



The Indianapolis Times

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

Merit Is Worthless

To the young man who hopes for a career in government, there is a lesson in the change in the office of internal revenue collector for this district.

It will indicate that the path to preferment is not merit, devotion to duty and efficiency, but activity at the polls, attendance upon conventions, political intrigue and unquestioning loyalty to the bosses.

By a family circumstance, the present collector, George Foote, succeeded to the job. It was, at the start, a sort of legacy after some years of subordinate service in the department.

What happened was unusual. He took the job seriously. Those who have watched the conduct of his office declare that it has been conducted in a manner that reflected not only great credit upon Foote but gave to the government an exceptional grade of public service.

There has been no intimation that he spent his time in political adventures or that he permitted any partisan considerations to interfere with the workings of the office.

The result was that he obtained the respect and admiration of those who had business with that office and the people, as a whole, obtained the service for which they pay and for which the office is operated.

But Foote is to pass. Not even the fact that he is the son-in-law of the national committeeman could protect him in what is considered one of the best bits of political patronage. The one thing he lacked was a record of rounding up delegates at conventions or voters at the polls. He had not "earned" the job politically, although he earned it by service and by merit.

The change will be something of a shock to those who had hoped that a new day had dawned and that the political necessities of United States senators would be of less importance than the orderly conduct of public office.

That Foote is removed and another named to the job is not important, last of all to Foote, for private enterprise places a value on the qualities he has shown in office and regards them rather highly. Private enterprise promotes, and does not discharge, those who have a regard for their duties and have the ability to perform them well.

The sad part is the effect which such a change must inevitably have on the thousands of federal employees who hold minor positions and might have dreams that devotion to their duties would bring advancement and preferment.

They will understand that the doors are locked against them if they follow the Horatio Alger path to honors and rewards. They will know that merit is worthless under such a political system.

The thing to do is to make yourself important to a senator who finds the going hard and his future dusky and dim with threats of disaster.

Toward Disarmament

The long-awaited tentative agreement between the United States and Great Britain on naval limitation is nearer. It is not complete. But it is sufficient for Premier MacDonald to announce that he is sailing for the United States within a fortnight, and for Secretary of State Stimson to announce that they now are prepared to call a five-power naval conference.

It is safe to assume that two such able diplomats as MacDonald and Stimson would not risk these optimistic announcements unless they believe, as a result of the last three months of intensive negotiations, that the London and Washington governments now are in position to give a general naval conference with Japan, France and Italy a good chance of success.

The public has received this news with great rejoicing, as it should.

But the public should not expect the impossible. Fireworks should be reserved for the actual signing of the treaty, and all sides should be prepared for the compromises which will be the price of that treaty if and when it comes.

First as regards cruisers. The President has demanded reduction, and has postponed part of the American cruiser construction program. But it now appears highly improbable that Britain will cut her cruiser strength to our level. Parity probably will mean that we are allowed to build up to her future level, which will be below her present level, but still above our present strength.

This country then must later decide whether it is satisfied with paper parity, or actually needs to build the extra cruisers allowed. Moreover, parity probably will not mean tonnage equality, but a differential balancing our fewer and larger cruisers with Britain's larger number of smaller cruisers. This could give her superior tonnage desired for empire, and give us superior gun and battle strength.

By an increase in her ratio above 5-5-3, as compared with Britain and the United States, Japan doubtless can be brought into the agreement. It is believed London and Washington are prepared to make this concession.

There is not the same assurance regarding France and Italy. The chief weapon and the inexpensive weapon of these smaller naval powers is the submarine. Their unwillingness to restrict submarines was one reason for failure of the Washington conference to limit auxiliary craft in addition to capital ships.

As British and American cruiser strength is related directly to the submarine strength of the smaller

powers, the old submarine dispute is bound to cause trouble in the proposed conference.

Finally, the Stimson announcement is interpreted to mean that the proposed conference will handle not only auxiliary craft, but also will act as a revision conference for the Washington capital ship limitation treaty. Fleets in their entirety will be considered, and, if possible, reduced. This is certainly an intelligent approach, but it increases the difficulty of obtaining full agreement among the five powers.

President Hoover in his disarmament efforts needs the support of the American public. But he does not need the sort of uncritical support which expects miracles, and which swings from one extreme today to another extreme tomorrow.

A complete five-power treaty, without which there can be no lasting Anglo-American agreement, will entail compromises if there is to be actual reduction of fleets. We must be prepared to make sacrifices, as well as cheer.

Mr. Free Sees Things

Not very long ago, President Hoover put his foot down, hard, on a red-baiting campaign launched in Washington, and the campaign came to a sudden end.

We hope he will put his foot down equally hard on Representative Arthur Free of his own state and induce him to bring to an equally sudden end a scheme that panicky person just has evolved.

Mr. Free fears the country is in danger from radicalism. Every once in a while some one thinks he sees that particular bogey. But somehow we have managed to survive. Mr. Free feels this is impossible longer without extending to the District of Columbia and the federal territories California's obnoxious criminal syndicalism law.

Once the law has been enacted in the District of Columbia, the idea, presumably, is to use it as an example which other states shall follow.

The danger about Free's proposition is that it is seems so far remote from actual life that few people will pay much attention to it. No one considers himself a criminal syndicalist, or intends to become one. Yet Californians have found by bitter experience that their law, upon which the proposed one is to be modeled closely, can be, and has been, used to send a large number of persons to jail who were discontented with the present political and economic structure of life, and thought they were proceeding in the manner sanctioned by the Constitution to work for a change.

Those persons who respect the Constitution and its guarantees of free speech and assemblage will oppose Representative Free's criminal syndicalism bill. The two ideas are abhorrent to each other.

The People's Side

Senator Watson of Indiana, Republican floor leader, Friday night spoke in favor of the pending tariff bill over a nation-wide hookup, and millions of radio listeners heard him, provided they did not turn their dials to something livelier.

Doubtless the broadcasting company which invited Watson to speak, now will extend an invitation to some Progressive or Democratic senator to reply. The bill is too important and too controversial for purely ex parte argument.

Senator Borah of Idaho, who did a great deal more to elect President Hoover, would have something to say about this higher-cost-of-living bill which might be more interesting to the radio audience than Watson's remarks.

REASON By FREDERICK LANDIS

KENTUCKY is having a school book scandal, the Governor of the state being summoned to appear before the grand jury and tell what he knows about the attempt of the school book trust to plunder the people.

Every state should print its own school books and furnish them to the children free.

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THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

The Full Stomach in This Country Has Led to an Unnecessary Amount of Emptiness in the Head.

MAC DONALD will come and Hoover will stay to greet him. This is good news for those who want to see the rash rivalry in naval construction stopped. Neither the British premier nor the American President would go so far unless he had good ground for believing that agreement is possible.

According to unofficial reports, the last remaining point in dispute centers around three 10,000-ton cruisers.

With her vast empire, England demands a larger number of small cruisers.

To balance the advantage in tonnage this would give England, the United States demands a larger number of big cruisers.

It is said that England has agreed to limit the number of her 10,000-ton cruisers to fifteen, while the United States keeps eighteen, but that the United States demands that the number allowed England be reduced to twelve.

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No Gain for Prohibition

MRS. COLVIN, president of the New York State W. C. T. U., abhors drinking legislators who vote dry. They are not hypocrites, in her opinion, but merely "good, practical politicians." Indeed, she regards their support as not only legitimate, but as proving the strength of prohibition.

If prohibition were meant only to raise wind, she's right. If, on the other hand, it was meant to stop the flow of liquor, she's wrong.

Whatever prohibition may gain through the moral support of drinking drys is more than offset by what bootlegging gains through their financial support.

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Law Limits Authority

BISHOP CANNON, just home from Europe, voices the opinion that action ought to be taken against Police Commissioner Whalen of New York for his refusal to co-operate with federal authorities in suppression of speakeasies.

"If public officials go against the law, they have taken oaths to enforce it," he says, "isn't that a matter of impeachment?"

The trouble is, of course, that whatever oaths they may take, the authority of officials is more or less circumscribed by our system of government.

If Police Commissioner Whalen were to undertake the enforcement of federal laws, he soon would find himself in hot water.

Bishop Cannon should study the Waggoner case.

" " "

Prosperity Is Unsound

PROFESSOR JOHN DEWEY of Columbia is right in assuming that liberal thought needs a better medium of expression in this country. He also is right in characterizing the present era of prosperity as unsound in certain respects and as likely to produce an unfavorable reaction.

We are not only riding a wave, but have become infatuated with it.

To a measurable extent, thinking along progressive lines has ceased. The country is having far too good a time with its flappers and radio sets for serious study. The full stomach has led to an unnecessary amount of emptiness in the head.

Seated a man with a megaphone has been appointed to shout, "Will everybody please remove his raccoon coat?" Those unable to comply will be sequestered for transportation to the ape farm in Florida.

This seems to have created a certain self-consciousness in New Haven, since the average undergraduate could not tell just where he stood. Even his best friends wouldn't tell him.

The ape school now is to be shifted to Florida, and segregation is to be practiced. According to the press, "Dr. Angel" later disclosed that an anthropoid colony had been conducted quietly at Yale for the last five years under Dr. Robert Yerkes, professor of psychology."

In the long run the result will be little different from what it would have been had we accepted Germany's bonds in partial payment of the French and British debts and wiped out a lot of unnecessary book-keeping.

" " "

The Old and the New

LIFE continues to be a strange admixture of the old and new.

On the same day that a British fleet broke all previous records by driving an airplane at the rate of six miles a second, a French journal announced that the alleged mummy of Cleopatra would be reburied in the gardens of the French National Library "with honor."

Theoretically, we may have avoided entanglement with German reparations, but in reality we are providing the cash.

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" " "

Superstition Survives

SUPERSTITIOUS fancies survive, however. The Governor of Texas commutes a Negro's sentence, rather than see him launched into eternity on Friday, the thirteenth, while the good ship Bremen sails eleven minutes ahead of time to avoid beginning a journey on that supposedly fatal day.

On the other hand, several couples not only defy tradition by getting married, but glory in it.

" " "

Daily Thought

Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance.—II Corinthians 7:10

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WHEN a man has been guilty of any vice or folly, I think the best atonement he can make for it is to warn others not to fall into the same trap.

" " "

It is perfectly easy for Minister Briand of France

to get all the nations of Europe to join this union against the United States by promising them they will set something out of it, but they would fly at one other's throats the minute there was something to come.

" " "

If the Russians and the Chinese expect to have any Americans in the audience they will have to postpone their war until after the world's series is over between the Cubs and the Athletics.

" " "

It is perfectly easy for Minister Briand of France

One Swallow Ends a Summer!



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Diphtheria Could Be Wiped Out

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

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

SOME years ago an eminent epidemiologist stated that if all of the knowledge now available were to be applied practically, diphtheria would disappear from the world.

"If public officials go against the world, they have taken oaths to enforce it," he says, "isn't that a matter of impeachment?"

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