



The Indianapolis Times

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

No Mud-Slinging, Now!

In resounding syllables Elza O. Rogers, Republican state chairman, has spoken. The G. O. P. slogan in the state campaign will be "Throw no mud."

"Leave it to the Democrats," says Mr. Rogers, striking a pose emblematic of injured virtue. "It is beneath the dignity of the great Republican party to resort to slander and abuse."

Mr. Rogers' stand is commendable. His advice is sound. But it does seem a trifle unnecessary.

One hardly can imagine any department head under the present state administration faring forth to hurl mud at any one. The cue of every one of them is to lay low and attract as little attention as possible, in view of the record of the last two years.

The one hope that G. O. P. leaders can have is that the average voter has buried his head in the sand and left his brains in his other suit.

"Let your people know that Governor Leslie's administration has constructed 1,180 miles of paved roads since April, 1929," chants Rogers.

Yes, under the direction of a highway department that has increased its overhead expenses by \$1,226,235 over the last fiscal year, through lavish and unnecessary pay boosts and reckless spending by its maintenance unit. They are roads built by a highway department that ignored the fact that contractors were grinding down their laborers with a slave wage system, until the matter was brought so forcibly to their attention that commissioners were forced to act for relief.

"Let them know that every office and department of the statehouse is functioning smoothly and efficiently, so that even the Democrats are hard put to it to fault," rhapsodizes Mr. Rogers, further.

If offices and departments at the statehouse are functioning smoothly and efficiently, it is due to the clerks and deputies left in charge of most of them while their chiefs are out over the state attending to their own re-election campaigns instead of to the state's business.

"We are in a great fight to maintain the welfare of Indiana," declares Rogers.

Yes, a fight marked by failure of the auditor's office to collect thousands of dollars in gas taxes; by use of state police to further the cause of the secretary of state in his re-election campaign; by incompetent handling of state school aid funds; by failure to aid farmers; by extravagance and waste of highway funds; by general neglect of duty.

This is the great fight that state department heads are making for the welfare of Indiana.

Another Revolution

Even more important than the incipient political revolution in Cuba is the revolution boiling in a little sheet-iron building at Matanzas. There Georges Claude, a French inventor, has in operation his experimental power plant utilizing the temperature differences between the warm surface and the cold depths of the tropical sea.

When a bank of lamps flashed on the other day, fed by electricity generated by power from Claude's turbine, it may have been a signal of man's further conquest of the tropics.

If the heat of the tropical sun stored up in the warm surface waters of the sea can be put to useful work by Claude's genius, then man can have refrigerated houses and power machinery for subduing the riches of the tropics as he has subdued the natural resources of the temperate climatic areas of the earth.

Many have doubted whether Claude can extract economical power from the temperature differences of the tropical seas. Many still doubt whether the little fifty-kilowatt plant at Matanzas, with its six-foot-diameter steel tube, reaching 1,800 feet into the cold lower layers of the ocean, can give rise to commercial plants that will compete with coal-fired steam turbines.

But the road of any pioneer is beset with doubters, who are often honest, highly trained and earnest. When Claude demonstrated a toy model of his sea temperature power plant to the French Academy of Sciences, these doubters said: "Very pretty, but the principle is well known and of course it would not work on a large scale."

Their incredulity continued when Claude set up a plant on the Meuse river in Belgium and operated it successfully on the waste heat of a power plant.

When Claude selected Cuba as the scene of his tests, when two gigantic tubes to bring cooling water to the vacuum steam generator were lost while being launched, the doubters continued to express themselves.

Even now, with turbines turning, there are those who still are not convinced that this is the beginning of a new commercial power process.

But Claude is a hard man to suppress. When he is told by those who profess to know that a thing can not be done, he is invited to go and do it.

During the World War, when gas warfare started, he was told that liquified chlorine could not be carried in steel cylinders. But he did it.

He was told that he could not profitably separate the rare gas, neon, from air. But his triumph now is written in orange-red of Claude neon lights in thousands of store windows.

Cries of "it can't be done" will not deter him in his latest venture. Cheap power for Florida, southern California and all other tropical and semi-tropical countries bordering warm, deep seas promises to be the result of his persistence.

Crime Commission Ignored

The report of the federal judicial conference of the United States, issued by Chief Justice Hughes, should make President Hoover and his law enforcement commission reconsider their policy very carefully. The report of the conference, representing the federal judiciary of the country, ignored the Wickerham commission and disagreed with some of its recommendations. This attitude was marked clearly.

A year ago, before the commission started on its course of making hasty and half-baked reports, the judicial conference congratulated the country on the President's appointment of "great commission." This year there is no mention of the commission. But there is outspoken disagreement with the commission's recommendations.

The commission had reported that there should be no additional federal judges at points where judicial business now is too heavy. Attorney General Mitchell disagreed with the commission. Congress disagreed with the commission. Now the judicial conference disagrees with the commission.

The judicial conference does not specifically oppose the Wickerham commission's proposal for juryless trials before officials who are not judges and not qualified to be judges. The conference merely ignores the commission's recommendation.

Then it says a thorough study of the situation

should be made by the attorney general. Clearly it does not think the commission's study was thorough, or worth consideration.

The law enforcement commission is meeting this week, after three months' recess. If the commission is wise, it will ask itself why it has incurred the distrust first of the public, then of congress and now of the federal judges.

It will find the answer in the carelessness and partisan reports on prohibition and other subjects which it has turned out apparently under political pressure.

Sanctuary

The doors of the synagogue burst open. Terrified Jews inside thought a pogrom had begun when disheveled men poured in, wearing the emblem of the Stahlheim, German veterans' anti-Semitic association. This was in Frankfort-on-Main, one day this week.

But the men who were banded together in hatred for the Jew had come to the synagogue not to kill, but to be saved from death. Outside twice as many Communists were waiting to maul them. The members of the Stahlheim, returning from an anti-Jewish meeting, had run into a militant band of Communists and had been overpowered. In Germany, political parties take themselves very seriously.

The Jewish congregation received its enemies and gave them sanctuary. There must have been, in the minds of the rabbi and his flock, many memories of violent death, of rape and pillage, inflicted on their race: memories of persecuted loved ones; thoughts of fear still hanging over them. But the enemy had been delivered into their hands and they were merciful.

It is hard to believe that men of the Stahlheim, having found refuge in the shadow of a synagogue, ever can violate that sanctuary when others cover them. In many places in the world old fires of hate are flaming again. The Frankfort congregation has shown how they may be quenched in a way we are accustomed to call Christian.

Dry Grip Is Weakening

New York Republicans gave the Anti-Saloon League and other professional prohibitionists another shove down the toboggan, and there probably will be an increasing shrinkage of contributions to the league's war chest.

While Tuttle and his party hedged by advocating another amendment to take the place of the eighteenth when that monstrosity is repealed, still they showed some courage in taking a long step away from the national platform upon which Hoover was elected.

And they loosened the rule-or-ruin grip of the Anti-Saloon lobby on the Republican party—at least in New York. Morrow already had kicked them outdoors in New Jersey. It will be all the easier for other states to plant well-aimed kicks in the same parts that have been worn smooth from sitting in the seats of the mighty.

All the same, the New York platform is full of bunk so far as prohibition is concerned. No new amendment is needed in place of the eighteenth to give any state in the union all the authority it needs to be as dry as its people want to be.

No amendment to the Constitution is needed to give congress full power to help, by legislation, protect dry states from being flooded from wet neighbors. Congress has all the power it needs under the interstate commerce clause. Besides the Wilson and Webb-Kenyon laws, with the Reed amendment, still are laws, and have been declared constitutional by the United States supreme court.

The reign of terror isn't yet over, but it is on its way. When we get rid of the prohibition amendment, those who honestly and sincerely believe in temperance can get busy again with an educational program—such as was making a great headway until knocked in the head by prohibition.

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