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## LIGHT PLANT STATUS DUE TO 2 CAUSES

Present Condition Caused by Failure To Make Repairs in Years Past and To Boost Rates.

### NO CAUSE FOR ALARM

The misunderstandings that have arisen over the management of the municipal electric light plant are not of immediate origin but are attributable to long antecedent causes, two of which are of fundamental importance in their bearing on the situation.

They are:

First, the failure to make necessary repairs in years past, so as to avert a general collapse of equipment at one time.

Secondly, the failure to raise rates sufficiently early so as to prevent the occurrence of a deficit.

If citizens will keep these two facts in mind, they will not be lost in the maze of accusations, charges and counter charges, and the conflict between the board of works and the city council. All the blustering and noise accompanying the situation will lead nowhere, shape no sound policy, and bring no tangible results.

**Due to Politics.**

The failure to make repairs and provide replacements at the plant, and the neglect of the city officials to raise rates in good time, can be traced to the universal custom of politicians to try to make a good showing for their administration.

The appropriation of money for repair and replacement purposes would have expressed itself in reduced net earnings—something that politicians feared, for a comparison with former years naturally would not have been favorable to the officials responsible for the management.

An increase in rates might have evoked opposition from the consumers—something which the politicians feared because the voters might be induced to vote against them at the next election.

**Private Management Policy.**

In a privately owned plant neither of these considerations would have carried weight in the final decision.

Private management believes in maintaining machinery at its highest point of efficiency—possibly only by making repairs instantly and replacing worn parts immediately.

In conformity with this policy, a well managed private utility avoids letting its machinery deteriorate to the point where thousands of dollars are suddenly needed for repairs and replacements.

As soon as a privately managed utility notices that the income from its established rates is approaching its expenditures, it increases its rates so that deficits may be avoided and stockholders guaranteed fair return on the investment.

**Results of Neglect.**

By neglecting these two fundamental principles of sound management, the municipal light plant found itself in a critical condition.

A petition for an increase in rates brought results, but too late to avoid the deficit. The employment of a consulting engineer, after a survey by the citizen's committee, necessitated the expenditure of heavy sums of money to pay for the repairs and replacements, which should have been distributed over a period of many years.

Both of these weaknesses in management have been remedied. Rates are sufficient and the present physical condition of the plant is the best it has been for many years.

Citizens have no cause to be alarmed over the financial and physical condition of the plant.

It has taken heavy appropriations to bring about this condition, it is true. But if these repairs and replacements had been spread over the past years, as they should have been, their cost would have been apportioned over many months, instead of coming at one time.

It is folly to blame any group of men for the condition. All city officials for years past are equally culpable for the condition which finally demanded the application of heroic treatment.

**Controversies Frustrated.**

The lack of harmony between the city council, the board of works, and the management of the plant aggravated the situation without remedying the two fundamental weaknesses which have been pointed out in the foregoing.

No privately owned utility could long exist if three contending groups were at loggerheads, and if it neglected to make repairs constantly, and to provide for an adequate income.

The municipal light plant, which belongs to the people and should stay in their ownership, is no plaything.

The fundamental principles of sound business must be present in its management, if it is to execute the function for which it was established by the taxpayers. Fighting between branches of the municipal government inevitably will lead to ruin.

The policy of the city council to refuse to make appropriations for repairs is folly. The process of rehabilitating the plant has brought results. Competent persons say its physical condition is better than for many years. The money that was not used for repairs in years past must now be applied.

**No Private Ownership.**

There is no occasion for indulging in pessimism, or of asserting that the plant is ruined, or may pass into the hands of private ownership. The taxpayers fought long and hard to obtain the municipal utility, and they will retain it.

## Borah Finds Recreation in Saddle



Senator Borah on his daily mount.

Neither tennis nor golf appeals to Senator Borah of Idaho for recreation as does horseback riding. Daily the senator goes for a morning ride in the country around the capital. He is shown above fording a shallow stream.

## STAY OFF LAWNS, SAY RICHMOND RESIDENTS

**Stay off the lawns!**

This is the warning of irate residents across whose lawns deliverymen, newsboys and bill distributors have beaten paths this spring.

Walks leading from the sidewalk to the doors have been provided as a means of entrance and exit. Use them, say complaining citizens, as they contemplate the grass that has been tramped into the ground by the trespassers.

The appearance of many lawns have been ruined by the paths which they have worn to save a few steps. Trails leading across the grass from one house to another may be seen in many parts of the city.

Paths paralleling walks or leading diagonally across an expanse of green, all made by the shoes of newsboys, deliverymen and bill distributors can be beaten paths.

Paths to cultivate a beautiful lawn only to have its appearance ruined by trespassing feet whose owners are too lazy to use walks, conveniently laid for this purpose, ask citizens who believe in the city beautiful.

Scores of parking strips between the sidewalk and curb also have been ruined by pedestrians seeking shortcuts.

**JUDGE LANDIS DENIES RESIGNATION REPORT AFTER SENATE ACTION**

(By Associated Press) CHICAGO, May 4.—Judge Landis in a formal statement today denied reports that he had resigned from the federal bench to devote his time to his position as baseball commissioner. "I have not resigned, nor have I said anything which could be construed into a statement that I have resigned," the statement said.

The action Monday of the senate judiciary committee in endorsing Senator Dial's bill, making it an offense for a federal judge to accept another position of pecuniary profit while on the bench had again aroused rumors that the judge was to relinquish his federal position.

Last winter, when impeachment charges were filed against Judge Landis by Representative Welty, of Ohio, whose term has since expired, the judge said "they will never impeach me."

**Judge Replies.**

"If both houses of congress by a majority resolution express disappointment at my attempt to benefit 10,000 people who have a wholehearted interest in baseball I will submit my resignation as a federal judge to Washington by telegram," the judge said then.

At about the same time Senator Dial demanded that the Senate investigate the action of Judge Landis in criticizing officials of a bank at Ottawa, Ill., for paying Francis J. Carey, aged 19, a teller, only \$50 a month and putting large sums of money in his charge.

Carey confessed to embezzeling nearly \$90,000, was sent home unguarded by Judge Landis until the judge could "think over" his punishment, and later was sentenced to a federal reform school for a short term.

**EXPRESS COMPANY TO REDUCE WAGES**

(By Associated Press) NEW YORK, May 4.—The American Railway Express company announced here today it had notified its 80,000 employees that it contemplates a revision in wages, effective June 1. The company also announces a contemplated revision of rules governing hours of service and working conditions effective July 1.

## PEACE PACT ACCEPTABLE TO HARDING

Measure, Originally Intended To Rebuke Wilson, Shorn of Elements Constituting Invasion of Prerogative.

### ONLY ONE RIFT IN LUTE

BY MARK SULLIVAN

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 4.—It is undeniable that in the minds of some members of the foreign relations committee of the senate and in the minds of some other senators as well, there is a disposition to assert a right on their part to participate in those negotiations with other countries which are just ahead of us.

The passage of the Knox resolution by the senate is frequently described as an act coming within this intention. This does not happen to be true. The passage of the Knox resolution in the form in which it passed was wholly agreeable to President Harding and Secretary Hughes and was not regarded by them as any invasion whatever of the constitutional prerogative of the executive.

#### Intended Rebuke.

It is stated that as originally written the Knox resolution for a separate peace with Germany was in a form which invaded the constitutional prerogative of the executive and was intended by President Harding to be an embarrassment of him in his conduct of our difficult foreign relations when Senator Knox originally wrote his resolution, two years ago. It was frankly designed as a rebuke to the then President Wilson. It was designed as a means of accomplishing by act of congress a thing which President Wilson refused to do as an act of the executive.

Still late on January 1 of this year when Senator Knox visited President Harding at Marion and announced his continued intention of introducing his original resolution and pressing it to passage, that was an act in the nature of taking the initiative in foreign affairs. This disposition on the part of the senate to take in foreign affairs a degree of initiative which by law and custom belongs to the executive continued up to the time President Harding assumed his office on March 4.

#### Harding Wins

At one time one of the most powerful Republican senators declared publicly that it did not matter much who should be secretary of state inasmuch as the senate would be the pioneer in our foreign affairs. But since taking office here Harding, in the gentlest and yet firmest way, has turned the senate away from any truculence of disposition on its part. President Harding brought it about that the Knox resolution should be shorn of those elements which constituted an invasion of the executive prerogative.

To President Harding's urging Knox and the other senators have yielded without outward grace. If the senators still have a feeling that their superior knowledge of our foreign affairs, acquired through long study of the complications of the league of nations, ought to give them a larger hand in foreign affairs, they do not say so openly nor act on that conviction.

#### Pleases Harding

The Knox resolution, in abbreviated form, in which it was passed, was not only completely satisfactory to President Harding, but is an essential part of the plan of President Harding and Secretary Hughes. In untangling the chaos of our foreign affairs there is not at the moment any issue between President Harding and the senate. So far as there has recently been an issue, the senate has yielded graciously. The enormously difficult business of untangling our foreign affairs is wholly in the hands of President Harding and Secretary Hughes, and the way in which they are going about it commands the confidence and deference of everybody in Washington, including congress.

#### One Faint Rift

The only faint rift in the lute is a certain degree of impatience on the part of congress with delay in bringing about disarmament. It is apparent that President Harding and Secretary Hughes, in their plans for our foreign relations do not consider that the time is quite arrived either for reducing our own armament or for proposing an agreement for disarmament. For the moment congress is willing to accept the judgment of the executive on this point without inquiring into it closely.

But there can be no doubt that by the time, now only about nine months distant, when another appropriation for the army and navy becomes necessary, congress will expect President Harding to have taken adequate steps toward disarmament, and will refuse the necessary appropriations unless he has done so.

For Indiana, by the United States Weather Bureau—Fair tonight and Thursday; light frost in exposed places tonight.

#### Temperatures Yesterday

Maximum ..... 46  
Minimum ..... 40

Today ..... 61  
Noon ..... 61

Weather Conditions—The Canadian cool wave still persists over a vast area. Heavy to killing frosts occurred Tuesday in the Dakotas, Minnesota and Iowa, and light frosts in Kansas, Missouri and northern Illinois and Arkansas. General rains continue along the Atlantic coast. Another storm of considerable energy covers the southern Rocky mountain plateau states. Between these two storms is a narrow strip of fair weather.

Barometric Pressure

7:00 a. m. ..... 30.04  
10:00 a. m. ..... 30.03

Noon ..... 30.02

Thirty-five applicants for naturalization papers will be heard at the semi-annual naturalization hearing which will be held at the court house next Friday. This is the largest number ever appearing at one hearing for their final papers in Wayne county.

The repeal of the act making it compulsory for certain aliens to obtain a presidential permit for naturalization has greatly increased the number eligible for their final papers next Friday.

## Pretty Movie Star Sues for Divorce



Two Interesting Glimpses of Pearl White

While scandal and stories of blasted romances and even of ideal weddings came out of the movie world, Pearl White, the dashing miss who made a name for herself in thrilling serials, remained outside the bonds of matrimony as far as movie fandom knew. 'Twas said she wasn't even in love, let alone married. Now comes word from Paris that she has established a formal residence there preparatory to suing Wallace McCutcheon for a divorce on grounds of infidelity. McCutcheon's friends deny the charges.

## BLACK HAND GANG BELIEVED CAPTURED

(By Associated Press)

SCRANTON, PA., May 4—With nineteen of its alleged members under arrest, local and state police expressed the belief today that they had broken up one of the most menacing blackhand gangs that ever operated in this section of the state. All of the prisoners were held in every jail after hearings before magistrate.

Five of them turned state's evidence and recited on the witness stand some of the alleged practices of the band.

Headquarters of the gang, according to the informants, was maintained at Carbondale, Pa., and men were sent out from there to perform blackhand missions in many sections of the east.

Its efforts they told the authorities were not centered on extorting money from citizens, but its members also engaged in robbing freight cars and business places. Breaking of the oath of loyalty to the gang was said to be suspended by the gang.

Senator Borah also filed a motion to suspend the senate rules in an effort to pave the way for early consideration of his measure. He and other disarmament advocates planned to press the issue.

President Harding is known to have communicated in both the senate and the house his desire that action on disarmament proposals be deferred because of the present state of international relations.

## SENATORS TO PRESS FOR QUICK ACTION ON REDUCED NAVIES

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, May 4.—An immediate fight in the senate against the administration's desire to defer consideration of naval disarmament proposals was forecast today by the re-introduction by Senator Borah, of Idaho, of his resolution "to authorize and request the president to call representatives of Great Britain and Japan into a disarmament conference."

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## SPRING TAXES REACH \$800,000, ESTIMATE; SETS WAYNE RECORD

Collections on the spring installment of taxes will amount to close to \$800,000, it was estimated at the county treasurer's office Wednesday. The amount received up to Saturday night was \$490,432.89. Monday was the last day for payment of the first installment and the great volume of taxes sent in by mail together with the heavy payments on the final day will prevent the treasurer being able to give the exact amount collected until the latter part of this week.

The collections for Wayne county, according to County Treasurer Tom Aihl, will represent the largest sum ever collected in one period. This means that considerably over a million dollars will be collected in Wayne county during the year.

Last year approximately \$650,000 was collected during the spring period. Last Saturday \$33,087.85 was collected. Monday's receipts will be the largest of any day because of the checks for taxes received by mail to be counted as that day.

## SHANK LEAD STRONG IN INDIANAPOLIS RACE

INDIANAPOLIS, May 4.—Revised figures for 140 of the city's 166 precincts early this afternoon gave Samuel Lewis Shank a lead of nearly 2,000 votes over his nearest rival for the nomination for mayor on the Republican ticket.

Boyd M. Ralston continued in the lead for the Democratic nomination by about four votes to one. The unofficial figures for 140 precincts follow: Republican, Shank, 23,742; Howe, 21,878; Robison, 8,159. Democrats, Ralston, 5,235; Perkins, 1,626.

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., May 4.

Don M. Roberts, formerly mayor of Terre Haute and who was convicted of election frauds in the United States

district court in Indianapolis in 1915, was the Democratic nomination for mayor in a primary here Tuesday. His opponent was Nathan Wallace, a banker, who received 2,510 votes to

1,477 for Roberts.

## U. S. AWAITS INVITATION TO COUNCIL

Decision as to American Representation on Allied Supreme Council and Reparations Body Awaits Request.