

The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)
Owned and published daily (except Saturday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 W. Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind., Price 10 cents—10 cents a week—elsewhere, 3 cents—12 cents a week.

BOYD CURLEY,
Editor.

ROY W. HOWARD,
President.

W. A. MAYBORN,
Business Manager.

PHONE—MAIN 3500.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1927.

Member of United Press, Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, Newspaper Enterprise Association, Newspaper Information Service and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."—Dante.

Out in the Open

The letter of denial from Governor Jackson in regard to the statements by The Times concerning his efforts to influence Governor McCray in the naming of a Marion County prosecutor has brought the entire matter out into the open.

The Times charged definitely that there was an offer of money for the defense of McCray and a promise of immunity before juries if McCray would name a selection of George Coffin.

The Governor's letter, stating in general terms that the charge is untrue, says that he offered the name of McDonald at the suggestion of Bishop Fout, high official of the Anti-Saloon League.

The plain inference, of course, is that the Governor did nothing beyond trying to please the bishop, as was his right.

It is undoubtedly true that Bishop Fout did try to help a member of his church and did make such a suggestion to Ed Jackson, then secretary of State.

But that explanation, unless it be inferred that this was all that Jackson did in regard to an attempt to influence the Governor in this appointment, is not relevant to the issue.

The letter of the Governor is important in one aspect aside from his general denial.

He for the first time places a legal conclusion upon what was charged by The Times. He says The Times charged that he had tried to bribe McCray. The Times, let it be stated, did not endeavor to decide what the law would call certain acts which it charged had been committed by Jackson after a conference with George Coffin and one other. It is the Governor, a good lawyer, who says that these acts would be bribery.

Neither The Times nor the people want a controversy. It does no good for the Governor to declare that The Times lied or for The Times to stick to its statement that it is ready to prove the truth.

It may be significant that the Indianapolis Star, known as the staunch defender of all things Republican and especially friendly to the Governor, says that his letter to the editor of The Times is unsatisfactory.

It prints today what may be taken as the Republican view of that letter when it says editorially:

LET US HAVE A REAL DENIAL

Another unsatisfactory chapter has been added to Indiana's unsavory political mess. Governor Jackson issues a statement denying the charge that while Secretary of State he offered a "bribe" to ex-Governor McCray to appoint Mr. McDonald prosecuting attorney of Marion County. Unfortunately the statement is not clear and definite. It is a general denial but says nothing specifically about the charge of an offer of \$10,000 for attorneys' fees and immunity from conviction. The Governor expresses the opinion that a man in his position is not called upon to enter denials. Ordinarily this might be true. In this case the charge is so serious and has been made so insistently for weeks that it calls for plain language about which there can be no question.

It is no longer the time for words. It is time for action and quick, speedy, decisive action.

Indiana has already suffered too long from its smothering of political scandals. It has suffered because there have been official suppression and official interference with investigations.

It has remained for The Times to furnish the evidence which has been produced and for The Times alone to follow the trail given when D. C. Stephenson tried to threaten officials, whom he had elected, with exposure, if he was not released.

The State is suffering but there can be no relief until the whole matter is dragged out publicly, before some proper tribunal, with all Indiana listening in and getting the facts.

The editor of this paper has today replied to the Governor with an offer which stakes his own liberty upon the truth of the McCray story.

The editor of this paper does not wish to go to jail. As a matter of fact, he does not expect to.

But he does hope that there will be an end to all these matters and that the people will know the truth and if there be guilt that the guilty will be held up to the public for such condemnation as they deserve.

There should be no chance that at the end of grand jury inquiries, citizens could say that it was impossible to punish because the statute of limitations has run. That is a slander to the State. It is a situation which the Governor can end.

There is in this county an organized body of men in the grand jury which has power to act.

His own official organ says that the Governor's letter to the editor of The Times is unsatisfactory. His answer to the grand jury can be more definite and should thoroughly satisfy at least his own friends.

The Hughes Idea

Charles Evans Hughes, by way of spiking the suggestion that he become a candidate for the Republican nomination for President, said last spring that he was "too old" to run and would "neither seek nor

accept" the nomination. He said also that he favored the renomination of President Coolidge.

Since that time Coolidge has said he does not choose to be the candidate again. After a certain amount of hairsplitting over the meaning of the word "choose," the country has accepted it as a fact that Coolidge is not to be considered. Other candidates who had held back waiting for word from him are now actively in the field.

But Hughes, home from Europe, elects to join the steadily dwindling minority that thinks Coolidge still will be a candidate if sufficiently persuaded. He is of the opinion, he says, that Coolidge will be nominated and elected, and he adds, "I am for that."

In other words, Hughes cannot see Hoover or Lowden or Dawes or Longworth or any of the other now being considered by his party.

It is possible that, in case Coolidge presently proves beyond question his intention to retire, Hughes will have to find another candidate for the G. O. P?

He has analyzed Coolidge's words in lawyer-like manner to prove they didn't mean what we thought they meant when Coolidge spoke them. Will he be able to demonstrate that by "too old" he meant something entirely different? Will he find some dignified method of retreating from the position of neither seeking nor accepting?

Maybe. Nobody ever has denied Hughes is a good lawyer.

Put Indiana on the Air

Every citizen who possesses a radio set or hopes to have one—and that means every one—should use every effort to persuade national officials that a strong local broadcasting station is needed.

Communication through the air is important. Cities which have none find it difficult to bring to them men of national reputation with real messages.

In these days of intense activity and increased population, audiences no longer are limited to capacity of halls and auditoriums. Men who have something real to say are entitled to the largest hearing.

The local station, WFBM, is asking for permission to enlarge to the point where it will be on a parity with stations in other large cities.

It asks permission to send out the spirit and the message of Indianapolis to far places. There is a large territory which must be reached.

Federal control of the air now is established. It would be a pity if the largest inland city were without proper representation.

Indiana must be kept on the air. Its story of triumph—and it has triumphs—must be told. Local pride and every sense of fair play demand that the request of the local station be given favorable consideration.

That New French Loan

France, the news columns tell us, wishes to make another loan of \$100,000,000 or more in this country.

And, the story goes, a good many people, including Senator Borah, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, are objecting to any such loan being made.

France, they argue, refuses to ratify the Mellon-Berenger pact, refunding the French war debt to us, and until that is ratified, France ought not to be allowed to borrow more money in this country.

Would it not be conducive to a better understanding between the peoples of these countries? Senator Borah asks in a letter to Secretary of State Kellogg: "If such loan were discouraged until the two governments have reached an agreement relative to the adjustment of the French debt?"

Frankly, it would not, in this newspaper's opinion. That is precisely what it would not do. It would simply add to the prevailing misunderstanding between the two peoples. The loan should be authorized, and here is why:

In the first place, France is not represented as asking for a penny of new money. She merely wishes to borrow from American banks, enough money at a lower rate of interest to pay off loans obtained at a higher rate of interest.

In 1920 France borrowed \$90,000,000 in this country at 8 per cent. In 1921 she borrowed \$87,000,000 at 7 1/2 per cent, and in 1924 she obtained a third, loan of \$100,000,000 at 7 per cent. The 1921 bonds are not callable. The 1920 and the 1924 bonds—totally \$190,000,000—are now France wished to call in one or both of these series with cheap money. As she is not asking for any new money, the only question, it seems to us, is: Is she entitled to cheaper money? And the consensus of opinion would seem to be that she is.

In the past twelve months France's finances have greatly changed for the better. The franc, fluctuating between forty and fifty to the dollar last summer, has long been stationary at approximately twenty-five to the dollar. And whereas the bank of France's advances to the government last year were at their very maximum near the forty billion mark, today they are below twenty-five billions. Legally the government is now entitled to about seven billion francs more than it has actually called for.

Thus it will be seen that France's credit stands vastly improved. She can make it better still if she can only call in some of the loans made at a comparatively high rate of interest and replace them with loans obtained at a more reasonable figure.

If France is allowed to refund the two loans totaling \$190,000,000 made in this country at 7 and 8 per cent by borrowing money at 6 per cent, she stands to lighten her annual budget by a difference in interest amounting, at the present rate of exchange, to some 75,000,000 francs.

That, as we understand it, is what France hopes to do. It means a real saving to her. To us it means nothing more than an accommodation done in a friendly spirit. It would help France and not hurt us.

Refusal on our part means a new, world-wide reaction against us. After Shylock, the world would call us a dog in the manger.

Who remembers the old days when a wise president didn't have much to say?

An Iowa man married his mother-in-law. Have you noticed how the birds are flying north this fall?

Social Note: Several prospective tenants are considering the White House, now that the new roof seems to be completed.

M. E.

TRACY

SAYS:

Wheeler Deliberately Isolated Himself From the Restrictions of Partisanship, Betting on His Ability to Manipulate Any Administration. He Wove Prohibition Into the Structure of Both Great Parties Until Each Became Like Putty in His Hands.

Death is no respecter of persons or conventions, but afflicts the great with vulgar diseases and crushes the strong with trivial accidents.

Sandow, the modern Hercules, burst a blood vessel while pushing a flavor out of the mud.

Willie Dooley, the famous tumbler, slipped and broke his neck while entering a taxicab.

Breaks Under Strain

The unexpected passing of Wayne B. Wheeler inspires one to recall such things.

Three months ago, he was apparently in the best of health and spirits, a comparatively young man and good for many years.

Then his wife was burned to death, her father dying of shock at the spectacle, and he seems to have broken under the strain, all of which had nothing to do with his work or his career.

Dry Machine's Gary

The highest tribute yet paid Wheeler, and possibly the highest that can be paid him comes from G. C. Hinckley, secretary of the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment. He said "the Anti-Saloon League will find no one to fill Wheeler's shoes."

Millions of people are thinking the same thing.

Wheeler did for the Anti-Saloon League what Judge Gary did for the United States Steel Corporation.

He was a born organizer. His real achievement consists of the political machine which he operated and perfected, and which has momentum enough to run it for a long time, no matter how it may suffer for lack of leadership.

Put Over Prohibition

Few men in America have ever acquired such political power as Wayne B. Wheeler did.

For a quarter of a century, he has made and unmade public officials throughout the country, has written and repealed laws, has dictated the policies of State and national administrations and has forced his program on both great parties.

It is not going too far to say that he and his organization put the Eighteenth Amendment in the Constitution of the United States and wrote the Volstead Act.

New Type of BOSS'

Wheeler was an anomalous figure in politics, a type of boss with which the country was totally unfamiliar, and which most people were slow to recognize as genuine for that reason.

Even such a shrewd observer as Mark Hanna failed to appraise Wheeler for what he was worth until the latter compelled him to do so.

"Young Man," said Hanna, when Wheeler called on him some thirty years ago, "Your kind of people are all right at a prayer meeting, but they are no good at a caucus."

Not a Party Man

Wheeler was not a party man as political bosses usually are.

He deliberately isolated himself from the restrictions of partisanship, betting on his ability to manipulate any administration that might be in power.

It was a bold game to play, and the fact that he carried it out successfully speaks volumes for his ability.

He wrote prohibition into the structure of both great parties until each became like putty in his hands and he passes out of the picture leaving them inarticulate.

Prohibition is universally recognized as a great issue in this country, but with the existing line-up, people can find no way to express themselves on it. That is Wheeler's greatest triumph.

The former Governor has returned at a time when there is comparison by inference of the way in which affairs are being conducted at the Statehouse at the present time and with the way they were conducted in the administration of Warren T. McCray. This comparison only redounds to the advantage of former Governor McCray.

Particularly does the former Governor appear in an advantageous light when the story is told—and not denied—that the present Governor, then secretary of State, sought at best of a group of corrupt politicians, to secure the delivery of the office of the prosecuting attorney of Marion County into their hands by a promise to the hard-pressed Governor—or that he would accede to their demands he would never be convicted in any court in Marion County or Indiana. That McCray did not betray his trust, that he is at least, is to his everlasting credit.

But for his courageous refusal on that particular occasion, Indiana probably would never have secured an investigation of alleged crimes and corruption in the Statehouse at the present time. For that act Indiana must be grateful, regardless of all other crimes he may have committed or mistakes he may have made.

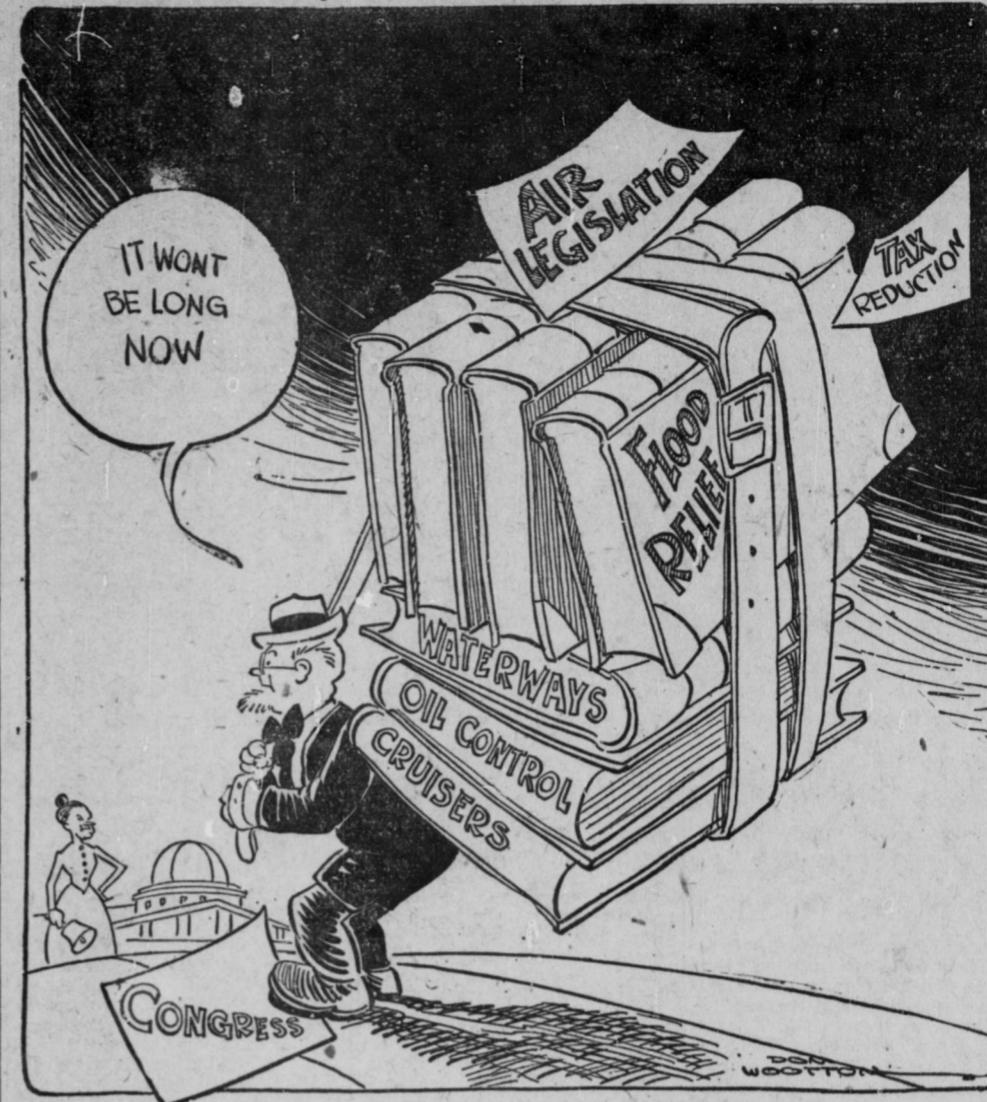
Those opposed to his ideas have wasted much time with epithet and denunciation. They would have done better to study the mechanics and characteristics which enabled the man to do what he did.

He was quiet, cool and calculating. While he capitalized fanaticism he never allowed himself to fall under its influence, never lost his head, never became such a hopeless idealist that he forgot how to play practical politics in a practical way, and never was tempted to advance his personal interest at the expense of the cause he served.

Who was the greatest German in the World War?

Capt. von Richthofen (Killed April 21, 1918). He is credited with eighty enemy planes.

Looks as If He'll Need a Special Session



It Is Harmonica Time in This City as Local Boys Get Ready for Contest Before Minevitch at Indiana

BY WALTER D. HICKMAN

DeArmond Dooley, 5446 Hibben Ave.

This contest is open to any boy not over 19 years of age. The way to enter is to either come to the editorial rooms of The Times and see the harmonica editor or send in the name, giving age, address and how long the entrant has been playing.

Borrah Minevitch, known as the father of the boys' harmonica band, will be the judge of the best player.

The boys who have entered their harmonica will compete Friday morning at the Indiana before Minevitch. The exact time will be announced in Thursday's Times.

The first prize is a gold plated harmonica, valued at \$30. The second is a Minevitch harmonica medal and there also will be five \$1 prizes to be given by the Indiana theater.

Some of the boys who have entered so far are:

Charles Haase, 16, 1146 W. New York St., who has played the harmonica since he was 5.

John Hall