

THE POST-DEMOCRAT

A Democratic weekly newspaper representing the Democrats of Muncie, Delaware County and the 8th Congressional District. The only Democratic Newspaper in Delaware County.

Entered as second class matter January 15, 1921, at the Postoffice at Muncie, Indiana, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

PRICE 5 CENTS—\$2.00 A YEAR.

Office 306 East Jackson Street—Opposite Public Library. Phone 2540
GEORGE R. DALE, Owner and Publisher.

Muncie, Indiana, Thursday, October 7, 1926.

Protect the Courts?

The conference of Methodist laymen and ministers, representing many thousands of that faith, indorsed the attitude and stand of the head of the Anti-Saloon League in his comments on the Supreme Court.

Will Attorney General Gilliom now be logical and bring before that court every minister and every delegate who cheered the speech and the attitude of Dr. E. E. Shumaker?

If he does not, will he have the courage to go to the Governor or the courts and declare that his office was all wrong in the case of George Dale of Muncie, an editor, sentenced to jail for contempt of court?

The whole theory under which contempt proceedings are brought is that comment on cases before courts which might influence the decision of judges is contemptuous and to be punished.

It was under this theory that the comments of Shumaker, declared by six lawyers to have been false and malicious, are charged to be contemptuous.

The supreme court has not yet rendered its decision as to the guilt of the dry leader.

Although it was announced months ago that the decision would be prompt and early, and the court has before it the recommendation of five outstanding lawyers, no decision has been given and Shumaker is repeating the same remarks on which he is charged with contempt at every opportunity. One lawyer strongly argued that there had been no contempt.

The action of this religious conference is comment on the contempt proceedings now before the court.

Every speech in behalf of Shumaker, theoretically, at least, might be construed as an endeavor to influence the Supreme Court in this very contempt case.

It might be easily construed, so it would seem, as an effort on the part of men who represent at least 75,000 voters to make it impossible for these judges to pass dispassionately upon the guilt or innocence of the man charged by Gilliom with endeavoring to destroy justice.

That the vote was taken in support of the dry arguments of the crusader rather than as a defense of his right of free speech may be lamentable to those who believe that this fundamental right is quite as important as the dry law.

But certainly the Attorney General has a most remarkable chance to forever settle the question of what men may say or not say.

A definite charge against every preacher and delegate for contempt would bring to a most dramatic climax the free speech issue in this state.

It would warn all citizens that under the Dale decision no one may discuss courts or judges, and that the truth is no defense.

And legally, it would have quite as firm a foundation as other cases in which impudent editors have been sent to jail.

Let it be hoped that Gilliom will not overlook this magnificent opportunity to free the courts from any mob influence if he really thinks they need defense from any criticism or comment.

And let it be hoped that the people will learn how far they are restrained in discussions of judges and decisions. Indianapolis Times.

Super-Government.

(Rushville Republican.)

Thomas H. Adams, of Vincennes, veteran Indiana newspaper publisher, has promised in a letter to Indiana editors that he will expose a super-government growing out of the rule of D. C. Stephenson, as head of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana, that extended from the state house down and from the lowest office to the United States senate.

This promise alone should interest all good citizens and those who are familiar with the facts know that Mr. Adams is not talking through his hat.

Madge Oberholtzer, for whose alleged murder Stephenson is serving life sentence in the Indiana state prison, said that Stephenson told her that his word was law in Indiana.

Revelations are at hand, according to Mr. Adams, which prove that there was no fiction in what Stephenson said. Senators, governors, congressmen, judges, sheriffs and juries bowed to his will, facts in possession of the publisher show. They bowed before him because he held in the palm of his hand that which is coveted by every politician—votes.

Politics make strange bedfellows. Time without number this has been demonstrated. Mr. Adams was the bitterest enemy of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana. He forcefully assailed the invisible empire on every occasion and Stephenson and his aids looked upon him as an implacable foe.

By a queer twist of fate two score and more of Stephenson's trusted lieutenants are now Mr. Adams' willing aids in striving to unravel the strands of a deep-seated plot that caused high government officials to take a super-oath that violated their promise to enforce the law without fear or favor.

They are working in a spirit of revenge to avenge the wrongs they fancy have been done their ex-chief. Their targets are the officials in Indiana who bargained with Stephenson for votes.

But Stephenson could see into the future. He foresaw the time when, his power waning, those who courted his favor for the votes he controlled, would sink their daggers on his back. Evidence is at hand to show they did. The penitentiary for life was a convenient place to have a man who could disgrace them. And the dagger went into the hilt.

Stephenson, according to the evidence in possession of the special committee of the Indiana Republican Editorial Association headed by Mr. Adams made no contracts and accepted no premiums unless they were written. The dotted line served his purpose well; also the purpose of good government.

After endless investigations, two years of time and the expenditure of \$10,000 of his own money, Mr. Adams has been rewarded, and he pledges to make public all the infamy that has been going on since Stephenson came into power through a Klan. Then the people of Indiana may sit in judgment.

Let's Try It.

Our old friend, Wilbur Sutton of the Press prints a good many sensible things in his paper and then again he gets way off occasionally.

Sut blew up one day last week in his agony column in the west half of the southeast quarter of page one of the Press

and decided that if we had a sweet dolly parade here every day for a year that our local troubles and enemies would automatically cease.

That might all be, but nevertheless and likewise notwithstanding, it would be well for the crowds watching the parades of little ones to keep their hands on their pocketbooks.

However the Post-Democrat is willing to give the thing a trial. If parading infants softens things up to the extent that McCreery will voluntarily cancel his gravel lifting contract with the county and Harry Hoffman will take his snout out of the hog trough and the three musketeers will give back that \$2,600 and Wilbur Ryman act half way human, then we will be strong for Sut's formula.

Let's try it. Billy Williams may even be converted and Herb Smith and Bill Floyd may suddenly relax into second childhood, put on little pink dresses and push doll cabs in the parade.

It may take a dozen parades or so to get Alpha Holaday into the notion of giving it back and telling who got which and why and how much and possibly along about the second or third generation of kid parades Merritt Heath and George Pfeiffer and Perry Mansfield may quit running for office.

Watch Us Grow.

Fizzick week started off with the big feed Monday night. Only those who belong to something were allowed in. If you couldn't show membership cards in some club, or order, or association approved by the chamber of commerce all you could do was stand outside and envy those who were riotously enjoying themselves inside.

Dan Wiggle, a community builder from somewhere out west was the hurrah talker. Of course Dan is here only for his health. He builds communities just for the fun of it.

Muncie began to grow as soon as Dan lit in town. He made the usual canned speech and at decent intervals the four hundred dropped their knives and forks long enough to clap their hands.

Majors and Colonels, and Kleagles and team captains were then commissioned to go out in the highways and byways to corral new members of the chamber of commerce.

Dan didn't say a word about the contractors' trust promoted by the city administration that is gipping property owners.

He never mentioned the gravel trust that busted Delaware county.

He made no complaint about the sale of a second-hand truck.

No suggestion was made about the addition of fifty additional jobs created by the Hampton crowd.

Dan's idea of putting Muncie in the Chicago class was to get as many new members to join the commercial club as possible.

According to Dan and the Muncie Star and other great authorities on community building the way to make a town grow is to call the elect together, fill their little tummies with indigestible food, and then talk 'em all to death.

We don't know whether Dan is to be paid a lump sum for the job of uplifting Muncie or whether he is doing piece work. Or, it may be, that Dan doesn't need the money, and is just going around from place to place doing missionary work for nothing.

It doesn't stand to reason that a fellow possessed of a formula that will make a whole city prosperous would need money himself.

A man of that kind ought to be able to make a million most any day with eyes shut, and not half try.

Muncie has plenty of home talent that is able to figure out our community ills and cure them. We don't need to bring in outsiders to tell us how to do it.

We don't know where Dan Wiggle came from originally, but we'll wager our mammoth fortune that his old town has weeds growing in the middle of the street and spider webs on the doors.

Muncie will eventually come out of the kinks but not until the cancer is removed that is gnawing at the vitals of the body politic. Labor is the backbone of the community. Labor must be given a square deal and crooked politicians thrown out.

This Is a Funny Joke.

It might be well for the city administration to purchase a little device used by the state highway commission in order to check up on some of the work now being done by the paving trust. The device is a testing machine which is used to remove small cores of the paving at different places along the line of construction. These cores show whether the specifications have been adhered to by the contractors. We dare the board of works to buy a testing machine and check up on the work that is being done by the administration paving trust. The little device would not cost but a fraction of the amount paid out for a certain truck and will do something that some statesman consistently refuse to do—it will tell the truth.

A Little More Efficient Econ Omy.

News from Indianapolis recently was to the effect that Governor Jackson and his republican assistants were busy transferring \$100,000 from the automobile and gas funds to other funds. Perhaps the reason is revealed in the fact that our "economical" governor has lately employed Dr. Floyd W. Reeves of the University of Kentucky to make a survey of Indiana's institutions of higher education and find out what is the matter with them. Can it be possible that republican efficiency has permitted anything to become wrong with those institutions? Governor Jackson has employed this non-resident educator without the advice or even the knowledge of our State Superintendent of Public Instructions. Mr. Sherwood does not even know what the Kentucky educator is trying to find out. We wonder if the Kentucky gentleman will be sent to Fort Wayne to investigate the Feeble Minded school there which is under the control of brother of the governor.

Politics make strange bedfellows. Time without number this has been demonstrated. Mr. Adams was the bitterest enemy of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana. He forcefully assailed the invisible empire on every occasion and Stephenson and his aids looked upon him as an implacable foe.

By a queer twist of fate two score and more of Stephenson's trusted lieutenants are now Mr. Adams' willing aids in striving to unravel the strands of a deep-seated plot that caused high government officials to take a super-oath that violated their promise to enforce the law without fear or favor.

They are working in a spirit of revenge to avenge the wrongs they fancy have been done their ex-chief. Their targets are the officials in Indiana who bargained with Stephenson for votes.

But Stephenson could see into the future. He foresaw the time when, his power waning, those who courted his favor for the votes he controlled, would sink their daggers on his back. Evidence is at hand to show they did. The penitentiary for life was a convenient place to have a man who could disgrace them. And the dagger went into the hilt.

Stephenson, according to the evidence in possession of the special committee of the Indiana Republican Editorial Association headed by Mr. Adams made no contracts and accepted no premiums unless they were written. The dotted line served his purpose well; also the purpose of good government.

After endless investigations, two years of time and the expenditure of \$10,000 of his own money, Mr. Adams has been rewarded, and he pledges to make public all the infamy that has been going on since Stephenson came into power through a Klan. Then the people of Indiana may sit in judgment.

Generosity Galore.

The Jackson administration, alarmed at the fight being made by the democratic party for economy in state affairs, now promises to reduce the state levy to the amount of five

cents. A whole nickel on the hundred dollars of your appraisal. In plain English if you are assessed at \$10,000 this tax reduction will save you exactly five dollars. My, ain't it grand? If your farm is appraised for assessment at one hundred dollars per acre this reduction will save you just five cents, one entire nickel, on each acre you own. Be sure to lay that nickel away and invest it in coal because we might have a long hard winter.

The present state levy is twenty-eight cents on the hundred dollars. Reducing the levy two cents save the taxpayers about one million dollars in taxes, hence if the entire state levy were removed it would reduce the receipts of the state only about fourteen million dollars. Since the state of Indiana collected in the year 1925 more than fifty-two million dollars from all sources you see that were the entire state levy removed the state would yet be receiving nearly five times what was required in the last year of the Ralston administration. This gives you the inside dope on the great extent to which the fee system has been developed in this state. Of course these fees are not taxes, perish the thought, but it takes just the same kind of money to pay them and the same amount of hard work to earn the money. Also the fee system has created a lot of useless offices with good salaries for you to pay to some political pets. How do you like it?

How Many Do You Know?

When the republican press and campaign spell-binders get busy in the near future bragging about the great benefits conferred on the people by the reduction of income taxes just take a few minutes off and count up the number of people you know who paid any income tax. When the tax reduction measure was before congress the Washington News said: "It tends to destroy the very principle of the income tax. It is paving the way for indirect taxes that can be loaded almost entirely upon wage-earners and others of small incomes. This year the little fellows are being baited with real reductions in their income tax. Some two million of them are being wiped off the income tax rolls entirely. But all the reductions given the little fellows make a smaller total than the reductions given the few thousand citizens whose incomes run into the millions annually. The latter class gets the real benefit."

Yet you little fellows are supposed to get enthusiastic about it. Many of you probably will get all worked up about it and entirely forget the years of time required and the many court decisions you cussed before you succeeded in getting the constitution amended so an income tax law could be passed that the supreme court would not knock out. Think back a few years and remember how you and your fathers fought for the right to enact this very kind of a tax. Now you are asked to grow enthusiastic at its repeal.

Governor's Duty.

The warden of the Indiana state prison at Michigan City has declared that nobody will be permitted to interview D. C. Stephenson save upon formal order of Governor Jackson. Thomas H. Adams and his committee of the Indiana Republican Editorial Association, together with several members of the Indiana senate, would like to talk to Stephenson that in inducing the former Kaiser to make additional concessions in order to avert a new wave of public wrath, in return, it is understood, the Crown Prince may save his own landed estate at Oels which he would have forfeited under the compromise proposals submitted to the Reichstag by the government. The fate of Oels is one of the chief points still at issue.

Republican and Socialist papers, however, charged that the estimates put the value on the landed estates too low and the fight is expected to start all over again when the agreement is published.

Despite these efforts, which were attributed to Governor John W. Martin, Mayor E. C. Romph of Miami, and others, Chairman Payne said he felt duty bound to carry on the drive for funds and appealed to the country to continue to help. A little more than \$2,000,000 has been collected in the face of efforts to minimize the storm losses. Mr. Payne asserted that Red Cross officials in Florida had reported the greatest need for relief since the San Francisco (Cal.) earthquake and fire, listing 5,000 homes totally destroyed and 18,000 families poverty stricken.

Twenty-five committees representing various groups of the American Bankers' Association presented reports on state and national financial problems at Los Angeles, Tuesday, at the first general session of the American Bankers' Association.

a member of the United States senate? Yes, there are great possibilities in the situation and money may be due a sudden inflation, infiltration, inflow or whatever name you wish to call it.

What has become of General Mitchell and his fight to take the Air Service out of the incompetent hands of armchair bureaucrats and put it into the hands of actual flying men? Was his sacrifice in vain? Only the other day the Air Service lost another of its most valuable men when Rogers met an untimely death. The military Air Service of this government leads only to death, retirement or disgrace. Rogers met death, those airmen who carried the flag around the world retired while Billy Mitchell was kicked out in disgrace for protesting against conditions existing then, which still exist. Great is republican efficiency.

It may be that the Michigan boy who used a toy pistol when he is said to have tried to rob the Pennville bank, got that way through learning of the \$5 guns of the State Mounted Police force.

FORMER KAISER WILL GET SMALL PART OF ESTATE

Settles Property Claims with Prussia—\$20,000,000 Awarded.

BERLIN—The ex-Kaiser, who before the war was one of the rich men in the world, will receive approximately \$20,000,000 in final settlement of his property claims against his former subjects according to the agreement now being concluded between the Hohenzollerns and the Prussian government.

Of the total, \$5,000,000 is to be in cash and the rest in castles and landed estates. This would leave the ex-Kaiser about 10 per cent of the former Hohenzollern crown fortune, as estimated by the Prussian finance minister, as compared with 17 per cent in the previous agreement that caused such popular resentment and precipitated the passionately fought national referendum last June.

Crown Prince Active.

From sources close to the Hohenzollerns it is learned that the former Crown Prince was most active in inducing the former Kaiser to make additional concessions in order to avert a new wave of public wrath. In return, it is understood, the Crown Prince may save his own landed estate at Oels which he would have forfeited under the compromise proposals submitted to the Reichstag by the government. The fate of Oels is one of the chief points still at issue.

Republican and Socialist papers, however, charged that the estimates put the value on the landed estates too low and the fight is expected to start all over again when the agreement is published.

Despite these efforts, which were attributed to Governor John W. Martin, Mayor E. C. Romph of Miami, and others, Chairman Payne said he felt duty bound to carry on the drive for funds and appealed to the country to continue to help. A little more than \$2,000,000 has been collected in the face of efforts to minimize the storm losses. Mr. Payne asserted that Red Cross officials in Florida had reported the greatest need for relief since the San Francisco (Cal.) earthquake and fire, listing 5,000 homes totally destroyed and 18,000 families poverty stricken.

Twenty-five committees representing various groups of the American Bankers' Association presented reports on state and national financial problems at Los Angeles, Tuesday, at the first general session of the American Bankers' Association.

A Free Press Fights for Freedom.

</div