



The Indianapolis Times

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BOYD GURLEY, ROY W. HOWARD, FRANK G. MORRISON,
Editor, President, Business Manager
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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

Making Progress

Two cities in Indiana vote today on a proposal to adopt the city manager form of government. That means an advance in public sentiment, even if there should fail to be a majority in favor of the change.

It is progress because of the evidence that public sentiment is aroused on public questions and at least a formidable group of citizens have reached the conclusion that the interference of partisan politics in municipal affairs can only result in a misuse of power.

It is progress because of its evidence that there are organized groups in other communities who refuse to yield to bossism and dictatorship, even though it be disguised as party loyalty.

The fight to establish this law has been long. The politicians have done everything that ingenuity and greed could dictate to prevent the people from receiving decent government in which party politics plays no part.

This city should have been operating for two years under the city manager law. It required a legislature to prevent the people from having what they had voted for. After Indianapolis had adopted the system, the legislature voted to delay the operation of the law for two years.

The legislature did this in an effort to keep Duvall in office in this city and Males in office in Evansville, where the people turned to the city manager law as a defense against bad government.

These two mayors had testified that immediately after their election, they had journeyed under sealed orders to Hiram Evans to discuss their appointments. They admitted quite unblushingly that the head of the Klan was the real governing force in these cities.

Duvall has been convicted and will soon go to jail. Males is now under indictment. That indicates the sinister influence of bad city government upon legislatures, if it proves nothing worse.

The same forces which coerced the legislature into its protectorate over Duvall are now trying to defeat the law altogether.

They are whispering that they own the supreme court, and tell their followers that the highest court will decide that the law is illegal. That, of course, is pure slander and a libel upon the court. But they stop at nothing, these evil forces that hitch the underworld to the churches in a political team that permits them to prowl and pillage the public pocket-book.

The infamy of spreading the statement that they have secret entrance to the high court can not be equalled.

When the case is presented to the court the people have every right to expect that the decision will be on legal grounds, not on private pleas by grafting bosses.

With other cities interested in the city manager law there is a reasonable hope that it will soon become the rule and not the exception. The divorce of all city government from partisan politics would be even more progress.

A Farm Relief Challenge

Washington dispatches tell of the anxiety of the President and Republican leaders over collapse of the wheat market. The price of wheat has been declining for two months and now is below a dollar a bushel. This is more than 40 cents under the price of a year ago, and is the lowest in fifteen years. Other grain quotations are similarly depressed. Cotton is down.

The situation obviously is fraught with serious economic and political consequences. Farmers will lose hundreds of millions of dollars. Their buying power will be curtailed materially, which will react on business and industry generally. The market went to pot after a campaign in which spellbinders had promised immediate and effective aid, and at a time when congress was endeavoring to make good these promises.

So far, neither congress nor the administration appears to have worked out relief measures. President Hoover brought about a reduction in freight rates on wheat of about 7 cents a bushel to relieve congestion in interior storage points and to lay down export grain more cheaply on the seaboard.

This caused a slump in world prices, which reacted on the American market, the net result being that foreign production absorbed the advantage of the freight rate cut. Now early passage of the farm relief bill is being urged, so its provisions will more quickly become operative.

How this will help in the present situation is difficult to understand. The bill provides for loans to stabilization corporations set up through co-operatives. The machinery is complicated, and months must elapse before the necessary organization work is done, and the machinery begins to function. Presumably these projected stabilization corporations would buy vast quantities of wheat and create an artificial shortage, thereby elevating the price.

meantime, new wheat will reach the market in six weeks.

There has been a great deal of bunk about farm relief, and apparently there is no magic device to cure the farmers' ills. Congress has studied the subject and discussed it for eight years and has not been able to enact helpful legislation. It seems to be powerless in the present emergency.

There is too much wheat in the United States and in other countries. Coming harvests promise to increase these surpluses. Until they disappear prices will remain low. Insofar as the United States is concerned, the eventual solution lies in the curtailment of production to a point where the 42-cent wheat tariff will become effective.

Meantime, it looks like the farmer would have to pocket most and probably all his losses and hope for better days to come. Legislation can go only so far in upsetting economic laws, promises of politicians to the contrary notwithstanding.

If They Could Live Forever

If everlasting life were possible, with continued physical and mental health, it well could be wished for two men—Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes and Louis Brandeis of the United States supreme court.

Presidents, senators and congressmen come and go, and make little impression on the advancement of civilization. Members of the supreme court are there for life, unless impeached; and there is little danger of that. So the longer the lives of the two most learned and most liberal members of that court are prolonged, the better for development of our American civilization.

It is true, of course, that the majority rules in supreme court decisions, and that in the judgment of liberals that majority has been for many years, as it is now, reactionary. It also is true that the opinions of Holmes and Brandeis are ineffective in most cases, because they are minority opinions.

In the long run, however, public opinion will catch up with the present vision of these two great judges and what are now minority opinions will become majority opinions and the law of the land.

It is interesting to note that the most learned and the most liberal mind on the United States supreme court is housed in the oldest body, for Justice Holmes in years is the oldest member of the court. The passing years have not clouded his marvelously clear vision or impaired the brilliance of his intellect. His opinions and those of Justice Brandeis will become classics to students of the law when some of the present-day majority opinions will have become dust of a dead past and their authors have faded out of human memory.

And whatever President Hoover may do in the way of constructive statesmanship to win a place on the scroll of fame, nothing he will or can do will have more influence on the future of our country than the kind of minds he appoints to the United States supreme court.

It may take years to overcome the influence in our national life for which the reactionary appointments of Harding and Coolidge are responsible.

Mabel Willebrandt told United States district attorneys to prosecute only "good strong cases" under the Jones law. Now bootleggers will be putting more water than ever into the stuff.

A new mechanical device will do the work of a cash register, bookkeeper and adding machine, making a complete record of a sale as it is being made. Now some scientist should only invent a machine that could spell out dictation.

David Dietz on Science

Mystery of Rain

No. 372

RAIN is a phenomenon with which every one is familiar. Consequently, he rarely thinks about it. Because it is familiar, he sees no mystery in it. Yet there are many interesting things about it.

When we come to explain how rain is produced, we find that we are faced with a number of difficult problems.

There is a vague general impression held by many people that clouds consist of water vapor and that rain is merely the result of the water vapor condensing back into water and falling.

The reader who has followed this series during the last few weeks knows that this view will not do at all.

Water vapor is entirely invisible. The air at all times includes a certain amount of water vapor. This fact can be ascertained with suitable instruments such as the hygrometer or the dew point apparatus.

A cloud, as has been explained, is itself the result of the condensation of the water vapor in the air. A cloud always consists of either minute droplets of water or minute crystals of ice.

Condensation of the water vapor in the air takes place only on condensation nuclei as we have seen.

A more elaborate explanation is sometimes given for the formation of rain, but this also is wrong. Dr. Humphreys of the United States weather bureau, writes of it:

"The familiar, pretended answer, is, in effect, that somehow the air is cooled until condensation occurs on the various nuclei present, and that the larger of the droplets thus produced that happen to be well in the cloud fall to lower levels, thereby encountering many other particles and through coalescence with them growing into full-sized drops."

"But, as implied, this explanation explains nothing. In the first place there are so many nuclei present in the atmosphere—hundreds at least, and usually thousands, to every cubic inch—that division of the condensed vapor between them leaves every one quite too minute to fall with any considerable velocity."

"Then, too, calculation shows that if a particle should fall, in the manner supposed, through a cloud even a mile thick and pick up everything in its path it still would be a small drop."

"That is, rain is not formed in this simple manner, as is also obvious from the fact that a cloud may last for many hours without giving any rain whatever."

The explanation will be discussed next.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

Prohibition Has Taken the Place of the Crossword Puzzle as the Most Popular Method of Brain Cudgeling.

EDUCATORS seem about as bad as doctors when it comes to disagreeing.

One group of students is advised to be liberal, while another is told to be snobbish.

In his baccalaureate sermon to the graduating class of Columbia university, Dr. Howard Chandler Robbins said: "Play the part of free men, preserve in its integrity your personal life and never allow it to be controlled and dominated by opinions and judgments which are forced upon you from without, in opposition to conscience and reason."

"Put Up a Front"

IN his address to the graduating class at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Professor Robert E. Rogers said:

"Be a snob, marry the boss' daughter instead of his stenographer, dress, speak and act like a gentleman and you will be surprised at the amount of murder you can get away with."

Professor Rogers referred to Harvard's habit of "putting up a front, of assuming that 'everything it does is right,' of never giving nor arguing, but 'blantly going its own way,' and receiving more money and publicity than any other American university."

"Violating" the Law

ANOTHER New York Telegram reporter fared forth the same day to experiment with the problem of law enforcement.

In the space of three hours he violated more than thirty-three state, city or national regulations, but without incurring so much as an unkink word.

Among other things, he raised dust on the city hall steps with a stolen broom, spat on the sidewalk, manhandled a shrub in city hall park, tore up and scattered newspapers, flung banana peels into the street, jostled girls, used profanity, posted a postage stamp after washing off the cancellation mark, bet on the weather, obstructed traffic while having his shoes shined, mutilated a sign on an ash can, smoked cigarettes in the subway, failed to pay his fare on a street car, sneezed without using his handkerchief, and took part in loud conversation with strange girls in a corridor of the federal building, all of which is contrary to law.

"Too Many Fool Laws"

WHAT one gets out of this reporter's experience is not the idea that he was particularly a bad chap but that there are a lot of fool regulations in this country which have no bearing whatsoever on prohibition.

Thanks to the splendid co-operation of our various branches of government, we have produced such a volume of law as the average man would be unable to read during his lifetime, much less understand, or obey.

The result is that we have to take in detail, chasing stories one year while we ignore every other class of violator, pursuing bootleggers the next and making life miserable for a small percentage of auto drivers all the time.

The situation has grown so hopeless that it is necessary to start a drive every so often to remind ourselves of some set of laws that most everyone had forgotten.

I am an unfortunate who has been paid at times to attend plays and watch baseball games and criticize new novels. I've lost my amateur standing in three major phases of amusement.

Everybody knows that the thing by which you make money is never as much fun as recreations, which are more costly. Seemingly my hope of a pleasant old age must be founded largely upon a continuous poker game.

"Enthusiastic Reader"

AND yet from the age of 10 until 16 there can hardly have been a more enthusiastic reader in the whole United States. No outdoor sport was half so fascinating to me as the novels of Sir Walter Scott.

I don't suppose I've met an adult in twenty years who spoke of Scott. The Waverly novels belong to the dying classics, although I trust that "Ivanhoe" and "Talisman" are not yet forgotten by the younger generation.

Some few years ago Christopher Morley made a collection of modern essays in which he included a piece of mine called "The Fifty-first Dragon." I don't know why. Not that it isn't an excellent piece.

It is a short story and no essay at all.

In the course of time Mr. Morley's book has been used by a number of high school and college English classes. Clinging with determination to the coat-tails of my

worst of all was a letter from a

bettors. I have accompanied the other essayists into academic fastness.

And I can't say that I enjoy it. Four or five times a year a letter comes from some student in a distant place. Always the query is the same—what underlying intention did I have when I wrote the story?

"Writers to Get Cash"

HOW should I know? Underlying motivation is seldom apparent to the person who acts upon it. I could reply flippantly that I did the story to get 2 cents a word which was offered by the Sunday editor of the Tribune for special articles. That wouldn't be altogether a lie.

The story netted me \$18 and since this was before the war it was possible to buy a luncheon for two people and spend no greater sum.

Writing such letters of explanation takes hours and hours, but I have managed to get around that difficulty by not answering. Even so, the momentary estate of the story as one more bunker in some school curriculum fills me with horror.

Worst of all was a letter from a

little girl in Indianapolis, or maybe it was Cleveland, saying: "My teacher has given us the subject for my weekly theme: The character of the headmaster in the Fifty-first Dragon. What should I say?"

"Sympathy for Girls"

IT was my intention to telegraph the teacher and implore her to desist, or to urge the pupil to rebellion. In the first place the headmaster in the story didn't have any character. At least I gave him none.

In fantasy I saw the little girl writing a D minus theme on "The Fifty-first Dragon" and thereby failing to graduate with her class.

Because of this her father and mother might take her out of school.

And possibly all the time she was a genius. Maybe they forced her to take up a course in a business college. It was while she was serving as a typist in the First National Bank that she met Gerald.

Two months after the baby was born he deserted her. And it would be all my fault.

If the teacher had given her any

thing else to write about, the whole thing wouldn't have happened.

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Please Page That New Crime Commission



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Iodine Lack May Cause Goiter

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine.

MORE and more scientific medi-

cine is learning the importance in the human body of very small traces of significant elemental substances. Of all these none seems to be much more important than is iodine.

The normal human body of 150 pounds weight contains about one-tenth of a gram of this substance.

Most of the iodine in the body represents about one-tenth of a grain and this is to be found for the most part in the thyroid gland.

The interesting discovery was made within the last quarter century that the frequency of goiter in many localities was due to the fact that children did not receive iodine regularly in their food.

True, they were eating the food substances supposed to contain iodine, but the iodine itself had to come from the soil into the food substances eaten by the children or into the food substances eaten by the chickens that provided the eggs or by the cows that provided the milk.

Studies are being made of the soil of the various states in our country and remarkable variations are found in mineral content. Thus in areas near the seashore there are considerable quantities of iodine and this substance is profuse in seaweed.

But as one gets farther from the

seashore there is less iodine, although