

SOUTH BEND NEWS-TIMES

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SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, AUGUST 26, 1915.

GARY NIHILISM NOT WANTED

Murder of a Gary clergyman, by Slavs of the steel city, because as the police suppose, of his pro-German utterances, in no way brings credit to the Slavs of the city of Gary.

And too, here in the United States, a man has a perfect right, both moral and legal, to be pro-German if he likes, as long as he is not too anti-American about it, and at the same time he may be just as anti-British, anti-French, anti-Russian, anti-Serbian and anti-Italian, as he pleases.

At the same time men have been known to receive anonymous threats of violence, and other threats not so very anonymous, for anti-German and pro-American utterances, here in the United States, from people who signed themselves "German-Americans" of course, with the German first.

Touching upon the question of whether seditious propaganda may be carried on with impunity against the foreign policies of the United States.

Every citizen of the United States, without the permission or authority of the government, directly or indirectly commences or carries on any verbal or written correspondence or intercourse with any foreign government or agent thereof, with an intent to influence the measures or conduct of any foreign government or any officer or agent thereof, in relation to any disputes or controversies with the United States, or to defeat the measures of the government of the United States, and every person being a citizen or resident within the United States or in any place subject to the jurisdiction thereof and not duly authorized who counsels, advises or assists in any such correspondence with such intent, shall be fined not more than \$5,000 and imprisoned not more than three years.

How many citizens and alien residents would be liable to punishment under this law if the government decided to enforce it literally? In most any other country under existing conditions, they would enforce it—especially true of the country in behalf of which much of the seditious activity in America is just now being exercised.

The Gary clergyman, we understand, however, had not quite transcended that law, and though he had been somewhat critical of our foreign policies, until he did transcend the law he was within his rights, while even then we have other ways of dealing with offenders than by cold-blooded nihilistic murder.

THE WAR A HINDRANCE. The recent statement of the First National bank, South Bend, in its monthly review of financial conditions, to the effect that this country is not better off industrially, but worse off, on account of the war, at first, may have looked dubious, but the sense of it is becoming more apparent.

War orders have set our factories to running at capacity and war profits

have dwarfed the returns of other forms of export business. Such orders have come easily. Orders in new markets come hard. It costs a great deal of money and takes a great deal of time to cultivate new trade opportunities of South America and the Orient and improve the old ones in neutral countries.

But the war orders won't last forever. When they stop coming, some of our manufacturers are going to have hard times for a while. With great plants on their hands and stockholders accustomed to a high rate of earnings, they may suddenly discover that they can no longer keep those plants running or pay dividends. There will be a difficult time of readjustment, while they're getting back to a peace basis, lining up their old customers and doing the pioneer development work that they should have been doing while the war was in progress.

Permanent trade, which is the only trade worth having, isn't handed to exporters on a silver platter as the war orders have been.

SO SLICK AND EASY.

As we continue to study the wreck-story of the Rock Island railroad, as written by the interstate commerce commission, it grows positively humorous, so simple and easy does it show the well-established business of stealing millions to be.

Today, the Rock Island is in the hands of a receiver, notwithstanding that its earnings last year were the largest in its history. Its stock is worth \$20 as against \$200 a dozen years ago. It has been possible to wreck the property "through misleading reports to stockholders," says the I. C. C. "The process was like this:

In 1902, the Rock Island was a prosperous and promising road in a section bound to contribute more and more to its prosperity. Indeed, there were very few stockholders who were letting go of their stock at over \$200.

This fine condition of the property was a strong temptation to "our leading financiers." What prospects of this sort needed was "promotion." "Promotion" may be defined as the process of swelling the unwary stockholder's head until you can strip him down to his very boots.

Three down-east "promoters" bought about one-quarter of the Rock Island stock, elected the directors and formed two "holding" companies.

A "holding company" may be defined as a syndicate which so holds the stockholder that his year's profit heard while he is being stripped.

Into this holding scheme the stockholders were persuaded to pour \$71,000,000 of the Rock Island stock, receiving in exchange \$181,000,000 of the holding company's securities. "Good" wouldn't it swell anybody's head to put in \$71 and get out \$181!

Having things fixed, with solid old Rock Island as the basis, mind you, the promoters proceeded to promote the stuffing out of Rock Island.

They put about \$5,500,000 into the rotten old Frisco; \$6,500,000 into the Alton; over \$4,500,000 into the Trinity & Brazos Valley. All lost.

And here are some items that ought to fire our sympathy for the poor "widows and orphans" stockholders of railroads.

Contributions of gratuities to officers and directors—about \$1,000,000.

Maintaining and housing holding companies—more than \$250,000.

Transactions of U. H. Verner—\$217,950.

The aggregate loss over the 20,000,000, accomplished, says the I. C. C., "through misleading reports to stockholders."

And now the climax of the report, is jam full of humor, too. It actually insinuates that maybe somebody can be punished for stealing the millions. But it's possible that the well known distinction between picking pockets and "promoting" will be observed.

Moral: Always steal enough to throw justice into hysterics.

WISE AND UPRIGHT JUDGE.

The people of the United States, in every section and regardless of party, are on sober second thought, sure to agree that Mr. Justice Hughes of the United States supreme court is a bigger and abler man than most of our presidents have been. Nevertheless, most citizens are well satisfied with his declaration that he will under no circumstances be a candidate for the presidential nomination and that regardless of party too.

The reason he gives is sufficient. He regards it as improper for a member of the supreme bench to participate in politics in any way. The supreme court is necessarily above parties and independent of them as the sovereign is in a constitutional monarchy. While there would of course be no immediate harm done in a man of such unquestioned disinterestedness and integrity as Justice Hughes accepting a nomination thrust upon him the precedent established might open the way to dangerous abuses.

It would be a perilous thing for the nation's future if the people ever came to believe or suspect that members of the supreme court were aiming at the presidency. For such ambition would be thought, rightly or wrongly, to exert an undue influence in coloring court decisions, especially where partisan interests were involved.

Our supreme court is perhaps our greatest contribution to the machinery of government. Its sanctity and integrity, and the unquestioned acquiescence in its decisions, are the chief glory of our political system. Regardless of whether Justice Hughes could be nominated and elected, or of how excellent a president he would make, he is doing his country a service in refusing the presidential bait.

A MENTAL "PLACE IN THE SUN." Some change this, that is coming over the spirit of Germany. The condemnation of the celebrated "Chant of Hate" by Berlin newspapers, and a virtual repudiation of it by the author himself, are among the indications. It is conspicuous in recent utterances of the German socialists. The most remarkable demonstration of it, perhaps, is in the public statement signed by 32 prominent Germans, including Dr. Bernhard Dernburg, opposing the annexation of any conquered territory inhabited by other races. The statement pretends that:

Germany did not enter the war with the idea of annexation, but in order to preserve its existence, threatened by an enemy coalition against its national unity and its progressing development. In concluding peace Germany cannot pursue anything which does not secure these objects.

We must acknowledge the principle that the incorporation or annexation of politically independent nations accustomed to governing themselves is a vicious thing.

The signers must admit that in surrendering such a conquered country as Belgium they make sure that it does not fall into the hands of their enemies; but they insist that under no circumstances must Germany presume to absorb populations which would mar its own racial unity. They ask for no higher prize of victory than:

The proudly earned certainty that Germany needs not to fear even a world of enemies, and the unexampled demonstration of strength which our nation has furnished other nations of the earth and coming generations.

In other words, they will be content with glory instead of territory. Their "place in the sun" is to be purely psychological. It is vastly different from the talk of world conquest heard not many months ago; and, so far as the Kaiser and his gang is concerned, it is all bunk.

TRYING TO IDENTIFY IT.

Carranza is within his rights as a good citizen and patriot in rallying his people to the "defense of the sovereignty of the republic of Mexico."

But neither this country nor any other has any designs on the sovereignty of Mexico.

The idea is, Mr. Carranza, to get out a figurative search warrant and locate that sovereignty so we can pat it on the back and help it brace up.

It's been in the lost, strayed or stolen column so long that not even a Mexican would recognize it if he met it in the road.

THE MELTING POT

COME! TAKE POTLUCK WITH US.

WE are assured by members of the reichstag that there will be no war between Germany and the United States unless President Wilson makes it. This assurance might calm our fears as we may have were it not for the reflection that, from the Teutonic standpoint the allies made war on Germany.

The business manager complains that too much of his time is occupied in opening circular mail, but he finds some compensation in the salvage. He saves the clips and sells the waste paper.

WE don't know why she should be, but E. M. calls our attention to the fact that Justina Huff is a movie picture actress.

FOLLOWING a well established custom at this season with country newspapers and almanacs we republish "Other Shilpion's Prophecy."

Carriages without wheels shall go. And accidents fill the world with woe. Around the world thoughts shall fly in the twinkling of an eye.

Now strange, shall yet be true. The world upside down shall be. And gold shall be found at the root of a tree.

Through hills man shall ride, And no horse nor ass be at his side. Under water men shall walk. Shall ride, shall sleep, shall talk. In the air men shall be seen. In water the water shall float. As easy as a wooden boat. Gold shall be found 'mid stone. In a land that's now unknown. Fire and metal shall wonders do. England shall last admit a Jew. And this world to an end shall come. In eighteen hundred and eighty-one.

THE Georgia auto-ites protesting that they can find no clue to the identity of the murderers of Leo Frank the awful suspicion falls itself upon us that Frank hung himself.

THE comparatively large number of Americans traveling on British ships shows that the exigencies of business are as strong as those of patriotic duty or personal sentiment. Besides, if one must sail abroad it is difficult to sail in anything but a British bottom. And there you are.

BAD WRECK AT LAPAZ.

Sunday, Aug. 23, was an eventful day in LaPaz. The postmaster at that place had the automobile fever for so long that finally through the persuasive powers of an agent he purchased a machine called the

machine deleted by censor). He had heard of its wonderful endurance and that it could go in any kind of weather, climb any hill, but he never surmised it would buck the United States government and the postmaster at LaPaz if it was handled right, so he sought a place to shelter same. John D. Thayer having an empty garage and being of a charitable disposition, said, "Abe, put 'er there." Abe not having much experience after some practice to steer clear and hit the shelter, but the combination did not work just right for the motorman of the U. S. government and he took out the back end first. Said it was an accident. Sunday he invited the minister to take a ride and in coming in the works or something got closed and the postmaster and the preacher got their dates mixed and never looked for danger ahead. They took out all the front end of the garage. After the smoke cleared away and the preacher got his breath and Abe saw where he was at Abe said it must have been the throttle did not work. He did not stop to think that this was the same experience of John Hildebrand and Dolpha Row, who were assisting him some time ago to get this unruly machine to work, so their friend Abraham would be able to read his title clear to mansions in the skies, where the machine killeth not and the throttle worketh right, and the preacher scareth not, and Abraham guideth not; then will it come to pass that Abraham missed the hole.

WE note that a valued exchange is still insisting that the high cost of living exists. We supposed that proposition had been accepted long ago.

The Marsuders.

(Indianapolis News.) They've worn our hats for, Lo! these many years; Our neckties, we can't really call our own; Our waistcoats, too, have long since disappeared. For walking sticks and belts we also moan.

Freak fashion has allowed them manish shoes. Side pockets now they use to hide their rocks— But, glory be! Still not content with that— I'm durned, if they ain't went and stole our socks. —Herbert Berg.

COMBING the sea for explosives, we can see, is not altogether unlike combing a kid for insectivora. Can't you hear 'em crack?

PERHAPS the Kaiser thinks waiting has become habitual with Wilson. C. N. F.

What The Papers Say

TEN YEARS AGO.

Ten years ago the stat. of Indiana was passing through the throes of its last republican administration, and it was some throes, too, rather "thrown" for money was literally thrown at the birds. Drunken sailors were tight wads compared to the manner in which the state's funds were dissipated.

Ten years ago three of Indiana's principal state officers were forced to resign because of unlawful acts. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were embezzled from the state funds and when Gov. Hanly forced the exposure he lost his standing with the republican organization and has been ever since.

Even the money saved up to pay the state debt was diverted in the Belshazzar feast of extravagance that was being enacted by an administration that was republican from the governor's office on down to the foot soldiers. An it had been that way for 12 years, the republican organization evidently believed that the people of Indiana would stand for anything.

Compare 10 years ago with the present. The longer the democratic party is in power the better shape the state's affairs get into. Every institutional or other expense contracted is paid for. Instead of officials embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars of the big debt that was loaded on the Marshall administration when in 1908 the people arose in their wrath and drove the treasury looking party from the state house.

The democratic party has kept faith with the people. It has not only paid off the load of debt, but it has run the state economically and as a good business man would run his own affairs. No scandal has ever been in any department, but ability and integrity have ruled.

Ten years ago we were a disgraced commonwealth. Today, after six years of democratic rule, every department is above suspicion or reproach, and Indiana stands as a model to other states for economical and business like government.

The people of Indiana do not want and will not have any more Belshazzar feasts of extravagance and misrule such as the last republican administration gave us.

MUSCOVITE DIPLOMACY SCORES A VICTORY.

A Japanese student writing in the Boston Advertiser shows how wide awake and efficient are the czar's diplomats even if his army is not as effective as might be wished. While the Grand Duke Nicholas and his men were being routed out of Poland the Russian envoys in conference with those from China and Mongolia were reaching out and gathering in territory many times that lost by the army. Under the terms of a treaty signed recently at a conference held in Kiakhta, Siberia, the Russian sphere of influence is extended to all of outer Mongolia, and when the czar absorbs that he may be expected to reach out for Inner Mongolia.

Outer Mongolia is more than two-thirds of all Mongolian territory. The area over which Russia is obtaining dominion is more than one-third that of the United States and is six times

that of the German empire. It is nearly three times that of the German and Austro-Hungarian empires combined. It has a population estimated at 2,500,000 and adjoins Siberia on the south. Much of the area is mountainous and there are large stretches that are classed as desert, but concerning which comparatively little is known in the outside world. No question that the district affords a fine field for Russian colonization and in time will be an important part of the czar's domain.

The new treaty is the outcome of negotiations that have been in progress several years. The first step was marked by the signing of the Russo-Mongolian and Russo-Chinese agreements in November of 1912. A year later a treaty was entered into with China recognizing Chinese suzerainty, while China recognized Mongolian autonomy. Now China, Mongolia and Russia agree to extension of the Muscovite sphere of influence to outer Mongolia.

INDISCREET UTTERANCES.

Theodore Roosevelt declared in a public statement last Saturday that the time for words has passed and the time for action has arrived, in the relations of this country and Germany—which means that of resentment of the sinking of the Arabic should take the form of a declaration of war. A similar statement by a citizen of less prominence would invite severe criticism, but might excused on the ground of prejudice or ignorance. The offense is aggravated when the man committing it is an ex-president of the United States, in whose behalf no such extenuating plea can be offered.

Col. Roosevelt appears willing to take advantage of every opportunity that is presented to criticize President Wilson, directly or indirectly, in his manner of handling the European and Mexican situations. A few days ago a London newspaper published a letter he wrote to an American physician now residing in London, who has written a book on the war. In commending him Col. Roosevelt said: "Americans who are sensitive of the honor of their country must therefore feel all the more pleased to have a private citizen step forward to make good, so far as may be, the failure of our governmental authorities to care for the honor of this nation and the interests of mankind."

To say that these utterances of Roosevelt are indiscreet is to use the mildest possible term. By implication they charge that the administration is not doing its duty, and that it has forfeited the respect of the people, and assert that the public is divided in its support of Wilson, which is not the truth. Col. Roosevelt is the spokesman for a very small, but a very mischievous minority, which is seemingly bent upon securing political advantage out of a very delicate situation. The people are standing back of the president, prepared to support him in any action he takes. Meanwhile Col. Roosevelt might learn valuable lessons in statesmanship and patriotism from another living exponent.

G. O. P. ANXIOUS.

The attitude of the Lagrange Standard, an original, steadfast, non-surrender progressive oracle, is giving the g. o. p. managers some concern. They would like to spy in the column a little more general spirit in touching upon the political future. —Goshen Democrat.

ALWAYS ON THE JOB.

The cool killer is never so busy with the men that rock the boat that he hasn't plenty of time to attend to the people who eat luncheon on the bathing beaches and plunge into deep water for a long swim immediately afterward.



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