

# The Indianapolis Times



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

## Measure the Man

Today in Chicago the Democratic party is nominating its candidate for the presidency. Regardless of whom the Democratic choice may be, the nation must give him, during the next few months, the most serious study it has given any man in our time.

He will be measured not only against the high office for which he is being proposed, but against the desperately hard task that would confront him in office. The man who is chosen in November will be not so much honored as intrusted with a great responsibility.

The state of the world today is little less than desperate. The next President should be one competent to understand this world condition and one with the intelligence and courage to use the force of America's position to hasten world relief.

He must be one who appreciates not only that any course which aids the rest of the world will aid America, but that America can not be helped for long at the expense of the rest of the world.

At home the next President will have for his field of operations a land of idle industries, of citizens who wish to work, but are driven to exist on charity; a land of hunger and fear; such an America as we had thought never could be.

It is an America past the aid of old remedies, an America that has used or wasted so great a part of its rich resources that it no longer can rest its hopes on an all too generous Providence, a bruised and disillusioned youth among the nations that has been compelled at last to face the facts of life.

The most important fact in the realm of international relations is that stated above, that no nation can prosper long in the world of today at the expense of other nations.

And the most important fact of internal political economy is that no nation can be assured of permanent prosperity that permits any group of its citizens to prosper at the expense of the remainder.

America has been late in recognizing this truth, because life on the whole has been easy for America.

But now we know. We know that class legislation has run its course. We know that, stated in its best terms, the theory that wealth conferred upon those in the upper stratum does not seep down to all those below, that only the reverse process contains the making of a sound economic structure.

And the man who next takes up the leadership of this distressed country must know it. He must know that the goal is nothing short of the happiness of the average man, woman, and child, that consideration for the whole people must come first.

He must not only know this, but must have the courage to act upon his knowledge. The instrument for his purpose will be in his hand.

The American form of government was not devised for a few, but for all. It never has, however, and never will function of itself. And it will not function—certainly not after having been allowed to collapse in the hands of a weak man.

So look to the man to be named today. Estimate his convictions and the courage that lies behind them. Consider whether he can meet the test presented by America and the world.

## Smith—Win or Lose

Whether he is nominated or not, Alfred E. Smith will go forth from the Democratic national convention of 1932 a bigger man than ever.

Should he win, he will be elected. Should he lose, he is not through. His stature grows.

His performance during the convention has endeared him even to the hearts of those who vote against him. He could have injected bitterness—for a man who loses because of his religion has reason to be bitter. Instead, he injected humor, good cheer, sportsmanship.

He worked in the ranks, and to him goes the immediate credit for the greatest platform in the political history of this generation. Day by day, since his arrival in Chicago, he has put party above personal interest. He is the spiritual father of the honest work within our memory.

It is, therefore, only natural that his record, his personality, his performance, drew forth one of the finest tributes ever paid to a human being. The speech by Governor Ely will live as long as there is a literature of politics.

Win or lose, that tribute stands. What Ely said about the need of the times will rise again and again in the memory of those who read or heard it—

"Shall we admit that education and prosperity have softened our muscles, drained our vitality, and left us only speculating, doubting, equivocating, and polite gentlemen? Thank God, no. There is a man who sits amongst us who is a modern Andrew Jackson. You know who he is.

"Let us end government by doubt; let us establish a government of decision, of action and of progress.

"If we could recall from the shades of a retreating past one of them to lead us now; if it remained only to lift our voices and nominate him by acclamation to show the way, would it be Jefferson, the political philosopher, or the dogged and determined Cleveland?

"Would our eyes turn to the scholarly and idealistic Wilson, or do these times demand the rough, yet tender, rude yet appealing, fiery yet sensible and potent decision of Andrew Jackson?"

Whether Alfred E. Smith is nominated or not, this generation and future generations will sense the prophetic nature of that declaration.

The times call for a Jackson.

## History and Journalism

Death of Dr. John Bach McMaster marks the passing of one of the most productive and entertaining of American historians. There is a story that this young erstwhile professor of civil engineering at Princeton submitted the manuscript of the first volume of his "History of the People of the United States" to Daniel Appleton, the publisher.

Appleton put it away and forgot it. Stumbling over it one day, he was embarrassed vastly at his neglect. Stalling for time to think up an explanation, he took the manuscript home to read to his family. The latter were so thrilled and diverted that Appleton decided to take a chance on the expensive and dubious venture of publishing a monumental historical series which ultimately went into nine volumes.

Whether this tale is strictly accurate or not, certainly experience justified Appleton's judgment. McMaster's work was one of the most relevant and interesting historical sets ever published in this country or abroad. He departed from the dreary annals of politics and wars and gave us brilliant cross-sections of the life and thoughts of our people from 1789 to 1865.

All of this he presented in juicy narrative, which could be enjoyed by any literate person of even a moderate intelligence quotient. McMaster has been compared to John Richard

Green, great English historian. This is not unjust to either, though their conceptions, sources and methods of working were rather different. They both symbolize the revolution of the "new history" against the notion of history as superficial "past politics." They both made it clear that nations do something more than fight and electio-

ne. But there is another respect in which McMaster is of more than usual interest to the journalist and publicist. His career and achievements offer a devastating exposure of the shallow character of the arrogance shown by professional students of history toward the journalist.

McMaster gathered much of his materials through a painstaking and industrious reading of local news-papers.

The term "journalist" is a favorite epithet of a professor of history for a man whose work he does not like. Journalism is supposed to symbolize perfectly inaccuracy, superficiality and unreliability in chronicling the affairs of a nation.

It so happens, however, that a trained journalist is rather unusually well prepared to gather materials accurately. He is normally a specialist in some field of reporting. He has had long experience in rapid observation and accurate recording.

He has background, insight, technique and facility for his work. His product is likely to be a reasonably faithful reproduction of the facts, unless he is working in the midst of popular hysteria or has his work butchered by a rewrite man or makeup necessities. But his achievements are viewed as trivial by the austere professor.

He turns the pages, now literally yellow, and copies, paraphrases and weaves. In due time he has re-made mosaic compounded of the work of hundreds of reporters, running over many years and covering activities in many areas. Thousands of footnotes, giving specific reference to the myriad of "superficial" journalistic sources consulted, are inserted.

The manuscript is sent to the printer and the book is crowned by a prize given by some esoteric organization of historical scholars. The final product, created out of thousands of minor alleged superficialities and inaccuracies, is held to be impressively sound and reliable.

But the professor has relied on the work of the journalists who preceded him. His results can not be more reliable than their earlier efforts. Indeed, they rarely can be as competent.

The reporter was directly on the job. He knew his task as a specialist. He lived at the time and knew his surroundings.

The professor came on the scene later, is out of touch with people and events chronicled. He can have only a second-hand and remote contact with the issues, events and peoples he is endeavoring to describe.

It is an undeniable fact that the historian who uses newspapers never can be quite as competent as the journalist who originally gathered the materials.

Journalism undoubtedly has enough sins to answer for. But the historian is in no position to cast stones. Only in proportion as journalism becomes more accurate and competent can many types of historical work be improved as to reliability of content.

## A Hopeful Trend

Every one is watching these days for signs of a brightening in the industrial sky. The Alexander Hamilton institute believes it has seen one.

It reports finding encouragement in the fact that prices of manufactured goods at last are beginning to decline more rapidly than the prices of raw materials.

The fact there has been a wide gap between these two price ranges has acted to rot the raw material producers of purchasing power, and this has been one of the fundamental reasons for the steady decline in business activity.

If the gap continues to narrow until a real price equilibrium is reached, a noticeable gain in commercial and industrial activity should follow.

An inventor claims that he has perfected a rivet bolt which will reduce noise to 1 per cent of its present volume. That must be what you would call a neighbor-saving device.

Scientists in Asia claim to have discovered the cradle of mankind. Now they can start hunting for the hand that rocked.

The harvest has started out in Kansas, but it won't be official until we get the first picture of Marion Talley standing beside a shock of wheat.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

DAY after day comes queries from heavy-hearted women whose sweethearts or husbands have lost their ardor.

This perpetual plaint of outraged love resounds over the whole earth and will resound, I suspect, so long as men and women endure.

And there is very little we can do about it, save to try to understand what lies beneath these infidelities—for we may be sure that something vast and deep and potent does lie there.

Men do not wander down primrose paths because they desire evil and ugliness, or because they are by nature bent upon philandering. They do so because, although they may know it not, they are engrossed upon an endless quest after beauty and truth.

Like women, they are incurably romantic and life offers them so little that is splendid.

The stodgiest man has his dreams and these dreams usually assume a feminine form, although they may have their inception in far more subtle longings than those of sex.

TUS sometimes the husband of an impeccable wife may stray. When he does so, he is a tragic as well as a culpable figure.

The life of the average man is singularly devoid of either beauty or romance. He lives in a world of machines. His existence stretches before him, harsh, arid, empty of all imagined loveliness, and with old age and death shadow in the far distance.

In such a world he dares not expose, even to himself, the essential softness of his nature, or the urgency of his secret desires, lest he see strange things that might shame what he is pleased to call his manhood.

He only can snatch briefly and momentarily at his lovely illusions. He is caught in a net of materialism from which there is no escape except in dreams.

And, more often than not, a new woman in his life may be for him only the symbol of the thing within him that is deeper and more intense than love, something that has no semblance of reality, but always is and forever his quest for the unobtainable.

To be able to understand this human trait is to be able to forgive a man many things.

# THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

## M. E. Tracy

Says:

The Democratic Party, in Its Platform, Has Given the Country a Much-Needed Example of Courage and Initiative.

NEW YORK, July 1.—The Democratic party has done more than write a platform short enough to read, plain enough to understand and frank enough to challenge confidence.

It has given the country a much-needed example of courage and initiative. The psychological effect will be as profound as the political effect.

For the first time in many years, the American people are promised definite and constructive action with regard to several of their major problems.

For the first time since Woodrow Wilson left office, they see signs of real leadership on the horizon.

You are going to see things happen before November. You are going to see the American people put forth greater efforts because of their renewed hope, and you are going to see conditions improve as the result.

This is one occasion when the Democratic party responded to national need and did something that was of more importance than

clutching an election.

Clear Stand Taken

A SIMPLE declaration favoring

repeal of the eighteenth amendment is admittedly the high light of the Democratic platform, but that does not exhaust its virtue by any means.

Consistent with such declaration, it calls for restoration of state rights and local self-government, for reduction of federal expenses by 5 per cent, for a tariff that will produce revenue and equalize conditions without destroying foreign trade, for apportionment of taxes in accordance with the ability to pay, for a public works program to help relieve unemployment, for a sounder and more equitable distribution of credit, and for a cessation of this craze over mergers and consolidations by which certain huge financial interests are drowning the American people in pools of controlled and manipulated

wealth.

Party Hardly Can Lose

REGARDLESS of who is nominated, one finds it hard to see how the Democratic party can lose. With that proportion in mind, it would be unfair not to give credit where credit is due.

This platform, which has lifted the Democratic party from a level of mere opposition to one of obvious leadership in national affairs, which has met with a favorable reception by press and public, which amounts to little less than a guarantee of victory next fall, and which comes as a welcome tonic in this hour of bewilderment, reflects the views of no man so faithfully as those of Alfred Emanuel Smith.

If you have read Mr. Smith's statements and recommendations during the last three years, you have read the Democratic platform. In all essentials, it is his plan of procedure, put in crisp, concise form.

By every law of logic, he should be selected to carry it out. If he is not, if some other man gets the benefit of his wonderful foresight; he still should be remembered as its author, not in the sense of phrase-making, but in the sense of genius.

Issues Are Classified

REGARDLESS of who is nominated, the great issues have been clarified. Those who believe in bold, constructive action, particularly as it can be had through the emancipation of people from fear, stand-patism, manipulated credit, artificial prosperity, and bosses politics, will find difficulty in choosing between the two great parties.

The Republicans have straddled, sidestepped, evaded and told us for the hundredth time "not to rock the boat."

The Democrats have come clean. A curious reversal of roles! a vivid illustration of how a crisis produces its remedy.

Editor Times—What is to become of the working man who toils on our public highway for 15 cents and 20 cents an hour for eight or nine hours a day? This totals about \$10 for a week's work and does not pay rent and grocery bills, let alone the back bills. This is a main bout for a title and not merely a political convention.

And then Senator Walsh said, "The chair recognizes the Honorable Alfred E. Smith, a delegate from the state of New York." And there was for a split second that curious humid hush which comes just before the wind sweeps over the valley and the lightning begins to shoot its fangs at chimneys and tall maples.

It was so in the Chicago stadium, for the storm broke in the topmost gallery and swept down across the platform wall and over. Al stood there with the wind of popular acclaim, beating around his head and shoulders. And he liked it.

He began to operate on Cordell Hull, who already was cut and bleeding.

The "fact," rasped Smith, "that the senator only found out in the last three days that there is sentiment for repeal, just is too bad."

With a right and a left, a left and a right, Smith tore into the arguments of the Tennessee dry and the crowd stood up as if this truly were a main bout for a title and not merely a political convention.

Cordell Hull had quoted from a statement of Al's, made during the 1928 campaign, which obviously was far less dripping in its temper than the majority prohibition plank for which Smith now was speaking.

He began to operate on Cordell Hull, who already was cut and bleeding.

He will change neither a "d" nor a "r," no matter how the brain is injured. Riddle it was and riddle it shall remain, though it splits the solid south and tears untrammelled democracy asunder.

According to him, it was not sit in upon party counsels, but it is inevitable that this was called to his attention by friends and advisers. But Al is no man to swap a pronunciation while crossing a stream.

He will change neither a "d" nor a "r," no matter how the brain is injured. Riddle it was and riddle it shall remain, though it splits the solid south and tears untrammelled democracy asunder.

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