

The Indianapolis Times

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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

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THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1936.

MERIT PLAN BACKED

PUBLIC-SPIRITED citizens will applaud the action of the Republican state convention yesterday in adopting the merit system platform plank proposed by the Indiana League of Women Voters. The platform pledge reads:

"We recommend the installation of a system of public personnel management in the state government comparable to sound methods of personnel administration in business."

The purpose of such a system would be to insure the employment of qualified persons on the basis of proved merit; to classify the civil service so that equal pay for equal work will be assured and unnecessary positions eliminated; and to provide for control of personnel so that promotions and discharges will be made on the basis of performance on the job and not on the basis of partisan political activity or personal bias.

"We recognize the necessity of adequate training for government employees and pledge ourselves to co-operate with the educational institutions of the state in their programs of preparing persons for the many types of governmental positions which require a good educational background, skill and technical knowledge."

THE first part of this pledge was placed in the Republican state platform two years ago at the League's request. Officials of the League say the new plank, in addition to urging a merit system based upon competitive examinations, would provide other tests of fitness going beyond civil service examinations into the field of public personnel management.

The platform threw down a challenge to the Democrats, criticising the growth of the spoils system in state and Federal governments.

The League of Women Voters will offer the merit system to the Democratic state convention. The League also is campaigning to force strong merit planks into the two national platforms. Growing sentiment against the pernicious system of political patronage can not be ignored.

The Indianapolis Times congratulates the Republican state convention on its stand in favor of trained experts chosen for public careers regardless of politics. The Democratic Party should join in this movement to eliminate the extravagance and waste of the spoils system from public office.

But of course there is one thing even more important than a good pledge—and that is living up to it.

DR. ARNOLD BENNETT HALL

THE death in Washington of Dr. Arnold Bennett Hall removes from the national scene a Hoosier who contributed much in the field of governmental research. Born at Franklin, Ind., 54 years ago, and graduated from Franklin College in 1904, Dr. Hall was the author of several books on political science. As an educator for many years, and as director of government research activities of the Brookings Institution in Washington, Dr. Hall played an important part in public affairs.

ALIENS, GOOD AND BAD

NOT even the sternest patriot of the House Immigration Committee was able to resist Lena and Janet Hendel, foreign born though they are, when they appeared in Washington with their six handsome little American boys and girls—and pleaded that they be saved from deportation.

The committee members asked the youngsters about their schools, heard their intelligent American answers, saw 2-year-old David cry bitterly when separated for only a few moments from his mother, and heard her wish that she might die rather than live in a foreign land without him. Then and there most of the congressmen went on record for leniency.

Yet the Hendels are not among the 2862 aliens recommended by the Labor Department, in connection with the Kerr-Coolidge bill, for permanent residence in this country.

The department has nothing against the Hendels but they came in on fraudulent passports, purchased in Berlin apparently in good faith from an unscrupulous attache of the American consulate. Technically, the department ruled, they were guilty of moral turpitude.

The point is that the 2862 cases for which the Kerr-Coolidge bill would provide are even more deserving. Yet some of the very congressmen who were moved by this one flesh-and-blood problem before them have been denouncing the department for "letting down the flood gates to aliens," and have been blocking passage of the Kerr-Coolidge bill.

These congressmen no longer can claim the support of the American Federation of Labor in their stand. President William Green has written the chairman of the Senate Immigration Committee expressing a hope that the bill, with a few amendments he suggests, will pass "within the very near future." He points out that the portions of the bill dealing with alien criminals strengthen deportation law considerably.

The Seventy-Fourth Congress is almost over. But enough time remains to deal with this urgent human problem as it should be dealt with, intelligently and without prejuidice or demagoguery.

The bill lets down no flood gates. The number for whom deportation may be stayed is definitely limited and is hedged about with many sound restrictions. For every person allowed to remain here permanently, the quota of his native land is reduced that much. And for every alien of good character permitted to stay, two criminal aliens are made deportable by the bill.

THEY'LL BUY TOBACCO, ETC.

"I wonder often what the Vintners buy. One half so precious as the stuff they sell."

Thus soliloquized wise old Omar, from beneath his fig tree. And in this inquiring spirit, we will well ponder the new French-American reciprocal trade agreement. For because that treaty reduces our tariffs on still wines and champagnes and brandies, French vintners are going to sell more of the "precious stuff" in the U. S. A. And for the same reason, so too will French lacemakers and cigarette paper manufacturers and mushroom canners and corset makers and broadcloth weavers sell us more of their products.

What will they buy with the American dollars

we pay for their wines and champagnes and mushrooms and corsets?

First, it may be assumed that they will purchase larger quantities of all the things they already buy from us, the products of our farms and mines and factories, including notably oil and cotton and food-stuffs.

Second, they will purchase proportionately even larger quantities of things for which the new treaty reduces existing French tariffs and expands or eliminates existing French quotas of American goods. These include fresh fruit, dried fruit, canned fruit, canned asparagus, rice, tobacco, canned and frozen fish, lumber, motion picture films, automobiles and parts, refrigerators, radios, typewriters, tractors and agricultural machinery.

SOME alarmists contend that our lowering of tariffs will result in flooding the American market with French products. The concessions are much too slight and the remaining tariffs much too high to permit that. These objectors seem to think that every dollar's worth of imports robs American farmers and manufacturers and other enterprisers of a dollar's worth of business—that it is a net loss in American profits and wages.

But what about the credit we export when we pay for imports. That credit has to be used either in the purchase of American products or in the payment of debt. The money itself never leaves the country. And when the credit is used, it means business for American enterprisers—the revenue to be divided into American wages and profit.

THE volume of our world trade can be rebuilt only by restoring conditions which will permit more goods to flow in. We learned that when we tried to check the inflow by passage of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act.

The new treaty does not go as far as it should in accelerating the inflow of French goods, with which credits can be built up for the purchase of more American goods. (Last year, we sold France twice as much as we bought from France, a condition unhealthy for both countries.) But the new treaty does remove some of the hindrances and it will promote a greater flow of trade in both directions, and contribute thereby to the prosperity of both countries.

BACK TO NATURE

A SENSIBLE plea for elimination of artificialities in state parks and for preservation of unspoiled bits of nature which have historic pasts, was made to the National Conference on State Parks in Hartford, Conn., this week by Col. Richard Lieber in bed.

Billy Roberts, the Governor's clerk, was the man picked for the job. He hired a hack and drove 10 blocks to the New Denison Hotel where Oscar had registered. To the everlasting credit of Oscar let it be said that Mr. Roberts found Oscar in bed.

Oscar was ready to start out again, however. For the second time that day he dressed up in his lecture suit, which consisted of a swallow-tail coat, black velvet breeches, a white shirt a little the worse for wear (it was the second time, remember), a high standing collar, black silk stockings and enormous shoes, low-cut, of course, and ornamented with magnificent silver buckles.

THUS equipped and ready to go into the night, Mr. Wilde began the adventure by offering Mr. Roberts a drink of Spanish wine which he kept hidden in a goat's skin under his bed. Long after the event took place, Mr. Roberts was heard to say that it was mighty good wine.

Arriving at the Governor's Mansion, Mr. Wilde immediately expressed dissatisfaction with the architecture of Mr. Porter's house. He wanted to know whether the people had given Mr. Porter the house or whether, by any chance, it was his by choice.

Assured that the people had nothing to do with it, he remarked that it was not any more artistic than the Atlantic Ocean. If as good, he added.

After the reception, Mr. Wilde invited to remain and take refreshments with the Porter family. The next issue of the Saturday Review had a rip-snorting account of it written by Charlie Dennis.

"Mr. Wilde," reported Mr. Dennis, "is not an animated feeder. He placed the small of his back in the seat of the chair and spooned in the ice cream with the languor of a debilitated duck."

"Perhaps," concluded Mr. Dennis, "ice cream disagrees with him."

MR. LEWIS got all these facts beautifully straight in his book, but he failed to say that it was at this party that Oscar thanked the Governor for "this opportunity of observing the peasantry of Indiana." It was his parting remark.

It was also at this party that the Governor's daughter (Mrs. Augustus L. Mason) asked Oscar what he thought of the Irish question, an issue which, curiously enough, was agitating the young ladies at time.

"The Irish," said Oscar, "don't know what they want and they won't be happy 'till they get it."

Another item: Mr. Lewis muffed yet the fact that Elizabeth Nicholson and William A. Bell were the two at the Governor's party who suggested bringing Oscar over.

Indeed, Miss Nicholson's niece, Mrs. Brandt Steele, goes even further and says there is a legend in the family (on the McKay side) that her aunt and Mr. Bell actually brought Oscar to the party straight from the lecture.

Maybe so, but in that case we would have missed knowing about the Spanish wine in the goat's skin.

A WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

CONGRESSMAN and Mrs. Zioncheck have spent

their honeymoon on the front page.

He's been too cute for words, and girls, don't you just love the way she proved herself the true American wife (for a time anyway)—a real help to her husband in whatever he does? It's plain to be seen that with his pep and her co-operation, the two of them will go places—to the Senate, maybe.

Both are modern, stream-lined, 12-cylinder Gophers, on their toes every minute, keeping the newspaper boys in gales of laughter. Their repartees as reported by the press is 100 per cent American.

Says the Hon. Zioncheck, apropos perhaps of cogitations on the pending tax bill, "I'm a pretty fast goer, eh, Sugar?"

"I'll say you are, Baby," Mrs. Zioncheck comes back at him, quick as all get-out.

And when they awaken in the morning to find seven or eight reporters perched on the foot of their bed, begging for interviews, do they pull any of that Lindbergh stuff? I'll say they don't. Being good sports and better campaigners, they spill all their secrets.

The taxpayer, taking another hitch in his belt, bursts into a laugh every time he reads about Zioncheck breaking speed laws, thumbing his nose at the cops; Zioncheck going to jail and his faithful little wife sticking right by him to the last syllable of regrading publicity.

Well, here's luck to her and no hard feelings. After all, what's \$10,000 a year to a taxpayer, when you get a three-ring circus for the money? Maybe if more representatives stayed in jail instead of in Congress the country would profit.

What will they buy with the American dollars

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

Our Town

By ANTON SCHERRER

LOYD LEWIS' latest book, "Oscar Wilde Discovers America," includes, of course, a chapter on Indianapolis, and it's mighty good reading even if it does omit a few essential details. After all, a book of 462 pages can hold just so much.

The chapter is labeled "Ice Cream" with the Governor of Indiana" and deals in part with Oscar's visit to Gov. Porter's party after his lecture here Feb. 22, 1882.

Mr. Wilde, it appears, picked a mighty poor day for his lecture in Indianapolis. It was a holiday and the town was full of people attending conventions of their own. The editors of the state had picked the day for their convention; likewise the Grand Army of the Republic; likewise the veterans of the Mexican War; likewise the loud and lusty Greenbackers of the time.

And the Governor and Mrs. Porter, not to be caught napping, had capitalized the event by throwing a big party at the mansion, 501 N. Tennessee.

It kept a lot of people from going to Oscar's lecture.

THINGS started getting dull at the Governor's soiree around 10:30 when somebody suggested getting Oscar Wilde over to liven up the party. It was about time for the lecture to be over, anyway.

Billy Roberts, the Governor's clerk, was the man picked for the job. He hired a hack and drove 10 blocks to the New Denison Hotel where Oscar had registered. To the everlasting credit of Oscar let it be said that Mr. Roberts found Oscar in bed.

Billy was ready to start out again, however. For the second time that day he dressed up in his lecture suit, which consisted of a swallow-tail coat, black velvet breeches, a white shirt a little the worse for wear (it was the second time, remember), a high standing collar, black silk stockings and enormous shoes, low-cut, of course, and ornamented with magnificent silver buckles.

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Ask The Times

In case a 2-cent stamp for reply when addressing any question of fact or information to The Indianapolis Times Washington Service Bureau, 1015 18th and M. W. Washington, D. C. Legal and medical advice can not be given, nor can extended research be undertaken.

Q—What is the lifetime major league batting average of Al Simmons?

A—Including the 1935 season, it is 347.

Q—What is the area of Rhode Island?

A—1,248 square miles.

Q—Where is Creighton University?

A—It is a Roman Catholic college for men, Omaha, Neb.

Q—Is it true that goats in stable preserve the health of horses?

A—The United States Department of Agriculture says there is no scientific basis for this belief.

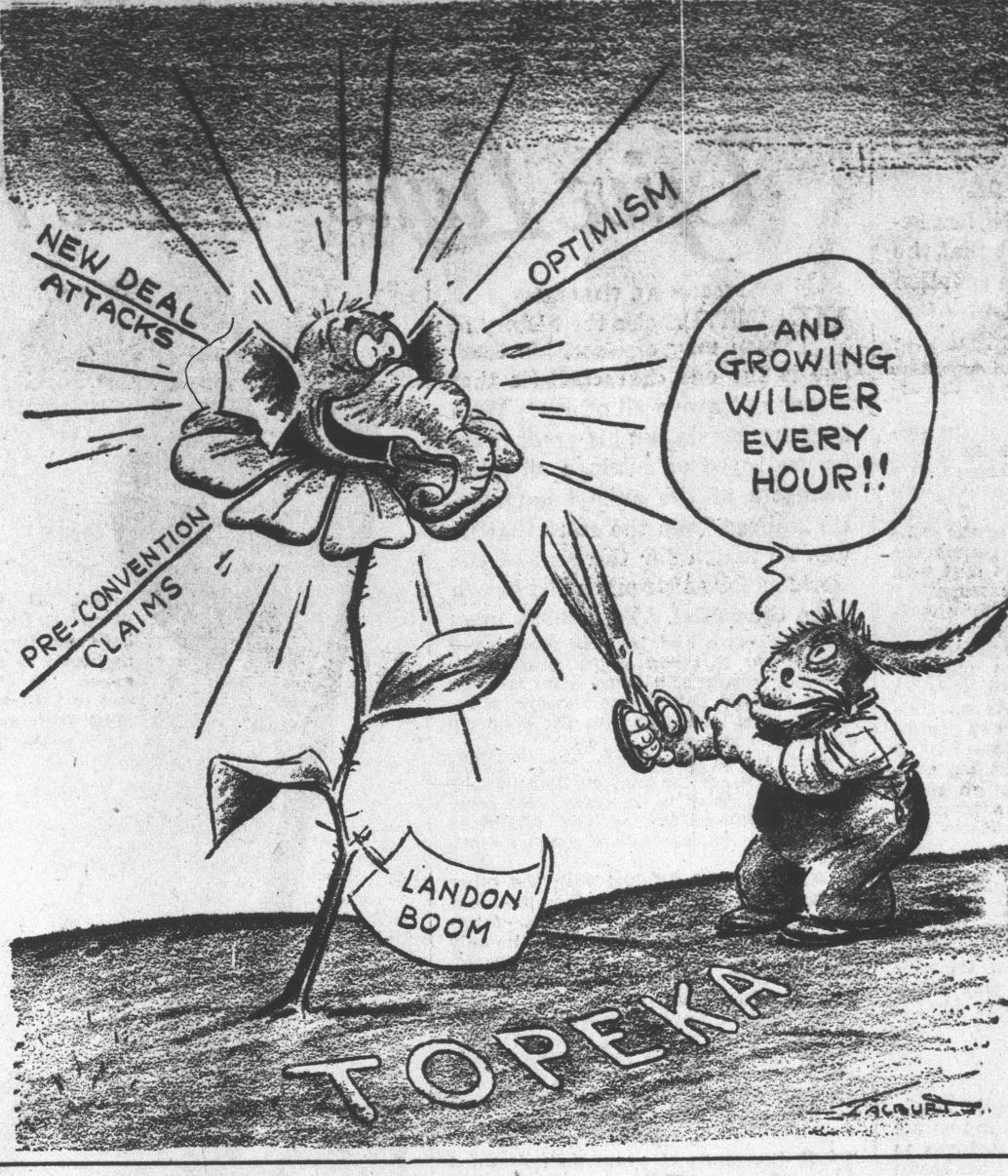
Q—What does the name Ludovic mean?

A—It is a Walloon and Scottish form of the Teutonic name Ludwig, meaning "famous holiness."

Q—Name the cause of death of Christy Mathewson, famous baseball player.

A—Tuberculous pneumonia.

JUST A LITTLE PRAIRIE FLOWER



The Hoosier Forum

I disapprove of what you say—and will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire.

(Times readers are invited to express their views in these columns, relatives controversies excluded. Make your letters short, so all can have a chance. Limit them to 250 words or less. Your letter must be signed, but names will be withheld on request.)

DEPLORES LEGION'S STAND ON CHAILLAUX

By Emily S. Barber

As was quite to be expected, the reactionary American Legion, which, with the super-reactionary D. A. R. and their ilk, have set themselves up as censors of American thought, has imposed its chief witch-hunter, Homer Chailloux. We do not look for anything better from the Daughters of the American Revolution, but for a group as young as the Legion to be so blind is really bad. It makes one wonder if democracy can continue safe if so few voters can do their own thinking.

As for that matter, I doubt if Mr. C. himself is as stupid as he appears, lumping all the "isms" the way he does; why does he not mention fundamentalism, humanitarianism,

Your Health

By DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

AMONG the most important considerations in feeding a baby is its requirement for water.

The child being fed by the breast usually gets enough water in the milk. The infant being fed artificially should receive