



The Indianapolis Times

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

A Wonderful Chance

The Republican editors of the State have decided to invite President Coolidge to help them celebrate their golden anniversary.

Let it be hoped that he accepts and that in preparation for his coming the Republican editors make one final contribution to good citizenship which will itself be golden.

Between now and the date of the celebration in March they can show the power of the press and the unselfishness of the press if they will advocate a policy of frankness and of honesty.

They can band together to force the Governor through the power of public sentiment to call a special session of the Legislature to give justice to this city in the matter of self-government.

The last Legislature took away from this city the right to change to a city manager form of government.

Over 50,000 citizens have now voted for this change and the only reason that Indianapolis worries along with a city council, of whose membership six are under indictment, is that the Legislature passed a law that robbed the city of the right to change and tried, in vain, to keep John Duval in the mayor's chair.

The people of this city have registered their wishes in this matter of change of system, a change which will introduce a business system of government and not create the present situation of huge indebtedness without any provision for payment.

A special session of the Legislature, which has a majority of Republican members, could show repentance and its freedom from the machine which is now so discredited.

A special session could really show that there is an honest purpose within that party to "clean up" not only its own organization but to change its whole attitude toward the public service.

Such a session could demonstrate that the party still does "think with Lincoln and Roosevelt" as its stationery pleads and boasts.

Such a session could begin by being honest with Indianapolis. It could then be honest with the whole State. It could, if it wished, reverse itself upon the matter of very necessary investigations which were refused last winter under the edicts of men who have since demonstrated that they had a very personal interest in not being investigated.

Here is a task which should challenge the organization of editors who are proud of fifty years of service.

What a chance is theirs to lead the people back to the principles in which their party was founded.

What a chance to offer to a president as evidence of good works, a final act of merit for his approval.

England's Momentous Decision

There has never been a time when the world faced a subtler, milder-looking, yet direr, peril than it does today. It jeopardizes all that we mean when we speak of white man's civilization.

Vacuously prattling of the unspeakableness of war between them, Britain and America go on "twisting each other's tail," as Viscount Cecil puts it, and drifting toward a break which would mean the very thing both wish at any cost to avoid.

Just now, as a leading British publicist expressed it, the chief subject of political controversy in England is who was the villain of the piece at Geneva. Why did the Anglo-American-Japanese naval limitation parley break down?

The truth is, not one man but many men were at fault because the main obstacle at Geneva was the failure of those now in charge of Britain's destiny to recognize the altered conditions in the world.

What we mean is this: Events, rather than design, have combined to make the United States actually the richest and, potentially, the most powerful nation on the face of the globe. Our interests, differing no doubt from those of other powers, none the less are as far-flung as any and as great, requiring at least as vast a machinery for their protection.

For centuries Britain has occupied the most exalted position of any nation in the world. Today time and fortune have placed us beside her. In the past when such a thing happened, when Britain found her place at the head of the procession menaced, she struck and struck hard, ridding herself of such a presence. She has always refused to tolerate an equal.

What is Britain going to do now? Does she intend to recognize the United States as her equal in power and place in the world? And is she going to hold out her hand and say: "Let's be friends—let's be sensible and agree to live and let live?" Or will she allow the bitterness of the moment to blind her—as it notoriously does so many leaders among men when they discover their supremacy slipping—and so commit the folly of a course which in time would carry her down to her doom, taking us and the rest of civilization with her?

It is a momentous decision and no doubt a disagreeable one which Britain must make, and, like all questions of life or death, she must make it for herself. No one can do it for her.

But of this she may rest assured: We in this country are her friends and believe at heart that she is ours. Certainly we covet nothing she has. And when we propose parity in naval tonnage, it is not with any idea of challenging either her prestige, her bread line or her trade routes, but simply that our equally great country needs equally strong security.

That is all.

When You're Winning

Alumni of Ohio State who are now demanding the scalp of Coach Wilce are strange, comments an editorial writer. But, are they so strange, after all? Isn't it true that you have to win to keep your job?

Last year Wilce put a good team on the gridiron and the team won, the only conference defeat being a battle lost to Michigan by one point. Wilce was proclaimed by the alumni as a super-coach.

Seventy-five thousand people attended the former game and 15,000 the latter.

What is more to the point, each and every one of them got his money's worth.

Let those who will rave at the cost.

It may not be higher education in a strictly cultural sense, but it is *he-man* stuff, and we need that as much as we need anything in this flapper, jelly-bean age.

Trained to Buck Line

Football has sent seventeen young men to the cemetery this season; at the same time it has hardened and disciplined a thousand times That Number.

The 1927 football season came to a real climax with Army beating Navy, 14 to 9, and Notre Dame barely escaping a tie with Southern California.

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A Lobby Clean-Up Due

If you are interested in a matter that is before Congress or if you wish to present a new matter to Congress, it is your privilege to appear in Washington and argue the case with every Congressman that will listen. It is not difficult to obtain the privilege of appearing before the congressional committee or committees having your subject in charge.

You can even hire a lawyer to do this for you, if you are not sure of your own persuasive powers.

But beyond doing these things—openly—more and more Congressmen are coming to believe you should not go.

Recently there was held in Washington, with considerable fanfare, a gathering that purported to be a spontaneous assembling of State legislators. They appeared to insist that Congress repeal the Federal inheritance tax. They had all the right in the world to do this, if their gathering was just what it purported to be.

But question has been raised as to the authenticity of their representations. It is being charged that the meeting was arranged and financed by certain persons throughout the country who have a direct interest in seeing the inheritance tax repealed.

Representative Royal Johnson says he has evidence that \$100,000 was contributed toward the expenses of the enterprise by one Montana corporation alone, a corporation whose name never appeared in the hearings granted by the House Ways and Means Committee.

It can be shown, he says, that \$3,500 was spent to bring legislators here from a single Western State.

And he tells of reports that one "pay-off man" had \$50,000 in \$100 bills with which to defray the expenses of those delegates who were not prepared to pay their own.

It looks like the house has a job to do. Johnson's reports should be investigated. If they prove true, Congress should provide a method of preventing their recurrence.

But in taking the subject up it would be well for the House not to restrict itself solely to this inheritance tax lobby. It should go into the whole subject of proper and improper efforts to influence legislation. The time has come when a lobby clean-up is due.

A Wisconsin university professor says success is not due to brains, but luck and outside influences. It seems that intelligence has been overemphasized, too.

The prima donna who was offered contracts in the movies probably doesn't know yet whether she was being praised or damned.

Dean Inge says England would be better off if the country were more sparsely settled. Certainly, Dean, look at us—why, we're not settled at all!

Keller's Death Recalls Memorable Battle

—BY JOHN M. GLEISSNER—

The death in St. Paul of former Representative Oscar E. Keller recalls one of the most stirring Congressional battles of recent years.

It was Keller who, in 1922, launched the offensive against Attorney General Harry M. Daugherty which resulted in the forced resignation of Daugherty from the Cabinet two years later. Keller was the David who dared attack the Goliath of the Ohio gang, then Aristed on the crest of party power and success.

Keller was convinced things were not as they should be, so he asked Daugherty's impeachment in the House.

Seldom has a more courageous political battle been waged, and while Keller failed with disaster to himself, he lived to see the accusations he made substantiated, and Daugherty driven from public life.

A politician for many years, Keller knew the cost of differing with leaders of his party. Those in authority warned him, but he persisted in speaking freely. His punishment was persecution, ridicule and abuse, and in the end political defeat. For while Daugherty was driven from the Cabinet two years after Keller attacked him, the difference held persistent, and in 1928 Keller was defeated.

Soon after Keller asked Daugherty's impeachment Governor Preus of Minnesota instructed the Republican organization not only to withdraw its support of Keller, but actively to oppose him. Preus spoke of Keller's "disgraceful performance" in proceeding against Daugherty and denounced it as instigated by "lawless elements."

"I think Keller ought to be impeached," he said. "I'm going to do it," Keller told those who warned him of political death.

Keller won the election and returned to Washington. Here he found arrayed against him all the bigwigs of the Republican machine, and Leader Frank W. Mondell on down.

He filed a bill of particulars against Daugherty with the House Judiciary Committee, charging him with favoritism toward corporations and with an illegal and unjustifiable use of power in obtaining the injunction in the wheat strike, which Keller claimed was "framed." Keller cited the appointment of William J. Burns as chief of the Bureau of Investigation, recalling that serious charges of jury tampering had been made against Burns by Attorney General Wickes during the Taft administration.

Keller accused Daugherty with "deliberately conniving" at the looting of naval oil reserves by approving a contract for the lease of Teapot Dome.

The committee hearings were a tragic farce. Keller and his attorneys were here and there interrupted and it was apparent there was no intention of serious consideration. Keller charged an effort to whitewash Daugherty, and refused to proceed further.

There was talk of contempt proceedings against him, but this died down. Later the Senate took hold, and the thing Keller wanted was accomplished. His courageous battle brought him only the end of his political career.

That is all.

M. E.

TRACY

SAYS:

"Football Has Sent Seventeen Young Men to the Cemetery This Season; at the Same Time It Has Hardened and Disciplined a Thousand Times That Number."

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