

The Indianapolis Times

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WORDS, WORDS, WORDS.

PROCEEDINGS in the Senate this week have been rather painful. On one side of the chamber has been every disposition to whittle down and minimize action of the vigor and promptness the gravity of the naval oil lease situation warrants. This comes from the old guard Republicans with Lenroot, Smoot, Lodge, Curtis, Willis and such at the laboring car.

Words, words, words.

On the other side of the chamber action has been delayed and the issue clouded by interminable speeches and political and personal harangues by Democratic Senators who preferred to talk for the Congressional Record rather than act in the public service.

Words, words, words.

On both sides of the chamber were Senators who sat with more or less patience awaiting the moment when quibble and bombast would let up enough to permit business to be transacted.

Last Monday Senator Walsh laid the whole oil lease and contract matter before the Senate. Since Mr. Walsh took his seat not a single essential statement of fact or of law was added to the Record.

The case was clear.

It was demonstrated by Walsh the executive order which sought to transfer the naval oil reserves from the Navy Department to the Interior Department was illegal and therefore invalid.

Senator Lenroot, chairman of the Naval Lands Committee, admitted this and not a single Senator denied it.

If that order was invalid then every lease and contract based on that order was invalid and the Senate should say so.

If Lenroot knows that now, he, as a lawyer, should have known it on Oct. 22, 1923, when the naval oil reserve leases and contracts, which had been sent by the President on June 7, 1922, to the Senate in response to Senator La Follette's resolution of April 29, 1922, were read into the records of the Public Lands Committee.

There were only a few essential facts:

1. President Harding's original order was admitted by all parties to have been unlawful.

2. The leases, let without bidding, were unlawful.

3. The contracts for construction of tanks and purchase of supplies up to about \$100,000,000 made without bidding, were unlawful.

4. Secretary Fall received money, by way of loan, perhaps from at least two interested parties.

5. Secretary Denby signed leases about which, he repeatedly testified, he knew little or nothing and didn't understand.

6. Assistant Secretary Roosevelt, who was go-between for Fall and Denby, was a former business associate of Sinclair and in 1919 had got a job for his brother Archie with Sinclair "to learn the oil business."

Fall got the loans, Roosevelt got the job.

To enable Sinclair to take full possession of Teapot Dome, Assistant Secretary Roosevelt sent marines to drive other oil operators off the field.

This was July 30, 1922. Now, if Doheny and Sinclair are driven off the field by this declaration of Congress that the whole business—executive order, leases and contracts—is void, Doheny and Sinclair can start their suits and the courts can decide.

That would put the burden upon the oil friends and associates of Fall and Roosevelt instead of upon the Government.

After three days of quibble and bombast the torrent of words was checked and it only took five minutes to do the job—and not a single Senator voted no.

MINERS' WAGE STAND

THE United Mine Workers of America, in session in Indianapolis, have informed the operators of their wage demands. They call for a continuance of the present scale for four years and any other concessions that can be obtained from the operators.

These demands are not unreasonable. Mining is a hazardous occupation and, with the industry in its present state, miners, even with the present scale, which is high as compared with previous years, do not make unreasonable wages when a year's earnings is considered.

Men in building trades receive much higher wages. Their pay is high partly on the theory that because of weather conditions their work cannot be steady. For a different cause, the miner's work probably is not as steady as that of men in building trades. This is because of an unsteady market and overdevelopment of the industry.

The next move is up to the operators. If they reject the demands of the miners there will in all probability be another strike. The economic loss from a strike would be greater than anything that could be gained by either side.

It is to be hoped that an amicable settlement can be reached.

A MAN—AND A POLTROON

RELEASE of Corliss Hooven Griffis, former American Army officer, from a German prison, where he was serving sentence for attempting to kidnap Grover Bergdolt, slacker and outcast American, is a tribute to the power of the press.

Several newspapers in this country, including the Indianapolis Times, spread widely the sentiment of the people with reference to Griffis and his daring exploit.

More than 4,000 readers of The Times, including veterans of the Civil, Spanish-American and World War, signed petitions urging the Government at Washington to use its good offices in inducing the German authorities to release the Yank.

Griffis stands as a type of soldierly manhood. The poltroon he tried to bring back to America will continue to drag out his miserable existence in Germany, whence he fled to escape army service. He's a member of a millionaire family, but his humiliation and cowardice cannot be wiped away by gold.

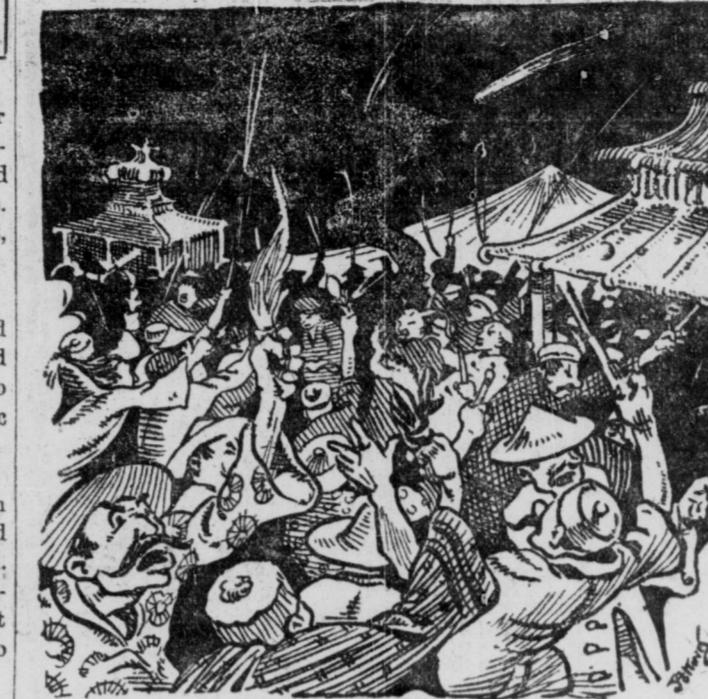
GOLLY, BOY! Wouldn't you like to be the "red cap" at the depot who carries Albert Bacon Fall's suitcase?

GEN'RAL DAUGHERTY reports from Florida that he "is not worried." Of course not. The Gen'ral's leaving the wor'ing to the American people.

THE WAY this fellow Lenroot is ruining his chances of re-election defending the naval oil leases in the Senate makes folks think he's trying for lame-duck ambassador appointment.

APPEARANCE OF NEW STAR IS STARTLING

Astronomer Calls It 'Nova'—Great Brightness Lasts Only Few Days, Then Wanes to Original Condition.



THE APPEARANCE OF NOVA AND COMETS HAVE ALWAYS CAUSED PANIC AMONG THE SUPERSTITIOUS. IN CHINA TODAY, BONFIRES ARE LIT, FIREWORKS SET OFF AND REVOLVERS FIRED, TO DRIVE COMETS AWAY. THE ARTIST PICTURES SUCH A SCENE HERE.

By DAVID DIETZ,
Science Editor of The Times.
Copyright by David Dietz.

ONE of the most startling facts revealed by astronomy is the occasional appearance of a new star. The astronomer calls it a nova, after the Latin word for "new."

A star suddenly blazes forth in the sky where previously none was visible. Or else a star that has always shown with a very faint light suddenly becomes one of the brightest stars in the heavens.

But the great brightness lasts only a few days, sometimes only a few hours. Then the star slowly begins to wane until at last it drops back to its original condition.

It is small wonder that in the early days of history the appearance of a nova, like the appearance of a comet, was the source of superstitious fear and panic.

The first mention of a nova is found in the year 143 B. C. in the Chinese Chronicles. Other mention of new stars follows through history but it is not certain but

that some of these records apply to comets and not actually to new stars.

A true nova was seen in 1572 by the great astronomer Tycho Brahe and named Tycho's nova in his honor. In 1604 a nova appeared which was named Kepler's nova in honor of the astronomer Kepler, who took great interest in it.

Many Unobserved

Between the years 1572 and 1917 there were thirty-two novas observed. Of these twenty-two have been observed since 1886. From this it is fair to assume that in earlier days before astronomy reached its present state of organization, many novas went unobserved.

Three theories have been advanced to explain the formation of novae. The first is the collision theory. This assumes that a star that has grown so faint as to be no longer visible, or a very faint star, collides with another star.

The result of such a collision would be the generation of tremendous heat and would cause the great increase in brilliance of the nova. This theory, however, is not widely held today.

The two more popular theories are the nebular and the tidal theories.

The nebular theory assumes that in the heavens there are many dark nebulae—great masses of gaseous material differing from the visible nebulae in that they lack luminosity.

The friction developed by a star plowing through such a nebula after washing your face carefully for the night in order to remove the dust of the day, use a delicate cold cream, rubbing it gently over the face. Leave this on over night. In the morning the face may be washed, but less thoroughly, and again apply a little cream before putting on rouge and powder.

Water makes my complexion rough. What can I use to prevent this?

See that you use soft water, and after washing your face carefully for the night in order to remove the dust of the day, use a delicate cold cream, rubbing it gently over the face. Leave this on over night. In the morning the face may be washed, but less thoroughly, and again apply a little cream before putting on rouge and powder.

Why don't the police catch real crooks instead of fourfishing?

A PAGE AT COLUMBIA CLUB.

Comes Right Back

To the Editor of The Times

I am more than pleased with the untiring efforts of The Times in helping put over the soldier bonus.

I enlisted from Greene County, Ind., near Linton, and went to Jefferson Barracks, Mo., May 7, 1918. Served in the Medical department and was assigned to various railway divisions and first fifty-three Railway Engineers at Ft. Harrison, Indianapolis, Ind. Then I served in France.

FRANK D. NEAL,
Colfax, Iowa.

Slam at Police

To the Editor of The Times

I was standing at Illinois and Washington Sts. Wednesday at 4 p. m. waiting for a friend. There were some young fellows about my own age standing in front of me, when along came a police sergeant, who spoke broken English. He told these young fellows to clear away; that they were the type of lads that has been committing hold-ups and burglaries. They seemed to me to be clean cut. Then he turned to me and told me to clear away, too. I told him where I was working and that I was waiting for a friend.

I have time off between 2 and 5 p. m. He told me he didn't care where in I was working in front of a group of people who had gathered, and said the next time he saw me there he would "ride me in the patrol."

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To the Editor of The Times

Just a word to "Greenfield, Indiana," reader on his comment on my letter:

I stated the population of the entire State of New Hampshire will compare well with the city of Indianapolis. They have hills there similar to the hills of Brown County, but they have good roads, much better than those between Indianapolis and Evansville via Spencer. New Hampshire has 46,000 autos, whereas Indiana has more than a half million. New Hampshire's pop-

Will It Stand the Strain?



QUESTIONS

Ask—The Times

ANSWERS

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to the Indianapolis Times' Washington office, 10232 New York Ave., Washington, D. C., enclosing 10 cents in postage for reply. Medical, legal and marital advice cannot be given, nor can extended research be undertaken. All other questions will receive a personal reply. Unsigned requests cannot be answered. All letters are confidential.

How did the "Bible" get its name?

It is said this comes from the word balsam, the name of a reed which grows in the marshes of Egypt. It was from the leaves of this reed that paper was manufactured for use in the making of books, and the word "Bible," meaning literally "book," gets its name from this reed.

Who was the first English sovereign to use a fork?

Queen Elizabeth. It is said a clergyman of her day preached a sermon against the use of forks, declaring their use was an insult to God, who had given mankind fingers with which to convey their food to their mouths.

Where is the largest salt shaft in the world?

A salt shaft, said to be the largest in the world, has been sunk at Retsof, N. Y. The shaft is 9x28 feet and contains three elevators by which the vein is reached, 1,000 feet below the surface. When working at full capacity the mine will produce about 3,000 tons of rock salt a day.

In what State is a Governor not eligible for re-election for any two successive terms?

He is not eligible in Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

What is the average number of cars turned out by the Ford Company in one working day?

The average turnout per working day is 4,000. On June 23, 1921, they turned out 4,454 cars.

How many farms are there under irrigation on United States reclamation projects, and how many people do they support?

About 40,000 farms, supporting approximately 150,000 persons.

What is the ruling on a ball hitting the bat when the batter is trying to get out of the way?

A ball hitting the bat of the batter is called a strike, whether he swings at the ball or not.

What is an omnibus bill?

A sweeping measure that covers a number of lesser bills introducing, for example, the omnibus pension bill, has been incorporated in it a large number of private pension bills presented by members of Congress.

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