



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCHAFFER-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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

Bankrupt In Reputation

When any industry or business fails, the creditors are able to secure a receiver to protect their claims.

The city government of Indianapolis is in exactly that condition as to its reputation and every citizen has a legitimate claim against it.

The latest manipulations and readjustments under which the mayor is attempting to put the power of the city in the name of his relatives, have only added to the moral bankruptcy of the situation.

Faced by a jail term, he names his wife to the one position which will, automatically when he goes to serve his sentence, place the large powers of the office in her hands. It is, of course, more subterfuge. If the expected happens, the mayor in jail would still be mayor in fact.

The action of the mayor is logical, in view of the revelations as to the methods he used to obtain office.

A jury has declared that he violated the laws and corruptly promised jobs, and took money in return for promises of jobs in order to get office.

The machine of which he was a part and the system which produced him and his kind look upon public offices as the property of officials, not as positions of trust to be administered through service to the public.

Their whole attitude was that a man who gets an office from the public owns the office and is entitled to use it for the benefit of the system and the machine.

The people have a different view. They have taken at face value the election pledge and promises of candidates. They have believed that the men for whom they voted expected to render service to the city as a whole.

This city would not be in its present unhappy predicament had it not been for the last Legislature which throttled its citizenship.

That Legislature passed a law, preventing any city from changing to the City Manager form of government until mayors who had been elected had served their terms.

The law was passed by the political machine of which the local machine was a part.

It was designed to protect in office Mayor Duvall and the mayor of Evansville. The citizens of both these cities had shown that they intended to get rid of the machines by adopting a nonpartisan system of government and changing to the more modern method of running city affairs.

That law was signed by Governor Jackson over the protest of representative citizens of Indianapolis. He has his share of blame and shame in this matter.

Indianapolis must be extricated from its present position. It is unthinkable that it shall continue under the leadership of Duvall or the family or political associates of Duvall until 1930.

It may take a session of the Legislature to enable it to free itself. If that is necessary, there should be a special session at once for that purpose.

The reputation of the city has sunk too low to be further ruined by such antics as have occurred this week.

Every business is affected. The rights of every citizen are in jeopardy.

It is time for the civic organizations to act together, just as they would in the event of flood or fire or other great emergency.

Undoing Forty Years' Work

For forty years the people of the United States have been laboriously building a system of public utility regulation.

A lot of wear and tear has gone into creating that system.

There's scarcely a town in the country that hasn't been through at least one bitter fight to throw off public utility domination. And the battle has frequently been fought along national lines.

The result of this is a system of regulation which, although still crude, gives consumers some protection.

Public utility concerns are no longer allowed an unchecked exploitation of their consumers. Their rates are held down by regulation.

It would seem that anything so zealously fought for would be zealously guarded. For some strange reason, however, this appears to be a mistaken assumption.

Beginning Oct. 5 a case will be tried in a United States District Court at Kansas City which, if decided in favor of the interests behind it, will go a long way toward wrecking the present system of regulation.

It is a case brought to determine the principles to be used in fixing a valuation of the railroads of the country. The principles established may govern all other utilities.

The railroads get court approval of the valuation increases they seek, rate regulation by the Interstate Commerce Commission will be virtually wiped out.

The railroads are now allowed to earn 6 per cent on the value of their property. At Kansas City they will seek a valuation so high that if they get it, railroad experts are agreed, the traffic won't bear the rates they'll be entitled to charge.

That means, of course, that they will fix their rates to suit themselves, and the Interstate Commerce Commission will become a rubber stamp.

For the public utilities of the country as a whole, it is estimated at the Interstate Commerce Commission that success in the valuation contentions of the

M. E. TRACY

SAYS:

If Such Men as Mayor Duvall of Indianapolis Can Mock the Law and If Large Numbers of People Only See a Little Amusement in Their Triumphs, Why Can't the Egg Get Away With It?

John L. Duvall, mayor of Indianapolis, has appointed his wife controller of the city so that she can succeed him if he is removed from office or decides to resign.

He had to demote the chief of detectives in order to find a soft place for the former controller and then forced the latter's resignation in order to make room for his wife.

All this, after he was convicted of violating the Indiana corrupt practices act, which carries a sentence of thirty days in jail, a fine of \$1,000 and debarment from public office for four years.

In view of the painful development of regulation it would seem that the present threat ought to be a matter of keen public interest.

That the \$30,000,000 case to be tried at Kansas City Oct. 5 is a matter of public indifference is one of the interesting facts of an interesting era.

Law Is Law

You can't violate the law to enforce it.

And bootlegging is no proper business for your Uncle Sam.

So, in effect, says the United States controller general. He has just refused to o. k. the expense account of a Federal agent who had different notions on the subject. The ruling will cost the agent pretty close to \$5,000.

A Bruce Bielaski had a bright idea. As a star under-cover man in the prohibition service, he wanted to trap some big bootleggers, so he opened up a speakeasy, in New York City. He proposed to buy his supplies from bootleggers, and catch 'em cold. The fact that operating a speakeasy, selling liquor to the public, was quite illegal, didn't bother him.

Now did the uproot that followed discovery of his plant seem to bother him. But the controller's decision will.

Establishing and operating the Bridge Whist Club, as he called his little blind pig, cost \$7,264.50. Receipts, including the eventual sale of the club itself, were \$2,290.56. The net deficit was \$4,973.94.

That \$4,973.94, says the controller, Mr. Bielaski will have to pay out of his own pocket.

Hard on Bielaski, but with his experience he can

take up bootlegging on his own, and not as representative of the Government, and get the money back in a short time.

The farmers asked for relief. They got sermons on business efficiency. Now they do need relief.

One way to write up a code of traffic rules would be to interview a motorist after any Sunday afternoon on a country road.

You must admit most of the girls aren't so bad as they're painted.

Cold weather has its charm, too. We won't have to listen to the radio next door.

We're not sure who the next President will be, but feel pretty certain the fellow next door with the saxophone won't make it.

It isn't the cost of a diamond ring—it's the upkeep.

One of these days a Republican candidate is going to come right out and refuse to run for the presidency.

Warned by Underworld

In the first issue of the Press which appeared Sept. 17, in which he said:—"Word has been passed to both Mr. Guilford and myself within the last week that if we persist in exposing conditions as they are in this city we will be 'bumped off.' The open season on editorial writers ended with the assassination of Editor Don Mellett of Canton, Ohio, by imported gunmen. Make no mistake about this. We are going on through, and if anything happens to either of us, the stage is set so that within twenty-four hours after the occurrence old Sir John Law will begin stuffing Stillwater penitentiary full of certain gentlemen."

Hughes, in short, may have to pay the penalty of those who have been fairly active in public life over a long period. And, with the exception of a few years, he has been holding office ever since 1908, when he became Governor of New York. Peculiarly enough, the man mentioned as the leading Democratic candidate—Governor Smith of New York—has held public office since 1903, except for the two years 1920-1922. Hughes, however, has played his part on the national stage, while Smith has remained within his own State.

So the things which Hughes did in his various offices, as well as the things he did not do, may return to plague him. He is at the more unfortunate in that circumstances seem to have brought him to the political spotlight the outstanding event of his career—his conduct as America's spokesman at the 1922 disarmament conference.

The "preparedness" group hold him responsible for what they regard as a woeful weakening of the American naval forces through the consummation of the 5-3-3 pact. Though the responsibility would seem to fall on those who have failed to keep our navy at the parity set in the agreement, it is Hughes who comes in for most of the blame, just now.

This question would probably have little force as a political issue were it not that Congress may pounce on the Geneva episode to air America's naval shortcomings. Senator Hiram Johnson has already blamed the Geneva incident on our "mistaken generosity in 1922," and will lead a fight for a navy second to none. It is almost certain that Hughes' name and record will figure prominently in the controversy.

At the present time Hughes is acting as referee in the dispute over the amount of water Chicago may draw from Lake Michigan. Should he find in favor of Chicago, he may please Mayor Bill Thompson and if he does it will not enhance his popularity in the half dozen states contesting Chicago's claim. The controversy has aroused unusually acrimonious feelings, and the referee's chair is no place for a potential candidate to be sitting.

Hughes also may not be fortunate in the kind of friends some of his over-enthusiastic friends are making in his behalf. One of them pictured him as an enemy of the St. Lawrence waterway project, implying that Hughes favored an all-American canal through New York State. That may gain him support in his own backyard, but it has already aroused suspicion toward the Hughes movement in the twenty-one middle Western states committed to the Canadian route.

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Is Either Worth Adopting?



Ten Teams of Many Prominent Citizens Go Out to Increase Little Theatre Membership List Here

Many prominent citizens of this city are now members of ten committees seeking to increase the membership of the Little Theatre Society of Indiana by at least a thousand new names.

This drive is being made because after Oct. 1 the membership dues will be increased. It is necessary to get new members in order to complete the home of the Little Theatre, known as the Playhouse, on N. Alabama St.

The ten teams, with their captains, are as follows:

TEAM THREE
Mr. Charles Dorsch, captain.

Miss Amy Keene, Miss Helen Emerit, Miss Constance West Jackson, Miss Mary Helm, Miss Josephine Fitch, Miss Mabel Hager, Miss Mary Walters, Miss Adams.

TEAM NINE
Mr. Rosamond Van Camp, captain.

Miss Margaret Noble Tibbs, Miss Marion Steeds, Mrs. Dick Richards, Mrs. John B. Hunt, Warren Clegg, Miss Ethel Whealey, Mrs. Henry Bennett, William Titus, Miss Georgia Alexander.

TEAM TEN
Mrs. Stanley Zwibell, captain.

Mrs. George Fromm, Miss Elsa Goetz, Miss Alberta Coburn, Miss Leora Shilling, Mrs. Grace Watson, Miss Mary Fletcher.

TEAM FIVE
Mr. Raymond F. Mead, captain.

Miss Charlotte Howe, Miss Margaret Miller, Mrs. Warren K. Mandel, Mrs. Mary Euline, Miss Mary H. Dill, Mrs. Carl H. Pfeifer, Miss Mildred Lieber, Miss Robert Winslow, Miss Ilene Harryman, Mrs. William Ewald over, Mrs. Kurt Pantzer.

TEAM SIX
Mr. William Allen Moore, captain.

Miss Dorothy Bowley, Mrs. Donald Morris, Mrs. F. P. Peacock, Mrs. Edwin Hunt, Mrs. Ruth Parry Gorton.

TEAM SEVEN
Mr. J. D. Peirce, captain.

J. C. Fix, Mrs. Ida M. Baker, Mrs. J. G. Fix, Miss Alice H. Houghwood, Miss Elizabeth H. Hough, Mrs. H. J. G. Fix, Robert Davidson, Maurice Tully, Miss Jane Lyons, Mrs. Milton Simon, Miss Pearl Kierley.

TEAM TWO
Miss Stella Campbell, captain.

Mrs. Caroline Sweeney, Miss Marion Hill.

TEAM EIGHT
Mrs. Everett M. Schieffelin, captain.

Mrs. Mortimer C. Furscott, Mrs. Walter H. Montgomery, Mrs. C. Furscott, Mrs. R. Hartley Shwood, Mrs. Eugene Robert Dunlavy.

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