

# The Indianapolis Times

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No law shall be passed restraining the free interchange of thought and opinion, or restricting the right to speak, write, or print freely, on any subject whatever.—Constitution of Indiana.

## The Scramble Begins

ANOTHER political storm has broken. Hardly had the last clod of earth fallen on the coffin of Samuel M. Ralston in the little Lebanon cemetery, when the scramble over the appointment of his successor began.

Governor Ed Jackson has before him the unenviable task of naming Ralston's successor, to serve until the next State election, when Indiana will elect two Senators, one to succeed Jim Watson and one to complete the unexpired term of Senator Ralston.

Regardless of whom Jackson appoints, he is bound to make enemies, for there are factions in the Republican party so numerous that any appointee will be opposed. To add to Jackson's difficulties, it is reported that he would like to be Senator himself. He could hardly find a man who would agree not to become a candidate next year, thus giving Jackson an opportunity. Of course, there is the alternative of Jackson resigning and permitting Harold Van Orman, who would become Governor, to appoint him. In fact, Van Orman already has given out an interview, published in Evansville, on "What I would do if I were Governor." But it hardly appears likely that Van Orman will become Governor, at least not at this time.

Albert J. Beveridge, who was defeated by Ralston in 1922, is definitely a candidate for the appointment and may be appointed. Beveridge's personal publicity agency is endeavoring to convince the public that he is the man for the place. The majority of the voters did not think so two years ago. But, of course, it would be impossible to appoint another Sam Ralston and Beveridge may really be second choice of the voters. Beveridge, however, certainly would not agree to step aside next year and permit Jackson to be a candidate.

Beveridge has had a peculiar political history, or, rather, his reactions to political events have been rather inconsistent. In 1912 we found Beveridge in the Bull Moose fold, fighting away with the progressives. Ten years later, when he was a candidate for the Senate, he revealed himself as one of the most reactionary of the reactionaries. In fact, it was this very thing that brought about his defeat. The people of Indiana, remembering 1912, voted for Beveridge in the primary in preference to the "regular" Republican, Harry S. New. Then in the election Beveridge outvoted New and was defeated by the voters who already had expressed their opposition to this attitude.

What Beveridge would do now if he is appointed Senator is hard to predict. One thing is certain. He would not vote for the Dawes scheme to change the Senate rules. Beveridge has expressed himself as believing the Dawes program would result in disaster. It is just possible that Beveridge could not always be depended on to be "regular" and for this reason his appointment might have the opposition of the Administration at Washington; and it is very likely that Jackson, with his own political ambitions in mind, will seek the approval of President Coolidge before announcing an appointment.

Everett Sanders of Terre Haute, former Congressman and now secretary to the President, is being mentioned as a possibility. Sanders is not known to the voters of Indiana outside his own district. It is probable that appointment of Sanders would be approved by the Administration at Washington, but Sanders is a young man and has been described as a man with a promising future. It is not likely that once he is in the Senate he would agree to step aside in favor of the man who appointed him.

Arthur R. Robinson, Indianapolis attorney, also is being mentioned. Robinson and Jackson have been close friends, but the appointment of Robinson certainly would have the opposition of a large part of the community and for this reason he probably has not a very strong chance.

There are dozens of hard working Republicans in Indiana who would jump at the opportunity to go to the Senate and Jackson has a wide choice. It is possible that the Governor is not seriously considering any of the men mentioned.

It seems too bad that Senator Ralston's successor can not be a man who will follow Ralston's ideas and policies. After all, it was the will of the voters to be so represented for six years. But our political system makes such a thing impossible. The good of the party always takes precedence over the will of the voters.

The distillers and brewers killed themselves and paved the way for prohibition because of their abuse of power they had built up. In like manner the Coffins, Armitages, Ruckers and persons of similar political caliber are slowly but surely killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

Through their excesses, they have undermined public confidence. Lincoln's adage of the inability to fool the public permanently is as true in 1925 as it was seven decades ago. Indianapolis will adopt the city manager form of government because the present system has failed.

If you don't believe it has failed, try to get a square deal for a Democratic candidate in a close precinct the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

Briefly, Germany's famous and once re-

jected "Security Pact" has been accepted by the interested powers in conference at Locarno, Switzerland. According to its terms Germany, France and Belgium agree that the Rhine shall constitute an unfortified military frontier which neither the one nor the other shall violate. And Great Britain and Italy join in, with the understanding that if this frontier is violated then they will come into the war against the aggressor, whether that country be France or Belgium or Germany.

The League of Nations will stand sponsor for the pact and its rules governing arbitration will apply. By the same token Germany becomes a full-fledged member of the league with permanent representation on its council on precisely the same footing as Britain, France and the other great powers.

In addition to the above, arbitration treaties between Germany and her eastern neighbors, Poland and Czechoslovakia, have been agreed upon in principle. And in the same way that Britain and Italy agree to aid France in the event Germany wilfully makes war against her, France agrees to come to Poland's and Czechoslovakia's assistance if Germany violates these treaties and wages aggressive war against them.

Germany is to receive other considerations in the form of the evacuation of Cologne; a general reduction of the forces of occupation in the Rhineland; amelioration in the administration of the Saar now under the league, and the like. All of which makes for better feeling.

True, treaties are only promises. And promises, like pie-crusts, they say, are made to be broken. Nevertheless, the pact holds out more genuine hope of peace than Europe has experienced in a century.

As matters now stand, Europe's greatest menace is Russia. Russia strenuously opposed Germany's entering the agreement. She is against the security pact. She is hostile to Poland and to Roumania and, increasingly so of late, to Britain. What she has up her sleeve no one can tell, but as long as she is in her present mood, and as long as Europe continues as a sort of open powder keg ready to blow up with the first touch of a firebrand, there must be danger.

One result of the miracle of Locarno, where irreconcilables were reconciled, will likely be a second arms conference. The league has been waiting only for a favorable outcome of these negotiations to begin preparations. And though it is known that President Coolidge would like to call such a parley in Washington, it is difficult to see how he could now very well refuse an invitation from Geneva, league or no league.

## Why Doubt Creeps in

INTREPID Republican orators thunder forth heated denunciations of radicalism, and would pursue the liberal and the doubter to his home and slay him. Any one who criticizes the present form of government is a terrible character, and should be made an outcast.

Are they themselves not responsible for the wave of doubt and cynicism among the electorate? President Ben H. Thompson of city council believes so.

How long would baseball fans attend world series games if last year's champions were allowed to choose the umpires, regardless of honesty, previous experience or character.

Suppose the Washington club had been permitted to name Joe Jackson as the arbiter of decisions during the recent encounter. Would the fans have remained quiet?

Yet Republican campaign managers expect citizens to stand for appointment of 225 Republican election inspectors and refuse to adopt the fair course of permitting Democrats to name half of the men who decide the vote counts in the shady precincts.

Ben Thompson was big enough to comprehend the danger of losing public confidence. His professional Republican brethren can see no farther than the noses on their faces.

That's why people are turning to the city manager form of government as a relief from the banditry and crookedness of the professional politicians.

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Here is the common attitude of

## A Sermon for Today

By Rev. John R. Gunn

"Now consider this, ye that forget God."—Psalms 50:22.

HERE is an old story which runs as follows: There was once a poor musician in Germany who loved a maiden of high degree, and in order to win her he went away to distant lands and strove to obtain fame and fortune. When at last he had obtained both he came back and claimed his bride. They were walking out one evening by the side of the river Rhine, and he saw down the bank a tuft of little blue flowers which he sought to reach for her. In doing so his foot slipped and he fell into the river. As he was being carried away by the strong current he flung the bunch of flowers to land, crying as he did so, "Forget me not." From that time, and from this story, it is said, that little blue flower, known

as

the

"Mouse's

Ear,"

has

been

known as the "Forget-me-not."

Whether the story is true, I do not know. But as I read it I thought of the many "Forget-me-nots" which God has scattered all around us.

Every flower of the field is one of His "Forget-me-nots."

Every little twig upspringing at our feet, every little star that twinkles in the sky, every light and every shadow, every touch of beauty everywhere in the great world about us, is one of His "Forget-me-nots."

The Bible, with its light and wisdom, is His great "Forget-me-not" to a world groping in ignorance and darkness.

Every church, with its upward-pointing spires, is one of His "Forget-me-nots," calling men back from the way of sin and evil, and reminding them of the better way that leads from earth to heaven.

## RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

### SANITARY TAX LEVY

THE State tax commission, acting on the opinion of the Attorney General, has fixed the Indianapolis sanitary levy at 5.5 cents, as provided in the budget approved by the mayor, rather than the 6.5 cents passed by the city council. That will make the 1926 city tax rate \$1,652—less than this year.

Taxpayers won't grumble at that. Reduction of a cent in a tax rate never aroused a populace to fury or started a revolution.

But members of the sanitary commission view the reduction with a gloomy foreboding. They say it might be necessary to close the sewage plant the latter part of the year because of insufficient funds. Then bugs, pestilence and similar afflictions will visit the penurious city.

Raw sewage crawling over the civic landscape would be unpleasant, but probably it won't happen. It is surprising what economies can be effected in an arm of the public service when tightened purse strings actually compel economy. So doubtless the ordinary person won't notice any difference in the sanitization provided by the 5.5 cent rate than he would have enjoyed under the 6.5 cent rate.

More important than the sanitary aspect of the tax commission's action is the aid and comfort it gives the municipal budget idea.

The 5.5 cent levy was fixed by the administration after, presumably, a study of the department's estimates and needs, along with the estimates of other municipal departments. If this city council with a few glib "ayes" and no investigation can add a cent here and there to the various levies at their pleasure, of what use is an intelligent budget system?

For every ten murders committed in London there are 160 committed in New York. Both England and New York prescribe the death penalty in such cases, but how different they impose it. Seven out of London's ten killers are expeditiously hanged, while only one out of New York's 160 is executed.

Indiana's percentage of executions is not much greater.

Capital punishment may or may not be a barbaric legal institution unworthy of this enlightened age. Its effectiveness as a crime deterrent is debatable. But the most damning indictment of capital punishment in Indiana and other States where legal executions are still possible is the inequitable way in which the penalty is inflicted.

If it is good for society to execute one first degree murderer it is no more than just to electrocute all such—not merely an occasional friendless, penniless killer. The law can't preen itself much on its impartiality when it imposes the supreme penalty on only one murderer out of a hundred.

Public roads are public property and should be protected from exploitation which defaces landscapes, confuses traffic and endangers life," read the resolution.

There is the slap direct at the billboard nuisance which turns the beauties of nature into a riot of lurid advertising messages. Wherever along the highways nature has done her best with sylvan dell and gurgling brook her face is hidden by billboard daubs.

Even the most enthusiastic defender of outdoor advertising can not claim such posters are works of art or enhance the beauties of the landscape. They are glaring eyesores. They erupt all over woods, and hills and dales, and turn scenery into a commercialized nightmare.

Billboard interests with their fine esthetic sense estimate the value of scenery in square feet of poster space. Perhaps they are right. At any rate they boast that theirs is the fifth largest industry in the country.

But those who use the highways and unjoin their necks trying to peer around strident billboards to catch glimpses of the landscape as they pass don't value the posters so highly.

Such there is greater value in the beauties of nature than in the sign-painter's art. Therefore, any steps to suppress billboards in the public interest—though it treads on the feet of the fifth largest industry in the country.

How many presidents has Poland had and what were their names?

Poland has had two presidents, Joseph Pilsudski and Stanislaw Woyciechowski, the present incumbent, who was elected Dec. 26, 1922.

What was the name in civil life of Pope Leo X?

His name was Giovanni de Medici. He was the son of Lorenzo the Magnificent. The Medici were the most celebrated family of the Florentine republic.

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