

SOUTH UNMOVED BY HARDING'S EQUALITY TALK

President, by Appointments, Should Lead Way, Is Suggestion.

By WALLACE BASSFORD.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 1.—When the President said in his speech at Birmingham, "Whether you like it or not, if our democracy is not a lie, you must stand for the political and economic equality of the races," he was uttering a sentiment which will sooner or later have deeper effect in the North than in the South, and he was undertaking the old and impossible task of measuring unlike things with the same yardstick.

Of course the real purpose of the speech was political: he expressed the desire that the white people of the South would divide up on economic lines and forget the race question, which is nothing but the old, old effort to break the solid South. Even Lincoln dreamed of it, and every Republican President since has tried his hand at it—all in vain. The President also urged the negroes to divide their ranks on political questions—knowing all the time they would not do it. He knew that those who take sufficient interest or pride in their found rights to vote, still vote more than 90 per cent for the candidates bearing the Republican label.

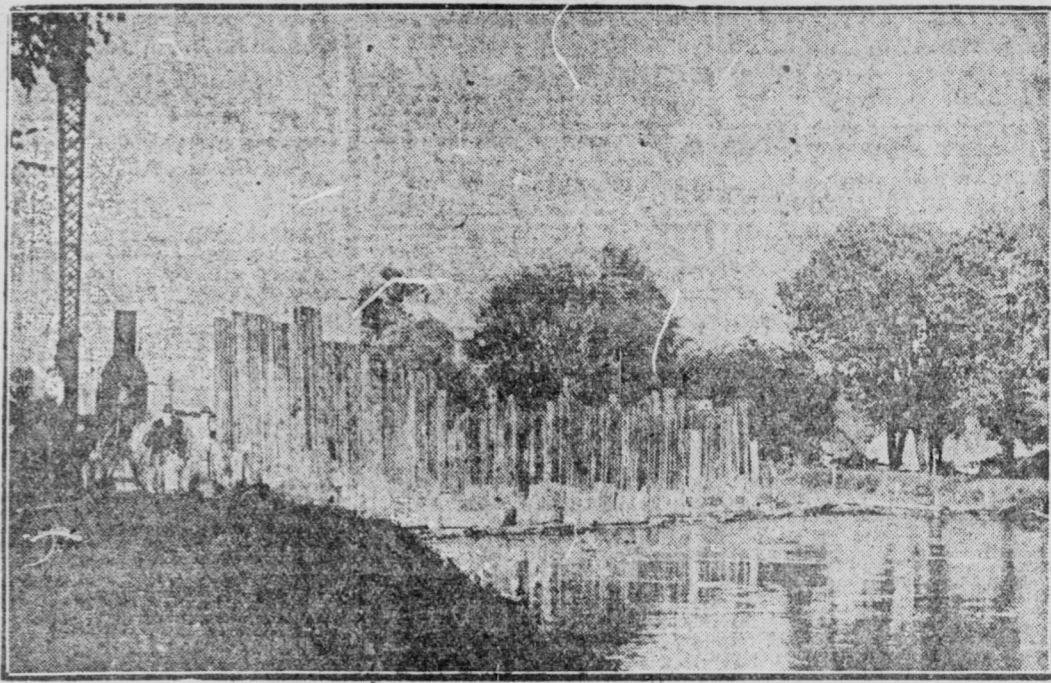
SOUTH SIMPLY WON'T HAVE IT.

Conditions in the Southern States demonstrate two things: First, that the Southern white people are not going to have equality of any kind between the races; they couldn't have if they wished, and they will never wish it. The differences, socially, economically and ethnically, are fundamental and ineradicable; they go back to creation's dawn and to the Creator; they have always existed and always will. The issue of a President is uttered, talked of for awhile and is forgotten, while the age-old fundamental obstacles remain.

In Egypt, before the Exodus even, an Egyptian writer, speaking of the negro, said: "He is different, his skull is not like ours; it ossifies at the age of puberty, after which the brain does not grow." That is a free translation from the eunim-form characters of the Egyptians. The difference noted then exists now.

If the President's words, quoted in the first paragraph, mean anything, they mean that the negro must be allowed to work on an absolute equality with the white mechanic or craftsman. To be allowed to work, he would have to be admitted to membership in the labor unions—the Bricklayers' Union, the

CANAL BLOCKED BY COFFER DAM



Carpenters' Union, the Steamfitters, the Boilermakers, the Stonecutters, the Tinners, the Cigarmakers, the Machinists, the Electricians, the Typographical Union. The President says: "You must stand for the political and economic equality of the races." It will be interesting to note if the question will appeal to the great labor leaders of the country with the same force with which it seems to have gotten hold of the President.

HOW CAN EQUALITY EXIST.

It is interesting to ask how such equality is possible in the northern cities to which the negro has flocked in recent years, where practically all labor is performed by the members of labor unions, operating under their rules, which require that each member demonstrate before a selected committee his ability to perform skillfully the work properly falling to members of that union. I believe it is true at the present time that all negroes are barred from membership in these unions, and I am informed by union men that there are a few negroes in those cities who could pass the re-

How half of the canal is blocked by coffer dam at Fifty-Sixth street in order to permit the laying of the Fifty-Sixth street and Westfield road main sewer beneath the canal bed is shown in the photograph. The sewer is five feet in diameter and drains practically all of the territory north of Fifty-Second street west of Central avenue into White River. It will cost about \$310,000.

The Sheehan Construction Company, which has the contract, is laying the sewer beneath the canal bed in two steps, the first of which is shown here. Workers are excavating, building a concrete foundation and laying the pipe thence behind the steel walls which keep out the water. When the pipe is laid half way across the canal the coffer dam will be pulled up and moved to the other half and the sewer carried on across. The canal crossing operation requires the laying of approximately 130 feet of five-foot cast iron pipe in this manner.

quired examinations, provided they were admitted to them. Now the question naturally arises, will the great unions yield to the plainly-expressed determination of the President? Those who have

tested the temper of these men in other matters do not think so.

If the President is sincere in his startling utterance, he should show his faith by his works. The world is still judging the tree by its fruit. Something like 20 per cent of the Republicans are negroes; on that basis, 20 per cent of all the President's appointments should go to

negroes. They should have two members of the Cabinet, while part of the assistant secretaries in the departments should be negroes and part of the President's office force, a few members of the diplomatic corps, two associate justices of the Supreme Court, et cetera. But will the appointments be made? No, not one of them—in fact, the negroes will not get at President Harding's hands three appointments that are desired by white Republican politicians. It is reported that the President hasn't even selected a negro chauffeur and the country will wait breathlessly to see if any of his vacancies in the cabinet corps at West Point and Annapolis will be filled with negro boys. Political sincerity, like charity, should begin at home, and Marion, Ohio, yearns for a negro postmaster. Before the armaments conference began the President will have time to go to California and repeat the Birmingham speech, merely substituting the word "Japanese" for the word "negroes." Why not?

Hoosier Motor Club Feels Halloween Hurt

Halloween revelers or mischievous boys are believed to have been responsible for an orgy of paint-smearing in a garage occupied by the Hoosier Motor Club as a garage and sign service station, in the rear of the 300 block in Delaware street, some time Sunday, according to a report to the motor club by the police department. E. L. Gibson, road sign man for the club, discovered this morning that the closed body of the motor truck which had been handsomely lettered in gold leaf, was smeared with red and blue paint; a suit of his clothing and also a suit of overalls was paint-bombed. Paint was spilled and splattered all over the floor of the workshop.

Numerous danger signs intended for use on the new concrete road now open between Indianapolis and Greendale were

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And Shank Cried Like a Baby

Eight years ago today Indianapolis was in the hands of a mob.

Lew Shank was mayor of the city.

While policemen stood idly by, street car motormen and conductors were dragged from their cars and roughly handled.

All through that long day street cars were smashed in Washington street and other property destroyed, without let or hindrance by Shank's police department.

The better element of our citizenship, regardless of whether or not it sympathized with the strikers, stood aghast at the failure of the police to act in the face of open lawlessness.

Appeals to Shank were fruitless. He either would not or could not control his own police department.

Rioting continued unabated for three days and nights until it naturally wore itself out in its own fury.

On the third day while Mayor Shank was attempting to explain to a citizens' safety committee why he had so miserably failed in maintaining law and order, he received word that the street car barns were about to be charged by a mob of 3,000, and armed men on the inside had orders to shoot if the police failed to protect them.

Shank threw up his hands and cried like a baby, calling out in his frenzy, "What will we do? What will we do?" at a time when only strong men could be of use.

When the teamsters' strike was threatened some days later, Shank resigned his office rather than try to enforce the law and protect the city as he had sworn to do.

Indianapolis does not want a "quitter" for a mayor again.

Republicans may save Indianapolis by voting for Boyd M. Ralston for Mayor.

Remember that terror-period eight years ago with Shank as mayor and join the

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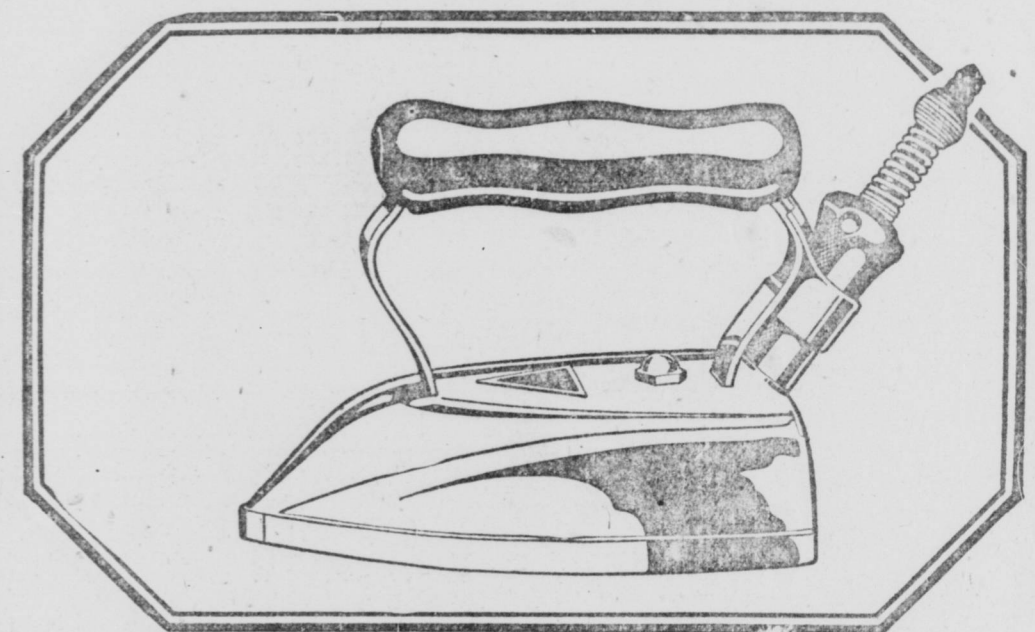
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