



## The Indianapolis Times

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

"Forgive Them, They Do Not Know"

As an attitude toward the numerous members of the legislature who voted, as far as they could, to shackle this city with machine politics, the people might repeat the most famous of all texts.

It is undoubtedly true that large numbers of rural members of the legislature do not understand that the fight for the city manager plan in its best form is a fight for decency, for honesty, for law and order.

They do not understand that the fight to emasculate and weaken that law is a fight for a machine which has thrived in the past by naming some thieves to office, which has sold privileges to bootleggers and other criminals, which has collected tolls from gambling houses and has been under suspicion of splitting loot with thugs and highwaymen.

Surely they do not understand that the contest is simple in its terms. On the one side are those who would make public offices serve the public. On the other are those who frankly state that they want to use these offices against the public welfare.

Just why any member from any agricultural county would desire to turn over the capital city to the hands of politicians is difficult to understand.

The city manager plan has been adopted by the people of this city by a vote of more than five to one.

The election was held under a law that has been on the statute books for a number of years.

The plan has been tried in other cities and found to work well. Cities which have adopted it are now growing and prosperous, where before they were sodden, corrupt and stagnant.

Every decent force in this city is back of the effort to protect the plan. Every crooked influence is against it.

Certainly these fine farmers do not understand. They should be taught.

### The Court Is Safe

Can you imagine Justice, lifting her hands to her bandaged eyes, sighing with safety as she watches Rev. E. S. Shumaker in his prison cell.

The supreme court is safe now. It has declared that those who lie about its decisions can be summarily sent to prison and that the judges shall determine when criticism becomes crime.

Undoubtedly there are many thousands in this state who rejoice in the plight of the dry leader who for a time becomes a number and is no longer able to dictate to legislators, to sheriffs, to prosecutors or to congressmen.

They do so unthinkingly. For a precedent has been created that may at any time arise to plague those who have any urge to exercise their rights of free speech and feel strongly about judicial decisions.

The sentencing of Shumaker completes a long list of precedents under which judges and courts now have complete power.

It has been determined that the truth of criticism is no defense. This had no relation to the Shumaker case, as his defenders did not urge that he had spoken the truth.

The comments of Shumaker concerned a case that had been closed. That enlarges the old theory that indirect contempt must concern some "pending case."

Those who use either the spoken or the written word will understand the significance of the sentence. No federal question is ever involved. No Governor may pardon.

Those who wish may draw their own conclusions from the facts that contempt proceedings are presumed to be summary and used for the purpose of immediate protection of the court and the supreme court weighed the matter many months before reaching a decision.

What is more significant is the fact that the supreme court refused to consider as important the admitted activities of Senators Watson and Robinson in behalf of Shumaker after his case had been presented to that court.

By admission and written evidence these two senators talked over what they could do—and did do.

Both were candidates for office. Shumaker was powerful. The record shows that Robinson went to Watson to discuss what could be done to "keep Shumaker out of jail."

For Shumaker's appeal to politicians to save him he merited all that he is getting.

Perhaps he can get some satisfaction, as the judges must, from the thought that the court is now safe.

### Peace—The Next Step

The most promising aspect of the Capper senate resolution to authorize munitions and economic boycott against any nation violating the Kellogg anti-war pact is the public attention it is receiving.

Last year a similar Burton resolution aimed at warring nations was ignored almost completely. Here is quick proof that the Kellogg treaty discussion and ratification have stimulated America's sense of responsibility for world peace.

We are in sympathy with the purpose of the Capper resolution.

We believe that the moral weight of the United States should be thrown against nations which break the peace. That is the intent of the Kellogg pact. But America's moral influence in such a crisis would be nullified if that outlawed foreign war were fought with American munitions and supplies. And this is the missing link in the American outlawry-of-war chain which the Capper resolution aims to supply.

Actual text of the Capper resolution seems to us unclear on some points and evasive on others. But that is not important at the moment, because Capper's idea now simply is to start a general discussion as a background for intelligent handling of the question by congress next winter.

Opposition of the Borah isolationist group on the one side and of the militarists on the other has been accorded similar proposals in the past, and doubtless will be concentrated against the new resolution.

There probably will be a hue and cry that the pro-

posed move would "take us into the League of Nations through the back door." That is nonsense.

Soon or later the United States must face the facts of modern warfare—that there can be no war without affecting this country's world interests. That old concepts of neutrality are meaningless in an age which necessarily distinguishes between "private" and "public" wars, and that traditional definitions of contraband can not apply to modern wars, which involve civilian populations and which are determined mainly by economic weapons.

The Capper resolution is evidence that America is beginning belatedly to face this problem, which other nations, through the League of Nations, have been facing for a decade. But the League of Nations is not the cause of that problem. Neither is the League of Nations the American solution proposed by Capper.

His resolution would empower the President, unless otherwise provided by congress, to determine the violator of the Kellogg pact and to apply an American boycott against the offender. Certainly that is quite different from allowing the league or the league council to determine American action.

A second important difference between this American proposal and the league and Locarno provisions for so-called sanctions against an offender is that the latter include use of military and naval force.

The present international situation is paradoxical and dangerous, because the United States, which on paper has outlawed aggressive war, is in a position to prevent league nations from suppressing an aggressive war. Indeed, we are in a position now to furnish the arms and supplies to a nation violating our Kellogg treaty, and then go to war ourselves against league nations whose blockade against the aggressor interferes with our "freedom" to aid the outlaw.

Here is one cause of the Anglo-American disagreement over sea law and the new cruiser rivalry.

This issue is fundamental. It will not be settled in a day. The solution probably will not be in the exact form of the Capper senate resolution, or of the similar Porter resolution introduced in the house yesterday. But that the solution will be along the general lines of these resolutions, we do not doubt.

Meanwhile, this issue deserves the best thought of the American people.

### Lincoln's Ideal

A good thing it is that we have reminders like the anniversary of Abraham Lincoln. The Great Emancipator he was called. That was because he was President when slavery as an institution was overthrown.

But Lincoln was even more than that. He was the voice and the embodiment of that ideal toward which our country strives, the ideal of a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Those words are not a mere trick of rhetoric.

They are the simplest statement of that principle of democracy which gave birth to our form of government, and which is the antithesis to the thing called dictatorship.

Lincoln and Mussolini are the opposite poles of political thought.

The hallowed dead of Gettysburg died, he said, that the ideal of democracy might not perish from the earth.

Our nation is not today altogether a government of the people, by the people, for the people. If he were alive, Lincoln would be the last to so describe it. But it is not a government of the people by a czar or a kaiser or a Mussolini.

It is a government in which the people have a considerable voice. It is a government in which the ultimate power rests still in the people's hands.

Before Einstein reached his theory that the earth and all are only an optical illusion, he must have spent considerable time studying the habits and manners of backseat drivers.

David Dietz on Science

### Sun Rotation Startling

No. 277

LET US now see what modern astronomical methods have revealed about the sun. But first, let us give a word of warning to the amateur astronomer.

Under no circumstances should one attempt to look directly at the sun.

A Belgian physicist by the name of Plateau forced himself to look at the sun for twenty seconds and as a result blinded himself for life.

Under no circumstances should opera glasses or field glasses be pointed at the sun as blindness might result. A telescope should only be pointed at the sun when equipped with proper and adequate solar or dark eyepieces and even then it is not wise for the amateur to try solar observation except under the supervision of an experienced and trained astronomer.

The most noticeable features of the sun are the so-called sun-spots, irregularly shaped dark spots on the surface of the sun.

Both from visual observations of the sun-spots and from the evidence of the spectroscope, it can be shown that the sun is rotating on its axis from west to east just as the earth is.

But these observations reveal a startling fact, namely that the equatorial regions of the sun are rotating faster than the remainder of the sun.

The equatorial region of the sun makes one complete rotation in 24.6 of our days.

However, at a north or south latitude of 60 degrees, it takes 30.9 days and at the north and south polar regions of the sun it takes 34 days.

No adequate explanation of this state of affairs has yet been formulated.

However, it clearly points to the fact that the entire sun must be in a gaseous condition and that the interior of the sun must be seething under the influence of terrific forces.

The surface of the sun is known technically as the photosphere. It is not a solid surface such as we have here on earth. It is a great white-hot bolled sea of clouds not clouds of water-vapor such as we have on earth, but clouds of iron and copper and magnesium and sodium and many other substances which exist as solids on this earth but as white-hot vapors or gases in the sun.

The sun-spots, as we shall see later, are great whirl-pools in this gaseous surface, caused, perhaps, by the same forces which account for the differential rotation of various parts of the sun.

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## M. E. TRACY SAYS:

"Lincoln Believed in Men; He Was Always Readier to Forgive Than Condemn. In That, More Than Anything Else, Lay His Greatness."

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 12.—Comes Feb. 12 once more, with the shadow of a tall, gaunt man looming out of the murk. America pauses to pay tribute, and the rest of the world is rapidly learning to follow suit.

It will be thus as long as human history survives. Even though this nation should perish, and the very civilization which gave it birth, the name of Lincoln will live on.

This barefoot boy, born to poverty and privation; this awkward country lawyer, studying as he tramped along the road; this politician, who made himself popular by telling funny stories; this rabid abolitionist whom the party bosses tried to shove; this man of peace, who found himself forced to engage in a fratricidal war; this embodiment of spirituality, whose love of humanity never succumbed to the bitterness of conflict has gone to take his place among the great of the earth.

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BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN, Editor of *Journal of the American Medical Association* and of *Hygeia, the Health Magazine*.

THE CONSIDERATION that has been given to the human body has taken but little account of some of the newer discoveries in the field of medicine.

Lincoln was a great wrestler, could lift a thousand pounds, wield an ax with the best of them, use a transit, or steer a flatboat down the Mississippi, yet he had the fear of a child and the heart of a philosopher.

What Would Abe Do?

If Lincoln were to come back, he would find a changed world, but he would find little difference in adjusting himself to it, for his was a type of soul not to be made or marred by machinery.

How long would it take him to learn to drive a car, figure an electric light bulb, or talk over the radio? Not so long as it would take us to get the knack of splitting rails.

As for those bigger and older problems, with which he strove, the problems of justice and fair play—he would find himself quite at home.

Such cases as that of Asa Keyes, former district attorney of Los Angeles, who has just been convicted of conspiracy, and that of the invert, Northcott, who has just been sentenced to hang for the murder of three little boys, might shock Lincoln, but would hardly surprise him, while he would be on familiar ground in dealing with such questions as that of prohibition, Nicasio, or even German reparations.

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Universal Truths

PRINCIPLES can expand but never change, the man who learns to think in principles is not only safe, but adaptable to any age.

That is why some men live on as sources of wisdom and inspiration. Socrates was one; Shakespeare was one, Lincoln was one.

We can still learn something of value from Socrates, though he died more than 2,000 years ago, without even knowing that the earth was round, or that Lindbergh would fly the Atlantic.

Two thousand years hence, men will be learning something of value from Lincoln.

There are such things as universal truths and immutable laws. Lincoln was one of the few to sense them.

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Belief in Men

WITH malice toward none," he said, "but charity for all," and "striving for the right," as God gives us to see the right"—what a creed, what a philosophy! "What a religion!

Where are the people who can not follow it to their own good? What are the problems it would help to solve?

Everything goes back to human hope in human capacity to grow more decent all the while. Lincoln was a living, breathing embodiment of that hope.

Lincoln believed in men. Like Franklin, he held that it was natural for them to want to do right. He was always ready to forgive than condemn. In that, more than anything else, lay his greatness.

Where did we get the idea of doing such a thing, assuming it to be so? Who started the venture and why? What is the reason the idol-smashers have not made more headway? They have certainly done work enough.

No, no? This is hardly a case of superstition. America has made no god of Lincoln, has clothed him with no supernatural powers.

What America has done is to enshrine him as a man who exemplified the triumph of spirit over material difficulties, who rose by his own efforts, who resisted the temptations of hate, who remained true to his boyhood ideals, who faced the storm with the courage of a lion, who touched the wounds of his bleeding fellow-beings, with the tenderness of mother love.

We like to look up to him as he and Douglas battle in that immortal series of debates in which the destiny of this republic was