



# The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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

## An Extra Session

The State owes to Indianapolis and Evansville an extra session of the Legislature even if its own fair name and reputation and best interests were not demanding one.

For the State Legislature, with the approval of the Governor, robbed Indianapolis of its right to rule itself as one of the final acts.

It did more than that. The Legislature set aside the contract of the city of Indianapolis with John L. Duvall and forced him upon this city for two years against the wishes of the people.

When Duvall was elected mayor, if he was elected, the laws provided that the people might at any time change to the City Manager form of government.

That was one of the conditions of his bargain with the people. He took the office, made his numerous bargains for jobs, grabbed his numerous contributions, knowing that the people had this right.

The people understood this, too. They must have had away back in their minds the idea that they had this avenue of escape. There could be no other explanation for the election of Duvall.

When the people got ready to use this weapon of defense, the State political machine, the heir to all the days of Stephensonism, the creation of combined fanaticism and bigotry, forced the Legislature to repeal the law which gave this right to the people.

That is the only reason that Duvall is now mayor of this city. Had not the people been robbed of their rights (and The Times, it may be remembered, raised the only warning of this foul conspiracy) there would be no need of civic clubs demanding resignations or wobbly councilmen threatening impeachments.

The Governor had his part in this robbery of Indianapolis. He signed the measure for the bosses. Coffin, who is now under joint indictment with the Governor, was the man who cracked the whip.

Conditions have changed greatly since the close of the Legislature. Today it would be impossible to pass such a measure. The grip of fear has been broken. The machine is discredited and fearful.

It is probable that very many members of the Legislature who timidly yielded to the orders of the bosses would today defy them if given a chance.

That Legislature did one other thing for which it undoubtedly repents and which it should have the chance to rectify.

When Representative George Saunders of Bluffton, an editor, asked for an investigation of State affairs and especially the activities of Stephenson and the Klan, suppression became a party policy of the Republican members. Many of the Republican members privately protested. The party whip was cracked. They obeyed.

If there was need of a legislative investigation then, there is a greater need now.

The Governor of this State is under indictment. He will be tried in the courts and the courts will pass upon his guilt. He is charged with one specific offense.

The Legislature must feel somewhat chagrined as they go among the people and listen to the coarse jibes concerning the \$2,500 horse which the Governor said he sold to Stephenson, and said it only after The Times had produced the check drawn in his favor by Stephenson.

The people know that Stephenson insists that this check was but one-fourth of ten thousand dollars which the former grand dragon says he gave to Jackson personally to finance himself as the primary candidate.

The "black boxes" are in the hands of the grand jury, thanks to the activity of The Times.

What they contain is secret. There are offenses that are greater than crimes. The people understand that. They know that not all the offenses against them are covered by criminal laws. They no longer accept the theory that a man can stay in office as long as he keeps out of jail.

The attorney general has before the highest court a contempt case which also should interest the State Legislature.

The people have before them a letter of United States Senator James E. Watson, in which he inadvertently admits that he wrote letters throughout the State that he hoped would keep the head of the Anti-Saloon League out of jail.

The Watson letter declares that the other Senator, Arthur Robinson, urged him to act.

Here is a matter of such importance and of such possibilities that the Legislature can easily recognize that it may have a function to perform.

The people of Indianapolis have a right to that session to right the wrongs perpetrated against them when they were robbed of their rights to change their form of government and their escape from Duvall.

The people of the State have a right to a

decent name at home and abroad which can only come from a thorough, honest and complete investigation of the evil days of super-government, of the rule of hate, of the capture of Indiana through deception, bigotry and corruption.

Is there not one member who will call to his fellow members to assemble if the Governor, whose present position makes such action improbable, should refuse to do the right and decent thing?

## Can We Cut Taxes?

The political situation is just about perfect for tax reduction.

With an election in the offing the present administration, which has talked much about economy, will be anxious to cut taxes. And the Democrats aren't likely to have the courage to resist such a move.

Consequently, if there's any very strenuous agitation for tax reduction, there'll probably be tax reduction.

That puts it up to the rank and file of the people to decide whether they will be serving the country well by getting behind the drive for tax reduction at this time.

And in making such a decision it's going to be necessary to discard a lot of misleading information calculated to show how fabulously prosperous the United States Treasury is.

Last year, for example, the general impression is that the United States Treasury collected from taxes about \$635,000,000 more than was required to run the government.

It did nothing of the kind. It's extremely doubtful if it collected enough from ordinary sources of revenue to finance the regular activities of the government. Most of that huge surplus came from the collection of back war taxes and from repayment of war financing advances which had been made by the Treasury to the railroads and the War Finance Corporation.

The surplus was a temporary windfall that won't be duplicated again soon.

This year it's extremely doubtful that the government will have a surplus of as much as \$300,000,000. Most of the surplus, like the one last year, will be caused by tax collections and repayments of government war-time advances. In a year or two such revenues as these will be wiped out entirely.

Last year, the most prosperous one in the history of the country, and more prosperous than this one has been so far, the government had no surplus except that caused by back bill collecting. This year the government won't meet its operating costs from regular revenue sources.

There will be a surplus, but it won't be a surplus that will mean anything in the long run.

It is proposed to cut the corporation income tax from 13 1/2 to 10 per cent. Last year that tax brought the government \$1,308,000,000. Assuming that the corporations of the country do as well this year as they did last that means a cut of about \$327,000,000 in corporation tax receipts.

Unless the country grows at a fantastic rate such a tax cut will bring the regular Federal revenues far below the regular cost of running the government.

Is that the kind of a situation we want the Federal government to be placed in?

Before we write our Congressmen let's think it over.

"So far as I know, not a single member of the American Legion need be ashamed when he gets home to tell everything that happened to him in Paris," said the Paris commissioner of police. He's a nice fellow.

The great increase of candy-eating indicates fathers and mothers are becoming more indulgent, says a writer. Maybe indulging in a bite themselves now and then, too.

A man died in Europe after drinking sixty glasses of water on a wager. The strange part of it is that he was able to find that much water in Europe, let alone drink it.

A boarder in Kansas stole his landlord's wife and his Ford car. The husband failed to pursue. Waiting to see what the new models will be like, perhaps.

A Missouri man admits he has been arguing for thirty-five years and never scored a victory. He shouldn't start controversies with his wife.

The old-fashioned husband who used to have to wait while his wife was dressing now has to hustle to catch up.

European nations are trying to fix the blame for starting the war and they haven't even found out who won it yet.

Washington experts predict flying hotels as the next thing. Jumpers of board bills are ordering parachutes for their trunks.

## Law and Justice

By Dexter M. Keezer

A man and his wife, unable to live together pleasantly, made a separation agreement providing for an equal division of their property. Six years later they were reconciled and again lived together for nine years, but managed their property separately, in accordance with their agreement. They found again that they could not get along together and the wife, in suing for divorce, asked for an equal division of the property.

The husband, whose property had increased in value much more rapidly than that of his wife, opposed such a division on the ground that fifteen years before they had made a property division and an agreement to manage their property separately. The wife admitted this agreement, but claimed it had been wiped out, after their separation, they had again come to live together for nine years.

HOW WOULD YOU DECIDE THIS CASE?

The actual decision: The Supreme Court of the State of Washington decided that the wife was entitled to a new division of the property, on the ground that the first agreement had been eliminated when, after a separation, they came to live together again as man and wife.

The people of the State have a right to a

M. E.

## TRACY

SAYS:

*The Habitual Criminal Law Makes Us Think We Are Netting Fish When We Are Only Netting Minnows.*

The theft of 20 cents, which was not allowed to keep, sends a New York man to prison for life, and possession of a pint of gin, which he was not allowed to drink, does the same for a Michigan man.

Both were victims of the habitual criminal law—petty triflers with too little imagination to do anything very bad and too dumb not to get caught.

Your real thief is not going to bother with two dimes and your real bootlegger is not going to risk his life for a pint of gin.

What is more to the point, your real criminal is not apt to be caught and convicted four times.

### Problem Not Solved

It is all right, perhaps, to put the triflers away, but let us have no delusions about the effect on genuine, up-to-the-minute law breakers.

The judge who sent that Michigan man away for life because he was found with a pint of gin may think that it will put an end to bootlegging, but Mr. Lowman has a better understanding of the situation when he starts 400 dry agents for Detroit.

Neither will New York find herself much freer of thugs and yeggs because a pifler of two dimes is robust of all hope.

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