

Indiana Daily Times

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THE STEAMER SUSQUEHANNA sailed from Bremen, Germany, Saturday with 2,000 passengers. Probably being colonized by friends of Senator Harding.

INDIANAPOLIS never failed to come across, when asked, for the boys in the world war. Will it fail to pay a final tribute to the boys in blue by denying them rooms?

RUSSIAN SOVIET planned to mine 4,000 pounds of gold and 3,600 pounds of platinum in 1920. Got only 192 pounds of gold and 241 of platinum in first six months. Balance of time spent arguing. It's lots more fun confiscating wealth after the other fellow labors for it.

On Prison Reform

The meetings of the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology, to be held in Indianapolis on the 16th to the 18th of this month will not attract much attention by reason of any spectacular features, but they will, nevertheless, be exceedingly interesting from the wonderful good this institute has done and from the great human interest in the work it undertakes.

This body is organized to study the workings of the criminal law of the United States and, indeed, of the world, and to improve its administration both as to the law itself and as to the treatment of the criminal. It is within this generation that a wonderful transition has occurred in the theory of the administration of criminal law and restraint of the criminal.

The courts went to seed; they simply became ridiculous and in criminal matters the judge and the state's attorney were more on trial than the criminal. An error of law which would neither prejudice the standing of the criminal on trial nor change the result, often caused years' delay and wore out the respect for law and its enforcement. It followed naturally that what should be the backbone of every civilization became its laughing stock. Then, in Italy first, began a careful and scientific study of crime and the criminal. The meetings to be held here are a result and continuation of that study.

There was a time when conviction of a crime—even a lesser one—meant ruin for life. Now it does not.

Formerly state penal institutions were perfect hell holes ruled by politics and avarice. They made criminals if by any chance there were committed to them human beings not wholly criminal.

The law permitted and even fostered this.

Prior to the indeterminate sentence law a jury of good and true men in a community which had suffered unendurable annoyance from say petty chicken thieves would, on convicting some offender, sentence him to the full extent of the law. Revenge was taken on him, with poor excuse of making an example of him. Thereby, as often as not, a criminal was made. Perhaps it was the first offense; anyhow, no unusual severity was needed in correcting such a person. Now the theory, at least, of this is changed.

Today, prison officers, supposedly nonpartisan and generally selected on the supposition of special qualifications, are expected to study the persons committed to them. It is within the discretion of these officers to release the prisoners at the expiration of the minimum term, but they may keep the criminal for the maximum term. So it behoves the convicted party to reform and to behave, thus gaining the good opinion of his keepers.

This theory is beautiful, compared with the old system. If properly administered it achieves much good. In fact, under it, wonderful and lasting results have been accomplished. In all sincerity it may be stated that the stigma of disgrace is not now a life time burden on one who has served a term in prison. This is a humanitarian work, backed by public sentiment and fostered by the institute.

Under the laws of Indiana the delinquent individual should be reformed and rebuilt and given a chance in life. In the light of modern knowledge, our prison administration is open to severe criticism and to the outside observer we wonder how methods used can ever be hoped to reform any criminal. Take the Indianapolis jail, as an example. We will show our distinguished visitors where twenty-four prisoners recently took a hasty departure without action by the indeterminate law.

We will take them to the federal court and tell them what Judge Anderson said about the feeding of prisoners in that notorious prison known as the Marion county jail. They will have exhibited to them the grand jury indictment against the sheriff who kept and still keeps that prison. They will read the testimony as to how gambling was made a prison pastime while the work of reforming men went on. If they doubt they can go to the jail and see the men under whose administration this was rendered safe and who still hold their jobs, vindicating the majesty of the law.

We will tell them with pride how we separate those convicted of less serious crimes, such as theft and obtaining money under false pretense, from criminals over 30 years of age, and keep them at the reformatory at Jeffersonville.

Possibly Gov. Goodrich will explain how these young men are punished by forcing them to labor at stripping coal mines owned by private companies. Of course he will explain that Pierre F. Goodrich, and not he, owned an interest in the mine where these boys were compelled to work.

Then the governor will tell how he pardons these unfortunate when they have been sufficiently punished and are made honest by such means.

The members of the institute will probably think considerable and say nothing. It is the part of the guest to do. It should be on record, however, that the better citizens of Indiana confess that the Indianapolis jail is rotten, even if it does retain the same officers; they acknowledge with shame that the use of convicts on private work for a few individuals is graft and wholly indefensible, archaic and inhuman.

Let us hope the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology will not carry away too poor an opinion of Indiana.

Sure Things

One of the difficult things of life is to look a fact in the face. In the first place, the fact may be elusive; in the second, vision often is defective.

Take, for example, the blind men who went to see the elephant, as described by the Poet Saxe. Each grasped a part of the animal and each had an opinion differing from the other. It was thought the animal was like a rope, a wall, or a tree.

In life, no satisfaction is equal to that of having seen or mastered a fact. Really truth is alone satisfactory. Some, as they grow older, lose their abhorrence for the multiplication tables and regard them as gems because they contain indisputable facts.

One of the facts in Indianapolis life is the growth of the city. Another is the presence here of over 300,000 living, thinking people, each of whom has an equal right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Still another is the inevitable conclusion that the city and its environs must be beautiful, harmonious and correct, to afford the necessary happiness to its citizens.

Chock holes in the streets mar a ride in the finest car; unsightly crooks in thoroughfares must be smoothed out; ugly tumbled-down buildings should be removed.

All these things will be eventually corrected. It is a fact they will be. It is a fact they must be. It is just a question of time until they are.

The city may plan indefinitely, but without execution, honestly enforced, such planning fails to yield the maximum good. The town kicker may halt improvements for a season, just to bring maledictions on his own head.

The city administration may block improvements for a term, thereby to be damned by those who were entitled to fairer and better treatment. The tight wad may force endurance of insanitary, even dangerous conditions, upon those who must endure them for a while, but only for a while.

Any fact being a fact, it is just as sure of manifestation as is water to find its level. Even murder will out.

Those who oppose progress, in civic affairs, as well as in others, are fighting a losing fight. The public sees some facts dimly but will see them face to face, some day. It eventually will see them, correctly, too. Then it will enter into a better enjoyment of life, as its vision becomes clearer.

It has taken the public a long time to realize what it has by the very nature of things; what blessings are artificially withheld from its enjoyment.

As the mass of citizens has awakened and faced the facts, it has acquired and had the enjoyment of whatever it wanted.

There is nothing too good for the citizen of Indianapolis; he has but to face the fact and he may enjoy anything that he really wants. It will come to him if he faces the fact that he wants it.



DAVIS PLEDGES DECENTY

Democratic Candidate for Prosecutor Outlines His Policies

FAVORING A FEW

Beverly Howard, a notorious negro politician in the first ward, was tried in the city court for keeping a gambling house, on Aug. 21, 1919, and appealed his case to the Marion criminal court where he was not tried until July 23, 1920, almost a year later. I would like to ask the republican ring is now asking "Bell" Howard to take charge of a number of colored preachers in the coming election for the grand old party.

PAUL G. DAVIS.

unusual delay? The order of the trials in this court is now being made by the prosecutor, and, if I am elected, I will see that political ward heelers are tried in their turn.

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(To Be Continued.)

PUSS IN BOOTS JR.

By David Cory.

You remember in the last story we left off just as Puss Junior finished speaking to the noble lords and ladies. Well, as soon as the feast was over, Sir Launcelot bid them all goodby and returned to the Court of King Arthur, and there Puss Junior met his old friend the Blackbird. They went upon their way and by and by as they came to a great pine tree. It was withered and old and its bare branches stretched up to the sky and creaked a sad refrain as the wind



"The candles were re-lighted in a jiffy..."

whistled through the forest. And right at the foot of the old dead pine tree sat the queerest looking little dwarf you ever saw.

He had a great hump upon his back and his little red coat hunched up behind and his breeches were tucked into the tops of a pair of high boots, and the cap he had was green with a long, high peak to it.

"What can I do for you?" asked the dwarf, and then he began to sing:

"Oh, way down deep below the ground A wondrous fortune I have found;

Gold and silver, diamonds, too;

And rubies of a scarlet hue.

Astrolabers point out that it is not necessary to accept the guidance of sinister planetary forces and that all who seek real righteousness will study the self-forgetfulness that is the beginning of wisdom.

Persons whose birthdate it is should pay close attention to routine business and avoid speculation. They have a happy augury for the year.

Children born on this day may be high-strung and nervous, but exceedingly gifted and sure to use their talents profitably.—Copyright, 1920.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 8.

Satur and the Sun are in benefit aspects today, but later astrologers read that Mars, Jupiter and Uranus are mildly adverse.

The planetary influences are encouraging for all clinging to tradition and seek to perpetuate power through reactionary policies.

During this configuration it should be easy to make an impression on the public by appealing to precedent and by making the instance of caution active for self-protection.

Most past middle age have the best sort of direction of the stars and should be exceedingly fortunate in this time when the Sun is favorable to their ambitions.

There is a sign that seems to indicate a decline in prices of wearing apparel of certain fabrics. Wool is subject to a plan that seems to indicate continued high prices.

Both men and women are subject to influences calling for many forms of apparel. The advertising of self is due to stars that bode extreme expressions of wisdom and arrogance.

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(To Be Continued.)

COUNTRIES ON GOLD BASIS.

Q. What countries are now on a practical gold basis? W. O. R.

A. The treasury department says that the United States and Japan are the only countries that are on a gold basis, practically, at the present time.

CONSUL GENERAL'S DUTIES.

Q. What are the duties of a consul general? N. M. L.

A. The consul bureau says that the principal duties of a consul general are: To look after the commercial interests of the United States with the country to which he has been appointed; making out of relations between the two countries, and the care of the interests of American citizens in that country, particularly, at the present time.

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IN LATELY.

Q. What was Mr. Humston's service as president of the railroad?

A. Mr. Humston, 59, one of the veterans railroad men of Indiana, is dead at his home here.

During the Civil war he was a passenger train conductor on the Monon railroad and when Morgan's famous troops entered the state he was active in transporting union soldiers to forestall them.

In late years Mr. Humston served as president of the railroad of the system here, retiring seven years ago when he reached the limit of service.

He leaves a widow, 84, two sons and two daughters.

ITALY IN WORLD WAR.

Q. At the beginning of the world war was Italy with Germany or with the Allies?

A. R. E. P.

A. Italy was not on the side of the Allies at the beginning of the world war.

She was a party to a triple alliance with Germany and Austria. Italy maintained neutrality for a time and then joined the Allies.

"Goodness me!" said Puss aloud, and the Blackbird fluttered over and sat on his shoulder. "Now we are in a fix." And then what do you suppose Puss did? Why, he turned around three times the little magic gold ring he wore on his toe.

Special to The Times.

MITCHELL, Ind., Sept. 7.—William J.

H. Humston, 59, one of the veterans railroad men of Indiana, is dead at his home here.

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DEATH OF LOCKLEAR.

Q. Who was the man who died?

A. N. K.

A. Omar S. Locklear, the aviator, was killed while performing stunts for motion pictures. He, with his friend, Milt Elliott, who always helped him in his work, was doing night flying and shooting off fireworks for use in a motion picture.

It is supposed that they were blinded by the fireworks and did not realize how close they were to the ground. The machine crashed to earth and both men were killed.

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