



The Indianapolis Times

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BOYD GURLEY, Editor.

ROY W. HOWARD, President.

FRANK G. MORRISON, Business Manager.

PHONE—MAIN 3500.

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

Hoover, the One Way Out

While a great majority of voters are participants in Democrats or Republicans, "belonging" to one party or the other, there has been growing gradually in this country a large number of voters who don't "belong" to either party, but want the best there is in both parties to belong to them.

Probably a better way of putting it would be to say that they want the best there is in all parties to belong to the country.

In selecting candidates for the presidency, the rank and file in the past have had little to say. Organization politicians have done the picking and the voters had merely a choice between two hand-selected candidates. Sometimes it meant only a choice between two evils.

In advocating the nomination of Hoover by the Republicans and Smith by the Democrats, the Scripps-Howard newspapers sought to bring the influence of the rank and file to bear on the conventions long in advance of the selection of delegates. Our purpose was to give the people a choice between the best men in the parties instead of between the worst.

Developments since that stand was taken have justified, we believe, the wisdom of it. There might have been enough public indignation over the oil scandal even in 1924 to have defeated the Republican party that year if the Democratic party hadn't messed itself up so badly in the Madison Square convention as to make the people believe it wasn't worth while to turn to that party for relief.

And Harding's death brought Coolidge to the front, and he hadn't been muddied up by the oil revelations or any other scandal.

But now the oil scandal is worse than ever. On top of it has come the rotteness in Indiana, and the connection of the Republican national committee with the oil gang. And indications point to the nomination by the Democrats of Governor Smith, against whom there has never been a breath of scandal throughout his long public career.

So it appears that if the Republican party is to make a serious bid for public confidence, it must discard the entire gang of professional political bosses, steer clear of another "bedroom conference" and nominate a man whose character is such that the scandals can't touch him.

In other words, the Republican party must clean its own doorstep or have it cleaned by the Democrats.

That is why the sentiment for Hoover among the great body of patriotic, honest and non-professional Republicans has been growing. They realize that they can't take a chance on such men as Lowden or Dawes or any candidate of that type—in fact, on anybody who might be the choice of the bosses and the big campaign contributors.

If they hope to hold public confidence, they will have to have a candidate whose character can stand the searchlight; and one who, in event of his nomination and election, can be depended upon to clean house from within.

Hoover is their opportunity, and as against Smith their only chance.

The Importance of Ohio

Death of Senator Frank B. Willis scarcely changes the importance of that State's decision in the pre-convention presidential campaign. What Ohio does in the April 24 primaries will be of national significance, it is certain.

It was agreed by political observers the day Herbert Hoover announced his purpose to contest for delegates in Ohio that if he should obtain as many as twenty out of the State's fifty-one delegates, it would constitute a real victory and a demonstration of his popular strength. This remains the case.

Willis candidates for delegates still are candidates. They still have the Willis State, district and county organizations. They still have—in the back of their minds—many of them, the purpose to exert their strength for Lowden or for Dawes, depending on which emerges as the real candidate for this combination.

And the Lowden-Dawes combination is now free to fight in Ohio in all the ways that may seem best to the astute politicians directing its efforts.

While Willis himself remained a factor, the Dawes-Lowden forces operated under a certain restraint, for Willis was a real candidate in his own right. He was more than football interference for a hidden candidate. His position, in that regard, was quite different from that of his Indiana colleague, Senator Watson.

The Dawes-Lowden maneuvering labored under the handicap of Willis' sincere determination to carry through the campaign in his own way. That handicap is gone. Workers for Lowden and Dawes now are in position to make the kind of fight against Hoover that they may wish to make.

The result will be interesting—and important. It is our belief that Herbert Hoover will be the victor.

Crime and the Individual

Judge Frank Murphy of Detroit, speaking before a group of club women recently had some rather pertinent things to say about the crime situation.

Discussing the great growth in arrests and convictions in late years, the jurist said:

"The solution, if we are to keep crime down to the minimum, is not in law but in developing in the hearts and minds of the people those ideals and capacities that teach self-control. This is the task of the homes, the schools and the churches."

Rather well said, we think. We can't reform ourselves by starting to work from the outside in. Every betterment that we ever hope to get must begin with the individual.

Behind the Chinese Terror

As the Chinese war begins to take on new life with the approach of better fighting weather, interventionist propaganda likewise blossoms forth in all its springtime glory.

Soon the bugaboo of Bolshevism will come down off the shelf, receive a new coat of scarlet paint, and start to do its stuff, warning us in a suspicious manner that the United States would better join the other powers in an expedition to pacify, or punish China.

Not that the Chinese situation has improved during the winter months. Far from it. It has become ghastly beyond words. Before us is the latest North China Herald to arrive from Shanghai and from it; at the risk of shocking the reader, we will quote—for the sake of the issues involved—these few lines from its Swatow correspondent.

"...One tells of disembodied corpses left lying for days in the streets, none being allowed to touch them and eaten by the dogs; of men who had their ears and strips of flesh cut off and fried and eaten before their eyes before they were dispatched...."

But that is enough? Quite! The sensibilities flinch and sicken, and yet this is from the first page of a conservative, even reactionary, British weekly which goes into the best British and American homes in the Orient.

Shocking? Yes. But it is intended to shock, for, we are told, this is "The Communist reign of terror" at work in South China.

Now are our feelings greatly soothed when we find elsewhere in the paper that anti-Communist forces also are at work, slaughtering thousands, old and young, men, women and even children, many of them innocent, by way of retaliation.

Communism? Anti-Communism? What unmixed rot! The masses of the Chinese have no more conception of what Communism means than so many sheep in a pasture. Nor have they any better idea of what democracy is, or a republic.

All they know is that they come into the world like guinea pigs, work like cattle, suffer like beasts, go half-naked and half-starved through their allotted terms on earth, then are snuffed out in some God or man-made pestilence or other. And that is all.

Here is a vast country of 400,000,000 dumbly yearning people, exploited cruelly and rapaciously by heartless military satraps, backed by the great foreign powers, some for the trade concessions they can get and some in the hope of territorial expansion at China's expense.

Here and there is another handful of Chinese, educated, honest and well-intentioned, trying to lift the masses up, but, thanks to the system, with the odds against them well nigh insuperable. The bulk of the people, poor wretches, ignorant beyond belief and still living in the Middle Ages, behave like rats in a trap as their tormentors pock firebrands at them first from one side of their cage, then another.

Who can blame them if they trample and kill one another trying to get out?

Beyond peradventure the situation in China is desperate. But what is the outside world contributing to make it better? Little besides a taunting display of force now and then as the great powers arm or subsidize this faction or that to keep the country forever in hot water.

Doubtless Soviet Russia has her finger in the pie, but so have the other nations, stuffing the natives with theories they can't understand or suppressing their natural aspirations for reasons beyond their grasp.

Civilization—so-called—has a heavy responsibility in China. China needs much patient help and without it she will go to smash.

But if she goes, she'll likely carry others with her, for there is no telling what would happen if her exploiters begin to quarrel over the spoils.

David Dietz on Science

The Atom Is Exploded

No. 13

THE discovery of radium completely revolutionized all scientific theories as to the nature of matter. Every theory in the field of physics and chemistry advanced since 1900 has been influenced by the discovery of radium.

For until radium was discovered it was assumed that the atom was the smallest thing in existence and that the atom was invisible.

Chemical compounds are composed of minute particles called molecules. These molecules, in turn, are made up of the atoms of the chemical elements. For example, a molecule of water is composed of two atoms of hydrogen and one of oxygen.

But there was no evidence that the atoms could be split up into smaller particles.

The discovery of radium, however, furnished just that evidence. For it was soon found out that the powerful rays emitted by radium were the result of the disintegration of the atoms which composed the radium.

This opened up an entirely new field of exploration. It meant that the atom was not the smallest thing in the universe.

The atom itself was composed of smaller particles. That smaller particle came to be known as the electron. But many scientists did much important work before the electron was isolated.

It was found, first of all, that radium gave off three rays which behaved differently.

These rays were named from the first three letters of the Greek alphabet, the alpha rays, the beta rays and the gamma rays.

Experiments eventually showed that the alpha and beta rays were not true rays but were minute particles. The gamma rays turned out to be true rays like X-rays but with wavelength far shorter than that of the shortest X-rays.

The alpha particles were shown to be electrically charged positive, while the beta particles were shown to possess a negative charge.

Today we know that the beta particles are negative electrons, while the alpha particles are identical with the central portions of nuclei of the atoms of helium.

We find many great names in the list of those who contributed to our understanding of the electron. Sir J. Thomson, Sir Ernest Rutherford, Dr. Niels Bohr and Prof. R. A. Millikan are four of the more prominent names in that list.

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BRIDGE ME ANOTHER

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BY W. W. WENTWORTH

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

1. What should you bid initially when you hold Spades-X X X; hearts-A A X X; diamonds-A K; clubs-A K X X X?

2. When you hold a sound four-card major suit and a sound five-card minor suit, which should you mention first?

3. Does a singleton in initial declarer's hand add any value to the hand?

The Answers

1. No bid.

2. The four-card major suit.

3. Hardly ever.

Times Readers Voice Views

The name and address of the author must accompany every contribution, but names of persons not exceeding 200 words will receive preference.

Editor Times:

A few days ago our postmaster (Robert H. Bryson) had an article in your paper headed, "Postman Saves Four Miles Daily by Walking Laws." In the article he does not mention that it is a great saving to the Government, but he said it is taking a great hardship off the carriers.

The fact is that we work eight hours a day and by walking over every carrier's lawn we do not save ourselves anything. If we go across the lawns and save fifteen or twenty minutes as a day this way, then as soon as an inspector goes around with us and finds us working seven hours and forty-five minutes, he will recommend that fifteen minutes' more territory be added to said route. In this way the hardship would be on the carrier who walked across the lawns.

We have the postmaster's orders to stay off lawns and avoid so many complaints, but at the same time he expects us to cross until the postman has given the carriers orders to stay off lawns and also can ask the carrier for an explanation as to why he walked on the lawn. If he wishes, he can demand the carrier for disobeying orders.

If he really wishes to save the carrier some extra steps and take off a hardship, I will show him how. It is up to the local postmaster of each city to let the letter carriers off Saturday afternoon, if he wishes.

But that is not the only reason I know of because he thinks more of his few friends in the Chamber of Commerce who want their mail on Saturday afternoon, than he does of the 327 carriers who would like very much to have, and rightfully deserve, their Saturday.

When we do get a legal holiday, and should be off all day, he makes us work half-day on the holiday and then gives us a half-day compensatory time some other day. This gives us two half-days off, instead of a holiday and if you wish to go to any place, you can't because you have only a half-day at a time.

If one were less gilded than Abigail, and could not fashion fair imagery or tender speech, he might, if rich, pay a jester or fool to provide entertainment at his feasts and amusements; and even the poorest could pick up these songs or quips out of the air as they travelled from tongue to tongue across the continent. So Abigail, and again and again, must often have heard him from the minstrels in the streets, who never guessed that this gray-haired priest had composed their melodies.

Song birds who, armed only with a lute and tune, tramped from town to town, from lady to lady, and from court to court, singing of fair women and brave men.

There were many species of this carefree genus; in the far North they were stern skalds, inditing endless strife; and only a Stoic could bear it cheerfully.

Truth, which we set so bravely, seldom rewards us with loveliness; we look at it a moment in dismay, and then fly back to the castles which imagination builds. As long as the earth is imperfect men will write poetry.

The earth was unquestionably imperfect in the days of Abigail, and therefore Abigail was wise enough to be not only a philosopher, but a troubadour; doubtless he was happier when he sang songs of undying love to Heloise, or pious fealty to the Virgin Mother, than when he meditated on the real nature of the world and man.

If one were less gilded than Roland, and could not fashion fair imagery or tender speech, he might, if rich, pay a jester or fool to provide entertainment at his feasts and amusements; and even the poorest could pick up these songs or quips out of the air as they travelled from tongue to tongue across the continent. So Abigail, and again and again, must often have heard him from the minstrels in the streets, who never guessed that this gray-haired priest had composed their melodies.

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