

The Indianapolis Times

EARL E. MARTIN, Editor-in-Chief ROY W. HOWARD, President.
FRED ROMER PETERS, Editor. O. F. JOHNSON, Business Mgr.

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AS TO PAINTING AUTOS

AXPAYERS of Marion County will be much interested in those bills the State highway commission says it is going to render to Congressman Fred Purnell and Highway Commissioner Earl Crawford for the painting of their private automobiles in the State highway garage.

Aside from why the great State of Indiana has to borrow a Congressman's automobile while he is in Washington, as the commission says was the case with Purnell, the taxpayers very likely would like to know:

Is it going to cost Purnell and Crawford as much to have had their cars painted with State materials on State time in a State garage as it does the less fortunate car owner who goes to a private paint shop?

The bills to include a charge for garage overhead, such as light, heat, rent, bookkeeping, etc.?

If the answers are "no" the taxpayers might conclude they are on the losing end of the game. If one official has a right to do it, so have others.

There are a lot of officials in those seventy-two State departments.

THE NEGRO MOVES NORTH

EVERY year half a million negroes cross the Mason and Dixon line going north to stay. A certain proportion comes to Indianapolis. Migration of peoples are nothing new. History records many of them. We have had a fair share in our short history. Each has had its underlying political, religious or economic causes.

Ard results, too.

Not forgetting that, the Government is studying this negro movement north. It finds that the negroes are migrating to the north for the same reasons that sons and daughters of farmers have been leaving the farms for the cities during the past decade.

The negro wants life, better wages, amusements, bright lights and more independence than the South has been inclined to grant him. He finds all those in northern cities, where many big employers, their supply of cheap labor from Europe cut off by immigration laws, welcome him into the factories.

In some States the negro is a person of some importance politically. His vote may switch a State from one party to another. Politicians are always trying to do that. So the negro is welcomed to the North by certain Republican district bosses.

That is significant. It takes Republicans from the South, where they cannot be spared, and makes for a more solid Democratic South and a still more preponderantly Republican North.

That's politics. Consider the economics of the negro migration. Behind him the negro leaves a deserted farm, in a district where white men generally do not labor with their hands.

In some States there are thousands of these farms.

Does that mean a lapse in agriculture for the South? Maybe not. It may mean a new land of opportunity for white settlers, with farm machinery, looking for cheap lands out west. Ultimately, it may mean a new, modernized rural South, rivaling the great Northwest.

Then there is the social problem. As the negro families by train loads pour into northern cities, great city blocks of white families will leave their homes to avoid mingling too closely with folks of another race. Some of those white families may even go South.

Yes, the negro may change our whole map with his move north.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS ALIVE

PRESIDENT HARDING says "the issue of the League of Nations is as dead as slavery." Let's think it over.

The trouble with a lot of us is we think of the league idea as something new. We treat it as a political issue begot by ourselves, born at Versailles in 1919 and strangled at Washington in 1920.

How silly! The idea was at least 700 years old when Christ was born at Bethlehem. Does anybody really think that an idea so vital that it has a definite place in history for more than 2,600 years, would shrivel up and die just because a little fellow like Henry Cabot Lodge of Nahant, Mass., doesn't like it?

Micah, the Morashite, writing in the days of Hezekiah, King of Judah, about 725 years before Christ, was a better judge of what would be going on in our world today than many of us now living.

Micah saw a time when "many nations shall come" and unite for peace.

"And He shall * * * rebuke strong nations afar off, and they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

"But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord had spoken it."

If that is not a definite promise of peace to the plain men of all the world then it is nothing. And all the Lodges from creation until doomsday could not change a jot of it.

SALARIES—Teachers' salaries in Mexico have doubled in the past ten years. Is it the hazard or progress of civilization?

LECTURERS—Early in July, 15,000 lecturers will arrive in this country from England. Gosh! What if all of them turned out to be lecturers? Wouldn't some of our Indiana Chautauqua speakers have competition?

NOISE—Indianapolis police always are starting some new kind of crusade, but we haven't heard of them going after noise. New York police are. Probably the thirsty have become boisterous in their protests since Governor Al Smith has returned from his little jaunt at French Lick Springs with Col. Tom Taggart.

PISTOLS—Recently The Times commented that firearms could be purchased too easily and recommended strict enforcement of a measure requiring issuance of permits. Now we read that Oklahoma had 238 homicides last year, showing that the "baby State" is having difficulty in getting away from the sanguinary rule of the gun.

LIGHT ON GOUGERS REFUSED

Harding Declines to Answer Queries Regarding Sugar Status.

CENSUS REPORTS HELD UP

Cuban Crop Is Much Larger Than Manipulators' High Estimate.

By JOHN CARSON
Times Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON, June 28.—President Harding declined to reveal the true and complete story of the sugar gouge and gougers before he left Washington.

Specific questions asked by the Baltimore Housewives' League, questions which went right to the vital of the gouge remain unanswered. They could have been answered with the information the Government investigators have, but they were not. Unless Congress forces a real investigation, the gougers are going to get away clean.

The Department of Commerce has closed up like a clam on all discussions of sugar news or the sugar-gouge. The department is not even issuing its monthly census reports on sugar.

The tariff commission has continued its investigation. The commission sent out a questionnaire of some thousand or more questions. Sugar authorities say it gets nowhere and if answered would only add to the public confusion.

Hoisted by Gougers
When the gougers started they cried "sugar shortage" and announced that the Cuban sugar crop would not be more than 3,700,000 tons. Their estimates were as low as 3,500,000 tons. Although other authorities insist the crop would be 4,000,000 tons, a considerable increase over last year's crop, the gougers hoisted.

Eight central in Cuba are still grinding sugar cane. When they complete operations the Cuban crop will be established. But already the crop is beyond the gougers' estimates. The lowest estimate now fixed is 3,500,000 tons or 150,000 tons more than the highest estimate of the gougers.

There are now more than 1,300,000 tons of sugar in ports, more than enough for any demand in the next three months or until beet sugar arrives on the markets. Instead of a "shortage," there will be a "surplus" of sugar.

Book Transactions
Charges are now made that a real investigation will show the gougers paid not more than 3½ cents a pound for any sugar they had to purchase from independent growers in Cuba. The prices of more than 5 cents quoted for raw sugar are declared to be "book transactions" to justify the high prices charged consumers.

If this charge is substantiated, the gougers will have reaped a profiteers' profit of from 3 to 5 cents on every pound of sugar they sold and their half-billion dollar gouge will have been put over on the consumers.

French Helicopter
French helicopter went straight up, staying up nine minutes, possibly after hearing of the new German note.

Wouldn't it be great if you could send the baby to the laundry?

But a locust working only every seventeen years makes an ant mad.

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