

# 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.

## BAKER'S PROPOSAL

A few weeks ago Georges Clemenceau, war premier of France, knocked at the door which would lead to reconsideration of the inter-allied debt settlements.

He was turned away. To his impassioned entreaty there was the cool response, "The debt settlement question is closed."

Now comes Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War when the American armies were fighting in France, with a knock at the same door.

He would not only have the debt question reopened but he would have the debts canceled, and the German reparations revised.

Where the "Tiger of France" appealed to sentiment—the kindly regard of one great Nation for another in distress—Baker would revise the debt settlements because he finds they do not answer the requirements of logic and common sense.

His argument is keen and relatively simple. Germany, he says, can't possibly pay the reparations called for by the Dawes plan. That means that the allies can only pay us by depriving themselves of goods which they need and which we don't need—goods, in fact, which will do us more harm than good, and they will throw workers making similar things out of jobs.

To collect debt payments at the expense of impoverishing Europe he thinks is bad business. It will cripple a market which is essential to the continued prosperity of this country. It's penny wise and pound foolish to lose ten dollars of profit in the future for a dollar of debt payments now.

There's much more than this kernel of business logic in the wartime secretary's argument. The possibility of world cooperation and the establishment of cordial international relationships is menaced by debt diplomacy, he thinks.

As examples he cites the debates over whether the money advanced to Europe was used strictly for war purposes. It was needed only on account of the war, and to quibble over whether it was spent for food or guns he regards as unworthy of this country.

Also he would not have us defend our debt claims as a way of preventing Europe from hiring soldiers, when we stand apart and refuse to lend our moral support to European stability.

All in all, it is a powerful demand which former Secretary Baker makes at the door which leads into the inner sanctum of American international finance.

It's a demand unsmirched by political animus, and untainted by the possibility of personal gain.

There are powerful arguments against acceding to it. The arguments, however, are not conclusive enough to warrant the curt proposition that "the debt settlement question is closed."

The door should at least be opened long enough to have some responsible person come out and offer the other side of the argument—as simply and convincingly as Baker offers his.

## THE CASE OF FOGARTY

Aside from the very pardonable pride in the honor to any citizen of Indiana, the people of this State should have an interest in the selection of Edward Fogarty by a committee of citizens of Chicago to go there and clean up the graft conditions of the jail in the second largest city.

When Fogarty, who for years had managed the State penitentiary and made it a model for penal institutions, was relieved of his place by Governor Jackson, the announcement was made that he was leaving voluntarily to go into the real estate business.

That was but a few months ago. The selection by the Chicago group was made from among applicants for the place.

The record shows that Fogarty was interested in prison work, was a master hand at management, was successful in not only maintaining discipline but in salvaging the human driftwood that came his way and was happy in that work.

Fogarty went when D. C. Stephenson, now inside those prison walls on a life term for murder, was "the law in Indiana."

It was he who had announced far in advance of the Jackson election that Fogarty would go—and he went.

At that time it is not probable that this former political czar, whose power was great enough to make Governors, believed that he would be behind those prison bars.

He was too busy dictating appointments, writing laws, selecting United States Senators by appointment, handing out jobs to those who still fill them.

The honor paid to Fogarty only emphasizes the loss to Indiana, through the political hates and enemies which put into office the present set of officials and which sent to the Senate one of the close friends and proteges of this famous prisoner.

When Chicago was unable to keep its criminals behind bars, when booze parties were permitted to bootleggers, when graft was rampant, it sends out a call for help and it selects as the best man in the Nation the former Indiana warden, who was taken away from his life work through the dictation of a man who would, by the shift of fortunes, have become his ward and prisoner.

This is worth remembering.

## JUSTICE IN SIGHT

A murderer facing the gallows in a Massachusetts prison has made a confession in which, among other things, he tells of the pay roll robbery and killing for which Sacco and Vanzetti have been tried and convicted. This convict, facing death, says Sacco and Vanzetti were not present on the occasion of the murder.

Five people now believe they were. A wealth of circumstantial evidence has been presented to the court making it quite certain that the fatal bullet was not fired from the gun offered in evidence against them. More than any circumstantial evidence is the bearing of the accused, and the circumstantial evidence against the accusers. All this circumstantial evidence tends to prove that two aliens who happened to be radicals and who were disliked by certain respectable people in positions of power, were "framed" and railroaded to the death cell.

Criminals do not act as Sacco and Vanzetti have acted. They act more as the convict is acting who has just made a record of his criminal doings in the hope of getting his sentence reduced from hanging to life imprisonment. Many people now believe Sacco and Vanzetti to be innocent. Practically all

people who have examined the evidence or even gone lightly into the case, believe it is a miscarriage of justice. This and the "Mooney case" have come to stand for what may happen under our uncertain judicial system.

Opposed to this body of opinion is the attitude of certain individuals of the bench and bar to whom we will attribute an equal amount of sincerity and patriotism who apparently would rather see the tragedy stalk on to cool and deliberate judicial murder than to admit that such a grotesque travesty on justice is possible in our governmental system.

To admit that these men were framed and that the State authorities were either so prejudiced or so stupid as not to see through the trickery would, they think, discredit the judiciary and all machinery of government. It would bring judges and courts into contempt.

But here now is a way out. Here is a way for the courts and judges "save their faces." Here is direct evidence by this professional criminal giving inside and expert testimony on who was and who was not present at that famous pay roll robbery.

Here is a chance for the court to say, "We did not know before. Now we are convinced," and to open the doors of prison to two innocent and much persecuted men.

## SEEING THE LIGHT

In pleasing contrast with the attitude of the head of the Anti-Saloon League in this State, is that of the most powerful Methodist paper, the North-Western Christian Advocate.

It announces that no longer will a "professional" dry attitude be taken as the one and only basis of endorsement of candidates for office.

Protesting against the use of Insull money to nominate a "dry" candidate in Illinois, this influential church paper declares:

"We drys are in earnest on the prohibition question, but we are not the victims of a fixed idea. A candidate's dryness is not like charity; it does not cover a multitude of political sins."

We do not believe that being a dry is the beginning and end of any candidate's virtue. We know that there are other civil ideals quite as important as that.

Compare that attitude with the pronouncements of the local dry leader in his appeal for votes for his candidates.

It's a demand unsmirched by political animus, and untainted by the possibility of personal gain.

There are powerful arguments against acceding to it. The arguments, however, are not conclusive enough to warrant the curt proposition that "the debt settlement question is closed."

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