

# NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

By J. E. Jones

## Indians

When Christopher Columbus discovered one of the Bahama Islands he supposed that the new land was a part of India, and he called the inhabitants Indians. History tells how the Indian races were haughty in deportment, taciturn, stoical, cunning, persevering, revengeful, brave and ferocious in war; cruel towards enemies and faithful towards friends. The white man has generally failed to understand the Indian, but the historian was no doubt right who described "their mental temperaments as poetic and imaginative to a high degree." During the past summer an important proceeding at law was held in North Dakota. A prominent attorney from Washington related upon his return home that one of the most impressive ceremonies he had witnessed in his lifetime occurred at the beginning of the hearing. He told how the white man's court was assembled, with many leaders of the Indian tribe present as principals and witnesses in the litigation. Just as the court was about to proceed an Indian chief asked the judge to suspend proceedings for a few minutes. The request being granted the Indians reverently sought the blessing and help of their forefathers to aid them in securing justice for their cause. This brief ceremony concluded, the trial of the matter proceeded. In Washington D. C., there is a large educational institution for the teaching of the deaf and dumb. It was visited at one time by a number of Indians, and in a very short space of time they were able to converse with the students and the faculty in the sign language. In the history of the school it is related that the Indians acquired a part of mute conversation more readily than any other people who had ever come into contact with this school.

## Indian Citizenship

As a result of the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act by the recent Congress every native born Indian in the country has been made a citizen of the United States. Approximately 125,000 Indians have thus been given citizenship. It is estimated that 200,000 Indians were previously made citizens by various acts of Congress. While the Indians have all finally achieved citizenship in the land owned by their forefathers before the white man's foot had found their soil, the restrictions on the lands of the Indians have not been changed. The Supreme Court of the United States having held that wardship is not inconsistent with citizenship. The new law clearly stipulates that the Indians right to tribal or other property should not be impaired or otherwise affected. Census statistics gave the Indian population of the United States as 244,437 in 1920.

## Indian Health and Habits

According to the statistics of the Indian Office, there are 13,351 Indians living in Minnesota, and it is estimated that there are 480 active cases of tuberculosis among them. This high rate of tuberculosis has existed ever since civilization began to interfere with the life of the Indian—maybe before. The Indians in most parts of the country where they live still stick to their hunting habits, and they prefer the woods and the country, and their small farms, to living in town. The rich Indians that we hear about owe their affluence and their changed modes of life largely to the discovery of oil wells, as for instance in Oklahoma. The tribal Indians of the Dakotas, Montana, and the State of Washington, who visit the National Capital in order to prosecute the claims of their people before the Department do not put on many airs, and their manners are not, as a rule, unlike the white citizens who come from un settled sections or from pioneering outposts; unless one might note their unusual diffidence and their pronounced desire to go their own way. But the Chiefs from the oil fields are frequently seen "swelling" about the Capital in the most expensive automobiles that they can hire, and both the men and women of these Indian tribes make somewhat of a lavish display of their health when they come into the town inhabited by their Great White Father.

The Indian tribes are now practically defunct because the granting of full citizenship changes the civilian status of the red man. Their children have been acquiring the habits of the whites, and Indians have in actuality become a "vanishing race."

## Picketing

The United States Supreme Court has reversed the Federal District Court of St. Louis which sought to prevent picketing because it was an act of alleged intimidation by employees on a strike. In the St. Louis case it was claimed that the strikers pre-

vented production and thus restrained interstate commerce. Chief Justice Taft in his decision states that it cannot "properly be said to support the argument that mere intentional cutting down of manufacture or production is a direct restraint of commerce in the product intended to be shipped when ready." Thus the court takes picketing from out the provinces of interstate commerce, and it therefore follows that unless the picketers have engaged in some act in violation of the laws relating to the peace, that they are within their rights.

When the suffragists picketed the White House during the Wilson administration, and the wives and children of political prisoners picketed the White House during the Harding administration, picketing in war time, and the were arrested repeatedly. But the women who were put in prison for violating the peace, were released unceremoniously.

In industrial strikes there have been many arrests of picketers, but the courts have refused to hold picketers unless there was an overt act connected with the charge. About the only weapon that seems to have been successfully employed against picketers has been to keep them waiting. It is unlawful for them to obstruct the sidewalks. But as long as they keep moving they are as a rule not subject to arrest.

## The Vail Again Taxes

A hundred ears ago a philosopher declared against taxes. He said: "The schoolboy whips his taxed top; the youth manages his taxed horse with a taxed bridle on a taxed road." How lucky it is that those tax-ridden people have escaped living in our day and age. Seven and three-fourths billion dollars were paid in taxes in 1922. This was an increase of 127 per cent in five years. Thirty-two billion dollars of tax-exempt securities are outstanding.

## Debt's Blessing

"A national debt if it is not excessive, will be to us a national blessing," declared Alexander Hamilton when he was the first Secretary of the Treasury. Are these blessings that find the aggregate net debt of the United States, the States and the local governments increased six-fold in ten years, and reaching thirty-two billion dollars?

## Gasolene

Gasolene production climbed above all previous records in April. The figures are imposing, though lacking in comprehension to the unioled reader. The Interior Department at Washington figures that "the millions of automobile owners are consuming gasolene at unprecedented rate." But still the joyous joy-riders slow down enough to feel concern over the depletion of the oil resources of the United States.

## Railroads as A Political Issue

The different methods prescribed for the regulating of railroads and public utilities have resulted in breaking up political parties in States and cities, and right now the destinies of presidential candidates in the next election may hinge upon railroad legislation and policies with regard to regulating these great carriers. The farmers of the country are expressing themselves in positive terms to the effect that high freight rates are largely responsible for the difficulties that confront the agricultural industry. And even though the employees of the railroads are sharing in the benefits of the present high freights their Brotherhoods are found lined up with the protesting farmers. The hope of the independent candidacy for the Presidency, by Senator La Follette, rests almost entirely in the exception that the farmers and the railroad employees will get together and make a red-hot fight against the railroads, thereby stirring up a sentiment that will attract all organized labor forces, and all interests sympathetic to the farmers, and the industrial masses to the support of the independents. The elaborate machinery set up by the Government to regulate railroad transportation is sharing in the political attack, and many of the independents are already declaring that the railroads dominate the Federal Commissions.

## Regulated Families

When railroads were young they were not bothered by regulatory laws. They bargained with communities and with States, issued free passes to prominent people and gave heavy rebates to large shippers; they watered their stocks and turned every clever trick that smart men could devise to feather the nests of a few rich men. The public rebelled, and for two decades there has been a constant stream of laws regulating the railroads. The industry has been finally corralled in the Federal stockade, and the politicians sent to Washington have grown so expert

in throwing legal larriets that the railroads are pretty well roped. But the plan of regulation, even though it has been skillfully worked out, does not satisfy a great many people, thereby proving again the words of Dickens who said that "accidents will occur in the best regulated families." The public utilities of the country have all so been included in the regulated families, but their fate has usually rested with State or city governments. Radio is still quite unrestrained, but it has not many months of freedom left before it will be included with other members of the regulated groups. Aircraft transportation still floats free between the earth and the clouds, but in France regulation has been made necessary because of so many machines. So after while these crafts will be joined to the regulated families. Even now students of Government are working on these new problems, and the forward march of civilization will make it necessary to enlarge the regulatory powers that are created for the protection of the public.

## The Public Utilities

The ownership of the light and power companies of the country has changed a good deal during recent years. The Public Utility Information Bureau at Seattle, calls attention to the fact that many thousands of investors own the utilities of the State of Washington, and it claims that this has been beneficial to the people. And what is doubtless true in that State holds good in other parts of the United States. When the world war broke hundreds of public utility concerns went broke with it. They were tied hand and foot by rates under their franchises that compelled them to continue five-cent street car fares, and electric light and gas rates were ruinous. Receiverships and reorganization followed. The tight grip of ownership by large capitalists gave place to customer-ownership, as referred to in the Seattle statement. This customer-ownership has helped the relations between the utility companies and the communities they serve, because the officials are enabled to talk to their own citizens and constituency. It represents a forward step in public affairs. For after all non-resident ownership does not furnish the best results in the operation of any kind of business, particularly where local politics are involved as they are in utility relations.

## The Indeterminate Permit

A new feature of public utility development seeks to do away with the limited franchise, under which companies have built their plants and enterprises and conducted them in such a way as to make a "clean up" and get out within a few years. The new indeterminate permit that has been adopted by State laws in Wisconsin, Arkansas, California, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota and Ohio, is a permit that says in substance to the utilities that they may have exclusive business rights within the cities "during good behavior." In case the arrangements are not mutually agreeable a method is in effect by which the State may value the property and arrange to take it away from the private owners and give it into the hands of the municipality. It might seem that the railroads work on somewhat similar permanent arrangements. The plan seems to represent progressive ideas, and it is understood that the utilities themselves are greatly in favor of these methods because of the close cooperation it furnishes with the public that is served.

All the principles of public regulation seem to be in operation regarding all kinds of transportation, including even automobiles and trucks. The railroads and the utilities can no longer run loose in any kind of a hit-and-miss method, and the "regulated families" seem to have improved their standing before the public, and in the industrial and financial world.

## Government Ownership

It's blamed hot as this typewriter's grinding out its grist in Washington. A snowball wouldn't stand much chance here. But the snow ball's chances would be as good as that of a proposal for government ownership of railroads and telegraph and telephone lines if it was thrown into the political oven now operated by the administration forces that remain on the job during the temporary absence of the congressional stokers. Despite whatever the public press may have published recently regarding proposed public ownership, it is safe to say that Congress is practically unanimous against such a change in the methods of carrying on the affairs of our Government. Whatever may be, or may not be, the crimes of the transportation and communicating lines of the country, the fact remains that there has not been a moment in the National Capital since the war, when government ownership has been considered with the slightest degree of favor. This is because Government management of these institutions during and following the war, was regarded as a failure; and if the experiment taught anything to Congress, it

was the futility of such a use of the functions of Government, its agents and its machinery, in a field where private initiative and enterprise seemed to furnish about all the results that could be reasonably expected.

## Self-Satisfied Industrial Autocrats

The need of strict watchfulness is always evident in the relations that affect the public and the great industrial concerns. Our public domains have been plundered from the time our civilization began. The oil investigation showed that the ways of plundering have been thoroughly systemized along scientific lines. Big business is not in disrepute, and it has come to be regarded as much a part of our industrial establishment as any feature in our social and economic life. But the self-satisfied industrial autocrats who crumple the rights of their weaker fellowmen under their iron heels should be made to bear their full share of responsibility for the discontent and unrest that exists throughout the country. The tactics of some of these hard-boiled and self-contained leaders of "benevolent industry" is making a lot of our civilization "see red." They are first aids to communism, and no one should be deceived by their belittling denials.

## HEALTH TALKS

### A Cathedral in the Age of Science

The work on diphtheria is about over. The workers, and there have been thousands, scientific architects and artists of amazing ability and originality to the most obscure laboratory artisans, have taken off their proms, gathered up their tools, and gone into other fields. They have erected a cathedral for man's salvation where all who wish may find comfort, hope and surcease of suffering for their little children from diphtheria.

More is known about diphtheria, perhaps than any other infectious disease; its cause, prevention and cure. Men, great, but unknown except to a few, have given the best years of their lives that little children may live.

Prevention is the great way of treating a disease. No disease ever attacks an individual without a mark of some kind. To prevent diphtheria a few drops of diphtheria toxin, neutralized with antitoxin, is injected under the skin of the arm. This is done three times at an interval of a week and the child is then free from danger of the disease for from five years to the end of life. It is harmless, and the only pain is the prick of the needle.

Many people do not contract diphtheria although surrounded by those who have the disease. They are the fortunate ones, in that they have a natural immunity, which increases with age. We seldom hear of an adult dying from diphtheria. These people with such a gift direct from nature need no preventive treatment. But how do we know they are immune? By the simple test, named after its discoverer, the Schick test. A drop of diphtheria toxin injected into the skin of the forearm reveals the secret in one to four days.

In the susceptible a red spot the size of a nickel appears at the site of the injection. Others show no change. Those showing the positive sign should be immunized with the toxin-antitoxin.

If diphtheria cases and deaths are to be reduced, this result can only be accomplished through the general use of toxin-antitoxin as a preventive measure. There is only one remedy for cure of diphtheria—diphtheria antitoxin given early and in sufficient amount. Often a child who has had diphtheria keeps the germs in his nose and throat for some time. He spreads the disease to others. Toxin-antitoxin protects them from such danger. Every child between six months and sixteen years, especially up to six years, may need this treatment. It takes about eight weeks for the treatment to become effective.

## Some Kick

A draft of Missouri mules had just arrived at the corral, and one new buck private made the common but sad mistake of approaching too near to the business end of one of them. His comrades caught him on the rebound placed him on a stretcher and started him for the hospital.

On the way the invalid regained consciousness, gazed at the blue sky overhead, experienced the swaying motion as he was being carried along and shakily lowered his hands over the sides, only to feel space.

"My gosh!" he groaned. "I ain't even hit the ground yet!"

## The Pest

"What was the shooting last night?" asked the stranger in Holster, Arizona.

"Oh, the boys got rid of a liquor nuisance," replied Black Powder Pete. "Bootlegger, eh?"

"Naw. Nosey sheriff."

# RUPTURE

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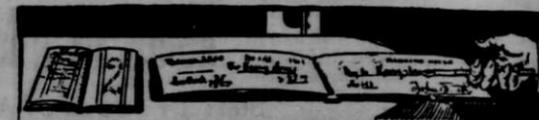
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