

The Indianapolis Times

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"JUST FOLKS" OF INDIANA

GEOERGE ADE, in writing of Indiana, once said "some mighty bright men come from Indiana, and the brighter they are the quicker they come."

Had the Hoosier humorist not proceeded deliberately in face of his statement and moved to Brook, Ind., the world might have believed him. Certainly Ade has a clear title to brilliancy.

Press correspondents traveling with the Lloyd George party as it swung around the country were unanimous in their praise of the cordial, hearty welcome which Indiana accorded to the distinguished British guest.

The average Hoosier is quite likely to point out with pride that we have had several noted Vice Presidents and one who was without a vice other than a yearning for a good nickel cigar, or that if all the stories, novels and poems of our literati were put together, page by page, they probably would encircle the moon fourteen and one-half times and still have enough left over for the Congressional Record one entire year.

Indianapolis, other than being the State capital and the present geographical location of national political interest, could well put on her best Sunday dress with even a bib and tucker and tell the "hull" country that we have the largest percentage of native-born Americans than any large city in the country—with the exception of Columbus, Ohio.

And Hoosiers, generally are, of course, not hesitant to tell the world blandly that the State boasts of having the highest per cent of native American-born people of any State in the Union.

Seventy-eight per cent of 'em, too, are natives of Indiana.

So when Lloyd George visited Indianapolis, we were blooming proud to greet him.

"Just folks" is more than a phrase made famous by our poet, James Whitcomb Riley.

STEINMETZ AS INSPIRATION

REAT men and the inspiration of their careers are constant ly before us. Lloyd George left in Indianapolis some of the atmosphere of his own great and well-directed energy.

Over at Schenectady, N. Y., Charles Steinmetz, the electrical wizard, personally radiated energy to the whole world for years up until his death Friday.

The inspiration of this life of energy will soon be preserved for us. Some one will write the story of this wonderful little man's life and his achievements. Time will always preserve records like this for us.

Time stays forever, and in her hands holds all the inspiration of achievement and ambitions of wisdom we will ever be able to use for ten million years—if we only take the trouble to look for it.

A NEW SHRINE OF AMERICANISM

TODAY in New York City a new shrine was dedicated to the sacred purpose of keeping alive the spirit of Americanism.

The log cabin birthplace of Lincoln on a farm in Kentucky is an inspiration to the poor youth who faces a bitter struggle in the world for success.

The birthplace of Theodore Roosevelt, however, was one of the wealthiest of the time in New York.

That house in which the great American was born sixty-five years ago is proof that wealth and aristocratic birth is no barrier to an everlasting place in the niche of fame.

Ceremonies today honor the memory of a disciple of Americanism who brought to this country new inspiration and new ideals at the time when needed most.

LATE BEATS NEVER

WE ardently hope the cheering news from Washington proves correct and that Europe, at this eleventh hour, is really to be saved from complete and final disaster.

Our sincerest congratulations go to Secretary of State Hughes for suggesting the way, that is, by naming an international committee of experts, to work with the regular reparations commission, if so desired, to decide just how much more Germany can pay.

But why was all this not done at least two years ago? If the hope inspiring cables from Paris mean what they say, France has not accepted a single thing she would not have accepted years ago had it been properly put up to her.

The dispatches announce Premier Poincaré gladly accepts the Hughes plan to have experts probe Germany's capacity to pay, providing, mark you, he said providing they do the job under the rules as laid down by the Treaty of Versailles and work under the regularly constituted reparations commission.

If this is all right with Secretary Hughes, and he is quoted as saying it is, then why did he not make it plain a year ago?

Premier Poincaré has been saying for months that the regular reparations commission had full power to make use of outside experts if it wanted to, but what Washington appeared to require was an international commission unhampered by any such ties, particularly as the regular commission is reputed to be dominated by France.

The truth is, Washington in its blindness, fell down two or three years ago when it failed to have a man on the original reparations commission. Our commissioner could have asked for all the experts he needed, and got them, and as unbiased and unhampered ones as can possibly be had now. For England and Italy and America would have had three votes to France and Belgium's two.

Then the reparations problem would have been solved before it really became a problem; before the Ruhr; before the collapse of the mark; before Germany fell completely to pieces and before the whole world came to the brink of self-annihilation. Still and all, late beats never.

PAVLOWA, the dancer, says the American people are ruining their stomachs with sweets, and that seems to suggest there should be something in the Constitution to check it.

A DETROIT choir broadcast the song "Drink to me only with thine eyes," an evening or two ago, and back out of the adjacent river air came a hoarse, sardonic guffaw.

NEW YORK authorities fire double-barreled gun" is a newspaper heading. Yip! And bagged a lot of rich brewers and the usual covey of prohibition officers.

RULING ON MONEY ACT IS REVERSED

Decision Regarded as Turning Point From Bank to Rail Control.

Lowell Mellett, of this paper's Washington staff, has made an extensive study of the movement to curtail the power of the Supreme Court. Mellett has written a series of articles giving the outstanding incidents in the court's history. This is the seventh article in the series.

By LOWELL MELLETT

IN February, 1870, the United States Supreme Court held the Legal Tender Act was unconstitutional.

In December, 1870, the United States Supreme Court held this same act was constitutional.

This amazing change is held by some writers to mark the point at which the banking interests ceased to be the dominating influence in the court and the railroad interests succeeded to that role.

Congress, in 1862, the Civil War being in progress, passed an act authorizing the issuance of \$50,000,000 of Treasury notes which should be legal tender for all debts, public and private, except duties on imports and interest on bonds and notes.

The exception as to interest payments was an amendment resulting from the pressure of the banks. The banks held all the gold. The Government had to borrow gold from the banks and, as a result of the amendment, had to pay ruinous premiums to get it.

Insist on Gold

Despite the outcry that money good enough for the men fighting at the front should be good enough for the bankers, Congress was compelled by the banks in 1863 to go further and provide that not only the interest on notes and bonds but the principal as well should be paid in gold. The banks threatened otherwise not to market the securities issued by the Government and so to paralyze the Government's power to carry on the war. The banks profited enormously by the distinction made in their favor.

In 1868 the effort was made to have the use of legal tender money still further restricted. A decision of the court was sought to this. Government money was not acceptable payments on contracts made prior to the passage of the laws of 1862 and 1863. Opponents of the banks declared it was part of a plan to destroy the Government's power to issue money, giving that privilege entirely to the banks.

Resignation Demanded

While the court was considering the case an interesting episode occurred. Justice Grier, one of the justices who had been in correspondence with President Buchanan concerning the Dr. Scott decision, displayed such changeability of opinion—first on one side, then on the other—that other members of the court were disgusted. They united in demanding his resignation.

The decision was written by Chief Justice Chase, who had been secretary of the treasury when the legal tender acts were passed and who was known to consider those acts thoroughly constitutional. Prior to becoming secretary of the treasury, Chase's professional and personal associations had been chiefly with the banking interests. While chief Justice he was notoriously—some said scandalously—ambitious to become President.

Decision Caused Howl

The howl that resulted from the court's decision came not alone from the plain people. The railroads demanded to know why the money they received in fares and freight charges was not good enough for the payment of their contracts.

Justice Grier's resignation made two vacancies on the Supreme bench. President Grant appointed two railroad lawyers, William Strong and Joseph P. Bradley, to fill the vacancies. The attorney general then moved for a rehearing of the case. The decision, promptly forthcoming, by a 5 to 4 vote, reversed the court's first opinion and declared the legal tender act to be constitutional.

Who is going to steal when watched or handicapped? Answer me that.

P. T. J.

To the Editor of The Times

Your reporter who tried to give away a dollar or at least get cheated out of it, and who concluded "we are a city of honest folks" perhaps has never left a pair of newly half-soled shoes in a down-town bank, as I did.

I forgot the shoes and next morning went back and made inquiry about them, but they had not been turned in at the bank. One of the bank officials said, "About one-half of the articles left in this bank are turned in. The other half is carried away."

So you see we are not a city of "honest folks," but only a city in which one-half of the people are honest. If your reporter wanted a real test of honesty, why didn't he leave his dollar bill on a desk or some other prominent place and then go back and try to find it?

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