

The Indianapolis Times

EARL E. MARTIN, Editor-in-Chief
ROY W. HOWARD, President
ALBERT W. BUHRMAN, Editor

WM. A. MAYBORN, Bus. Mgr.

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HOW TO JAZZ PARTY PLATFORMS

ONE way for the old parties to shorten their platforms next year is to quit viewing with alarm and pointing with pride. In other words, quit knocking and bragging.

It will help a whole lot if the platforms are short, plain and explicit—saying what they mean and meaning what they say.

We would like to be able to read both platforms and then know just what the difference is between a Republican and a Democrat. Does either of the parties stand for any principle of government? If so, name it. Never mind the party history. Don't bother about who freed the slaves sixty years ago. They're free now—that's enough to know at this stage of the game.

Forget what dead Democratic and Republican Congresses did before they died. Let 'em stay dead. Let 'em rest in peace. What we want to know is what difference it is going to make to Tom, Dick and Harry whether we elect Republicans or Democrats next year.

What is a Democrat? What is a Republican? Tell us so an ordinary man can actually know whether he is one thing or the other, or neither—and why. Too many of us find it difficult to see any difference between ins and outs. A whole lot of us are tired kicking the ins out and boosting the outs in, only to find that the plain folks are always out and never in.

In short, cut out the bunk. Shoot straight for once. Talk plain United States. Dish the oratory. Keep lawyers off the platform committees.

"REGULATING" PEDESTRIANS

INSURANCE companies report this year's death list due to automobile accidents will aggregate 16,000. The toll in Indianapolis has been sixty-two; throughout Indiana it has been considerable, although accurate figures are not at hand.

The suggestion in the news columns of The Times that all automobile drivers sign a safety pledge in 1924 is not bad, but what's the use of signing if the pledge is not to be lived up to?

We see where the National Motorists' Association is going to try to mitigate automobile troubles by regulating pedestrians. That is better than eviscerating them.

The secretary of the motorists' association neglects to announce how the association is going about its big job. Only does he say it "is up to the automobile clubs to handle the situation and to repeat their successful efforts with respect to automobile regulation." That automobiles have been regulated will be news to many.

The motorists' association may be able to help in a very bad situation, but it is very evident it will have to do far more than repeat the character of work it has done in "regulating" automobiles. The latter are still more rampant than ever and their destruction of human life through recklessness and carelessness is steadily growing greater year by year. Reports prove it.

U. S. H. SINCLAIR & CO.

"THE plain and outstanding fact of the matter is that by the very terms of the lease on Teapot Dome I became in a very real sense a partner of the Government of the United States whose representatives you are," declared Harry F. Sinclair to the Senators who are inquiring into the leasing of the Government's oil lands.

Uncle Sam having thus gone into business with Harry, it would seem that Harry ought not to begrudge the Government information concerning the conduct of the venture.

But he does. Only a few minutes after Harry called the United States his partner, he declined time after time to answer the questions of Senator Walsh, Democrat, Montana, chief inquisitor of the committee.

So monotonous became his statements, "again I decline to answer," that the committee found it necessary to vote as to whether particular information must be supplied.

Three Senators—Lenroot, Wisconsin; Smoot, Utah, and Cameron, Arizona, all Republicans—voted to sustain Sinclair's objections. Four Senators—Walsh, Montana; Adams, Colorado; Kendrick, Wyoming, Democrats, and Ladd, North Dakota, Republican, voted that the public was entitled to know all about its own business.

Then canny Harry Sinclair switched from "I decline to answer" to "I don't know." The committee, however, sent him back to New York to refresh his memory and instructed him to return with the information.

It's pretty hard for Uncle Sam to know how his own business is coming along—especially when three out of seven of his Senator-agents don't care.

CHICAGO, COOL BUT CONFUSED

CHICAGO, obeying the injunction to "Keep Cool with Coolidge," isn't mad about it, but is mildly puzzled over the Christmas pardon granted by the President to Philip Grossman.

Executive clemency released Grossman from the horrors of a Hot Springs (Ark.) hotel. He is one traveling man, at least, who didn't have to spend the holidays on the lonely road.

Grossman is a West Madison St. saloon keeper. Judge Landis sentenced him to jail in 1920 for disobeying an injunction. Appeals delayed the sentence for awhile, but when the last one failed, Grossman was compelled to run away to Hot Springs. He has been reported "missing" since July 28, 1922. He couldn't be found until it was necessary to get word to him that Coolidge had commuted his sentence. Commitment papers were not prepared until March, 1923, and they never were served.

Meantime, however, there had been considerable communication with the Department of Justice at Washington. And on the list of Christmas pardons appeared Grossman's name. But Grossman, pardoned by the President, has now been sent to jail.

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WHO FOOTS BILL OF WAR IN MEXICO?

Revolutions Are Bought on Installment Plan and People Pay.

Who finances Mexican revolution? War costs money. Who foots the bill? Frank Gilber, Indianapolis Times's correspondent on the border, knows Mexico like the back of his hand. He can tell you all about it. Read him. He'll let you in on some inside stuff about Mexican revolutions.

By FRANK GIBLER

Times Staff Correspondent

ON THE RIO GRANDE, Jan. 2—In Mexico revolutions are bought on the installment plan. As long as the payments are kept up the revolution, with one leader or another, is almost sure to last.

Some of the money is borrowed on this side of the border or from European capitalists. Every revolutionary leader tries to get funds that way, but the easiest way is to collect from the people as the revolution goes on. "Live off the land" is the slogan—and they do.

"The Chamber of Commerce of Blank has just raised 20,000 pesos which have been turned over to the leader of revolutionary forces in this district," reads a press agent dispatch from one of the numerous fronts.

"The people of this entire district are strongly in support of So and So and movement," continues the message.

Jailed and Then Pay

They are. Some of them were jailed for nonsupport of it. After awhile they pay and are released.

One of the wealthiest commission merchants of the western slope of Mexico, a man who owned a large part of the real estate of Colima and who was one of the most important merchants of Mazatlan and Manzanillo, was in the penitentiaries at Guadalajara and Colima eighteen times during the past few years of revolution.

After he was released the last time, he died.

His name was Blas Ruiz and he was well known in Santa Barbara, Cal., where he maintained a home for his wife and two children.

Ruiz "contributed" an average of 5,000 pesos, or \$2,500, to the revolutions each time he was jailed. He strongly supported the revolution and helped pay for thousands of rifles and cartridges. He never fired a rifle at a man in his life.

Horses were stabled in the patio or courtyard of his Colima home. Soldiers practiced with pistols firing at paintings hanging on his walls. Rice and sugar and wheat by the ton were taken from his warehouses.

Widow Finds Belongings

His widow, who now lives in Guadalajara, recently called on a Guadalajara family and found that her piano and pictures were being used by this family.

They were presents from a general who had used the Ruiz home as his headquarters for several weeks about four years ago.

For eight months every beef killed in the slaughter houses of Guadalajara, a city of some 200,000 people, came from the ranches of Jose Madero. The money paid for the beef went to General Diaz, who has recently taken the field in support of Oregon.

He used it to help pay for military operations and to buy one of the finest homes in Jalisco. He was a carpenter before the revolution, ten years ago.

Merchants in various cities occupied by rebels sell the soldiers and officers goods for paper money, many times paid at the order of the rebel commander on local presses.

Money Covers Walls

If the merchants refuse to sell they are fined and put in jail. After they agree to sell. One man, who was wealthy, now has the walls of his room papered with more than twenty distinct issues of this money.

If the soldiers need horses, and they always do, they find them most anywhere, and give the owner an order on the to-be-formed government as his pay. If he doesn't want the order he can throw it away.

The regular taxes which ordinarily are paid to the government in areas occupied by revolutionists, are collected along with the other contributions.

Tongue Tips

W. L. George, English novelist: "It must be agreed that the novel is the real representative of American literature. Modern literature is the novel. A hundred years ago, literature and poetry were synonymous, as literature then was poetry. Even the novels, say of Scott, were no more than entertainment. But the novel today has criticism of life, it has the flavor of life. American life is the greatest play that has ever been staged and the American novel leads the world in literature."

Mrs. Edna S. Taylor, Business Woman's Club, Philadelphia: "American home life is not disappearing. The truly selfish, gay, fly-by-night folks are in the majority. They stand out conspicuously because of their actions. The average man and woman appreciate and works for a home."

Judge R. M. Wanamaker, Ohio: "The great issue today in America, with all due respect, is not international—it is domestic. It is law against lawlessness, and it is utter folly to smoke-screen it further. It is pressing upon every side."

Mme. George Le Blanc, French actress: "Est ce que c'est une shame—America—so beautiful, so magnifique—and yet so pure. Ze American girl—the face es ver' beautiful, the hair, yes; the eyes, yes, but otherwise—how do you say est ce que c'est—so flat."

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"We are revolutionists. You are

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

Potential Presidents



FRANK O. LOWDEN

CROOKS ARE TAUGHT TO GO STRAIGHT

Two Men Dedicate Lives to Stay Mounting Wave of Crime.

By ALEXANDER HERMAN

NEA Service Staff Writer

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—The crime wave throughout the country in 1922 swept away a loot generally estimated at \$3,000,000,000.

Some experts place the figure at \$5,000,000,000.

And they do not take into this account the value of the human lives that were taken in the toll!

To stay this mounting wave two men, one 60 years old and the other 24 years old, have dedicated their lives to a fight against odds that seem insurmountable. Yet to them it is nothing but a stimulus to greater effort.

These men are Alpheus Geer, known throughout New York's underworld as "Pop" Geer, and Charles Inger, known simply as "Charlie." Together they form the field team of the Marshall Stillman Movement, an organization that gets men to go straight, not by preaching or trying to reform, but by putting it on a purely business basis.

"We try to prove to our men that there is more profit and pleasure in going straight," says "Pop" Geer, "than there is in going crooked."

Movement Spreading

And the success of this movement is attested by the 145 members of the New York underworld who have gone straight during the past year as a result of this appeal.

"America," says "Pop," "is a crime-ridden nation. And the condition is growing more alarming every year.

"There are more persons murdered in New York alone, than in all England. One of every 12,000 is murdered in the United States; while only one out of 63,000 is murdered in Great Britain.

"One of the chief factors contributing to the crime increase is the tremendous forces of repression exerted on children, particularly those of for birth or parentage. When these young men in the large cities, full of courage and mischievous, enter into some

prank, the social equal of an escapee of a freshman at college, he is caught, haled into court and sent to a protective on conviction.

Prisons Are Filled

"Later on in life we find the prisoners filled with such lads, who had they been sons of the rich, would have been rescued.

"But when they appear in a court after having committed some indiscretion, the judge feels it is up to him to protect society from the increasing menace, so he claps on a long sentence.

"He has no way of knowing whether the culprit will continue his crooked life, or whether he has already learned his lesson.

"When these boys come out they are desperate. Then they become a menace. There are many organizations, including the police, which employ methods to curtail this development. But they use repressive methods from the outside.

"But the Marshall Stillman Movement is the only agency that works from the inside."

Square Deal for All

And it works chiefly through the activity of Charlie. He is just a youngster, but full of courage and personality that makes him at home with the social leaders who support the work financially, as well as with the rough gangsters and criminals whom he tries to help.

"We hear their troubles," he says. "And we try to help them. We just make a suggestion. If it sinks in well and good; if it doesn't, we try again some other time."

He circulates freely in dens where even the police fear to go alone.

A Thought

They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever. Dan. 12:3.

To be wiser than other men is to be honest than they; and strength of mind is only courage to see and speak the truth—Hazlitt.

"Well," replied Johnny, "I know 'twuz some place on de Lehigh Valley Railwy—Argonan."

Up-to-date Daughter

"Say, Helen, is that young man going to stay all night?"