



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### A Call to Duty

What former Congressman Fred Landis asked of the members of American Legion should be passed along to all other good citizens.

He merely asked that they take an intelligent interest in honest government and furnish leadership with a conscience.

He asked the Republicans to fumigate their elephant and the Democrats to change the backbone of the donkey from rubber to bone.

"We put out the cat and went to bed when we passed the primary law," is his way of describing the situation which permitted the Klan and the Anti-Saloon League and little groups to take control of the government.

It might be added that this year it will be very necessary for the people to be on guard against those who will try to get into office who have no very high motives but who will hope to mislead by a pretense of fumigation in Republican circles and a false show of courage in the Democratic side of the political battlefield.

The situation is one which invites demagogues. It is made to order for the trickster.

The people have pretty well determined that the old order must go and are looking for salvation from the shame which has been theirs.

It may be assumed that there will be very many Democrats who were silent in the years when they should have voiced opposition now ready to denounce and wax indignant at the rape of the State.

It requires no courage now for men of that party to come out into the open and denounce Stephensonism and the life term convict for iniquities.

The people will be very wise if they can apply a few tests to those who seek office on that ticket and ask what those who ask for confidence were doing when there was need of courage and of leadership.

Fumigating the elephant is a popular pastime in Republican circles, so popular that Senator James Eli Watson assumes the role of chief health officer for the party and is looked upon to tell his followers what must be done to be saved.

There will be a reorganization of the machinery of that party this week when the indicated chairman of the party in this State retires from office and the State committee names a new leader.

The people will be able to judge a little of whatever sincerity may be found within the present leadership of that party by the manner and methods of selecting a leader for the party.

Will there be chosen a man brave enough to denounce any new Stephenson who may arise to challenge decent government in the State?

Or will there be picked a man whose chief purpose will be to deliver the votes of Indiana in a national convention to the hands of Watson, who may trade them as he sees fit when the Old Guard meets in the small hours to pick a presidential candidate who will recognize his master's voice if he arrives at the White House?

It would be rather a pity if the people, after the big battle for decency, found that they had arrived no farther than the tents of the sutlers.

This is a great year. It is the year when men of courage are needed. It is the year when the fakirs and the tricksters will operate and attempt once more to fool the people.

Will both parties have the wisdom to ask any man who offers his services to the public exactly what he was doing when all the shooting was going on?

### Our Next President and the Nicaraguan Canal

It is now only a question of time before the United States must begin work on a second inter-ocean canal across Central America.

Already the Panama canal is outgrowing its capacity and plans are on foot to enlarge it. But while this should, by all means, be done to take care of the constantly increasing stream of commercial shipping, it fails utterly to solve the still more important problem which has to do with the National defense.

In the event of war against the United States, experts agree, Panama would be difficult to safeguard. For while the danger of actual capture is negligible, the canal, by the very nature of things, could be quickly put out of commission in any one of half a dozen different ways leaving it worthless so far as the Navy is concerned. A fleet bottled up in the Atlantic, if needed in the Pacific, or in the Pacific if needed in the Atlantic, would be equivalent to no fleet at all. A second string to the navy's bow is needed down there and a Nicaraguan canal would be such a string.

We are now about to spend \$800,000,000 on our Navy. Yet the Navy's tactics are based on the existence of one tiny waterway which, in a twinkling, could be destroyed by a resourceful enemy. Thus a second canal, in time, will pay its way commercially, would be well worth its cost meanwhile, purely as insurance on our national safety.

And certainly our country rates this insurance. We are worth over \$400,000,000, twice as much as England, France, Italy and Japan combined. We have 20,000,000 tons, or \$3,000,000,000 worth of merchant shipping. Our overseas trade amounts to nearly \$10,000,000,000 a year, or more than all the property in the United States was worth at the close

of the Civil War. Foreign nations owe us \$25,000,000—a stake in foreign countries greater than we had in our own country sixty years ago. Our overseas possessions, our investments abroad, our shipping and foreign trade facilities alone are worth no less than \$50,000,000,000. Destroy these and you destroy our prosperity and our unparalleled standards of living.

Britain, with no more to insure than we, not only

maintains the greatest navy in the world but the

greatest chain of canals and naval bases to support

that navy. Gibraltar makes the straits under Gibral-

tar's guns a British canal and the Mediterranean Sea

into a British lake. Then there are Malta, the Suez

Canal, Aden, Colombo, Singapore, Hongkong, Cape

Town, Bermuda, Tripolitania, Jamaica, the Falklands,

and so on, to protect her overseas wealth.

Our coastwise commerce may legitimately be

compared with Britain's inter-empire trade which,

she claims, is why she must have a powerful navy and

convenient bases. The distance between Massa-

chusetts and California is about that between India

and Australia. From England to India is about the

same distance as from Maine to Seattle. Our coast-

wise trade, approximately 100,000,000 cargo tons per

annum, about equals all our import and export tonnage

combined in the ships of all flags. And, most

surprising of all, this purely domestic ocean-going

business of ours exceeds by ten per cent the value

of the total foreign trade of Great Britain herself.

Here, then, is something well worth insuring. Our

cotton, oil, lumber, steel, grain, fruit and other

trade depends largely upon freedom of the seas

in other words upon naval establishment, shore

stations and all, second to none.

In addition, the United States has vast obligations,

duties and interests both in the Atlantic and in the

Pacific. Notably it has the Monroe doctrine to up-

hold, a policy which underwriters the security and

independence of the entire western world—two whole

continents, North and South and Central America

and the countries of the Caribbean Sea. This, in

itself, is a tremendous and imperative undertaking.

File petitions for gas and water

with the works board.

Requests for cinders as follows

have been turned over to the street

commission, who promised aid:

Alley north of Tenth from Sum-

merset to Olin Aves.; 700 block S. Drexel Ave.

### BRIDGE ME

### ANOTHER

(Copyright, 1927, by The Ready Ref-

erence Publishing Company.)

BY W. W. WENTWORTH

(Abbreviations: A—ace; K—king; Q—

queen; J—jack; X—any card lower than

1—What punishment is imposed in

Kahara for failure to draw

trumps?

2—Why should you watch all dis-

cards?

3—At what point in the game is

bluffing permissible?

The Answers

1—Death by having tricks shot at

the culprit.

2—They give valuable information

as to position of cards.

3—Toward the end, forcing op-

ponents to discard high cards of a

suit so that your small cards may

make a trick.

Indiana Ave. Fall Creek

Bridge Will Be Repaired,

City Engineer Promises

After Complaint of Mo-

torist Who Cut Tire.

Let Mr. Fixit, The Times' representa-

tive, go to work for you. Write Mr. Fixit at The

Times. Names and addresses which

must be given will not be published.

You can't fill a hole in paving

with dirt and expect it to stay there.

"Reader" says this in his letter

complaining a member of his family

cut a hole in a hole in a hole in Indiana

Ave. bridge over Fall Creek. "It

needs repairing," he last

City Engineer A. H. Moore agreed

with him and ordered the repair

gang to get busy.

Dear Mr. Fixit—Is there any way

we can get gas and water installed

in Rowland Ave.? The city board of

works ordered this street improved

over three months ago and today it is

impassable almost. Our taxes are

as high as any other township and we

have absolutely no city benefits.

We want gas and we want city

water and we would like garbage

collection in the summertime.

I believe we have the cooperation of the

Indianapolis Water Company and the

Citizens Gas Company, but that is

all. Any information or help you

can give us will be greatly appreciated.

B. H. M.

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You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to The Indianapolis Times, Washington Bureau, D. C. Inclosing 2 cents in stamps for reply. Musical, legal and other advice can be given for a fee. Extended research can be undertaken. All letters are confidential. All letters are confidential.

What is "mountain sickness?"

It occurs in the rarified air at

high altitudes. It is characterized by

hemorrhage of the nose, nausea

and sometimes by bleeding at the

ear.

What is the absolute zero of tem-

perature?

It is that point at which a body

would be wholly deprived of heat,

and at which a perfect gas would

exert no pressure. From the stand-