

The Indianapolis Times

ROY W. HOWARD, President.

WM. A. MAYBORN, Bus. Mgr.

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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.

WATCH INSULL

Each day brings a little more evidence of the broadmindedness of Samuel Insull, who owns and controls many public utilities in Indiana, and is said to be reaching out for more.

In the Illinois primaries, a State in which he also has many utility companies, he contributed to every one who ran for the office of Senator.

He paid the expenses of the Democrat who had no opposition and he paid a lot of money to the backers of both the Republican candidates.

No one suspects Insull of having invented a new game of political solitaire in which he throws his money around for the sake of seeing a fight. The contribution to the Democrat who had no opposition indicates that he had no such purpose.

There is a suspicion that he expects to have a very good friend in the United States Senate no matter which one of the men wins.

That same broadmindedness which made his disregard of party lines in Illinois is quite likely to make him disregard State lines in the November election.

He can be expected to take an interest in Senators in every State where he has utilities.

Indiana is one of his big fields of adventure and it will be well to watch his agents and lawyers and representatives this fall.

Whatever money he spends on elections is later paid by people who buy gas or electricity or ride on street cars.

Investments in Senators by a utility magnate is the same as an investment in a new power site or more miles of track.

Money spent by these utility corporations in politics means that these companies expect to use the Government not for legitimate purposes, but for special favors if they are ever in need.

The effect of such contributions on administration and on officers of the law is easily detected.

The corporations which pay liberally in city campaigns can generally command police forces and other officials when they need them.

Insull will take an interest, without doubt, in our Hoosier senatorial fight.

It will not be hard to guess what candidates he will back here.

He will probably become more partisan in his nature when he gets across the State line.

And the candidates he backs are pretty safe men to vote against, unless you like the idea of having your public officials under special obligation to your utility barons.

THE OTHER SIDE

Cables have been clogged with the grandiloquent speeches of Mussolini on the economic regeneration of Italy, and stories of the measures he is employing to increase production.

Not so much has been heard, however, of what the Italian people—the peasant in the field and the laborer in the factory, think about it all. The people have been gagged. They dare not oppose the dictator. Their press has been silenced.

The Fascists paint a picture of a united and militant Italy, with the masses joyfully rushing to carry out the edicts of Benito.

The correspondent of Labor, organ of the Railway Brotherhoods, finds a flaw in the picture, however. He writes from Rome:

"The big business men, who own the Fascist party, are out for getting rich profits; so having destroyed unions, outlawed strikes, and forced wages to the lowest level, under \$1 a day, they are getting down to the brass tacks of lengthening hours."

"Also in the report of the Rome Chamber of Commerce, are buried the figures showing the rising, rising cost of living: An index figure of 150 this month as compared with 141 last year and 100 for 1920.

"Also it is shown that bread is a cent a pound costlier, and sugar 20 cents a pound dearer, than last year, since the taxes put on last autumn.

"It is a continual astonishment to an American how great a proportion of taxation is laid directly on necessities, especially foodstuffs. Salt, sugar, coffee, bread—the dictatorship decrees another penny on each, after each new announcement of increased military expenditures for the glory of the new Italy."

"Last autumn's increases in grain and sugar taxes alone mean an added burden of 50¢ lire on each worker's family of four persons."

"A noted economist, Professor Mortara, recently dared to give the figures showing how the workers' housing conditions had deteriorated; their eating of cereals had diminished; their meat worsened in quality (today's paper reports four persons poisoned by bad horse meat) and consumption of clothing materials heavily fallen, as a result of forced low level wages."

"A revival of ancient Roman greatness and the spectacular leadership of their hero, may appeal to the fancy of patriotic Italians, but empty stomachs are something else again, that might make serious trouble for even the mighty Mussolini, and his hordes of blackshirts."

HISTORY REPEATS

While it all looks new to us in this generation, history actually is repeating today in Mexico.

It is the old, old battle between church and state.

Back in 1857 Bonito Juarez was the Calles of his day. Church estates were seized. A decree suppressing priests was issued. Public sale of church lands was ordered.

In retaliation, church officials excommunicated governmental leaders. Then came nationalization of all church property and suppression of religious communities.

The fight that is on in Mexico today finds the same elements arrayed against each other.

On the one side is the government, charging attempts by the Catholic church to control the political life of the nation.

On the other side, the church, charging the civil government with suppression of freedom to worship, freedom of speech, freedom of the press.

Two principles fundamental in the United States, have never been settled in Mexico.

They are, first, separation of church and state, and, second, freedom to worship as one pleases.

Until both these principles are accepted in Mexico, the war between church and state will go

on as it has been going on since Bonito Juarez, born in a peon's hut in a little mountain village, rose to the presidency of that country where war never ceases.

Each new flare-up in Mexico is the signal for interventionists on this side of the Rio Grande to come forth.

It should be borne in mind that where there is talk of intervention there is oil.

It should further be borne in mind that the issues at stake today are not new; that nationalization of church property has been a bone of contention for sixty years; that real peace can come to Mexico only when these two great principles—separation of church and state and freedom to worship—have been accepted by the Mexican people themselves.

BELGIUM NEVER CRIED

Belgium was the war's doormat. We heard of atrocities there in number, but no whimper. The war is over now, and the powers of Europe have arisen one by one to wall over the fiddler's fees. We have not yet heard one chirp from "the bravest of the Belgians."

Belgium owes the United States \$417,780,000, and that is no small amount for a country of that size to be paying. In sixty-two years, with the interest and all, Belgium will have paid \$727,830,500 for the honor of having the enemy tear up her cathedrals, wreck her homes and demolish her business sections.

But King Albert has found a way. The state-owned railroad system has been turned over to private capital. The company has agreed to exchange stock in the roads for short-term government obligations. Interest on the railroad securities, that is dividends, still is guaranteed by the government, giving investors confidence. In this way Albert calculates to return to the gold standard not later than Jan. 1.

Belgium is trying to fight, not cry, her way out of it.

WHY THE FEAR?

Just why, aside from the expense, there should be any fear on the part of "Republican leaders" of calling together the Legislature to amend the registration laws is difficult to understand.

Through some boneheadedness on the part of the members of that body and the Governor, a law which intended to relieve voters with permanent residences from the job of registering at each election is unconstitutional.

At least the political chairmen of both parties believe that the law is no good and that if they act under it, the door will be left open for contests of all sorts and kinds after election.

The simple way, of course, would be to call the Legislature into session for a couple of days and amend the bill, if it is important.

But the spokesmen for the party in power say that the leaders are afraid to have a special session because the Governor can not stop these law-makers from enacting other laws if he gets them together.

The party dominates the Legislature, as is present constituted, by a very large majority.

Most of the members are candidates for re-election. They are again asking for votes.

The ordinary citizen might be pardoned a little curiosities as to what the Governor fears these law-makers might pass if they had the chance.

What does he believe, or the Republican chairman believe, these partisans of theirs would do that would injure the State or bring their party into disrepute?

If they are not to be trusted to get together for a week, how can they be trusted to meet next winter for a few months?

Perhaps the answer to such a fear is to vote for a new member wherever there is a chance.

There are honest men in this world. In Midletown, N. Y., a prohibition agent went bankrupt.

Count your toes after swimming in a strange swimming hole.

The bee is awfully busy. People admire him. Yet very few people care to associate with the bee.

Coolidge is going fishing. He's so quiet. Bet he catches a million.

CHILDREN RICHLY WORTH WHILE

By MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

A woman writes to say that she does not believe children are worth all that parents must sacrifice in money, leisure and worry.

She is wrong. This sort of an argument generally obtuses itself into the mind of a person who has no children. The real parent never thinks of it.

The weather is a very important subject. It makes you notice it, no matter how many other things may interest you.

No baby's worth can be measured in dollars and cents. The mother quickly forgets the pain she endures in the joy of her baby's sweet companionship. The father never recalls with regret the money he has spent for his child's welfare.

Our children may cause our chief anxiety and sorrow in life. Sometimes they do, but even this does not alter the fact that they also bring us something great and spiritual which we can obtain from no other source.

They are our links with eternity. Even though we may bear them only to give them back to God, the shadow of their souls somehow makes us nobler beings. Through them we become a part of life that goes on forever through the ages.

Nothing so argues the material ideals of this age as the reluctance of so many men to raise a family. Upon investigation one finds that in many cases where a couple are childless, it is the man who has hesitated at the added responsibility. Having in most cases to bear the economic burden, many busy men do not realize the danger of delay in having their children.

When you are young and giddy and gay, you do not miss your babies greatly, but as the years creep onward, some day there comes into your life a great emptiness. Your days are suddenly filled with a terrible ennui. You are bored with living. Everything becomes tiresome. You realize at last that you are through with living.

When this time comes, as it does sooner or later to every person, children are your salvation. In them you live again. Through their eyes the world appears green and lovely. The drahness of middle age is made beautiful all because you somehow forget yourself and are born again in your love for your boys and girls.

Children often are expensive luxuries, but they bring you the biggest return for your money.

Tracy

Mexico's Religious Struggle Is Likely to Last for Years.

By M. E. Tracy

A colorful music and dance offering is present today and tomorrow at the Palace in the act of Margo and Beth. It numbers three women, Arline, violinist and Frances Ardelle, pianist, and Betty Eldridge, soprano, besides Henri Margo and Helene Booth, the dancing team.

In two scenes, the second of which is the best from the point of color and atmosphere, the act consists of numbers by the two women on the piano and violin and several soprano solos by Miss Eldridge. The dancing team has about four numbers that are of about the usual kind. The features of the act are the music and songs.

Joan Jahn and the Baldwin Sisters are a trio that would be rather hard to beat when it comes to music. Miss Jahn possesses a good voice, and when accompanied in a song by the sisters, playing two grand pianos, it produces a very pleasant effect. Although I liked Miss Jahn very much I think the Misses Baldwin, on account of the rarity of good piano duets, made the most impression on me. The act is well mounted and the material has been well chosen.

Jack Lanier and his trapeze are a combination which added together produce a lot of fun. Mr. Lanier mimics the serious trapeze performers and then to show that it is not all comedy does a very difficult little trick of his own.

"Two Blossoms" is two girls, who have worked several sister songs, some dances and some fun into a pleasing act. They are at their best, in the writer's opinion, in their dancing numbers.

Perry and Wagner are two men who start off very good with some harmony and eccentric songs and then slow it up with a lot of "monkey business" about chickens.

Bill includes a photoplay, "The Storm Breaker," with House Peters.

At the Palace today and tomorrow.

(By the Observer.)

How Popular Is Cal?

According to Richard Washburn Child, President Coolidge will run again.

The people want him. Child declares, believing that he is responsible for all the economy and taxes cuts and they will brush aside the third term tradition.

If they do, they will show Coolidge greater favor than they did Grant, and if he lets them, he will show less concern over limiting the number of years a President should hold office than did Washington.

(By the Observer.)

Senatorial Power

Thomas L. Cunningham, treasurer of the Pennsylvania Republican State committee, has flatly refused to answer questions put to him by the Reed Investigating committee, and will be summoned to the bar of the Senate charged with contempt.

Whether the Senate can compel a witness to testify before one of its committees or to punish him if he refuses is a question now before the Supreme Court.

Harry Sinclair refused to testify when called in the famous oil probe, but though that was quite a while ago, the courts haven't gotten around to deciding what can be done about it.

(By the Observer.)

DURANT COMES BACK

General Motors went to \$191 yesterday, and William C. Durant is back.

Since he was wiped out twice for his faith in this stock, you can't be grieved him the winning.

(By the Observer.)

LET AIMEE ALONE

I suppose it is essential to find out whether Mrs. Aimee Semple McPherson, the Los Angeles evangelist, was kidnapped, or whether somebody was having lying, but for the life of me, I can't see the point.

Whatever kind of scrape she was in, she seems to have gotten out of it, all right, so why not let the incident end right there?

(By the Observer.)

CREATING SYMPATHY

If the Passaic police keep on, they will create sympathy for the textile strike, no matter how much Communism there is back of it.

Last Tuesday night they arrested Albert Weisbord, the strike leader, on a manifestly trumped-up charge.

He was coming home from a mass meeting in his car when his chauffeur was stopped and accused of obstructing traffic.

Weisbord protested and was taken to the police station, where search revealed him to be in possession of a common jackknife.

He was booked for carrying concealed weapons, and was bound over the next day in the sum of \$200.

You will go far to beat that.

(By the Observer.)

WILL PREACH LIKE HIS DAD

It is commonly supposed that we talk about the weather when there is nothing else to talk about, but that is hardly true.

The weather is a very important subject. It makes you notice it, no matter how many other things may interest you.

Take this storm in the Bahamas, for instance. Millions are forced to give it more than a passing thought.