

Indiana Daily Times

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"THIS IS THE YEAR"

OH, WELL! May 3 is just as good a time to try Sheriff Miller as any other.

WHO said this was going to be a nice, quiet campaign without much enthusiasm?

AND WE UNDERSTAND just about what went on in the conference between Mayor Jewett and Claris Adams, too.

GAS, street car and railroad facilities are curtailed, anyhow, so what's the use of worrying about a little high water?

THE COMMUNITY is much indebted to Senator Johnson for the coining of that very applicable phrase—"mental libertines."

APPARENTLY Mayor Jewett overlooked directing Harry Parsons to appear in police court Tuesday afternoon.

HASN'T MR. ADAMS been instructed by the criminal court to do something besides manage J. W. Fesler's campaign in Marion county?

KINNEY HIATT denies that story about the loaded dice and the two prominent republicans. Says "nobody never got nothin' off them two, nowhow."

IT IS INDEED INTERESTING to find the News admitting that in the conduct of the Marion county jail the "good government" administration has resolved itself into "a complete failure of local self-government."

The State's Failure

An excellent demonstration of why busy members of Indianapolis like to appear in the city court as attorneys or to sit there as special judges was staged yesterday when the case of state versus Charles W. Rollinson was continued for lack of preparation.

Although Claris Adams, prosecutor, and his deputies knew that this case was set for trial before Charles E. Cox, special judge, no preparations were made for trying it, and the state even neglected it to the extent of failing to summon the prosecuting witness.

As a result a group of lawyers and others whose time was more or less valuable, waited in the courtroom while a policeman sought the prosecuting witness, took him from his work and brought him to the city court. At the expiration of three hours' delay Judge Cox was compelled to express his regret that the case could not be tried and continued it. Parsons, the prosecuting witness, disclaimed any knowledge that the case had been set for trial although the fact was printed in three newspapers and generally known among the lawyers of the city.

Ralph Spaan, deputy prosecutor, candidly admitted that he did not know who the witnesses were to be and for that reason could not have caused witnesses to be subpoenaed.

The whole affair went to show that although the charge against Rollinson is a serious one and Rollinson is entitled to a speedy hearing, it was not regarded as sufficiently important by Claris Adams, prosecutor, to merit any preparations on behalf of the state.

While the state of Indiana has to depend for representation on such inefficient servants as handled the Rollinson case there is reason to feel sorry for the state.

And while such neglect of duty as failure to subpoena witnesses for trials continues attorneys who really desire to see the city court raised to a high plane of efficiency will be disappointed.

Lift the Lid

Serious charges have been made against the management of the state penal farm at Putnamville which must be thoroughly investigated, not by politicians and hangers-on of the Goodrich administration, but by a committee composed of leading citizens of both political parties who are above the coloring of a report for political purposes. These charges are backed with statements secured from prisoners. Whether the prisoners who make complaint are of L. W. W. tendencies, as charged by the superintendent, is not material. If the charges are true the conditions are scandalous and should not be tolerated in an enlightened commonwealth. It is possible that the charges are not true, and in that case the officials should be exonerated in the only way they can be—by a thorough investigation.

The fact that Goodrich is not impressed, that he has often visited the institution and found all well, is not sufficient. There are some rather ugly intimations that the governor of the state has found it possible to authorize the use of the men on the penal farm in the working of the Globe Mining Company which his business associate and very young son are officials. We would not be willing to accept his estimate of right and wrong, therefore, in the treatment of prisoners.

The charges may be summed up in the following excerpt from the formal statement:

"Prisoners are underfed and worked ten hours a day at hard labor. Meat is served once a week on Sunday; this is one slice of fat bacon. Musty meal was used for making corn bread three times a week until Putnam county health officers forbade the use of it. Some prisoners are compelled to work on Sundays, and on Sunday five crackers in the substitute for the dry bread of week days. Some of the paid guards are insulting and cruel and inhuman, especially to cripples and weaklings, using such language as 'You son of a b----' I sold to a prisoner named Leroy that for a violation of a rule he was handcuffed to a ring six feet above the floor and compelled to stand in this position for twenty-four hours. I hope these things will be investigated, not only for the sake of these young boys, but that the conditions may be bettered for humanity's sake."

It will be observed that many of the practices here charged were practiced in the Marion county jail, and that when Gov. Goodrich's attention was called to the conditions in the jail he took no action. He may have been quite as much satisfied with these conditions—and yet the sheriff has now been indicted and forced to withdraw from the race for renomination. And the public is shocked at the revelations which made no impression on the governor.

There is no excuse for the underfeeding of prisoners in the penal institutions of this state. If they may be lightly fed in the county jails where the prisoners do nothing, they can not be lightly fed at the penal farm where prisoners are forced to do hard manual labor. Meat once a week—a piece of fat bacon on Sunday—is scarcely a diet for a farm hand. Crackers and dry bread do not sound well. And such food for men doing work on the farm for ten hours at a stretch comes within the definition of cruelty.

But even this feature of the charges is not so impressive as that of cruelty to prisoners. Beating prisoners with loaded canes belongs to Dickens' jails—not our penal institutions. Handcuffing men in such a position as to compel them to stand with their hands high above their heads for twenty-four hours is monstrous.

It won't do to merely dismiss the charges on the ground that they are the emanations of prisoners. They could hardly come from the officials. Nor are such practices likely to be continued in the presence of visitors. That plea was used successfully for generations to prevent the reforms finally forced in the British prisons.

The charges might seem more incredulous but for the fact that the same conditions were found to exist in the Marion county jail; that the governor of the state had been informed of their existence and took no action; that the state board of charities was warned and did nothing; and that the scandalous conditions in that jail would be in existence at this hour but for the exposure brought about in the federal court in Indianapolis; and but for that Miller, the sheriff, would still be a candidate for renomination and would still have the backing of the machine.

The Marion county exposure ought to let down the bars to a serious investigation of all similar charges in the state.

And when this investigation takes place, if it is permitted by the Goodrich administration, the investigators might go more into detail into the matter of transferring prisoners from the penal farm to work in mines operated by the governor's friends, relatives and business associates.

The public never has been quite able to reconcile itself to that act. Least of all has labor—and especially the workers of the mines.

Lift the lid even though the stench be strong—Ft. Wayne Journal-Gazette.

Stage and Screen



true in theme and treatment to his first picture.

Essentially this movie is dramatic, but the comedy is obtained through the antics of Wesley Barry, a freckled-faced boy.

Charles Ray in "The Hick" is in his final showings at the Isis today.

The Regent is offering a melodrama, "Desert Gold," taken from the story of that name.

"The Mystery of the Yellow Room" is the feature of this week's bill at the Ohio.

The Colonial is presenting Griffith's "The Fall of Babylon," which is his story and a love story woven together into appetizing screen entertainment.

IRENE CASTLE

When Irene Castle was a dancing idol on the stage she was noted for the fine clothes she wore.

In her latest movie, "The Amateur Wife," Miss Castle is first seen as an awkward, grotesquely dressed young miss, just out of a French convent.

She is referred to as the "ugly duckling," but when she gets into society a chance is given this actress to wear some smart duds.

Irene's latest movie opened a four-day engagement at the Alhambra today.

A NEW BRANCH

D. W. Griffith personally supervised the production of "The Tiger Girl," a drama which will be the attraction at the Isis the last half of the week, beginning April 29.

Lillian Gish is the star.

Her support includes Rosika Dolly of the famous Dolly sisters, and Wilfred Lucas.

Miss Dolly appears as a siren dancer who wrecks a home, and drives a man to a suicide's grave.

The comedy portion of the program will be supplied by Charlie Chaplin in a farce entitled "Busted Hearts."

LARRY SEMON

The name of Larry Semon among Indianapolis movie fans is becoming more and more a household word.

Semon's movie comedies have a breath of originality which many so-called comedy films lack.

Semon's latest movie, "The Fly Cop," is at the Lyric this week.

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Elsie Janis and Her Gang of former service men will close their engagement at English's with a matinee and a night performance.

"The Savoy" is a new Savoy musical comedy opens Thursday for three days at English's with a cast including Dorothy Mackaye, Charles Brown and Frank C. Carter.

Booth Tarkington's "Clarence" opens next Monday night at English's.

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THE MURAT

Shubert's "Gaieties of 1919," a big show running to many scenes, a large chorus and a bunch of principals, is the current offering at the Murat.

Bertha Kalich comes to the Murat for three days beginning April 29 in "The Riddle Woman."

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A TRAINED ELEPHANT

Capt. Gruber and Miss Adelina go in for strange animals as their pets.

They have a splendidly trained elephant at Keith's this week.

A real treat for the kiddies.

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CONTINUING VAUD

"Peacock and Cream," a girl act featuring dancing and songs, is the current headliner at the Rialto.

The Broadway is presenting Jackson's Singing Revue as its feature.

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At the Park this week will be found Joe Marks and The Broadway Belles, a mixture of comedy, dancing and singing.

Joe Levitt is presenting the show this season and reports that business has been good.

CONCERNING NEILAN

Marshall Neilan first gained fame as the producer of "The River's End," which was presented at the Circle some weeks ago and is the current offering at Mr. Smith's.

Neilan's latest "Don't Ever Marry" is now at the Circle and is a great con-

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THE MURAT

Rule No. 10 of the state board of char-

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WHAT BUTLER SAYS OF RULES

Concerning these rules Mr. Butler says:

"These rules were adopted by the board years ago as suggestions to county sheriffs and the courts for the conduct of the jail.

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They were made general in nature so that they would apply to all jails.

The rules were printed on cardboard for posting in the county jails and they are posted whenever inspections are made by the state board of charities and are supplied to sheriffs at any other time they might desire than that.

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THE ENFORCEMENT OF THESE RULES IS, OF COURSE, GOVERNED BY CONDITIONS AT EACH PARTICULAR JAIL, BUT SHERIFFS ARE URGED TO ENFORCE THEM SO FAR AS PRACTICAL.

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NO NEW RULES GO INTO EFFECT OR EVEN ARE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF CHARITIES."

Mr. Butler knows now and has known for a long time that no particular effort has ever been made to enforce these rules in the Marion county jail.

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IT IS PART OF HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES TO

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THE RAILROAD

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