



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### Still Nervous

The state department persists in its refusal to permit Count Michael Karolyi, first president of the Hungarian republic, to visit this country.

Karolyi applied for passport visas for himself and his wife at the embassy in Paris. A group of liberals urged Secretary Kellogg to grant the petition. The state department replied that it saw no reason to alter its original decision of three years ago.

Thus the state department forces this country into an attitude of friendliness and co-operation toward the reactionary government of the dictator Horthy, and of hostility toward the liberal elements of Hungary.

The state department apparently bases its action on the theory that the Karolyis are communists, which they are not. They are pacifists and liberals.

Karolyi, as president of Hungary, instituted reforms along democratic lines. He advocated suffrage, free speech, and distribution of large estates.

The reactionaries overthrew the Karolyi government and he fled the country. They do not want Karolyi to stir up sympathy for his cause, and their influence has been great enough to cause our state department to abandon the traditional position of this country as a haven for political exiles and the champion of liberal movements everywhere.

Fortunately, we may look for a return to saner methods after March 4. The Karolyi incident, meantime, might well engage the attention of some of the gentlemen in congress who have not succumbed to the communistic hysteria as have the nervous officials of the state department.

### Capital Punishment

An interesting sidelight on the fallibility of human courts, and therefore the possibility of doing irreparable wrong by inflicting the death penalty, is contributed by the well-known writer and journalist, Charles Edward Russell. It is circulated by the League to Abolish Capital Punishment. Says Russell:

"William Heilwagner was hanged at Rock Island, Ill., in March, 1882, for the murder of his daughter-in-law, wife of his son Otto. I saw him hanged."

"He had been fairly tried and well defended. The judge was humane, upright, careful. The twelve grave citizens who composed the jury were convinced of the prisoner's guilt."

"All the safeguards that our American judicial procedure throws about accused persons were used in this man's behalf. He had every delay, every opportunity, every presumption in his favor. The trial lasted many days. The evidence was searched narrowly. Appeal to a higher court showed not a flaw in the proceedings.

"He was hanged in the jail yard before a group, mostly newspaper men. As he walked out on the scaffold he looked down on us and said steadily:

"Gentlemen, I am innocent of this crime."

"None of us believed him. In the well-ordered processes of our courts, how could innocence be found guilty of death?"

"Yet he told the truth. Ten years later, a wretched man sat in a lodging house at Quincy, Ill., and wrote a confession of the crime for which we had put William Heilwagner to death; wrote it in detail and with indubitable circumstances. Then he left it where it would be found, and threw himself from the Quincy bridge and was drowned."

"It was the old man's son Otto."

"Horror-stricken we all were, when we knew that we had sent a guilty man to the scaffold. When it was eternally too late, we all wished earnestly that had never hunted down the poor old man."

"He was convicted on a chain of circumstantial evidence that seemed without a fault. I never have known a stronger. Yet it was worthless, misleading, and tricked the state into a murder worse than it was seeking to avenge."

"These are the facts. I ask one question."

"If the jury went so terribly astray in this case, how can we be sure of its decision in any other case?"

"When the electric chair or the gallows has done its work, there is no chance to rectify the mistake. In your mind you can go back to it a thousand times and regret it, but you never can rectify it."

"The chance is too terrible. We take it in nine cases in ten when we condemn men to death. Shall we keep on taking it?"

"I helped to take it once. My self-reproaches never brought William Heilwagner back to life."

**The Dangers of Zealotry**  
This has to do with the state of the American mind now that the election is over.

During this campaign passions were aroused in certain sections that have greater possible danger for the Union than the prejudices and passions that were stirred up over slavery before the Civil war.

Religious prejudice and passion go deeper into human emotions than any difference of opinion over slavery, or over any economic issue. They have been responsible for many of the bloodiest wars in human history—fanatical zeal to make triumphant a particular manner of worshipping God.

Familiar with the persecutions inspired by bigotry and intolerance in the religious wars of the Old World, the Fathers of the American republic, the founders and framers of the Constitution of the United States, and the authors of the immortal Declaration of Independence, had in their minds the dedication of this democracy to freedom of conscience and religious liberty.

In reading the Constitution they looked ahead as far as they could with the light they had and knowledge of history to guide them and tried to guarantee, for all time to come, in the fundamental law of the land, the right of every citizen to be free and undisturbed in his natural right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience.

But they went further than that. They recognized not only all Christians, but all men, of whatever religious faith, as brothers under the Fatherhood of God. There was to be no restriction of full religious liberty.

There should be no religious test as a qualification for citizenship or office-holding. All of us, no matter what our religious faith might be, were to dwell together in peace and harmony and build up, without sectarian interference of any kind, the greatest liberty.

With their knowledge of the cruel tyranny the Old World had experienced from a union of Church and State, the framers of the Constitution sought in that document to insure us against any such dangerous alliance.

Thus far the spirit of the founders of the republic

has prevailed, and has inspired their children and their children's children with patriotic devotion to their country. Up to date this has been a free and not a sectarian democracy.

Whenever the nation was in danger, all men of all creeds fought together as brother Americans to preserve the republic and the freedom of conscience guaranteed in that fundamental law.

Now it is menaced. Emotions have been stirred up, passions have been aroused and a veritable hell of animosities brewed that endanger the very spirit of constitutional liberty.

From the disastrous results from such clashing of intolerant and cruel passions the republic must be saved.

And there is no graver duty for every patriotic American citizen than to sit down and sit down hard on every man or woman who helps to fan this spark of intolerance into a consuming flame.

Whoever seeks to harm any candidate or any citizen because of his religious faith is an enemy of the Constitution and his country.

### Buy Respectability

Leaders in the oil industry have started a movement to have the American Petroleum Institute offer the office of president to President Coolidge at its meeting early next month. This we learn from the New York Herald-Tribune.

It is believed that a former president would lend "prestige" to the organization, which includes in its membership the principal oil companies of the country. Further, legislation is to be sought to permit pooling agreements for restriction of production, and it is thought the industry "will need all the influence it can muster" to gain the assent of congress.

Men backing the Coolidge idea "hold that the industry as a whole has not been cleared of the blame attaching to it from the Sinclair and Doheny scandals," according to the Herald-Tribune.

The organized oil industry remained silent throughout the Senate's investigation of the looting of the oil reserves. It offered no help and uttered no word of condemnation. It made no effort to clean its own house.

Even worse, it has retained on its directorate Harry P. Sinclair, Edward L. Doheny, and Robert W. Stewart, all of whom have been prosecuted by the United States on criminal charges.

Now the oil men have the effrontery—if the Herald-Tribune is correct—to propose to buy the name of an ex-President of the United States to provide the respectability they have forfeited, and to impress a justly suspicious congress from which favors are to be sought.

We believe that President Coolidge's answer would be a short and emphatic no.

The American Petroleum Institute can gain confidence and respect only when it outspoke its refusal to countenance the activities of the Sinclairs, Dohenys and Stewarts, and removes them from positions of influence.

A policeman in Iowa City shot at a man who wasn't hurt because the bullet struck a bottle in his hip pocket. The moral is obvious.

Perhaps those Chicago politicians named in the sanitary district graft cases were only trying to clean up.

The war department says that enlisted men of the army drank 51,000,000 cups of tea last year. Must be getting ready to invade Great Britain.

Only a couple of weeks now and we can send those incense burners we got last year to some of our friends.

In St. Louis the other day Miss Irma Mason, 18, married Henry Auer, 76. Maybe she merely wanted to improve the shining Auer.

### Rapid-Fire Inventions

No. 216

David Dietz on Science

**Rapid-Fire Inventions**

THE amazing thing about Thomas A. Edison's career is the rapidity with which he turned out inventions. The twenty-two years of his career from 1873 to 1900 illustrate this. Many of the famous inventions which led to the recent action of the United States congress in awarding him a medal of honor.

In 1877 Edison astonished the scientific world with his invention of the phonograph. He spent the first half of 1878 improving it, but before the year was over he was already hard at work on the incandescent electric light.

The first electric lighting system was the work of Charles F. Brush of Cleveland. Brush employed the arc light. This was ideal for street lighting, but the heat of the arc made it difficult for indoor use, though it was tried in a number of places.

Edison perfected his electric light the next year, putting the first one in operation on Oct. 21, 1879. The lamp burned for forty hours before giving out.

Electric lights, however, required more than the invention of a satisfactory light. It was necessary to devise most of the instruments which go along with the lights—dynamos, meters, switches, line systems and so on.

On Dec. 31, 1879, Edison gave the first public demonstration of the use of his lights for street and indoor lighting at Menlo Park, N. J.

In 1880 he found time to invent a magnetic ore separator. Then the electric light began to occupy his attention again.

He opened an office in New York at 65 Fifth avenue and began to make plans for the commercial manufacture of electric lights and the generation and distribution of electric power.

A plant was established at Harrison, N. J., to manufacture lights. The first commercial station for the distribution of electric power was opened in New York on Sept. 4, 1882.

Between then and 1887 Edison took out more than three hundred patents covering fundamental details of the electric power industry.

In 1887 he moved to West Orange, N. J., where his present laboratory is situated.

Before 1900 he had invented the wax phonograph record and taken out over eighty patents on the phonograph, he had invented the motion picture camera and he had made a number of inventions which are dispensable to the iron ore industry.

With their knowledge of the cruel tyranny the Old World had experienced from a union of Church and State, the framers of the Constitution sought in that document to insure us against any such dangerous alliance.

Thus far the spirit of the founders of the republic

## M. E. TRACY SAYS:

"Riches Are No Longer  
Looked Upon as a License  
to Be Vicious or  
Tyrannical."

PAYNE WHITNEY left an estate of \$178,000,000. That is a pretty big fortune, even in this age of multi-millionaires. It was not big enough, however, to make him a snob or a tyrant.

Payne Whitney was not exceptional in this respect. Most rich men in this country are fairly sensible and fairly democratic. That represents not only a great change, but a great triumph for the American system.

Time was, and not so long ago either, when men could not possess vast fortunes without abusing them, when they were not only hated for their wealth, but justly so.

Riches are no longer looked upon as a license to be vicious or tyrannical. The idea that they constitute a trusteeship and that those possessing them are under obligation to set a good example has gone deeper than we realize.

That idea is the child of democracy. The kind of government which our forefathers established, and under which we have lived for more than 150 years, has created a new spirit of co-operation.

Men always have recognized the wisdom of working with and for one another when it was necessary. The American system, as we call it, has taught them the wisdom of doing so, even though the necessity is not apparent.

### Bequests to Charity

Payne Whitney left more than one-fourth of his fortune to charity, and again he did nothing unique. The rich man who fails so to do is looked upon as queer, if not inhuman, and his own class is often first to criticize him.

Such frame of mind was not developed by accident. It is the product of education and experience, especially as they were made possible in these United States.

The monarchical theory rests on the assumption that the only way to make poor people decent is to keep them poor. The Bolshevik theory rests on the assumption that the only way to make rich men decent is to make them poor.

The American theory rests on the assumption that all classes of people will not only be decent so long as they feel they have an opportunity to better their condition through their own efforts, but that they will recognize the wisdom of helping one another.

**Singular Stand on Russia**

Speaking of monarchy and bolshevism, why do we adopt a different attitude toward the latter than we always have maintained toward the former?

To be specific, why do we refuse even to go so far as a conference with Soviet Russia looking toward possibility of recognition, or deny her officials and representatives passports on every possible occasion?

On Thursday, the United Press reported from Berlin that, according to Russian advice, two members of the Soviet business mission to the United States have been refused passport visas by the American state department.

They were V. I. Ossinski-Obelenski, former commissioner of agriculture and head of the Russian delegation to the World Economic conference at Geneva, and V. I. Mayashov, vice-president of the Soviet Supreme Economic council.

They intended visiting the United States primarily to negotiate with big American automobile concerns for establishment of factories in Russia. From Russian sources, the report said, it was learned that the proposed negotiations involved a \$20,000,000 deal and the eventual placing of large orders with other American industries.

What a solemn moment it must be in the English consular school when Professor Bull enters, removes his hat and says: "The class in perjury will please come to order."

The incessant propaganda against us leading South Americans to fear that we want to destroy their independence, is what makes Mr. Hoover's trip important. He can set us right south of the equator, then, if he specializes in South American commerce he will repair our national oversight.

Aside from Henry Clay and James G. Blaine, none of our statesmen ever discovered that great continent.

If Lindy does marry Miss Morrow he will be able to assume the plural attitude without difficulty, for he has been saying "we" ever since he flew to Paris.

It's rather hard to impress the children with the idea that it's bad form to play the slot machines when all the "nice people" only are not playing the stock market, but broadcasting their winnings.

This dramatist who is presenting a Lincoln play in Germany which makes Lincoln appear as a weakling is the emancipator's great injustice.

We have a right to keep out any foreigner whom we think may create unnecessary trouble in this country.

But—and this is the important part—while exercising that right, we place ourselves under obligations to open and above board in all our dealings.

In refusing to recognize any government, we are under obligations to state the reasons fully and frankly. In refusing any citizen a passport, we are under obligation to say why. We are under such obligation not only as a matter of justice to those concerned, but for the sake of an intelligent public opinion at home.

How can the American people form intelligent ideas of what this government's foreign policy is, or what it ought to be, unless they are given the facts? How can they vote intelligently without being able to form such ideas.

It goes without saying that our state department should not be expected to give out every detail, that cases are bound to arise where more or less secrecy is desirable.

When it comes to such an important matter as relations between this government and Russia, as little as possible should be left to the imagination.

We are spending more than two billion dollars a year for education in the United States, an increase of 230 per cent in the last eighteen years.

This is not only the best investment we could possibly make; it is also the greatest program of human