

# The Indianapolis Times

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## RELIEF—A SUGGESTION

THINKING Americans are coming to realize that relief is more than an emergency problem of this year or next.

They are convinced that regardless of recovery's tempo the depression will leave many to be cared for by Federal, state, local and private authorities.

Yet our present hurriedly devised relief machinery is not geared to long-range needs. We are working in the dark. We have only a hand-to-mouth policy. This spring Congress is being asked to vote \$1,500,000,000 to fill out a \$3,000,000,000 Federal program for the fiscal year 1937. Congress may try to earmark these sums in broad categories. But the new moneys will be spent much after the fashion of the present WPA and state relief agencies' routine. By its very nature this routine is often marred by waste, politics, red-tape and great personal demoralization.

What seems to be needed is the development of a just, scientific, long-range policy and program—a chart to guide all the agencies of aid.

Just as a suggestion, the President might ask Congress for authority in the new relief act to name a non-partisan national relief policy board.

Such a board could be charged with finding the facts of the present situation and recommending to the next Congress a broad, national policy. It would not have to be large, but it would have to be manned by men and women of such outstanding reputations and caliber that its voice would carry the authority it must command. It should not be "just another commission" of the type with which Washington is all too familiar. It would need to be well financed and equipped to hold hearings in the states as well as in Washington. It would require a corps of experts and a director.

An advisory board of this nature would not reflect upon nor interfere with the work of the Federal administrators or those of the states. These are too busy, too moved to the need of quick success, too concerned with the multitudinous daily tasks to evolve a long-range policy. So is the President himself.

TODAY we hear much by way of criticism of the relief chaos. The fact is no one knows enough about the problem either to dramatize or denounce. An authoritative board, such, for instance, as the Wickham Commission, might shed light instead of heat. Through it we might learn what we must know if we are to handle the question intelligently and humanely. We need to know the place of private giving in the picture; the proper relationship and the assessment of costs between local, state and Federal governments; types of non-competitive work-relief that both enrich the country and provide a maximum of benefit to the relief workers; the proper manner of tying relief into the social security program, the natural resources board program, the state-Federal employment exchanges. We might learn, through a nation-wide census, just how many unemployed there are. We might learn by what means private industry best can help to re-employ them.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT is right in saying that this business of helping the jobless needy is a national concern. The handling of the problem should transcend parties, states and interdepartmental lines in Washington.

## PROTECTS PILOTS

WITH President Roosevelt's approval, the airline pilots—and the hostesses and mechanics, too—are about to be included under the Railway Labor Act.

The House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee has given a favorable report to a bill, already passed by the Senate, to apply all the act's provisions to "common carriers by air and their employees." Heretofore the airline pilots have had only the general protection of the Wagner Labor Act.

In addition to White House approval, Rep. Cresser (D., O.) said in reporting the measure that it is endorsed by the Postoffice Department, Coordinator of Transportation Eastman, the Labor and Commerce Departments, the Interstate Commerce Commission, the National Mediation Board, the A. F. of L., and the Railway Labor Executives Association.

The bill's provisions forbidding sweatshop conditions and company unions, and providing for adjustment of grievances, are described in the report as "the greatest possible single contribution that could be made in the interest of safety on the airlines."

## DOOMED FOREST

A CONGRESSIONAL inquiry into a Federal policy that is allegedly dooming the nation's greatest remaining forest, in western Oregon, is demanded by Ovid Butler, executive secretary of the American Forestry Association.

Unless Congress investigates, and then drafts an intelligent plan of management, more timber than is to be found in all the states north of the Mason-Dixon Line and from the Atlantic Coast to the prairies may be devastated.

The area involved embraces 2,500,000 acres of timberland which the Federal government regained 20 years ago from an old land grant to the Oregon & California Railroad Co. It is known today as the "O and C lands." It checkerboards a wide strip of mountain ranges that step the Cascades down to the Pacific in western Oregon, forming alternate blocks in a giant causeway running north and south through America's greatest forest, an area containing 300,000,000 board feet of timber and valued at \$500,000,000.

The O and C lands, Mr. Butler says, are "hot acres"—so politically hot that Congress, much less the Oregon Legislature has not dared touch them. Through five Administrations six Secretaries of the Interior have failed to correct the policy that is dissipating them. Even Secretary Ickes, while claiming to champion the cause of conservation, apparently has failed to stop the policy of destruction.

This policy, which began in the late sixties with a series of acts of Congress to promote the building by

private initiative of railroads in Oregon, declared the O and C lands to be agricultural and opened to homestead entry. As a result, settlers were attracted at \$250 an acre, and by the time the lands were sold to the Southern Pacific in 1887, the best agricultural lands had been disposed of.

In the late nineties, when the rising tide of timber speculation reached the Pacific Coast, conservation began. The Southern Pacific withdrew the lands from settlement. The settlers revolted, as did the people of Oregon, charging that the grant had been violated.

Eventually, in 1916, Congress passed the Chamberlain-Ferris Act, which returned the area to the government. The act directed the Secretary of the Interior to classify the land into three types: Power site lands, timberlands and agricultural lands. The power site lands, negligible in point of area, were withdrawn from entry. Agricultural lands were thrown open to immediate entry under the general homestead laws. Timberlands were to be withheld from entry until the timber had been sold out and cut, when they would be thrown open to homestead entry.

The ensuing mismanagement and exploitation on the O and C lands has affected the whole body of timber in western Oregon, Mr. Butler charges.

Because the lands are so widely intermingled through the great forest area, they virtually control its management. So long as exploitation of the O and C lands is permitted, says Mr. Butler, owners of intermingled lands can not manage their lands for the sustained yield of forest products.

"What plan of administration will be best can probably be arrived at only by an 'impartial study,'" he says. "This will call for an intelligent land classification that takes into consideration the real character of the soil and its highest use in relation to the social and economic welfare of the region."

"Certainly the limited areas that may warrant homesteading should be conscientiously classified, and settlement confined to them."

That is a reasonable proposal.

## GOING UP

BUSINESS is booming for the Addressograph-Multigraph Corp., which means that a lot of other businesses are booming too.

In 1935 the company's net profits increased 78 per cent, according to President Joseph E. Rogers, and improvement has continued into the early months of 1936.

Equipment orders from customers in the United States and Canada increased 22 per cent over 1934, 102 per cent over 1933 and 93 per cent over 1932.

Rogers reports that the increases came from "practically every type of business and territory."

## THE DOCTOR'S DILEMMA

DR. NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER, president of Columbia, is a G. O. P. brain trust who never gives up hope that his party some day will heed his counsel.

He told the G. O. P. that its 1932 prohibition straddle plank was "sired by Muddlehead out of Cowardice." He argued that economic nationalism leads to depressions and wars. He warned that a country run by so-called "practical men" is likely to be wrecked.

Now, after a trip across the continent, he finds the Republican Party lacking only two things—a constructive program and a statesmanlike candidate. The names of Horah and Landon are chiefly heard, he reports, but the people know too much about the one and not enough about the other.

"The impression I obtained is very clear," said the eminent doctor. "It is that if the Republican Party hopes to elect a President in 1936 it must find a candidate of much higher intellectual and statesmanlike qualifications than any of those being talked of."

Name him, Dr. Butler, name him.

## USELESS CRUELTY

HEARTACHES there are enough in this country without adding new ones, as Congress will do if it fails to pass legislation asked by Immigration Commissioner McCormick.

A modified Kerr bill, pending in the Senate, would save from immediate deportation 2800 deportable aliens of good character. The new measure limits discretionary power for three years to a proposed interdepartmental committee, charged with passing on each of these cases. For the future certain latitude in sifting desirable from undesirable aliens now in the United States is given the Immigration Commissioner.

Commissioner McCormick feels the modified measure is unsatisfactory, but better than no legislation. Though the bill is a compromise with absolute justice, radical exclusionists in Congress announce they will fight it as too liberal.

If this bill is beaten the 2800 desirable aliens must go immediately. Their going will leave 6500 relatives, of whom 5000 are wives and children mostly American citizens. Most of these, of course, will become wards of charity and relief. Instead of saving money this cruel separation of families will add to the tax burden for their relief.

Opposition has held back legislation for three years, while these technically guilty aliens live in constant dread of their fate. The opposition is harsh and unthinking. Congress should ignore it.

## HEARD IN CONGRESS

REP. RANDOLPH (D., W. Va.): In West Virginia the partial registration now being taken shows that the Democrats have increased in number. Our citizens appreciate the worth-while program of this Administration.

Rep. Maverick (D., Tex.): Of course, smart people live in the State of West Virginia. (Laughter.) But let me be serious. In any government in the civilized world you are supposed to have an intelligent opposition. We have not got an intelligent opposition in this country. (Laughter and applause.)

All I have heard (from the Republicans) is carping and criticism. You have not got any ideas. What do you stand for? As far as I can see, nothing except knocking others down. (Laughter and applause.)

REP. DIRKEN (D., N. C.): Whenever you see advertised in the papers that any individual can borrow money under Title I and Title II of the Federal Housing Act for 5 per cent, put it down as unadulterated "baloney." You can not get it, and I say that such advertising is unfair and misleading. Let the record tell the story. The interest is approximately 9.72.

REP. DIRKSEN (R., Ill.): I believe that more and more members of Congress ought to emulate Cato, the Roman tribune of old, who, realizing that some day there would be a struggle for mastery between Carthage and Rome, ended every speech he made by the statement, "Carthago delenda est"—"Carthage must be destroyed." I think we should end every speech and letter we write with the cry "unemployment must be banished, and make the nation unemployment conscious."

# Squaring the Circle

With  
THE HOOSIER EDITOR

THERE is something about shooting galleries that reminds you of the mumbo jumbo carnival music and the raucous bellowing of barkers, even when they are located in the centers of large cities.

It's the appearance of the things that deceives. They always look like they just had been moved into a building day before yesterday, and were going to be hauled away day after tomorrow.

This isn't always the case. They are operated by two distinct classes of proprietors. One kind travels with carnivals and lives a life of high adventure, and the other, sometimes called "the home guard," stays at one pitch.

TAKE O. F. Milliser and his son J. F. They have operated a shooting gallery on Illinois-st. for the last 25 years, and probably will be there for another quarter of a century. No one is exactly sure what their first names are, because a shooting gallery owner is always known as Doc, for the same reason probably that Pullman porters are called George.

A friend of theirs, E. E. Tilson, runs the place when they get tired sitting, and go for a walk around the block. He also is called Doc by the customers, and has been in this business since 1904.

FOR the last 10 years he has been operating at Riverside Park. "Our business is all right, especially when the soldiers at Fort Harrison get paid. That is a funny thing about soldiers. They shoot guns all day and then spend two-thirds of their wages in shooting galleries when on leave," he said.

"Sometimes they do it to show off in front of girls, and sometimes just to win bets from their friends."

WHEN meek Mr. X clambered onto an E. 10th-st. car the other night, tired from his labors, he probably had no idea he was about to start a movement. He did though.

There were a lot of people on that particular trackless trolley, and Mr. X just did shove his way in before the doors closed.

The motorman, a blithe sort of fellow, started the car with a jerk that threw people against each other, and proceeded on his way. Although it was obvious to one and all that the vehicle was full, he halted the trolley at the next corner, shouted "get back in the car" and prepared to take on more passengers. That is how this movement was born.

MR. X, who had been bumped around even more than the others, shouted back, "What are you trying to do? You have put 70 people in this car now. I am a taxpayer and citizen and have rights. These others might not say anything, but they are sheep. I'm no sheep. I'm a taxpayer."

The sound of his own voice seemed to startle Mr. X, but when the other passengers let out a feeble cheer, he took courage. Then he turned to the people trying to get on and told them he was no sheep.

Alarmed at this insubordination, the motorman closed the doors and drove on.

The movement was started all right, but Mr. X's position hasn't been consolidated. They still pack 'em in on the E. 10th-st. line, but always under murmured protest.

## TODAY'S SCIENCE

—BY DAVID DIETZ

THE tremendous advances which chemistry has made in the last few years constitute one of the brightest chapters in modern history. But the fact remains that Mother Nature still has us beat when it comes to the practice of chemistry.

The late Dr. Erwin E. Slosson once commented upon how fortunate we would be if we knew as much chemistry as a tree. A tree takes the carbon dioxide of the air and the water of the soil and with the aid of sunlight turns them into sugars and starches. If we knew as much chemistry as a tree, we could duplicate this process, known technically as photosynthesis, and manufacture our foodstuffs in factories instead of growing them on the farm.

The tiny organisms of the ocean know more chemistry than we do. Certain chemical elements are present in sea water in concentrations of less than a fraction of a part in a million. Yet these tiny creatures of the sea, requiring these chemical elements for their growth, are able to absorb them from the sea water and to concentrate them within their own bodies.

We use cod liver oil for its vitamin content. The cod gets its vitamins by eating smaller fish who in turn have eaten still smaller fish who have eaten the tiny plant life in which those vitamins were originally manufactured by nature's chemistry.

It is true that man has begun to catch up with nature. Thus, for example, it is well known that photosynthesis is only possible in plants which contain a green coloring or pigment known as chlorophyll. Many studies are going on into the nature of this complex chemical substance. With respect to the ocean and its chemical content, mankind is also making progress.

# DISHONOR ROLL

FEDERAL REPORT  
SHOWS INDIANAPOLIS  
HAS TRAFFIC DEATH  
RATE FAR  
ABOVE AVERAGE.



## The Hoosier Forum

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

(Times readers are invited to express their views in these columns, religious controversies excluded. Make your letters short, so all can have a chance. Limit them to 250 words or less. Your letter must be signed, but names will be withheld on request.)

## DENIES "STRAW VOTE" ON INFLATION

By David Horn

Recently a full page account appeared in a leading newspaper reciting a "straw vote" on "inflation" which was taken by a certain publisher, and laying particular stress on the alleged fact that the vast majority of the "public" is opposed to inflation. Why not take a vote on the question whether the inhabitants of the planet Mars should adopt the Chinese or Scotch language?

If there is a single person anywhere in these United States or in the whole world who knows any more about "inflation," "money," "social consciousness," "society," "government," "law," "commerce," and similar words and phrases than about the planet of Mars, I challenge him to write a public article giving an accurate, sane and logical definition of it, explaining its nature, origin and significance.

## THINKS HAM FISH CAN FIND TERMITES NEAR HOME

By R. Sprunger

If Han Fish is looking for termites or parasites may I make some suggestions where there is quite an army? For instance, he will find them on a well-known street in New York City and other places, in certain groups that block decent social and labor legislation and corrupt public officials.

If labor will cease its Rip Van Winkle attitude it will learn that a Labor can save itself through a political party of its own. The source of all wealth comes from labor power applied to natural re-

sources. We have solved the production problem with machinery but we have failed to solve distribution.

Collective ownership of the tools of production and distribution controlled by Labor would rid us of many evils. Now, Labor, are you strong enough to demand it and get your just dues or are you a weakling and expect some one to give them to you?

## SAYS LABOR OWNERSHIP OF INDUSTRY IS NEED

By H. L. S.

Mr. Raymond Clapper in his article March 20 referred to the President's appeal to American industrialists to help solve the growing problem of unemployment. Mr. Clapper pointed out the various types of co-operation that exist in our industrial organization and that the President asks that this co-operation extend to the serious problem of finding employment for the 12 million idle persons.

Does this not appear fantastic to presume that private industry can or would be able to absorb this group of idle persons?

The motivation for industry is profit, and employment of men is not from duty to society, but as a means to profits. When profits disappear, reduction of personnel is the first recourse to expense reduction. When machines will produce with reduced manpower, it becomes against self interest to employ men who are surplus to the machine.

The employer can not and will not play Santa Claus to labor. The business belongs to the stockholders, not to the men who work for them. If the men want a business to work for their interest they must own the business. Labor never has accepted ownership responsibility; it has merely played the role of job beggar. Its method of redress for grievances has been sabotage on production through strikes, to raise group or

individual pay, but with a total disregard to price increases in the goods, made necessary by the increase in pay.

If labor owned the industries there would be no unemployment or necessity for strikes and low wages. The total amount of production would determine the wages in goods for labor given. There would be no opportunity for speculation, the conflict of interest between producer and labor as a consumer would vanish.

If the President wants to solve unemployment and forever abolish it, he must look to labor ownership of industry, rather than appeal to stockholders and directors. The interest of labor must be in job ownership, through stock ownership.

As labor develops the machines for production, it can release men for greater production in lines in which scarcity still may exist. When the private stockholder corporation is near bankruptcy it may salvage some of the wreckage by offering the plant to the workers where consumer and producer interests merge. The chief obstacle to relief from unemployment is the carefree indifference of labor, in abstaining from ownership responsibility, not to mention its opportunity for boundless production and consumption.

Edward Filene sees the handwriting on the wall for industry that creates a conflict between producer and consumer. He has set up a million dollar fund for the changing of a competitive system to one of co-operation. Slave-minded labor spells doom. It produces Fascism.

## UNWRITTEN DREAMS

BY DANIEL FRANCIS CLANCY  
Many poems of the world I've read,  
Both by bards living and dead,  
And many verses of beauty among them there are.

But I know of a volume that exceeds them by far,  
'Tis the book of rhymes that in the minds of men  
Has its home—ne'er to be released by pen.

The subjects of these rhymes are of such beauty supreme  
That is only to be found in a captured dream.

# Vagabond from Indiana

ERNIE PYLE

EDITOR'S NOTE—This roving reporter for The Times goes where he pleases, when he pleases, in search of odd stories about this and that.

SAN ANTONIO, April 3.—William A. Silveus planned his whole life out, from the time he was a boy. He planned it so he would retire at 50. He did, too.

And then, after a lifetime of being a lawyer and real estate man, he found a hobby. It was grass. Today he is the world's greatest authority on Texas grasses.

Silveus was born 60 years ago on a Pennsylvania farm. His first year out of college he made \$5000 in real estate. He had the gift. He married a girl from a neighboring farm, came to San Antonio in 1904, set up a law office, and became a leading citizen.

The way he got interested in grass was funny. For 22 years he had been going to Colorado Springs on his vacation. About eight years ago he and his wife adopted a little boy. In Colorado, he'd get out and play ball with the boy.

The ball would roll under the pine trees, and they'd have to look for it. That way, the little boy got to know different kinds of pine cones.

SILVEUS thought he ought to know too, so he got a book and read up. That led him into flowers. He bought books on flowers. Then he thought he'd like to know something about grass. He bought more books.

One thing led to another like that, and almost before he knew it he was going around looking for grass, and taking it home and writing reports about it.

So he decided he might as well put his stuff in a book. It took him three years and a half, after he once decided to do it. His book was published about a year ago. It's authentic, all right I first heard about it at the Agriculture Department in Washington.

He found 350 kinds of grasses in Texas. Half of all the species in the United States are to be found in Texas.

He found four grasses that had never been heard of before. The people in Washington named one after him. It's called "Ernestus Sylveanus." He is found another new one since writing the book.

SILVEUS took photographs of all the grasses. He had to learn photography to do it. Then he had to invent a contraption to put the grass in, so he could photograph it inside the house. Some of it was too small to photograph outside.

He had 3000 copies of his book printed. Had to pay for it himself. Of course the average reader doesn't care about Texas grass, so he's sold only 700 copies. He figures it'll take 10 years to sell all 3000. The nicest review he had was in England.

This grass hobby cost him \$12,000. He says he could afford it then, but he can't now. Since he retired, his only business is on the grass. He owns 12 houses and 12 stores here. He lost \$200 on them last year. But I don't think he'll miss any meals soon, from the looks of his home.

He thinks the country is going to prosper. He used to be a Democrat, but he isn't any more. He has theories on how things ought to be run. In fact, he's writing another book. He's been working on it a year already, and it'll take four more years.

It's a little hard for me to explain about this book. It's about "the growth of man." It tells how if man were thrifty, and protected his property and let himself grow all the time (growth is experience and the freedom of will that fits right in between heredity and environment, you understand), why then he would be all right when he got old, and the country would be all right, too.

When this book is finished, he's going back to grass. Thinks he'll do better to stick to one thing. But this other thing is on his chest, and he has to get it off.

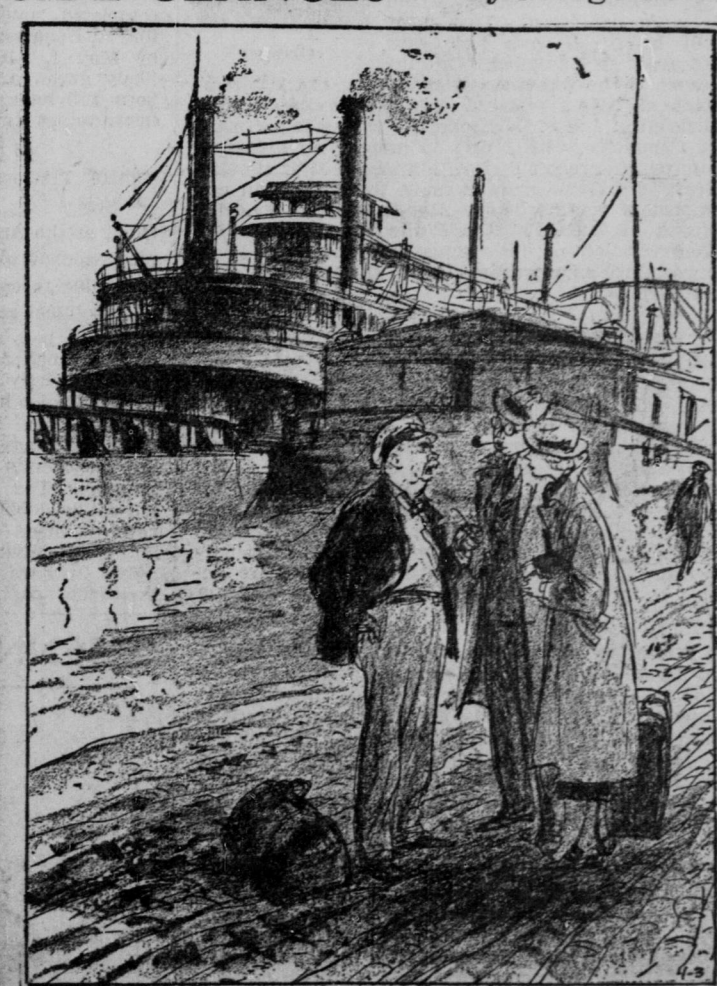
## DAILY THOUGHT

Let us work honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

HE who is evil, is also in the punishment of evil.—Swedenborg.

## SIDE GLANCES

By George Clark



"Come along, if you like, and maybe you'll pick up something for your book; but I won't have no time to sit around telling you a lot of romantic nonsense about the river."