



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

Owned and published daily (except Sundays) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co. 214-220 W. Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Price 10 cents in Maryland County, 2 cents—10 cents a week, elsewhere, 3 cents—12 cents a week.

BOYD GURLEY,
Editor.ROY W. HOWARD,
President.FRANK G. MORRISON,
Business Manager.

PHONE—MAIN 3500.

FRIDAY, FEB. 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.

Past Time for Housecleaning

Instances multiply that indicate it is high time for the oil business to do a big and thorough job of housecleaning.

And it is up to the daddy of all oil companies to get busy first.

For the most brazen of all of the oil magnates who have defied the Government of the United States is Robert W. Stewart, chairman of the board of directors of the Standard of Indiana.

This insolent captain of one of the Nation's biggest industries has pushed the Supreme Court of the United States aside with an imperious wave of his hand, has told the Senate of the United States that information it seeks of the mysterious and dubious dealings of his company, Sinclair's company and the notorious Continental Trading Company, is none of the Senate's business.

Is Stewart's insolence the attitude of the oil industry?

Do Stewart and his fellow captains of oil really think their industry has grown so great that it is superior to the Government of this republic?

What is the attitude of John D. Rockefeller Jr. toward the Government which protects him in his business activities and makes the vast fortune he inherits safe from anarchy and governmental chaos?

Are other oil captains of industry going to give approval by their silence to Stewart's insolence? Have they any attitude toward Stewartism? If so, what is it?

If some intelligent and patriotic action is not taken and taken soon, the indictment of Robert W. Stewart will, in the minds of the people of this country, be taken to be an indictment of the oil industry as a whole. And Standard Oil will recover the malodorous odor that its political and industrial piracy earned for it not much more than a generation ago.

When a lawyer disgraces his profession, he is disgraced by his fellow members.

When a doctor fails to live up to the recognized standards of the medical organization, he becomes an outcast.

There is an organization that represents and has power to speak for the oil industry, as the American Bar Association and the American Medical Association speak for the lawyers and the doctors. It is the American Petroleum Institute.

Up to now that body has remained silent about the Sinclairs, the Dohenys, the O'Neils, the Blackmers and the rest of the black sheep of the industry.

The implications of such silence are hurting the reputation of a business that is one of the most important in the world, in which many great and good men are engaged, and one which should show decidedly more concern about industrial morality than is being shown.

Protecting the Public's Power

The Federal power commission again has directed the attention of Congress to its inability to protect the public interest in power sites because of inadequate personnel.

A letter from the commission points out that the Federal water power act establishes the policy of perpetual retention of power sites and that licenses for development are issued for a period of fifty years. At the end of that period the power development may be recaptured by the Federal Government on payment of the net investment.

It is necessary, the commission says, to have adequate records of investment, and these have not been obtainable because the force of accountants has been too small.

"Failure in the administration of these provisions means failure in the very foundation of the law," said the commission's letter.

"Since under the Federal water power act legitimate cost is the basis of accounting, or rate regulating, of security issues and of recapture, the commission can not protect the public interest in these matters unless it is in a position to make thorough investigation of the claims filed by its licensees."

Here is a situation that Congress must not fail to remedy. The expense of hiring an adequate staff for the commission will be a pittance compared to the tax the public will eventually pay if this is not done.

Politics and the Churches

While foes of prohibition may find some satisfaction in the falling off in efficiency in the three biggest Protestant churches, others who feel the need of religious influence on advancing civilization will consider it a serious matter that the Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist churches appear to be losing their grip.

The Men's Church League asked prominent clergymen in these three denominations this question: "What is the matter with the churches?" The replies were significant. The report, after a canvass of the replies, says:

Of the 9,299 Presbyterian churches, 3,269 had no converts last year; of 8,765 Baptist churches, 3,474 lacked converts in 1927; and of 16,591 Methodist churches, 4,651 went without attracting a single convert.

If the same ratio holds for all the Protestant churches in America, then there are 60,000 out of a total of 200,000 churches that failed to bring a single convert into the Christian faith last year.

Various explanations have been offered by as many leading churchmen, but none of them touches upon what many laymen will believe is the real reason for this situation. It so happens that the largest and most active backers of the political lobby known as the Anti-Saloon League are the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches.

They largely are responsible for making that organization the political arm of the Protestant evangelical churches, and hence must bear the chief responsibility for dragging the churches into the mire of bitter partisan politics.

Nor is a falling off in converts all the story. If there is any way of getting at the facts, it probably would be discovered that a vast number of members of these churches have lost some of their zeal, even though they have retained their church membership.

Turning over pulpits to political lobbyists who discuss politics instead of religion may have helped that kind of politics, but it hasn't helped religion, and it hasn't helped the churches that have gone into politics.

When our clerical friends learn that partisan politics has no place in the pulpit and that real Christians want their religion unadulterated, they will

have found out one thing that is the matter with some of the churches.

Certainly there is nothing wrong about Christianity. The spirit of its founder is just as vivid and forceful as it ever was, and there has been no diminution in the appeal to humanity of the gospel of love. But politics and controversial politics, at that, has brought into it too much of bigotry, intolerance and the anti-Christian gospel of hate.

This insolent captain of one of the Nation's biggest industries has pushed the Supreme Court of the United States aside with an imperious wave of his hand, has told the Senate of the United States that information it seeks of the mysterious and dubious dealings of his company, Sinclair's company and the notorious Continental Trading Company, is none of the Senate's business.

Is Stewart's insolence the attitude of the oil industry?

Do Stewart and his fellow captains of oil really think their industry has grown so great that it is superior to the Government of this republic?

What is the attitude of John D. Rockefeller Jr. toward the Government which protects him in his business activities and makes the vast fortune he inherits safe from anarchy and governmental chaos?

Are other oil captains of industry going to give approval by their silence to Stewart's insolence? Have they any attitude toward Stewartism? If so, what is it?

If some intelligent and patriotic action is not taken and taken soon, the indictment of Robert W. Stewart will, in the minds of the people of this country, be taken to be an indictment of the oil industry as a whole. And Standard Oil will recover the malodorous odor that its political and industrial piracy earned for it not much more than a generation ago.

When a lawyer disgraces his profession, he is disgraced by his fellow members.

When a doctor fails to live up to the recognized standards of the medical organization, he becomes an outcast.

There is an organization that represents and has power to speak for the oil industry, as the American Bar Association and the American Medical Association speak for the lawyers and the doctors. It is the American Petroleum Institute.

Up to now that body has remained silent about the Sinclairs, the Dohenys, the O'Neils, the Blackmers and the rest of the black sheep of the industry.

The implications of such silence are hurting the reputation of a business that is one of the most important in the world, in which many great and good men are engaged, and one which should show decidedly more concern about industrial morality than is being shown.

The answer to such tactics is for friends of Hoover or any other sincere candidate to place delegates before the voters who can be depended upon to represent honestly their sentiment. Let the rank and file of the Republican party in New York have something to say about what the party in convention shall do.

The uninstructed delegation is political trickery whose purpose is absolute control of New York's big vote, with somebody sitting in a presidential poker game in a midnight bedroom and the rank and file having no voice in the proceedings.

While they don't trot out a favorite son, as a handful of professional politicians in Ohio have done, they aim at the same thing—a delegation they can control as a vest pocket vote, to be cast for the man hand-picked by the bosses at another midnight bedroom caucus like the one Harry Daugherty manipulated in 1920.

This is the age of efficiency and should apply to these essential departments of our city government as well as other departments. Civil service, when applied properly, would not leave a man in the same rank for twelve years unless there is something wrong with him. The police department deals more directly with our citizens than any other department and it is on their actions and deeds that the average citizen bases his opinion of the efficiency of our city administration.

It seems to do no good to report the weak points of our police department, no one cares to hear of them. But they do want the world to know about the good points. There are ten items of inefficient points for every good one.

The streets of Indianapolis are being used for garages, thousands of cars are parked without lights, which endangers the lives of moving traffic.

The sheriff's office is unable to trace an arrest, a suspected murderer of a crime committed within the city limits.

Five homes were entered in the west part of our city last Sunday evening and when the emergency approachers they would have scared away any one who ever thought of being a crook, they made so much noise. They don't want to catch the crooks.

The writer knows of many other weak points of our police department if any one cares to know of them. Your truly,

E. M. SWARTZ,
President Sherman-Emerson Civic League.

A Dash for Culture

BY BRUCE CATTON

A generation or so ago, every newspaper editor used to retire into seclusion every so often, ponder dourly on the times for a space, and write an editorial entitled "Whither Are We Drifting?"

As far as can be learned, none of these long Jermains ever had any appreciable effect on the country's movements. But the habit of sitting down occasionally and meditating on our ultimate goal was a pretty good one, nevertheless. Even if you can't see it, it is a good idea to see where it is carrying you.

During the last few years one of the most marked traits of our civilization has been the tremendous growth of the average citizen's yen for culture.

High schools, colleges and universities have been jammed. Noted educators have publicly wondered how they ever were going to accommodate all the would-be students. City and state budgets for education have gone sky-rocketing.

Now is that all. There have sprung up, like mushrooms, hosts of organizations that seek to fill in, with a few easy lessons, any gaps in your culture. You can read a magazine without being implored to study French, to read Conrad, to enjoy the pick of the world's literary classics in homoeopathic doses, to get a working knowledge of the great philosophies, to steep yourself in everything from relativity to psychoanalysis.

All of this being so, it might pay us to sit down and ask ourselves the old-time editor's question—"Whither Are We Drifting?"

Now it is not an American trait to go for something that has no cash value. And this scramble for education is no exception. We seem to be struggling for "culture" so that we can better ourselves in business; we read of salesmen who got promotions because they could speak French, of advertising writers who forged ahead because they had read Thomas Hardy, of farm hands who progress to big city offices because they were familiar with Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.

The sort of thing isn't culture at all, and it is time we realized it.

One can be educated to one's finger tips and still lag far behind the uncouth man who doesn't know Plato from Ring Lardner. One can be versed in the world's greatest music and still be outstripped by a rival who never heard anything higher than a jazz band. Intimacy with Virgil won't necessarily increase one's earnings as a real estate salesman.

But culture does give one advantage. It broadens a man so that his enjoyment of life does not depend on a high salary. It gives him a rich reward, not by boosting his earning power, but by enabling him to get along without boosted earnings.

They largely are responsible for making that organization the political arm of the Protestant evangelical churches, and hence must bear the chief responsibility for dragging the churches into the mire of bitter partisan politics.

Nor is a falling off in converts all the story. If there is any way of getting at the facts, it probably would be discovered that a vast number of members of these churches have lost some of their zeal, even though they have retained their church membership.

Turning over pulpits to political lobbyists who discuss politics instead of religion may have helped that kind of politics, but it hasn't helped religion, and it hasn't helped the churches that have gone into politics.

Culture is worth acquiring, by all means. But it will not do you a bit of good if you go after it with your eye on the pay envelope.

BRIDGE ME ANOTHER

(Copyright, 1928, by The Ready Reference Publishing Company)

BY W. W. WENTWORTH

(Abbreviations: A—ace; K—king; Q—queen; J—jack; 6—any card lower than 10.)

1. What does initial bid of five in a minor suit denote?
2. What does initial bid of four in a major suit denote?
3. What does initial bid of three in a major suit denote?

The Answers

1. Ten probable tricks.
2. Eight sure tricks.
3. Seven sure tricks.

Times Readers Voice Views

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

To the Editor:

In The Times recently, under the title, "Questions and Answers," I note that Frederick M. Kirby makes statement in answer to the question, "What are the expressions used to distinguish between the two horses of a team?" He says that facing the same way as the team, the right horse is called the near horse, and the other the off horse. I am of the opinion that Mr. Kirby never has had anything to do with horses, as the horse on the left that he speaks about—always has been called the near horse instead of the off horse.

There are instances where the horse on the left is called the wheel horse or the lead horse, but he never has been called and is not the off horse. Please enlighten Mr. Kirby and if he can't get these questions and answers right, tell him I have a son—a very young man—who will be able to enlighten him in the future.

E. E. DAVIS,
Denison Hotel.

To the Editor: Some discussion has been had in reference to the recent proposed re-adoption of civil service for the police and fire departments. It was and still is the hope of the Federated Civic Clubs that the entire personnel of these departments will work under some feasible plan, this is from the department heads down.

When the last civil service commission was in effect several hundred men took examinations, approximately 100 passed and our present board of safety should feel obliged to appoint or advance these men as needed.

Also, we should not forget that the city statutes read that the police and fire departments must be under civil service.

Over Pertinax, who was so just and able a ruler that he was soon assassinated by the Praetorian guards; over the sale of the empire to Didius Julianus by these unscrupulous troops; over the civil wars that at last placed Septimus Severus upon the throne.

Over the tyranny of Caracalla, the usurpation of Macrinus, and the elegant insanity of Helagabalus; over Alexander Severus, Maximinus, Maximus, Balbinus, Philip, Decius, Gallus, Aemilianus, Valerian, Gallienus, Claudius, Constantius, Maxentius, and, in the fourth century, Constantine himself, who became the great Tiberius.

Over the nadir of Europe's recorded past; reading of them one almost acknowledges Gibbon's definition of history as "little more than the register of the crimes, follies and misfortunes of mankind."

WHAT were the causes of this decadence? Were the encompassing barbarians, reproducing their fertility of paupers who have nothing to lose, the essential and primary factor in the fall of Rome?

But they had been there for many centuries; doubtless the Romans, had they retained their vigor and their bravery, would have held them off, as Caesar planned, until they could be gradually absorbed into the civilization of the empire.

Five homes were entered in the west part of our city last Sunday evening and when the emergency approachers they would have scared away any one who ever thought of being a crook, they made so much noise. They don't want to catch the crooks.

The writer knows of many other weak points of our police department if any one cares to know of them. Your truly,

E. M. SWARTZ,
President Sherman-Emerson Civic League.

The Rules

1. The idea of letter golf is to change one word to another and do it in par, or a given number of strokes. Thus to change COW to HEN, in three strokes, COW, HOW, HEW, HEN.

2. You can change only one letter at a time.

3. You must have a complete word of common usage for each jump. Slang words and abbreviations don't count.

4. The order of letters can not be changed.

GOOD

NEWS