



The Indianapolis Times

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

The March of Progress

Abandonment of the system of interurban electric lines in this state as now proposed by a receiver should have been expected.

The lines are no longer profitable. They do not pay because they are no longer necessary. Their usefulness has been ended by the cement highway, the truck and bus.

One of the short lines a decade ago had receipts of more than \$200,000 a year. Last year the total intake was but \$25,000. More people traveled between the towns it connects than journeyed a decade ago. More goods were transported. But the people went in automobiles and the goods were carried on trucks.

What is happening to the interurban lines will very soon come inside the cities. The time is not far distant when street cars will disappear from city streets. In the march of progress the machine which furnishes the most comfort and speed wins. Transportation on rails seems to be doomed.

In this city, the problem of transportation is an acute one. Something must be done soon with the present system now in the hands of a receiver.

A short time ago George Marott, able citizen, suggested an elaborate system of publicly owned busses as a solution. That suggestion should be studied by city officials and public-spirited citizens.

Privately owned lines are bankrupt. Public systems must succeed them. The time seems propitious to get in step with the inevitable march of progress. Indianapolis could be first if it chooses.

Kid McCoy and Tom Mooney

Norman Selby, known to the prize ring as "Kid McCoy," is serving twenty years in California's San Quentin penitentiary for alleged manslaughter and assault to murder his sweetheart.

He says he's innocent and has filed with Governor Ralph a pardon petition, backed by the Governors of four states, ex-Governor Al Smith, Mayor Jimmy Walker and Senators Copeland and Wagner of New York.

Tom Mooney, one-time labor leader, is Kid McCoy's fellow prisoner, and is doing life for alleged planting of a bomb beside a parade in San Francisco years ago. Mooney says he's innocent.

So Judge Griffin, who tried and sentenced him; former Captain of Detectives Matheson, who arrested him; the juries who found him guilty, the bulk of the witnesses against him, the chief among whom are proved perjurers; the present district attorney; many newspapers of the nation; Catholic, Protestant and Jewish church leaders and organizations; the American Federation of Labor; United States senators, Governors, authors; virtually every one who has taken the time to study the evidence, say his trial was unfair.

This month Mooney's volunteer attorney, Frank P. Walsh of New York, will plead with Governor Ralph to pardon Mooney. Again he will present evidence of Mooney's perfect alibi, the venality of the witnesses, the rock-ribbed proof that Mooney could not have committed the crime for which he has served the best one-fifth of his life.

With no desire to prejudice the plea of McCoy, the people of America will fail to see the justice of considering his petition before that of Mooney. McCoy may be innocent. Mooney is innocent.

Perhaps McCoy should be pardoned. But certainly Mooney should be.

A Decalog of Commercial Common Sense

In the age of the Smoot-Hawley tariff, a free trade league seems as much out of place as a whisky merchant at a W. C. T. U. convention. But while there is life there is hope. The league is reviving activity.

It was organized by those eminent liberals, William Cullen Bryant and David A. Wells, back in 1866, and kept alive by George Haven Putnam and his fellow free traders. The league announces the following decalog of commercial common sense:

"1. Freedom of trade is an essential factor in securing and maintaining the peace of the world.

"2. The people of the world are entitled to obtain, free from any needless charges or burdens, the materials of production required for their livelihood and their work.

"3. The devastations of the war and the depressions that have followed have made it more evident that the imposition of tariff charges upon food, clothing and equipment for the millions of people who have suffered therefrom is little short of crime. It is equally true at all times that to increase the cost of the means of livelihood to peoples in need is likewise, if not a crime, at least an economic blunder.

"4. First steps toward freedom of trade should provide for removal of duties on food of the people and materials of industry, simplification of administrative methods, and repeal of obsolete navigation laws, a repeal necessary to enable our country to uphold freedom of the seas.

"5. The claim that tariffs assist industry and foster production proves delusive in the long run, for, on the contrary, tariff taxes constitute a burden on productive industry and, by reducing available markets, lessen the demand for labor and capital.

"6. Trade being essentially an exchange of goods, to buy we must sell, and to sell we must buy; thus imports and exports involve each other and the prohibition or discouragement of purchases from other nations prevents export of our products, thus forcing labor from natural channels, through which production and trade are increased, into artificial channels, which misdirect production and are wasteful of labor.

"7. Lower wage scales and lower standards of living in other countries do not justify high tariffs for the United States; experience has shown that labor efficiency is promoted and labor cost reduced by the higher wage scale and higher standard of living which are the bases of the most successful American industry.

"8. Freedom of trade among countries gives the best assurance of peace on earth and good will among nations. The economic peace and political security thus assured will prove the best safeguard for the permanency of a league of free nations.

"9. We welcome the co-operation of all opposed

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

Big Bill Thompson's Reaction to Defeat Should Be An Interesting Study for Psychologists.

NEW YORK, April 9—"Your election is notice that the gangsters must vanquish," wires former Governor Smith of New York to Anton J. Cermak, newly elected mayor of Chicago.

Though such message hardly is calculated to bring cheers from Al Capone, it has merit. If half our politicians were equally frank, it would not be necessary to overturn the government of our second largest city to let gangsters know that moving day had arrived.

The upset in Chicago is so plain that even Big Bill Thompson should be able to understand it, but you never can tell. If he has a better side, it was not revealed in his twelve years as mayor of Chicago. Maybe it has been so completely atrophied by egotism that the most spectacular defeat in Chicago's history will not suffice to bring it out.

At any rate, Big Bill's reaction should prove an interesting study for psychologists.

Frankness Gets Inning

SPEAKING of frankness, particularly as illustrated by former Governor Smith throughout his career, the so-called Raskin plan has done a lot to rejuvenate it in the Democratic party.

That in itself is enough to justify all the rumpus, no matter what the outcome.

What we need in both parties is more plain, honest, straightforward discussion.

Nothing has done so much to confuse politics as lack of it.

Ever since the war, both parties have been emphasizing minor issues as the major issue in the world except to evade major issues. In spite of all the talk little has been accomplished with regard to those minor issues, because nobody was interested after the campaign, and less has been accomplished with regard to major issues, because of the pre-campaign straddle.

The 'Poorhouse' Resents It

IT goes without saying that President Hoover meant no harm when he used the word "poorhouse" in connection with the Virgin Islands. But that is beside the mark. It is not what a man means that determines the effect of his words, but the way other people understand them.

People of the Virgin Islands are not only sensitive over their present condition, but hold the United States largely responsible for it.

They are only human when they resent having it called to their attention by the President.

What they want, and what they believe they are entitled to, is as

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