

# 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.

## A CITY MANAGER

Every week adds its incident to the array which should convince citizens that the time has come to put the city government on a business basis.

The lack of harmony between the mayor and the majority group of the city council costs the people real money and is a barrier to real service.

While the mayor talks about taking the police and fire departments out of politics, the fact remains that the boss of the local political organization is the most frequent visitor to his offices and more powerful than any group of citizens.

There is no indication that any plea made by him in behalf of his compact organization has ever been refused.

It is an open secret that because of his political power and his activities in electing the present administration, he is really the power in the mayor's office.

The use of official power to help out political fortunes always means that there is a cost to the people in taxes and in efficiency.

The use of power to advance the fortunes of a political party means that special favors are granted the privileged few and that the interests of the whole people are sacrificed.

It means that the hand of the law is lifted at times from the criminal and that protection is given to the vicious.

It means that contracts are handed out judiciously to those who will help, at the right minute, to keep the machine in power.

It means that the men who run the political machine get commissions and concessions and that the people pay.

The government of a city has no relation whatever to the platforms and policies of national political parties.

It is very largely a matter of business management.

People do not differ at all in regard to what policies should be followed—at least the vast majority of decent and useful citizens do not disagree.

They all want courteous service, decent service, impartial enforcement of laws, economical expenditure of money.

The bosses keep them from getting these things by dividing their votes into political party lines.

Men who want the same things out of city government will vote against each other because of affiliations with a national political party.

The city manager form will correct this. And Indianapolis, now eager to grow and become First, can come into its own much more quickly if it throws off these burdens and handicaps of political government and gets a real city manager who will operate the public affairs on a business basis.

## CLEMENCEAU AND OURSELVES

Clemenceau's open letter to President Coolidge—and the American people—is bound to have a disquieting effect.

His assertion that "France is not for sale," with its unmistakable inference that the United States is seeking to buy, will arouse the sympathy of many. But while there will be some sympathy, there will be much more confusion.

We have believed that we were generous in our war debt proposals. As Secretary Mellon explains, we are not asking the return of a single dollar advanced to France during the war; we are asking only the repayment of loans made since the armistice.

But now comes France's war premier, long regarded as one with exceptional understanding of the American people, to renew the charge that we would take France's life blood in order to have our gold.

Where does the truth lie? To what can a person who knows little of discount rates and trade balances cling in this maelstrom of conflicting opinions and feelings?

There is not much. Any opinion that is well founded today may be false tomorrow. This is clearly indicated by the cable dispatch from William Philip Simms, printed in The Times Tuesday analyzing the forces bearing upon the French situation.

Simms makes it clear that whether France can save herself and pay her war debts, is tied up with the whole complicated economic and political situation in Europe.

No one can predict whether France will be able to pay. It is certain, however, that France never will pay willingly. One reason is that the American Government has failed to advertise its generosity successfully. Another—and even more important one—is that the bulk of the French people, with centuries of war making behind them, have only one idea of war settlements and that is: Spoils for the winners, not luck for the losers.

To settle war debts strip the vanquished!

But the United States refused to take part in that business at Versailles. Our high morality must have looked stupid to those trained in the old ways of war.

Now the United States, high minded without precedent when the spoils were being divided, wants to collect some of the money she advanced to her allies. That, by the old code, must likewise appear stupid. It is hard for our recent allies to see reason in it. It cuts too straight across their century-old ideas.

If France is never to pay us, save in the present bitter spirit, is insistence upon it worth a generation or two of ill feeling? That, at least, is one question which most of us, novices in international affairs, can profitably consider.

## TRAMP, TRAMP, TRAMP!

During a time when many colleges and universities are trying to cast out military training, it is gratifying to know that there are 40,000 young men who are willing to spend half their summer, without pay, in acquiring the rudiments of soldiering.

Neither is that the only gratifying thing about the citizens' military training camps this summer. Another is the degree of physical fitness which youth seems to be maintaining. A very small per cent of all applicants was turned down by the army doctors. Yet this is an age when every one is supposed to be devoting his time to the ruination of his health.

It seems that the Nation still is filled with athletic manhood and, perhaps better still, with manhood that is willing to fight. These summer camps are proving grounds for testing our military strength, potential and real. With our regular army organizations skeletonized, and some existing only on paper, the bulk of power in an emergency would

rest with the national guard and the organized reserve.

There were thousands of men who wanted to go to summer camps this year and were cheated by an insufficient appropriation. The Nation was cheated, too, for there is no other single influence which so effectively gives an appreciation of the highest obligations of citizenship.

## WE NOMINATE:

To succeed Brig. Gen. Lincoln Andrews, prohibition czar—

Wayne B. Wheeler.

The general expectation in Washington is that General Andrews will retire at the end of this month. He said he would quit after one year if he found he couldn't enforce prohibition. There is reason to believe that he agrees now with the rest of the country, which is convinced that he can't. Prohibitionists are not satisfied with his efforts. Wayne B. Wheeler is among his severest critics.

We've tried a politician, Roy Haynes; he failed. We've tried a high class army officer, General Andrews. He has failed.

Let's try a dyed-in-the-wool prohibitionist, Wayne B. Wheeler, and see if he fails. Let's put the country's busiest political sharpshooter out on the firing line for once; let's allow him to lead the army in person.

If he fails to dry up the country maybe he will dry up himself. The prospect makes it worth while. His nomination is offered in all seriousness. All who favor it, please raise the right hand.

Well, that seems to make it unanimous. Now write and tell President Coolidge you want Wheeler and, who knows, you may get him.

## MORE MEN'S RIGHTS

Score another point for the sex.

Removing hats in elevators is officially taboo in large office buildings in Denver, Colo.

In announcing the release of the males from this more or less general custom, the management of the buildings offers some very practical reasons.

It seems that hat removing "causes confusion and limits the capacity of an elevator, and frequently results in the crushing of an expensive hat to the chagrin and annoyance of the owner."

That argument, if true, is very powerful. Coupled with the contention made by the management that "business women no longer expect any special privileges," the case against doffing hats in elevators would seem to be virtually complete.

The next step, of course, is to get other communities to adopt the enlightened position taken in Denver. If that can be done without opposition from those specializing in repairing and replacing crushed hats, the male, who is being so rapidly emancipated, will make another important gain.

## A GOOD JOB, SENATOR

It's a fine campaign which Senator McKellar of Tennessee is undertaking, back home these hot summer days—to bring home to the people of the South what Muscle Shoals means.

Those who have been trying to pass over our great public power plant to private interests are afraid of nothing so much as public knowledge of the worth of Muscle Shoals.

Under public operation, the giant hand of electricity may quicken industrial life in every community within hundreds of miles. Cheap power, abundant power, flooding through the South. A proof that the public's operation of its own plants is feasible. A perpetual warning to private companies that they face public competition and must keep their own prices down or lose their business.

McKellar has a chance to do a good summer.

Camouflage stockings are the latest, but they won't become popular.

Here's a fine symbol for a 1928 political party: Camel in a canoe.

There's quite a bit of static in handling our radio industry.

Our idea of being rich is having your umbrella made to measure.

First five months of summer always are the hottest.

Our busiest citizen is one trying to make a living without working.

## USELESS WORK THAT WOMEN DO

By MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

Did you ever watch a woman sitting over her needlework until you wanted to throw something at her?

Many a wife's idea of industry is to spend hours embroidering her sheets, smocking a frock, or tatting lace. Long ago it was considered a mark of domesticity and therefore a virtue to have all your linen hand-hemmed.

Think of the dames who put out their eyes making quilts and hand-made lace that now repose in granddaughters' cedar chest.

When the war was on women all over the country started to knit. You couldn't board a street car or a train, or go to a meeting of the Ladies' Aid Society and you would see half a dozen energetic women plying their needles in a khaki sock, helmet or sweater.

They did this because they were imbued with the idea that they must help. They were urged by their hearts to contribute some manifestation of their love and patriotism. But what misplaced energy! What wasted hours!

A few good factories could have turned out the garments in less time at a lower cost. And even though the love had been left out of the stitches, the boys would have kept just as warm.

The women who spent so many hours knitting while disaster swept the world would have done vastly more good if they had spent their time studying politics and industrial conditions with a view to fixing conditions so there might be no more wars.

But women waste much energy upon non-essentials. They are seldom lazy. They must be doing something, but they will wear out their nerves and their health stitching fancy embroidery on guest towels and hemming their dish cloths when they might be engaged in a hundred things more important, interesting and beneficial. They will faint at the idea of a button being off the husband's underwear, but make no effort to give intelligent companionship to a lonely spouse.

They will work their fingers to the bone over their children's clothes and take very little time teaching them either manners or morals.

About half the close, wearing work that is done by women in the home is entirely unnecessary and does not add to the family happiness or the progress of the race.

# Tracy

## Clemenceau's Debt Letter

### Termed Malicious by Borah.

By M. E. Tracy

Cruelly misleading, deliberately unjust and yet pathetic is the way Senator Borah describes Clemenceau's debt letter to President Coolidge in an exclusive statement to the United News.

"He (Clemenceau), is one whose unfounded wrath we can afford to ignore," says the Senator, "and whose malicious insinuations we can afford to pass by."

All of which suggests that two of a kind have taken up the pen, and that when it comes to vigorous language, each can write about as effectively as the other.

Senator Borah is fairer than Clemenceau in one respect, however, for he declares that if debts are to be cancelled, they should be cancelled all around and include reparations.

## Poincaré's Machine

A more reassuring aspect of the debt situation is to be found in the smoothness with which the Poincaré steam roller still works.

The radicals are making tumult and have increased their strength to some extent, but he is still able to muster a safe majority.

With dogged persistence, he keeps hammering away at the idea that France must show faith in herself if she would enjoy faith abroad.

Of course he has not come to the debt pact yet, but he is laying as solid ground for its ratification as any man could under the circumstances.

His grasp of the problem is vividly illustrated by the fact that Clemenceau's burning eloquence has produced no great effect, thus far.

Glacial Movement

Only eleven days of the Mexican mudslide and still some people are surprised that nothing cataclysmic has happened.

If large bodies move slowly, why not deep sentiments?

It took fourteen centuries for Christianity to reach Mexico in the first place and the basic decree that President Calles is undertaking to enforce was adopted almost seventy years ago.

Open Door for Romance

Because no man has found it, and because no one probably ever will, Lord Kitchener's body seems foredoomed to become the plaything of romancers and notoriety seekers until the end of time.

The man's death was consistent with his life—tragic and mysterious.

The unanswered question of what really became of his physical remains is too alluring for human curiosity to overlook.

The British government's denial that his body has been found amounts to no more than a bare statement that he was drowned with many others, and leaves the door wide open for all kinds of claims.

Sleek News

Not satisfied with a mere leopard, New Jersey now has an escaped chimpanzee to hunt.

The chimpanzee bit a cop in the getaway, injured a child and disappeared after laying down a barrel of tomatoes.

I am against more laws as a general proposition, but if New Jersey hopes to avoid a case of frazzled nerves, she should pass regulations for the better construction of animal cages.

Sickly Jurors

Five kid bandits, whimpering when caught, and called the "cry-baby" gang in consequence—they went on trial with confessions of enough crimes to just miss the electric chair and New York Justice was ready to railroad them in fine style.

But each and every one of them swore that the confessions had been forced by cruel and abusive treatment, by kickings, beatings and starvation.

As the fifth defendant was recounting this one of the jurors leaped to his feet and flinging his arms wide, shouted: "I demand to be released; I demand to be released."

The testimony made him sick, he

explained, and he could not go through with the case.

There was nothing for the court to do but decree a mistrial of course, after which the eleven other jurors took an unofficial poll among themselves, with the result of a unanimous vote for conviction.

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## An Architectural Joke

The suggestion that we buy, tear down, import and reconstruct some of the fine old churches which London wants to get rid of, brings to mind the fact that Sir Christopher Wren, who designed these churches, and who was not only a great architect, but a great engineer and a great humorist.

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