



# The Indianapolis Times

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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.

If 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

railroads will mean a boost of about \$30,000,000,000. Such a boost has already been foreshadowed by a United States Supreme Court decision written by Justice Pierce Butler, former railroad attorney, in a case involving the Indianapolis Water Company. But conclusive court authorization of such an increase is generally held to depend on the outcome of the Kansas City case.

If the \$30,000,000,000 increase in valuation is approved by the courts, the public utilities of the country will be entitled to increase their rates so as to earn about two billion dollars more annually.

Public regulation will then become a joke.

Sound business judgment, of course, will prevent the utilities from making the enormous rate increases they will be entitled to by law. But instead of the fear of regulation, their only fear will be that of cutting off patronage by charging prohibitive rates.

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 \$30,000,000,000 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.

Nor did the uproar 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.

## Politics and People

By RAY TUCKER

As the reaction to the Hughes-for-President movement makes itself more clearly felt, the politicians are raising up several obstacles that were forgotten of lightly brushed aside in the first fine rapture at mention of the distinguished New Yorker's name. Subjected to scrutiny for a few weeks, the record of the former Secretary of State discloses many things which the president-makers who want a sure winner must take into consideration.

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 for 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 all the more unfortunate in that circumstances seem to have brought into the political spotlight the outstanding event of his career—his conduct as America's spokesman at the 1922 disarmament conference.

The "preparation" group hold him responsible for what they regard as a woeful weakening of the American naval forces through the consummation of the 5-5-3 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 drain 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 speeches 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.

In short, Hughes may discover it will not be his age so much as his activity that may make him unavailable.

## 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 Yegg 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.

You just wonder where he is going when a discredited public official can juggle public affairs in this way.

With a wife in his place who has no qualifications for the job except to carry out his wishes, this John L. Duvall, though in jail and though prohibited from holding any kind of office whatever, could still dominate the administration of a great city.

And most people laugh, as though it were a good joke, as though there were nothing more serious at stake than to get a little fun out of it.

## Admiral Magruder Speaks

Now that Rear Admiral Magruder has spoken, the Hon. Thomas L. Butler, chairman of the House Naval Affairs Committee, feels quite sure that something is wrong with the Navy and that something ought to be done about it.

Somehow we seem to have gotten into a frame of mind where everybody is waiting for somebody else to speak first.

Secretary Wilbur is to be congratulated for his attitude toward Rear Admiral Magruder's criticism on the Navy.

Instead of undertaking to discipline him, the secretary invites him to formulate a program of reconstruction.

The secretary may have had an idea that the rear admiral could not do this, but that is neither here nor there.

Criticism does not amount to much unless it results in a remedy, and if a critic is sure of his ground, who is better qualified to prescribe the remedy?

## Reform in Twin Cities

Two enthusiastic young men, Howard Guilford and J. M. Near decided that Minneapolis and St. Paul not only needed another newspaper, but reform.

Considering that the Twin Cities have seen a dozen people killed, two of them women, in connection with bootlegging and gang wars during the last three months, Guilford and Near probably were right.

At all events, they launched the Saturday Press with the idea of exposing conditions and forcing a clean-up.

## Warned by Underworld

In the first issue of the Press which appeared Sept. 17, Near wrote an editorial 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."

## Fight Truth by Violence

Monday morning Guilford was shot while riding with his sister. The fact that he will recover does not lessen the rawness or enormity of the offense.

The underworld of Minneapolis simply undertook to suppress the truth by violence, just as the underworld of Canton did when Don R. Mellett was murdered. It is common to suppose that congestion, bad environment, organized vice and bootlegging are entirely responsible for this insolent attitude toward the law.

But there is more to the gang complex than that.

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 yegg, the narcotic peddler and the bum get away with it?

Rotten politics and a public sentiment which enjoys it have had much to do with the rise and arrogance of gangs in our great cities.

## Entertaining Politics

There has developed a surprising disposition in this country to make game of government and the law, to regard a political campaign as just another sporting event, a debate in Congress as just another game and a court trial as just another contest.

The primary object of it all, protection, justice, order and improvement of conditions, is being lost sight of through excitement over who wins and who loses.

Instead of accepting politics as good only insofar as it makes for better government, there is a growing disposition to accept it as just another form of entertainment to be rated by the pathos and humor it contains.

## 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.

A luncheon was held Monday at the Columbia Club, at which the team captains announced the progress made so far. Another meeting will be held of the team captains Saturday afternoon at the home of Mrs. J. A. Goodman, who is chairman of the membership drive.

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

- TEAM ONE: Mrs. M. E. Block, captain. Miss Zola Beasley, Miss Natalie Lord Smith, Miss Dorothy Goodman, Mrs. Edna M. Christian, Miss Mary Riehl, Miss Louise Jaeger, Miss Miriam Lyons, Miss Milton Simon, Miss Paul Klefer.
- TEAM TWO: Miss Stella Campbell, captain. Miss Caroline Sweeney, Miss Marion Hill.
- TEAM THREE: Mr. Charles Dosh, captain. Miss Amy Keene, Miss Helen Enert, Mrs. Constance West Jackson, Miss Hannah Helm, Miss Josephine Fitch, Miss Mabel Dean, Miss Mary Jane Walters, Miss Beulah Hager.
- TEAM FOUR: Edward Green, captain. Norman Green, Mrs. Henry Dittmer Sr., Mrs. Norman Green, Harry A. Phil, Miss Eleanor Rester, Miss Clara Ryan, Miss Mary Fletcher.
- TEAM FIVE: Mrs. Raymond F. Mead, captain. Mrs. Charlotte Howe, Miss Mary Margaret Bowley, Mrs. Warren K. Manion, Miss Mary Ennis, Miss Marion Wild, Mrs. Carl Lieber, Miss Hilda Lieber, Mrs. Robert Davidson, Miss Irene Harrison, Mrs. William Ewald Over, Mrs. Kurt Panzer.
- TEAM SIX: Mrs. William Allen Moore, captain. Miss Kathryn Bowley, Mrs. Donald Morris, Mrs. R. Felix Geddes, Mrs. Edwin Hunt, Mrs. Ruth Perry Cotton.
- TEAM SEVEN: Mrs. J. D. Peirce, captain. J. C. Fitz, Mrs. Ida M. Baker, Mrs. J. C. Fitz, Miss Alice C. Hollingsworth, Miss Elizabeth Hayes, Mrs. Harry C. Robert Davidson, Maurice Tull, Miss Jane Jones.
- TEAM EIGHT: Mrs. Everett M. Schofield, captain. Mrs. Mortimer C. Purcott, Mrs. Walter R. Montgomery, Mrs. R. Hartley Sherwood, Mrs. Eugene.
- TEAM NINE: Mrs. Rosamond Van Camp, captain. Mrs. Margaret Noble Tibbs, Miss Marion Senda, Mrs. Dick Richards, Mrs. John B. Warren, Warren Curry, Parker Wheatley, Mrs. Henry Berman, William Tull.
- TEAM TEN: Mrs. Stanley Zweible, captain. Mrs. George Fromm, Miss Elsa Goett, Miss Alberta Coburn, Miss Leora Weimar, Miss Johanna Shilling, Miss Grace Watson Duckwall.

## What Other Editors Think

(Decatur Democrat) The death of Lew Shank at Indianapolis removes from the stage of Hoosier life one of its most unusual characters. From humble surroundings he rose to prominence as an auctioneer, was twice elected mayor of Indianapolis and was a political figure of outstanding command in the State. He was a humorist and a lecturer, worked as a vaudeville performer, on the chautauqua platform and had a big following in his home city. His crude philosophy and his ability to keep a crowd in good humor under most any circumstances made him a very popular candidate. Resigning under fire a month before his term as mayor was out, he was re-elected four years later by a tremendous majority.

(Kokomo Dispatch) (Democrat) The conviction of Mayor Duvall wins the first objective in a campaign that should continue until the rotten political conditions brought about in this State as the result of Klan leadership are cleaned up.

(Lebanon Reporter) (Republican) To persons who have followed the trial of Mayor John L. Duvall of Indianapolis and who believe in a free and honest government, the verdict of the jury Thursday night, we believe, can be nothing but gratifying.

Mayor Duvall's case has been tried for a long time, even though it has been in court but a few days. Those who urged a thorough investigation of affairs in Indianapolis and who really were responsible for the prosecution have been justified fully by the evidence that was disclosed in the trial.

While there are many who will say that the penalty of a fine of \$1,000 and a sentence of thirty days in jail is not severe enough in the light of the utter disregard of the corrupt practices act and the total absence of any conception of responsibility to the public disclosed in the trial, the very fact that Mayor Duvall has been convicted should serve as a deterrent to politicians in the future who are considering such means to an end as he employed. By reason of his conviction, Mayor Duvall is a thoroughly discredited man, and goes out of office as such.

From the tenor of Indianapolis newspaper comment, we believe that the passing of his administration will be little mourned by Indianapolis citizens.

Of course such a machine could not last. It is a disgrace to this State that it was able to ride roughshod into the highest offices of public trust. But it had a smash sooner or later.

And now, with an awakened citizenship aroused to action, the machine is going on the rocks. Duvall's conviction is the first blow. The clean-up has started. The decent citizenship of this State should not allow it to lag until the men responsible for this political debauchery have been driven from public offices and from places of public power and influence.

Is there always a sentry on duty at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery in Virginia? Yes. From the time the cemetery opens at 6 a. m. until it closes at 7 p. m.

Are Rod La Roque and Monte Blue Indians? Rod La Roque is not an Indian. He was born in Chicago of Irish and French parents and grew up in Nebraska. Monte Blue, who looks very much like La Roque, is part Indian. His father is half Cherokee.

Does the addition of salt lower or raise the freezing point of water? The freezing point of water, as that of any liquid, is considerably lowered by dissolving in it substances of any kind. Sea water, on account of the solid in it (salt) freezes at 27.5 degrees to 28.6 degrees Fahrenheit, instead of 32 degrees, the freezing point of pure water.

Who said "The man that hath no music in himself, nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds, is fit for treason, stratagems and spoils"? The lines are from Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice" Act 5, Scene 1.

Is Liberia governed by a King? Liberia is a republic. The present head of the State is President Charles D. B. King.

Stitch! Stitch! Stitch! It was indeed the song of the shift for Lizbeth. For twenty years she bent her back over men's shirts in a factory, stitching in long sleeves, short sleeves, wide sleeves until in her very dreams these armless sleeves rose up to smite her.

It was not fashionable for young ladies to work in factories when Lizbeth was a girl, for that was many years ago. She smothered her pride under yards and yards of blue denim and went valiantly on working, working, stitching, stitching. A girl whose parents are dead, who has no one to provide for her must live honestly somehow.

In spite of the fact that she was not strong, for typhoid fever when she was a little girl had left her weakened, she managed to provide for herself until she was 21 years old.

But one day, that old weakness overcame her. Too old to work! And not only too old, but too sick! Factory hands found her lying in the yard in a faint.

She had saved a small pittance for this helplessness of age which had so suddenly and completely overtaken her, and this she used to help pay her way into the Old Folks' Home, where she has been living in comfort and happiness among her contemporaries for seven years.

But she could not have had so good care for the small pittance she paid, if additional funds had not been ready through

YOUR COMMUNITY FUND.

## Mr. Fixit Help Is Promised in Cleaning Up Dirty Alley

Let Mr. Fixit, the Times' representative at city hall, present your troubles to city officials. Write Mr. Fixit at The Times. Names and addresses of those who must be given, will not be published.

A taxpayer today asked Mr. Fixit to help in a move to clean up a "filthy alley."

Dear Mr. Fixit: I am sending your paper this appeal hoping we may derive some help regarding the filthy alley just east of Alabama in the 300 block on the north side of Market St. In addition to the abundance of litter there is other refuse. On hot days the stench is almost unbearable and a menace to health.

Anything you will do for us and our "city beautiful" to make it more desirable will be appreciated.

Gratefully your, TAXPAYER.

Dr. Herman G. Morgan, health secretary, told Mr. Fixit an inspection would be made at once.

Dear Mr. Fixit: We had a hearing Aug. 1 on improvement of Union St. between Glendale and Raymond Sts. No one was opposed to the improvement.

The records show it is ready to advertise for bids. Why can't we get some action? And why isn't it advertised for bids? READER.

Virgil Vandagriff, works board president, said the advertisement will be ready in a few days and bids probably will be received by the middle of October.

## Times Readers Voice Views

To The Editor:

In all that has been written about the late Samuel Lewis Shank since his death I have not noticed much about the things he did during the war. This, perhaps, is due to the fact that he did not do much talking about his charitable deeds.

I happened to know a lot about his activities during war times, because repeatedly in my work of relief among families of soldiers I went to him and obtained help.

Illustrating his readiness, to aid the national cause, I recall that when the National Guard was returning from the Mexican border quite a program had been worked up for the 150th Field Artillery, but some of us thought that the welcome for the 151st Infantry was not quite adequate. So we telephoned Mr. Shank, asking if he would speak.

He had another meeting, at his own home, with a delegation from a labor union that night, but he said he would come out for a while and get back home in time to speak to his visitors. He came out and got so interested in the boys that he didn't get home until early in the morning.

I recall the time during the World War when a soldier was killed in a railroad accident, and, being unable to locate relatives, they were about to bury him in the potter's field. I went to Mr. Shank and he fairly shouted: "No, they're not."

He gave me money for a lot in Memorial Park cemetery and for flowers, and that boy was decently buried there today. But Mr. Shank made the gift upon the condition that I say not a word about it.

"I'm a candidate for mayor," he said, "and they might accuse me of doing this to get votes if it got noised around."

So we kept it quiet.

We went to him because he never turned us down.

Many a soldier's family or widow who had help at the time help was needed desperately never knew that it came from Mr. Shank.

MRS. C. W. STIMBEAUGH.  
R. R. F. Box 384.

Editor of The Times: The following verse, "The Value of a Smile He Knew," is a tribute to the memory of our beloved ex-mayor and citizen, Samuel Lewis Shank, and fittingly expresses the true sentiments of thousands who knew Mr. Shank, as a personal acquaintance, but as the ever cheerful and optimistic public figure and private citizen that he was:

"It's not alone what he has done  
That's not because he ever heard, and too,  
Beside his course some good to do:  
It's not alone that one has seen  
Who was a friend and comrade true,  
Our war was over, and the end was made,  
The value of a smile he knew."  
THOMAS HALSEY  
947 N. Illinois St.

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