

# 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.

## WATSON AND THE FARMER

Up a Turkey Run, speaking for the benefit of his new friends, the farmers, Senator Watson declared that the price of farm products was fixed by the amount of the exportable surplus.

He was trying to prove to them that he and not President Coolidge, was right when he had championed the Haugen farm measure.

He was then endeavoring, as he is now, to line up that farm vote which he had seen deserting him.

Now he insists that a high protective tariff is necessary to the welfare of the farmer.

The two declarations do not jibe.

For the records of the Department of Commerce show that the farmer has raised considerable "exportable surplus" every year since 1916.

The Nation has sent abroad each year every staple raised on the farms of this country.

So if Watson was right in his saying that the surplus fixes the prices, there is needed no tariff wall to keep out from this country farm products raised abroad.

The Nation was selling, not buying, food stuffs.

There was no threat of competition.

The farmer is beginning to wonder where he gets any benefit from the tariff for which Watson is fighting. They are beginning to understand that it raises the prices on the things he buys and does nothing for the products of his own labor.

The Western farmer, especially, has awakened to this fact and is demanding revisions on articles which he must purchase.

The point is that Watson is using, as always, the same old bunt which he has always handed out.

His high tariff plea for the farmer and his argument against the Coolidge attitude on farm relief simply do not mix.

## PINCHOT'S OPPORTUNITY

Outside of Pennsylvania the average citizen, with his country's welfare at heart, hoped that Gifford Pinchot might defeat William S. Vare and George Wharton Pepper in the recent three-cornered, three-million-dollar senatorial primary. Of the three candidates Governor Pinchot seemed the one really fitted by character and ability to serve in the United States Senate. The average person believed, that if he had been a Pennsylvania resident, he would have resisted the ten offers from the other candidates (to serve as a "watcher," of course) and would have cast his ballot for Pinchot.

Now, it seems, Pinchot may try his luck again. He is said to be toying with the idea of announcing his candidacy as an independent, notwithstanding he was a bad third in the Republican primary.

The average citizen must see such an entry in a different light from the first. The lines have been drawn in Pennsylvania. The Republican party organization has accepted Bill Vare, Philadelphia political boodler, as its candidate. It hopes to elect him, in face of the certain fact that the Senate will throw him out when he appears to take his seat. It expects them to have its Governor elected with Mellon money, appoint a successor satisfactory to the machine. That is its program and just one man in Pennsylvania can possibly wreck that program.

The man is William B. Wilson, former secretary of labor. A clean, capable, high class man, with a long record of conscientious public service behind him, he has been nominated as the Democratic candidate against Vare.

It would be difficult to find the important points of public policy on which Wilson and Pinchot differ. They agree on foreign affairs, even on enforcement of the Volstead law. Though one came from a wealthy home and the other from a coal mine, their views on industrial and labor questions are very much the same.

Pinchot can not be elected as an independent. He may reduce the number of Republican votes given Vare in that overwhelmingly Republican State and thus slightly aid Wilson. Wilson can be elected if all the forces that resent Vare's purchase of the nomination are united behind him. This would include the forces that follow Pinchot.

The average good citizen, the country over, will be disappointed if Pinchot does not see his real opportunity and measure up to it. He should announce his support of William B. Wilson. If he sees this and acts accordingly it will be the biggest thing he has done in a truly creditable public career.

## CONSENT DECREES'

"Consent decrees" are defended and commanded by the Department of Justice as saving the "delay and expense incident to protracted trials."

Cutting expense and delay are most desirable.

But are "consent decrees" the way to enforce the law?

There has been great delay and much expense in the prosecutions of Fall, Sinclair and Doheny. No doubt the attorneys for those defendants would accept a "consent decree" which they would help write.

In the case of Charles W. Morse, the family would no doubt consent that the whole matter be dropped and the property rights be left in status quo.

New York's leading bootlegger, Mr. Dwyer, would certainly accept a "consent decree" to substitute a reasonable fine for imprisonment for violating the Volstead act, and would probably undertake to confine future violations to denatured alcohol or coastwise smuggling.

It strikes us that there is a considerable difference between a verdict and a "consent decree." A verdict is the result of an open trial; a consent decree is the outcome of secret conferences between the lawyers, the prosecution and the lawyers for the defense.

One of the earliest instances of a "consent decree" was the outcome of the Government's prosecution, under the Sherman anti-trust law, of the Standard Oil trust. When the oil attorneys discovered the terms of the decree to which the Government had "consented," the stock of the Standard Oil Company jumped up about ten points on 'change; and as a result of the consent decree (which was consent to a dissolution which did not dissolve) the profits and the control of the greatest of all trusts have ever since increased.

Roosevelt consented to Gary's steel trust. Coolidge has consented to the aluminum trust, the beef trust, the bread trust, the lumber trust, and many other combinations in restraint of trade, presumably contrary to the Sherman act.

Perhaps the Sherman act is no good. Perhaps

trusts are beneficial. Perhaps they will flourish in spite of all law and all government. However, it does not seem the function of the Department of Justice to substitute itself for the law and the courts, and by "consent decrees" to repeal the law and do away with the courts.

## OUT GUNNING AGAIN

"Ripley's out gunning again," is the word passed around Wall Street.

Crash go the stocks, some of the leaders falling off eight to ten points.

What is the strange power of this mild mannered Harvard professor that with his pen he can set the New York financial district all astir?

Six months ago he wrote a little piece called "From Main Street to Wall Street." His contention was that the widespread use of nonvoting preferred stock for financing corporations allows the little fellow to put up the money, and the big fellow to see the show. He thought some arrangement might be made to safeguard the small investor.

This modest suggestion upset Wall Street. The repercussions of the excitement were even heard at the White House. Professor Ripley was reported to have been invited to tea to explain what it was all about.

Now with the tumult aroused by his last article hardly subsided, it is announced that he has prepared another. In this one he has another very simple and apparently mild suggestion.

He says that most of us really have no way of understanding the financial affairs of our great corporation because of the intricacies of modern accounting methods. He says that some of the corporations are apparently taking advantage of this fact to make it impossible to understand their financial position. Then he proposes that the Federal Trade Commission, already equipped with the necessary authority by Congress, should gather financial information from the corporations and prepare in such a way that folks in the country would have a chance of understanding it.

It certainly isn't a revolutionary proposal. It's made by a man who has always been more interested in scholarship than in creating sensations, and yet it throws Wall Street into a state of great excitement and fear.

What is the reason?

## A UNIVERSAL TRAIT

Those who believe that vanity is a peculiarly feminine trait of character will learn something from the publishers of "Who's Who."

That book contains the names and records of the distinguished and the famous. It has kept its prestige by being careful. Outside of accidental officials, it gives space only to those who have contributed in some unusual way to their times.

Now it broadcasts a warning that crafty gentlemen are trading upon the desire of men to obtain some fleeting recognition by offering to include their names in books whose titles indicate that they also list those who "belong."

These tricksters understand that vanity is also found in the hearts of most men and that the desire for fame is quite as deep as the hope for wealth.

And so they travel from city to city, collecting money from those who have gained riches but have done nothing more, for the privilege of seeing their names in type and their own complimentary comments upon themselves.

It is a profitable business, so profitable that it only one or two faculties are affected, or if the spells are interrupted by periods of rationality.

Take this awful thing that happened in Pittsburgh and what is the explanation?

Here was a man who knew the value of money, who possessed the ingenuity to make a bomb, and who had the cunning to devise a hold-up game.

He was just sane enough for people not to recognize that he was insane, but insane enough to commit a causeless crime.

The fact that he could walk the streets without anybody recognizing his conditions shows that we can't tell very much about the mind by ordinary observation.

And there you are back to mechanics again.

Give the doctor his instruments, his laboratory, his drugs and his testing machines and he can do pretty well. Deprive him of them and he becomes comparatively helpless.

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## CIVILIZATION MECHANICAL

Civilization is 90 per cent mechanical.

You could build air castles without the materials and processes we have learned to employ, but not real ones.

Plato could dream of a republic 2,000 years ago, but his generation could not operate one, except in a small, partial and temporary way.

Good roads were the basis of the Roman Empire.

Railroads, telegraph lines, printing presses and many another device for speed, mobility and communication constitute the basis of modern Democracy.

Back of the ideal of a league of nations, or a world court, or international peace by some improved method, is world trade—England's need of American cotton and wheat; America's need of Chinese tea and tropical fruits; China's need of Occidental products.

Back of the world trade is the steamship, the bill of exchange, the banking system, cold storage, pipeline and so forth.

But back of it all, and more puzzling, is man's capacity to two ideas and produce a third, or 99 ideas and produce a hundredth.

When the scientists are finished with their materialistic deductions, their evolutionary theories and synthetic philosophies, they are still baffled by the mystery, the unsolved problem of accumulated thought, the force that started the wheels going and that keeps them going within the human brain.

Slaves we may be to the contrivances we have produced, but we are still their masters to the extent that we can make them impotent by producing still better ones.

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# Tracy

Story of Bettis, the Aviator, Illustrates Human Capacity.

By M. E. Tracy

This story of Bettis is a vivid illustration of human capacity and human limitation.

Soaring with the birds one day, he found himself compelled to crawl and fight for life like a wounded savage the next.

That is typical of civilization.

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## Real Intellect

The notion prevails that ideas are confined to books, that education means an acquaintance with art and literature and that there is something wrong, if not devilish, in material progress.

As a matter of common sense, there is more real intellect in an airplane than in a Shakespearean

As a matter of still more common sense, Shakespeare's real greatness does not rest on the fact that he wrote entertaining plays, but that he gave the world its cue to study the human mind.

Dreamers, poets and philosophers have taught us how to imagine, but imagination never amounted to much until it was made to express itself through science and mechanics.

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## Organized Thought

Civilization is a structure of organized thought. Books enable us to can it, preserve it and transmit it, but its benefit consists in the way it is made to take form in buildings, contrivances and machines.

Destroy any device or contrivance, and you have destroyed a thought.

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## Mysterious Phenomenon

Flow of thought in and out of the human mind is the most mysterious phenomenon of life.

The fact that we add a little something to the process is what makes the mystery. Thought flows in and out of the animal mind, but with nothing to show for it.

Beyond instinct a dog knows more than he is taught, but man frequently improves on it.

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## The Pittsburgh Case

Madness reveals the delicacy and power of the mind like nothing else. Not until you see some beautiful woman or strong man go insane do you sense the depth and breadth of the riddle.

The riddle becomes more appalling if only one or two faculties are affected, or if the spells are interrupted by periods of rationality.

Take this awful thing that happened in Pittsburgh and what is the explanation?

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## FARMERS ARE GLOOMY

Illinois Agriculturists Do Not Like Continued Rain.

By United Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill., Aug. 26.—Farmers in this section of Illinois are gloomy over the continued rain which has seriously delayed thrashing operations. Water is standing in many fields.