



The Indianapolis Times

A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER

Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 W. Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Price in Marion County, 5 cents—10 cents a week; elsewhere, 3 cents—12 cents a week.

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FRIDAY, OCT. 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.

Morrow and the Mexican Revolution

By one of those inscrutable quirks of fate, what might have been simply a banal meeting between Secretary of State Kellogg and our new ambassador to Mexico, Dwight W. Morrow, now assumes genuine international importance.

Mexico today is on the brink of revolution. In fact, a revolution has started, though it seems to have been pretty much stopped in its tracks by the sudden death meted out to one of its mainsprings, Gen. Francisco Serrano, one of three candidates for the presidency.

Likewise at this writing Gen. Arnulfo Gomez, a second candidate, is somewhere in the region of Vera Cruz, either in flight before the wrath of President Calles else reorganizing his revolt, while the third aspirant, Gen. Alvaro Obregon, former President and friend of Calles, is watching, prepared at a moment's notice to lead the Federals against the Rebels.

Hence the importance of the conference between the American secretary of State and the new ambassador as the latter prepared to take up the duties of his post in Mexico City. For, far more than we like to think, the success or failure of a revolution in Mexico just now hinges to a considerable extent upon the attitude of the United States.

Ordinarily, of course, the United States holds itself aloof from the purely domestic rows of foreign countries. With Mexico and Central America, however, the situation is slightly different. In the event of a revolution down there we have, in the past, been known to be neutral, or to lean this way or that. We frowned on the Carranza government and Carranza lost out in the revolt which overtook him. We smiled on Obregon and the revolution against his regime flopped, partly because of the bullets supplied him from our side of the border, and partly because our moral support of his cause put a damper upon his energies.

Today Mexico has her eyes on Washington. Whether we like it or not, our every official move will have a meaning all its own. Whether active or passive, sympathetic to this or that faction or impeccably neutral, our attitude must inevitably carry a meaning, so far as Mexican revolutionaries are concerned, and events down there will shape themselves somewhat accordingly.

To an indeterminate degree Washington cannot escape some of the blame even for the present revolt against Calles. The bitter wrangle between the two governments over Mexico's new oil and land laws, the insinuations emanating from our State Department that the Calles regime is tinged with red, and the intimations that the Mexican government was fostering Bolshevik activities against us in Central America, could not fail to lead Calles' enemies to believe his elimination from the scene would not be distasteful in the U. S. A. and along with Calles, Obregon, since Obregon and Calles appear to share the same views.

Of late, however, President Coolidge seems actively interested in Latin American affairs. As early as last spring, upon the occasion of the United Press dinner in New York, the President signified renewed faith in Mexico and expressed his belief in an early settlement of our dispute with her. The resignation of Ambassador Sheffield and the naming of Dwight Morrow in his place further enhanced the impression that perhaps Kelloggism is doomed, south of the Rio Grande and that a change of tactics if not a change of policy may be expected.

Thus in the meeting between the secretary of State and the new ambassador to Mexico, on hand to receive his instructions, we like to believe that while Secretary Kellogg lent his voice to the occasion it was really the President who did the talking. For as we see it, Mexico's immediate future—between now and next summer's elections—depends a whole lot on the infusion of a brand new and more friendly spirit into our relations with that country.

Supreme Court Ethics

Should a United States Supreme Court justice write a decision in a case involving interests which he actively represented as a private attorney before taking his place as a member of the high court?

According to any code of ethics that a layman can understand, the answer ought to be an emphatic no.

The legal procedure in one of the most important controversies that has ever arisen in this country seems to suggest a different view of this question.

Before he became a member of the Supreme Court Justice Pierce Butler was a leading railroad attorney. In 1915 he headed a group of lawyers which appeared before the Interstate Commerce Commission to urge that body to accept a method of valuation extremely favorable to the railroads.

It was a method of railroad valuation which, if adopted by the commission, would add billions of dollars to the sum on which the railroads are allowed to base their rates.

The Commission didn't agree with the arguments advanced by Mr. Butler and the other railroad attorneys, and thus precipitated a legal controversy in which the stake for the railroads is at least ten billion dollars.

In 1922 Justice Butler was appointed a member of the United States Supreme Court by President Harding.

Last year a case involving almost the same principles as those for which Justice Butler had pleaded as a private attorney in 1915 was presented to the United States Supreme Court. The case involved the valuation of the Indianapolis Water Company.

Justice Butler wrote the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Indianapolis Water Company case, and a pretty good summary of that decision can be obtained by reading Justice Butler's argument as a railroad attorney before the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Next week the Interstate Commerce Commission and the railroads will start a court fight over railroad valuation—a fight that involves billions of dollars and the whole future course of public utility regulation.

In that fight the railroads will rely largely on the public utility valuation precedent established by the Supreme Court in the Indianapolis Water Company case.

And that decision was written by a man who had

Statesmanship

President Coolidge inclines toward the view that national debt reduction is the best form of tax reduction at this time.

That's a statesmanlike inclination which would serve the country well if it should mature into a fixed presidential policy during the coming Congress session.

As this paper has frequently emphasized, debt reduction means permanent tax reduction, and the elimination of tax burdens for which the taxpayers get nothing in return.

Last year the Federal government paid \$787,000,000 in interest on the public debt. What did the taxpayers get for that? Nothing but the privilege of postponing payment for materials blown up in the war ten years ago.

This year it is estimated the government will pay about \$750,000,000 in interest on the national debt. That represents a permanent tax cut of about \$35,000,000.

But the continuing interest charge of \$750,000,000—a fifth of all the money collected by the Federal government—is an enormous dead weight for the country to carry.

The only way that that burden can be lifted is by reducing the national debt which is still the enormous sum of \$18,477,000,000.

If there is to be tax reduction it must be at the expense of debt reduction except in cases where taxes are so high that they are choking possible sources of revenue by discouraging private enterprise.

No evidence has been brought forward to prove that many such cases exist.

The country as a whole continues very prosperous. What better time could there be for paying off the government's back bills, and permanently relieving taxpayers of the staggering interest charges?

There will be great political pressure for tax reduction during the coming Congress, in spite of the fact that any important reduction may be impossible without placing the government in a precarious financial position.

In view of his expected retirement, President Coolidge will be able to ignore this political pressure if he cares to.

If he does he will follow the clear course of financial statesmanship.

A Boy's Education

Warren Stark, aged 14, had an unrighteous passion for bonfires.

This caused him to fire more than a dozen buildings in Everett, Wash., for the thrill of watching the blaze.

He was caught, charged with criminal arson, convicted and sentenced to serve six and one-half to ten years in prison.

This youngster, whom mental experts have found remarkably precocious, is now lodged in the Washington State Penitentiary at Walla Walla.

There, in view of his demonstrated mental ability and the opportunity for contacts with veteran law breakers, he has every promise of developing into a highly skilled criminal by the time he completes his sentence and becomes of age.

Governor Hartley of Washington thinks such a development would be very unfortunate and is trying to get the boy transferred to a training school for delinquents. Thus far he has been balked by other State officials.

An Ohio man who asked to be put in jail was given a job instead. Moral: Don't ask to be put in jail.

Senator Shipstead, attacked by bears in the mountains, turned a camera on them. The bears fled, probably fearing their pictures would appear in the Congressional Record.

Clemenceau ate cold ham and pickles on his eighty-sixth birthday. Well, probably he was seeing a half-page about that one of these days.

Science has shown the brain of woman to be equal to man's. The men probably will be willing to accept that, if the women are.

The can opener is the chief divorce ally in this country, a woman told restaurant owners. Don't tell us that the men have been keeping their money in cans!

A European physician announces he has found a way to create supermen. Ha! New York's welcoming committee shall not go unmanned.

Law and Justice

By Dexter M. Keezer

A man was convicted of murder in Alaska and sentenced to be hanged. The President of the United States commuted his sentence to life imprisonment. Twenty years later the man sought a court order releasing him from prison on the ground that the President had no authority to commute his sentence from death to life imprisonment without his consent.

He claimed that life imprisonment was a more severe sentence than death and that the President, an executive officer, was without authority to increase the sentences of Federal prisoners. He gained his release from prison but the case was appealed to the United States Supreme Court on the ground that the prisoner's consent is not necessary to a change in his sentence, and that life imprisonment is a lighter sentence than death.

HOW WOULD YOU DECIDE THIS CASE?

The actual decision: The United States Supreme Court decided that the man was improperly released from prison. On the question of the necessity of the prisoner's consent for a change in his sentence the court said "the public welfare, not his consent, determines what shall be done" and the court held that "by common understanding life imprisonment is a less penalty than death." The man was subsequently pardoned.

And that decision was written by a man who had

M. E. TRACY SAYS:

The One Thing That Keeps So Many Absurd Laws on Our Statute Books Is the Fact That Some Folks Can Defy Them With Impunity.

For a second time the attorney general of Indiana has violated the statute which prohibits the use of liquor as a medicine in that State.

Dry leaders declare that he ought to be prosecuted like any other individual, and they are logical, if not right.

The one thing that keeps so many absurd laws on our books is the fact that some folk can defy them with impunity.

People have no interest in repealing a bad law so long as they are not bothered by it. Let them feel its teeth, however, and they will soon get rid of it.

The quickest way for Indiana to dispose of this silly unenforceable regulation is to prosecute and convict Gilliom, or try it at least.

Weak Law, Strong Man

Gilliom is right, of course, when he says that no normal human being would see a sister die for want of a pint of whisky. He is wrong, however, in supposing that he can bring about the repeal of an asinine statute by merely breaking it.

In spite of their clamor, dry leaders probably will be more than glad to drop the case against him before they get anywhere with it. They know better than to pit such a weak law against such a strong man.

If it were some poor devil in the backwoods, they could be depended on to show more fight.

Crooked Thinking

Dr. Stelzle, president of the Church Advertising Department of the International Advertising Association, says that a survey of 1,000 cities shows that sentiment in favor of the Eighteenth Amendment and the Volstead Act is as strong as ever.

Not pausing to argue whether he is correct, some of that sentiment is based on the crookedest kind of thinking.

A Mid-Western farmer told me that he was in favor of prohibition, because he could get all the liquor he wanted, while his laborers had to go without it. I have heard more than one employer of for the same argument.

Too much of the sentiment in favor of prohibition comes from those who can drink all they please, while the rest of the country goes dry. The sad part of fanatical regulation is that it falls hardest on the weak.

Most of our prohibition statutes, especially the ones like that in Indiana, would not last six months if they were as rigidly enforced against millionaires as they are against pint peddlers.

Equality Vanishes

This country is bloated with restraints and inhibitions which it lacks the nerve to enforce without regard to money, position and influence.

The result is a disappearance of that equality before the law on which our fathers prided themselves, and which is supposed to be one of the cardinal principles of this Government.

Narrow minded reforms have made law enforcement a matter of class distinction.

It is becoming almost traditional for officers to ignore blue stocking neighborhoods, \$5,000 limousines and clubs where the dues are more than \$50 a year in the enforcement of certain statutes.

Some Must Toe Mark

We can be very straight-laced in making common folk to the mark.

The Government has just barred out two little girls whom a California woman adopted nine years ago and whom she has supported in Europe ever since.

Strict construction of the immigration law makes this possible, no doubt, yet what harm would their admission do? It is more than likely that if some prominent official, or oil magnate had brought them across the Atlantic, and had prepared the way with the right kind of publicity, nothing would have been said.

Argue State's Rights

Republican leaders in Kentucky have asked for Federal supervision of the election which is to be held next month. They claim that the Negro vote in that State represents the balance of power and that the Democrats will through its repression.

The author actually permits Alwyn to take down the Tower family album and bring to life these characters at the time the picture was taken.

In this way, the story moves from pioneer days down to Civil War days and finally we have the modern generation as expressed in Alwyn.

It is Grandmother Tower who opens the eyes of Alwyn to the real history of his relatives. We first meet Alwyn in a farm house shared by his father and mother with his grandparents in Wisconsin. The second chapter, Alwyn is a grown man at a watering place in the Austrian Alps.

He then digs from his mental album the story of his relatives. The following chapters are devoted to the lives of the family. The titles of the chapters, such as "His Grandfather Tower's Character," "His Grandmother Tower's Girlhood," "His Great-Aunt Mary," "His Great-Uncle Leander," etc., explain the contests.

There is such a wealth of character drawing in these family portraits that I often felt that the characters stepped from the album and that I was quietly looking in on their life of other days.

I am convinced that I am not too lavish in my praise when I state that "The Grandmothers" deserve the honor of being winner of the Harvey prize.

The blue ribbon has not been a handicap to the deserved popularity of the novel because it is now and has been for several weeks one of the best sellers in this country.

If the Federal Government has a right to stand between the white man and his glass of beer, why has it not a right to guarantee the black man his vote?

Seven western Governors, now

wowing at Denver for more than a month in an effort to settle the Colorado River problem, offer a vivid example of State rights works.

They are stronger than ever

in favor of this doctrine, but admit that the Federal Government must step in before the Colorado River can be developed.

Wescott brings out the crazy quilts and "Alwyn's" grandmother could identify piece after piece: "My sis-

Inbad, the Sailor



What Other Editors Think

(Muncie Press)
(Republican)

Give credit to Virgil Vandagriff who yesterday

resigned as president of the Indianapolis board of

works and who, in getting out of the job gave as his

reason that one who is under indictment

should not hold a public office.

Under such conditions, Vandagriff said

in a public letter, the office