



The Indianapolis Times

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

A Simple Question

Reduced to simple terms, the issue of the campaign to be decided tomorrow is very simple. The voter merely has to answer the question of his own attitude toward Coffinism.

There are very many who want Coffinism. Generally they are the seekers for special privileges of some sort. Some of them want protection against the police. Others want contracts at fancy prices. Some want to get away with workless jobs. There are some big businesses which depend on the boss for favors.

These have personal interests which outstrip their indignation against the crimes of Coffinism. They do not care about the indictment of his henchmen or himself. They do not resent the overthrow of the city manager movement. They accept, as a necessary evil, his control of the schools and their degradation in behalf of bossism.

They may smile at the enthusiasm of such Coffin followers as the head of the misnamed Good Government Club, who solemnly urges his deluded followers to vote for Glossbrenner as a means of vindicating the "Christian integrity" of Coffin himself. But they need Coffin in their business and will line up for him.

On the other side are those citizens who pay the cost of Coffinism. They pay it in high taxes, in a sense of personal humiliation at the shame brought upon the city, in a loss of confidence in all government that such misrule begets.

That issue has been made plain, not by the charges of political speakers, but by events and the statements of the two candidates for mayor.

As far as Mr. Glossbrenner has gone is to state that he has made no promises and that he will be controlled by no faction. He has shown no indignation at the outrages of Coffinism. He has not denounced Coffin. He has accepted the campaign management of Coffin. He has, which is worse, approved the Coffin councilmanic ticket which contains, as a pledge to the men who want Coffinism, the name of Keane, used as the tool to destroy the city manager law.

On the other hand Mr. Sullivan has denounced Coffinism openly. There is no suspicion, if he is elected, that Coffin will have a dugout from which to wage new warfare against the people.

In the handling of the city business, both candidates are qualified. Both are personally honest. Both have had experience.

So it seems a simple matter. In the schools, the contest is between the Citizens' candidates and the Coffin vassals.

On the city ticket it is a question of giving Coffin a chance to rebuild and continue his discredited machine, with a probability of more work for the grand juries and the prosecutors and a constant threat of official power being used to block and hinder and obstruct every movement for political progress and political honesty.

If you believe in Coffinism, there will be no doubt as to what ticket you will vote. If you are against this political system, there should be even less hesitation.

Aviation Survives

Although the senate has made public department of commerce reports on two airplane accidents, requested in a senate resolution unanimously adopted recently, the aviation industry appears to have suffered no harm.

Air mail routes continue in operation, passenger planes move back and forth across the country, individual fliers still are making hops, and factories still are manufacturing planes.

Senators assert that the law plainly states that reports of airplane accidents must be made public. The department of commerce had refused to divulge reports of individual accidents, on the plea that it is not protected legally and that such publicity will hurt the industry.

Neither excuse in our opinion will hold water. The worst thing the industry has to fear is secrecy regarding accidents, which destroys public confidence in an industry which deserves confidence.

Should Diplomats Be Experts?

Peace often depends on diplomacy, diplomacy depends on the diplomat—and that is why one of President Hoover's hardest and most important jobs just now is to find the right man as American minister to China. Things are going from bad to worse out there in the land of war and revolution.

Big American interests are at stake. For China is the key to the Pacific, and if there is another World War it is apt to be in the Pacific.

Resignation of Minister John Van Antwerp MacMurray raises a vital question as to the type of diplomat needed in China. Indeed, it throws light on the whole question of our foreign service, which in late years we have been making over into a body of professional technicians.

MacMurray is a technician and a good one, but he is not a good diplomat. MacMurray is a scholar, one of the greatest occidental students of far eastern affairs, but he is not a good diplomat. MacMurray is a professional diplomat of more than twenty years' experience around the world, but he is not a good diplomat.

If MacMurray had not been overruled by Washington two years ago, the American policy of friendship to China would have been changed to the extent

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

Tammany Will Win the Gotham Election, Which Has Been Noisy and Uninteresting.

THE New York mayoralty campaign, which comes to an end with Tuesday's election, has been a noisy, uninteresting affair.

That, perhaps, is the strongest argument in favor of the Walker administration.

The opposition has not been able to dig up very much, or state convincingly what little it has dug up.

Though Tammany's margin may be somewhat reduced, it will still be large enough to warrant the word "usual."

The success of Nationalists in securing a sufficient number of names to force a referendum on the question of war guilt, reparations, and the Young plan means nothing but a setback for Germany. Even though the referendum goes against them, which is almost certain, they have placed the German government in an embarrassing position.

All that, however, is neither here nor there.

The jingoes have been able to get a petition signed by 10 per cent of the electorate, and that leaves the authorities no choice but to call an election.

The Nationalists propose that Germany reverse herself on three issues.

First, by denying the acknowledgment of war guilt, as contrary to historical truth and based on false premises.

Second, by endeavoring to get such articles of the Versailles treaty as embody this acknowledgment annulled.

Third, by undertaking no further financial obligations based on this acknowledgment.

And, to clinch matters, they propose that if the chancellor, ministers or representatives of the reich enter into any agreement contrary to the third provision, they shall be liable to prosecution for high treason.

Whatever else may be said of the Nationalists, you can not help admiring their nerve. It is not every party that would undertake to upset a treaty and a debt settlement in which some four hundred million people are interested, by the simple process of letting sixty million vote on it.

They must think that England, France, Italy and Japan, not to mention half a dozen smaller countries, have changed profoundly during the last ten years, or that the world has forgotten all it said about treaties being scraps of paper.

Between Two Fires

DRIES are split over the question of holding purchasers guilty, and who can blame them? It goes to the root of the problem.

Ever since the eighteenth amendment was adopted, they have been on the horns of a dilemma.

First, they had the choice of killing prohibition by making it real, and second of keeping it as a sham.

Canada succumbed to the same wave of sentiment that gave this country Volsteadism, but had sense enough not to adopt any laws that were beyond repeal by a majority vote.

The result is that she can get rid of prohibition now that she has changed her mind, while we can not.

Though a majority of the people and states might be against it in this country, we still are helpless.

If the situation teaches us not to amend the Constitution in some moment of excitement, it may be worth the price, but otherwise not.

It is more honest and even more friendly to behave as if the fiery fundamentalist were still abroad in the land. Some land.

It is not cruel, then, nor tactless for me to say right out that I hated the things for which Dr. Stratton stood.

Or, if we carry on the assumption that he is marching on, I hate the things for which he stands.

Common Belief

ONE belief we shared. I, too, carry the conviction that the human soul does not perish, although I must admit a somewhat more misty notion of survival than that which animated the literalism of Dr. Stratton. Greatly he clung to hell and often he preached of brimstone. And if he had a correct conception of the cosmos, Dr. Stratton's place is assured in some one of the many mansions which make up the city of gold and jasper. It was to my mind a conception too materialistic to warrant fervent belief. The world is more subtly and wondrously made. God, I think, is magnificent beyond the

rule of a double entry bookkeeper.

Even though I did not like Dr. Stratton, it pleases me to be able to feel that he has persisted. They have said of him that he possessed sincerity without question. I have my doubts. But energy was his and this is the very essence of the life force. And so I think that he strives still and perhaps even now muddled still.

For him I wish safe conduct over Jordan. According to my point of view, he stood for a bleak and wintry faith. And on this try I can not bring myself to say that he was a helpful force to humanity.

His was a message of bitterness and I am not content to think that this ever can be the straw around which to rear the structure of salvation. But in this world and the next and after there always must be room for the man who moves through existence swinging both fists.

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Great Sins

AND I do not stand with any of the new-fangled people who urge us to abandon the old conception of sin. I regard the two sins as far as I'm concerned the rest are merely moonshine. Kingdon will come when we are done with pain and cruelty.

It is, of course, presumptuous for anybody to attempt to debate in the land. If Dr. Stratton sits now in the seats of the mighty gazing down complacently upon tortured sinners he has all the best of the argument. I'm out of luck.

His way of life was right. No, I won't admit as much. It will be enough to say that it was expedient. Once I knew a man who proclaimed that if by any chance God had established everlasting fires for the punishment of sinners he would register a protest against this system by demanding to be sent to hell.

Such pride and courage are more than a bit beyond me. Still, I have

turned my back so completely upon the Stratton system that it would be safe enough for me to make the same boast.

If John Roach Stratton preaches the only true gospel there is for me no possibility of salvation. I intend to go on about as I have done.

There well might be betterment in the matter of living up to principles, but the general plan will remain about the same. There is no great point in making an about-face just this side of paradise. Jordan is among the streams not well adapted to the snapping of horses.

It is thought with the passage of more time, these peat beds were buried under accumulations of sand and clay, and that the final transformation into coal was aided by the pressure of these upper layers upon the peat.

There are many swamps in the world today in which peat is in the process of formation. Hawk Island swamp is one of them. That is why the scientists turned to it.

Progress of the investigation is detailed in a paper prepared for the American Chemical Society by Reinhardt Thiessen and R. C. Johnson of the United States Bureau of Mines.

Thiessen and Johnson examined samples of peat taken from various depths in the Hawk Island swamp. They report that they found active bacteria at all depths.

They made cultures of these bacteria and found that they thrive on sawdust, shavings, cellulose and other plant materials.

They have come to the conclusion that these bacteria are responsible for the changes which convert the decaying vegetable matter into peat.

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