

Indiana Daily Times

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

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MEMBER OF AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS.

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—“THIS IS THE YEAR”—

WILL the striking asphalt repairmen expect reinstatement with pay after the primaries?

HOW MANY TAXPAYERS wish to vote for the members of the last legislature who passed the Goodrich tax law?

M'CRAY expected some ugly charges before the end of his campaign and he seems to have had his expectations fulfilled.

A VOTE FOR MERRILL MOORES is a vote to hold a job in congress for Charles Jewett when he leaves the mayor's office.

Paying for ‘Efficiency’

Practically everybody in Marion county is today paying higher taxes than a year ago and considerably higher taxes than two years ago, and the other day when a poor woman who owns a little home gave her \$60 as a first installment on her taxes to a negro who officiates at Ralph Lemcke's treasury office, she complained of the sum and was answered as follows: “You people keep on coming in here howling like this and we will raise it some more this fall.”

We are solemnly advised by the state administration that this increase in taxes is due to the higher costs of government and is the premium we are paying for “efficient and businesslike government in the local communities.”

May we ask what particular “efficiency” we are receiving for this increased taxes?

The string of taxpayers awaiting the pleasure of the negro clerks in Mr. Lemcke's office yesterday extended well out into the corridor of the courthouse. There was no degree of “efficiency” there that prevented men, women and children from standing in line for hours in order to pay the excess taxes.

A few doors away was the office of Sheriff “Honest Bob” Miller, whose “efficiency” in the conduct of the jail resulted in a federal court investigation that was followed by the indictment of Miller and his deputies on charges showing the jail to have degenerated into a gambling house and hell-hole under his “businesslike” direction.

Upstairs in the same building Claris Adams, the “good government prosecutor,” has an office where he conducts the “law enforcement” affairs of Marion county in an “efficient” manner—so efficient that when he was forced to prosecute Louis and Julius Haag he chose to prosecute them for perjury and hire Charles S. Wiltse to help him conduct the case. Wiltse served as the attorney in the prosecution of the Haags and asked \$1,500 for his services. Adams approved the payment of \$1,500 to Wiltse for conducting a prosecution for which he, the prosecutor, was amply paid, and insisted that the \$1,500 come out of the taxpayers' pocket rather than out of the enormous accumulation of fees which Adams obtained by his policy of accepting guilty pleas to gambling charges against negroes who persist in shooting craps. This bit of “efficiency” means \$1,500 to the taxpayers.

The same state officials who assure us that our excess taxes are the price we pay for “efficiency” in government point out that part of the excess is for good roads, to be built by the state highway commission.

Has anyone seen the highway commission building state roads in Marion county?

Isn't it a fact that the highway commission has taken thousands of dollars out of this county for highways and limited its expenditures in this county to such a small amount that it might be regarded as negligible?

Where is the “efficiency and businesslike” administration of the courthouse itself?

Didn't the state board of accounts find that seventeen janitors at \$75 a month each was an extraordinarily large force to keep the courthouse clean and didn't the county commissioners raise the salaries of these seventeen janitors (most of them negroes), just before the primaries?

And is the courthouse kept clean, even at the outlay of from \$12,000 to \$15,000 a year of the taxpayers' money?

Isn't it a fact, Mr. Taxpayer, that the increased taxes you pay are not the premiums on “efficient and businesslike” government, but are in reality the penalty you pay for trusting your government to a ring of inefficient, hypocritical, self-seeking officeholders who have no ability or desire to give you good government?

Are you paying for efficient government and getting little or nothing in return?

Are you going to continue to pay a premium on the present kind of government or are you going to “turn the rascals out” and save your own money?

A Real Menace

Norman Hapgood has written a letter to the New York World in which he points out a real menace confronting the United States at this time. He says:

A serious menace confronts our country, but this menace is not realized with sufficient distinctness. It lies in the possibility of the election of Leonard Wood. Danger exists in two directions: From the bellicose mind in foreign affairs and from the bellicose mind in industrial readjustment.

Harding, or frank Old Guardism, is ended.

So is Palmer, or stress on suppression of opinion.

Nobody believes that Hiram Johnson will be the next president of the United States.

Cox is progressive and honest.

Lowden is a good business man, a constructive administrator who has refused to have his appointments dictated by the machine and who (as I have private reasons for believing) favors the league of nations more strongly than his public utterances would indicate.

There are two men greatly fitted for the presidency, one a democrat and one a republican. Both are geniuses in administration and in finance. Both are sound on foreign policy, although for different reasons. They are, of course, Hoover and McAdoo.

Gen. Wood remains. I do not believe that all danger of his election has passed.

If he were elected the following would be the facts:

1. He is virtually committed to a war against Mexico on the earliest pretext.

2. Before he was a candidate he spoke of talk about the covenant as “idle twaddle and a dream of mollycoddles.”

3. The mood in which he would approach the industrial difficulties that will be with us for many years is shown by his statement that his motto for anybody he might choose to call a red would be S O S, ship or shoot. “I believe we should place them all on a ship of stone with sails lead and that their first stopping place should be hell.”

4. His administration in Cuba was a success in a Prussian or purely military sense and a failure politically. He left in 1902. We were compelled to intervene in 1906, and it was after the second intervention that the Cubans were able to govern themselves.

If there is any candidate who can show four things more ominously disqualifying at a time when what we need is constructive conciliation on a world scale, he escapes my notice.

Smash the Combination

A republican calls the attention of The Times to the fact that in the Second ward six of the eleven republican candidates for delegates to the state convention are officeholders of the present administration and expresses the opinion that this is proof of the fact that the republican voters are certainly in the hands of the ward heelers.

He points out among the candidates, Leo Fesler, county auditor; D. H. Bynum, assistant corporation counsel; Judge Linn Hay of the superior court; Frank Green, bailiff of the superior court, Frank Symmes, county pauper attorney, and Walter Pritchard, city judge, and says “the people should smash such a combination.”

Without intending to cast any reflections on the personal character of these men, for there are some excellent citizens among them, we agree with this republican.

The people of Indianapolis must smash such combinations or surrender their rights to participate in the government.

For when officeholders combine to control conventions of our political parties and succeed they perpetuate themselves. As they grow in power they take away from the people the right to express themselves in the government. They become the government themselves.

The time is at hand in Marion county when the voters must either agree to turn their government over to a lot of “professional officeholders” or smash the ring that now controls the state, the county and the city.

INDIANA DAILY TIMES, FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1920.

MANY CHANGES URGENT IN LAWS

(Continued From Page One.)

ized and autocratic system growing out of the Goodrich tax law; good roads made of the very best material at the lowest possible price; an adequate wage for all labor, especially

JOHNSON AND HARDING WINDING UP IN STATE

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Gen. Leonard Wood will conclude his campaign with a speech at Tomlinson Hall Monday night.

Senator Johnson will speak in Tomlinson Hall and Senator Harding will speak at the Marion club.

The four candidates for the republican nomination are now in the state traveling from town to town making speeches.

Besides the candidates themselves there are corps of speechifiers who are present at the meetings.

Johnson street corner meetings are being held in Indianapolis with Shemans O'Shea, John D. Moore, Edgar D. Atkin and William MacDougall as the speakers.

All candidates for the nominations for governor in both parties are making whirlwind campaigns in the state winding up their fights for nomination.

Ited means an equal opportunity with those whose only qualifications are unlimited funds for campaign purposes.

“I am also in favor of increasing the salaries of our teachers and protecting the interests of labor in general.”

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