

The Indianapolis Times

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HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

HOW long will the present low price of gasoline last? Motorists are wondering as they gleefully fill their tanks and plan to drive twice as far as usual.

Does the Standard Oil Company, which ordered the drop and was followed by the other companies, mean it? Or is it just up to one of its old tricks of making life unpleasant for competitors?

Anyway, a big corporation dealing with a public necessity is at last benefiting the public. The present situation shows the value to the ultimate consumer of competition, even though it is rough on competitors.

Yes, there is no competition in the telephone and water businesses.

STOPPING CROSSING ACCIDENTS

THE police department is doing some mighty good work in inspecting grade crossings and having surroundings changed, where possible, to reduce the liability of accidents.

Many accidents could be avoided if unnecessary obstructions were removed from grade crossings. This is true also of some street crossings.

By way of suggestion in this connection, it might be said that the street crossing at Fortieth St. and Capitol Ave. is particularly dangerous since Fortieth St. has been paved and traffic has become heavy there. There are high terraces on each side of Fortieth St. and it is impossible for a driver on Capitol Ave. to see a car approaching from the west. It might be advisable to require motorists to stop before crossing Capitol Ave. there, as they do south of Thirty-Eighth St.

There will always be some accidents, but they can be held to a minimum if necessary precautions are taken.

GETTING BACK TO NORMALCY

THINGS at the courthouse are getting back to normalcy. That is, there is another explosion among the factions and it appears somebody is going to get hurt.

It is alleged by county councilmen and certain taxpayers that Leo K. Fesler, county auditor, has spent certain money without authority. "Politics is behind it," says Fesler.

Sounds natural, doesn't it? Fesler contends the complaint about his expenditure of the Julieta funds concerns merely a technicality, that the county has its money and that the work has been done.

Cassius L. Hogle, president of the county council, thinks differently.

"The law specifically provides that all appropriations be precedent to the expenditures sought to be incurred and that any contract or obligation made without an appropriation having been made in advance in an amount fully equal to the contract or obligation is, in the exact language of the statute, 'absolutely void,'" says Hogle. Hence, it is not possible for the council to make an appropriation subsequent to an expenditure or the making of a contract, yet the auditor has the temerity to come before the council and ask it to put its O. K. on acts illegally performed and appropriate money covering previous expenditures. If such thing could legally be done the question naturally arises, "Why a council?"

Why, indeed? And the fight goes merrily on. We will hear more about it during the next campaign.

"IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS"

WE always suspected it when we saw amateur theatricals at the high school—those old-time Colonial gents in lace cuffs and knee pants found it difficult to wear a sword comfortably. A copy of Bradford's New York Gazette, dated 1734, carried this ad:

"Lately imported, a choice parcel of swords. The blades are old, but the handles are made after the newest fashion. They may be worn indifferently by men, women and children without hurting themselves or any other persons."

A sword must have kept getting in the way when sitting down, not to mention tripping up strangers in a crowd.

By the way, do you realize that it's only a matter of less than a couple of centuries since men had to carry swords or pudgeles to protect their lives? Policemen do it for us now.

They had their liquor problem, too, back in the "good old days," also the gent who lies awake nights worrying about other people's troubles.

The Boston Gazette in 1765 printed this letter from a reader: "To me it seems high time for us to abate in our extravagances, for at present our folly has scarce any bounds as to eating and drinking. In a few years we shall all become turtle eaters, and a number of vessels may be employed in that branch of fishery. As to drinking, it must be punch or wine; malt liquor the doctors don't think wholesome, and cider is almost prohibited."

"French brandy is encouraged to be smuggled in, and it's the town taste as well as the country's. If the French have no hand in making our laws they have great benefit by some of them."

"We run into the same extreme in dress, so that there is scarce any distinction between persons of great fortune and people of ordinary rank."

This old-time stuff seems quaint and laughable to us of 1923. But don't laugh too confidently. For future generations will dig into our newspapers and laugh at many of the best of our modern devices and institutions.

The airplane, for instance, is just as crude now compared with what it will be in the future, as the cord wood burning locomotive—hauling passenger cars that look like stage coaches, even to the detail of side brakes—seems when we compare it with the snorting steel monster that rushes our fast trains through the night.

Everything becomes antiquated and ridiculous—it's just a matter of time.

MOTORISTS will now burn up expensive tires saving a nickel on a gallon of gasoline.

FRUIT dealer admits murder of wife—headline. Maybe she sang "Yes, We Have No Bananas."

LEW SHANK missed a good opportunity He should have sold gasoline on the market as he did turkeys a few years ago.

FRANK WAMPLER will now stand up and let critics of the public service commission hurl bricks at him.

POLITICS IS NOT AN END, BUT A MEANS

President Declares People Must Look to Themselves for Government.

By CALVIN COOLIDGE

POLITICS is not an end, but a means. It is not a product, but a process. It is the art of government. Like other values it has its counterfeits. So much emphasis has been put upon the false, the significance of the true has been obscured and politics has come to convey the meaning of crafty and cunning selfishness, instead of candid and sincere service.

The Greek derivation shows the nobler purpose. Politics means city-rearing, state-craft. And when we remember that city also meant civilization, the spurious presentment, mean and cold, drops away and the real figure of the politician, dignified and honorable, a minister to civilization, author and finisher of government, is revealed in its true and dignified proportions.

Does Not Represent

We live under a republican form of government. We need forever to remember that representative government does not represent. A careless, indifferent representative is the result of a careless, indifferent electorate. The people who start to elect a man to get what he can for his district will probably find they have elected a man who will get what he can for himself.

A body will keep on its course for a time after the moving impulse ceases by reason of its momentum. The men who founded our Government had fought and thought mightily on the relationship of man to his government. Our institutions would go for a time under the momentum they gave. But we should be deluded if we supposed they can be maintained without more of the same stern sacrifice offered in perpetuity.

Is an Institution

Government is not an edifice that the founders turn over to posterity all completed. It is an institution, like a university, which falls unless the process of education continues.

We live under the fairest government on earth. But it is not self-sustaining. Nor is that all. There are selfishness and injustice and evil in the world. More than that, these forces are never at rest. Some desire to use the processes of government for their own ends. Some desire to destroy the authority of government altogether.

Our institutions are predicated on the rights and the corresponding duties, on the worth of the individual. It is to him we must look for safety.

Laws do not make reforms, reforms make laws. We cannot look to government. We must look to ourselves. We must stand not in the expectation of a reward, but with a desire to serve.

There will come out of government exactly what is put into it. Society gets about what it deserves. It is the part of educated men to know and recognize these principles and influences, and, knowing them, to inform and warn their fellow countrymen. It is personal. It is individual, and nothing more. Destiny is in you.

Observations

"There was no knock-out at Shelby," says a sporting item. How about those three banks?

"Costumes for the summer girl!" says a big advertisement. Gee whizz! Is she going to wear a costume as well as fur?

A Tennessee mountaineer has just died at 106. That's where they make it of corn and it is very stimulating, they say.

Oh say! Mexican justice had a chance to hang twelve councilmen, of Mexico, and her attorney general interfered.

Magnus says he will make the Senate understand his lack of confidence of that man is little less than childish.

Oh dear! It looks as if Brigadier General Sawyer were to be displaced by a mere army major as President's doctor.

Wireless amplifiers are now used in magnifying heart beats, and we should soon know whether or not there is a broken heart for every light on Broadway, as tunelessly reported.

Wealth is a disease, says Bryan. But we don't notice any unusual vaccination scars on William.

Paris tells us titian hair is coming back. Another boost for the drug-gists.

Let no reckless Darwinian monkey with Villa Serena, the name of William Jennings Bryan's Florida retreat, or the villain will pursue him.

"The farmer is coming into his own," says a headline. Probably a misprint, but it is also true.

It is well so many of our Senators have gone to Europe. The folks over there may now see what we have to put up with.

Father's Business Worries

"Well, how was business today?" "Four to two in favor of the Giants."—Judge.

Heard in Smoking Room

THE fellows had hardly got settled in their seats in the smoker when the little man in the end seat remarked:

"The prize for nerve and persistency used to be won by the book agent or the insurance solicitor. Not now. It has passed to another. The other day I overheard a talk in one of these parks for used cars."

"Yes," said the customer, "it's not a bad looking car but Lord! there's three different sets of monograms on the door."

"Well, maybe so," said Breeze, the salesman. "That's just shows how good a car it was that all of them would buy it."

"And," protested the customer, "the speedometer is smashed."

"Fine," retorted Breeze. "You'll never be reminded how your mileage is amounting up."

TOM SIMS - - - Says

GERMAN marks and our wheat are less than a dollar a bushel.

Senator Johnson of California is getting so mad he even may split with an infinitive soon.

What is more fitting than red tape causing trouble in Russia?

Monster fish about a million years old has been seen in Nebraska. He is late this year.

London aviator striking for more pay stood his ground and got it.

Rodolph Valentino says he hates to be a male vamp. With the men, this makes it unanimous.

Babe Ruth, former baseball player, has started playing again.

Department store burned in Asheville, N. C. All we hope is it got some folding beds.

A million Fords have been made this year. Police tell us nothing can be done to stop it.

Paris women are wearing white wigs. They will wear anything over there, anything or nothing.

New York is becoming so wicked. Maybe she needs a governess instead of a Governor.

French are flying airplanes by radio. Also, according to our radio, doing some blasting.

J. L. Wallace, Battle Creek, Mich., smoked a cigarette in bed, so is having some new skin grafted on.

The slight earthquake which hit California was mistaken for a presidential boom at first.

Strange noises coming from a Florida swamp are said to be a radio entertainer on vacation.

Buffalo (N. Y.) detectives trailed gem thieves 14,000 miles before they quit being baffled.

What Editors Are Saying

Telephones

(Bluffton Banner)

There will be those who will suggest taking out their phone when the new rate goes into effect, but that is idle talk. A telephone is a necessity, and increases in the rates is a hardship the same as the increase in rates of bread or meat. Don't be silly and order your phone out. It costs so much to have it put back.

Idea

(Lebanon Reporter)

Merchants in some of the cities adjacent are offering the farmer a dollar a bushel for his wheat, payable in merchandise. That makes for increase of trade and may be for better prices for wheat. Anyhow, it is an other idea, and trust Americans for ideas and efforts to put them into effect.

New

(Decatur Democrat)

The Goshen News-Times, a leading republican paper of the north part of the state rises to ask if the fact that President Coolidge first requested Harry New to remain on the job as postmaster general was due to the strenuous campaign Mr. New made for Mr. Beveridge last autumn. Oh, well, it's impossible to please everybody.

Corn

(Kokomo Dispatch)

Too much has been said about wheat and the ruinous price it brings the American farmer. It is time to say something about corn. The American corn acreage is twice the wheat acreage. The corn crop is three or four times as big as the wheat crop, and usually worth twice the money. Corn prices, therefore, are more vital than wheat prices as an index to agricultural prosperity.

Science

Great progress is being made today in reading the age of the rocks. This process has become accurate through recent knowledge of radium. The present estimate of the age of the oldest rocks on the earth is between two billion and two and a half billion years. How long it took these rocks to be formed out of matter is impossible to tell. At least as long a period as the age of the rocks is a reasonable guess. Therefore, it is probable that it is at least five billion years since the earth's rocks started to form.

The human imagination can grasp these facts and theories concerning the earth. It falters, however, when it is asked to apply the same process of reasoning to the universe. There are three billion suns. How many others there are not discovered yet is a question. These three billion suns are now all formed. No human eye for now can explain their theoretical age nor define the vast antiquity of the universe.

MILLIONS IN BRITAIN LIVE ON \$5 'DOLE'

Raper Finds Both Worker and Employer Sore on System in England.

By JOHN W. RAPER

IN ENGLAND: The greatest industrial district to the north of London may be of no importance to the tourist but it is the very life of England. This is literally true, for not only did this district furnish the products that brought gold into England, but it produced most of the munitions used in the war with Germany.

Those were the golden days for the English workers. War has always brought gold to him. In the Napoleonic wars it brought even French gold, for the mills of Leeds secretly shipped to France cloth that was worn by Napoleon's soldiers, a fact that is told and printed in England unto this day.

The worker waxed fat in war times. In both Scotland and England he went on an orgy of spending and when the war came to an end he was broke. Today millions of workmen live on the "dole."

The "dole" is the allowance given by the government to the unemployed. At its highest, the amount being regulated by the size of a man's family, it is about \$5 a week.

The "dole" is really paid by the man and woman who are at work. Every time a man or woman receives a weekly wage the employer deducts for both health and unemployment insurance, and passes it on to the government.

The male worker pays 10 cents for health and 18 cents for unemployment; females, 8 cents for health and 14 cents for unemployment.

In addition the employer pays 20 cents for each male employee, 15 cents for females, for unemployment; 10 cents for males, 8 cents for females for health insurance.

Incompetent Doctors

The health insurance causes the more complaining. Under its terms the worker is entitled to free medical attendance from doctors named by the government or in a hospital.

Every man and woman with whom I have talked said the physicians selected were the most incompetent that could be found and that as their salary was small they paid little attention to the patient. Workers preferred to go to another physician and pay a fee in addition to their insurance.

Begging Instead

The man who receives the dole not only complains of the way it is operated. He must sign a card every two days, at a Government office, otherwise it is assumed he is at work and he loses his dole. This keeps him tied to one locality and prevents him from going elsewhere to look for work.

Many deserving men refuse to take the dole, among them young men who want to work. They engage in what is practically a form of begging, selling lead pencils, flowers and various small articles. Some of them sing.

Pass It Along

"The dole is bad," say all the employers. "It simply means that we put a premium on shiftlessness." I asked several if they did not "pass on" the tax for the dole. "Sure," some replied. Others said, "No, it would be no use. It would be taxed out of us in some other way."

I listened a quarter of an hour to a workman denouncing the dole.

Next—Some old kicks about taxes, labor, railroads and coal, in Britain just as in our own dear U. S. A.

Indiana Sunshine

Frank Jack of Crawfordsville, sentenced to thirty days in jail for speeding, has started serving his sentence after a two weeks' honeymoon. City officials allowed him to go married and go on his honeymoon before serving his sentence.

Six hundred and seventy-two gallons of beer were poured into the sewers at South Bend. A colored man who after seeing what was going on, rushed to the scene and scooped up several cupfuls and drank it before the police could stop him.

Milk wagon drivers, early lawn mower pushers and other contributors to noises which break the stillness of the brief hours before the alarm clock's summons will be prosecuted if their practice continues, the Richmond chief of police says.

Just as Sunday school services were about to be opened at the Hannagan Christian Church of Rushville, a large black snake, measuring about four feet, crawled down the aisle to the pulpit. The snake was killed and services continued.

Now comes the time of year for the observance of another Hoosier institution. Organizations all over the State are planning for their annual watermelon feast.

No Progress at All

ARGENTINA'S considering a big appropriation to modernize her army.

It's necessary, La Razon, Argentina's leading afternoon daily, says, because the recent Pan-American Conference was such a fizzle.

This was the same conference that the North American delegates, returning home, described as so much of a success.

La Prensa, foremost Argentine morning paper, lamenting North America's ignorance concerning the southern republic, remarks:

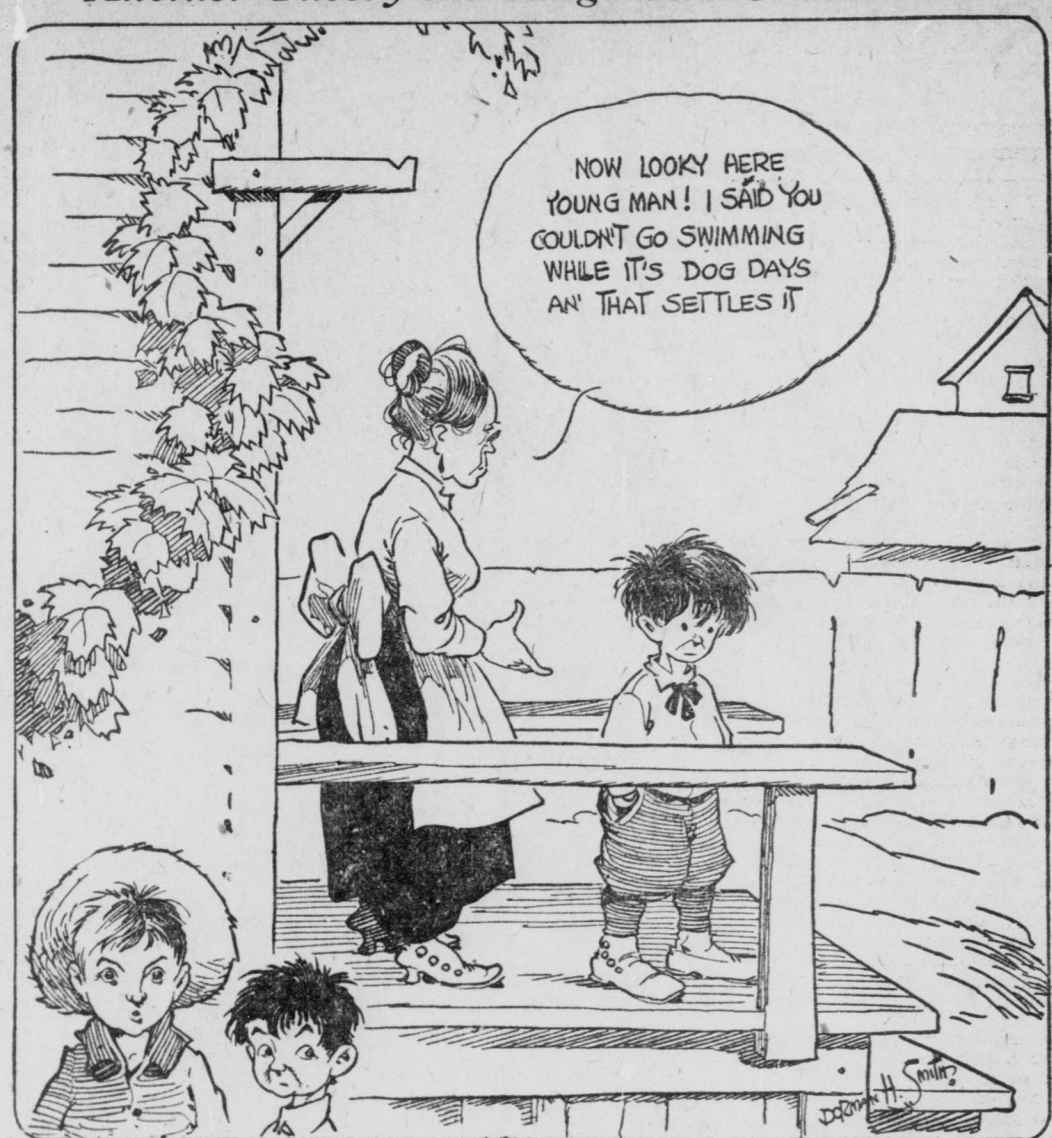
"It is imperative the United States should know the truth—that no progress was made at the Pan-American Conference with any important subject."

A Thought

As the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him.—Ps. 103:11.

THE great lever by which to raise and save the world is the unbounded love and mercy of God.—Beecher.

Another Theory the Gang Can't Understand



QUESTIONS Ask—The Times ANSWERS

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to the Indianapolis Times, Washington Bureau, 1322 N. Y. Avenue, Washington, D. C., enclosing 2 cents in stamps. Medical laws, love advice, marriage advice cannot be given, nor can extended research be undertaken, or papers, speeches, etc., be prepared. Unedited letters cannot be answered, but all letters are confidential, and receive personal replies.—Editor.

Have any of the Vice Presidents died while in office?

Yes, seven: George Clinton (serving with James Madison); Elbridge Gerry (serving in Madison's second term); William R. King (serving with Franklin Pierce); Henry Wilson (serving in U. S. Grant's second term); Thomas A. Hendricks (serving with Grover Cleveland, first term); Garrett A. Hobart (serving with William McKinley, first term); James S. Sherman (serving with William H. Taft).

What does the term Scandinavia include?

This is a collective term for the three kingdoms of Norway, Sweden and Denmark (including Iceland).

When and how was Christianity introduced into Norway?

Its introduction was the result of the intercourse which the Norwegians had with the more civilized parts of Europe, and was gradually effected in the hundred years that followed the death of Harald Haarfager. Hakon the Good, son of Harald Haarfager, attempted in vain to establish it, but the result was finally effected by Olaf Trygvasson (995-1000), and Olaf the Saint, who died in 1030. They were northern missionaries who bore the cross in one hand and the sword in the other.

How does the moon compare in size with the earth?

The surface of the moon is about one-thirteenth (14,600 square miles) of that of the earth.

How can one re-size a rug that has lost its size?

The rug should be stretched tight and true and tacked at frequent intervals face down on a floor, where it can remain undisturbed. Then sprinkle it generously with a solution made by soaking and dissolving 1/4 pound of flake glue in 1/2 gallon of water in a double boiler, or a container surrounded by water. The rug should be allowed to dry for at least 24 hours. If it is light weight, care should be taken not to put on so much glue that it will penetrate to the right side.

When was Christianity introduced into Germany?

The history of Germany is said to begin with the year 543, when, by the treaty of Verdun, the empire of Charles the Great was divided among his sons. This monarch had adopted Christianity, and, therefore, Germany was a so-called Christian state from its beginning.

Of what kinds of wood are the back, sides, neck and head of a violin made?

Most frequently of maple or sycamore, but occasionally of beech and birch.

What changes were made in the frontier of Italy after the World War?

The changes were made by the rearrangement of the Austrian-Italian boundaries. Italy obtained much new territory which formerly belonged to Austria, including the following: Trentino, Istria, Trieste, Gorz, Gradisca, Carinthia, Carniola, with a combined area of 7,350 square miles.

Where were the Presidents buried?

Washington, Mt. Vernon, Va.; John Adams, Quincy, Mass.; Jefferson, Monticello, Va.; Madison, Montpelier, Va.; Monroe, Richmond, Va.; J. Q. Adams, Quincy, Mass.; Jackson, Nashville, Tenn.; Van Buren, Kinderhook, N. Y.; Harrison, North Bend, Ohio; Tyler, Richmond, Va.; Polk, Nashville, Tenn.; Taylor, Springfield, Ky.; Fillmore, Buffalo, N. Y.; Pierce, Concord, N. H.; Buchanan, Lancaster, Pa.; Lincoln, Springfield, Ill.; Grant, New York; Hayes, Fremont, Ohio; Garfield, Cleveland, Ohio; Arthur, Albany, N. Y.; Harrison, Indianapolis, Ind.; McKinley, Canton, Ohio; Cleveland, Princeton, N. J.; Roosevelt, Oyster Bay, N. Y.

The Lucky Stiff

By BERTON BRALEY

"The lucky stiff!" I hear you say. "I wonder how he got that way?"

Well, he had luck, beyond a doubt; We all have, when you dope it out; But he's a chap who, every day, Plays out the hand he has to play And come what will or come what may.

He "follows through" and "goes the route," "The Lucky Stiff."

He grabs each chance without delay. He never lets it go astray. So, if there's any luck about, He holds to it with courage stout. That's briefly, "how he got that way!"

"The Lucky Stiff."

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Family Fun

Premature

They were lost in the desert, and had wandered about for three days without food or drink. Sam had reached his limit and he began to pray fervently for aid.

"Oh, Lord, spare me now, and I swear I'll never smoke again. I'll never play poker again, I'll never drink—"

"Hey, don't go too far," shouted his companion, "I think I see a tent!" Judge.

Sister's Feller Is Game

"Dad was awfully cross this morning. He said you must never see me again."

"Well, I'd better switch off the light then."—Oregon Lemon Punch.

from the Referee's Tower

By ALBERT APPLE

The oil business is in the same predicament as wheat—badly "shot" by overproduction. Chief cause is the California field, expected to produce 275,000,000 barrels of oil this year.