

# 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.

## "CIVIL SERVICE"

The citizens who were named by Mayor Duvall to put "civil service" into city government, and especially into the police and fire departments, showed admirable restraint when they declined to pass a resolution declaring that the movement is not "bunk."

It is quite probable that very soon these gentlemen, most of whom accepted places with an idea that they could remedy some very deplorable conditions, will begin to inquire just how they can function.

At the first meeting they were frankly told by one of the mayor's cabinet that their work will be "advisory" and that the boards will take care of all promotions in the police and fire departments.

The one purpose of civil service is to protect the employee who gives real service but refuses to become a politician. It is presumed to give him a chance to win promotion by enthusiasm for his work and by efficiency.

A board which merely fixes a minimum standard of mental and physical equipment for an applicant is about as far from putting real civil service principles into effect as can be imagined.

The real viewpoint of the administration toward the public service is seen in the demand, which the Times prints today, that public employees contribute of their salaries to the campaign funds of the Coffin machine.

The machine believes that it owns these jobs. demands payment to keep the machine in power.

What chance will any one of these so-called civil service boards have to keep a man in his place who refuses to dig into his pay envelope for funds for a machine with whose morals, viewpoint and purposes he has no sympathy?

Can it protect any employee who refuses to contribute? Can it prevent a man from being penalized for his refusal to be blackmailed by the bosses?

The gesture of the mayor was, most apparently, an effort to fool the insurance investigators who demanded that the fire department be taken out of politics. Property owners will pay later for this contribution.

But it is only a gesture as long as these old machine practices of forcing city employees to pay tribute to the machine are followed.

Real civil service will come only when an independent and determined citizenship puts the party bosses out of the city hall by the adoption of a city manager form of government on a nonpartisan and nonpolitical basis.

## IF DAVE WERE DICTATOR

David A. Reed of Pittsburgh, who since his appointment to the United States Senate by Secretary Mellon, has done many things to amuse the country, has now written a piece for the magazine, "Nation's Business." The title is "If I Were Dictator." The theme is one that always appeals to this magazine, which is the organ of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Senator Reed is very impatient about Government or public control of anything. That much is discovered in the early paragraphs of his piece. Listen to his heartrending picture:

"The average citizen rises in the morning and washes in water furnished by a company regulated by the public service commission. His breakfast is cooked by gas, similarly owned or regulated by the Government. His breakfast bacon has been inspected by agents of the Department of Agriculture to see that it conforms to the pure food law. He rides to work in a trolley or on a railroad whose every action is controlled by various public service commissions.

"The first lien on his day's earnings belongs to the income tax collector, so he must keep his books as directed by the Secretary of the Treasury. The bank to which he goes to make a deposit or get a loan is inspected by the Government and lives in daily terror of the controller of the currency. During the day he is visited by a field agent of the treasury department, who tries into and criticizes his most intimate business affairs and perhaps by a representative of the Attorney General in Washington, who subpoenas him to testify before a distant grand jury in another State in a proceeding in which he may have little or no interest.

"Toward the end of the day, his wife calls for him in the family automobile, duly licensed by the State government, and they drive slowly home, watching carefully for the signals of the traffic police and stopping on the way to buy a fresh supply of gasoline, on which they pay a tax of 3 cents a gallon."

That may be the average citizen and it may not be. How many readers of this newspaper have to keep books "as directed by the Secretary of the Treasury?" How many go to the bank each day to make a deposit or get a loan? How many ever in their lives have been visited by field agents of the treasury department or subpoenaed to testify in a distant State? No, Senator Dave, that doesn't sound quite average.

But let's suppose it is and abolish all these annoyances that the Senator's vivid imagination conjures up. Let's give Dave's citizen a fine, free day, such as he would provide if he were dictator. Here goes:

He rises in the morning and doesn't wash, because the unregulated water company has allowed such a wastage of water that the reservoir is dry. His breakfast isn't cooked, because the unregulated gas company has used all its profits for the private pleasure of its owners and the plant is temporarily out of commission. He doesn't dare eat the un-inspected bacon anyhow, because his wife's nose discovers that it is tainted. He walks to work because the trolley is so overcrowded that he can't get aboard and the railroad line is tied up with an accident, due to the lack of brakes or safety signals or one of the other safeguards that the interstate commerce commission prescribes.

The bank to which he goes to make a deposit or get a loan is closed, because, un-inspected by the Government, its methods have resulted in a smash. He stands around a while with the others clamoring for his funds and then returns to his office to wait for his wife to come with the automobile. His wife never arrives. The rough roads—there be no ing of gas to keep them up—have busted all the tires. Also she's had a head-on collision with another car due to the absence of traffic regulation.

Terrible, isn't it. For his own sake, we hereby protest against Senator Dave Reed being made dictator.

## A WORTHWHILE DREAM

Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce, is now in the northwest on a speaking tour largely devoted to the development of water resources.

In a speech before the Columbia River Basin League at Seattle Saturday evening he declared that we must today make plans for the development of a great waterways system which can be put into operation within the next twenty-five years.

Development of our streams and rivers, Hoover says, can add to our resources 30,000,000 acres of productive land, which despite our present over-production, will be badly needed for growing food crops in twenty or thirty years.

Streams and rivers within our country can offer us 55,000,000 horse power, of which we have to date harnessed only 11,000,000. A big inland waterways system will develop the middle west industrially, and will make it possible to ship both manufactured goods and agricultural products at a reasonable transportation figure.

Loss of the Senate loans as a penalty for the slush funds.

If Smith is elected in Illinois, the chances are that he will be unseated and the same is true of Vare in Pennsylvania.

What is more alarming, Smith may not be elected, especially if an independent runs against him.

Vare's prospects, though a little better, are none too good if Governor Pinchot endorses William E. Wilson, his Democratic opponent.

Apart from its immediate effect in Pennsylvania and Illinois, the slush fund scandal has permeated the whole country and is exerting an influence wherever people are progressive enough and independent enough to visualize clean politics as an independent issue.

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## Mexican Paradox

Settlement of the Mexican religious controversy by legal processes would be both unique and reassuring.

That is what church authorities have in mind, however, and what the attitude of President Coolidge makes possible.

The latest has said that while he feels bound to uphold his present policy, he will not interfere if the church seeks relief through congress.

This puts the church in a paradoxical position.

The law which President Coolidge feels bound to uphold, forbids the church to engage in politics, yet he tells the church it must look to politics if it wants them changed.

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## DEMARCHUS C. BROWN

In the passing of Demarchus C. Brown the State loses a citizen whose influence has been as beneficial as it has been great.

His contribution to the thought and the ideals of this city and of the State will leave a permanent and lasting impression, always for better things.

His early service to the State board of charities evidenced his deep interest in the welfare of his fellows, later to be translated into an effort to lift to a higher plane all life.

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## Halls-Mills Secrecy

The conspiracy of silence that has deepened and darkened the Hall-Mills murder mystery was not altogether deliberate or intentional.

Stricken consciences that had nothing to do with this crime have helped to cover it up.

It was committed near a "lovers' lane."

Hundreds of people were accused to visit the place, some of them young, happy and innocent, some of them clandestinely and keeping company they did not want known.

There is every reason to suppose that the "lane" harbored its usual coterie on the night of Sept. 14, 1922, when the Rev. Edward W. Hall and Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills were murdered. In fact, one witness has testified that the reason he got no nearer the fatal scene was because of the great number of parked cars.

Enough has been brought out in one way or another to show that several mouths were sealed by compromising circumstances.

Persons who could tell more than they have, and possibly throw a real light on the tragedy, refuse to do so because it would involve the admission that they out with the "wrong" woman, or "wrong" man.

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## WOMEN MUST TELL

A woman's most coveted privilege—that of concealing her age—is no longer valid in the opinion of Miss Belle Sherwin, president of the National League of Women Voters.

Miss Sherwin declares that she knows many women are refusing to vote because they have to tell how old they are in order to do it, and this reluctance, Miss Sherwin believes, is handicapping women's political progress.

"A woman's age, no matter what it may be, is not a thing to conceal or to be ashamed of," says Miss Sherwin, "unless indeed it proves that with the years she has not gained understanding."

There is neither rhyme nor reason for perpetuating the silly tradition of refusing to tell one's age.

The voting power is a serious one. It should not be impaired by trifling."

Thus, with the gaining of rights, the exercise of privileges passes, and responsibilities begin.

Statistics show very few died from spring fever, but many victims had their incomes cut off.

When the golf bug bites a man it makes him break out with knickers and loud stockings.

Hens are fairly sensible. But they lack efficiency. They should watch ducks. Ducks eat with shovels.

Many a woman's home would be happier if her husband hadn't married such a fussy old cat.

Cabbage isn't fattening. But if people eat too much cabbage will increase the price of cigars.

The time we come when four hours will be a working day, but we are optimists and maybe it won't.

Civilization advances steadily. Bedtime is 12 o'clock now instead of 9 o'clock.

A Texas woman of 95 married a rich old fellow of 94 for love.

The Editor of The Times:

The matter of annexing Beech Grove to Indianapolis, taking considerable space in local papers at present, causes me to offer a few suggestions which might reach the ear of the majority of the Indianapolis council. While the writer has no intention of causing that body to take any further vacation or of the mayor "slipping" out the back door, we will adhere to the saying that it is a poor argument that does not have two sides to it.

Under the law, there is absolutely no possibility of annexing Beech Grove, for the law says that a benefit must be shown, and Indianapolis could never show how she could benefit Beech Grove. The assessed valuation of Beech Grove is 30 per cent lower than that of Indianapolis, the Big Four pays 75 per cent of this, while the citizens pay 25 per cent. Beech Grove has eight miles of pavement paid for under the county road law, and no Barrett law interest to hold in trust.

Beech Grove has operation expenses, which include police, fire and administration, amounts to less than \$3 per citizen, per annum, against \$30 per citizen in Indianapolis. There is not a vacant house or an idle man in Beech Grove.

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BERT WILHELM.

## Tracy

Republicans Already Have Tried to Buy This Fall's Election.

Chairman Oldfield, of the Democratic congressional committee, says that the Republicans are out to buy this fall's election and points to what occurred in the Pennsylvania and Illinois primaries as proof.

He may be right, but there is equally good ground for suspecting that the Republicans have done all the buying they can for one year.

They have certainly done enough to furnish Oldfield with plenty of arguments.

They have done enough even to disgust some of their own best men, such as Julius Rosenwald, the Chicago philanthropist, Governor Pinchot and Theodore Roosevelt.

Whatever the Reed investigation may have accomplished to stimulate Democratic hopes, it has made a lot of Republican leaders sick of their work.

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## IN "FINE MANNERS," AT OHIO

Could you imagine Gloria Swanson the grand Gloria, doing cartwheels and other acrobatics before the very eye of the camera?

Whether your imagination is so active or not, it does not matter, as she does that very thing in "Fine Manners."

It's my opinion that "Fine Manners" is a whale of a good picture, meaning that it is mighty interesting entertainment. Those who get the vehicles for this woman are wise in not holding her to one type of a role. It would be easy to make a clothesrack out of Gloria, because this woman knows how to strut the fine looking clothes.

In "Fine Manners," she has a chance to be the grand and haughty person, she has a chance to be the delightful roughneck, and, above all, she has a chance to have a pretty love affair with Eugene O'Brien.

There are so many sides to our heroine in "Fine Manners" and so much good hokum (and I love hokum when it is real and well done) is in the story that one wishes that she would do more of this sort of thing.

Gloria Swanson is not an accident upon the screen. She is just about the most important woman we have on the screen today. And she really can act and she even stoops to turning cartwheels if the character demands it.

Don't get me wrong, I do not consider Swanson another Bernhardt or a Duse. Miles away from these two past leaders, but I have the hunch that Gloria Swanson has brought happy and interesting hours to many thousands more than Duse or Bernhardt.

"Fine Manners" is an audience picture, I know that. I am not against an audience picture, those made with an eye to the box office, but the story of "Fine Manners" has that heart interest which any good yarn should have.

And Gloria Swanson is just the individual, who can play up many sides of such a character as she plays in "Fine Manners." This woman is endowed with a lot of energy and a bunch of good judgment. She knows how to put over her scenes, whether she is the slangy but good girl in a burlesque chorus or that same party trying to act like a dame.

Eugene O'Brien has a dress suit role. He knows how to do this sort of stuff. Lately this man has staged a fine comeback and his work in "Fine Manners" is going to help him live up to that victory.