



The Indianapolis Times

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

A New Note

A new political note was sounded when Walter Myers announced his willingness and desire to become a Senator from Indiana.

Myers evidently believes that the way to clean up political conditions is to denounce the evils in politics and point to the causes of those evils.

Instead of hiding behind sonorous phrases, Myers jabs with detailed indictment.

He does not seem to be afraid of the shadow of the Ku-Klux Klan or offending members of his own party who may have a lingering affection for the hooded order.

That is different from what the voters have been hearing for the past year.

When the campaign of a year ago was in progress and the State was interested in the contents of the "Black Boxes" of Stephenson, the Democratic orators were talking of tariffs.

At a time when corruption was a live issue with the people, it was dead with the candidates of both parties.

The entrance of Myers into the race for the Democratic nomination seems to end that period of fear and silence in regard to real evils.

For there is no mistake concerning the cause of the evils of politics in Indiana.

The bosses made terms with intolerance and bigotry and the dotted line contracts of Stephenson.

The triumph of these forces in 1924 was repeated in a new form by the same influences in 1926.

To that sinister event the Democratic party offered no protest or at least small protest.

It will be at least interesting to the independent voter to note that the coming of Myers ends this apathetic indifference to real issues. It is just possible that he will inaugurate a competition in virtue instead of a competition in suppression.

Freedom for Cities

Last week a judge at South Bend rendered a decision that should call attention to the extent to which cities have lost their right to self-government.

He decided that the creation of the State tax board for the purpose of supervising the expenditures of cities was illegal.

The State, of course, will appeal and the Supreme Court may again give power to that body.

But the decision will call to public attention the fact that the city is no longer an independent unit of government and that in its most important functions has come under bureaucratic control.

The creation of the tax board was for the avowed purpose of forcing cities to be economical.

That many towns and cities may have been unwise, from an outside viewpoint, in the way they spent their money, may be taken for granted.

But when the State attempted to set up a board which should supervise city governments, it said in effect that self-government is a failure and that the people have no ability to rule themselves.

That State tax board in theory was fascism in a subtle form as opposed to self-government.

The State tax board or bureau was made more powerful than mayors and city councils.

It had power, and still exercises it, to curb taxation and to say what money should be spent.

Of course, the cities have to raise their own money. It is not the State's money, which the State board guards and watches.

That the board itself finally conceived itself as a super-government for the State was indicated when it attempted to exercise the right to tell the people of the city of Huntington that they could not have a municipal light plant because the board members thought the power could be more economically obtained from a private monopoly.

Then it was suddenly discovered that this matter of self-government did not rest with this particular bureau but with another State body and that its blockade of the municipal plant was purely gratuitous and entirely mislaid as to right to say anything about it.

But the incident indicates the attitude that always prevails within bureaus that are far removed from the source of power.

They become inevitably autocratic and arrogant. They inevitably assume that the people know nothing and are to be ruled instead of ruling themselves.

One of the great troubles today is that the government has gotten so far away from the people that they no longer have any power over their own laws or officers.

We take most of our State problems to bureaus in Washington. We have lodged our rights in bureaus instead of safeguarding them with laws.

In the States, the cities and counties are controlled by Legislatures, which in turn are creating bureaus that are composed of men

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

BRIDGE ME ANOTHER

(Copyright, 1927, by The Ready Reference Publishing Company.)
BY W. W. WENTWORTH

(Abbreviations: A—ace; K—king; Q—queen; J—jack; X—any card lower than 10.)

1. Give five illustrations of suits surely stopped.
2. What rule applies when player leads from wrong hand?
3. In no-trump, dummy holds K X X of suit led by opponents. Should dummy take with K first round?

The Answers

1. A or K Q or Q J 10 or K J 10 or J 10 9 8.

2. Player may be compelled to lead same suit from the right hand.

3. Yes, if declarer holds no card in suit above 10.

Times Readers Voice Views

The name and address of the author must accompany every contribution, but the author will not be published. Letters not exceeding 200 words will receive preference.

To the Editor:

"As a man thinketh so is he" is the sum and total of every human being and all that he is or does.

It was the way to think, that Christ and all great teachers have tried to teach us. Because it is what we think that causes what we do and what we are and builds character and soul, the only thing that is really worth while in life for "What does it profit a man though he gain the whole world and lose his soul?"

Thousands upon thousands of dollars are spent in preserving lives in institutions of various kinds which is very commendable because in preserving a man's life he is given a chance to build character and soul. But would it not be far commendable in maintaining such institutions to have them in charge of the proper teachers and leaders that would teach and show these most helpless of all how to build character?

What good is a ship at sea without a pilot? No more good than a man's life without proper thoughts to guide it and the right kind of thinking can be cultivated in any mind that the wrong kind of thinking is cultivated in and no one will ever do wrong while they are thinking right, you had just as well expect to grow roses from turnip seeds.

The only way to redemption of mankind is in teaching them the principles and fundamentals of right thinking. Sounds simple, but there have been many of the greatest lives spent in this great subject and after millions of years how many people think correctly? All of us do at times and all of us do not at times. But it is only though continued effort along the right lines that we attain perfection.

Why not have institutions, not prisons, where we can teach such unfortunates, for that is what they are, as young Hickman, Leopold, Loeb, Harry K. Thaw with their millions but not the proper mental training, Remus and all of their kind for it is all one kind after all, under the care and instructions of the great minds or the Socrates and Platons of today who know how to think correctly and instead of persuading them to "repent" and be saved so the law can put them to death, teach them how to live and think and do right, which is the only way to build character and hence "be saved."

What kind of civilization is it that takes a man in his worst stage and sends him on into eternity condemned?

Man's salvation comes only through right living, which is done only through right thinking, and how many would be willing to give all their efforts to be of the greatest benefit to mankind, for that is right living. It is more commendable that we preserve the lives, characters and souls of men than to destroy them in prisons and inefficient institutions and through capital punishment and cruelty. Kindness wins a man and brings out his better qualities, but cruelty destroys him.

Hickman's father disowns his son because of his errors, but how much of those errors is the father responsible for?

Suppose God disowned and destroyed us for our errors would He be a just God? Let him who is without sin cast the first stone?" And who of us is without sin?

We should extend a helping hand and in pity and kindness decree all mankind in the way that Christ has taught us. How many real Christians do we have in the world who are willing to give all they have for the salvation of mankind? Plenty are ready to condemn, but too few are ready to help. They would rather destroy a man than go to the trouble to show him the right way to live, for it is no easy task to do after one has the habit of thinking the wrong way. But if there are enough that will answer that call, sin and sorrow and crime will soon cease and not before for there is no law that can govern a man's actions, except the law of thinking, whether it be right or wrong.

MARY KELLY,
3174 School St.

who owe allegiance to some appointing power rather than to the people themselves.

Let it be hoped that the decision of Judge Dahl of South Bend is good law and that this one board is abolished. If it remains after an appeal, the next Legislature should wipe out these boards that rule instead of serve the people.

More Evidence

Harry F. Sinclair, multimillionaire oil man; William J. Burns, the detective and five others, are definitely accused by a District of Columbia grand jury of conspiracy to obstruct justice in having the jurors in the Fall-Sinclair trial investigated and shadowed by detectives.

This is just as true as if the grand jury had returned an indictment, instead of a "presentment."

It will be recalled that some weeks ago, when Fall and Sinclair were on trial on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the Government in the lease of the Teapot Dome Oil Reserve, it was discovered by government agents that the jurors were being kept under surveillance. Government attorneys charged this was for the purpose of establishing contacts with them in the hope of swaying their verdict. Justice Siddons at once ordered a mistrial.

Peyton Gordon, the district attorney, accused Sinclair, Henry Mason Day and Sheldon Clark, employees of Sinclair; Burns, Burns' son, W. Sherman Burns, and Detectives Ruddy and O'Reilly, before the grand jury.

The job of the grand jury was to hear the evidence offered by the Government, to determine if it were sufficient to warrant the men being held for trial. This the grand jury did. Its "presentment" was formal nullification to the court that in the opinion of the jury the men should be brought to trial.

A "presentment," according to Webster, means in law, "the notice taken, or statement made, by a grand jury of any offense or unlawful state of affairs from their own knowledge or observation, without any bills or indictment laid before them."

A presentment is the necessary forerunner of indictment, which are drawn by the district attorney, and returned as a true bill to the court by the attorney.

The fact that no indictments were returned was due to the failure of the district attorney to draw them. Why he did not do so is not clear. He may have thought that the contempt proceedings now in progress before Justice Siddons, which may result in summary sentences from the bench, were ample. He may have wished not to add further trials to the multiplicity of legal actions which have grown up about the oil frauds. To many it will be disappointing that he did not make the indictments, since this would have served as an additional hold on the accused men, for use in event of the failure of the contempt proceedings.

There seems to be question as to whether the presentment can hold over for possible future use. Probably this is only interesting academically, for it seems apparent that the district attorney has no intention of going beyond the contempt proceedings.

The grand jury which investigated the case is credited with being unusually capable. Numerous witnesses were heard over a period of four or five weeks.

This jury, in effect, told the court that it believed that the Government was justified in its accusations that Sinclair and Burns and their agents were seeking to defeat justice by influencing the trial jury. This is the important thing.

Lest Crime Incriminate Itself

President Coolidge's action in signing the Walsh bill, which permits M. T. Everhart, former Secretary Fall's son-in-law, to testify for the Government in the Fall-Sinclair trial without incriminating himself, serves to call attention once again to a detail of our criminal procedure which always will seem incomprehensible and useless to the layman.

That detail is the legal quirk which permits a man accused of crime to refuse to testify, but which does not allow the jury to hold this against him when it deliberates its verdict.

Everhart's case, of course, is different; not accused of crime himself, he has refused to testify on the ground that he would incriminate himself by so doing. The Walsh bill will prevent him from giving this excuse any longer. It will not, however, affect the underlying situation—the "constitutional immunity" enjoyed by all defendants and all witnesses.

Originally, one imagines, the law excusing a prisoner from testifying was devised to prevent the possibility of torture being used to extort a confession. It was not so many generations ago that the rack and whips were considered essential adjuncts of any well-ordered court. But we have progressed a bit since then. No prisoner, called into an American court need fear that judge and prosecutor will stop the trial and affix the thumb screws to get him to tell his story.

And so, we ask, why not abolish, or at least radically modify, the whole "constitutional immunity" business? If a man accused of murder, or bribery, refrains from testifying in his own behalf, why not allow the prosecutor to draw for the jury's benefit the logical deductions—that the prisoner is guilty and knows that any story he might tell on the witness stand would make the fact plain?

The present system is a fine one for guilty men and unscrupulous lawyers. We fail to see how it greatly benefits innocent men who are wrongly accused; such men ought to be glad to testify. And we fail also to see how it benefits society as a whole.

In none of Lindbergh's speeches did he refer to being shot at while on his flight to the Mexican capital, so it must be taken for granted that there are more peaceful conditions prevailing in that country at the present time than there have been for many years.—Hartford City News.

France and Italy will hold a meeting to end their discord. This will be a hot session.—Plymouth Democrat.

What an advantage a murderer has in having an insane ancestor!—Elwood Call.

Favorite sons seem to be favorite for only one thing and that is for trading purposes.—Hartford City News.

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