



The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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

The World-Telegram

The ingredients harmonize in the merger announced today of the New York World and the New York Telegram. They blend naturally. There is nothing in the nature of oil-and-water about the transaction.

That fact is vital to the World-Telegram's capacity for future journalistic service. It is likewise vital to the whole Scripps-Howard organization, of which The Indianapolis Times is a part. It was an outstanding consideration on both sides of the negotiations through which the consolidation was effected.

Through half a century the institution which Joseph Pulitzer founded and that founded by E. W. Scripps have been working in separate ways toward a common end.

The ideal which has characterized the World under Pulitzer ownership has characterized the Telegram under Scripps-Howard ownership. To sum it in a single sentence that ideal is: Liberalism, independence, consideration for those who have no other spokesman, and a deep faith in the ability of the common man, given a fair deal, to better himself.

While means toward the end have differed, the objective has remained constant.

Though they did not know each other, and never met, E. W. Scripps and Joseph Pulitzer saw alike as to the fundamental mission of a newspaper.

It chanced that they started their major careers in the same year, though in cities far apart. To the reader of those days, accustomed to publications sponsored by and serving special interests, an independent journalism was something new and strange.

Pulitzer and Scripps saw the deadening influence of entangling alliances. They saw that the duty of a newspaper ran to its readers only—to all its readers; not to any single group, social, political or financial.

Scripps said in his first issue:

"We have no politics, that is, in the sense of the word as commonly used. We are not Republicans, not Democrats, not Greenback, not Prohibitionists. We simply intend to support good men and condemn bad ones, support good measures and condemn bad ones, no matter what party they belong to."

"We shall tell no lies about persons or policies for love, malice, or money. It is no part of a newspaper's business to array itself on the side of this or that party, or fight, lie or wrangle for it."

Pulitzer said:

"Never tolerate injustice or corruption, always fight demagogues of all parties, never belong to any party, always oppose privileged classes and public plunderers, never lack sympathy with the poor, always remain devoted to the public welfare, never be satisfied with merely printing news, always be drastically independent, never be afraid to attack wrong, whether by predatory plutocracy or predatory power."

Each believed in printing the news as it happened, accurately, without regard to personal opinion or desire, and uninfluenced by those who wanted something put in, or something kept out.

And each believed the journalistic duty went farther than that. Each viewed the editorial page of the paper's opinion, as a mighty weapon in behalf of the creed to which each was sworn.

So, through half a century, those purposes have prevailed.

Now they are joined.

The ideal lives in a new generation. By this consolidation its scope is enlarged, its force multiplied.

It is only natural therefore that each member of the Scripps-Howard organization joins with the World-Telegram in the sentiment expressed in New York today: "We view the future with mixed emotions—with elation at the opportunity and with humility before the greatness of the obligation."

The Duvall Pardon

Those legislators who may be tempted by the flat-teries or favors of privileged interests to betray the people—and many legislators are taking this attitude—should contemplate John Duvall in his prison cell.

Duvall is asking the Governor to forgive the fine of \$1,000 assessed when he was convicted of violation of election laws in order to get into office.

Now, says the former mayor, he can not pay the fine which was a part of his sentence and he dislikes the idea of doing what less noted prisoners would be compelled to do—to stay longer in his prison.

Gone are the friends who once fawned upon his smiles and took his favors. Gone are those who once used him for their own purposes. Gone are the sycophants who once did him bidding without question. Gone are those who led him to the mountain tops of glory and used his easy virtue for their own purposes.

There were days, only a few brief years ago, when he was the autocrat of this city and when his wish was the law. In those days he consorted largely with those who had designs upon the public till and who wanted special privileges.

The plunder-breed often whispered fairly tales of future favors in his ear in order to get what they wanted and they got it—as far as Duvall could give it to them. He thought only of his ambitions and his own advantage and little of the public good.

Out of power, these favor-seekers forgot him and it is news that his once large fortune has so dwindled that he can not pay the fine of a sum which once was to him a matter of no importance.

The fate of Duvall is the working of the law of compensation. He rose to political power on the wave of hate aroused by the Ku-Klux Klan which aroused enmities and destroyed good will. The same punishment which the Klan administered to those of different race and creed now hovers over the jail where Duvall sits in silence.

Those who serve privilege and hate must expect hate in return. Real friendships are never based on evil deeds. Those who took the favors of Duvall held him in contempt even as they smiled their tanks. They do not visit him in his prison cell. The dollars that came to him so easily in other days easily slipped away.

Just why any one should take any special interest in either getting Duvall out of jail or in keeping him in is not easily explainable. He no longer matters.

But up at the statehouse men young in public service might ponder on his fate when tempters come to whisper in their ears. His fate is that of all who betray the people who trust them.

Lonely, broke, forgotten—and four years ago an autocrat. What a pity!

Re-Jigging Congress

The more one considers the house of representatives the more obvious it seems that proposals to upset its plan for reapportionment and increase its membership are ill advised.

Four hundred thirty-five representatives occasionally pour into the big chamber at the Capitol—which, as big as it is, has not seats enough for all of them—and joyfully vote some proposition up or down. But

the present drive for membership, conducted by the American Legion, makes a man on the outside wonder how any one eligible to membership, can get his own consent to stay out of it.

The legion fights the battle of all ex-service men, members and nonmembers, and common gratitude should make all eligibles members.

After many years without the death penalty, the senate of Michigan votes overwhelmingly to restore it, and it is expected to become a law.

The death penalty is a fine club to have behind the door in case you want to use it.

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