



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### The Way Clear

With the passage of two laws asked by the special attorneys for the city, the way now should be cleared for the speedy taking over of the gas plant in behalf of the citizens.

The trustees of the company, its directors and the city government are agreed that the plant belongs to the city as a whole.

Under the farsighted and public-spirited contract and franchise, the city has the right to take over the plant by paying the original purchase price of the stock.

Due to the great growth of the city and wise management of the company, the utility is worth many more millions than it was when the franchise was granted.

In the meantime the investors in the stock have received a high rate of interest to compensate them for any speculative increases in value.

With an apparent agreement as to the right and justice of the situation, there remains only the inevitable contest with the few who have speculated on the off chance that some court may interfere and prevent the people from obtaining what belongs to them.

They gambled on the general theory that the people always lose and that courts, jealous of vested interests and private property, will find some undotted i or un-crossed t in the proceedings that will permit them to reap huge profits from their gamble.

If there is to be a legal battle, the sooner it begins the better. The rights of the people should be asserted promptly and without delay.

An advertisement to the nation that this city is progressive enough to own a utility plant that offers cheap fuel would be the most attractive to industries seeking new locations and to ambitious men who want to live where opportunity beckons loudest.

### Laws and Laws

"Our whole system of self-government will crumble either if officials elect what laws they will enforce or citizens elect what laws they will support," President Hoover remarked during his inaugural address. He was discussing prohibition.

"The worst evil or disregard for some law is that it destroys respect for all law," he added.

Hoover might have gone on to say that the surest way to increase the disrespect for law among citizens is to permit lawless officers to trample on their rights. Prohibition officers, for instance, "elect" to enforce constitutional prohibition, but in so doing they violate the constitutional guarantees against unwarranted search and seizure and other private rights. They "disregard" one law in their zeal for another.

Activities of prohibition officers in Baltimore recently provide an example. They have, according to newspaper stories, smashed their way into numerous places suspected of selling liquor, without warrant, when they have been unable to get evidence on which to base warrants.

Having entered illegally, they have laid to with axes and smashed the furnishings, wholly without legal justification. Published pictures show how thoroughly they have wrecked several places.

It is small wonder that a citizen of Baltimore, witnessing these episodes, would be inclined to disrespect law. The people of Maryland do not want prohibition, but they have since the beginning been extremely jealous of their private rights—rights just as legal and constitutional as prohibition—and they always have tried to defend them.

Hoover is appealing to the public to support law. His appeal will be all the more effective if federal agents themselves are made to do likewise.

### Comfort for Sluggards

Mr. Coolidge has at least one weakness in common with the rest of us, we are pleased to learn.

"The greatest thing about not being President is that I do not have to get up at 8 o'clock in the morning and read and dictate all day," he told the United Press.

Those of us who abhor alarm clocks now will feel less guilty. All sluggards, which is most of us, will be grateful to Mr. Coolidge.

### President and Press

President Hoover, on his first day in office, indicated his purpose to reform that little understood, but most important institution, the White House press conference.

The problem of presidential press relations is far greater than the technical interests of newspapers or the publicity interests of the White House. It goes to the heart of informed public opinion, upon which all other democratic institutions depend.

The problem is not an easy one. Probably no perfect solution will be found. But it is high time that reforms be attempted.

The Coolidge system protected the President at the expense of both press and public. It tended to encourage the President to use the entire press of the country as his personal propaganda media without taking responsibility for that propaganda.

And the system was so rigged that the press virtually was forced to forego its customary protection of the public and to print at times inspired and questionable propaganda on its own responsibility, instead of revealing the real source.

Coolidge talked to the correspondents at length in regular semi-weekly conferences, but only at rare intervals were they permitted to quote the President, even indirectly. Finally, Coolidge even prohibited the use of such terms as "the White House spokesman," which the correspondents were using in fairness to themselves and to the public, to indicate their authority for the story.

That Hoover understands clearly the nature of the difficulty and his responsibility to the public for perfecting a more honest system is indicated by his statement at his first White House press conference. That statement, by the way, was carried by the press under Hoover quotation marks with his permission, while Coolidge never permitted quotation of what he said on this subject.

"I am anxious," Hoover said, "to clear up the twilight zone as far as we can between authoritative and quotable material on one hand, and such material as I am able to give from time to time for purely background purposes on the other."

He proposes to work out an improved system in direct consultation with officers of the White House correspondents and of the Washington news bureaus. Certainly that is the fair and effective way to go about it.

If Hoover was responsible for the official regula-

tion of news dispatches by his subordinates aboard ship during his recent Latin-American tour, his latest statement to the White House correspondents is welcome evidence that past mistakes are not to be repeated. And that is to the interest of Hoover, as well as to the public served by the press.

### Mexican Rebellion

The Mexican revolt is a serious blow to the hopes and plans of liberal leaders in that country for a peaceful and permanent transition from military to popular government. It is a disappointment to the friends of Mexico in the United States and elsewhere, who dared believe that the southern republic was emerging from the vicious circle of "personal" revolutions.

Former President Calles has failed, apparently, in his heroic and unselfish efforts to lead his land toward the peace and prosperity of civilian government. Last September he renounced another presidential term, which was within his grasp, with the admonition that the time had come for Mexico to stop relying on "strong men" and begin relying on herself.

With Obregon assassinated and Calles in retirement, the civilian Gil took office as provisional president for one year pending general elections. That transfer of power was peaceful and the world rejoiced with Mexico over this progress.

But the old method of attaining power by bullets instead of ballots has been resorted to again. Half a dozen generals in as many states are leading the revolt, which so far is distinctly a military rebellion, rather than a revolution of the people.

Though some of the rebel generals are reported trying to take advantage of the Catholic opposition to the laws and constitutional provisions regulating churches and clergy, this does not appear to be a so-called religious revolution.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the Mexican situation may be, and whatever the outcome of this latest revolution, it has increased the probability of disguised or open dictatorship as the method of government in that country for another decade, and it has postponed the economic and financial reconstruction so sorely needed.

Under the circumstances Mexico is fortunate in being able to fall back upon a leader of the proved ability and unselfishness of Calles, who has been summed out of retirement by Gil to command the federal armies and restore order.

And both Mexico and the United States are fortunate that there is today a Morrow rather than a Sheffield in the American embassy in Mexico City. Within the last year the United States has demonstrated its friendship for the Mexican government.

There is every reason to believe that this enlightened policy will be continued in Mexico's hour of need. That in itself will do much to discourage the Mexican counter-revolutions, who too often in the past have received financial aid from American business interests and moral aid from American officials.

The use of mechanical men as waiters is predicted. What a blow to the fellow who has learned through correspondence schools to talk to the waiter in French!

In "Dynamo," one of the new plays in New York, a young man makes electricity his god. But most of the big butter and egg men from the west will want something a little more shocking than that.

During the trial of the \$500,000 lawsuit against Sir Joseph Duvene on charges of slandering the painting, "La Belle Ferronniere," the subject was placed under the X-ray. Probably it will be decided she'll have to have her tonsils out.

An important bulletin from Harvard college observatory just reaches us, treating of the Coma Virgo Galaxies. It doesn't say anything about scenery by Urban, so it mustn't be a Ziegfeld show.

David Dietz on Science

### Last Century's View

No. 297

SIR ISAAC NEWTON's law of universal gravitation was satisfactory for the explanation of motion and other mechanical phenomena. But with the discovery of electrical phenomena, it became apparent that his law would not apply to them.

C. A. Coulomb, who lived from 1736 to 1806, showed that magnetic poles attracted or repelled each other with forces which were inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them. Other developments in the understanding of magnetism and electricity were made by a group of experimenters who were contemporary with Coulomb or lived shortly after him. The group included G. A. Volta, A. M. Ampere and

others. But during the nineteenth century, physicists considered that there was a fundamental difference between matter and electricity.

Matter of the ordinary sort was called ponderable matter, that is, matter which possessed mass or weight.

Electricity was considered as a sort of imponderable matter, matter which lacked mass or weight.

Newton's law of gravitation was accepted as the explanation for the phenomena of ponderable matter, while Coulomb's law was accepted as the explanation of electrical phenomena.

Two things are worth pointing out at this stage, things which made it inevitable that some day a theory like Einstein's new theory of gravitation would have to be evolved.

One was the obvious similarity between gravitational and electrical phenomena. Insofar as both obeyed the law of inverse squares, that is, decreasing in proportion to the square of the distance.

The other was the fact that on the basis of the two sets of laws, there was no satisfactory explanation of the interaction between matter and electrical forces.

A third difficulty was soon to arise. It consisted in the nature of light. Incidentally, that difficulty is by no means settled.

Newton regarded light as consisting of minute particles or bullets shot through space. These particles were called corpuscles and the theory was known as the corpuscular theory of light.

But this introduced third difficulty. The speed of light is always constant.

There was no satisfactory explanation for this.

But still more difficulties were to ensue with the wave theory of light. We will discuss this next.

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## THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

M. E.

### TRACY

SAYS:

"This Mexican Revolution Is Not a Popular Uprising in Any Sense of the Word, but a Military Revolt."

EL PASO, March 7.—Being here with a Mexican revolt in progress is even better than occupying a ringside seat at the circus. One gets not only a close-up of the performance from in front, but a lot of lowdown as to what is going on backstage, some of it pretty low.

Locally, the situation is one of rumor and guess work, with comparatively unimprintable names and places claiming the spotlight.

Such and such a town has been captured; or gone over to the rebels, one learns; such and such a general has revolted; such and such a garrison remains loyal; such and such an emissary is trying to negotiate with such and such a commander.

The governor of Chihuahua calls up by long distance telephone to say he has decided to join the rebellion; the commandant at Juarez calls up to say that he will stick by Portes Gil; some else calls up to say that revolutionary agents are in town and so it goes.

### Military Uprising

At the atmosphere clears, one is able to get something of a line on this latest and most unexpected upheaval.

In the first place, it is not a popular uprising in any sense of the word, but a military revolt.

Citizens have had no hand in it. It obviously was conceived within the army, and just as obviously has for its aim the establishment of an administration at Mexico City which the army can control.

The secrecy with which it was planned, the precision with which it has moved and, above all else, the peculiar kind of strategy it is pursuing, identify this revolt as born of gold braid and brass buttons.

Thus far, no one has called for rebellion, except officers of the regular army, and few have rallied to the call, except regularly enlisted men.

It quite commonly is believed that the revolutionary leaders would restore the church and throttle organized labor if victorious, but that they would do this to gain popular favor, rather than as a well considered policy.

There is every reason to believe that this enlightened policy will be continued in Mexico's hour of need.

That in itself will do much to discourage the Mexican counter-revolutions, who too often in the past have received financial aid from American business interests and moral aid from American officials.

The reasons for it, he says, "are the open and insulting methods by which Plutarco Elias Calles and Emilio Portes Gil are trying to impose Pascual Ortiz Rubio to people as president."

In this connection it will be remembered that Portes Gil is serving as ad interim president in place of General Alvaro Obregon, who was assassinated just after being elected, and that he was chosen to act as such by the Mexican congress.

It also will be remembered that a convention of the revolutionary party recently was held for the purpose of nominating a presidential candidate, that Rubio and Aaron Saenz were the chief contenders, and that Saenz bolted because, as he claimed, delegates favoring his opponent had illegally been enrolled.

He had more vinegar than all the horses that ever loafed in all the royal stables of Europe, and we feel quite confident he would have impressed his individuality upon the prince.

He surpassed Mary Garden in temperament and he could run like Hoover.

He worked when he felt like it, but could not be derrickled out of moments of profound meditation.

If we could bring this horse back from equestrian paradise and bring the prince to our beloved land, we would give our note for \$50 to see him endeavor to entice a journey him end.

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He was a great admirer of Thomas Jefferson and held firmly

to the doctrine of absolute equality;

in fact, his turbulent dissent led him to the conclusion that he regarded a creature with only two legs as half as important as one with four.

He resented harness at all times and had he lived in Wisconsin would have been an ardent champion of La Follette.

He was impossible to saddle him without the most delicate negotiations and when he reconsidered after one had mounted him, it was an effort long to be remembered.

He leaped the loop, went into nose dives and tail spins, until he stood toward home he put his ears down and you couldn't hold him any more than you could braise a cyprine.

But when you made suitable apology and came with incense he relented.

We are sure the prince would have

found in him at such times a remarkable likeness to an ordinary debonair in the house of commons.

He could kick like Jim Reed. We recall that far-off day when we went to Deer Creek to attend a birthday party, driving this horse and the old mare, our motive power and the old mare, our motive power co-educational.

We hitched the mare between two strange horses and they at once assumed the aggressive, whereupon we took her out and inserted old Hotstuff.

In fifteen seconds he had kicked the liver, lungs and gizzard out of the opposition and for his peroration kicked all the boards loose.

His love of home was most pronounced when you tried to drive him to the buggy; you had to beat him to start him; his carburetor seemed to be flooded with gas, but when you turned round and started toward home he put his ears down and you couldn't hold him any more than you could braise a cyprine.

But once back at his old fireside he would chew his fodder fine and be as silent as Coolidge.

Yes, we are sorry the prince never met that horse.

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