



The Indianapolis Times

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

Demand a Special Session

While the gesture of six city councilmen looking toward the ouster of Mayor Slack may be highly complimentary to that official and serve to bring more confidence to his administration, it does suggest a situation that is intolerable.

As long as these city councilmen, some of whom are under indictment, remain in power, there is sure to be confusion and turmoil.

The record they made as members of the council and their bickerings and bargaining with Duvall completely destroyed their usefulness because it left them without a shred of public confidence or respect.

That they should now attempt to get rid of Slack, whom they elected so brief a time ago, is in perfect keeping with their records.

That they wish to get rid of him and get back some legatee of the Duvall regime is understandable.

Whenever and wherever they have been kept away from the power and profits of their own private enterprises they have revolted.

They clung to Duvall as long as they had the hope of taking from him the perquisites that go with appointments to minor jobs.

The only surprise is that they waited so long for some henchman of the old machine to point to a way in which they might embarrass the city.

If it were merely the question of whether Slack should be mayor, it would not be serious.

But this movement, the sure precursor to others, is well calculated to throw the whole city government into turmoil and confusion and create a situation of distrust and unrest as to make all government chaotic.

There is, fortunately, a quick and easy way to get rid of these councilmen and the last memory of the Duvall administration and all that it stood for.

That is by giving the people at once the form of government for which they have already voted by a large majority.

The people are entitled to the city manager system, not in 1930 but this year.

The people have voted for it and shown that they desire it. All that stands in the way is the vicious law passed by the last Legislature which attempted in vain to keep Duvall in office and which extended the time under which city manager changes could be made to the end of the elective terms of mayors then in office.

A special session of the Legislature, meeting for a single day, could repeal that amendment and permit the will of the people to be carried out.

The expense of such a session would be trivial when compared to the constant expense and burden that is created by permitting the city council to remain in power and threaten with disruption and chaos.

There should be a demand today upon Governor Jackson that he call the Legislature into session immediately for this purpose.

The friends of the city manager movement, the friends of good government, all men and women who are tired of this constant threat to the stability of government, should join in a demand to the Governor that he act and act at once. It is a travesty and tragedy that men under indictment for misuse of power should be permitted to menace the welfare and prosperity of the city.

Pussyfoot Platforms—A Remedy

Two Democratic leaders within the last few days have issued statements which, read together, sum up vital weaknesses of their party's policies during the last eight years.

Senator Ferris of Michigan said:

"Both parties are totally lacking in courage and are a blank as to principles. The old demarcation on the basis of Hamiltonian and Jeffersonian political philosophy has vanished. If I were to write the principles of each party on separate pieces of paper, shuffle them and pick one out, I could not tell which party it represented."

Governor Smith in his letter to the Jackson Day gathering hit the same note and offered a constructive solution when he said:

"I believe we have erred in the past by waiting for the national convention to undertake the entire task of preparing a platform. Party platforms of recent years have been too general in their terms and important questions have been neglected by platform builders, in the spirit of compromise with great principles. We can not carry water on both shoulders. The national committee could render a great service to the party and to the country as well by the formulation far in advance of the national convention of a definite party policy."

Since the positive days of Woodrow Wilson, platform-making in the Democratic party has been a job of pussyfooting. Issues have not been met squarely, and until they are, the Democratic party has scant chance for victory.

The system to which Governor Smith objects, of waiting until convention time before a statement of principles is prepared, is one of the chief reasons for the negative character of recent Democratic platforms.

The word-carpenters of the convention have been too prone to construct a platform merely to suit the candidate. They have worked in haste. They have backed, and filled, and dodged and ducked. The result has been a document that said everything, and nothing—a document that comes from politicians

only, in which the great mass of the public has no part and for which the public has little respect.

A statement of party principles issued in ample time before the convention actually assembles, as suggested by Governor Smith, would be a refreshing and an enlightening thing.

If issued at all it would have to be positive. Otherwise it would fall flat between the time of issuance and convention time. Such a statement would invite preliminary discussion by the public and the press.

It would permit a crystallization of opinion.

The Democratic national committee, to which Governor Smith's proposal is directed, will perform an act of real statesmanship if it will follow his suggestion.

And, incidentally, Governor Smith's criticism applies equally to the platform making system of the Republican party.

America, Not Armenia

The day after Senator Johnson of California introduced his resolution calling for an investigation of conditions in the coal fields of Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio, Senator James E. Watson predicted no action could be taken for at least six weeks—it all at all.

Watson is chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee, to which the resolution was referred. The committee, Watson explained, was exceedingly busy on other matters. He had not at that time read Senator Johnson's resolution.

The committee doubtless is rushed, and that's one side of the picture. The other is conditions in these coal fields, where it is charged there has been a wholesale destruction of the constitutional rights of striking miners, and where thousands of men, women and children are said to be in actual want.

We wonder if Senator Watson happened to read the letter of a dispassionate observer, one Ida L. Allen, who wrote to Senator Copeland from Pittsburgh describing conditions. Said she:

"The Young Women's Bible Class of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Beechview, Pittsburgh, made investigation on Dec. 2, in mines Nos. 2 and 3 at Castleshannon and mine No. 8 at Coverdale. We found large families of bright children without shoes and stockings and not sufficient food or clothing. Conditions almost unbelievable could exist in America."

"We found a newborn babe without any clothing, the first one born in the barracks of Coverdale. We immediately opened a receiving station in Beechview, and we were the first organization to extend relief to these destitute women and children in the mines. It seemed the heavens opened, and in less than three weeks we distributed 1,000 pairs of shoes and stockings, 500 well filled baskets of groceries, and a lovely Christmas treat for 1,200 children. This is to say the sympathy of the people is expressed in greater degree than upon any previous demand."

"We were happy to provide ample clothing even for this very small portion of the area in distress. The use of coal being a public service, surely the Government will come to the rescue of these people who are honest and industrious and must not be allowed to perish. We are not concerned in the controversy, but from a humanitarian standpoint, we are urging you to use all the power at your command. The barracks in which they are forced to live you could insert a lead pencil between the boards."

Meaningless Figures

The committee on public relations of the Eastern railroads issues a very useful weekly publication called Railroad Data, which is a combination of information and propaganda in favor of the railroad managers.

This week's issue contains statistics, conspicuously presented, to show that railroad taxes since 1920 have been higher than railroad dividends.

"For the past seven years," the publication states, "the railroads have had to pay more in taxes, with the possible exception of 1921 and 1926, than they were able to pay in cash dividends to their stockholders."

The figures may be assumed to be correct, but what we like to know, do they prove?

Do they prove that the taxes on the railroads are too high, that both the taxes and dividends of railroads are too high, too low, or what?

The country is being flooded with statistics showing that taxes on various enterprises are higher than dividends. The design apparently is to convey to the public the idea that taxes are outrageously high.

Back figures don't prove it. In fact, they don't seem to prove anything.

Governor Al Smith's message to the New York Legislature required 30,000 words, but the people "ain't seen nothing yet." Wait until Al gets in full swing.—Hartford City News.

Eight out of ten pianos, says a speaker at a national meeting of piano tuners, are out of tune all of the time. This leaves two pianos, probably in storage.—Anderson Herald.

Some Congressman may rise up and grow eloquent for a bigger Navy with which to hunt the fools that try to fly across the oceans.—Elwood Call.

If force of logic can't settle a question, no other kind of force has a look-in.—Brazil Times.

Yet a square peg in a round hole can fit in with complete success if it will develop in the right way.—Rushville Republican.

Guns are commonly used, but the best way to protect the honor of the home is to marry the right kind of a woman.—Linton Citizen.

Our philosophy is that the world ends every night and starts out new again every morning.—Kokomo Dispatch.

It is feared that too many bachelors get all the credit for not marrying.—Mishawaka Enterprise.

Trouble with having a grouchy look is you seldom get a pleasant one.—Lafayette Courier.

You can't get on your feet by sitting around.—Jeffersonville News.

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. When holding: hearts—Q X X X; diamonds—A X; clubs—A X; spades—X X X, what should you bid?

2. Should you take out partner's no-trump into major when holding any seven of a major?

3. Why is it dangerous to take your partner out of a no-trump with major weakness?

The Answers

1. One heart.

2. Yes.

3. He may re-bid no-trump relying on your strength.

Times Readers Voice Views

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

To the Editor: It is to be hoped that when the Indianapolis park board and board of zoning appeals makes their decision in the baseball park site question, relative to the building of a modern home for the Indians across from the State fairground, that the boards will have some consideration both for the city of Indianapolis and the thousands of fans.

For years this town has gone along with a dilapidated, sagging ball park and now that the new owners of the club want to put our city in the up and going class, let's not apply the brakes. The truth is that we have only too few men in this community who are willing to do big things and when one of these few proposes a real proposition the thousands of baseball fans as well as the public spirited citizens should get behind Mr. Perry with such impetus as to make no mistake about the public's mind.

The site across from the State fairground is the most logical in town. The ground is vacant and has been since the beginning of the city and probably will remain so. It's not very likely that anyone would want to build a residence in keeping with the price asked for the lots because of the fact that the site already faces, perhaps, the largest amusement and exhibition center in the State, with the additional detriment of a railroad main line and a railroad depot adjacent to the property. The ball park in that spot, if anything would lend beauty to the boulevard since the owners of the club are on record for erecting a splendid stadium enclosed with an ornamental wall of concrete and intend to plan beautification of the outside as well as the inside.

If the park is permitted there we would have a much desired addition to the city's achievements as well as a baseball park where mothers, wives, sisters, sweethearts and the thousands of baseball loving citizens could enjoy the cleanest and best sport in the land. Therefore it is to be hoped that the boards will consider the best interests of the city and its 400,000 inhabitants, issue the permit and allow the work of construction to begin at once.

H. H. MARTIN.

To the Editor:

It was unfortunate that your pen dropped a word while writing the splendid editorial on Louis F. Post, for the writer is fully convinced it was an unintentional statement, that Henry George advocated a tax on land, for if we tax the acreage or area, heaven knows that would finish the farmer and he would need no further relief."

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It is an ungenerous complaint: for obviously these battles were forced upon him, and he more than any one else longed for peace.

Now he returned to Italy, hoping that at last he might enjoy a period of peace. But the Senate had raised still another army in Africa, and was training it under Metellus Scipio for Caesar's overthrow; Caesar knew that he could not safely give himself to the restoration of Rome.

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