

The Indianapolis Times

EARL E. MARTIN, Editor-in-Chief ROY W. HOWARD, President
ALBERT W. BUHRMAN, Editor. O. F. JOHNSON, Business Mgr.

Member of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers • • • Client of the United Press, United News, United Financial and NEA Service and member of the Scripps Newspaper Alliance. • • • Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Published daily except Sunday by Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 25-29 S. Meridian Street, Indianapolis. • • • Subscription Rates: Indianapolis—Ten Cents a Week. Elsewhere—Twelve Cents a Week. • • • PHONE—MAIN 3500.

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 Julietta 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 cudgels to protect their lives? Policeman does 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 counterpart. So much emphasis has been put upon the false, the significance of the issue has been obscured and politics has come to convey the meaning of crafty and cunning selfishness, instead of cold and sincere service.

The Greek derivation shows the noble purpose. Politikos means city-rearing, state-craft. And when we remember that city also meant civilization, the spurious presentation, mean and cordial, 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 that 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 fails 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 reward, but with a desire to serve.

These 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 knockout at Shelby," says a sporting item. How about those three banks?

"Costumes for the summer girl" says a big advertisement. Gee, what is she going to wear a costume as well as furs?

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 culprits, and Mexican, and her attorney general interfered.

Magnus says he will make the Senate understand him. The 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 tunefully 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 drugists.

Let no reckless Darwinian monkey with Villi Serena, the name of Will 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 go 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 smoking room when the little man in the end seat remarked:

"The prize for nerve and persistency used to be worn 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 Breezes, "that 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 Breezes, "you never be reminded how your mileage is amounting up."

6OM 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.

Rodolfo 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 thought to be a radio entertainer on vacation.

Buffalo (N. Y.) detectives trailed gangsters 14,000 miles before they just being baffled.

What Editors Are Saying

Telephones

(Bluffton Banner) 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 that 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.

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 that 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 increases in the rates is a hardship the same as the increase in rates of bread or meat. Don't be silly and waste your money.

Pass It Along

"The dole is bad," say all the employers. "It simply means that we put a premium on shiflessness."

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 taken out of us in some other way."

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

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

Corn

(Kokomo Dispatch) Too much has been said about wheat and the ruinous price it brings to 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.

New

(Deatur Democrat) The Goshen News-Times, a leading republican paper of the north part of the state rises to ask if the request that 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.

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 is a matter impossible to tell. At least as long 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 term for time can explain their theoretical age nor define the vast antiquity of the universe.

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