

The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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

The Hand of Coffin

Citizens generally will be interested in the explanation of Councilman Otis Bartholomew for the actions of the Republican members of the council in trying to get rid of Mayor L. E. Slack.

Not the gamblers who have been disturbed after years of at least toleration, but the organization Republicans dictated the move and it was designed, not to obtain better city government, but a "Republican" administration.

His exhibits are even more interesting—two petitions, both headed by George V. Coffin. The signers are those who play the Coffin game of politics or have received favors from him in the way of offices.

That makes it very clear. There is a deeper purpose than protecting the gamblers. There is a determination to seize the city administration, which under Slack is showing some consideration for the rights of all citizens without regard to party politics, and use it for what?

The decent citizens of Indianapolis should awake to the fact that there is something more important at stake than whether Slack holds the office of mayor or turns it over to someone else.

The question at issue is whether this city is going back to the hands of Coffin, who dictated the Duvall election and ruled its ill-starred destiny.

It is a question of whether the city government, with its power to tax, its power to levy tribute, its power to enforce laws, is to be turned over to the political manipulations of the head of a discredited political organization.

It is a question of whether this city is to have its chance to forget the bad days gone by and go ahead with a program of building.

It is a question of whether the business men of this city are to be allowed to do business under decent business conditions, or be at the mercy of men who think only in terms of political power and all that such power implies.

Why is there anxiety to get control of the city jobs and especially of the police force?

There are primaries ahead and an election. By giving favors, it is quite possible to obtain not only legal votes, but illegal votes. The control of the police can be used to prevent frauds or protect frauds and the elections in this city in the past have not been free from suspicion.

Bartholomew deserves thanks for giving to the public the inspiration for his activities as president of the council.

He has laid bare the conspiracy. He has made public the real purpose behind the sinister move to keep the city in turmoil, to block any movements for growth. It is that Coffin may again rule.

This newspaper holds no brief for Mayor Slack, except as he proves his worth by good deeds. It has no interest in either a Republican or a Democratic success. It has a very deep interest in an Indianapolis success, in the triumph of the decent citizen, in a victory over the forces of corruption, fraud and pillage.

It is important, however, to call attention to the fact that the attack upon Slack is not based upon any charge that he has misused his powers of office.

There is no word of criticism against his official acts. There is no charge that he does things for the profit of his friends or of himself. There is no charge that he so has arranged his official family as to be able to commit frauds at elections. There is not even the suggestion that he has any purpose to misuse his powers for the advancement of the political party with which he may be allied.

The only reason given frankly by Coffin is that he wants a "Republican" administration. That is not the whole truth, for it is doubtful whether Coffin can be said to represent a Republican organization.

He does head an organization that sails under the Republican banner, but those who vote that ticket from principle are humiliated by his leadership.

The civic organizations of this city have a duty. The decent people have a duty.

They should express themselves immediately and emphatically against this latest effort to kidnap the city government.

It is time for a government by orderly processes, under decent direction. The time of rule by mobs and gangs should be ended.

Prisoners are not broken on the rack. Witches no longer are burned to death. Armies of most nations no longer slaughter civilian populations, saving only for themselves the female children.

Piracy no longer is tolerated. Dueling is regarded as foolish. Feeble-minded persons are cared for, rather than tortured.

For our own part, we believe human nature does change, and that it changes for the better, although we are willing to admit that the changes are not always perceptible, and that at best they require all too long a time.

It would be a sorry world indeed if we were willing to concede there exists no chance for improving it and making it a better place for our children and our children's children, with less of misery and more of happiness.

Mrs. Brosseau and her associates of the patriotic council advocate more adequate national defense. We hope that they do not subscribe to the view that it is useless to seek the eradication of war, on the theory that man is naturally a belligerent and warlike animal, bent on slaying his fellow men, and that it is impossible for him ever to change his nature.

Jail for This Citizen

"Stewart defies oil probers," the headlines say.

Stewart is Robert W., chairman of the board of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana. The oil probers are the members of the Senate committee seeking to learn what became of that \$3,000,000 profit of the Continental Trading Company.

The committee already has uncovered the fact that some \$233,000 of this profit was turned over to Secretary Albert B. Fall by Harry F. Sinclair—part of the corruption and fraud, as the United States Supreme Court expressed it, that marked Sinclair's grabbing of the Government's naval oil reserves.

What was done with the remainder of the \$3,000,000? The committee's request for this information is a natural and a proper one.

But Stewart says he won't tell.

"I never got a dollar out of the deal personally," he told the committee. "I never gave any of the bonds to any political party, any Government official or any official of any municipality. Further than that, I must decline to answer."

The Senate committee appears to be at the very crux of the mystery surrounding the most amazing instance of official corruption in American history. The man now facing the committee apparently is able to remove that mystery.

It is vitally important to the American Government and the American people that he be compelled to do so. Big, smooth, polished millionaire that he is, this Stewart is just one American citizen with one American citizen's rights and no more.

For three years he dodged the processes of the courts to avoid testifying in the Teapot Dome civil case. Now, having ceased dodging, he assumes the role of cool defiance.

The Senate has the power to send him to jail for contempt if he continues his defiance. If he does, the Senate should exercise that power and without delay.

Houston Isn't So Hot

Mayor Holcombe of Houston, Tex., was not loath to tell New Yorkers, on his recent visit to Manhattan, of the advantages of Houston as a summer convention city.

He pointed out that Houston's climate is cool and mild; that sea breezes from the not distant gulf temper the heat of the Texas sun; that the city is distinguished for its architecture and the number of its fine shade trees, and that the main thoroughfare, 100 feet wide, has along the curb giant oak trees that touch overhead.

The mayor added, "with a touch of embarrassment," according to a New York paper, that this thoroughfare was named "Main street."

New York, of course, would be ready to smile superciliously at that. Yet the good mayor needn't have blushed. Main street is an American tradition. And why not? If a certain street is your main street, why not name it so and be done?

Anybody Desire Prosperity?

High wages help make prosperity. That is the new industrial creed, sometimes called the Henry Ford creed, since he was among the first to preach it—and to practice it.

The United States Government could do its bit toward prosperity, if this theory is correct. It could begin paying half-way reasonable salaries to its great army of employees in Washington and throughout the country. So large is this army that if the Government were to adopt this policy the effect on business conditions generally would be greater than simultaneous wage increases by a dozen Henry Fords.

If Congress desires to promote prosperity, here's one way of doing it.

Our Support of Hoover

(From The Nation)

By unanimous vote of the editors of the twenty-six Scripps-Howard daily newspapers and the general managers of the entire group, after a two-day session, the support of these dailies has been given to Herbert Hoover. This is the most powerful accession to his strength which Mr. Hoover yet has received, so far as the daily press is concerned.

For the Scripps-Howard papers are as a whole the most liberal group which we have, and their decision is the more remarkable because the most ardent press supporters of Mr. Hoover to date have been the most reactionary organs of opinion, such as the Curtis papers, the Chicago Tribune and others, owned by extremely rich men entirely hostile to the progressivism of 1912 and 1924.

The value of this Hoover support is apparent when one remembers that the Scripps-Howard paper in Cleveland was largely responsible for the carrying of that city by LaFollette. At the same time, while all the outward omens are favorable, Mr. Hoover's victory in the convention is not yet assured. Mr. Mellon and Calvin Coolidge will decide the nomination, unless an unexpected bolt within the party takes the decision away from them.

Obviously the time is approaching when Mr. Hoover and Mr. Coolidge will have to take a position in regard to the former's continuance in the Cabinet—Mr. Hoover is running in the New Hampshire primary, to be held Feb. 24. The political gossip is that if Mr. Hoover is to be given the presidential blessing he will stay in the Cabinet; if not he will take the fight on the outside.

We are without knowledge as to just when Adam lived, but we wonder if Mrs. Brosseau's assertion about human nature can be accepted without question.

Men no longer kill their neighbors, and carry off their wives. Cannibalism no longer is practiced.

Slavery exists in but a few places.

Prisoners of war no longer are put to slaughter.

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. Declarer bids one no-trump. All pass. Dummy holds K Q 10 X. Declarer holds X X X. What should declarer play when opponent leads small card through Dummy?

2. In planning your campaign against a no-trump bid, what should you do?

3. (a) Is it necessary to know how to score? (b) Why?

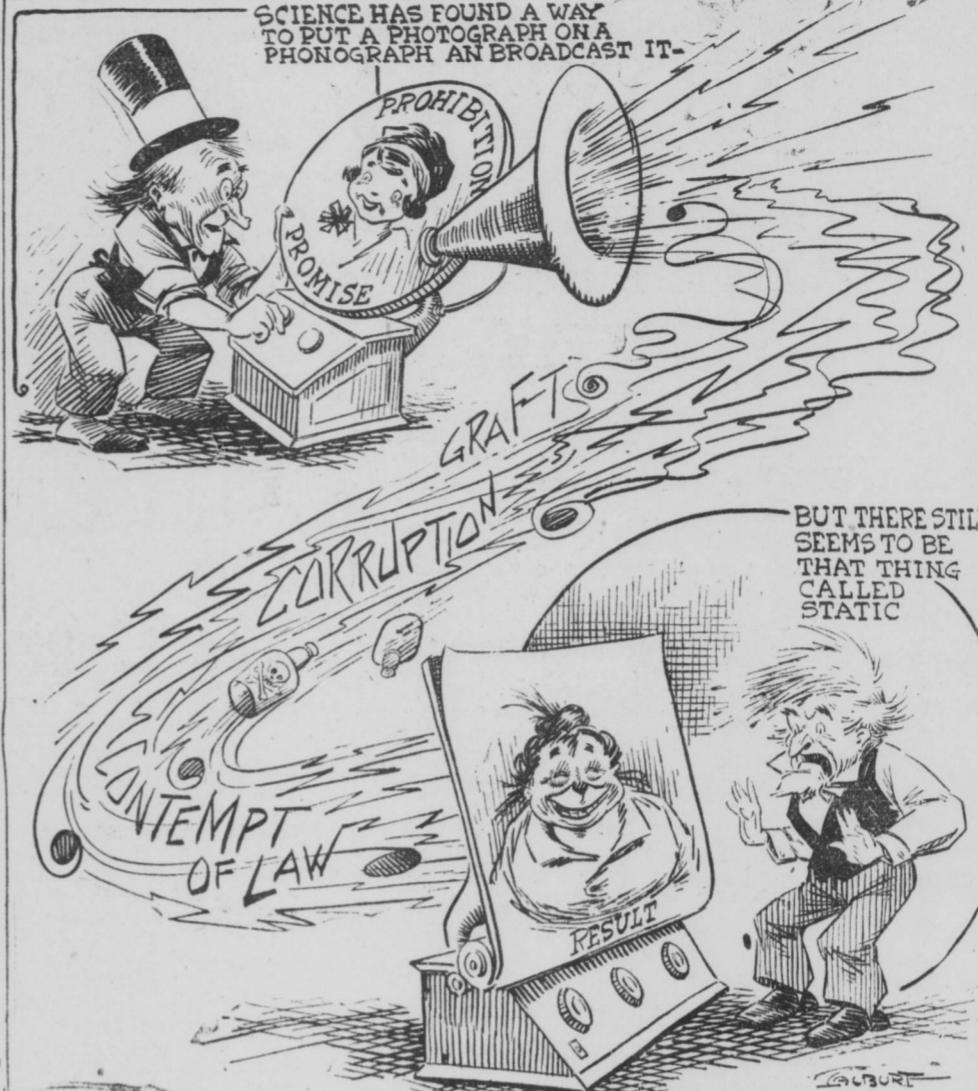
The Answers

1. Queen.

2. Establish a long suit.

3. (a) Yes. (b) Bidding is influenced by the score.

The Latest Miracle



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THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION

Christianity Revives Tired Souls

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