



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)
Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 W. Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Price in Marion County 2 cents—10 cents a week; elsewhere, 3 cents—12 cents a week.
BOYD GURLEY, Editor. ROY W. HOWARD, President. FRANK G. MORRISON, Business Manager.
PHONE—RILEY 3551. SATURDAY, DEC. 8, 1928.
Member of United Press, Scripps Howard Newspaper Alliance, Newspaper Enterprise Association, Newspaper Information Service and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

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

Independent Voting

That the head of the Democratic party of this state is a confirmed optimist is evidenced by the fact that he proposes to ask the legislature to provide separate ballots for state and national elections.

Inasmuch as the incoming state administration owes its victory very largely to the fact that the two tickets were tied together and that the state ticket profited by the popularity of Hoover and fear of Smith, it can hardly be expected to be enthusiastic for any measure that would prevent a repetition of such an outcome.

Of course, the argument is not only for separate ballots but for most drastic changes which would divorce the state from national issues.

There is no real reason, except that of expense, for holding the elections on the same day.

The issues in national campaigns can never be the same as those in state campaigns. The functions of the two governments differ. There is no reason why those who think alike on national matters should necessarily think alike on state matters.

The demand for a separate ballot is a mild measure. It might help some. But it is not the whole remedy.

The intricacies of the ballot are really taking the power of self government away from the people.

It is difficult to avoid passion and prejudice in national campaigns. It would be better if there were no other considerations or problems presented at the same time.

If there is to be any real advance, the elections should be held on different dates and the ballot so shortened as to permit intelligent study and full discussion of each and every candidate.

But, of course, the politicians will find many reasons for not doing the obvious thing.

Raskob Takes on a Real Job

Chairman Raskob has some job on his hands in reorganizing, or in organizing, the Democratic party. It is something quite different from organizing a great industrial concern like General Motors. In a way, it is a chemical job as intricate as making a good mixture of oil and water. Especially if Congressman Garner of Texas is right when he says the Democratic party must be one of liberalism.

For a long time there was a foundation upon which to build—the well-known democratic principles of Thomas Jefferson and the solid Democratic South. But that foundation isn't what it used to be. Jeffersonian democracy has surrendered to sumptuary legislation, prohibition, fundamentalism, and Ku-Klux Klanism, and the shrewd Republican politicians who manipulate the Anti-Saloon League lobby have helped the G. O. P. to split that historic southern solidarity into warring factions.

In the meantime, they have helped to build up a Republican solid north, east, and west.

With Jeffersonian principles thrown overboard, with the Bill of Rights gone the way of Santa Claus, Mother Goose and Grimm's fairy tales, with the tariff-for-revenue only consigned to the habitat of the dodo and state's rights sitting in Calvin Coolidge's lap, what new ingredients will Raskob start with when he begins to organize a synthetic Democratic party?

And what does Garner suggest by way of liberalism?

Woodrow Wilson tried liberalism, idealizing and humanizing the old Democratic party, but when the Anti-Saloon League lobby said "boo" the Democratic congress turned tail, ran away from him and Jefferson and passed the Volstead act over his Jeffersonian veto.

Wayne B. Wheeler, Ohio Republican, had more influence with a Democratic senate than Democratic President Wilson had. Republican prohibition politicians sat in a nearby hotel in 1924 and controlled more than 300 votes in the Madison Square Garden convention across the street.

The funny thing about it all is that these Republican powers, headed by the Anti-Saloon League lobby, always support the Republican party after the nominations are made, but beforehand have a powerful influence in making up the Democratic ticket and platform. They pick, clean, stuff and cook the Democratic goose and then feed it to the Republicans.

There ought to be a vigorous opposition party, of course. Under our party system of government there should always be a strong minority to which we may turn when the majority party needs punishment.

The Democratic party seems to have as many lives as a cat. It has taken powerful punishment and has come back. Even after three tries Bryan couldn't kill it.

It has been knocked down and dragged out, but always had enough life left in it to keep on kicking. But some people got the impression that about all it could do was to kick, and that it couldn't even kick liberally.

It seems to have lost the soul with which Jefferson endowed it; and political parties that profess liberalism can't very well get along without a soul. So Raskob's first job is to buy the party a new soul, or resurrect Jeffersonian democracy and renew the soul with which it started; and that involves sweetening the old Jeffersonian soil that has done gone sour.

How Many Children and When?

Every day there occurs a head-on collision between sex urge and economic determinism. The result is a smash.

Take the case before Judge Harrison J. Ewing of the Court of Common Pleas in Cleveland. Wanted: A divorce. He 25; she 20. Married three years. Result, three children. Total income, \$24 a week—some weeks.

Judge tells them to go home and practice birth control.

Of course, the judge really can't sentence them to three years of birth control. In fact, Ohio is one of the many states which make it a statutory crime to dispense contraceptive information through the mails. And it is probably one of the many states where doctors hesitate to give the information personally.

Perhaps the judge could tell the young people where to apply for the information. He could give them the names of Margaret Sanger or Mary Ware Dennet. But would he?

Having children when the parents have not the income to properly keep and train the children—is it a crime? Is it an economic offense? Is it an undue burden on the institution of matrimony? Is

it a good thing for the race? Is it a kind thing for the child? The wife?

There are sharp differences of opinion about these matters. Certain powerful religionists hold firmly that all must be left to nature. That little souls must be born into the church and that all else is as God wills.

And then there are those among the intelligentsia who say God has nothing to do with it, and that it shall be as the family doctor and the intelligent parents will. And that if they have any sense they will consult the family budget before starting a new member of the family.

There is a bill before congress to remove the penal barriers on information, and to send the United States along the same road taken by England and most of the continental countries of the Old World.

Immigration Changes

Recommendations for changes in the immigration law made by Labor Secretary Davis further complicate that problem, on which there already is wide disagreement in congress.

Davis would impose quota restrictions on Canada and Mexico, reducing Mexican immigration by about 90 per cent, but permitting more Canadians to enter the country than are coming in at present.

He would increase annual European immigration from 164,000 to 204,000. Where the quotas under the "national origins" plan are greater than those now in force, he would accept the larger quota.

The proposals made by Davis call for most careful consideration.

Secretary Kellogg previously announced his opposition to the Mexican quota proposal, in the belief that it would antagonize Latin-America. The effect of restrictions on our relations with Canada likewise deserves thought.

The "national origins" clause is scheduled to become effective June 30, 1929. It generally is agreed, however, that the system is impracticable, and there is disposition to abandon it. A commission, of which Herbert Hoover was a member, found it impossible to determine accurately the national origins of the present population, on which it is proposed to base quotas. Hoover so reported and has favored retention of the present restrictions, which fix quotas at 2 per cent of the foreign-born residents of the various countries as shown by the 1890 census.

The wisdom of any increase in immigration, particularly when based on the defective national origins plan, is open to question.

The existing law has obvious imperfections. It seems fairly well to have accomplished the purpose of keeping the character of immigration in harmony with the racial strains that make up the nation, however.

Later censuses than 1890, if used for quotas, would impose hardships on northern and western European stock, which originally settled the country. Earlier censuses would unduly limit immigration from southern and eastern Europe.

Statesmen at Geneva propose the men who start the wars be made to serve in the front ranks. That would end the possibility of anybody ever winning any wars.

Headline over a Hollywood couple, just married, says "Life Contract This Time." Whoever said the newspapers aren't optimistic?

It's fine to be popular, but the popular vote doesn't seem to get you anywhere.

"Collegian is wounded, mistaken for bandit," says headline over a story from Montgomery, Ala. Who shot him—his father?

A new book lists the famous trials of the last fifty years. Nothing is said about the cigaret lighter, however.

David Dietz on Science

A Fortunate Accident

THE collapse of an old Bavarian house was one of the most fortunate incidents in the history of the telescope.

Maximilian Joseph, the elector of Bavaria, was walking along the street when the "accident" happened. He saw workmen extricate a youth from the ruins and out of sympathy for the boy gave him 18 ducats which he happened to have in his pocket.

The incident occurred on July 21, 1801. The boy was Joseph Fraunhofer. His father, a glazier, had died when Joseph was a baby, and at the time of the accident, Joseph was apprentice to a mirror maker.

With the 18 ducats, Joseph purchased his freedom, some apparatus for polishing glass and some books. Within five years, he made so great a reputation through his skill and ability that he was made optician to the Mathematical Institute at Munich.

In 1809, he organized the Optical Institute of Munich of which he later became sole manager. Soon he was constructing better telescopes than the world had yet known.

He built the great telescope for the observatory at Dorpat.

He also built the heliometer, a special form of telescope which was used to measure the distances of the stars.

This problem had baffled astronomers for several centuries and perhaps would have continued to do so for a much longer time without the instrumental skill of Fraunhofer.

Newton had discovered that a glass prism divided sunlight into a rainbow of colors.

Fraunhofer showed that when the sunlight was admitted through a narrow vertical slit, the resulting rainbow was a sharp band of colors which was marked with a great number of dark lines.

These lines are still known as the Fraunhofer lines in honor of their discoverer.

By this discovery, Fraunhofer founded the modern science of spectroscopy, for the spectroscope is only a combination of a prism, suitable lenses and a slit such as he used.

What is the world's record for that each chemical element causes its characteristic lines in the rainbow of colors or spectrum and so Fraunhofer gave us a method for identifying the chemical constituents of the sun and stars.

TRACY

M. E.

SAYS:

"This Would Be a Drab World if It Were Not for the Freaks."

SOMETIMES the daily news makes you wonder whether the right crowd is in the asylum for the insane.

A Long Island musician and his wife conspire to get him a second bride without formality of divorce; a German play portrays God in plus fours; a New York judge fines a man \$5 for running a restaurant without a license, though the man asserts it is not a restaurant, but a speakeasy; a New Jersey judge threatens to fine a man \$10 if he cannot produce a dead mosquito; Bolivian and Paraguayan troops stage a miniature war, presumably to show Mr. Hoover how well his good will trip is succeeding.

Then, too, the king of Afghanistan uses airplanes to break up a revolt against the western reforms he recently ordered, which ought to convince his conservative subjects of the superiority of western ways; the Soviet parliament now in session at Moscow is advised to make Russia dry, with Siberian delegates shouting "wives and mothers demand that you close the new vodka shops."

A crazy public continues to borrow money at 10 or 12 per cent with which to buy stocks that pay only 1 per cent, or nothing at all; the senate gets ready to stage a great debate over the Kellogg plan, when it is just as logical to stage one over fresh air and sunshine; the state of Kentucky seems unable to decide whether Coleman Dupont should be permitted to give it a splendid park, though for what reason God only knows, and the New York police leave a sigh of relief at the possibility of clearing up the Rothstein case by proving that Dapper Danny Hogan, who was blown to pieces in St. Paul the other day, had nothing to do with it, though District Attorney Banton is skeptical.

Freaks Provide Variety

This would be a drab world if it were not for the freaks. We pretend to want it rational, safe and fool proof. It is only a pretense, however; nothing makes it so interesting as hazard, uncertainty and surprise. What makes existence seem worth the next, or just around the corner.

Though most of us are too timid to take chances, we like to see the other fellow do it, and though most of us try to avoid crazy notions, we get a big kick when somebody else falls for them.

Who would want to live in a world that offered nothing but \$60 a week, life insurance, and old age pensions—a world free from luck, gossip, scandal and the turmoil which goes with queer ideas?

A Crazy Triangle

Most of the stories are old, but the background is different. We have had the "triangle" with us since the dawn of consciousness, but who ever heard of such a case as that which occurred in Riverhead, L. I. this week?

A music teacher becomes infatuated with his 19-year-old pupil. He discovers not only that her soul harmonizes with his, but that the account is necessary for him to pursue a successful career. Instead of being jealous, his wife falls in line with the fancy.

She wants her mate to be happy, no matter what happens. She is willing to make any kind of sacrifice. She agrees with him that divorce offers a way out, but divorce will take time, and nothing must be allowed to postpone or interfere with the consummation of her spouse's livesick whim.

She goes with him to get a license and witness a bigamous marriage, which all three hope to keep secret until a legal separation can be obtained. But the license bureau of New York failed to co-operate. Publicity entered the situation and spilled the beans for every one concerned.

Now there is consternation where bliss was supposed to reign. The music teacher yearns helplessly for his second bride, what time he is not nursing a bruised face where her irate father smashed him. She goes on a hunger strike to prove how enthusiastically his feeling is reciprocated. The real wife is once more forced to play the role of innocent bystander.

The Deity in Knickers

Having regaled ourselves with that particular bit of nonsense, let us go to Frankfurt, Germany, where there is a good-sized row on over a play which portrays a deity in knickers and St. Peter as a benevolent buffoon.

Volunteers defenders of orthodoxy entered the theater Wednesday night, took seats in the gallery and broke up the performance by dropping tear gas bombs and stink-pots on the audience. Next day the city council voted not to interfere.

A great exhibition of hoodlumism all around, the author of such a uselessly offensive skit included.

There is no less rowdiness in offending religious conceptions with such an unnecessary piece of coarseness and vulgarity than there is in breaking up a show.

A roughneck is a roughneck, whether he expresses himself intellectually or with bricks.

Lunacy Knows No Bounds

The lunatic fringe is not confined to jazzed or sex relations. Neither is it the exclusive property of individuals. Us mortals can act just as idiotically by the million as by ones or twos, and we can act just as idiotically in America as in Afghanistan.

What is the world's record for the standing broad jump? 11 feet 4 1/2 inches.

He Used the Wrong Spoon for His Soup!



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

No Merit in Glands to Dispel Age

This is the second of two articles on "Growing Old Gracefully."

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBREIN
Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygieia, the Health Magazine

MAN'S search for the elixir of youth is eternal. Since the first announcement by Voronoff and by Steinach that their methods would rejuvenate the elderly, hundreds of experiments

have been made to control their claims, but none of these experi-

ments has confirmed their positions. Recently a delegation from the British ministry of agriculture visited Algiers to study the Voronoff technic of gland grafting as done on animals. Their report did not endorse his method. Furthermore, the commission did not consider the evidence sufficient to warrant the claims.

It is interesting to have the views of the pathologist Warthin on this subject. An investigation of human bodies post-mortem indicates that few men over 55 years of age have the power of reproduction and that certainly the stories of reproductive ability much later in life are to be viewed with skepticism.

It is interesting to have the view of the distinguished pathologist as to the possibilities of rejuvenation. He says:

"What philosophy then may we draw from this? Is old age inevitable? Yes, escape from it is possible only for those who meet a premature pathologic death.

"For those who live to their biologic limit, age cannot be escaped.

Nor can it be deferred. Nor is rejuvenescence possible. The deferring of old age, the rejuvenation of the senescent individual is but idle and foolish talk, and we have had much of this in the last decade.

"What modern medicine has accomplished along the lines of hygiene and the prevention of disease has been only to increase the number of human individuals, both the fit and unfit—unfortunately too many of the latter kind—who come to maturity and to the period of senescence.

"More individuals will achieve their biologic life limit; and this means what—ultimately a much greater increase in the number of senile, more or less useless, human beings in the age decades of the twenties and the thirties.

"There will be some increase in the number who will reach the age of one hundred years or even pass it, due to their own family inheritance, but this number will not be greatly increased in the present period of evolution."

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