

# Indiana Daily Times

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## "THIS IS THE YEAR"

MERCY, Mr. Forrest, are you going to take away our ability to go out into the country and broil a steak over a wood fire, too?

AS WE RECALL IT, the city of Indianapolis declared not so very long ago that the street car property was only worth about nine million dollars. How it do grow!

SENATOR JOHNSON may be packed by nine millionaires, but his managers never offered \$2.50 apiece as rewards for testimonials.

WHY, WORRY about a plurality? It means nothing in Indiana and Wood will not get it anyhow.

WALTER PRITCHARD is just as good a witness as he is a judge and the bench never suffered by his occupancy.

THE APPEARANCE of William P. Evans, Mayor Jewett's candidate for the republican nomination for prosecuting attorney, in the Rollinson case, was, we presume, wholly due to his loyalty to Prosecutor Adams.

## Jewett and Parsons

People of Indianapolis who have been wondering for a long time what interests Mayor Charles W. Jewett had that prevented him from paying more attention to the affairs of the city that elected him mayor will get some enlightenment out of the testimony in the city court in the case of state vs. Rollinson.

For it was here disclosed that Mayor Jewett has been exercising an extraordinary interest in the affairs of one Harry Parsons, a man who confessed receiving stolen automobiles when arrested and has since been making desperate efforts to defend himself against a grand jury indictment charging a felony.

The testimony shows that Mayor Jewett went so far as to call the man's attorney before him and demand that he give up part of his fee on the grounds that it was exorbitant.

The testimony shows that the mayor is quoted as having promised his help to Parsons in getting him out of a confessed trouble, in getting back his money, in "getting" the attorney who took the money.

We said above that we regarded this as remarkable interest.

In the judgment of many it is more interest than the mayor has ever been known to display in the administration of the affairs of Indianapolis.

It is also remarkable in that it should be the affairs of a man who confessed a felony that attract the attention of the mayor. Especially is this true when it is recalled that in theory at least the mayor is the head of the police department which was, and still is, earnestly endeavoring to convict Parsons as a part of its crusade against automobile stealing here in Indianapolis.

A strange spectacle is this we have before us!

Mayor Jewett is charged with the enforcement of the law in Indianapolis, and is in control of the police department.

In his official capacity he is presumed to be lending every effort to the crusade of the police against automobile thefts.

In his private capacity we find him making vigorous effort to bring about the release of a man charged with receiving stolen automobiles by members of the police force which is under his control.

Jewett, the mayor, is for the prosecution.

Jewett, the lawyer, is for the defense.

Jewett, the head of the administration, finds time to look after a man accused of a felony, but is too busy to remember his campaign promise of "business hours" in the city hall.

Perhaps there is a reason for Mayor Jewett's espousal of the cause of Harry Parsons.

Perhaps he believes Harry has been unjustly accused and is in unsafe hands in the criminal court.

But if such is his belief, why does he not take to task the members of his police force who are still insisting that Harry Parsons' confession was not a false one?

How in the world can Mayor Jewett accept his pay voucher from the taxpayers of Indianapolis for such conduct as this?

## Collins and Parsons

We are wondering now what Judge James A. Collins of the criminal court of Marion county will do about the testimony offered in the city court in the case of state vs. Rollinson.

Bessie Myers, a young lady whose testimony was so straightforward that no effort was made to shake it by the state, declared under oath that Harry Parsons, the state's complaining witness, told her:

1. That he had direct word from Judge Collins that his lawyer, Rollinson, could not do him any good in criminal court and he should get another lawyer.

2. That Mayor Jewett told him to get another lawyer and "between Judge Collins and I" it would be "fixed up" to get Parsons out of a charge of receiving stolen goods.

3. Then Jewett and Collins would go after Rollinson and get back a \$1,000 fee and then "get" Rollinson.

This testimony was corroborated in part by three other witnesses who all declared they had heard Parsons say he had direct word from Collins that his attorney could "do him no good."

Here, we take it, is a matter that is worthy of investigation by the criminal court or some other court of at least equal jurisdiction. This is not a matter that can be attributed to politics or prejudice. It is a matter of sworn statements, made in a court then presided over by a judge who has been honored with a place on the higher court bench in Indiana.

It would seem that the testimony of four witnesses is sufficient to establish that Harry Parsons did involve Judge Collins in a statement which is susceptible of a wholly undesirable interpretation.

It can hardly be said that Parsons is a citizen who is not entitled to credence, for Judge Walter Pritchard testified in the same hearing that a number of people had come to him and told him Parsons was a man of high standing and "it would be a crime to find him guilty."

For that matter, the state of Indiana accepted him as a man of sufficient credibility to justify the prosecution of an attorney of good standing on a charge which he alone made.

Therefore, if the testimony of four witnesses is worthy of belief, a statement has been made by a man entitled to credence, which statement raises a reasonable suspicion that the judge of the criminal court has undertaken to tell a defendant which of the attorneys practicing at the bar he must not employ if he expects his attorney to "do him any good."

And, if we are to consider the statement Miss Myers says Parsons made to her, then the court must be regarded as going so far as to agree with the mayor not only in prejudging a case but also in depriving an attorney of a fee which he contends he has earned and which he has received.

We can not believe that Judge James A. Collins, who has been twice honored by election to the criminal bench of this county, will permit such testimony as was offered in the city court yesterday to be passed over without further investigation.

We can not believe that he could possibly reconcile his own sense of the dignity of the court over which he presides with neglect of any procedure that would tend to show the falsity of the statements that have been attributed to Parsons.

It can hardly be denied that the fact has been established that Parsons did make the statement attributed to him by three witnesses. There is no reason to deny that the fact has been established that he made the statement attributed to him by Miss Myers.

The state of Indiana did not attempt to impeach her testimony. It did not even cross-examine her with a view to shaking her story. Her statements were not challenged by any witness nor were they challenged by the court. In the absence of any other testimony they must stand as unrefuted.

And on the assumption that Miss Myers told the truth, which is certainly most reasonable,

Is or is not Harry Parsons in contempt of the criminal court?

## The Young Lady Across the Way

TAX BOARD C. & E. FIGURES UPHELD

Federal Court Officer Finds

No Discrimination.

A valuation of the Chicago & Erie railroad property, fixed at \$2,294,735, made by the state board of tax commissioners, was upheld in a report on a suit by Walker D. Hines, railroad administrator, and the railroad company against Fred A. Sims and members of the state board made by Charles W. Martindale, master in chancery of the federal court.

The railroad company asked in its suit for an injunction to prevent the collection of taxes on the property in excess of \$9,000,000.

Mr. Martindale's report declares that the assessment made by the tax board was made in good faith and in accordance with the statute.

It also maintains that the valuation does not vary from the assessment so great as to indicate unlawful discrimination or unjust action of the board.

In concluding his report Mr. Martindale considered much evidence submitted in a hearing on the case and also the provisions of the tax law.

Details of the operation of tax measures in Indiana since 1891 are set out in the report.

The case was referred to Mr. Martindale for hearing by Judge A. B. Anderson of federal court.

## SCHOOLS PLAN 'AMERICAN' DAY

Plans for an Americanization program in all city schools are now being prepared for April 30, in keeping with Americanization day on May 1, according to E. U. Graff, superintendent of schools.

Mr. Graff today issued a statement to all supervisors, teachers and principals, in which he outlined the program for the day's activities.

Included in the program will be a study of an address made by Lucius B. Swift before the State Historical association in 1916, and a resolution prepared by Frederick E. Matson, president of the Rotary club, and passed by the club at a district conference in Ft. Wayne, Ind., on Oct. 11.

The principles and ideals of America with the impressive points in American history, are included in the day's program.

## ATLANTIC CITY TO DRAW MANY

Many Indianapolis business men will attend the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States at Atlantic City next week.

Charles F. Smith, president of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, left there this afternoon for Atlantic City.

He will attend a meeting of the national councilors of the national chamber, which is held in advance of the annual meeting, to which he also is a delegate.

Other delegates from Indianapolis to the annual meeting are L. C. Hueston, chairman of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce; H. F. Campbell, Arthur K. Heiskell, O. J. Lynn, Felix M. McWhirter, Merle Siderer, Elmer W. Stout, L. M. Wainwright, B. A. Worthington, Frederic M. Ayres, Horace H. Fletcher, Frank E. Gavin, J. L. Holcomb, Sol S. Kiser, Charles B. Summers, A. L. Taggart, John B. Welch, Evans Woolen and Samuel E. Rauh.

Luke W. Duffey, chairman of the good roads committee of the local chamber, will discuss motor transportation before the national chamber.

## Candidates Favor State Memorial

Among the candidates who have pledged their assistance to the American Legion in the move for a state war memorial are Warren T. McCray of Kentland, candidate for the republican nomination for governor; James K. Risk, John Isidor Berg and M. J. Niblick, on the democratic ticket for governor, and for other state offices.

J. W. Fesler, republican candidate for the nomination for governor, has expressed approval of the erection of a memorial building in addresses he has been making over the state.

## Asks \$260,000 Loan to Pay Teachers

A petition for authority to float a loan of \$260,000 which will grant teachers of Indianapolis additional pay for the last year of \$200 authorized by the school tax board was today presented to the state tax board by George C. Hitt, business director of the city schools.

## Crack Safe 3 Times With Total Haul \$36

For the third time in three weeks burglars ripped the safe of the Michigan Lumber Company, 938 East St. Clair street, early today.

The first time burglars got \$10, the second time \$10 and today \$6.

## Man, 59, Sentenced on Assault Charge

William Donabue, 59, was sentenced in criminal court to serve two to fourteen years in the state prison today on a charge of feloniously assaulting his 8-year-old granddaughter. Doctors testified that he failed in his object, thus saving him from life sentence.

"He was never indicted by the grand jury."

"I was unable to keep the grand jury from indicting Harry Parsons for receiving stolen goods, but they returned a faulty indictment against him."

"Later another indictment was returned against Harry Parsons. His attorney, James A. Collins, was in the grand jury room at the time I questioned the witnesses."

"I tried the case of Benton Parsons in the grand jury room and got him free; that surely was worth \$500, and Benton Parsons had no kick on the amount paid."

"After Harry Parsons was indicted he called on me, a telephone and demanded the return of the amount he had paid; and when I told him that I did not do business with him I fled the outrageous false charges against me."

"It's a frameup, that's all."

## Does Anyone Know Mrs. Jessie Green?

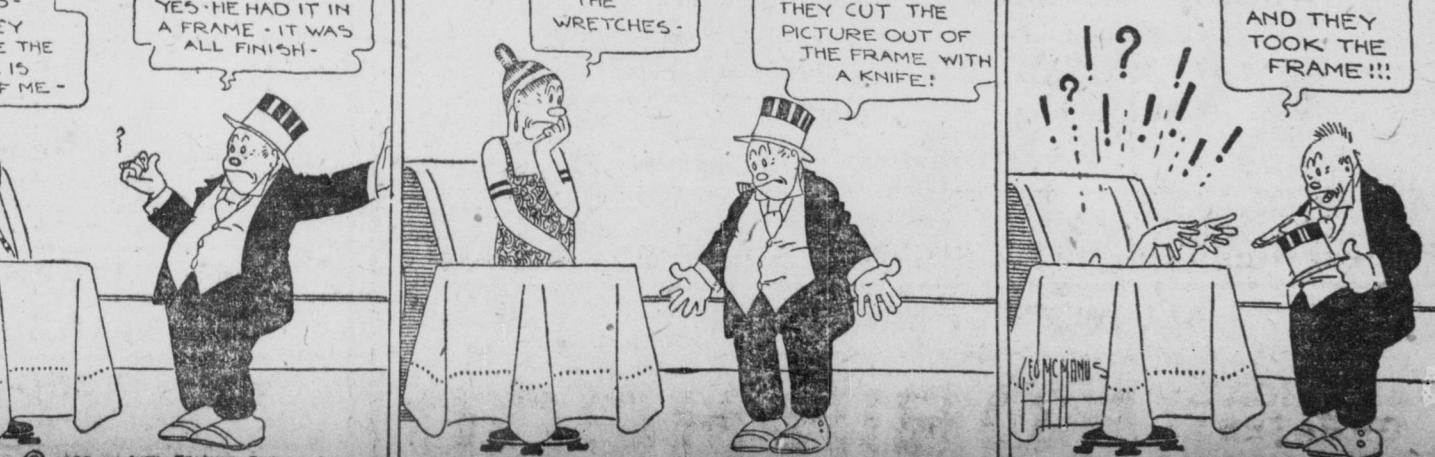
An effort to locate Mrs. Jessie C. Green, formerly of 1649 Lexington avenue, mother of Roy Fred Green, who died in the navy Oct. 22, 1918, is being made by N. E. Elliott, a United States treasury representative.

Mr. Elliott may be reached at Main 6324.

## PROF. BROOKS TO LECTURE.

Prof. Alfred M. Brooks of Indiana University, curator of prints for the Indianapolis Art association, will give a talk at the Herron Art Institute tomorrow afternoon at 3:30.

BRINGING UP FATHER.



# TO THE CRITICS OF THE GAS COMPANY

During the emergency caused by the widespread railroad strikes which have been tying up the industry of the country for over two weeks, a great many criticisms have been made on the service rendered by the gas company. Some of these have been malicious but most have been simply thoughtless. The facts of the case have been made public from time to time, but we desire now to summarize them:

1. The difficulty of the present time grows out of the coal strike in November and December. At the beginning of the coal strike, this company was in a strong position. It had coal stocks on hand sufficient for full operation for at least 45 days, and was able to assist the other public utilities which were then in distress. We urged economy in the use of gas, but we maintained 100 per cent service throughout that strike.

2. Not only had we provided reasonable stocks of coal; we had also been exceedingly prudent in providing for the strike which we had foreseen. When the coal strike began, in addition to stocks on hand, we had over 15,000 tons in transit. Furthermore, in addition to our regular contracts we had bought for shipment in November and December large quantities of coal from non-union mines. In spite of disturbed mining conditions and dispersion of railway cars, we had shipped to us during November and December 102,000 tons of coal.

Yet our prudence and vigilance was futile. Most of this 117,000 tons of coal was seized by the government and diverted to other places. We used 110,000 tons of coal during the two months, but by January 1st our stock had been reduced to less than one-third of the amount we had on November 1st.

3. The end of the coal strike did not cause us to relax our efforts to build up our reserve stocks. We went into the market at once to buy coal to replenish our stocks and supplement our contract shipments which were reduced by the increased coal shortage. But here comes in the interesting consequence of government price regulations. Until after April 1st, we were not permitted to pay and coal operators were not permitted to charge more than certain prescribed prices, while there were no such restrictions on sales for export. Our contract mines continued to ship at contract prices, but why should mines which had free coal sell to us at prices ranging from \$2.65 to \$3.00 when French and Italian buyers were offering \$5.00 to \$5.50? From early in December until the end of March there was no coal for sale to domestic buyers unless they were prepared to buy the mines. Our government would not permit us to pay a price sufficient to get the coal. Consequently, our 15 days' supply of January 1st was reduced to 5 days' supply on April 10th, when the strike began here.

4. From being in a stronger position than any other public utility in the state at the beginning of the coal strike, we were reduced to a weaker position than any other at the beginning of the railroad strike. All other public utilities in Indiana use Indiana coal. Indiana coal has not been plentiful, but it has been obtainable at government prices. Indiana coal is not wanted for export. France and Italy are not competing for it. We cannot use Indiana coal except in very limited quantities. We have used a little in this, as in previous emergencies, but with no gain in gas production, but rather with losses. The reasons for this are related to problems of chemical engineering which cannot be given here, but which will be given to anybody who cares to ask for them. The gas supply of Indianapolis depends primarily on coal from mines on the C. & O., N. & W. and L. & N. railroads—two of which have been completely cut and the other badly crippled. The restoration of normal gas service depends not only on the restoration of full railroad service, but also on the resumption of mining operations.

5. When the present emergency arose, it was our hope that normal pressure could be maintained and that consumers would co-operate in reducing the use of gas. On Monday, April 12th, an appeal for conservation was made by the chairman of the Public Service Commission, the Mayor of Indianapolis, the president of the Chamber of Commerce and the general manager of the Gas Company. There was no general response, but, on the other hand, the consumption of gas on the following day arose about 50 per cent above normal winter demand. We were then confronted with two alternatives: (1) to let people take all the gas they wanted as long as it lasted, and then shut down; (2) to control the consumption by regulating the pressure. The former would have been much to the advantage of the company because the present method of operation is exceedingly expensive. The latter would save the community from unparalleled suffering, because without gas the population would starve. We chose the latter alternative. Many homes and industries have been seriously inconvenienced by the character of gas service maintained since April 13th. For this we have the greatest regret, but in view of the conditions as outlined above we have no apologies to offer.

# CITIZENS GAS COMPANY