

The Indianapolis Times

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RATES ARE RAISED AGAIN

HAVING cried before it was hurt, the Indiana Bell Telephone Company has now discovered it was not hurt very much. It may have been that the telephone company started its action against the public service commission in Federal Court merely to force the commission to issue its order. If that was the object, the move succeeded.

The commission was unable to agree—and still is unable to do so—as to whether the company is entitled to any increase. John W. McCord, chairman of the commission, who declares the company is entitled to no increase, said: "Under proper operating conditions, present rates are sufficient."

The commission is frankly concerned over operating expenses of the telephone company. They repeatedly have been reported to be too high. The commission is powerless to control them, despite statements to the contrary by apologists for the telephone trust.

But the fact remains, telephone rates have been increased and they may be further increased by the Federal Court. About all the public can do is to grin and bear it—or have its telephones removed.

SHOWDOWN ON GASOLINE

IS the price of gasoline too high? Apparently, we are soon to know.

In South Dakota, a State accustomed to take the initiative in such things, the State government is selling gasoline. The price is 16 cents a gallon. To meet this competition, the Standard Oil Company has reduced its price to the same level. In Texas, the oil companies are charging only 11 cents a gallon.

The South Dakota price may be too low. The State's action may not be on a sound basis. It will not take long to find out. If the price is too low the sale will not keep up very long.

But there are evidences the price is too high. If oil companies in Texas can sell gasoline for 11 cents, why should it sell in Indiana from 21 cents up, plus highway tax? Of course, Texas is closer to the oil fields than Indiana, but Indiana has large refineries and the cost of transportation should not equal the difference between 11 cents and 21 cents.

Some years ago Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis attempted to fine the Standard Oil Company \$29,000,000. He did not accomplish much so far as the price of gasoline was concerned. Maybe South Dakota will have better luck.

DISPOSING OF COKE

COKE is being suggested as a substitute for coal this winter in order to do away to some extent with the smoke nuisance.

This brings us to the fact that the Indianapolis Gas Company is beginning to show indications of being a utility with a soul, despite its frequent demands for rate increases.

In previous years, the company has had the habit of adding 25 cents a ton to the price of coke each month beginning with June. This practice followed the spring decline in price. The monthly increase has been abandoned this year, indicating it can be done.

C. L. Kirk, manager of the gas company, has promised to cooperate with civic leagues in getting coke to the consumer. There is talk of a plan whereby the 5 per cent sales committee paid to the Domhoff-Joyce Company for disposing of the company's coke will not be charged to Indianapolis consumers.

This contract for the disposition of coke has long been a matter of controversy between the company and coke consumers. The company contends that it would cost it 10 to 15 per cent to dispose of its own coke, while it pays only 5 per cent to the Domhoff-Joyce Company, the business of which is selling coke. As compared with sales costs of other businesses, this sound reasonable.

GIVING THE PRESIDENT A CHANCE

COMES Senator Edge of New Jersey with a method of relieving the President of the United States of his overwhelming burden of detail in the White House, so that he can maintain his health and devote himself to the major matters of policy of government.

Senator Edge's plan is only one of many that have been suggested since the late President's breakdown. Edge would add a simple amendment to the Constitution transferring the Vice President from his trivial post as presiding officer of the Senate to the far more important duty of assistant to the President.

The Vice Presidency has been a joke for half a century. The idea of duly electing a man to the second highest office in the land and then giving him nothing to do is preposterous, especially so when viewed from the White House, where another man, just one step higher in our system than the Vice President, is so burdened that he cannot attend to it all.

Most of the other schemes for relieving the President involve the creation of a new Cabinet post, which would correspond to the premier in most modern democratic governments. One advantage that the Edge plan has is that it involves merely putting to work an official already provided for in the Constitution. The weakness is that this official, the Vice President, is not responsible to the President for his job, and therefore might not make an ideal subordinate.

More important than the details of the Edge plan, however, it will strike many people, is the warning that the Senator makes of "the positive necessity to lighten the executive burdens at once and not just talk about it."

Let's do something and give our Presidents a chance.

PEOPLE stricken with dismay at being seen in questionable places by friends forget that the recognition is mutual.

FROM explanations by bakers one would think bread is made up of electric light, heat and other overhead expenses instead of wheat.

SPECT the French wish that ice sheet which a Harvard professor predicts will destroy Scandinavia would roll on down to the Rhine.

NO doubt members of "the trade" who are unselfishly trying to relieve the great American drought in Indiana consider the "nuisance law" Prosecutor Evans invokes so often is rightly named.

'SILENT CAL' OWES MUCH TO WILSON

War President Gave Coolidge Opportunity for Limelight

During Strike.

By JOHN CARSON
Times Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—President Calvin Coolidge has not forgotten he owes much in his rise to power, to Woodrow Wilson. Discussions of Coolidge's life and the paths he took to the presidency have overlooked entirely the fact the President Wilson did more to make opportunity for Coolidge than did any other person during the time Coolidge was Governor of Massachusetts.

Coolidge knows and remembers, however. And there is a bond of regard and sympathy between the President and the wounded veteran of the White House, who is living in seclusion through the twilight hours of his life in a little house on S. St.

Credit is Argued

Coolidge gained prestige during the Boston strike of policemen. How great credit is due him for the little he played in the strike is a matter for argument among those who know the intimate history of the strike. But almost invariably those newspaper men who covered the strike insist city officials of Boston got and kept the situation in hand before Coolidge asserted any of his power as the Governor. Coolidge did make the declaration law and order would be preserved and he would use all his power to enforce order and he did criticize the policemen who went on strike.

But the history of the strike will show that immediately following his entrance into the situation, Coolidge was given little recognition, even in Boston. It was accepted he would do what he did and say what he said. There was nothing else to be said and nothing else for him to do. Opportunity came then to him and it came from the White House, where Wilson was the chief executive.

A national political campaign was brewing. President Wilson was being attacked with great vigor as the leading figure in the campaign. The Republicans were making their fight on him.

Wilson Wires Congratulations

Suddenly there came from the White House the announcement that Wilson had wired his congratulations to Coolidge—that a President elected by the Democrats and then being denounced by the Republicans had not hesitated to praise a Republican Governor. The telegram from Wilson immediately threw the spotlight on Coolidge and made him the big figure in the Boston strike.

Just why President Wilson took the step he did was then and is today a point for debate. It is a fact many Democratic leaders, blinded by their partisanship, criticized Wilson.

Charges were made that some of the White House politicians had inspired the telegram. There was even the charge that Wilson had not written it, a charge which was so absurd it gained no credence. The Republicans joined in and denounced Wilson for playing politics, big politics. They were irritated and sore because they contended that Wilson was capturing some glory out of the Boston situation.

Wrote Telegram

The full truth of the story may never be told, but such facts as can be had indicate that President Wilson not only wrote the telegram, but that also it was his idea that brought it about and that it was spontaneous and sincere expression of regard for Coolidge.

That was the doortop to opportunity for Coolidge. Wilson built the doortop himself. Immediately Coolidge jumped upward in Republican politics. He was night watchman of the business district, champion rafter of the town and had licked every dog in the community.

No longer will bridal parties celebrate in Richmond with the honking of horns, clanging of bells and the banging of sawed-off shotguns. The chief of police has banned all charvars.

Spelling Bee for 80-year-olds

The best known dog in Greenfield is dead, the victim of an automobile. "Old Rover" was the constant companion of Bert Parish for fourteen years. He was night watchman of the business district, champion rafter of the town and had licked every dog in the community.

A spelling bee for the 80-year-olds

is a feature of the annual reunion of the Octogenarian Club, to be held Aug. 28 at Marion.

Poplars aren't very popular in Huntington. After going through the experience of tearing up blocks of streets to get the roots of poplar trees from sewers, the city council has ordered all this variety destroyed.

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