

The Indianapolis Times

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

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RALSTON'S "MUNICIPAL GUARDIANSHIP"

"MUNICIPAL guardianship" is the term used by Boyd M. Ralston, former candidate for mayor of Indianapolis, in describing a somewhat new plan of utility ownership he has outlined to the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Ralston would have the consumers of a utility product own the stock, preferably each subscriber to own a share, and the city to exercise paternal guardianship over it even to the extent of controlling stock transfers. The city would operate the utility and the consumers would own it, with certain restrictions.

The restrictions are the important point. When the Citizens Gas Company was formed, it was to be something of a mutual organization. Stock sold from door to door. Then along came interests which bought up the stock from the consumers. Now the ownership of the gas company is little different from that of any public utility. Admittedly, Mr. Ralston's plan would eliminate a recurrence of this situation.

Mr. Ralston presumably would have the city operate a utility. He says nothing about the stockholders having a vote. Therefore, on election day, persons who do not have stock would have as much to say about operating the utility as those who do. Of course, the stockholders stand a chance of collecting a profit, if any.

As a whole, Mr. Ralston's idea seems to differ very little from a plan of municipal ownership.

INDIANAPOLIS TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

HERE is a lot of good common sense in what Miss Maurice J. O'Connell, winner of The Times traffic contest, has to say about traffic regulation in Indianapolis. The suggestions have the added advantage of not including any radical changes in regulation.

Much of the difficulty in traffic regulation is due to the fact motorists are not acquainted with traffic rules. Miss O'Connell's suggestion that they learn them is well taken. Of course, motorists can not be expected to keep up with regulations if they are to be changed over night on an average of once or twice a month.

Miss O'Connell suggests no parking be permitted in the downtown congested district and that no parking be permitted on Meridian St. from St. Clair St. north to the creek during rush hours. This brings up the old problem of where cars are to be parked. One suggestion is that street cars be looped around the congested district and that the middle of Washington St. instead of the outer edges be used for parking. This suggestion, however, has met with much opposition in the past.

Widening of Meridian St. also is suggested. This may have to come eventually, but when it does it will be an extremely expensive undertaking. Many of the larger cities, the streets in most of which are not as wide as those in Indianapolis, have found one way traffic regulations successful. Capitol Ave. and Meridian St. are the main arteries to the north. It might be well to make one street a north traffic street and the other a south traffic street.

Traffic in Indianapolis runs much slower than that in many large cities. This is due to some extent to the fact that the police department insists on slow driving, but extremely slow traffic often is due to the fact a slow driver gets in the middle of a street and holds up everything behind him. Miss O'Connell's suggestion that slow traffic stay next to the curb contains real common sense. A rule of this kind should be enforced as strictly as the rule that cars must stop before crossing or entering boulevards.

There is nothing more aggravating than to be compelled to crawl along Meridian St. during the rush hour behind a slowly moving truck. Incidentally, dozens of trucks can be counted on Meridian St. at almost any time. One wonders if they all have permits to use a street that is supposed to be used for passenger vehicles only.

Horse sense can do a lot toward straightening out traffic jams.

OSTRICHES AND POLITICIANS

STRANGE birds, these politicians! The Indiana type is no different from his brethren in Ohio, Maine or California.

We laugh when the ostrich buries its head and thinks it is safe from approaching catastrophe. But isn't it just as funny when a politician buries his mind under the praise of friends, and squats ostrich-like in his office until a public upheaval bowls him over and out?

Saw one of those upheavals in Minnesota! Republican leaders are "amazed" at the election of Magnus Johnson, one of the people, to the United States Senate. The President is "chagrined," so say dispatches from Alaska. Just as if Minnesota folk lacked the right to differ with the powers enthroned by them!

And Democratic leaders rejoice! They think that by some hocus pocus they will be richer by this popular discontent! Maybe they will, and maybe they won't.

What difference exists between the two parties, anyway? Folks are asking that. And justly, too. To a few earnest Democrats, their party may differ from the Republicans. It may be more liberal, more a party of protest. But to the politicians today in power, the party, be it Democratic or Republican, is merely a vehicle to power.

It is time for one party or the other to change that. Chances that the Republican party will do it are almost nil. Chances that the Democrats will do it are a little better and that is more than nothing.

This is the chance of a lifetime, if ever there were one, for the minority party leaders to cease being phonographs and to set forth some ideas for fulfilling the will of the people.

Now is the time to put coal in the cellar if you can get prices in the cellar.

European nations can't get peace with each other by trying to get a piece of each other.

The ambitious amateur thinks the golf course hasn't enough holes so digs a few himself.

Too many people's idea of a good time seems to be too many people's idea of a wicked time.

Some people making long summer trips are wished success going, but not coming.

A bee or not a bee, that's the picnic question.

MORALE OF REPUBLICANS CRUMBLING

Leaders in Washington Agree

Chance of Harding's Re-

Election Is Slim.

By JOHN CARSON

Times Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, July 23.—The morale of that part of the Republican party remaining in Washington has gone.

Call it "sour grapes," the "buck age" or anything you wish, or just ascribe it to an ability to discover a silver lining—the fact is, Republican leaders in Congress are now insisting a Democratic victory in 1924 will benefit the Republican party.

"They can't do any more than we have, and the result will be a reaction against them," insisted one of the most prominent Republican Senators.

"I think a Democratic victory in 1924 will result in burying the Democratic party. We'll get a favorable reaction before 1926."

That is just evidence of the mental state of the Republicans. Invariably they agree the chance for re-election of President Harding is very slim and it will be less as the months roll around.

Other Factors Hurt Party

To this lack of spirit is added various other factors which have hurt the party organization and especially hurt it so long as the President is regarded as the party leader. These factors are:

Growing dissatisfaction within the President's Cabinet. It is now known the Cabinet members upon whom the President leaned most a year ago are irritated and discouraged. One resignation is not an impossibility.

Concern among the Senators and Representatives over their own political future. Unmistakable tendencies are noticed among Senators to look out for themselves and this attitude of "every man for himself" is about the peak of party disintegration.

Leader Is Needed

Within the last two days I've had one Senator, a stalwart Republican of the old school, tell me that the country needed a "Roosevelt or a Wilson."

"But this man Harding is not that, and he can't be changed," he continued. "He's not strong now when we need a strong man. He's weak and he's flirting with this and that and in an effort to develop strength, whereas he should have stuck to the policies of the first year of his Administration."

Some one of the newspaper correspondents with the President suggested Mr. Harding was "walking too much." Immediately that became a cry with the Republican Senators.

"Preaching out there in the West," exclaimed one Senator with evident derision. "Why didn't he think about practicing those things he's preaching about during the first two years?"

These are just suggestions of a spirit within the party which is ominous for the President. And most remarkably, it is the spirit within the Old Guard and especially the Liberal Old Guard of Eastern States. It is development of a feeling that the President began playing "Ohio politics" a few months ago in order to save himself and his State. The belief the President had returned to the dictation of Attorney General Daugherty and cast aside the advice of such men as Secretary of War Weeks and Secretary of the Treasury Mellon caused this resentment.

With this going on, you might say the party should get rid of Harding. But the fact is, it is conceded Mr. Harding will be the party nominee if he wants it—and it is agreed now he wants it and the only question is his courage in facing the probability of defeat.

Alternative Is Wise

The real reason why there is no suggestion among the conservatives to get rid of Mr. Harding is that the other alternative is regarded as worse. With Mr. Harding out of the race, the conservative fear the presidential possibilities of a Pinchot, a Kenyon or a Hiram Johnson. They'd rather have a Democrat win the presidency than have this type of a Republican.

Family Fun

Impossible

The auctioneer was endeavoring to dispose of a stock of cigars.

White was among the listeners, and having sampled this particular line, was not quite in agreement with the auctioneer.

"Fee," said the auctioneer, "these cigars are absolutely without equal in this country today. In short, gentlemen, you can't get better; whatever you do, you can't get better."

White was unable to restrain himself any longer.

"No, you can't get better," he broke in. "I smoked one last week and I haven't recovered yet."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

A Thought

He that gathered in summer is a wise son; but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame. —Prov. 10:5.

AGS will always make their appearance where they have a right to do it.—Johnson.

Science

One of the greatest inventions of man is the microscope.

Thirty or forty years ago every boy tried to produce snakes by putting horse hairs in a glass or bottle of water. Many country people believe to this day that eels will be grown by putting horse hairs in a pond.

The microscope destroyed these and many other similar ideas, when it overthrew what is called the doctrine of spontaneous generation. That doctrine taught that lifeless matter was suddenly converted into living matter. For example, a dead carcass was supposed to breed insects and maggots.

The microscope revealed the hitherto unknown world of cells from which every living thing is composed. Small bits of matter, such as a grain of sand or a spoonful of water, are now known to be composed of many small units. In a similar way the bodies of all living things are built out of these units.

When Brother Buys

I'd like to see something cheap in a straw hat.

Clerk: Try this one. The mirror is on your left.—Boston Transcript.

Heard in Smoking Room

A LOT of lawyers were present in the smoker and the talk had gone on to damage suits,

when a gent connected with Forbes Magazine told that a certain electric specialty company had just acquired a funny damage suit. The petition against the company was filed by a woman and read:

"Plaintiff alleges that this defendant represented to her that this range

would not become heated on the up

6OM SIMS --- Says

Nice thing about a porch swing is it never has a puncture or runs into a ditch.

Keep looking up and you will learn the sky is the limit.

You are not getting old until you leave the swimming hole before it is time to leave.

Value of a kiss depends upon the law of supply and demand.

It is estimated a great many people get fat loafing around trying to keep cool.

Wouldn't it be funny if everybody believed everybody?

Lots of birds think they are wise as owls because they are always hooting at somebody.

Quite a few married men carry their religion in their wife's name.

Some people have to brag about their ancestors because they have no descendants to speak of.

Everybody should talk as well as they do loud.

Most weather-beaten man in this town is the weather man.

Ninety per cent of the men hunting trouble are single.

What the United States needs is a serious reformer shortage.

Teachers and pupils of the old district school No. 5, near Elwood, are making plans for the annual reunion to be held July 29, at Fleener Grove.

The 1923 graduating class of the Crawfordsville High School has announced that it will purchase three sections of bleachers to be placed on the auditorium stage, as a class gift to the school.

A rebate of \$1,000 to farmers of Bartholomew County was announced by the farm bureau. The money, saved through cooperative buying, will be equally distributed to members.

Rare specimens of Indiana Indian relics were presented to the Miami county museum by John Reynolds, 72, a lifelong devotee of the red habit.

W. D. Colvert, 80, farmer near Franklin, planned to spend his recent birthday in his usual manner, attending to his farm, but his activities were interrupted by visits from about 150 friends who called on him during the afternoon and evening.

Work on the new Lawrence county Speedway to be constructed near Bedford is under way. Eighty acres of ground along the Dixie highway were purchased. The grandstand will seat 5,000.

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