

The Indianapolis Times

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BUNKING THE PUBLIC

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES congratulates the Indianapolis Street Railway Company on its success in obtaining a bargain in used street cars for use in this city. In view of the present financial condition of the company, this is excellent business—providing the cars really are as good as Robert I. Todd, president of the company, says they are.

But The Times does object strenuously to the obvious effort to bunk the public. The company announced that the cars that had arrived from Cleveland after long use were new. All of the Indianapolis newspapers, including The Times, carried the announcement concerning new cars. The Times, not wishing to be a party to a scheme to bunk the public, has revealed the fact that the company bought used cars.

One of the greatest assets a public utility can have is public confidence. It can acquire this confidence only by putting all its cards face up on the table. No one would object to the street railway company buying good used cars for use in Indianapolis. But everyone certainly does object to false pretenses by the street car company or any other public utility.

AND THEN THEY AWOKE!

WEEK ago the sugar barons were dreaming of profits glorious, while the tariff commission slumbered over the sugar report showing up the exorbitant tariff which makes possible high sugar prices.

The sugar interests had reached influential political folks, who in turn had brought pressure to bear upon the tariff commission to keep the investigation smothered. Politics, they figured, would furnish a smoke screen sufficient to keep the sugar question hidden this year.

Suddenly, a week ago, Senator La Follette loosed a blast exposing to the public what was going on.

And then they awoke!

The political boys roused themselves enough to release the pressure on the tariff commission. The commissioners bestirred themselves and sent their report to the President. And the President will have to yawn and do something with the report—or else bear the responsibility for helping the sugar interests hike the price of sugar.

And he doesn't want to do that—not when he's running for re-election.

WHADDYEMEAN THIRD PARTY?

WAT do they mean by third party? Just listen to Tom Heflin, Democratic flamenwerfer of the United States Senate:

"This year," says Tom, "Davis will win, with La Follette running second and Coolidge third."

Or to George Wharton Pepper, the intermittent Republican spokesman in the United States Senate:

"Since nobody who can vote whole-heartedly for Davis can vote for Bryan," says George W., "and one who can vote for Bryan can vote whole-heartedly for Davis, the national campaign begins with the Republican candidate on the one side and La Follette on the other."

Here's the campaign three weeks old and spokesmen of both old parties agreeing that the independent ticket will run second. What will they be saying when the campaign is six weeks old?

MY LADY OF THE FRONT PAGE

OBED hair has proved it all over again—that what women do is of first-page importance.

One judge has ruled against a husband who beat his wife because she cut her hair. The court said that a woman's hair was her own property and she could do with it what she liked.

Down in Mexico City an attack on bobbed hair girls by students of the National University led to a real war. Those who were bobbed were upheld by half the city and condemned by the other half. Military students opened attacks on the attackers, and things were stirred up as they used to be in the old days of raids by the bandit, Villa.

In comparatively civilized St. Paul, barbers went to the courts and said in effect that hair-bobbing for women was their rightful work. They wanted to put Mme. De Guile, owner of a Minneapolis beauty parlor, in jail because she let a girl employee "bob" instead of hiring a licensed barber. The court decided in favor of the woman, possibly with its tongue in its cheek, thinking that if the barbers did not do the work bobbing would soon go out of style.

Even in her garden may have thought of the apples. Helen of Troy may have been a spicy, if troubling, influence. We've had our vamps and flappers in our own time to worry about, too. What woman does and fails to do will never let the world go stale. When bobbing her hair no longer gives men something to talk about, she'll think up something else with a kick in it.

"A GERMAN baron has been wounded in the knee in a duel, probably because the honor involved was about that high."

President Dawes; President Bryan; President Wheeler?

There's more chance of one of the vice presidential candidates being the next President of the United States than there has been since the modern method of electing a President was put in force.

Why? Because with three parties in the field, the possibility grows that no candidate for President may have a majority of 268 electoral votes; and the House of Representatives is so divided that all human probability it could

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SOME SEE SERPENT IN THE STARS

Some Regard Constellation

Draco as Snake That

Tempted Eve.

By DAVID DIETZ,

Science Editor of The Times.

THE serpent played an important part in the early history of man, according to all existing literature.

In the first drama enacted upon earth, the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, the serpent was one of the chief characters, as the story is told in the Bible. Therefore it is not surprising that

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CADMUS HURLED HIS SPEAR, PINNING THE DRAGON TO THE TRUNK OF A TREE.

the ancients imagined a winged serpent or dragon in the stars.

According to many authorities Draco, or the constellation of the dragon, is supposed to represent the serpent that persuaded Eve to eat the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden.

We know that the constellation was known to the Chaldeans in the earliest days of their history. It is probable that at that time the dragon was imagined to have wings and that the stars which later were formed into the Great and Little Bear formed the dragon's wings.

Many Biblical students think that Draco is referred to in the Book of Job, when it says:

"By His spirit He hath garnished the heavens. His hand hath formed the crooked serpent."

In Greek mythology there are a number of legends connected with this constellation.

According to one, the gods had to battle with a group of great giants

for the control of the earth. Aiding the giants was a great serpent. The goddess Minerva snatched up the serpent before it had time to uncloak and join the battle and hurled it into the sky where we now see it, still coiled up.

Thirty frogs were captured on route to the rum fleet from the mainland the other evening.

"Sore legs" is a term applied to

artists who are skipping a day's work.

It originated years ago, I am told, with a newspaper artist, who, when for one reason or another he wanted to remain at home, would call his office and complain, "I can't come down today. I got 'sore legs.'

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Cooperation

By HAL COCHRAN
It seems a safe guess that the biggest success comes through treatin' your fellow man right. The boss in a shop's off too busy to stop and consider the power of his might.

He oftentimes strive just to order and drive 'cause he thinks that will get the most work. But he'll soon understand that the average man resents—and is likely to shirk.

There's no room for prattle for men are not cattle; a very wise man is the boss who can lead, and not drive, for he'll keep things alive, and his crew will bring profit—not loss.

The every-day fellow's a long way from yellow. You'll find that he'll stand up and fight. If work pays him fair he will hold up his share but you've got to keep treatin' him right.

We'd best be a Nation of cooperation. You bosses don't want men to score you. You'll find that a gent gives 100 per cent if he can work with and not for you.

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BUTLER IS FULFILLING PROMISES

Marine Police Chief Still on Job Despite Bitter Opposition.

By RUTH FINNEY

P HILADELPHIA, Aug. 4.—It is rather sad commentary on American life that Gen. Smedley D. Butler, Philadelphia's fighting public safety director, should be the corking good news story that he undoubtedly is today. It is the rare and unusual that makes news. And the story in General Butler consists of the fact that here is a man in public office who actually means what he says!

General Butler, when invited last January to "clean up" Philadelphia, said that he would do it. There was little news in that to those who didn't know the man. Others had said the same thing.

But now, seven months later, in spite of the fact that he is not a candidate for President or any other office in the exciting election year, Butler is one of the most talked of men in the United States.

And simply because he is doing what he said he would do!

May Be First Again

Philadelphia, which boasts that it had the first bank in the United States, the first mint, the first building and loan association, the first theater, the first public school, is apparently on its way to add another to its list of glories and become the first American city to have a police department divorced from "protection" and free politics.

Who knows? Maybe it will also be the only city ever able to make such a boast. For the story of Philadelphia's purity is the story of General Butler and Butler says he will never undertake to clean up another city.

Just what chance has Butler to survive, fighting single-handed and alone the powerful politicians of the third largest city in the United States?

"Well," says Butler, "you see I'm still here. That's something. What is more, I am going to be here until I am fired."

He is right about the significance of still holding his position. If they had dared, the men behind Mayor Kendrick would have had his scalp ten days ago.

Firmly Entrenched

But they didn't dare, and Butler has emerged from the recent conflict more firmly entrenched than ever in the affections of the people of Philadelphia. The people understand clearly now that this clean-up of their city is going to last just so long as Butler lasts and no longer. They are behind him to an amazing degree.

Therefore until the fickle public grows tired of its newest idol, Smedley Butler is pretty apt to keep his position in the Philadelphia city hall at least for the year he is under contract.

This is what Mayor Kendrick, who appointed Butler, is up against.

Kendrick has been backed in his political career by Congressmen William S. Vare, political heir of Boles Penrose, and by Charles Hall, president of the city council, and veteran in local politics. After his election six months ago on a pledge to take the police department out of politics, he asked President Coolidge to loan him General Butler from the Marine Corps to do this.

But Butler, once installed, found Hall and Vare in the police department obstructing his clean-up. He demoted those of them who held office and shifted others to new beats until he got an organization that could be depended upon to carry out his orders.

Then a few days ago he started redistricting the city so that police districts and wards would not have identical boundaries.

That was too much for the startled and palmed politicians. It broke their power like so many straws. There were rumors that Butler would be fired immediately.

Mayor Can Fire Him