



The Indianapolis Times

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

Sightseeing

For two months the editor of this paper looked upon the historic and artistic treasures of Italy and France.

He looked upon Mussolini as he sat in his capacity of five members of the cabinet, which means dictatorship, as he opened a parliament composed of those who did nothing, said nothing and wrote nothing but what he dictated.

He traveled in trains patrolled by soldiers whose chief duty it was to see that even in the moving cars no word of criticism was uttered against government by force.

He saw the ruins of ancient Rome, the spots where men have triumphed for a brief hour of history and then passed on, forgotten.

He went into the eaves where Nero listened to the Cuman Sybil and where Dante, in his mad love, wandered in search of his Beatrice, believing that he could rescue her from the journey across the Styx.

He saw the work of great dreamers, immortal in canvas and in marble.

He rode over highways that had lasted for centuries. He visited the spots where civilizations have risen and then fallen to decay.

He saw countries ruled by soldiers. He saw men fear to speak. He lived in a land where protest must be less than whisper and where men disappear into the cells of prisons for daring to be men.

Everywhere, there was pride in the monuments, pride in the history, pride in the beauty of historic treasure.

It was all so interesting, very interesting. It was so easy to understand, easy for the guides to explain.

Sightseeing in Indianapolis, on return, is also interesting. But it is so hard to understand.

What would a guide say were he to wander into the State House and after pointing to the dome, begin to show the sources of pride?

What would he say when he pointed to the office of the Governor? Would he say that here we have the only man in all history who has headed a great State and whose title to the office and indeed to his own liberty, rests upon the fact that he successfully hid the evidence of his crime for a period of two years?

There, indeed, is something to be proud of. That truly is distinctively the possession of the State. When pitying the people of Italy, who must either whisper or disappear, for their lack of courage to face a firing squad, to defend their citizenship, what shall be said of a State which consents to rest under the shame of being governed by a man who escaped a cell by a plea that the statute of limitations had run against his crime?

There are distinctions that are at least not to be envied.

There are other things in the State House, of course, which would prove interesting to the visitor.

Instead of original letters of dead men, there are official files which are rapidly becoming quite as ancient and quite as venerable.

There is the record, for instance, of the case against the head of the Anti-Saloon League, charged with attempting to use his political influence to terrorize a court, which still awaits decision. Perhaps some local guide can explain to an inquisitive traveler, or even inquisitive citizen, a reason for delay in a decision in a land where speedy justice is guaranteed to every citizen and where no man should rest under such an imputation.

The primaries will be held early in May.

The Ohio Game Goes On

The determination of supporters of the late Senator Willis to go on with the fight in Ohio won't surprise anybody who understands Ohio politics, and particularly, the kind of politics of some of the professionals who pretended to be for Willis.

They are eminently "practical," so practical in fact that they gathered together at a funeral to arrange their plans to carry on; and they have made plain what this newspaper has claimed right along—that some of the most enthusiastic supporters of Willis were not sincere for him at all, but were using his popularity in Ohio to get delegates who would cast a few complimentary ballots for the favorite son and then get back of the bedroom, midnight choice.

And they hoped it would be Dawes.

If they really were interested in Republican harmony and victory at the coming election, they might gracefully have joined forces with the Republican rank and file of Ohio and helped elect a solid Hoover delegation to the national convention.

Their policy is a selfish policy, which means, practically, rule or ruin. They don't think they can run Hoover. So they join the favorite son crowd of other States and will make a fight for delegates who will play the game of first blocking Hoover, and then picking a candidate in secret conference—something the people won't stand for this year so submissively as they did in 1920.

The criticism does not apply to those of the rank and file of Ohio Republicanism who were sincerely supporting Willis and hoping for his nomination at Kansas City. It applies to Carmi Thompson, Harry Daugherty and others who were trying to play the game of 1920 and were for Willis only as a means to an end.



Synthetic Theories

No. 18

SCIENCE today is going through one of the most interesting phases in its history. It might be termed a phase of synthesis or perhaps a phase of readjustment.

What is happening is that two theories developed in entirely different parts of the field of science suddenly turn into each other. Apparently they are antagonistic. It looks as though one or both must be wrong.

But along comes a genius who evolves a new theory by which the other two are reconciled and by which a little more of the marvelous nature of the universe is revealed.

Such a theory is the new Schrödinger wave mechanics, the last word in scientific theories and one which, in the opinion of many authorities, brings us a little closer to understanding the nature of the

physical universe.

Four important theories have been developed in the last twenty-five years. We must bear these in mind if we are to understand wave mechanics, for wave mechanics is built upon them.

The first one is the Bohr theory of the atom. According to this theory, every atom is a miniature solar system. There is a central nucleus composed of a mixture of positive and negative electrons. Other negative electrons revolve around this nucleus like planets revolving around the sun.

The second theory is the quantum theory. According to this theory, radiant energy, like light, X-rays, the gamma rays of radium and so on, are made up of little driblets or bullets of energy each called a quantum.

The third is the Einstein theory. According to this theory, space and time are united into a four-dimensional universe or space-time. Space-time is wrapped by the presence of matter. Gravitation is the manifestation of this warping or curving of space-time and measurements of length and time vary with the amount of warping or curving.

The fourth is the theory of the equivalence of mass and energy. According to this theory, mass and energy are merely different manifestations of some more fundamental entity and it is believed that under the proper conditions mass or matter can be converted into energy or energy back into mass. This theory has its start in the work of James Clark Maxwell, who first pointed out the nature of light.

We shall see next how the theory of wave mechanics was built upon these foundation stones and what the theory means.

Questions and Answers

You can get an answer to any answerable question of fact or information by writing to Frank G. Morrison, General Editor, Indianapolis Times, Washington Bureau, 1324 New York Ave., Washington, D. C., enclosing a stamp for reply. Medical and legal advice cannot be given, nor can extensive research be done. All other questions will receive a personal reply. Unsigned requests will not be answered. All letters are confidential. You are cordially invited to make use of this free service as often as you please.

EDITOR.

The Invisible Party Line

The partisan conscience is unusually elastic this year in California. The explanation of a largely increased Democratic registration is that thousands of Republicans registered as Democrats so they can take a hand in a real fight. Hoover's victory at the Republican primary being taken for granted.

In Frisco, Democrats are jubilant, because they think it means that Republicans want to vote for Smith. But in drier sections is may work the other way around. You never can tell.

As there has been a tremendous growth in the business of growing wine grapes since prohibition, the growers may join bootleggers, the Anti-Saloon League, and others who find profit in prohibition and follow the leadership of Evangelist McAdoo and the hosts of righteousness.

Anyhow, no matter which candidates benefit by the switch, it is interesting to note the ease with which Republicans and Democrats slip across the invisible line that divides the two old parties.

Probably no one finds that he feels any different or suffers any violent change in his political convictions when he crosses the line. Even scientists couldn't find the difference between Democrat and Republican, while the difference between such Republicans as Senators Norris and Smoot and such Democrats as Smith and McAdoo is visible to the naked eye.

But it is a sign of growing political health, because it means more independent and intelligent voting.

Big Bill Tells 'Em

"So long as there's prohibition, there'll be pineapples," declared Big Bill Thompson, in an interview explaining Chicago crime.

"Pineapples," it should be explained, is thieves' language for bombs. The mayor spoke of the parties who "cook alcohol" and of the "dime" who didn't "come through."

These phrases refer to the practice of rendering potable the denatured alcohol of trade, and the collection of bribes and graft for protection of the illicit industry. The "dime" is the party who figures as go-between.

When a "dime" collects and does not give the protection promised, he is, according to the ethics of the underworld, "bumped off," that is, assassinated.

What the eminent Bill intended to say was what has been intimated from time to time in these columns, namely, that prohibition has created a lucrative industry which is beyond the law and that the disputes in that industry are settled out of court.

There is the pineapple on the back porch, the gun-man who shoots from cover without warning, the machine gun, the blackjack and other implements by which one man imposes his will upon another.

Mayor Thompson speaks as one having intimate knowledge of these matters and we are glad to have his corroboration. If asked for a way out, it might be that Mayor Thompson also would suggest following what the Canadians have done.

Thank You, Mr. Morrow

Announcement from Mexico City that the Mexican and United States Governments have at last reached full agreement on the long-winded oil problem is as encouraging a bit of news as has been printed in months.

In the past, the oil problem has always arisen to cloud the relations between the two nations. If it has finally been disposed of with satisfaction to both sides, as seems evident, the greatest barrier to harmony has been removed.

To United States Ambassador Dwight Morrow and President Calles of Mexico, go the sincere thanks of both nations for having found a solution. They have measurably advanced the cause of peace in the new world.

David Dietz on Science

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The Only Practice He's Had!



THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION

Dante Finds Peace From Passions

Written for The Times by Will Durant

ST. Bernard had preached the reality of hell fire with sadistic severity; St. Thomas Aquinas had written, "The blessed in glory will have no compassion on the damned, for that would impugn God's justice."

Even Beatrice, for whose beauty and kindness we have waited some sixty-seven canons, turns out to be a frigid spouse of conscious virtue and Noli me tangere. Do-not-touch-me, loneliness; she dares not smile says Dante, with the preciosity of the troubadours, lest she be shrivelled up in the brilliance that would come upon her; and her last words to Dante are a ruthless denunciation of his sins.

It is a little too perfect, and we long for the warmth and vivacity of hell. Shelly differs from us: "Dante's apotheosis of Beatrice," he says, "and the gradations of his own love and her loneliness by which, as by steps, he feigns himself to be ascended to the throne of the supreme cause, is the most glorious imagination of modern poetry."

So DANTE rises through successive planets and heavens to the gates of heaven; our earthly life, as Schopenhauer argued, gives us more material for a description of hell than a description of perfect life.

Even Beatrice, as finding peace from her sins, turns out to be a frigid spouse of conscious virtue and Noli me tangere. Do-not-touch-me, loneliness; she dares not smile says Dante, with the preciosity of the troubadours, lest she be shrivelled up in the brilliance that would come upon her; and her last words to Dante are a ruthless denunciation of his sins.

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