

The Indianapolis Times

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KNOW YOUR STATE

INDIANA annually makes enough furniture to furnish every Hoosier home with every necessity and have a surplus for export. From kitchen cabinets, in which the State leads all others, to the highest grades of living room and overstuffed furniture no patriotic Hoosier need go away from home to shop.

WHO KILLED HIM?

Today the good people of Ohio, and especially of the city of Canton, are offering thousands of dollars in rewards for the slayers of Don Mellett.

All in an instant the conscience of the community urges action against the forces which dictated his death.

The complacency with which they read his charges that the police were protecting criminals is now replaced with indignation.

The mild interest taken in his charge that a political machine, supported by the underworld, was protecting criminals, is replaced by a vast horror that a good citizen could be killed for exposing corruption.

They might have known that either Don Mellett or some one else would be killed.

For murder is always the last argument of crime, the great crime to cloak and protect all others.

That murder was ordained from the moment that he showed both the courage and the ability to go beneath the surface of things and interfere with the workings of the modern political machine which gets its power from bootleggers, hijackers, gunmen, gamblers and crooked policemen.

It was when Mellett became dangerous to this group, when he interfered with the plundering and the graft, that he paid with his life for his passion for public service.

Had the same underworld been able to still his charges of corruption of the police by punishing his witnesses, had it been able to protect its venal officers by higher powers, had it been able to go on with its corruption and its corrupting, he would not have been touched.

Crime is a killer, always. It is a snarling beast which hits back when hurt.

It is unfortunate that the people of Ohio who are now thoroughly aroused to the menace of such a situation showed no greater interest when the charges were being made.

Had the same men who now organize themselves to replace a corrupt police force organized to stamp out corruption, there would be no bringing back to Indianapolis of the man who becomes a martyr for his crusade.

The good people of that city thought too late. Their rewards may catch the men, let it be hoped, who fired the bullets.

It will never disclose all those who contributed to the tragedy until it puts into the sackcloth of repentance those good citizens who refused to listen when he pleaded for decency and law.

The real killers of Don Mellett, martyr and crusader, are to be found among the complacent and the uninterested who refused to take the trouble to clean up corruption of government when he exposed it.

It would be unfortunate if other cities which are controlled by corruption and corrupted, fail to learn the lesson of his death.

THE THUMB-JERKER

These are the days the motorist gets out the old bus and heads for the open road and finds it closed for repairs.

Many are the trials and dangers of touring. Punctures hide where a garage isn't and bite great holes in your expensive tires. Some one is always putting a creek across the road, digging deep ditches on one side or throwing up huge embankments on the other.

Seemingly harmless stones bury themselves only to leap at the swiftly speeding machine and forth with knock a gap in the crank case, causing its vicious content to bespatter the surrounding scenery.

Chickens pause to meditate or jump at the radiator as your four-wheel brakes scream. Despondent hogs, geese, ducks and hound dogs place their necks under your whirling wheels, this being the only way they have of becoming valuable stock to their owner.

Despite the frantic honking of your horn, contented cows retain their inherently philosophical outlook and refuse to look out.

These dangers and many more beset the exaggerated pleasure-seeker. But all combined pale into insignificance when compared with the fate which eventually awaits the good Samaritan who heads the distress signals of the "thumb-jerker."

The thumb-jerker is the hobo of the highway. He sits by the roadside until the noise warns him a car is approaching. Then he arises and jerks his thumb at the driver, meaning, "Please, could I ride?"

The motorist gives the thumb-jerker a ride—and sometimes a watch and chain and many other valuable—risking his life to do so.

"Tis sad, but true. Those deserving rides must suffer for the robberies of the professional ride bummers—the thumb-jerker.

HERE'S TO YOU, BOBBY!

By winning the American open golf championship, Bobby Jones not only set the enviable record of holding three major golf titles simultaneously, but he settled once and for all the periodically recurring argument as to whether he had any peers at the game.

The young Atlantan has proved himself the greatest golfer that ever lived. Hagen, admittedly the greatest match player and a man of remarkable gameness, must bow to the superior talents—nay, the burning geniuses—of the 24-year-old boy from Georgia.

No more popular victory at Shoto could have been imagined than Jones'. A gallery of 7,000 cheered wildly as he holed out his final putt. And over in England, when Bobby won the British open, the English sport enthusiasts to a man were hoping that, in the event a Briton could not win, Bobby Jones would.

The young man seems to have quite a strange hold on the affections not only of his own countrymen, but of sport lovers the world over. It is safe to say that he is the most popular figure in the sport world today. It is fairly safe to go a step farther

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Tracy

His State and His Profession Owe Don Mellett a Great Debt.

By M. E. TRACY

and say that he is, the most popular man in the world today, in sport or out.

Since the days of John L. Sullivan, America has had no idol to compare with Bobby Jones. Babe Ruth was, and still is, a gigantic figure, but Babe at his best could never inspire the affection and well-wishers that the niblick wielder from Atlanta can. Here's to Bobby, and may he win many more championships.

NOTHING TO OFFER?

A United Press dispatch from Chicago reads:

"If for no other reason than that the Democrats have nothing to offer to the country, the Republican party will remain in control of Congress next year, Senator Charles S. Deneen declared upon return to his Chicago home from Washington."

The truth is that Democrats have a good deal to offer the country. Whether they will offer it or not is, of course, another question.

What they have in their party's long proclaimed pledge:

"Equal rights to all; special privileges to none."

That meant something with Thomas Jefferson behind it. It meant something with Andrew Jackson behind it. While the World War ended his constructive work for democracy in this country, it meant something during the first four years of Woodrow Wilson's service. It can mean something now if the Democrats have intelligence and courage.

The Republican party is pledged to a tariff policy that denies equal rights to all; that grants special privileges to a few at the expense of all.

It is pledged to a shipping policy that grants special privileges to private shipping interests, at the expense of all.

Its leaders are seeking to turn the country's power resources into a special privilege for a limited group of capitalists, at the expense of all.

The indictment against the Republican party's present program could be continued at length. It is necessary to do so. The three items named reveal a theory of government that directly opposes that of Thomas Jefferson.

Democrats call Thomas Jefferson their patron saint. That suggests something shadowy and unreal.

They can make his spirit a living force again, however—if they have intelligence and courage. He has written their platform for them. They have only to prove their purpose to carry it out.

If they can not prove this, Deneen is right—they have nothing to offer the country.

BLOOD AND CEMENT

Across the fast growing State of North Carolina, east and west and north and south, stretch magnificent new paved roads, and more are building. They are the first sign offered to travelers of the State's bid for leadership, and the first thing the returning traveler mentions as he tells you how North Carolina is coming to the front.

In the little town of Albemarle, N. C., a judge and jury, began yesterday the hearing of a case that may take, for the time being, some of the glory from the State's good roads.

On trial is a former boss of a chain gang that worked on these roads. He is charged with the murder of two negro convicts whose labor and lives went into the making of the highways. He denies the charge, saying the two Negroes died of sunstroke, not as the result of beatings administered by himself, as charged by the prosecution. Nearly every important attorney in the county has been employed in his defense.

Conditions surrounding the case assure a thorough airing. The whole State is watching the outcome and good may come to North Carolina as a consequence.

When the people of the State look the question of convict road labor fairly in the face the end of that system, handed down from a darker day, will be seen. The methods that built the pyramids and the Roman roads are not methods that can be used today.

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