



# The Indianapolis Times

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

## Mussolini and the League

Benito Mussolini, the Peck's Bad Boy of Europe, has got the old world in hot water again. In fact, it is in a couple of hot kettles at the same time, one having been steamed up by the affair of five carloads of smuggled machine guns intercepted on the way from Italy to Hungary, the other fired by Austria's outburst against Italy's treatment of German minorities in the Italian Tyrol.

Thus today, with the meeting of its council less than a week off, the League of Nations is seeking how it can emerge from both messes with dignity to itself and such admonition to the offending countries as it thinks just or it can get away with.

And there's the rub. For while it may be fairly safe to rap Hungary or Austria over the knuckles, the Italy of Mussolini is something else again. Il Duce, it is said, does not care to be either investigated or spanked. Yet if reports are true, it is difficult to see how the League can get out of performing both the one and the other.

Five carloads of machine guns, the story goes, labeled machinery and consigned to Poland, were intercepted en route to Hungary. Poland says she never heard of the things, while further investigation is said to have demonstrated that the arms were not only of Italian origin, but were of Italian government origin, having been turned over to Italy by Austria after the armistice.

Then, as if this did not put a sufficiently grave aspect on the affair, the Hungarian government deliberately destroyed the evidence. It smashed the guns and sold the pieces as junk in the very face of the joint request of Jugo-Slavia, Checho-Slovakia and Rumania to the League that the whole thing be probed.

Europe is pretty much divided as to the course to follow. And the League is in difficulties. For it is obvious, if there is anything to the reports at all, that to allow Italy and Hungary to get away with this direct violation of the treaty of Trianon, not only scraps that treaty but the treaties of Versailles, St. Germain and all the rest as well.

If Italy and Hungary can snap their fingers at the treaties growing out of the World War, Germany and the rest can do it, too—and probably will.

Small wonder, then, that League officials are perturbed. They don't relish the idea of slapping Mussolini, not even on the wrist, for Benito has a way of coming back with a swift one to the chin.

The Italo-Austrian episode may or may not be just another flurry. Criticisms in the Austrian parliament of Italy's treatment of Germanic minorities in what is now the Italian Tyrol has caused an angry storm in Italy.

The two countries seem on the point of a diplomatic rupture. The hullabaloo may have been stirred up in Rome to distract attention from the machine guns, but that is pure surmise.

Still and all, the League council will meet next Monday at Geneva, and those interested will not have to wait long for the next chapter of the Peck's Bad Boy of European diplomacy.

## Curbing the Lobbyists

Commandable as its object may be, Senator Caraway's bill to cure lobbying in Washington shoots wide of the mark.

Senator Caraway's plan for requiring lobbyists to register with Congress and disclose their purpose and connections, under penalty of fine or jail for failure to do so, might be practicable if anyone legally could define what a lobbyist is.

In other words, where do the perfectly legitimate actions of a lawyer or a witness end and where do the machinations of a lobbyist begin? Who can draw the line?

Also, what can be done about the more subtle and insidious "social lobby" that snubs the wives and daughters of Congressmen who happen to vote the wrong way?

Senator Caraway's plan to have lobbyists register with Congress may bring forward the petty grafters who operate paper "associations" for the dissemination of various sorts of propaganda in Washington, such associations being designed for personal profit. But these men seldom, if ever, influence legislation.

The real lobbyist usually is a polished lawyer or a technical expert or an old friend of a Senator, trading on his acquaintance, who would be the last to admit that he was lobbying. And the distinction is so difficult that it would be almost impossible to prove.

The power lobby that defeated the Walsh resolution was of this character. Its leaders were men who appeared openly, in the perfectly legitimate role of lawyers or witnesses. Its more subtle agents were men brought to Washington from nearly every State in the Union, many of them old friends or college mates of particular Senators, who capitalized their intimate connections for the powers of persuasion.

It was the fellows from "back home," perhaps wielding no small political influence, who really did the work of the lobby.

The popular conception of a lobby as attended by bribery and corruption is a mistake. The modern lobbyist's methods are intimate and subtle and require no such measures.

Money may be spent lavishly for entertainment and perhaps there may be a gentle hint of political punishment back home, but who can prove these Washington visitors are lobbyists? And they would be the last to admit it.

Bribery and corruption may be punished, but Senator Caraway's bill or no other bill can cure the intimate and subtle type of lobbying that "gets" its man through friendship or political expediency.

The only real cure lies within the consciences of members of Congress and the test is moral honesty.

## Airplane Safety

The Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics predicts that the time is not far distant when absolute safety in airplanes will be attained.

Even now the airplane is a relatively safe conveyance. Given a good plane and a qualified pilot, with decent weather conditions, there is little risk in flying. But the public is still a bit slow about trusting itself to the air.

In the near future, however, according to the Guggenheim Fund's experts, airplanes will be almost foolproof. The development of commercial and pleasure aviation that will follow attainment of such a condition is a matter for the imagination to dwell on. It will be tremendous.

## Hoover Not a Grandstander

There may be some people left who have a hangover notion about what a statesman ought to be. They may think he ought to wear always a long tailed coat, a turnover collar and long flowing tie, expel words from his insides like a spouting volcano, and give a vigorous imitation of a windmill in a gale while gesticulating with his arms, hands and hair—and his voice bellowing like that of the bull of Bashan.

But—other times, other manners. The old time spellbinder is out of date. Nowadays the successful statesman doesn't think with his lungs or help progress on her way by making a noise like a gas well. He is more apt to be calm and deliberate, quiet-voiced and convincingly earnest than noisily oratorical.

Herbert Hoover belongs to the modern type. Instead of saying things, he does them—and doesn't pause for "loud cheers" and "enthusiastic applause." He is an engineer—builder. Instead of throwing bricks he lays them in an orderly fashion, one on top of the other.

When he starts in on an engineering job he has visualized the finished job and laid out his work in orderly manner before he tackles it. In other words, he knows what he is doing and takes more interest in doing the job than in talking about it.

Politically, Hoover isn't a grandstander. He isn't strong on the ballyhoo. As a political promiser he probably would be a failure. If he tried to shoot the bunk he'd probably foofie his put. And he isn't enough of a political horse-trader to hit it off with the politicians whose main idea about statesmanship is jobs.

This may explain why some of the party bosses rather would have somebody else in the White House—somebody who would play the game, and see that the Government was administered for the special benefit of "the boys" and the big campaign contributors.

But there are others—millions of 'em—who think that being President of the United States is a mighty big job; and that a man who has the constructive mind of an engineer is better fitted for its important duties than the old-fashioned, out-of-date grandstanding spellbinder who talks big and performs little.

And they don't care a darn what party tag or label he wears.

## Old Familiar Tactics

Candidates Curtis, Lowden and Watson have as much right to enter the Ohio primary as either Willis or Hoover, of course. It is an open primary, or ought to be.

Ohio Republican voters should have the opportunity to send delegates to the national convention who will support the candidacy of the man the voters think will be the strongest and best candidate, no matter what State he happens to hail from.

But Candidates Curtis, Lowden and Watson have not entered as first choice candidates. They appear to have entered into an agreement with Senator Willis, under the terms of which Willis is a first-choice candidate and they trail in as second-choice candidates.

When Ohio friends of Hoover sought an agreement with Senator Willis that meant Hoover entering as a second-choice candidate, Willis wouldn't stand for it at all. He insisted that he must be the first and only choice, and that Ohio's solid vote should be cast for him until he ordered otherwise.

That is what made it imperative that Hoover be entered as a first-choice candidate in the Ohio primary. Willis brought on the fight himself by his arrogant assumption of the right to have Ohio all to himself, and without giving Republican voters any voice in the selection of delegates.

His position now in inviting Curtis, Lowden and Watson into the primary as second-choice candidates looks very much like a coalition of candidates representing interests that are or will be for anybody to beat Hoover.

It smacks of the kind of politics that led to the hand picking of a presidential candidate in a hotel midnight bedroom conference of party bosses and campaign contributors who wanted something for their money.

In Ohio the bosses have combined to beat Hoover, and take their chances on which will be the bedroom choice, once Hoover is out of the way.

## Babbitt Can Stand It

BY BRUCE CATTON

Andrew Mauris, scholarly Frenchman who recently visited the United States, writes sadly that the American has no home life.

The average American, he says, arises early and hurries to his office. He comes home at 7 in the evening, eats a hurried dinner and dashes off to the movies. "In general," laments M. Mauris, "the American home sees very little of its inmates."

To which we can only say "poppycock"—adding, perhaps, "and if so, what of it?"

People from Europe seem unable to scan the American scene with equanimity. They are stunned by our "brutal industrialism," they are aghast at our public indifference to politics; they are pained by our mania for money—and money, you know, means so little to Europeans that they are voluntarily coming forward to pay the few odd billions they borrowed of us in the war; or, like M. Mauris, they shed tears at the disintegration of our homes.

And oddly enough, we take them seriously. We listen to them. Let a man from Europe in his voice in criticism and there will arise, from this side the Atlantic, a corresponding chorus of "Alas! Too true."

It is about time that we gave our foreign critics the go-by. Not one in a hundred has anything to offer us; for this reason; the United States and Europe are farther apart, culturally, than ever before, and the gap is widening.

Europe is living in one civilization and we are living in another, and the two have almost nothing in common. Most Europeans do not criticize us intelligently for the simple reason that the only standards by which they can measure us are out of date.

There is need in this country a revival of the old, flamboyant, let-the-eagle-scream spirit of cocky youth. Does Europe sneer at us for bragging about our factories? Fair enough; we shall continue to brag. Our factories are the symbol of our civilization, and our civilization is developing.

Does Europe laugh at our Babbitts? Babbitt can stand it, for he is becoming a world conqueror. Is Europe pained by the "crudeness" of our cities? Well, when Paris and London have stagnated into decay, Chicago and Atlanta and Houston and the rest will have time to take on a few of the finer cultural graces.

Drop the inferiority complex, by all means. Europe means little to us; her criticisms mean almost nothing at all. We are hardly on the threshold of our greatest development. Let us be proud.

## 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—When you hold three honors in sequence, two in hand and one in dummy, what honor should be played first?

2—When you hold: spades—X X; hearts—10 X X X; clubs—X diamonds—X X X, what should you bid in answer to partner's informative double of opponent's one-heart bid?

3—First hand bids no-trump. Second hand bids two hearts. Third hand doubles. Is double informative or business?

The Answers

1—One from the hand.

2—Two clubs.

3—Business.

Times Readers Voice Views

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

To the Editor:

Pupils in the Finger Lakes region of central New York, in country school and town, have set out to restore the tie between former residents of the lake country and their native home. We're sending greetings to men and women, scattered far, who have gone to other fields, but still in fancy wander back to scenes of old.

Though they be strangers, we pupils in our English classes want to write them a letter, just to remind them that a beaten trail of welcome leads back to the Finger Lakes and that we of the younger generation have a common love with them for the place they once called home.

We are not trying to sell these native sons anything or to advertise anything. It's just our effort to establish by our letters the link of sentiment between those who reside in this region and those who have said good-bye.

We do not know who or where these native sons are, so I'm writing to you as other pupils are to other editors, to ask if you will kindly give space for this letter of the substance of it in your columns.

Some former residents of the lake country may read it and for old times sake send me their names and addresses, that we may write greetings.

We pupils are trying to locate former residents of Cayuga, Chemung, Onondaga, Ontario, Seneca, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins and Yates counties.

We believe that through our letters in the newspapers of the country we can find them. Will you kindly help me to reach residents of your city who once came from our lake country?

All I want to know is their names and addresses and the town from which they came. Gratefully yours,

JOHN L. LAWLER,  
58 Capitol St., Auburn, N. Y.

To the Editor: My brother, Loren Cooper, 26, was disabled permanently as a result of an accident at Henry Ford's Detroit factory five years ago. Is there not some way that his case can be brought to the attention of Henry Ford personally and some financial relief provided?

He had worked as an inspector for Ford. In October, 1923, he fell four stories in an elevator, resulting in severing of his spinal cord. He has lost use of his legs and is unable to work.

For eight months he was in hospitals, but medical science was unable to cure him. He received \$7,000 workers' compensation, more than \$2,000 being deducted from that by the Ford company, which bought him a home at Hope, Ind.

The remainder was paid him in \$14 weekly installments, but that means of income was exhausted in January. Now it is necessary for his wife to work to support him and a son, Ralph, 6.

He requires constant attention. I and my mother have made several trips to Detroit to obtain an audience with Mr. Ford, but we never have been able to reach him. All we were able to get were promises.

Mr. Ford's secretary refuses to acknowledge special delivery letters and registered mail. Is there not some way The Times can do anything for anything?

We would be so grateful for anything The Times can do. Sincerely,

ERNEST COOPER,  
715 N. Noble St.

How old is Mary Garden, the singer?

Fifty years old. She was born Feb. 20, 1877.

Is Victor Varconi, the motion picture actor an Italian?

He is Hungarian by birth.

Is Hutchins an English or a French name? What does it mean?

It is English but derived from the French name Huchon (brought to England during the Norman conquest). Huchon is a French diminutive form of the common name Hugh, which is Teutonic and means "mind," "spirit." The literal translation of Hutchins is "belonging to or son of little Hugh."

Which countries in the world have the largest merchant marine?

Great Britain leads with 19,399,797 gross tons and the United States is next with 14,878,761 gross tons.

Are turtles ever white?

White turtles are found among all species. They are albinos.

Could Congress confer on the President of the United States the power of pardon persons convicted in State courts?

It would require an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to give that power to the President.

Who is the American minister to Paraguay?

George L. Kreck.

Does the cotton-mouth water moccin bite under water?

The Biological Survey