

# The Indianapolis Times

BOYD GURLEY, Editor.

ROY W. HOWARD, President.

W. M. MAYBORN, Bus. Mgr.

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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.

## THE PEOPLE WIN

Immediate reduction of electric rates, the cutting of fifteen millions of dollars from the perpetual burden of securities, a guarantee that there will be no attempt to increase those rates for five years is an inconsiderable victory for the people, so long denied to losing in their contest with utility corporations.

The Times points with considerable pride that his result was obtained by following the suggestion made by it when the first appeal from Harley Clarke or permission to merge the companies was made.

The Times was first to protest that the valuation on which he asked would burden this community with extortionate rates.

The Times at that time declared that the chamber of commerce should organize to defend the welfare of the city against this seeming extortion.

The Times, alone of the Indianapolis newspapers at all times, and in every editorial suggestion, declared that there must be a merger of these plants, and called attention to the fact that the people were entitled to a single management and relief from wasteful methods in the conduct of what should be a monopoly.

The Times demanded at all times that the benefits of that single management, that release from duplicate effort, should go to the people of this city and not to the financiers and the company.

The plan worked out by the Chamber of Commerce and accepted by Harley Clarke seems to approach that demand much more closely than has ever been obtained by controversy in courts and before the public service commission in other cases.

There is to be a reduction of rates to the homeowners and the abandonment of those rebates to big powers of power through which the attorney general said the people are robbed of a half million dollars yearly.

There is to be a reduction for all users of power, small as well as large, which means that there will be no discrimination between factories and industries and that all will be enabled to live.

That reduction, and those which may be expected to follow, should make this city more attractive to new industries and permit it to grow in the size and proportions which its natural advantages of location and other conditions entitle it.

Especially important is the pledge that there will be no effort to increase these rates for a period at least five years. That means that new factories will know that they will not be called upon for greater expense for power. That alone should give Indianapolis an impetus for growth.

The result is a signal victory for the people, a really great victory. It shows what can be done when the organized leadership of the community allows the demands of popular opinion and thought. That means that the people, in these contests, are no longer powerless.

In that victory, The Times is happy to have had its part and its share.

## THE NEXT STEP

Now that there is a prospect of reduced rates of electricity, almost a certainty, in fact, the next step in making Indianapolis First should be an investigation of the rates paid for gas.

The Times has shown that this company paid dividends in 1925 on its common stock of 23 per cent, which covers quite a considerable part of the an year.

The common stock represents the real ownership of the company. The other portion of the stock is covered by borrowed money which is paid regular interest, and is not affected by the earnings of the company.

A big discrepancy is apparent between the statements filed with the public service commission as to its assets and the figures reached in the federal court when the present rates were fixed by the commission.

There is a discrepancy, as a matter of fact, of more than five millions of dollars, and that sum, and probably more, is really owned by those who hold the two millions of dollars in common stock.

Low gas rates are important to a city which expects to compete in the present competition between cities.

When exorbitant rates are charged it means that it is more difficult for the men who work and create wealth in this city.

High rates are obstacles to growth and a disengagement to new enterprises.

Earnings of 23 per cent of dividends in one year, addition to rather surprising sums set aside for various funds, do suggest strongly that the company is charging more than it should.

An organized effort to get a reduction at this time might accomplish this result. At least it is worth trying.

## TIPS AND PHILOSOPHY

Waitresses, according to the public confession one of them, have a very involved philosophy of life and of living and living. The philosophy for the most part concerns the gentle art of tipping.

In their estimation, according to the confession one of them, those people who stick a nickel dime under their plate, "because it's expected of em," are almost negligible.

And the ones who meticulously add ten per cent to their bill are almost as bad.

The "stiff" who doesn't tip at all is a total loss and will find himself with cold soup and no butter water when he comes the next time.

The only human being worth an order of "ham" is the jovial individual who throws down a quarter or half dollar because he enjoyed his meal and appreciated his service.

Somehow the confessing waitress confuses wish with deed. It does not seem to occur to her that scores of us who slip a dime under the plate, or, perhaps, slip nothing at all, are not stingy and are not devoid of appreciation.

It does not occur to her that the men who, with a gesture can slip half dollars down on the counter are nearly so brave as the ones who slip less or nothing.

She does not seem to recognize at all the plain misery of the non-tippers who own that simply because the family budget will not permit it.

Tipping is a luxury that many people cannot afford when the grocery bill is big and the baby shoes add.

# Tracy

## Equal Rights in Recognizing Presidents of Nicaragua.

By M. E. Tracy

If the United States has a right to recognize Diaz as President of Nicaragua, why hasn't Mexico a right to recognize Sacasa?

Each has a considerable following, but neither controls the country. Each can claim some show of legal authority, but neither represents a government in fact.

It is unfortunate that Mexico and the United States shouldn't have picked the same leader for support, and one wonders why they didn't.

Was any effort made by our State Department to come to an understanding with regard to this matter, or did it just jump into the situation?

Secretary Kellogg says that Mexico has insulted us by recognizing Sacasa after we had recognized Diaz.

Why can't Foreign Minister Saenz say that we insulted Mexico, and with just as good reason, by recognizing a man whose chief stock in trade was denunciation of his government?

What did the wise and charitable judge do? He told Henry to walk home, a mere matter of 200 miles.

And so Henry set out, with not a cent in his pockets. Cold and snow were predicted.

The judge got a front page headline. Doubtless he won the plaudits of the prohibition fanatics, who think even fatal poisoning is not severe a punishment for one who will drink.

## SMART ALECK JUDGES

Among things calculated to bring our courts into disrepute are the frequent Smart Aleck sentences imposed by judges without warrant of law.

Take, for instance, the case of Henry Sparks Mouton of Appanoose County, Iowa.

Henry, dispatches tell us, is a farmer. His wife is dead and his family has grown. Faced with the prospect of a long and lonely winter, Henry closed his farm and went into the town of Shenandoah.

Then Henry slipped. He got drunk. Not only that, he lost all his money—presumably the money that was to enable him to avoid the dreary monotony of a lonely winter on his farm and to enable him to seek out the society of his fellow men.

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But what do you think of such a judge?

## WOODS WON'T DO

Most business men will agree that Cyrus E. Woods of Pennsylvania is ineligible for the Interstate Commerce Commission.

He owns thousands of dollars of bonds in five great railroads, according to his testimony before the Senate committee considering his nomination by President Coolidge.

He owns stock in the Pittsburgh Coal Company, for which he was for sixteen years general counsel. He owns \$50,000 of bonds of the H. C. Frick Coke Company, a United States Steel Corporation subsidiary.

He is willing, if affirmed, to divest himself of these holdings. But how can he divest himself of the economic prejudices his connections have naturally engendered?

A man who has lived off railroad profits is not the man to keep these profits within reason.

To prove the necessity of rejecting him it is hardly necessary to mention that he was manager for George Wharton Pepper in Pennsylvania's recent \$3,000,000 Republican senatorial campaign.

## WELL! WELL!

Operating its Muscle Shoals power plant the Government made some \$650,000 net profit during 1926, \$50,000 more than offered under the best private operation proposal.

Operating its United States ship line the Government made \$1,622,896 profit in six months, May through October, T. V. O'Connor, shipping board chairman, informing a Senate committee that Government lines were the "best operated" in the North Atlantic service.

And operating its Panama canal the Government made \$23,091,540 in 1926 tolls, achieving a new record and causing renewed congressional demand for a second canal across Central America.

Begins to look as though Government operation, despite its critics, is becoming efficiency itself.

Next thing the Government will possibly squeeze a profit from its Cape Cod canal, that \$11,000,000 lemon unloaded upon it by Calvin Coolidge and fellow New Englanders.

## WELCOME, BROTHER!

Below is an editorial from the Indianapolis News. The Times is glad to reprint it. For it voices opinions and suggestions made frequently by The Times when the News took an entirely different attitude.

The Times is glad that the News has found the light, and that it is endeavoring to make its readers forget that for five days after the original charges were made and given to the public by The Times, the News was silent.

There is always joy when the erring repent and return. For that reason The Times is glad, very happy, to give great publicity to this editorial:

In his message Governor Jackson deals with many important subjects, mostly in an exposatory way. The work of the highway commission and the conservation department, both of which in recent years have been under the fire of politicians, are deservedly praised. The primary law receives a negative support—is favored for the reason that the Governor knows no better system. The repeal of the absent voters' law is urged—and, we think, rightly. The needs of our State universities and normal schools are recognized, though the Governor is rather conservative in dealing with them, as far as concerns appropriations in their behalf. More doubtful is the recommendation that the pardon board be abolished, and that for it be substituted the trustees of prison and reformatory, or the judges of the courts in which those applying for pardon were convicted.

He then discusses recent charges that have been made, and are now being investigated by a Marion county grand jury. As far as these touch the last Legislature, or the State government, Governor Jackson characterizes them as false. He goes further and imputes base motives to those making them, saying that they were made by some individuals with a view of impairing the faith of the people in their public officials and their government." That is a mistaken view. There are at least two charges which we should think the Governor would insist on having looked into. One is as to the checks which were charged to have been given to Governor Jackson by Stephenson, bearing the endorsement of Ed Jackson. The Governor has denied that he ever got any check from Stephenson. If that is so, then some one must have forged the Governor's name. Here surely is a matter that ought to be cleared up. The other charge is that a large contribution was made by the Insul interests to the Jackson campaign fund. This, taken in connection with the Governor's transfer of Mr. Artman from the public service commission to the industrial board in the midst of the merger proceedings in Indianapolis, ought to have suggested the need for an investigation.

As to the charges in general, it is to be said that all the State's attorneys, including, we believe, the attorney general, believed that there was sufficient evidence to justify indictments from the hands of the grand jury that failed to return them, and that, as is believed, four of the six grand jurors took that view. It was nothing in the charges it is at least curious that important witnesses left the State rather than testify before the grand jury.

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It does not occur to her that the men who, with a gesture can slip half dollars down on the counter are nearly so brave as the ones who slip less or nothing.

She does not seem to recognize at all the plain misery of the non-tippers who own that simply because the family budget will not permit it.

Tipping is a luxury that many people cannot afford when the grocery bill is big and the baby shoes add.

## Time for Action

It is time that Congress took a hand in this matter, that men in the street ask themselves whether there is anything at stake to make conflict worth while.

It is time that they did this with a full realization of all the consequences, with a clean-cut understanding that if eventualities occur a breach will have been created between the United States and all Latin-American countries that centuries won't heal.

What are we contending for is worth such a price?

## Rights

I have no delusions about the necessity of upholding American rights, about making the flag and the citizenship of this country respected throughout the world.

But there are rights and rights, some having to do with the great universals, such as life and liberty, while others have to do with special privileges.

What kind of rights are these that have popped up in this Nicaraguan brush? Are they such as might injure you or me if we went down there as citizens of the United States or do they concern particular interests?

## What Is Involved?

What kind of rights are involved in this argument with Mexico? Are they the kind that you think about in connection with yourself, your wife and family, or are they the kind that you associate with a board of directors and corporate wealth?

And when it comes to a national aspect of the case, what kind of rights are at issue, especially for the United States?

What has this Government to gain by war or to lose through peace?

Where is its sovereignty being denied, its privileges of trade and intercourse abridged, its security threatened?

## Could We Explain?

We fought the Revolutionary War for liberty and the war of 1812 for a reason. We fought the war with Mexico to establish a border and the Civil War to prove that this was a real Nation. We fought the war with Spain to liberate oppressed art pupils of Miss Alice Cooper. It is open to the public.

There hasn't been a war in our history but what we can explain and justify with satisfaction.

Could we do as much if we got into a war with Mexico over this Nicaraguan trouble or her oil laws, or any of the other issues that have been raised?

Does it take longer to go from New York to London than from New York to Buenos Aires?

It is 3,847 miles from New York to London and 6,761 miles from New York to Buenos Aires. It takes about eight days to go from New York to London and about eighteen days to go from New York to Buenos Aires.

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The State cannot be "hurt" by these charges, but by a failure to probe them, and a failure to punish the guilty, if it shall appear any are guilty.

It is the duty of the public to demand that the guilty be punished.

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