



# The Indianapolis Times

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

## Hoover or Hand-Picked?

After the tumult and the shouting of the Wood-Lowden battle had died, Warren G. Harding was nominated in the Republican national convention of 1920.

While the actual nomination occurred in the convention itself, the real job was done in the smoke-filled room of a Chicago hotel.

Harry Daugherty was in that room, and Jake Hamon. Boise Penrose of Pennsylvania was there in voice, if not in person, for the long distance telephone was working between Chicago and Penrose in Pennsylvania. Other "professionals" were in attendance. The trick was quickly turned after the psychological moment had arrived. The deadlock between Wood and Lowden was broken and Harding was sent in.

To turn the trick many promises had to be made. Jake Hamon was scheduled for high place in the Harding administration—a high place that death at the hands of Clara Smith prevented him from attaining.

And so were Albert Fall and Daugherty, and so were other members of the "Ohio gang" of which Daugherty was the presiding genius. "To the victors belong the spoils," and promises always go along with such "settlements."

The great game of politics as played every four years has as its equipment three chief bits of paraphernalia. One is the favorite son. Another is the uninstructed delegate. The third is the unit rule.

To be able to control a State delegation; to deliver the delegates at the critical moment during a national convention, is the professional politician's supreme ambition. In achieving that ambition, a favorite son may help, as a means of holding a delegation in line, or if the delegation is uninstructed and the unit rule is in vogue, the professional leader can keep his flock together for "the break."

The Jake Hamons, the Harry Daughertys and others of their ilk who typify professional politics, succeed or fail according to their ability to control State delegations. Out of success grow lower in patronage and all the other fruits of political preference, even unto a Teapot Dome.

Such professional politicians get in their work ahead of the time when the general public wakes up to what is going on. Even now they are busy, arranging things so that when June comes and the convention assembles they will have the power to direct the nomination.

The "work" starts with the precinct meetings in some States. In others it is performed in the presidential primaries. But regardless of what the system to delegate-selection may be, you will find the professional politicians adept at bringing forth a crop of pawns.

It is for that reason that Herbert Hoover, opposed by many of his party's most astute professionals, is in danger, despite the flood of favorable public sentiment that has been sweeping the country in his behalf since Coolidge issued his famous "do not choose to run."

It is entirely possible for a man like Hoover, though possessing a vast majority in public sentiment, to lose, nevertheless, when the real game starts in convention hall.

This newspaper desires most earnestly, to repeat the warning, as the time approaches for the precinct meetings, the county conventions, the State conventions, the presidential primaries, and all the other preliminaries.

For, unless the rank and file take a part in those preliminaries, and thereby see that delegates responsive to the popular will are selected, the professionals will control when nominating time comes around.

And, instead of a man like Hoover, the country will again be voting in November for some candidate such as 1920 brought forth, hand-picked in the wee small hours of a smoke-filled hotel room.

## Kellogg and Nicaragua

No whit of the sting of the Nicaraguan tragedy is removed by the fact that it should never have happened. The way was wide open to Secretary of State Kellogg more than a year ago to deal with Nicaragua in a way fully to protect our interests and make friends for the United States among Latin Americans at the same time.

The cue came from none other than Dr. Juan B. Sacasa, president of the liberal, or revolutionary, government, whose capital was at Puerto Cabezas. Dr. Sacasa, offering to eliminate himself entirely from the picture, suggested that the United States invite two or more South American republics to cooperate in regulating affairs in Nicaragua, agreeing in advance to abide by whatever plan a Pan-American conference might decide upon.

Had Secretary Kellogg had the foresight to follow this suggestion, the benefits to the United States would have been incalculable. Today there would be at the head of the Nicaraguan government a president quite as favorable to the United States as could be desired. Second, such a president would have the support of a majority of his own countrymen, which President Diaz assuredly lacks, and in addition, the most backing not only of this country but of all Latin America as well. And lastly, had the peace of Nicaragua been disturbed and measures needed to restore order, the United States, if it so desired, could have had a Latin American mandate to take such steps as were deemed necessary.

The failure of Secretary Kellogg to follow some such course as this was, and is, inexcusable. There was ample precedent for his guidance. President Roosevelt and President Diaz of Mexico joined hands in 1906 to bring peace to Central America. In 1910 the United States, Argentina and Brazil cooperated to settle a boundary dispute between Peru and Ecuador, while in 1914 President Wilson accepted the mediation offer of the ABC powers (Argentina, Brazil and Chile) in our near-war with Mexico.

With what result? In each instance American prestige soared. Everywhere Latin Americans were singing our praise. "Now this is real Pan-Americanism," cried the able Dr. Naon, Argentine ambassador to Washington. "Before it was only an ideal." And John Barrett, then director-general of the Pan-American Union, correctly stated that these steps did more "to bring the American nations closer together than any other influence in many years."

A similar procedure in Nicaragua would have netted like results. And what a wonderful prepara-

tion it would have been for President Coolidge and his good will speech before the coming Pan-American Congress at Havana! Instead, opinion is daily mounting against us in Latin America, as stories of the fighting appear in the public print. In many Central and South American capitals, it would even seem, the murmur is heard that the Havana congress should be called off. What people are asking, is the use of holding such a conference against such a background?

When one stops to think of what might have been and what it is, it is enough to wring tears from a stone.

## Bettering the Race

Certain learned men, convening with their peers at the Race Betterment Conference in Battle Creek, Mich., express fears that the "better stock" of the race is dying out.

Successful people—people who make money, attain leisure, get educations—are not reproducing as fast as poor people. As a result, the population is increasing through its weakest members, not through its strongest.

So runs the plaint voiced at Battle Creek.

It is risky business for a layman to dissent from the opinion of a scientist. Yet it seems to us that these men are worrying themselves unduly. In fact, it even seems as if there were just a trace of snobbishness in their remarks.

The expression, "better stock," sounds suspiciously like "upper classes," somehow. One fears that somewhere there is a feeling that the children of a college professor, for instance, are in the nature of things more worthy and more valuable to the race than the children of Giuseppe, the pick-and-shovel man.

With such a feeling we must disagree emphatically.

For the entire point of our American democracy is that children of Giuseppe need not grow up to be pick-and-shovel men if they do not want to. The State will give them all the education they are capable of assimilating. We submit that Giuseppe's children are every bit as likely to be physically and mentally sound as the college professor's. Our form of government and society give them every opportunity. If it is in them to rise, there is no reason why they can not themselves enter the ranks of professors or stock brokers or newspaper editors, or, possibly, even movie orchestra conductors.

For ourselves, we are not in the least worried by the fact that the birth rate is lower among college graduates than among the poor. We can not help remembering that some of the greatest men ever born in America came from what our Race Betterment friends might call the "lower classes."

If you are interested, we are thinking of such men as Abraham Lincoln, Henry Ford, Walt Whitman, John D. Rockefeller—and so on, ad infinitum.

## The President's Prediction

President Coolidge foresees increased production of goods during 1928. This, he says, will mean that greater number of persons will have things which heretofore have been denied them, since an abundance of goods will mean wider distribution.

The President no doubt is right in his prediction. The outstanding fact in our economic life in recent years has been the greater output of our factories, not only in total volume, but in the amount each man employed has produced. There is little reason to believe that this process will be checked, at least for a long time.

Labor is abundant, and so are capital and credit. The problem, in fact, is not to obtain any one of these things. It is rather to find markets for the increasing flood of goods, and to find uses for the enormous reserves of capital that have been accumulated.

The development of credit buying vastly has increased the country's purchasing power. A high wage level has enabled wage-earners to buy more. Our surprises have made possible the widespread use of many luxuries, such as the radio. And still the problem remains.

This condition never before has existed in American history, and apparently no one has any clear idea of just where the economic currents are carrying us. Many theories believed sound have had to be abandoned, and the philosophies of producing, buying, selling and consuming, have undergone many changes.

Since the future seems obscured, perhaps we should stop worrying about it. We have one genuine problem which deals wholly with the present. That problem is to see that increased production and greater wealth benefit all of us; to see that the millions whose labor makes possible the thing of which the President speaks gets their just share of what is produced.

## As Others See Us

The American, with his keen nose for news, with his curiosity about what other folks are doing and saying and experimenting, gets a fair day-by-day picture of what is going on in Europe. But the reverse is not true. Europe persists in believing that we are something raw and untamed and particularly uncivilized. The average reader of a European newspaper thinks that all Americans wear huge goggles, chew gum, drop a big cigar from the left end of their mouth and start all polite conversation with: "Say, bo, I'll tell the world!"

Nor is that all. America as presented to him is made up of movie stars, divorce court defendants, gunmen, hijackers, bootleggers and freaks. Which, perhaps, accounts for their great astonishment when they find us the most prosperous nation on earth and with a very neat habit of constantly cornering more and more of the world's business.

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## BRIDGE ME ANOTHER

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BY W. W. WENTWORTH

(Abbreviations: A—ace; K—king; Q—queen; J—jack; X—any card lower than 10.)  
1. Playing at suit bid, how do you echo?  
2. What does the echo signify in no-trump?  
3. First hand bids. Second passes. Third hand passes. Fourth hand bids. Has third hand denied normal support for first hand?

### The Answers

1. By playing a high card first and then a low card.  
2. It indicates four cards of a suit, or three with an honor or more.

3. No.

4. By playing a high card first and then a low card.

5. It indicates four cards of a suit, or three with an honor or more.

6. No.

7. No.

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