

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.

GOVERNMENT BY GOSSIP

The most illuminating view of Watsonism yet given of the workings of that unique political organization comes in the interview given by Mrs. Vivian Wheatcroft, the representative of the Senator in his primary campaign, printed today in The Times.

There is something peculiarly significant in her description of the women loyal to her as her "polson squad."

Five women in each county relied upon her for the whispers they were to carry to their lieutenants to be repeated again and again until the State was "buttered."

Poison suggests venom, and venom suggests hate, and the most virulent form which these take is gossip.

In these days when there are so many avenues of publicity open to the Senator the news columns of many newspapers which fear his wrath or court his favor, the radio stations, the moving pictures, the pamphlets and the Congressional Record, the question may be fairly raised as to why a "poison squad" of whispering women was needed to sway public opinion in his behalf and against the rival who challenged his fitness and his record.

The presumption is that the word that went out over the soprano wave length was such as could not be printed in newspapers, even those very friendly to the Senator.

It is a fair presumption that the messages were so preposterous in their character that were they broadcasted an easy denial would explode their absurdity and incense those for whose ears they were intended.

It is even fairer presumption that Mrs. Wheatcroft herself did not originate the messages but that she merely relayed to her whispering women the word that crafty men, close to the Senator, wished to reach feminine Indiana.

And when you have jotted together these presumptions you may reach the conclusion that such an organization as that created in behalf of Watson was created by Watson.

That is the least surprising part of the very unusual revelation.

For Watson has always played in the dark when he could, always been under cover, always lurked in the shadows, preferably of some unassassable leader of his own party.

The women voters of the State might, under this condition, ask themselves whether they will further any plan to run the Government by gossip or will take a stand for full and complete publicity on all matters.

They can, if they wish, refuse to listen to the whispering women and in clarion voice demand that any message given them be told in such tones as can be heard by all.

They may, it is quite certain, resent the inference that their votes are to be obtained by gossipy tales and that their judgment is based upon statements which do not court the light of investigation.

THE KING DID WRONG!

The king and queen of Belgium were motoring from Brussels to a seaside resort near Boulogne. He was driving and she was sitting beside him. Just outside of Calais, they turned out to pass another machine. The car swerved against the railing of a small bridge, staving in the wheels and bending the fenders. Luckily, the railing held and the king and queen escaped without injury.

Since the two were alone in the car, no one knows what really caused the accident. As a matter of conjecture, however, one may surmise that the queen was saying, "Albert, do be careful now. You missed that last car by half an inch." And Albert was saying, "I'm driving this car. I've driven it thousands of miles without an accident." And just then, being a little upset by the conversation, the crash occurred.

Perhaps this is all wrong and they were not talking at all. Then one can imagine Albert's mind was elsewhere. The king business hasn't been doing so well lately. There doesn't seem to be much of a future in it. So perhaps Albert was driving along and thinking about taking up some other line of work.

The point, however, is an auto is a mechanical thing. It doesn't share your triumphs or your troubles. It has no idea of what an important personage you may happen to be. When a king pulls the steering wheel wrong the car goes into the ditch just the same as when a beggar pulls the steering wheel wrong.

You might remember this. No matter who you are, keep your mind on what you are doing when you are driving an auto.

A SUCCESSOR FOR MR. GLASSIE

It is too much to hope, perhaps, that President Coolidge will appoint a man of liberal views to the United States tariff commission when the term of Henry Glassie expires next Tuesday. By liberal views is meant merely an understanding that it is possible to lower tariff rates as well as to raise them.

Mr. Coolidge's political godfather is just now engaged in a desperate fight to save himself from political extinction. Chairman Butler of the Republican national committee is a candidate for re-election as Senator from Massachusetts and his prospects are not at all rosy. The highly protective textile industry of New England, of which he is one of the leaders, is in a bad way. Textile workers are divided into two classes: Those who are dissatisfied with the low wages they receive and those who are dissatisfied because they have no jobs. Butler sees no solution save in a still higher tariff on textiles. He is promising such a solution to the Massachusetts voters. Coolidge doubtless will feel bound to help him on his misguided course by appointing a thoroughly committed high tariff man to the United States tariff commission.

This assumes, of course, that Mr. Glassie will not be reappointed. Surely that is a safe assumption. Mr. Glassie revealed his unfitness for the place at the very outset of his service by insisting on taking part in the decision on the sugar tariff, notwithstanding his family is engaged in the sugar business.

Washington, a cynical capital though it is, was shocked by this exhibition. Coolidge refrained from rebuking Mr. Glassie, leaving that to Congress. Congress, unable to impress Mr. Glassie with a sense

of fitness of things, passed a special act that ended Mr. Glassie's connection with the sugar case.

Mr. Coolidge did himself no service when he appointed Mr. Glassie. Nor did he help himself when he withheld the needed rebuke. But, if he should now reappoint Mr. Glassie, what can be said of his course.

IT'S A GREAT STATE!

New York Republicans are shopping around for a candidate for Governor, to be run against Governor Al Smith.

The latter has told the Democrats that he needs a rest, but that he will run again if they draft him. And they will.

The big boss of New York Republicans, Senator Wadsworth, running for re-election, is an ardent wet. But the choice of the party for Governor appears to be one Judge James C. Crosey of Brooklyn, an avowed dry, who insists that the Republicans advocate a State dry enforcement law. New York being one of two States without such a law.

The Republicans want Crosey because he gives them a chance to retrieve the dry vote upstate scared away by Wadsworth's attitude.

So they are attempting to fix up a "State" platform on which Crosey will run as a dry, while Wadsworth runs as a wet on a "national" platform. If their plans are worked out, the Crosey and Wadsworth campaigns will be organized and run separately with a possible "party split" advertised to explain the matter to the voters.

The politicians engineering this scheme must measure New York's intelligence by the scenes attending the death of Rudolph Valentino.

BIG BOSSES AND LITTLE

Who stands responsible for labor conditions in American factories, the foremen who boss, or the financiers who own them?

An interesting question this that Sam A. Lewison raises.

The chairman of the National Management Association frowns on the foremen. He accuses them, and other petty executives, of being naturally arrogant, autocratic and aggressive. He intimates that capitalist owners are often prevented from instituting liberal policies by reluctance of these hard-boiled foremen to have their powers curtailed.

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INSIDE INFORMATION

Summer time is usually supposed to be the dizzy season.

When warm weather comes along men do weird things. You have a theatrical producer staging a party in which a chorus girl takes a bath in champagne—or maybe it was only ginger ale—in front of the assembled guests. And you have a young couple flying 3,000 feet above the earth for their marriage ceremony. And moving picture actresses put on trick bathing suits and get their pictures taken.

We had supposed that the backbone of the warm weather had been broken. The era of peculiar acts was, we had thought, about over.

But stay. It's still with us.

A Gary (Ind.) judge has just ruled that if a man takes a drink of whisky outside the State and then comes in, he is a bootlegger. Accordingly, he plastered a \$40 fine on a Gary gentleman who had had a drink in Chicago just before he took the train for Gary.

The judge's idea is that it is illegal to bring liquor into Indiana, even if it's inside of one.

Summer is still with us.

Nothing seems to distort the vision more quickly than trying to look down on those above you.

Making a fool out of some one is the simplest thing on earth. And that some one is you.

ARE THERE ANY SENSIBLE MARRIAGES?

By MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

A couple in San Diego have started a school for marriage, where the courses include lessons on how to select the proper mate.

This sounds sensible, but the chances are that the number how long a pupil may attend class the things that will profit him nothing.

There are many excellent rules when it comes to matrimony, but the trouble is they never work. No matter how many wise things may be said on the subject, we take the best we can get and are thankful.

The poor little girl who wants a husband dare not be too particular. She cannot stop and apply all those theoretical precepts to the boy who happens to be.

Few marriages are sensibly arranged and those that are generally turn out badly. When a couple refuse to be moved by romantic foolishness, and marriages with cold reason uppermost, the two are nearly always scrapping like cats and dogs before a twelve-month has passed.

Whereas the boy and girl who are blessed with neither judgment nor prudence and who are regarded by their families as doomed to everlasting misery, usually settle down and astonish themselves and everybody else by turning out a happy couple.

Marriage is the most magnificent gamble on earth. There are no rules that will work the same way in two different cases. There are no precepts to be followed that will lead to sure success.

Marriages must indeed be made in heaven, for only a divine understanding can comprehend just why they succeed or fail. No one can explain why they turn out happily or unhappily. There is no mortal wisdom that can solve this problem of why we are fitted to wed bliss or misery.

Such a bitter experience of centuries has taught us that some power above and beyond our knowledge, some fate more strange than we can comprehend brings about the rare and happy union of two souls. There is only one monitor to which you should listen when marriage is considered. That is your heart—and sometimes it lies.

When was the Tuscarora torpedoed?

On Feb. 5, 1918; 101 lives were lost,

including 73 soldiers and 28 of the crew.

On board were Company E,

6th Battalion; 20th Engineers,

the 100th Aero Squadron, the 158th Aero

Squadron, an Engineers' Reserve

Corps and the 107th Supply Com-

Tracy

We Can Afford to Cancel Debts and Europe Knows It.

By M. E. Tracy

We can afford to cancel the debts,

and Europe knows it.

The question is, whether we should

refuse as a matter of contract, or

consent as a matter of expediency.

Idealism plays no part in the prob-

lem.

There is merely so much cash at

stake—cash that we loaned in good

faith, but that Europe feels it can-

not pay because of post-war condi-

tions. When we loaned this cash

there was no thought on our part,

or expectation on Europe's part that

it would be written off as a gift to

the common cause.

The idea of cancellation comes as

an amendment to the original bar-

gain. We are forced to consider it

because Europe insists, because there

is trade at stake, because we may

lose more by trying to collect the

debts than by giving them up.

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Baker's Argument

Newton D. Baker, former Secre-

tary of War in Wilson's Cabinet, has

written quite the strongest and most

most eloquent argument in favor of debt

cancellation yet presented. He ap-

proaches the problem from a purely

economic standpoint and because of

its bearing on the future, not the

past.

He ignores the question of what

we might owe the allies because of

our association with them in the

war, or because of what they did

before we entered the war.

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It is his theory that the civilized

world has become embroiled in a

hopeless tangle of debt and that

something must be done to clear it

away before trade and finance can

function normally.

He suggested that if we were to

cancel the debts owed us, a way

might be found to reduce Germany's

burden, and that, I think, is the

most important consideration of all.

The American people