

Indiana Daily Times

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THOSE SWIMMING POOLS will be in demand in Indianapolis shortly. Have the contracts been awarded yet?

THE FAVORITE pastime of certain Republicans at present seems to be seeking some way to undo what they have done!

ANYHOW, those students who answered the questionnaire concerning their favorite theater seem to have had the frankness of youth!

WE THOUGHT the Gipsy Smith meeting was a great blessing to this community, but the church federation says it was the "executive work."

HORRORS! The county commissioners do not display a willingness to take their orders from Alfred Potts of the mysterious taxpayers' league!

THE PUBLIC SERVICE commission seems to have decided that the gas company is so naughty that perhaps it will improve if we give it more spending money!

BUT, if 17,000 Democrats voted for Shank, where were the Republicans on primary day? Seems like there were more than 49,000 Republicans here last election!

WHY confine speculation to one precinct in discussion of the primary? The Ninth ward precinct in which Mr. Howe received such an overwhelming vote also is interesting!

A FEW YEARS AGO Governor Goodrich paroled a convict so that he might attend the Derby. And that was not nearly such an offense as it now is for a Republican candidate to watch the horses!

Preposterous!

In the opinion of a great many citizens of Indianapolis, the Democratic party has before it an opportunity to win the coming city election.

And in the minds of a great many citizens there is a deep regret that the party, as a whole, is not in a better position to avail itself of that opportunity.

There can be no dispute over the self-evident fact that before the Democrats of Indianapolis can expect to win a campaign they must rehabilitate their party organization, to the point, at least, where its efficiency is not limited entirely by the measure to which the Republicans are willing to have it efficient.

This can only be done by routing out of the Democratic organization that element which is willing to limit its efforts for party success as a reward for minority favors. To what extent this element predominates must first be ascertained. Then methods of eliminating it must be adopted and vigorously utilized.

There will remain then a militant organization, weakened no doubt by a painful operation, but relieved of a sapping malady that is today making an invalid of Democracy in Indianapolis.

The small amount of respect that exists among Republican politicians for the Democratic organization today is disclosed by their proposal that Boyd M. Ralston retire as a candidate for mayor and permit them to name a Democratic candidate more to their liking. What they really mean is that Mr. Ralston retire and allow them to name a man who did not serve on a Federal grand jury that indicted the managers of the Indianapolis News, who will be under their control at all times and whose election would mean a victory for Democracy in name only.

Such a bi-partisan alliance as they now propose would mean the culmination of their heretofore secretly pursued efforts to control the Democratic as well as the Republican organization. It would present to the people of Indianapolis the choice between acceptance of the domination of a still greater machine than the voters repudiated at the primary and the acceptance of Samuel Lewis Shank as mayor.

We have no doubt as to the choice of the voters under these circumstances, but we sincerely hope that the Democratic party will be wise enough to retain its own integrity and push the remarkable advantage which is now in its hands.

Buncoed Again!

Among the gas consumers of Indianapolis, the order of the public service commission increasing rates 50 per cent will never be regarded as anything else than a complete betrayal of their interests.

Whether it is a betrayal from which they have an appeal or from the effects of which there is some measure of relief possible remains to be seen. The order is one that tends to shake confidence in the theory that justice will eventually prevail.

No one can read the finding of the public service commission without feeling that through some influence not disclosed the commission pro-mulgated a finding against the increase of rates and then deliberately attached to it an order increasing the rates.

The commission finds that it is difficult to believe that a company which is earning twice its fixed charges can be without credit.

The commission also finds that the gas company's credit situation is a "serious" one, and grants a 50 per cent increase for the purpose of helping it.

The commission discloses plainly by its findings that there is no emergency confronting the company, except that bookkeeping emergency which the company is found to have created for the purposes of this hearing.

Then the commission finds that an emergency exists which gives it the legal right to set aside a contractual and statutory rate for gas and established an "emergency rate."

Finding in one moment that no emergency exists, in another that one does exist; assuming that the plea is in equity and that the pleaders have come into court with unclean hands, the commission then abrogates statutory rates as a measure of equity.

Condemning the methods of the company at length, the commission then finds that it is efficiently operated.

Finding that the company has repeatedly increased rates by deliberately lowering the quality of its product, the commission then gives the company an increase in rates as a sort of a reward for failure or a prize for evasion of its contractual obligations.

There is little that remains for the consumer to do except realize that he has been thoroughly and effectually buncoed.

Major Jewett might regain a little of his lost popularity by presenting an appeal to a successful culmination.

Consumers might unite in an effort to establish whether they have through the utility law unwittingly given the commission and the gas company free access to their pocketbooks.

The public, generally, might realize that its best recourse lies in the curtailment of the so-called emergency jurisdiction of the commission through an amendment to the utility law that would everlastingly deprive such corporations as the Citizens Gas Company of the opportunity to "put it over" on them.

In the meanwhile, the gas consumers of Indianapolis will be called upon to pay 90 cents for gas in order that the company may hold its 100,000 tons of coke for a market price twice as great as the people of St. Louis are paying for coke delivered to their homes.

This situation is brought about by the unsupported assumption of the commission that it has no control over the prices the company elects to charge for its coke. This assumption is directly contrary to the opinion expressed by the best legal authorities in Indiana, and it was adopted by the commission without investigation, apparently for the sole purpose of enabling it to put a semblance of justification back of a wholly unjustifiable raise in gas rates.

Heretofore, we have frequently been told that the city of Indianapolis enjoyed a low gas rate because the gas company was able to mark its coke elsewhere at a big profit.

Now the citizens will be compelled to pay a high gas rate and the company allowed to hold its coke until such time as it may again reap the high profits of a market elsewhere.

In other words, Indianapolis is neither to have the benefits of low gas rates nor a reasonable price for coke.

Yet there are some people who will still argue that the Citizens Gas Company is a "semi-philanthropic" institution and the public service commission is of benefit to the people!

INDIANA DAILY TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 9, 1921.

WHEN A GIRL MARRIES

A New Serial of Young Married Life

By Ann Lise

CHAPTER CCVIII.
A beaming Neal was waiting for me in the lobby of the Clinchian. A Neal trim and well-groomed, found them selves up like a challenge to the world and his shoulders went back so jauntily that they almost kept me from noticing the flicker of restlessness in his eyes. The old uniform didn't look shabby now.

"Well, Babbsie, you sure are grand with that new copper kettle on your head. That's some swell bonnet, and there's a prettier girl in the room than my sister. I hope they don't point her out to a fellow with a weak heart!" he cried all in one breath.

"Do I look nice, Neal?"
I say so!" chorused Neal. "And if I asked, I'll bet every other mother's son in the place will say as much or more. You are there with the looks, Babbsie, and it only takes half-way decent clothes to give you a chance to prove it."

"Well, Babbsie, you sure are good with your wife!" I cried with a smile. "Calm yourself, Babbsie. If ever I have a wife, I'll let you go to the canteen that night last week?" I asked, suddenly.

"Why did you want me to go, since you weren't there yourself?" he asked searching.

"Oh, then you did go!" I cried, eager to hear more.

"As far as the door. I asked Carlotta Sturges for you and she told me Phoebe Harrison was substituting for you. So, remembering a certain box on the ear, I did a quick getaway."

"Oh, Neal!" I said, unhappily; "did Phoebe see you?"

"Couldn't say," muttered Neal.

The bitterness in his voice, the glint in his eyes, made me hunt hastily for a topic it would be wiser to discuss.

"I want to know about that wonderful job of yours, Neal. Tell Babbsie." I cried.

"I got it through you. Remember the day you set Pat Dalton to waiting for me in the lobby of the Eversham building?"

"Yes. Last week. And I've not had a word from you all this while."

"I couldn't speak to you. I was down and out. Last staves gone, I wouldn't see Evvy till she came in her little car and took me off to their country place. I was about ready for the broad lines. Some friends in here, Evvy."

"You mean you got this position through Evvy?" I asked, breathlessly.

"No, Babbsie."

"But I want to know. Why all this mystery?"

"There's some one else who has a right to be in on it when I tell! Don't you see this is a table for four? Here comes the 'mystery'."

"I looked up and there were Pat Dalton and Carlotta Sturges crossing the room together.—Copyright, 1921.

(To be continued.)

KEEPING HOUSE WITH THE HOOPERS

(The Hoopers, an average American family of five living in a house which will tell the readers of the Daily Times how the many present-day problems of the home have been solved and how best that Mrs. Hooper has evolved and found practical. Follow them daily in an interesting review of their home life and learn to meet the demands of the high cost of living with them.)

MONDAY.

"I've decided to have the windows screened this week, Mary," said Henry as he came down stairs to breakfast. "The carpenter tells me that if we can get a good window screen while he is here, he will make a very reasonable price."

"Very well, Henry," said Mrs. Hooper.

"I'll make a note of all the windows that we will have to be replaced.

I know, because we will have to be replaced. I know, because we will have to be put off doing it for two years because all the material has been so expensive."

"I don't believe it will be economy to let it go any longer," was Henry's reply, "even if it does make a hole in your house maintenance account."

"Oh, I have been anticipating that as the first outlay for the spring," replied Mrs. Hooper, "so I'll attend to ordering the carpenter this week and you can have the carpenter come next Monday morning."

"Well, it is lucky we do not have to let it go any longer," said Henry, "but that is probably the reason for the good health of all of us, but I believe that after all this time I ought to have an expert's opinion as to whether the old plumbing ought not to be replaced."

"Yes, I know," Henry answered as he let the wriggling Betty into her high chair and put on her bib, "and that is probably the reason for the good health of all of us, but I believe that after all this time I ought to have an expert's opinion as to whether the old plumbing ought not to be replaced."

"I quite agree with you," rejoined Mrs. Hooper, "so I'll attend as soon as I extract the time from our house insurance, which is due next month—your plumbers may do their worst with what remains of that portion of my budget."

"I see you've begun on our spring cereal," remarked Henry as he helped the children to the corn flakes that had taken the place of the usual cooked cereal that Mrs. Hooper had been serving her family all winter.

"I have," said Henry, "and I am sure that the new cereal will be just as good as the old."

Henry, however, was not so sure.

"I believe you won't find very much that isn't in very good condition," replied Mrs. Hooper. "It was very well done and of the best material in the beginning and I know how we have watched every little that has been repaired to the moment it was off order."

"Well, it is lucky we do not have to let it go any longer," said Henry, "but that is probably the reason for the good health of all of us, but I believe that after all this time I ought to have an expert's opinion as to whether the old plumbing ought not to be replaced."

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