

# The Indianapolis Times

ROY W. HOWARD, President.

WM. A. MAYBORN, Bus. Mgr.

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## The Triumph of the Sheep

ON the opening day of the present Congress a change was made in the rules of the House. It was an important change and it brought on a test of the strength of the Republican organization. The organization won and there was much rejoicing by the good party men. Here's what it was all about.

Two years ago a rule was adopted whereby 50 members by signing a petition could bring up for a vote by the House the question of taking away from a committee a bill sent to it for action. This was aimed to stop the practice of burying important bills in committee. All the new rule did was to give the whole House a chance to say whether it wanted a certain bill brought out to be disposed of.

It was a step in the direction of democracy in the House, though not a very long step. It merely said that when a measure appealed to 150 members (that's a good many members) as being too important to remain in some committee chairman's pocket any longer, the House could vote on the question. If the House determined that it wanted to discuss the bill it would then discuss it; if not, the bill would remain in the chairman's pocket. Hardly a radical idea.

This year the majority organization, led by Speaker Longworth, decided it would have none of this nonsense; the House would be permitted to discuss and vote on only such measures as the Speaker and his close little coterie should decide. So on this opening day a new rule, sponsored by the Speaker himself, was offered. By this rule it would require 218 members of the House to sign a petition before the House could even consider whether a bill should be taken from a committee.

It was a tense moment when this was put before the House and when a roll call showed 208 votes for the new rule and only 196 against—victory for the Speaker and his friends—there was great rejoicing among the 208. They had licked the enemy. They had proved their right to have all their power as individual Congressmen taken away from them. They had asserted their complete dependence. They had stood up and been counted as men who didn't want to think for themselves on any occasion.

They were not goats, they were sheep.

They certainly were sheep!

One more rule and the new system will be perfect. This rule would provide that on all roll calls those members voting as the Speaker has told them to vote shall, when their names are called, answer: "Ba-aa!"

## Sir Paul Wins for Brass

SIR PAUL CHATER, K. C. M. G., senior member of the Executive Council at Hongkong, was on his way back to the Orient.

At Vancouver, where he took his boat, he was interviewed. Of course the reporters asked him about China. The Chinese, as you no doubt have heard, have been having queer notions lately about China belonging to them. At present, you know, foreigners run the country.

Well, Sir Paul told the reporters all about it, winding up with this perfect gem of pomposity:

"Although I fully realize the seriousness of the present situation, I cannot help feeling that things will smooth themselves out in time, as the Chinese of the old school ARE OUT AND OUT FAITHFUL TO THE BRITISH."

The emphasis is ours. "Faithful to the British!" They get that way out there, nearly all foreigners. After a year or so in the one-time Flower Kingdom they get so they feel like they are THE people and that the Chinese are interlopers—useful or troublesome, according to the way they behave. To these foreigners, loyalty and patriotism in the Chinese mean loyalty to the country of the foreigner. Loyalty to China becomes bolshevism or worse.

Incidentally we are hearing a lot nowadays about communism being about to sweep China. We would much dislike seeing that come about. But one way to bring it on is for the Western powers to cling to Sir Paul's old-fashioned view. That was all right yesterday—at least the Chinese let it pass. But that day is gone forever.

America has gained great prestige throughout the swarming Orient as the unselfish friend of China. She must continue to be that friend. And the way to do so is to help China convince the other great powers that, after all, China belongs to the Chinese. Otherwise America will be contributing to the day when some 400,000,000 Chinese—with perhaps 300,000,000 more from India—may attempt to convince the world herself.

And that means . . . God knows what!

## Corrupting the Coast Guard

WHEN General Andrews was sworn in as head of the Federal prohibition forces he swore off drinking. A statement by himself to this effect caused more or less humorous comment throughout the country. It was suggested that swearing in the whole Army and Navy as prohibition agents might greatly increase the number of law-abiding citizens.

Now it seems that this could have an opposite effect.

The United States coast guard, having been equipped with additional speed-boats and additional funds, was put to work by General Andrews cleaning up Rum Row off the New York and New Jersey coast. A spectacular campaign resulted and the newspapers were filled with it for weeks. Rum Row apparently was put out of business. Everybody, at least, supposed it was. True, Scotch whisky remained about as plentiful as before and prices were little different, but it was thought that supplies were coming from a new source.

United States District Attorney Buckner has provided the explanation. He declares that a bootleg syndicate for months practically controlled the operation of the coast guard fleet in the waters between Sandy Hook and Block Island. The bootleggers, Buckner said, corrupted so many officers and men that the Government vessels were practically working for them. Instead of keeping liquor out of New York, they were helping to bring it in.

This is a dramatic illustration of a phase of prohibition enforcement that is giving serious-minded citizens real concern. One of the great evils of the old saloon was its corrupting influence in politics and public affairs. That is one reason why the old saloon never can come back. But thinking people are puzzling over the evidences of widespread corruption under prohibition also. The corruption of a long line of railway officials startled the country a short time ago. The corruption of the coast guard, a service in which the country has taken pride for more than a century, is a much greater shock. These things make clear that such instances as occur in our own community are not isolated, that there is instead a general spread of the poison.

At any rate, until it can be determined why the United States coast guard developed so many weak spots under the pressure of prohibition enforcement there is not likely to be any further demand on the President that he use the Army and Navy for similar service.

## She Married a Prince

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

PERHAPS we have all thrilled over the story of beautiful Elizabeth Patterson of Baltimore, whose childhood's ambition was to become a princess.

And, sure enough, one day there came riding into her town Jerome Bonaparte, brother of the illustrious Napoleon, and in due time the two were wed.

But right here the thrill goes out of the story, for Elizabeth was princess in name only, because the haughty Bonaparte family never recognized the American girl and her husband finally left her with a young son and married an obscure European princess, Catherine of Wurtemberg.

And from that time forth Elizabeth Patterson, like a great many other people, went about disdaining the true, good things of her life and puffed up over the false. Until her death at the advanced age of 94, she never could forget that she had been wedded to petty royalty and she never looked at her life except through eyes that saw first of all the stupendous fact that she, an humble American, had borne a son to a French Bonaparte.

Her father, a good and great man, one of the pioneer builders of America, was overshadowed in her mind by the unfaithful Jerome and his strutting warrior brother.

Pride very often makes people lose their sense of values like that. It is a very fine thing to be able to count among your ancestors someone who has performed a great deed or lived a noble life and we are all, to a certain extent, influenced by our progenitors, but it is very foolish indeed to allow ourselves to become haughty for the reason that we have sprung from a family that was powerful by right of might alone.

For in nine cases out of ten, the blue blood in your veins does not give you half as much character as that bestowed by the good red corpuscles of some far-off peasant ancestor. The princes of the earth, as a whole, have contributed more of devastation and wickedness to humanity than any other class, and that thing which we are often wont to call heroism is so often merely braggadocio. We should be proud of our forefathers, but we should take great care that we are proud of the things which deserve pride instead of those qualities which merit only condemnation.

## A Sermon for Today

By Rev. John R. Gunn

Text: "Behold, here I am; witness against me before the Lord, and before his anointed, whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received a bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it to you. And they said thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand."—1 Sam. 12: 3, 4.

ASSEMBLING the people of Israel near the close of his life, Samuel stood up before them and said: "Whom have I defrauded? Whom have I cheated? Of whom have I received a bribe to blind my eyes?" And the great assembly of people answered back with a shout: "Samuel, you have never defrauded any one; you have never cheated any one, you have never received a bribe of any one." When a man can stand at his tomb and face the world with such a challenge and get back such an answer, that man has lived a life worth while.

I should like to be able to face the world with such a challenge when I come to the end of my life and stand in the shadow of my tomb. When I come to die I don't want to feel that my life has been a failure.

(Copyright, 1925, by John R. Gunn)

By Gilon Gardner

ONTREAL, (By Mail)—A

Editor's Note: This is the Sixth of a series of articles by Mr. Gardner reporting the operation of liquor laws in the various provinces of Canada.

There are five professional tasters, and two laboratory experts to taste and test the samples taken from shipments to the commission and to supplement the work of the tasters in Paris.

There are the warehouses where wines and liquors are stored in bulk.

There are special cellar, cared for by the special experts brought from France.

Bottling Works

There are bottling and labeling departments, a special printing equipment for printing the labels on specially threaded paper; there are the accounting and auditing divisions; there are storage houses for bonded goods and seized contraband.

There are the lunchrooms, immaculately clean, where food is served at cost to the 4,000 employees. There are retiring rooms and clinics in charge of competent nurses.

There are sample rooms where a

prospective purchaser may taste the wine he thinks of buying.

There are five professional tasters, and two laboratory experts to taste and test the samples taken from shipments to the commission and to supplement the work of the tasters in Paris.

There is a college professor, a scientist in charge of sacramental wines; there is a still producing pure wine at the rate of 100 gallons an hour.

There is, of course, a private

track and a ready contact with the river wharf. There is a central oil burning heating plant.

There is a battery of automobile trucks, with their own repair shops, and there are the commission's corps of lawyers, etc., in what once were the rooms of the Governor of the prison.

And, to the casual visitor all seems to work as smoothly as a sewing machine.

TOOK OVER BUSINESS

To this end the commission was

organized to set up and economic and

administrative mechanism which would

take over the business of some

dozens of wholesalers and several

hundreds of retailers. It was required

to purchase the stocks of private

holders after careful analysis, to

rent the premises required for carrying

on its business, and various

services, in all parts of the province,

and above all to create a competent

staff which would finance and super-

vise the purchase storage and dis-

tribution of all the wines and liquor

consumed by the province, and inde-

pendently, to supervise the sale of

beer and to enforce the monopoly

features of the act.

The liquor commission's plant

might be taken as a model for

any good amid general applause.

Why the difference? Perhaps

because the administration of Sun-

nyside was put in competent hands

at the start and hasn't been shaken

up with every change in the

wind.

Whatever the reason, Sunnyside

proves that even a county institu-

tion can be successfully operated

if county authorities will let it.

It does not have to be wastefully

and inhumanely administered and

mismanaged.

But one of the reasons advanced

by the advocates of the plan for its

adoption is illuminating.

They say criminal laws can best

be enforced when it is made more

difficult for a person charged with

such an offense as violation of the

liquor law, or his attorney, to know

in advance what judge will hear the

case. It will be harder for

defendants and lawyers to try to

influence judges out of court.

Quite likely that is true.

However, if the judiciary can

only be kept pure and undefiled

by throwing over it the cloak of

anonymity it doesn't speak very

well for the caliber of our judges.

And, if, in addition, criminal law

yers can only be kept within the

bounds of professional ethics by

constantly shuffling the cards on

them it is a pretty fair indication

of our entire judicial administration.

It is a good method.

Times have changed. Now if

a husband criticizes bobbed hair,

delicatessen potato salad or canned

salmon, his wife is likely to feel

aggrieved, purchase a revolver or

a horsewhip and convert one

slightly-used husband into junk.

Instead of being a lordly creature

as in ye olden times the husband

is now frequently a domesticated

woman.

Neither the old method of battering

wives into submission nor the

modern method of saying it to

husbands with bullets and horsewhips

improves the state of matrimony.

Domestic happiness depends on a

fifty-fifty partnership. It can't be

won with a gun or a black

eyes.

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