

## The Indianapolis Times

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Member of the Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance • • • Client of the United Press and the NEA Service

\* \* \* Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Published daily except Sunday by Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 W. Maryland St., Indianapolis

\* \* \* Subscription Rates: Indianapolis—Ten Cents a Week. Elsewhere—Twelve Cents a Week • • •

PHONE—MA 3500.

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.

## KNOW YOUR STATE

INDIANA, first in onion production, will produce one-half million bushels more onions this year than any other State in the Union.

## THE BIG ISSUE

Political organizations write platforms, but the voters make the issues in political campaigns.

Candidates for office may talk about the tariff, relief, world politics, enforcement of law or any other interesting topic, but they will probably discover that when the people of Indiana go to the polls in November they will cast their ballots largely on the one question of honesty, sincerity and decency in government.

The big issue is James Eli Watson.

His record as an official, his alliances, his actions in the politics of his own party, his methods of maintaining himself in office are more important than his words.

The voters are looking for the answer to his own arrogant and rather egotistic challenge of "Why Change?" and many of them are finding ample reason.

Watson, for the first time in thirty years, is unable to hide behind a President.

He is unable to hide behind Coolidge because he has walked out on the Coolidge policies and program and is depending on his defiance of Coolidge to win votes.

Not even Watson has the audacity to ask the people to vote for him in order to "uphold the hands of Coolidge" after he has fought the Coolidge farm relief policies and voted under eleventh-hour pressure from his political pals, against the World Court.

So the people, for the first time in his career, are looking at Watson himself and at his record.

They have the evidence of what he did in the two years he failed to hold office.

They discover him in those two years acting as a lobbyist for some very selfish interests in such a manner that his own congressional associates, after an inquiry into an iniquitous lobby, branded his actions as improper.

In the other years they look in vain for any law that bears his name, any great cause he championed, any crusade he waged in behalf of the common good.

They find him voting for Newberry and declaring, even yet that he was proud to vote for what the Senate said was an improper use of money in elections.

They find him today making no protest against the use of Insull money in Illinois and the expenditure of millions in Pennsylvania.

They have no doubt as to where he stands in an hour when a challenge has been given to honesty in politics by privilege seekers and those who would control government in their own behalf.

They discover that, by his own admissions, his report under the corrupt practices act of the State does not cover the money spent in his behalf.

They find him depending on "poison squads" to sway the women voters of the State, driven to the necessity of organizing a year in advance and creating a machine said to have 100,000 workers to obtain less than three times that many votes in the primaries.

They discover him boasting that he is the friend of prohibition enforcement and then denying to the head of the dry forces that he appealed for mercy for a most noted violator of the laws.

They look at the men whom he put into office and discover that in this State they were unable to guard liquor seized by the Government under circumstances which led his chief sponsor, the Indianapolis News, to declare that three Negroes, given a few months in jail for stealing \$80,000 worth, were not alone guilty, but that there are "higher ups."

If there be "higher ups" in the Squibbs whisky case, as charged by Watson's defender, they belong to Watson. He named every Federal official in the State.

They remember that in the primary election 130,000 Republicans voted in protest against Watson and Watsonson.

They remember, or many of them do, what Watson did when New and Beveridge and others were his party candidates, and how little claim he can put to loyalty to party when his own selfish interests were at stake.

They are looking at the alliances he made in this election, the secret meetings with heads of secret organizations, his bargains with bosses, his dependence upon the worst, not the best, in government.

This is the big issue.

The great national problem of honest politics is localized and personified.

Watsonism and all that it implies, be it endorsed by the voters of Indiana?

## WHO PAID THE DEBT?

No one, apparently, was fooled into cheers by the claim of the State administration that because it had "paid" the State debts, the voters should send Watson and Robinson back to the Senate.

The Times has frequently pointed out the fact that the debts were paid by taking more money from the taxpayers and automobile owners and not through any economies.

Yesterday the head of the Indiana Farm Bureau Federation, speaking from the same platform with Governor Jackson, said the farmer and not the State administration had paid the debts.

That must have been a pleasant moment for the Governor, who has been given the hard job of trying to distract attention from Watson and Robinson.

"They have merely transferred the State debt from a State obligation and you farmers are the ones who are paying the debt by mortgages on your farms," said the head of the farm organization.

Some of the bunk is disappearing from the present campaign. Perhaps the time has come for another bonfire and more moving pictures.

## GOOD ADVICE

Many years ago a young man named William Allen White gained fame by his insistence that Kansas, his home State, should raise more corn and less salt, or words to that effect.

Now C. W. Barron, native New Englander who

heads the company publishing the Wall Street Journal, is stealing White's thunder by remarking that what the New England textile industry needs is more old-time brains and push, and no remedial legislation. Senator Butler of Massachusetts recently said the industry needs more tariff protection.

"I do not believe in your remedy—contraction, lower wages and poverty," wrote Barron to the president of a textile company.

That there is considerable point to his belief that "contraction and lower wages" is a "remedy" New England manufacturers have been resorting to, is shown in the 1923 census of manufacturers, published by the Commerce Department.

This census shows that, in no section of the country, except the extreme southeastern part, have wages advanced so little since 1914 as they have in New England.

In factories of the whole United States about eleven billion dollars was paid in wages in 1924, against four billion in 1914, a gain of about 180 per cent.

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## Tracy

Our Foolish Laws Have Company Just Across the Border.

By M. E. Tracy

A Montreal man seeks divorce from his wife because she has false teeth. An old French law gives him the right to do so. It was adopted in the time of Louis XIII, nearly 300 years ago, and remains operative because, when England took possession of Canada, it was agreed that the civil laws of France should continue to prevail in Quebec until repealed by local statute.

The phonograph today makes it possible to have the greatest possible casts in your home.

Just for fun let us either refresh our memories or even get acquainted with "Pagliacci," known as "The Players," dramatic opera in two acts by Ruggero Leoncavallo.

The Brunswick catalogue lists the arias from "Pagliacci" as follows:

Ballatello—"Ch'è volo d'auressi" (Yo lo Soprano in Italian) Act I Leoncavallo—Carmen—Je dis que rien ne m'empourvrira (Bizi) Soprano in French—Florentine East.

Prola (Leoncavallo) Baritone in Italian—Tu che macchiali (Ia Thoo) Act III

Verdi Baritone in Italian—Giuseppe Damini (Leoncavallo) Tenor in Italian—Vesti la giubba (On With the Play) Act I (Leoncavallo) Tenor in Italian—La Chanson La Tosca—E luccian le stele (Puccini) Tenor in Italian—Cavalleria Rusticana—Brin Brin (Drinking Song) (Mascagni) Tenor in Italian—La Traviata—The Story

There is lot of musical wealth along historical lines of the opera in a Brunswick catalogue.

Brunswick describes "Pagliacci" as follows:

Dramatic opera in two acts by Ruggero Leoncavallo. First produced in Milan, 1892.

It opens with the world famous "The Rolling Players" part, the curtain and explains that the play is taken from real life, that actors like our own, and that the author has tried to make the characters as real as possible.

He says that at present public opinion is hopelessly muzzled but that once it finds room to express itself, "The first concern of the new Spain will be to resume its league seat and collaborate in the work for international peace."

Whether you agree with him, you can't help admiring Ibanez for making such a statement at such a time. It takes courage, even for a man in his position, to so deftly ruthless tyranny that now rules Spain. Not only does it mean continued exile, but worse, if he fails to fall into the enemy's hands.

There is one consoling side to political corruption. It invariably breeds men of courage and independence.

If Ibanez deserves praise for denouncing despotism in Spain, George W. Norris, Republican Senator from Nebraska deserves no less for throwing off the brass collar of partisanship and going to Pennsylvania to help William B. Wilson, the Democratic candidate.

It does become possible to run an auto on corn, imagine the result. Won't the farmers be tickled? When they start for town all they'll have to do is go to the old corn crib and load up the flivver—much the same as they did when Dobbins was ruler of the road. Take care of your health so you will live long. The future is going to be truly interesting and startling.

## SOLUTIONS

The chemists of the Department of Agriculture are making some interesting tests. They took some dust from a grain elevator and used it for running an engine. There was no prolonged, continuous run, but enough power was developed to turn the engine over many times.

The experimenters said the test was encouraging. They even have hopes of perfecting the process to the extent where automobiles may be run by grain dust.

Of course this is a wild dream at the present time. But all the marvels of this great civilization were wild dreams once.

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## REAL ESTATE MORTGAGES

Played with yesterday by stage villains, the real estate mortgage is purveyed today by super-salesmen. Wise hero and heroine will still take care.

Receivership of G. L. Miller & Co., in New York indicates some of the new dangers. It remains to be seen whether this company was a victim of circumstances or whether it played too swiftly with the millions entrusted to its hands.

This much is evident, however: When scattered interests buy 6 1/2 to 8 per cent real estate bonds on the word of some distant and unknown company a certain amount of risk is almost inevitable.

The real estate mortgage has changed vastly these recent years. From an instrument of poverty, it has developed into an industry.

In the old days a mortgage was placed usually on property considered non-speculative. The lender was secured; the borrower took the risk.

Today mortgages are being placed more and more on speculative property. The small investor has made this possible.

Buying real estate bonds from a thousand and one modern mortgage houses, often on time, sometimes under the most efficient sales pressure, the small investor jumps in where his banker jumps out. For the banker is still doing business at his old stand, offering money for first mortgage loans on non-speculative property at 5 to 5 1/2 per cent.

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