

The Indianapolis Times

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

Phone Riley 5551
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"WAGES OF DECENT LIVING"

THE federal government is faced with a critical test of the recovery act through the cleaners and dyers attempt to escape from the minimum wage and maximum hour restrictions of their code.

The trade seeks to scrap the code, now that NRA has eliminated the price fixing clauses and other trade practice provisions.

The issue is whether these tradesmen in every city and village are to be permitted to slash wages below the rather pitiful minimum of the code, and to work their men and women employees longer hours, and to employ child labor. The effort to scrap the labor provisions is based on the contention that these tradesmen can not continue their business against price-cutting competitors—without reducing their own prices and labor costs.

NRA officials are firm in their statement that an industry can not drop its code without Presidential consent. They hint they will act against code-violating business men.

President Roosevelt has answered the question in advance. A year ago, in signing the recovery act, he said:

"It seems to me to be plain that no business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country. 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."

DILLINGER AGAIN

JOHN DILLINGER, Indiana's bid to notoriety in the nation's criminal annals, found his way to Page one again yesterday.

For several weeks only rumors have kept the Dillinger saga alive. Despite the colorfulness of the outlaw, newspaper readers of the nation found themselves suddenly "filled up" with the daily publicity which Dillinger attained in the weeks following his escape from the Crown Point jail.

Now comes the story that a woman in Ohio received a letter from Dillinger's sister in which the latter is supposed to have written that she heard from Dillinger and the gunman is alive and well.

At her Maywood home, the sister denied having received word from Dillinger.

Buried down in the story is the key to the situation that carries such men as Dillinger along in their continual law violations. The story said that he had received several proposals of marriage.

No wonder the criminal in the United States gets away with crimes. He suddenly finds, after his name has appeared a few times on the front pages, that he is the object of admiration of fawning men and women with apparently morose tendencies.

There is no question but that Dillinger and his escapades have become tiresome.

The only story that will interest the nation again is when John Dillinger and the law meet face to face. What the outcome of that meeting will be, no one can predict. But it is safe to say that after the months spent in search, the law certainly is determined to win. And it is very doubtful if the Crown Point jail incident ever will be repeated.

ATHEARN'S APPOINTMENT

DR. WALTER SCOTT ATHEARN, former president of Butler university, has been named president of Oklahoma City university at Oklahoma City.

The former Butler president came here some time ago, heralded as a great educator. There has been no doubt that Dr. Athearn is an educator of high standing.

Dr. Athearn's withdrawal from the educational field in Indianapolis will be regretted by his many friends, who wish him a successful future in the Oklahoma institution of learning.

TEXAS JACK

JOHN NANCE GARNER pretends to an inferiority complex about his job.

In an American Magazine article the Vice-President meekly accepts the role of Mr. Throtheadbottom, and plays a very soft tune on his second fiddle.

"I am conscious of the obscurity and unimportance of my office," he writes. "The vice-presidency is a fifth-wheel job. Nobody gives it a thought save in a tragic contingency. It is the spare tire on the national automobile."

Texas Jack longs for his really important old job of Speaker of the house. There's "no thrill to being elected Vice-President."

The Vice-President is unfair to his office. It has dignity, especially under the present administration in which the Vice-President functions as a cabinet member in fact as well as in name. Mr. Garner is tremendously popular as a presiding officer and was given, a rare sort of ovation by the senate on its last day. He has become a sort of liaison officer between the White House and the upper house.

Mr. Garner should buck up. The vice-presidency is as good a job as the Vice-President makes it.

RECREATION

THE international joint commission, composed of three Americans and three Canadians, has decided that nothing shall be done by the hand of man in that 15,000 square miles of wild, gorgeous beauty in northern Minnesota and Ontario which will mar its value as a recreation spot.

It is one of the few regions of primeval forest left for us to explore, when we feel that we must get back to Mother Nature, forgetting the world of complications. It is

so wild that Indian guides usually are hired by tenderfoot to keep them from getting lost. It is beautiful with its thousands of lakes, islands, rapids. If you go there, you must travel by canoe but you can shoot big game and catch bigger fish than you can describe.

Just one sentence in the joint commission's report will give you something to think about:

"It is significant of the times we live in (that recreation), which was recognized insufficiently, so far as this particular region is concerned, when the investigation was instituted, has since come to be regarded as an interest of major importance on both sides of the international boundary."

THOSE INDIANS

INDIANAPOLIS is neglecting one of its best entertainment features—the Indianapolis baseball club.

For some reason or other, the Indians went into a slump in batting and attendance. Many of the old baseball fans still believe the team is not hitting, but a trip to Perry stadium will show that many of us have erred.

It has been a long time since we had witnessed a ball game. This week we have attended twice and each time have seen a real game played under the lights.

The Indians are playing good ball and are putting on a performance that will delight any baseball fan. It's worth attending if for no other reason than to prove that you've had the wrong idea about the ball club.

MOTHER LOVE

A BABY boy with a beguiling smile held out chubby fingers, gripped tightly together, toward the judge on the bench in a large middle western city the other day.

The clutching fingers came open slowly, revealing a nickel and a penny. "We got money," the baby said.

Money was decidedly what the child and his pretty 24-year-old mother needed, as the judge had just explained. The young woman was in court to ask permission to place her son in a children's home until she could get work and earn money to support him.

She was able and eager to work in an office or at housekeeping. Her husband had disappeared and she did not know where he was. Her brother who had been supporting her and the boy was no longer able to do this.

But the mother's appeal was denied. She couldn't, the judge explained, turn her baby over to the institution unless she could contribute to his support or unless she would sign papers relinquishing all claim to him. "But I want him back!" the mother protested. "I can't give him away!"

It wasn't the judge's fault that nothing could be done about it. The judge and juvenile court authorities had heard the story before, knew of many similar cases. Needy mothers eager to work to support their children if some one would only give them a chance, needy mothers determined in spite of all hardships, to keep their children.

Mothers' pension laws, which once would have been the answer to the problem, have been abandoned in many communities because there are no funds to pay the pensions. And the mother who is told she can not put her child in a public home unless she is able to pay something toward his support while, at the same time, she can not earn this money unless she has some place to leave the child to be cared for, finds herself torn between two impossibilities.

The futile heartbreaks of mothers forced to give up their children to provide for the youngsters' welfare is one of society's oldest and most inexcusable tragedies. There is wide talk of social legislation these days—new schemes and remedies to do away with unemployment, to protect the aged, the sick, and the injured.

Certainly there is no greater injustice than laws which protect the mother who abandons her child and penalizes the mother who refuses to do this.

GOOD WORK DONE

THE record made by the seventy-third congress is one to bring a good deal of encouragement to all Americans who hope to see their democratic institutions perpetuated.

When that congress convened, a year ago last March, our faith in those institutions was probably lower than ever before. There was a widespread feeling that congress could not possibly function efficiently in an emergency; a common belief that nothing could make it unite on a program for the common good.

The record made by the seventy-third congress pretty well dispels that notion. It did a tremendous amount of work; it kept the national necessities in mind with pretty consistent thoroughness.

To be sure, it made mistakes. It listened to the voice of partisan or sectional interest, now and then. It indulged in some loose talk. But in the main it made an exceedingly fine record.

Representative government in the United States met and passed a very grave test during the last fifteen months.

DICTATORSHIP'S DREAD

A STRIKING insight into the philosophy of a dictatorship is given by the contrasting speeches made in Germany recently by Franz von Papen and Paul Joseph Goebbels.

Von Papen, vice-chancellor of the Nazi government, advocated that the right to criticize the government—a right which has been sternly suppressed under Hitlerism—be allowed again. But a projected broadcast of a recording of his speech was immediately canceled, and Goebbels, Hitler's minister of propaganda, asserted that the suppression of criticism would be continued.

That it will be Goebbels' view, and not Von Papen's, which will prevail hardly is to be doubted. Nothing is so dangerous to a dictatorship as freedom of discussion.

A Hitler, a Mussolini, or a Stalin—they do not fear armed revolt, for that is a thing they can cope with. Plain, unhampered talk is the one thing they can not endure.

Another scientist says man can easily outrun a snake. But he won't deny any snake can outcrawl him.

A survey of 302,000 American girls reveals that blonds and redheads are decreasing in number. In other words, dye-ing out.

Just to keep you from wishing it wouldn't get so hot, record-breaking storms and cold weather are reported from South America.

Liberal Viewpoint

BY DR. HARRY ELMER BARNES

THERE was much cogent common sense in the brief commencement address of Chancellor Harry Woodburn Chase of New York university.

In spite of the menacing development of Fascism abroad, many Americans have created for themselves a sort of fool's paradise on the assumption that what has been happening in Europe can not take place here because this is the United States.

Chancellor Chase exploded this benign but dangerous illusion.

"State after state has come to seek efficiency and security through the subordination and regimentation of the individual to centralized and despotic authority. It is no satisfactory answer to say that all of this is happening in Europe and this is America."

"America, after all, has not been guaranteed eternal democracy by divine fiat. There are no international barriers against the contagion of ideas. It is not impossible to regiment the American people. Great sections of them have been regimented more than once in our history. And when we are regimented we can be both violent and cruel."

"The history of what happened to the southern states during reconstruction, the course of the Ku-Klux Klan movement a decade ago, are two reminders of that fact. The problem of regimentation is one of destiny for us as well as for our neighbors."

Chancellor Chase, as a well-known liberal educator, stated very effectively the crucial problem in the relation of education to regimentation and dogmatic instruction:

"At the heart of the problem lies the significant choice: Shall we set out arbitrarily to create a social order and then indoctrinate and drive individuals into submission to it, or shall we center our efforts on the making of men and women who are themselves competent and disposed, as free agents, to do what should be done?"

Chancellor Chase's answer is characteristic and to the point:

"It is not the business of universities to be instruments of indoctrination and propaganda. It is not their mission, on the one hand, to evolve theoretical utopias and then to condition people for participation in them. Nor is it, on the other hand, their mission to become apologists for the dogma that whatever is, is right."

"Their concern is rather to open and develop the minds of men and women; to give them understanding, knowledge of the truth, appreciation of the processes by which it is arrived at, so that, as open-minded, informed free people, they may look at and take part in life as intelligent, reasonable human beings."

NO sensible person will be likely to quarrel with this urbane and logical pronouncement by Chancellor Chase, but we may be sure that our American reactionaries will play up the address in sorely distorted fashion. Taking advantage of headlines they will hail it as a timely blast against the menace of the Roosevelt administration and the machinations of the brain trust.

If one has any realism or insight, he must recognize that if the Roosevelt administration is to be criticized in connection with the issue of regimentation, it will have to be condemned because it has not gone far enough with its economic program. It has not done more than the minimum believed necessary to save us from the ravages of the rugged individualism that has brought ruin to the American economy.

Any attempt to escape from the very slight and moderate degree of regimentation involved in the New Deal is the surest way to bring about the certainty of much more complete regimentation in the future.

If the Roosevelt administration fails to rehabilitate our economic life, it will be on account of its unwillingness to go far enough in the systematic reordering of our business and financial life. If the New Deal does collapse and we do not push capitalism entirely into the discard, the only immediate alternative is Fascism with all the regimentation that Chancellor Chase eloquently condemned.

Many Americans, including myself, would like to be pretty thoroughly free from governmental restraint. But whether we like it or not, we have come to live in the most critical period of a complex economic system. We now have come to a parting of the ways where it is, for the time being, a choice between the New Deal and castor oil.

Capital Capers

BY GEORGE ABELL

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT the other afternoon performed one of those charming gestures which cause so many admirers to enthuse about his tact and personality.

A telephone rang in the Chilean embassy. It was a message from the President asking Minister Don Emilio Bello Edwards to call upon him at his convenience.

"What can the President want?" wondered Edwards, as he hastily prepared himself for the visit.

Half an hour later, the perplexed envoy found himself being graciously received by the Chief Executive at the White House.

Roosevelt held in his hand an old volume bound in blue leather.

"Mr. Minister," he said, "here is a book written by one of my ancestors, which concerns Chile. I should like to present it to the University of Santiago, Chile."

Minister Edwards—amazed and gratified—thanked the President effusively.

THE book was written, he noted by Amasa Delano, an ancestor of Roosevelt's, and published in Boston in 1817. It was entitled:

"A Narrative of Voyages and Travels in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, Comprising Three Voyages Around the World, Together With a Voyage of Survey and Discovery in the Pacific Ocean and Oriental Islands."

Envoy Edwards took occasion to remind the President that several members of the Delano family still live in Chile. The early Delanos, he said, participated in the wars of liberation against Spain and after the establishment of the Chilean republic engaged in mining and manufacturing. One of them married a Chilean lady and his descendants settled near Santiago.

Note—Recently a lady from Hawaii, who has been doing research work concerning the President's ancestors in that island, was cordially received at the White House.

In both instances Roosevelt found two warm friends—and probably more. Last night the grateful Chilean envoy highly praised the "initiative and the kindness" of the American President.

WORD of ambassadors who were part of the Washington whirl comes from foreign capitals.

From Ankara, Turkey, speed the tidings that Washington's former dean of diplomats, Ahmet Muhtar of the polished manners, the old-world courtesy and the gently curling white mustaches, has assumed his seat in the Turkish parliament. He regrettably leaving Washington, however, and wishes to be remembered to his friends here.

From Berlin hails the news that Herr von Prittwitz and Gaffron, former ambassador, has given up the diplomatic life and taken the veil, figuratively speaking.

His ex-excellency is now practicing law, a career in which his friends feel he may attain some success. His Washington days were marred by diplomatic disputes.

From Brussels one learns that Poet-Ambassador Paul Claudel, once the French envoy here, has grown somewhat stouter and is still composing witty epigrams upon prominent personalities.

He has written no poems lately. He is reputed popular at the Belgian court, although the king and queen of the Belgians did not attend (as it had been widely announced they would) the wedding recently at Claudel's daughter, Reine,

'AND DEPARTING LEAVES BEHIND HIM—'



The Message Center

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

Defends Public Medical Institutions

By C. G. W.

In Monday's Message Center Mary Pratt criticizes several hospitals and clinics for failing to give immediate attention to the case of a jobless man with a "terribly ulcerated tooth."

Yet none of these institutions, with the possible exception of the city hospital, justly could be held to blame, the school of dentistry, least of all. Its primary function is the teaching of dentistry, and it does not wish to take patients who are able to pay for treatment away from private practice. Hence the clinic was not in operation at the time.

Judging from the description given, the unfortunate man was suffering from an alveolar abscess, caused, most likely, by a decayed tooth.

The proper treatment of this condition, even for temporary relief, is of a surgical nature, requiring the use of instruments which only one with special training can manipulate safely, and needing also the care and judgment which only an experienced dentist can give.

The operation is not so easy and simple as it is supposed to be, commonly to be, and the man qualified to do the work is deserving of more respect for his knowledge and skill than generally is accorded him.

Public clinics hardly can be expected to have available, at all times, experienced dentists to care for the occasional emergency case. By their very nature they are so bound by red tape and rules for routine procedure that it is quite impossible for them to function instantly and flexibly as the individual may do when he so desires.

Neither can large institutions entirely prevent a note of seemingly callous indifference from sometimes creeping into the voice of the weary telephone operator or underling who answers your call.

Therefore, Mary Pratt, seeing the dire need of the hungry, jobless man with the "terribly ulcerated tooth," should have done the humane thing—stuck to her phone until she located a dentist in private practice who would respond, as his brothers to their eternal credit, seldom have failed to respond, as his brothers to their eternal credit, seldom have failed to respond to the distress call of a fellow creature, by promising to give the necessary relief at his own expense.

This doesn't seem entirely fair, for in these trying days—the dentist and his medical neighbor are themselves carrying heavy burdens, but it was done that way before we ever heard of free dental clinics, and still is the best method of caring for minor cases of acute physical distress.

Of course, if it can be arranged so that the doctor is paid, the story will have a better ending.

holes, and I sincerely thank the street railway company. A great many of these places remain, however, and I still think that the company should repair this spot permanently.

Another thing regarding this is the advertisements which the railway company places on the rear of its cars. The latest one I have noticed is, "Don't follow this car; ride it."

I don't know just where these brilliant sayings come from but always have surmised that the company requires its employees to think of an idea every so often.

My idea of this latest saying is that one of the company's employees, probably a motorman on one of the West Washington street cars, living somewhere on the west side, beyond Tibbs avenue, drives to and from work and has found it is an impossibility to follow one of the cars due to the roughness of the center of the street.

One other thing, and one that I think rightfully should be closely watched by the police department, is the fact that the new cars, which seem able to operate with opened doors, violate rules in discharging passengers.

Many times in battling the bumps of West Washington street have I and several other drivers narrowly missed persons hopping off the cars before they have come to a complete stop.

WOMEN HAVE BEEN GLARING AT HIM

By a Male Auto Driver
 I would like to register a complaint against the majority of women pedestrians of this city. I am an automobile owner and driver, and daily I am asked to an extreme degree with the manner in which the opposite sex crosses street intersections.

Why do they not look at the automatic traffic signals, or the traffic officer, instead of the automobile which they apparently think will run them down.

Most drivers are law-abiding citizens; only rarely does one flagrantly violate the signals and stop signs. Yet nearly every woman who wishes to cross the street invariably glares at the car driver, waits until the stop sign is about to change, then starts to cross the street.

If they would observe only the

language so carefully as to refer to you as a Negro. Any one who is at all familiar with history knows very well there is no point of superiority of the white man over the Negro. Give them both an equal start from the same line and both will arrive at the same destination at the same time.

Color of skin makes no difference in human kind. If a Negro as black as the ace of spades would leave the equator for residence in Denmark, his future generations would become just as white as it is possible to be. Nature works slowly, of course, and it probably would require thousands of years for such an evolution, but it is just as sure to come as poll tax.

Again, if a man from Denmark would make his residence at or near the equator, his descendants would be sure to be of the black race. The climate alone is responsible for the color of man's skin, so you needn't take offense at being called a Negro.

ANY "ISM" WOULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT

By Thinking Man.

G. T. B. is right—there should be ample opportunity for study of the "isms"—Socialism, Communism and the rest.

We have messed around with flag waving patriotism, luncheon club black slapping, Sunday school nimbly-pamby and the like—now look at us.

Millions of hungry men, women and children; chiselers and racketeers rampant; little or no respect for law or common decency—these are the fruits of those "principles" the political orators rant about.

Let's get down to some real study and scrap the whole rotten system. Whatever we put in its place can't be much worse.

HED BANISH ALL DOGS AND CATS

By Civilized Citizen.

Permit me to yap my way into the dog argument. One writer says a 50-cent tax by the city would be an improvement; another wants drinking fountains for dogs; a third would muzzle children instead of dogs, and a fourth wants the muzzles the other way around.

Personally, I would make it a criminal offense to harbor a dog or cat within the city limits. Just why anybody wants a barking, destructive cur or disease bearing cat in a home is beyond me.

PAIN

BY VIRGINIA

I planned my love and watched it grow. Slowly, at first, It pushed its way thro'. But I gave it to drink Rain from my tears. And it feasted and thriv'd on my smiles Thro' the years.

I tenderly nursed each bud as it came. Watch'd over them, Watched them. Called them by name. Tended Companionship to the last bloom called Love.

With the help of the Master Gardener above. It grew to be of astonishing height. And it wound its long tendrils about my heart.

Tight. It drank up my tears. It ate up my smile. Smiles crushing my heart All the while.

I destroyed it! Love, I had to dare. The pain was more than I could bear!