

The Indianapolis Times

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Wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again?
I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.—2 Sam.
12:23.

Ah! surely nothing dies but something mourns.—Byron.

A NEW GOVERNOR

ONE of the stormiest four-year periods in the turbulent political history of Indiana comes to an end today with the inauguration of Ed Jackson as Governor.

The McCray administration started with serious financial problems, continued on its turbulent way through two Legislatures in which appropriations were the principal issue, and terminated in the personal financial crash of the Governor.

The administration was not one of which the State could be proud. It was marked by incidents all of us would like to forget.

With its termination Governor Branch took over the reins of State government under unenviable conditions. He inherited the loose ends of the McCray administration and carried on through eight months.

For the most part his administration has been creditable. Probably it is more to be praised for what it did not do than for what it did. But a course of comparative inactivity was the only one open under the circumstances.

Then came the most peculiar political campaign that Indiana has seen in many years. Party lines were almost obliterated and the contest was fought out along lines entirely foreign to political government. It resulted in the election of Ed Jackson, who was backed by the Ku-Klux Klan, working to a large extent through secret channels and basing its fight largely on prejudice and very little on reason.

Now comes the inauguration of the Governor so elected. Jackson comes into office under peculiar auspices. He is deeply indebted to the secret powers that put him into office. His position is not highly desirable and his problem is increased by the circumstances surrounding his election.

But despite the conditions of his election—and The Times opposed him because of these conditions—there probably is not a citizen of Indiana who does not wish him a successful administration. He is now being put to test. If he is big enough to overcome the enormous handicaps with which he starts, Indiana will be fortunate. If he makes himself subservient to factions and organizations, it will be indeed unfortunate.

We have considerable respect for Jackson as a man. We have no patience whatever with secret control of the State government. We hope the new Governor will conduct the affairs of the State always with the best interests of ALL the people in mind.

We believe he should be given a fair opportunity to demonstrate his policies. We hope nothing will be put in the way of his success and that past antagonisms will be forgotten in the interest of the State.

IT CAN BE DONE, AND IT PAYS

FOR MANY years timber men have fought the efforts of conservationists who wanted cut-over timber areas replanted, that forests might not be wiped out by the demands of industry.

Reforestation, the timber men said, wasn't practical. It couldn't be made to pay. The Government might do it, as a public service, but industries couldn't afford to raise trees.

One group of timber men thought otherwise. They were the redwood timber men of California. They had some of the finest trees in the land, whose wood was always in demand. But the number of redwoods was limited, and they grew only in a limited area.

The redwood men wanted their industry to go on permanently. They found that in fifty years redwoods would grow to enormous size. So they are reforesting.

Incidentally, an acre of redwoods fifty years old will produce enough lumber to build seven bungalows. At present prices, \$20 put into an acre of land and planted to redwoods will be worth far more in fifty years than the same twenty, invested in sound securities, with compounded interest.

CALIFORNIA SHOWS THE WAY

IN CALIFORNIA, whose child labor laws are among the best in the country, the Legislature has lost no time ratifying the proposed Federal child labor amendment.

The vote in the State Senate was 36 to 3.

The vote in the House was 69 to 9.

This is the first action to be taken by any of the many Legislatures meeting this winter and it sets a good example.

California evidently believes that when she was given her extra abundance of sunshine, it was intended that the children should have their share of it.

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ENGLISH EDITOR, Washington, D. C.

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FATE OF THE NAVY IS NOW UP TO U. S. CONGRESS

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Never in the history of the national capital has there been a more complete shelving of a Cabinet member than that administered by the Administration to Secretary of the Navy Wilbur. He still holds the portfolio, but there is no longer anything in it.

Between a couple of devils and the deep blue sea, he stands today bound and gagged while the country goes to sleep over the soporific and soothing bedtime story of an American Navy the equal of any on earth.

One of the devils is the Administration's financial program which, while admitting we have the right, refuses to permit the Navy to elevate the muzzles of its guns in order to increase their range lest England be displeased. No other power has offered objection.

The sea, in the above simile, represents the well-known needs of our Navy—the minimum repairs and additions necessary to it if it is to do the job the country expects it to do.

Admitting that our battleships are outgunned by the British, are slower than the British and are out-ranged by the British, the Secretary, testifying before the House Naval Affairs Committee, was forced to remain silent when asked if he had any recommendations to make to Congress regarding these vital defects could be remedied.

He could not talk lest he run counter to the policies of the Administration of which he is a member.

Situation Revealed

Nevertheless, under the unsparing questioning of Representative Fred Britton of Illinois, ranking Republican on the committee; Representative A. Platt Andrews, Republican, of Massachusetts; Representative John F. Miller, Republican, of Seattle, and other thoroughly regular members of his own party, the real state of the Navy was startlingly revealed.

It was made plainer than it had ever been made before, either to Congress or to the people of the country, that the so-called 5-5-3 naval ratio arrived at at the Washington conference of 1921 is nothing but a delusion and a snare.

All the loyalty in the world to the Administration's political, foreign and financial policies did not serve to hide the truth that the 5-5-3 ratio has nothing to do with sea power in general or with the relative fighting strength of the navies of Britain, America and Japan.

Like the general public, even some of the Congressmen present seemed to confuse the meaning of the ratio and take it to mean naval strength. Time and again Secretary Wilbur found it necessary to set them right. It is merely a sort of "yardstick," he said, for measuring tonnage-tonnage and nothing else, like piles of cold, dead steel. And even then only capital ships are involved.

Will Be Short

It was shown that when sometime next year Great Britain scrapes four of her older ships and adds the two new ones then to be commissioned, the United States will still be some 33,700 tons short of what Britain will have afloat, or precisely the tonnage of one first-class battleship.

The committee wore a look of pain and surprise.

Representative Britton made it plain that he does not intend to rent idle so long as the 5-5-3 fiction exists. He tried to induce Secretary Wilbur to get behind Congress to have the range of guns on our battleships increased, but failed. The Secretary admitted, when questioned, that increased range would unquestionably go far to overcome British superiority, but refused to step on the toes of President Coolidge and Secretary of State Hughes.

Representative Britton, however, intends to press on Congress the need of carrying out the gun elevation program, at least.

Unless Congress takes the initiative and induces the Administration to reverse some of its paralyzing naval policies, not only will England soon have us hopelessly distanced, but Japan will take even second place from us and relegate us to third.

Tom Sims Says

And sometimes we think maybe a man's wife is a nag because she is married to a jackass.

The weather forecaster always has lots of competition.

Only neighbor we think is out of debt is the one we owe.

The chief interest in life with some people is the 8 per cent they get on their money.

Never put on until tomorrow what the advance styles say put on today.

Some people could say what they think and still be quiet.

When a man is full of himself there isn't room for much else.

Business is back. Next time it goes away we hope it gets a round-trip ticket to return in a few days.

It is all right to tell your wife everything that happens to a "radical" like La Follette. He could have added a lot of progressively-inclined States to the solid South and his election would have been as easy as that, so they say.

There is no way to prove the contrary, Smith's proponents continue to assert that Smith could have carried New York, New Jersey, Indiana and one or two other States, whose electoral votes added to those of the South would have meant election. It will require a national election to satisfy them that they are wrong.

A man may be down, but he is not out until he is down in the mouth.

Sometimes a man finds he can't make ends meet because they are loose ends.

Any reader who wishes a copy of that in addition to the above bulletin, place an X mark opposite this paragraph and enclose 5 cents for the TWO bulletins.

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RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

Propriety

JUDGE MOONS of the city court of Muncie died suddenly Thursday, in the midst of his duties in the courtroom. Friday several aspirants for the place, so suddenly vacated, solicited the Governor for the appointment.

This indecent haste to step into the official shoes of the deceased jurist, before the funeral, shocked the Governor. He rebuked the applicants for violation of the sense of propriety.

They urged as an excuse that "the opposition has got busy."

A delicate sense of propriety, as a domestic pet, is applauded by appreciative onlookers.

To an office seeker it is useless because, when unleashed on the trail, it seldom catches and sinks teeth into the public pay roll.

Public office—any office—has an unaccountable attraction for many men. To obtain a place at the plecter, they will stoop to any stratagem, or elbow a corpse out of the way. Their gospel, Golden Rule and Decalogue is the old adage, "the early bird catches the worm." Public good frequently represents the worm.

In a perfect democratic form of government public office should seek the man. That's only a theory—but an occasional trial of it in Indiana would be interesting. Some chronic candidates would be given, thereby, chance to rest face and hands.

Convention

THE National Education Association will hold its 1225 convention in Indianapolis from June 28 to July 4. This was definitely assured Friday.

The action relieves the anxiety of Chamber of Commerce officials and others actively interested. Likewise it should be gratifying to all citizens.

For a week this city will entertain the largest educational gathering in the world. It will be the temporary educational capital of the nation. As a result some permanent imprint may be left on local school affairs and all law.

Moreover the staging of a national assembly of any character is fattening to community pride. It gives valuable publicity and is fame of a sort.

More substantial material benefits will accrue from the meeting of educators. Approximately 10,000 visitors will be brought here. All of whom eat, sleep, and have physical wants. Ten thousand active bundles of wands will spend much money.

In the final analysis a big convention is good business for a city. By entertaining one acceptably it gets more for less expenditure than in any other way.

The returns from civic hospitality are in firm friendship and hard cash—each negotiable.

Give It a Chance

The World Court is the only practical and constructive machine set up since the way to settle disputes between nations, big and little, on the broad principles of justice—Representative Fish (R) New York.

element—another word for one who is "progressive" without being "radical"—to the conservative element within the party.

During the latter weeks of the Coolidge managers charged loudly and bitterly that the Davis organization was trading States with the La Follette organization. This wasn't true, so far as the two national organizations were concerned.

In a great many western States where Democratic hopes had fled, the State organization threw its support, quietly, to La Follette in return for progressive aid for State candidates.

Nearly True

The allegation of the Coolidge managers was not true—but they probably never knew how near it came to being true. A few weeks before the election a representative of the Democratic national committee had a conference with representative of the La Follette organization.

Each was an important man in his own party, but neither had full authority to act. They agreed that the thing to do was divide the States and get out of one another's way. California, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa and certain others should be conceded to La Follette and the support of the Democratic national organization given to him.

Democrats are ready to prove at the polls on election day. By that is meant that portion of the national committee not lined up with neither the McAdoo or Smith forces.

Collision Is Coming

The collision between McAdoo and Smith is going to be hard to avert. Friends of both in considerable number are already pushing their candidates along. McAdoo clubs that were organized in the two or three years preceding the New York convention are being held together in many cities. Smith clubs are being organized as far West as California. McAdoo's admirers are ready to prove at the polls on election day. By that is meant that portion of the national committee not lined up with neither the McAdoo or Smith forces.

There is no way to prove the contrary, Smith's proponents continue to assert that Smith could have carried New York, New Jersey, Indiana and one or two other States, whose electoral votes added to those of the South would have meant election. It will require a national election to satisfy them that they are wrong.

Peace Is Sought

For she time being there is little talk of a possible candidate that might win the independent followers of La Follette over to a regular nominee. Instead most thought is centered on reconciling the liberal

Athletics

HIGH school basketball is under investigation by a committee of the State board of education. Principals, coaches, and physicians are being questioned to ascertain if the game is harmful to education.

Unquestionably basketball is now a major industry in the high schools of the State.

Possibly school athletic contests should be curtailed somewhat. Their original purpose has been subordinated to their appeal as spectacles. Too often the end sought is not healthy sport, but a championship.

Many voices have cried out in the educational wilderness against this present tendency to glorify athletics.

The students are not altogether to blame for this tendency. The intense interest of the general public in the games is partially responsible. Popular applause is the greatest stimulus to athletics.

A football game between Notre Dame and Stanford will draw as many thousands as can be seated. It is a national event. A debate between the two universities or an oratorical contest, wouldn't even draw the janitor to the hall.

That difference in popularity helps to make athletics the important aim of education to any student body. Even school boys are as susceptible to popular applause as their elders.

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