away during your stay in Cuba," grinned a visitor.

Summer—who successfully avoided Havana bullets—grinned good naturedly.

Green will be the most fashionable color for fall, say style leaders who have become sick and tired of Representative Hamilton Fish's red scares.

SENDING A BOY ON A MAN'S ERRAND!



The Message Center

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

Coffee Cream and Children's Milk

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.

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PROFESSOR BUTCHART'S WORDS COMMENDED

By Hiram Lacy.

Will you please extend our thanks to Professor J. H. Butchart of the university department of Butler university for his recent letter to Indianapolis newspapers. His civic interest deserves our attention and admiration. The citizens of Indianapolis will appreciate more of this quality of writing by educated men.

An occasional letter like this will make the public views departments of our Indianapolis newspapers worthy of space on an editorial page, instead of in a comic section.

Of course, knowledge of the opinions of the most lowly and unlearned people is of social consequence and eminently worthwhile; but for us to read and learn the truth which has the power to illuminate the darkness of our minds, is infinitely more fruitful and important.

We can learn truth best from men of intelligence, discipline, unselfishness and years of training. These essentials enable men to write something worth reading.

If honest, courageous editors will offer college-trained, religious men the proper encouragement, our boasted freedom of the press might become useful.

I wish to thank the Indianapolis editors for their co-operation with such men as Professor Butchart.

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DECISION IN SEWER CASE CRITICIZED

By H. C.

The recent decision of the appellate court in connection with the sewer assessments for the Bean creek and Pleasant Run sewer does not settle the question in the minds of several property owners south and east of Indianapolis and in Irvington.

In the test case filed by C. M. Bottema, the court has held that those assessments are good. That sewer was purely a sanitary sewer, inclosed in a small concrete pipe and is connected with the sanitary disposal plant. Yet it was built under a farm drainage law.

The reasoning of the court is not understood by those who must pay the large assessments, neither can those who understand the English language believe that any law to build a sewer for the drainage of land permits the building of a sanitary sewer.

Those farmers who are assessed do not need a sanitary sewer for connections. It is obvious that the piping would be too long and expensive.

If the city wanted to build a sanitary sewer, why did it not use the sewer law and not search high and low for a farm drainage law to do it? Perhaps it was because the city wanted to assess the farmers also.

No question is settled until it is settled right.

The court's decision does not settle the matter, in the minds of those who must pay.

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NUGAE CANORAE; THAT SLAYS HIM

By C. S. G.

I was reading O. O. McIntyre's column to the "little woman" the other night when I came upon a bit that threw me for a loss in her estimation.

"He was spotted in a Follies and several other nugae canorae, but the inexorable box office statistics required to justify him."

Recovering from a momentary nausia, I heard a distinct rustling at a nearby table on which was a copy of the Literary Digest, open at

Dr. Vizitelli's page, shriveling like a sweet "tater plant" in an early frost!

Sts, sts, sts! These tank town boys! When embellished with a shave and a shine, there's simply no holding them. They just cut loose with their devilry, letting the proletarian fall where they may, gosh ding 'em! And there's nothing we can do about it to prove to the little woman that we know a word or two. But nugae canorae! O tempora! O mores!

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SLEEP DISTURBED