



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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

Unearth the Frauds

Repeated charges in the Indianapolis News and the Indianapolis Star that the Hoover forces and managers in this State used money corruptly to purchase votes in what they term the "Negro sections of the city" should be investigated to the limit.

The people have the right to have their ballots counted and to be protected from competition at the polls with a purchased vote.

That the Hoover following was very largely on the side of the forces opposed to a continuation of corruption makes it even more necessary that these charges be investigated.

At the same time there should be an inquiry into all the election precincts in Indianapolis and the methods used by the political machine to obtain what votes were cast for Watson and those in his combination.

The changing of voting places on the eve of election may not have been criminal, but that act of the machine was a deliberate attempt to keep voters away from the polls and permit the machine to win.

By no stretch of the imagination could these changes have been made to aid those who were opposed to the Watson-Coffin organization.

The totals returned in many precincts are suspicious upon their face. The returns were made by election officials named by Coffin and in all cases sympathetic with the Watson candidacy.

If the Hoover forces used money to buy votes, they should be sent to the penitentiary.

If the newspapers making the charge have evidence, they should present it at once to the grand jury.

It should also be remembered that very often a corrupt machine raises such a cry to drown an accusation against itself.

What the people want and should have, is the truth and not unsupported accusation.

The question that naturally arises is whether the Watson politicians would really like an efficient and thorough inquiry into the conduct of the campaign.

Put Them In Uniform

Seymour L. Lowman, assistant secretary of the treasury, in charge of prohibition, following the shooting of J. D. Hanson of Ft. Niagara, N. Y., by two coast guardsmen, agrees prohibition officers should wear distinctive uniforms. Hanson was commanded to halt his automobile at night. Fearing a hold-up, he sped on. He was wounded probably fatally.

Lowman believes officers at work in cities collecting evidence might not be effective in uniforms. This seems reasonable. It also seems reasonable that there is no need for these men to go armed. Their job is merely to locate violations.

It is when attempts are made to hal motorists on the highways in the dead of night, or when raids are made, that the uniforms are necessary so that citizens may know they are facing officers of the law, and not footpads.

If a man knowingly resists lawful arrest and is injured, he has not one to blame, but when he flees from what he considers a hold-up man and is killed, that is murder.

Two instances similar to that in New York have occurred within the last few days.

Two peace officers, hiding in the dark by a highway near Fresno, Cal., Saturday night, turned their flashlights on the face of Frank Aiello as he sped by. Aiello did what any other person would have done under similar circumstances; he refused to halt. The officers opened fire and killed him.

It makes little difference that contraband liquor was found in Aiello's home, or even that he was reputed to be a bootlegger.

Bootlegging is not yet a capital crime in this country, nor are peace officers empowered to inflict the death penalty without judge or jury. No liquor was found in Aiello's car.

The other instance was in Yazoo County, Mississippi, Sunday night. A car occupied by a man, two women and two children was fired upon by two county and two Federal officers when it failed to stop. The car shows bullet marks and two bullets pierced the metal and entered the cushion of the rear seat in which one of the women and her two children were riding.

The officers are said to have had a tip that a booze car was to travel that way, and the car on which they fired fit the description.

These instances are among scores of similar ones in which officers have used firearms without warrant, in their attempt to enforce the prohibition law. They are important as illustrating a condition which has become general, and which must be corrected.

Peace officers with hair trigger minds and cocked guns are as much a menace to peace as though plotting murder and loot. They must be made to understand that the job of enforcing prohibition does not confer on them a license for lawlessness, and the privilege to disregard the common rights of citizens.

Fortunately, prohibition authorities have had their attention directed sharply to the situation, and Congress is aroused. Action is due, and it must be decisive action, not mere expressions of regret.

Bring Blackmer Back

Chairman Nye of the Senate Public Lands Committee has announced that he will ask Governor Al Smith of New York to investigate the possibility of having Henry M. Blackmer indicted under the criminal laws of New York for engineering the Continental Trading Company deal.

Governor Smith, regardless of his recent tilt with Senator Nye, no doubt will comply with the request.

Blackmer, according to testimony before the Senate committee, was the guiding genius behind the Continental Trading Company, which the United States Supreme Court held to have been created "for

KEEPING UP With THE NEWS

BY LUDWELL DENNY

THE coybook boast that every American boy has a chance to be President must be revised to read: only rich boys or those with wealthy friends need apply.

Senators in Washington are moved to this observation on learning from the campaign contribution investigation that the nomination race of Al Smith is costing \$103,310, and of Herbert Hoover almost \$250,000. And these expenses are less than leading candidates usually have spent in other years.

It costs money to conduct an honest publicity campaign to get the facts about a candidate to millions of voters spread over an area as large as the United States.

Such being the case, a poor man has no chance as a candidate, says Senator Walsh, Massachusetts Democrat.

What is the answer? The Government should pay all campaign expenses, giving every aspirant for public office an equal chance, according to Walsh.

This proposal is not new; similar ideas have been advanced in the past by President Roosevelt and others.

If the law makes it possible, he should be brought back to face trial.

The Mystery of Suicide

The conventional picture of a man contemplating suicide is the Hamlet, torn by "the slings and arrows of an outrageous fortune," shuddering at "the fear of something after death," struggling with the question of "whether 'tis better to bear the ills we have, or fly to others that we know not of."

A human being, in battle with the most intense of all emotions—with life or death at stake.

Anything but an unruffled and methodical state of mind.

Which makes the story of the suicide of Charles W. Mayer one of the strangest in all the sad record of self-destruction.

During the day, on the evening of which he took the fatal poison, the young Columbia University instructor graded examination papers, writing the marks and the comments about them in a slow, firm hand, penning careful notes of explanation on each document.

He then placed his chemical apparatus mostly where it belonged, sealed certain keys in an envelope, writing a description thereon, and proceeded to prepare instructions to his room-mate in as deliberate and meticulous a manner as if he merely were leaving on a vacation.

In the document, he enumerated details as to disposition of his body and of his personal effects, referred to checks he had made out for his few unpaid bills, and ended his last communication in this life with a postscript, saying:

"If possible, you also might get the refund back from my room rent."

No "pale cast of thought" to have "sickled over the native hue of his resolution;" no word about "to be or not to be," or "the undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns."

Yet, who can tell?

Perhaps back of that calm account of his departure there were emotions more potent than ever scourged the soul of the melancholy Dane.

Who can tell?

Now that the Pulitzer book prize has been awarded to "The Bridge of San Luis Rey," there probably will be a great flocking of ace-trumpers to buy the work.

With the bathing beauty contest at Atlantic City called off this year, wonder how we're ever going to find out who are the "home girls, kind to their mothers, love to wash dishes," etc?

From Port Arthur, Ontario, comes a dispatch telling of a rain of fine mud that spattered people, houses and streets. Do they have Democrats and Republicans in Canada, too?

It's a good thing Noah didn't have to get a bill past Congress and the President before he could build the ark.

David Dietz on Science

Life and Speculation

No. 48

THE planets Uranus and Neptune are so far from the sun that only a telescope will reveal their existence. It is impossible to see them with the unaided eye.

Astronomers are certain that both these planets are icy cold. Uranus is 1,762,000,000 miles from the sun, while Neptune is 2,700,000,000 miles. At such tremendous distance the sun would lose the majesty which it possesses for us. From Neptune the sun would perhaps appear only as a very large star.

Let us summarize now the chances of finding life in any future exploration of our solar system:

Mercury: No life. So near the sun that the rocks composing its surface are red-hot.

Venus: Perhaps some form of life. But astronomers are doubtful. The planet is surrounded by such heavy clouds that it may be that sunlight cannot penetrate them.

Mars: Perhaps some form of life. Recent measurements with the thermocouple indicate higher temperatures than previously supposed, but the matter is by no means settled.

Jupiter: No life. The planet probably has a hot molten surface surrounded by many layers of dense clouds, the outer layers of which are icy cold.

Saturn: No life. Conditions like those on Jupiter.

Neptune: No life.

Are we to assume then that the earth is the only inhabited planet in the universe? Well, it is the only planet we know definitely to be inhabited. But we can speculate if we care to.

There are 40,000,000 stars in our universe. It may be that some of these are also surrounded with planets like our own sun. There is no way of telling but from various considerations a good guess is that one out of every 1,000,000 stars has a planetary system.

That would mean 40,000 systems of planets scattered throughout the universe.

It would seem reasonable to suppose that among 40,000 there are some planets where conditions duplicate those of the earth. The universe is so large that it does not seem reasonable that this earth is the only inhabited planet.

But it is the only planet we know to be inhabited. The rest is speculation.

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Is This His Majesty—The Law?



THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION

Beauty of City Is Mirrored in Art

Written for The Times by Will Durant

BY the side of these men Paul of Verona, called therefore Paola Verone, seems but a youth, dying at the early age of sixty. Tintoretto saw the light before and after him; and Titian, who was fifty-one when Veronese came, lived till the younger man was forty-six; one day, meeting him in the Piazza San Marco, Titian embraced him as a parting expression of his sense that a new generation had come, and that this man would replace him in the affection of his countrymen.

Paul had grown up in Verona, in the house of his father Gabriele Callari, a sculptor; but when he came of age he migrated to Venice as a field more hospitable to art.

There he entered into a competition for painting the ceiling of the Library of St. Mark; and his work was so excellent that his own competitors unanimously voted him winner.

For a time he went back to Verona and painted there the "Banquet in the House of Levi;" and thence to Rome, to take lessons from the Florentine masters there. When he returned to Venice he at once produced a masterpiece, "Venice Enthroned." Still more renowned is "The Marriage of Cana," 12 figures, each studied and painted as if it were an individual portrait; indeed, many of them were representations of actual personages: Titian, Queen Mary of England, Vittoria Colonna, the Sultan of Turkey, Tintoretto and Veronese himself.

SEE, now, how the technique of painting has progressed since Giotto; how the replacement of frescoes with oil has produced greater softness of surface, greater depth of perspective, greater richness and fullness of color; everything now is finer, except that something of the nobility and virility of the early age is lost in the luxury and splendor of the new.

It is a good idea not to be too humpbacked in expressing a belief unless it is with regard to some issue that no human agency can settle.

It is perfectly safe to believe the moon is made of green cheese, that Julius Caesar was an epileptic or that prohibition will prove effective in 1928, but it is not safe to believe something that can be disproved by a record, unless one keeps very quiet.

It is when her earthly beauty has gone and time has taken from her even the glory of her cathedrals and palaces mirrored in her streams, history will remember her fondly, not for her wealth and power, her wars and victories, not for the Doges that for a thousand years mad her mistress of the Mediterranean, but for the painters who caught her passing greatness and gave it to all nations and all time, in these pictures of which we have spoken so hurriedly, in these marvels of life and color of which we have at least learned the names, and which some day, perhaps, we shall be blessed enough to see.

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(To Be Continued)

Questions and Answers

You can get an answer to any answerable question of fact or opinion by writing to Frederick K. Quisenberry, Editor, The Indianapolis Times, Washington Bureau, 1322 New York Ave., Washington, D. C., enclosing a postage stamp for reply. Medical and legal advice cannot be given, nor can expert questions will receive a personal reply. Unsigned requests cannot be answered.

Letters will be answered as far as possible, but the editor reserves the right to make use of this free service as often as you please.

What player in the two major baseball leagues had the highest batting average for the 1926 world series?

Tommy Thvenow, shortstop, St. Louis Cardinals.

How old is the decimal system?

Traces of this system are found in the early inscriptions of Baby-lonia and Egypt.

What is the meaning of the name Vincent?

It is from the Latin and means "conquering."

What countries produce the largest amount of corn?

The United States, Argentina, Rumania, Yugoslavia and Brazil.

What does the term "diva" signify?

It is an Italian word for a female operatic singer of celebrity; a prima donna.

How old is Mary Pickford?

Thirty-four years.

Who was the first governor of California?

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