



The Indianapolis Times

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

Other Tickets

A national convention being held in this city will name a candidate for President pledged to the retention of the eighteenth amendment as his major platform.

A group of very earnest and sincere delegates meeting in Kansas City names a candidate who will plead with the people for votes on the promise of abolishing interest on public debts under the plan urged for more than forty years by General Coxey, now mayor of an Ohio city.

In addition there will be the Liberty party of Ward Hinck in this state and the Socialist and Communist parties from which the voters may choose.

Of all these minor parties, the two which will attract much attention are the Prohibition party and the Socialist party, the one because of its platform and the determination of a large minority to retain the unworkable experiment and the other because of the outstanding character of its candidate, Norman Thomas.

The Prohibitionists will draw their support very largely from Republicans who believe that they have been betrayed by their party in a plank which punishes most voters as to its exact meaning.

They have a right, especially in Indiana, to feel that they have been betrayed inasmuch as they have been used for years to put into public office the Watsons and his like.

They have been used to cloak the Ku-Klux when it flourished and to act as the shock troops for every special privilege which has controlled state and national government.

They have permitted their faith in Republican dryness to lead them into the camp of the licensed plunders and they are responsible, finally, for much of the economic disaster that has come through the control of government by the big interests.

No wonder they now feel disgusted and betrayed. It is probably a fine thing that they propose to put out a ticket of their own. That will give a measure of public opinion on this question such as could be obtained in no other way. The vote for their ticket should be the final answer.

Dangerous Legislation

The most sweeping and far-reaching change in the relationship between business and industry to be considered in this country since the war is contained in the relief bill, as it comes from conference.

Yet unless all indications fail, congress will accept this change and write it into law with almost no discussion; with many of its own members unaware of what they are doing; and with the country completely uninformed as to what is taking place.

Original plans for getting construction under way and thus lessening unemployment called for permission to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to loan money to states, cities, semi-public and private corporations, with self-liquidating construction projects waiting to be started.

The administration asked that this be broadened to permit loans to any industry wishing to undertake construction, but the senate finance committee, after Senator James Couzens point out that government money might be used in this way to ruin competitors of the fortunate borrowers, was opposed so strongly that the proposition never even was offered on the senate floor.

Meanwhile, Speaker John N. Garner had rushed his public works relief bill through the house with almost no debate, under binding caucus rules. Few, if any, members took note of the fact that his bill broadened the loaning powers of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation even more than the President had asked—broadened them so that any person in the United States might borrow for practically any purposes, in addition to borrowing for construction.

But the fact that the clause was in the bill sent it to conference, and that is what the conferees, frightened by new threats of economic collapse, and under heavy pressure from the White House, have accepted.

If the bill becomes law, it puts the United States government directly into the banking business. Even more significant is the manner in which it does it.

It gives seven men, acting in absolute secrecy, the power of life and death over the industry of the country.

These seven men, all appointees of President Hoover, and a majority of them belonging to his political faith, assume this vast power on the eve of a presidential election.

Business men to whom the gold of the treasury thus is made available would be ungrateful indeed if they did not contribute a part of what they receive to continuing in office the administration which has given them so generously.

And while loans so far made have been to a regulated industry, whose books always are open to the interstate commerce commission, these prospective new borrowers are unregulated, and any campaign contributions they make can be kept from the public eye.

Possibly the condition of the country and the refusal of banks to loan to business make it necessary for the federal government to do so. If that is the case, we should understand clearly what we are doing.

We also should safeguard the public money, by providing fullest publicity for loans. We should devise a way to prevent government money from financing the political campaign of the incumbent President.

There is no reason why congress should not delay adjournment long enough to get these things done, if emergency relief funds are needed before the larger task is complete, they can be provided in a separate bill.

The original plan of financing construction to absorb great numbers of the unemployed can be worked out in a separate bill, and should not be abandoned.

But before the government goes into the banking business, many careful details should be worked out and much careful thought should be directed to the matter.

Do It This Week

Congress should legalize beer this week.

The senate has opportunity to vote on the project today. Democratic and Republican leaders both are trying to stifle it, with the excuse that prohibition is a political issue which the voters should have a chance to decide in November.

The answer is that the voters have decided. The politicians just now are beginning to catch up. The Democratic party has decided for "immediate" modification. A party platform surely binds as much before election as after, and "immediate" means "now" as "at once."

If any economic and psychological stimulus is to result from legalization of beer, it must come now. Next winter will be too late.

The psychological improvement possible through this recognition of personal liberty will have been

frittered away in campaign oratory. The unemployed who might be put to work may be starved.

Democrats preparing to prevent a vote on beer this week should consider the fate of dry Senator Morrison of North Carolina in Saturday's primary.

If the motive of these Democrats is to prevent President Hoover from making political capital through signature of a beer bill, it is a motive that does them no credit.

If the Republicans are trying to head off a beer vote to save Hoover from embarrassment, they should stop and consider that the failure of this legislation will delay the economic upturn they so desperately desire.

And in view of developments of the last four years, it is apparent the wrath of the drys will not defeat any candidate this year.

Flowers for the Dead

To any one who finds national political conventions interesting, there occasionally must come the melancholy thought that the great party heroes—the patron saints, so to speak, whose names always are mentioned reverently in the keynote addresses—get a whole lot more devotion from their parties after they are dead than while they are alive.

Each party has its great heroes, and each party always drags out their images at its conventions.

The Republicans, of course, specialize in Abraham Lincoln; and lately they have begun to enshrine Theodore Roosevelt in an adjacent niche.

The Democrats start with Thomas Jefferson, pause to bend the knee before the figure of Andrew Jackson, and then drop the rest of their wreaths at the feet of Woodrow Wilson.

But a good many of those men got something less than complete devotion from their followers during life.

Lincoln, for example, is on a pedestal now. But the dawn of 1865 found his party bitterly divided. A large section was almost incredibly hostile to him.

If Booth had not killed him, Lincoln and not Johnson would have felt the wrath of the "radicals" in the late sixties; his attempts to save the south from the horrors of the reconstruction period would have brought to him the blind hostility of that section of his party which ultimately tried to throw Johnson out of office.

And Wilson, before his public career ended, sat at the head of a divided party. Not all of the voices that killed the treaty of Versailles in the United States senate came from Republicans; and in the campaign of 1920 there were plenty of party leaders who found it inexpedient to do battle for Wilsonian doctrines.

Not until after his death did his party really endorse him.

The moral of this? Perhaps there isn't any—unless it is that the great party leaders always are fighters, and that the battles they start can not be forgotten until the leaders themselves are in their graves.

Now they're making cheese from alfalfa in Wisconsin. That means the end for another middleman—the cow.

Alaska, for which we paid a paltry \$7,200,000, had exports of more than \$1,000,000,000 from 1910 to 1932. Wish our other frozen assets would turn out half as well.

The difference between a statesman and a politician is that the first is working for the public, while the second has the public working for him.

Now that fashion has decreed the return of long skirts, it looks as if women will be taken at face value again.

Senator Couzens says that some railroad presidents get as much as \$135,000 a year. That's cheering news. We didn't know the railroads were taking in that much.

An English ape returned to its owner after being taken more than 100 miles from home. Must have been a boomerang-outing.

Now we know why they put resin on the canvas in a prize ring. It's to kill the odor of the fight.

Maybe the reason they call it the double-cross is that it is doubly hard to bear.

One of the great mysteries of the year is how Dave Hutton ever escaped the movies.

Hoover's disarmament plan seems to have been approved by all nations except the ones with arms.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

TO go from the city to a Missouri farm is like being transported into a different world. After the clang and clatter, what peace! After the hot paves, what sweet, strong, earthy odors!

After so many useless activities, how simple and appears work done in the country, where men and women are engaged only in constructive labors, tending life.

The farmers talk about the depression, but they are plowing their corn this spring just as they did last, and the women are picking and canning their berries and cold-packing vegetables, and every day hundreds of baby chickens emerge from warm incubators.

The calves and pigs are just as fat and lively as if they fetched top prices on the market.

And you should see the baskets piled high with white and tawny eggs. Right now they bring only 7 cents a dozen in town, and the golden butter, as delicious to the palate as some celestial dainty, is sold for 20 cents a pound.

During July and August, the produce men probably will not buy any eggs at all, since the big city houses are overstocked with cold storage supplies that must be disposed of.

One can't help being staggered by the stupidity of our complicated machinery of civilization. The facts are so simple. Undernourished children in the cities need milk and butter and eggs that are abundant in the country.

Men and women starve for wheat and corn that rot outside their very doors. Yet there seems no way we can figure out to get the surplus to the people.

We have many problems to solve, but it seems to me the chief one now is to distribute the food of which there is such an over-supply to those dying for lack of it.

Never before has such a condition existed in a nation whose facilities for transportation are as great as ours. There is no excuse for it existing now.

We have plenty of food. We have trucks and railroad trains and airplanes. Apparently the only thing we lack for the distribution problem is plain horse sense.

M. E. Tracy

Says:

Whatever Roosevelt's Faults, He Is as Good a Man as Hoover, and Is Running on a Far Better Platform.

NEW YORK, July 5.—With conventions over, platforms written, and candidates named, we enter the campaign.

Let us keep that simple fact clearly in mind.

Along with countless others, this writer would have preferred to see Alfred E. Smith get the Democratic nomination, but that has little to do with the case now.

The issue of Smith versus Roosevelt has given place to the issue of Roosevelt versus Hoover.

It is not wholly, or even largely, an issue of personal attributes.

Both men are creatures of the crowd back of them. Instruments of a more or less fixed tradition.

This was illustrated vividly by the two conventions. Hoover will have to pussyfoot, because that is what the Republican platform calls for. Roosevelt must assume a bolder role, because that is what the Democratic party has ordered.

Stale Argument Advanced

BOILED down to a stale bit of sophistry, the Republican argument will hinge on the danger of swapping horses in the middle of a stream.

We come nearer being in the middle of a desert than stream, but let that pass.

Why hesitate to swap horses anywhere, if you can make a good trade?

The question of a good trade depends on what you need, rather than what you like.

If you think this country needs more of the Hoover administration, in spite of its demonstrated indifference, inaptitude, and inefficiency, your cue is to stand pat and take the consequences.

If, on the other hand, you feel that something different is worth trying, don't be scared by the risk.

Has Better Platform

I am for Roosevelt. Whatever his faults may be, he is as good a man as Hoover and is running on a far better platform. Those who are shaping Democratic policy have shown a clearer understanding of this country's condition and a higher degree of courage in proposing remedies for it than those who are shaping Republican policy.

The attitude of the Republican convention was that of a whipped, bewildered, bossed aggregation. The clock-like efficiency for which it has been praised, bespoke nothing so much as lack of courage and initiative.

In this respect, it was a faithful reflection of the administration it endorsed. Its verbose straddling came as an appropriate epilogue to three years of innocuous advice.

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