



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, 2 cents - 10 cents a week; elsewhere, 3 cents - 12 cents a week.

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TUESDAY, JAN. 10, 1928.

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.

The Doors Open

An inspired message from the national capital says that when Senator James Eli Watson comes back home on Thursday, it will not be in the role of a party dictator, but as humble member of the ranks.

He has forgotten his announced desire to give a "new deal" through the picking of a candidate for Governor who wears no night-gown nor a party chairman who will make the voters forget the gentleman who guided his own campaign two years ago and who is now too busy in the Federal Courts to continue his job.

It is intimated that his work as a Mussolini for his party in this State has failed. Perhaps it was because he discovered that he had too many promises outstanding which he could not keep. It may have been for other reasons.

This is perhaps fortunate, not only for his party, but for the State.

For his early and unsuccessful suggestions as to who should succeed to power were not altogether happy.

For chairman of the party he had tried to obtain the editor who led the crusade in the ranks of the Republican Editorial Association to throw out of that organization one Thomas A. Adams of Vincennes, whose crime was that he demanded a clean-up of political conditions.

Adams was denounced by this editor and those who followed his advice as an enemy to the party with which he had been allied for fifty years.

A political chairman who takes a bold stand that any person who demanded that the evils of Stephensonism be exposed was not a Republican, might be in keeping with the ideas of Watson, but he is not likely to inspire any confidence this year.

Unless there is a determined and persistent policy to drive from the Republican party every man and woman who is even mildly glad that the "Black Boxes" have disgraced their secrets, that those who betrayed the State are exposed, that some who walked in dark paths are indicted, the Watson retirement from dictatorship would seem to be a happy outcome.

Perhaps the rank and file of the voters of the Republican party will decide to get the new deal for themselves.

They may decide that their party has too fine a tradition and too much of a purpose to be handed over to those who have betrayed it in the past and whose ideas of public service is to suppress any inquiries into malefactions.

The voters may really look around and try to discover some man in the party who has voiced his opposition to Stephensonism and Klanism and the other evils.

There have been one or two such men. But thus far they have not been suggested by Watson as furnishing a solution.

What is a "new deal" anyway? More night-gowns?

Or more cells?

Pass This Bill

It's Tommy this an' Tommy that, an' "Chuck 'im out, the brute."

But, it's "Savior of 'e country" when the guns begin to shoot.

Kipling did not spare England for difference in treatment of her soldiers in war and in peace, and the Congress of the United States should see to it that this country does not fall into the same error attributed to Britain.

It is essential to fairness and the credit of this great land that Senate bill 3027, the Tyson-Fitzgerald measure, be taken up and passed pronto.

This measure provides for the retirement of disabled emergency army officers with the same allowances, according to grade, as those given officers of the regular army.

Equality for all officers and enlisted men was promised in the selective service act of May, 1917.

This has not been carried out. The bill has been pending for eight years. Twice it passed the Senate and was defeated by House obstructionists. About 2,000 men are affected, though 135 have died during the legislation. The survivors are not discouraged. Men who helped break the Hindenburg line are not built that way. They re-form and come back.

Tardy justice is better than none. Pass the Tyson-Fitzgerald bill.

A Call for Thinkers

Dr. Alfred Scott Warthin of the University of Michigan sounded a welcome note at the Race Betterment Conference in Battle Creek when he told the delegates that they were attacking their problems wrong end to.

"From the trend of the papers being read here," he said, "one would take this to be a race deterioration conference rather than a betterment discussion. The trouble is that you have begun at the wrong end. What is really needed is a new religion and a new philosophy of life."

It isn't Dr. Warthin's remark about a "new religion" that we are indorsing. The old one, it seems to us, will serve perfectly well for a long, long time. What we do like is his insistence that man's true problems are, and always will be, spiritual rather than physical.

We can convene all the eugenists and sociologists and psychologists in the world, listen to them by the decade and let them rewrite our laws to suit themselves; but it does not follow that we will be any closer to universal human happiness when we get through than we are now.

"Man needs a healthy body, of course. He needs

decent living conditions, decent food, a decent chance to make his way in the world as he sees fit.

But chiefly he needs a healthy spirit. His chief trouble right now is that something has gone awry with his inner self. Various events of the last decade have left him slightly groggy. If he is a thinking man, he is apt to be a bit befogged and confused. He needs, not a doctor, but a poet.

Never in the world's history have the physical details of life been easy for as large a number of people as they are today. The average man has an easier life now than he ever had before. Yet we doubt exceedingly if he is much happier.

And Dr. Warthin, we believe, has put his finger on the reason.

We need—not a new religion; say, rather, a new set of thinkers and philosophers who can impress us anew with the old one. We need to be reminded that our most pressing problems aren't problems that eugenists and the like can settle for us. We need to learn once more that tall buildings and big factories and high payrolls and shiny automobiles can bring far less happiness than we suppose. We need to get over our idea that a set of tasty charts and a few new laws can usher in the millennium.

We have done very well in a material way. It's time now that we let the scientist have a short vacation and listened to the philosopher.

The Eternal Appeal

We are told that religion has lost its appeal. People mournfully point out that more persons remain outside the churches than go into them. The empty pews are the theme of many a mournful disquisition.

And yet something occurred the other day that showed this apparent indifference to religion is all surface stuff. The British Parliament was discussing a revised prayer book for the Established Church of England.

The mob of people who sought admission to attend the debates broke all recent precedents. The speeches made in the House of Lords and in the House of Commons broke all records for eloquence, for intensity, for earnestness, for ability.

All party lines were smashed. All class lines were forgotten. Bishops, aristocrats and workmen on one side opposed bishops, aristocrats and workmen on the other. The result of the voting was awaited with a tenseness that is hard to realize or to picture. Not in recent years has parliamentary action been so keenly watched by a whole nation.

It was a derouting thing for the pessimists. It showed once for all that religion still comes close to the hearts and minds of men. The lessons learned at the mother's knee have not been forgotten. They are still cherished. They have still a place in the innermost being. They still reign in the core of us.

War and Mammon and the great deity, Play, and that other deity, Sport, are all right in this ordinary workaday world, but in the silent, thoughtful hours there is one supreme thing which counts supremely—communion with God.

The Waste An Accident Causes

Eugene Grace, president of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, hits the half right on the head in his statement announcing the Bethlehem's new campaign to reduce industrial accidents.

President Grace begins by announcing that the elimination of waste must be one of the first endeavors for any industrial organization. To date, he says, industry has done well in eliminating waste in time and materials; great manufacturing economies have been introduced, efficiency has mounted year by year.

Thus he sees the waste caused by injuries to workers remaining as one of industry's outstanding problems.

"A man who is hurt suffers pain and worry," he says. "His family loses a part of all of its income."

Accordingly, the Bethlehem concern has divided its employees into groups and is offering a series of attractive cash prizes for the lowest accident records.

It is a good step. American industry, as a whole, is conducted with remarkably few accidents, considering the pitfalls that lie in its path; but the total can still bear reduction, and any measure that will help cut down the number of mishaps to workers is praiseworthy.

A New View of Law

Yale University Law School has just taken a very remarkable step.

It has named as a professor of law a man who never went to a law school and to whom much of the stock in trade of practicing lawyers is probably a complete mystery.

The man, Walton Hale Hamilton, is an eminent economist whose study of the law has been centered in its effect upon the economic life of the country rather than its legal technicalities.

By making such an appointment Yale University makes formal recognition of the fact that good lawyers must be more than good logicians and technical craftsmen.

It recognizes that they must have a better understanding of the economic life of the country for which law provides the principal guide.

In a country which is run largely by lawyers the importance of the step which Yale has taken is of the first magnitude.

It is a happy augury for the future development of legal training in this country.

An official probe is something that endeavors to find out after the damage has been done what everybody should have known before.

Maybe there is room at the top. But look what you generally have to climb over to get there.

Dictionary: A book to which you refer after an argument over how to spell a word to find out you were wrong.

Life is so paradoxical. A lot of people keep their noses to the grindstone all the time trying to hold their heads up.

Sage advice isn't worth so much after all. For ages platiudinists have been telling us to forge ahead, and look what happened to the blacksmith.

There may possibly be indecency in art, but there is no art in indecency.—Goshen Democrat.

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. What two milestones are reached in every hand played? 2. How may you learn to improve your game? 3. When you hold A Q 10 X how many outside quick tricks are required to bid it?

The Answers

1. To make your contract and if possible to make game.
2. Playing often and reading books by authorities.
3. One.

Times Readers

Voice Views

The name and address of the author must accompany every contribution, and no request will not be published. Letters not exceeding 200 words will receive preference.

To the Editor:

Your editorial of Jan. 3, entitled "Freedom for Cities," contains statements that are not in harmony with the facts. We concede your right to criticize, but feel that criticism ought to be based on facts, not rumors.

This board has never tried to interfere with local self government anywhere in the State of Indiana. It has no authority except on the appeal of ten or more taxpayers.

The Hon. Thomas R. Marshall, after having been Governor of the State of Indiana for four years, and a man whose democracy has never been questioned, and whose faith in local self government could not be questioned, yet, after four years experience as the chief executive of the State of Indiana, in his last message to the Legislature, recommended that

no bonds shall be issued to any municipality unless application made to the State board of tax commissioners asking for leave to issue bonds and that the amount of the bonds so granted be fixed, and that the board grant no leave until it has fixed the minimum amount of bonds to be issued and exacted a proper bond and guarantee of the use of the proceeds for the purpose named when the bonds are authorized.

This power is greater than that

exercised by this board. The State of Indiana does not have the recall. Officers are generally elected on a promise of economy and pledging the taxpayers that they will reduce the burden of government, yet no sooner are they selected than they engage upon extravagant programs of spending public money.

The only remedy the taxpayers now have from the action of such officials is by filing a petition and having the matter reviewed by the tax board.

The Supreme Court of the State of Indiana has upheld the constitutionality of the law authorizing a review on the question of issuing bonds. This was upheld in the case of Van Hess vs. Board, 190 Ind. 347.

The Supreme Court in that case held that as to the purpose for which taxes are to be used, or whether one improvement should be made or another should be made, must be decided by somebody.

The experience of the tax board during the 1919 and 1920, was such that the board did not feel that it ought to have anything to do in reviewing bond issues or tax levies where the people were all agreed among themselves. It is only where there was a difference of opinion arose and where there was doubt in the minds of some taxpayers whether certain things should be conferred upon board, and then only to either approve or reduce the amount proposed to be spent.

The taxpayers in practically every county in the State have availed themselves of this right of appeal, and we believe that the great majority of the taxpayers and voters in the State of Indiana are in favor of this right given them to appeal from unwarranted and extravagant action of their public officials.

Your reference to the action of this board in the Huntington matter is unfortunate in this, that this board never took action such as you refer to. Taxpayers in that community appealed that question to our board and this board was ready to approve a bond issue in the sum of \$35,000. The attorney general held, however, that this was a matter for the public service commission and not this board.

People all over the State of Indiana are clamoring for relief from the excessive burden of taxation.

Some think that this can be accomplished by reducing valuations. If all property is properly assessed, then the burden of taxation falls equally on everybody, but to say that officers shall be permitted to seek the franchise of the voters on pledges of economy, and after they assume the duties of the office, for get all pledges made, and enter on an era of extravagances, and then to say that the taxpayer who pays the bill shall have no relief and no remedy, and when a remedy is given him, to say that it interferes with the sacred right of self-government, is stretching this theory entirely too far.

Recently it was proposed in the city of Terre Haute, in Fairfield Township, to build forty-five roads, which were practically streets, in the city of Terre Haute, under the three-mile road law, that would have increased the burdens of the taxpayers enormously. Many of the taxpayers in that city had paid for their streets under the Barrett law.

After a careful consideration, this board approved five, because these five were of such importance that after proper consideration we felt the improvements ought to be made by the township. If the taxpayers had had no right of appeal all of these streets would have been built at the expense of all the taxpayers in the township.

The National Municipal League has shown an interest in this matter and the officers of that league feel that some means should be afforded the taxpayers to stop the unnecessary expenditure of public money, and Indiana's plan has proven most practical, and is gaining supporters every day.

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