

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 there 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!

A 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?

WHAT do they mean by third party? Just listen to Tom Hefin, Democratic flammenwerfer 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 wholeheartedly for Davis can vote for Bryan," says George W., "and one who can vote for Bryan can vote wholeheartedly 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

BOBBED 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 haired 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 as 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 employ "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.

Ever 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?

Maybe! 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 266 electoral votes; and the House of Representatives is so divided that it all human probability it could not select a President from the three high candidates; and therefore the Senate would have to choose a Vice President from the two highest and he would thus automatically become President of the United States, on March 4 next.

If you want the detailed explanation of how this might happen, together with the biographies of the three vice presidential candidates, fill out the coupon below and mail to our Washington Bureau:

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POLITICAL EDITOR, Washington Bureau The Indianapolis Times, 1322 Ave. Washington, D. C.
I want the bulletin BIOGRAPHIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, and inclose herewith 5 cents in loose postage stamps for same:
Name
St. and No. or R. R.
City State

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



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 Bears 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 uncoil and join the battle and hurled it into the sky where we now see it, still coiled up.

Represents Dragon According to another legend, Draco represents the dragon killed by Hercules.

Hercules was the son of the god Jupiter and the princess Alcmena. As a youth he was distinguished for his great strength. But the goddess Juno, Jupiter's wife, hated him and drove him insane while he was still a young man. In his madness he killed his own children.

The goddess Minerva restored him to his right mind but Juno decreed that because of his deeds while mad he must carry out the commands of his cousin, Eurystheus. He gave Hercules difficult tasks to perform, hoping that he would be killed.

One was to steal the golden apples of Juno in the shadow of Mt. Atlas in Africa. A dragon guarded the apples. Hercules succeeded in killing the dragon.

Then Juno, according to the legend, placed the dragon in the sky where we see him now.

Slain by Cadmus According to the third story, Draco is the dragon slain by the hero Cadmus, founder of the city of Thebes.

Cadmus found the dragon standing guard on the spot where the city was to be built. First, according to the legend, he hurled a great stone at it. But the stone had no effect. Then he hurled his javelin which pierced the monster's hide.

The dragon rushed at him, breathing smoke and fire from his nostrils. Cadmus retreated, holding his spear before him. At last, his chance came. The monster, when his head was near the trunk of a great tree, opened his mouth wide. Cadmus thrust his spear forward pinning the dragon through his throat to the tree trunk.

Then the goddess Minerva commanded him to take the teeth of the dragon and sow them in the field. Immediately a crop of armed men sprang up. Cadmus thought he would have to fight a new group of enemies. But instead the armed men took to quarrelling with each other.

They fought until only five warriors remained. These five joined with Cadmus and helped him build the city of Thebes.

Next article A review of the circumpolar constellations. (Copyright, 1924, by David Dietz.)

A Thought

Give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.—1 Tim. 5:14.

And do as adversaries do in law; Strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends.—Shakespeare.

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 oft too busy to stop and consider the power of his might. He'll 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 plays 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. (Copyright, 1924, NEA Service, Inc.)

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. I'm more, I am going to be here until I am fired."

He is right about the significance of still holding his position. If he had dared, the man 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 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 Congressman William S. Vare, political heir of Boies Penrose, and 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 men 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 redistributing the city so that police districts and wards would not have identical boundaries.

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

Mayor Can Fire Him Mayor Kendrick is the one man who can fire Butler. His city council is threatening, according to rumor, that unless he does so, there will be no money forthcoming for his construction program. That is hard, for Congressman Vare, Kendrick's Machiavelli, owns a contracting business which has always spent a large part of its time doing construction work for the city.

On the other hand, Kendrick knows the people remember his sweet sounding promises for a clean police department and are thoroughly sold on the idea that the only means of attaining this is Butler! So Butler won't take a hint and depart peacefully. He'll fight, and he'll call the people to his side if he's fired!

It's not a nice position for a man said to entertain gubernatorial aspirations.

It's apt to take Kendrick some time to figure out whether he can afford to alienate either of the two warring factions. Consequently, Philadelphia is apt to remain at least until Butler's year of leave from the Marine service has expired.

A good many American auxiliaries are coal, not oil, burners. Coaliers must always attend them—a nuisance.

Finally, out of the Navy's 156 destroyer, submarine and aircraft tenders, repair, store, ammunition, cargo and hospital ships, colliers, oilers, transports, fleet tugs, mine sweepers and miscellaneous craft, forty-two are out of commission due to lack of personnel.

In round numbers the Navy has 86,000 men.

To man its fighting and auxiliary fleets it needs 135,000.

If the vessel's now stripped and laid up were needed, they'd be needed in a hurry.

It would take from thirty to sixty days to make some of them ready for sea. To make all of them ready at once might take ninety days.

How long it would take to recruit and train their personnel is problematical—perhaps a year.

Prime Minister. The siege and capture of La Rochelle, the stronghold of the Huguenots, reduced them to submission, after a gallant resistance of more than a year—1628.

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Where was Tom Moore, the movie actor, born? In County Meath, Ireland.

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How long is a meter? 39.37 inches.

BUTLER IS FULFILLING PROMISES

Marine Police Chief Still on Job Despite Bitter Opposition.

By RUTH FINNEY

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 4.—It is a 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 in 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.

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It's No Kind of a Day to Try a New Kite



U. S. NAVY AUXILIARIES ARE ANCIENT

Most of This Type of Ship Are Converted Merchant Vessels.

By CHARLES P. STEWART, NEA Service Writer

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4.—A gun, no matter how up to date, and well kept, isn't much use without ammunition.

Just so with a Navy. It's helpless without supplies. It uses them up very fast, so must constantly be getting more.

If operating close enough to a shore base, the fighting ships can put into port for what they need. In case of trouble in the Pacific, however, the American vessels would be 3,000 or 4,000 miles from their nearest base—Hawaii.

An adequate supply fleet—auxiliaries—would be absolutely necessary.

So far as numbers go, the Navy has auxiliaries enough.

But few of these ships were Navy-built. They are converted merchant craft. They are not well suited to Naval use.

Some are very old, dating back to the Spanish-American War twenty-six years ago. Nearly all are too slow.

A fighting fleet in war-time wants supplies when it wants them. Delay is apt to be fatal.

Moreover, a slow auxiliary falls easy prey to submarines.

Some of America's destroyer tenders are good for only 7.5 knots. Few American auxiliaries of any type can beat ten or eleven.

A modern submarine makes twelve knots submerged; fourteen at the surface. The latest long range undersea boat hits twenty.

Navy men agree an auxiliary should be equal in sixteen knots. Otherwise either its in constant danger or it must be strongly convoyed; in war-time, fighting vessels cannot well be spared for this purpose.

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Ask The Times

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to the Indianapolis Times Washington Bureau, 1322 New York Ave., Washington, D. C., enclosing 2 cents in stamps 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.—Editor.

What is Baby Peggy's address? (Care Universal Pictures Corporation, 1600 Broadway, N. Y. City.)

What causes electric light bulbs to burn white inside? Air in the bulb will have this effect.

What causes wilt in a tomato plant? Bacteria which clog the water channels of the plant. The only thing to do is to pull up the infected plants and burn them to prevent the spread of the infection. There is no remedy.

When did the Huguenots of France suffer the complete loss of their political power? During the reign of Louis XIII of France, when Cardinal Richelieu was Prime Minister.

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U. S. PAPERS FAVOR LAW ON DIVORCE

Mrs. White's Proposal Receives Generally Favorable Comment.

Times Washington Bureau, 1322 New York Ave.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4.—With the child labor amendment to the Constitution disposed of, so far as Congress is concerned, the way is clear for consideration of another Federal amendment which has had to stand aside until the children were cared for—the amendment empowering Congress to enact a Federal marriage and divorce law.

The Capper resolution heard before the Judiciary Committee in the Sixty-eighth Congress is perhaps the most likely candidate for honors as twenty-first amendment to the Constitution of the United States. There