



The Indianapolis Times

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BOYD GURLEY, Editor.

ROY W. HOWARD, President

FRANK G. MORRISON, Business Manager

PHONE—Riley 5561

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

No Turning Back Now

The city manager law is dead, killed by three judges of the supreme court.

But the civic conscience, high purpose and fine *zeal* which had inspired a crusade for decent government and better public conditions under its provisions is not dead. That is beyond assassination.

The immediate reaction to this decision should be a determination on the part of those who have given their trust, their time, their money and their enthusiasm to this cause, to fight as never before against the evils they sought to banish through a changed form of government.

To these forces the decision comes as a surprising and astounding blow to their hopes. One of the unfortunate circumstances surrounding the decision and the present situation is that while the unimpeachable men and women were working and planning for the city manager election, confidently relying upon the assurances and opinions of many outstanding attorneys that the law was valid and beyond overthrow, in other quarters of the city, where a different type of citizens congregates and discusses public matters, a most accurate forecast of the outcome was common and confident.

It is unfortunate that leading lawyers and the better citizens were wrong, while those who frequent the poolrooms and resorts of questionable nature were correct in their predictions as to the final result.

The decision of the court finds the law impossible of operation in one particular. It says that the provision that the city clerk, within five days, must certify to the validity of the signers to a petition for a change of government cannot be carried out in a city of the size of Indianapolis.

This is a duty, which, says the decision, cannot be delegated to others. And it correctly estimates that the clerk, if personally called upon to find and interview every signer, would have to visit two and sixty-three hundredths of a voter each minute, day and night during the five days.

The court, and in this all will assent, says that this cannot be done, and takes judicial notice of that fact.

There will be many who will regret that the court could not find it within its province to take judicial notice of the fact that at the election held under the petition filed with the clerk, the citizens of Indianapolis cast their ballots at the ratio of nearly six to one in favor of such a change.

To minds less judicial this might have suggested that the one purpose of verification of a petition, which is to test the desire of a sufficient number of citizens to make the expense of an election a reasonable use of public funds, had been justified and that it might be properly assumed that out of the overwhelming number of citizens who favored the change a sufficient number of qualified voters had petitioned for the election in which they participated.

However, the court has ruled. The law is dead. And turning from its grave, the friends of good government, stunned though they may be by grief, must find a way to accomplish the results they hoped for by other means.

For the tragedy of the situation, if it has its tragical aspects, is not the death of the city manager law. It lies in the possibility that the finest group of citizens ever organized in this city, with the most fervent enthusiasm ever shown for civic righteousness, may lose their zeal and take on a color of hopelessness and helplessness.

The city manager movement was a legitimate child. It was begotten of resentment against the outrages which had been perpetrated in the name of a partisan city government and mothered by a lofty hope that a city, unshackled from bossism, from machine rule, from intrigue and manipulation, might reach a great height of spirit as well as prosperous comfort for its citizens.

That resentment still exists. That hope still lives.

Today those who have led the thousands who gave their trust and confidence to what, it appears, was an unconstitutional aspiration, have a deeper responsibility than ever before.

They must stand guard against trickery, against hopelessness, against a dispersion of the forces of civic righteousness. They must lead.

The decision is the opportunity, of course, for the forces of greed and selfishness. They may and probably will, try to find a respectable front for their sinister purposes. They will try to again capture the city hall.

It is, too, the opportunity for those who today are disappointed. It is the opportunity to carry on and stick together. The law is dead. The cause lives.

Hoover and the Tariff

The President has intervened in the senate tariff fight—not in protest against higher rates for rich and prosperous industries as hoped, but in defense of the flexible provision under which the President, on recommendation of the tariff commission, may change rates up to 50 per cent.

Arguments used by Mr. Hoover in favor of retaining the flexible provision are perfect—theoretically seven years ago it was put into the law and pretty generally accepted on all sides as a reform.

It was to help take the tariff out of politics, to provide machinery for correcting inequalities in individual schedules without the prolonged congressional debate which always follows attempted tariff tinkering, and finally it was to increase the power of the bi-partisan and scientific tariff commission.

Unfortunately, it has not worked out that way. Whoever or whatever is responsible, the fact is that in seven years of operation the flexible provision has in effect made the tariff commission more political in character, and has concentrated more power in the hands of the President, while at the same time subjecting him to increased partisan pressure.

The flexible provision in the hands of Mr. Coolidge meant little more than an invitation to raise rates right and left. Practically every important change was a full 50 per cent increase. When the commission recommended a decrease on a major commodity, Coolidge ignored it.

Along with that process went an attempt by the White House to control the commission through indirect pressure, and finally through the astounding subterfuge of demanding standing resignations from commissioners to be used if and when the President desired.

This bit of unpleasant history explains why many of the most progressive senators of both parties now are as opposed to the "reform" machinery which they helped to build. They now propose to make the commission directly responsible to congress, which alone will have authority to change rates, as originally contemplated by the Constitution.

They believe this will preserve the best part of the present system and eliminate the evils of the last seven years.

Doubtless a great many voters find themselves in our own predicament. We agree with the President that the present system is best, theoretically. But we have pointed out repeatedly the abuse of the flexible provisions under Mr. Coolidge.

It all comes down—as most governmental problems do—to the spirit in which a law is enforced. And we do not think Mr. Hoover is the kind of President who will abuse the flexible provision power for partisan purposes. Therefore we are somewhat less excited about the need of quick revision than we were when Mr. Coolidge was in the White House.

We are saving our excitement in this tariff fight for the matter of high industrial rates which violate the Republican campaign pledge, which will increase the cost of living, which will start foreign retaliation and boycotts and which are pretty close to public robbery.

We still hope the President, in line with his message to congress, will take as positive a position in the matter of the high industrial tariff increases as he has on the flexible provision.

Truly Rural

Clinton Bardo, president of the New York Ship Building Company, speaking out of the richness of his experience with William B. Shearer, declares that the witness stand that he now regards Shearer as an undesirable man to have around.

Asked why, he lapses into the rural and says:

"Well, you might send him after the cows and he might take a gun and shoot the farmer's pigs."

That rather picturesque language describes accurately what big business frequently gets when it hires what have come to be called the pompous title of "public relations engineers," previously known under the more plebian heading of "press agent."

Especially will some of the public utilities appreciate Mr. Bardo's feelings, for those utilities have been on the anxious seat now for a couple of years as a result of high-pressure schemes devised by their public relations engineers."

The text book scandals and other similar revelations brought forth by the federal trade investigation are demonstrations of the fact that the press agents who were sent out to bring in the cows actually did shoot up the pigs.

REASON By FREDERICK LANDIS

THEODORE ROOSEVELT, now Governor of Porto Rico, is the brightest of T. R.'s children and the one most like him is Alice Roosevelt Longworth.

Had the fates cast her for a male role the Roosevelt banner would not be hanging on the ancestral wall at Oyster Bay; it would be waving up close to the head of the procession.

Young gentlemen suffering from that tired feeling, may be interested to learn that the oldest toiler in the American vineyard, Jacob B. Ullery, aged 91 years, still takes care of his 100-acre farm up in Michigan.

He cut his place out of the wilderness more than seventy years ago and has run it ever since, thus proving that the nearest approach in all this world to a fountain of eternal youth is to spend your days as your own boss in a business that you like.

William F. Kenny, the wealthy New York contractor, now in Europe, who had his barber cross the Atlantic to give him a hair cut, should also take a seafoam and a shave while the fellow is over there.

RAMSAY M'DONALD'S visit may not determine the naval strength of the United States and Great Britain, but when President Hoover entertains him, it will determine just where Mrs. Gann is to sit.

It is a sad commentary on the intelligence on our highwaymen that not one of them thought of holding up a victim by claiming to be a corn borer detective, sent out by the department of agriculture.

REPRESENTATIVE LA GUARDIA, nominated as a Republican candidate for mayor of New York, is an interesting personality. Born in Arizona, he graduated from a New York high school and served as a filer during the World war.

In politics he has visited around quite a lot, running on various tickets and if not elected mayor, he will stay in the national house of representatives and make wet speeches.

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

Talk Has Become Almost a Religion In This Country, Not Only as a Substitute for Action, But as a Guarantee of Results.

SENATOR MCKELLAR is against the proposed Anglo-American naval accord; not that he loves peace less, but parity more.

Counting cruisers, he finds that England has about twice as many as the United States. And to his mind a cruiser is a cruiser, whether she weighs 3,000 tons and mounts six-inch guns, or 10,000 tons and mounts eight-inch guns.

The fact that four-fifths of England's cruisers would be comparatively small under the proposed agreement, while more than one-half of ours would be comparatively big, does not impress the senator as of any consequence.

What he wants is the number—not the size.

Encouraging as Senator McKellar's opposition to the administration program may be, it is offset by the announcement that neither Mrs. Gann nor Mrs. Longworth will be in Washington during Premier MacDonald's visit.

According to a United Press dispatch, Secretary Stimson looks ten years younger.

Preparations for the premier's visit necessarily involved some hard bargaining with regard to tonnage, caliber, speed, and so on, but that caused little worry compared to the far greater problem of where to seat the Vice-President's sister and the Speaker's wife at social functions.

Enright Says He Knows.

RICHARD E. ENRIGHT, running for mayor of New York on the "Square Deal" ticket, says that if Governor Roosevelt authorizes an investigation of the Rothstein case, he will tell what he knows.

"I have some information concerning the Rothstein case which is authentic," he says, "and I will be glad to submit it to any investigator the Governor might appoint."

This information would be extremely embarrassing to several city officials, he declares, insinuating that the police have done what they could to cover it up for that reason.

More particularly, he charges that the police and District Attorney Banton have known pretty well where Herman Biller, an important witness in the Rothstein case, was to be found, while he himself had information that Biller was in New York City for two weeks last August.

Borrowing an idea from President Hoover, District Attorney Banton says that if Mr. Enright knew of Biller's presence in the city, it was his duty to inform the authorities, not forgetting to mention time and place.

Wink at Speakeasies

FOR many years the opposition to Tammany hall, whether represented by a Republican, Socialist or a fusion candidate, has hung on the hope of proving graft or collusion.

The Rothstein case is popular with the opposition because it represents one more possibility in that direction.

Exposure of the speakeasy graft probably would be easier, but not so effective.

The presence of 32,000 speakeasies, as Mr. Enright charges, would suggest nothing so emphatically as that New York is tolerant toward them. Even if such tolerance does include considerable hush money.

Proof of connivance to pigeon-hole a murder case would hurt Tammany more than would exposure of an indulgent attitude toward hooch.

As a matter of common sense, such attitude is taken for granted. Especially since Mr. Whalen declined the invitation to "co-operate" with federal authorities.

Like all Washington, New York oratory with regard to speakeasies takes academic lines.

A great deal is heard about "common knowledge," what the authorities could do if "they had the will," and so on.

Prohibition, when you come to think of it, has taken the place of the weather in furnishing a subject about which everyone feels free to talk. While no one feels obliged to do anything.

Talk Is Our Religion

TALK has become almost a religion in this country.

We believe in it not only as a substitute for action. But as a guarantee of results.

Some of our shrewdest business men are willing to pay good money for talk. As the Shearer case reveals, and rather poor talk at that.

A review of the testimony thus far developed in that case is startling.

What Shearer did or said at Geneva and Washington is of no great consequence, but what the people who hired him expected is a sad commentary on their business sense, if not their political ideals.

Daily Thought

But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.—Colossians 3:25.

Justice is but distributing to evildoers according to the requirements of its nature.—Glanvil.

What is the population of New York?

The 1928 estimated population was 6,017,000.

What are the values of small peninsulas dated 1800, 1812, 1831, 1840 and 1852?

None of them command any premium.

What does the name Mayle mean?

It is a variant spelling of the Irish family name Mayall, meaning bald, tonsured, like a priest. It originated as a nickname.

All Is Not Gold That Glitters



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Study Child's Mental Capacity Early

By DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

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

THE most rapid period of growth of the child is in its early years.

In the very early period of growth days count greatly; after middle life, days mean little in the changes that go on in the human organism.

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It is not a bad rule to read an old book whenever you just have finished a new one. Accordingly, I supplemented the magnificent native novel by tackling "The Outline of History" once again.

That is not quite ancient yet, but it remains a good book to have around. It is a particularly appropriate book for the library of a lazy man. It is a good book for me.

You see, it will always be fresh as far as I'm concerned, because I have no expectation of ever getting all the way through. I suppose, man and boy, I've been reading "The Outline" high on to seven years. There have been intervals in this endeavor and mostly I start to talk. While no one feels obliged to do anything.

Book That Never Fails

THIS time I jumped into the middle and grew fascinated with what H. G. Wells has to say about Napoleon.

We believe in it not only as a substitute for action. But as a guarantee of results.