



The Indianapolis Times

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

Same Old Tricks

That the Leslie campaign is in the hands of the same forces and influences that gave the state Jackson and the statute of limitations becomes more apparent as the desperate methods to elect him are coming to light.

Out in the state Leslie tells the honest voters that he has nothing to do with the evil Indianapolis bosses and that they will have nothing to say if by mischance, he is elected.

In this city he rides in the sheriff's car, the sheriff being the understudy for Coffin and noted chiefly for his failure to arrest Stephenson.

Were that not enough, the attack which he made on Dailey, using Judge Anderson as authority, is to be renewed despite the fact that Anderson very promptly declared that the Leslie charge was untrue in every way and added adjectives in describing the Dailey record that were more than praise.

Not that Leslie has courage to repeat his libels, but the state committee announces that it will broadcast them next week over the radio, putting forward the names of the undercover men to act as sponsor.

There can be little question as to whom the people will believe. It is not a question between Dailey and Leslie. It is the word of Leslie against Judge A. B. Anderson, and Indiana will have little difficulty in selecting its witness. No one ever doubted the veracity of the federal judge.

The whole Leslie campaign smacks of Stephensonism. The tricks are those the dragon taught the boys when he rode to his high eminence of dictator of the legislature of which Leslie was speaker.

Surely the people will not be fooled again into following advice for straight party tickets.

This is the year to give Indiana back her reputation, and the way to do it is to clean out the Statehouse and the Courthouse of all traces of Stephenson and Coffin.

A Whited Sepulcher

A League Against Alcoholism handout says—“Sweden is apparently on the verge of discarding the fiasco known as the Bratt system at the very time that misguided liquor propagandists are urging the adoption of this or some other similar system by the United States.

“That the Bratt system has failed commonly is recognized throughout Sweden. . . .

“Liquor smuggling and bootlegging have become . . . plagues. . . .

“The debauchery of youth, the increased home drinking, an athe use of ardent spirits by women are among the factors which have aroused the people of Sweden. . . .

“Increasing drunkenness and crime have marked the Bratt system, while intoxication and lawlessness have decreased under American prohibition.”

And so forth and so on.

Here is the truth:

Since Sweden adopted the Bratt system of liquor control, consumption or ardent spirits has decreased nearly 40 per cent throughout the country and by approximately 50 per cent in Stockholm.

Crimes of violence have fallen off some 48 per cent in the nation as a whole and about 60 per cent in the capital and largest city.

“Among women and young people the improvement has been particularly marked,” says Acting Police Chief Erik Hjalgren of Stockholm, who should know. “If we let 100 represent the index figure for average drunkenness among women during the three years prior to the adoption of the Bratt system, the figure now has fallen to 32, while for young people—between 15 and 20—the decrease in indicated drunkenness is from 100 to 17.”

During the last year there appears to have been a slight setback in these last figures, due, Dr. Bratt believes, to increased prosperity in the land. Parenthetically, it may be remarked in this connection, that the difference between Sweden and us is she admits these things and looks for a remedy, while we admit nothing and allow the abuses to go on.

But it is the general trend over a period of years that counts, not just the figures for any one year. Waves roll in and waves roll out with each passing minute, yet slowly but surely the ocean's tides ride or fall as the hours go by. And so must tides be measured.

Liquor smuggling and bootlegging in Sweden, Hallgren declares, is negligible, whereas in prohibition Finland, just across the Baltic they have gotten entirely out of hand, while crime of all sorts is increasing.

It is “commonly recognized in Sweden that the Bratt system has failed,” as asserted in the handout. The answer is emphatically no.

In 1909 a plebiscite on prohibition in Sweden resulted in 1,800,000 votes being cast in favor of it and only 20,000 against. In 1922 a similar vote showed only 889,000 in favor of prohibition with 924,000 against. In other words, after the Bratt system was adopted, some 900,000 prohibitionists were converted by its merits. That certainly does not look like failure.

As for the “debauchery of youth, drunkenness and crime” in Sweden, the above figures speak for themselves where there is an open mind. On the other hand, it is well known that in the United States these things have become a national scandal. On this point, however, it is useless to insist, since it always is futile to argue that two and two make four. Either one sees it or one doesn’t.

Drunkenness is a great evil. All are agreed on that. But blinding ourselves to the plain facts in the case will not cure it.

After all, what are we trying to do? Make our country really and truly temperate or set up a white sepulcher and worship before it, while shutting our eyes and ears to the debauchery, crime, vice, corruption, graft, bootlegging, hijacking, moonshining, smuggling, racketeering, bribery, outlawry and murder that are going on behind it?

To pursue this latter course is not only hypocritical, but it betrays our boys and girls, men and women, government and society into the hands of a vicious underworld for the sake of appearances only.

The Wall Street Journal's Alarm

The Wall Street Journal has taken the Scripps Howard papers to task for maintaining that the power industry is a proper subject for federal investigation and that the Electric Bond and Share Company should have furnished information sought from it by the federal trade commission. In doing

so it makes a number of remarkable statements about the investigation.

“The Electric Bond and Share Company has not objected to being investigated,” says the Journal.

But, it continues, in horror, “the federal trade commission demanded access to all files of utility companies, regardless of whether they contained evidence pertinent to the declared objects of the investigation and regardless of the private and confidential character of much of the company’s correspondence.”

And in protesting, the Journal says, the company has “raised an issue of fundamental importance—whether the constitution protects corporations and their stockholders from the prying eyes of a federal agency.”

The record of the federal trade commission proceedings shows that information sought from the Electric Bond and Share Company has followed with strict fidelity lines laid down by the United States senate in directing investigation of public utility holding companies.

In practically every instance, questions put by Chief Counsel Robert E. Healy have followed the exact wording of the Senate resolution.

Under this it was made mandatory for the commission to find out and report on these things: Growth of the capital assets and liabilities of public utility corporations doing an interstate business; details concerning their security issues; extent to which they control subsidiary companies; services rendered by holding companies and the amount of payment they receive; and the value or detriment to the public of such holding companies.

Stocks have gone higher and higher. Notwithstanding the advance in interest rates, brokers loans have reached an amount never before recorded. According to Thursday’s statement, they now total \$4,772,000,000, which represents an increase of \$107,000,000 within a week and one of \$1,328,000 over what they were at this time last year.

“No Effect on Business

General Motors reports a profit of more than \$240,000,000 during the last nine months, and a bigger sale of cars than it has made in any previous year.

This profit, which will exceed \$300,000,000 for the year if present rates of earning are maintained, is the largest, with one exception, ever reported by an American industry.

In 1916 United States Steel and several other corporations in this country, had reached a point where they not only took in more revenue, but made more money than is required to run some of our largest states.

Pennsylvania, for instance, has an annual budget of about \$125,000,000, Texas one of about \$65,000,000 and Ohio one of about \$50,000,000.

Pooled wealth, mass production, sound financial management, and, above all else, a well-designed banking system have made business immune to the effect of political campaigns.

It was questions about these matters, declared

by Commissioner E. C. McCulloch, that officers of the Electric Bond and Share Company refused to answer, not “private, confidential” details of business. If that is not objecting to investigation, we should like to hear the Wall Street Journal explain why it is not.

No information has been sought of the Electric Bond and Share, largest of the holding companies, which state regulatory bodies do not legally obtain from local utility companies. No attempt has been made to get evidence which would harm the companies, their clients and stockholders, any more than state regulation harms the clients and stockholders of such holding companies.

Until this information is obtained by a federal authority and steps taken to provide regulation for interstate power business, this great monopoly of a natural resource is practically out of public control.

The power industry is going to fight federal regulation as it fought state regulation. Its change of front on that issue should be convincing evidence that it can, at times, be mistaken and that legitimate business will not be harmed in any respect when this inevitable step forward is taken.

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Lindbergh has been given an automobile driver's license in New York state. Nothing's too dangerous for that fellow.

Girls, when in doubt ask him if he drinks—if he doesn't he's a bootlegger.

Mussolini told the Italian editors the other day that the Italian press is the freest in the world. Can it be that Il Duce never has read a tabloid story of a divorce suit?

A driverless car injured eleven people the other day. Just think how many it might have hurt if it had a driver!

A New York gangster was buried the other day in a \$10,000 casket. He must have been one of the lesser satellites.

David Deltz on Science

Futile Months of Work

No. 192

PASTEUR was showing to the world how the man of science could fit into a brand-new role. For Pasteur had become the national savior. He had saved the wine industry of France by devising the process now known in his honor as pasteurization.

He was to continue to play this role.

One day, his old professor of chemistry, Dumas, the man who had first awakened his interest in scientific research, came to him. Dumas halted from the south of France.

The silk industry, the chief industry of the region, was going to ruin because of some disease which had attacked the silk worms.

Pasteur knew nothing of silk worms, but because of his love for Dumas and because of the marvelous faith which he had in himself, he

agreed to undertake the task.

Pasteur found that the silk worms were being attacked by some disease which caused little black spot to appear all over them. Inside the silk worms was something which had attacked the silk worms.

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