

# Indiana Daily Times

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HAS THE MAYOR gone on another tour to "ascertain the Harding sentiment" in some other state than Indiana?

MANY public utilities seem increased rates. Only the Citizens Gas company has increased rates thrust upon it.

INCIDENTALLY, the use of gas for heating purposes might easily be curtailed by the simple method of licensing gas mixers and refusing to allow their use on heating fixtures.

MOST UNREASONABLE is the demand of the judges that the courthouse janitors work at the courthouse when so much of their time is required by the approach of the election.

THE FACT that the Jim Goodrich coal commission law has been upheld by the federal court in no way lessens the viciousness of the measure nor does it cause the law to reflect credit on the legislature that passed it.

BETTER USE of cars is advocated by the national chamber of commerce. As an example of intensification the chamber might have cited the use College avenue patrons make of their street cars—both of 'em!

## Penalizing Cooking

The Citizens Gas Company, having filed its proposals for changes in the gas rates as requested by the Indiana public service commission, the scheme by which it is sought to increase the cost of gas to the consumer in Indianapolis now stands revealed in all its iniquity.

Without taking the initiative in any way, the Citizens' Gas Company has now attained a position wherein it is likely to receive a flat increase for its gas from nearly every consumer this winter.

The gas company "suggests" a surcharge on all gas bills for more than 2,000 feet of gas.

In other words it suggests that every consumer whose gas bill ordinarily exceeds \$1.20 a month contribute, under compulsion, an additional sum, which the gas company says it does not need to pay dividends and which it "proposes" to impose as a "penalty" for excessive use of gas when gas is hard to get.

The scheme is as nefarious as it is transparent.

Very few consumers use less than 2,000 feet of gas a month.

Illustrative of this is the bill of one consumer whose apartment contains no other gas fixtures than a kitchen range and whose hot water is supplied from a coal heater. There are three persons in his family. The meter readings show that from Aug. 21 to July 21 he used 2,000 feet of gas. The facts are that from Aug. 22 to July 7 the apartment was not occupied at all.

Therefore, in fourteen days, the gas required to cook for these three persons equaled the amount of gas which the company is willing to allow the consumer to use at the 60-cent rate prescribed by statute. It is now proposed that for the gas required to cook for this family of three the other sixteen days of the month, the company shall be paid at a rate in excess of the statutory requirements, not because the company needs the money for dividend purposes but for some undefined reason that the public service commission appears to have discovered first and to be remarkably unwilling to disclose.

The Citizens' Gas Company, through its manager, disclaims any need of additional revenue for dividend purposes.

The plea that more revenue should be provided in order that a fund for betterments may be established is fallacious for the reason that there is no justice in expecting the citizens of Indianapolis to provide the capital for the enlargement of the plant and at the same time permit the company to charge a rate that will enable it to pay dividends to stockholders on capital so provided.

The theory that this contemplated surcharge is to reduce the use of gas for heating purposes and thereby afford more gas for cooking fails for the reason that the surcharge suggested is such as to place a penalty on cooking itself.

Not for one minute has the company, the commission or any one else presented a valid reason for any tampering with the price of gas in Indianapolis.

If the public service commission has determined that no utility shall fail to get an increase in rates before the coming election then let the public service commission increase the cost of gas to the consumer without subterfuge or deceit.

If the members lack the nerve to carry out the orders of the influences that govern them without establishing some kind of an excuse for such action, at least let them obtain the assistance necessary to evolve a reasonable subterfuge.

## Making Better Citizens

There has just closed a most successful and remarkable season in this city wherein almost one million visits to playgrounds maintained by the board of park commissioners were made by Indianapolis children.

Of all the visits, only one serious accident happened.

Many a child will look back to happy days, by reason of the efficiency of the recreation department of the city.

One would think that the schools were continuing some activity during the vacation, so admirably does the work of Mr. R. Walter Jarvis, the director of recreations, fit in during the vacation period.

The child is taught to play and that is not done with a hickory stick, either. It was a noticeable fact that during our recent war, city children were found to be in better physical condition than country ones. There's a reason. So the achievements of the department of recreation in contributing to a happy and a constructive summer should not go uncommended.

The school yards and the parks were utilized to decided advantage. Over these was placed a matron, instructors of each sex and assistant instructors, when needed. There was always proper chaperonage for children of all ages. The yards were fitted with apparatus and material and in addition lessons were given in art and in music, and any child could enjoy all these under instructors who made play of the instruction.

Surely the ancient school master whose office was to terrorize little minds would feel out of place in a city employing high class persons to teach and supervise play. But the world has changed its viewpoint in so many regards that it is difficult to keep up with the procession. Something better succeeded the old ideas.

"If the laughter of youth today becomes the energy of the world tomorrow, do we not owe to posterity some investment in glee?"

The answer is to be found in the laws of today. By the acts of the legislature of 1919, the recreation department of the city was transferred from the board of public health and charities to the department of public parks and power was conferred to condemn property for playground space and community centers.

It is generally recognized more today than ever that play is essential to child and man and if that play is properly directed, it is a good part of education. So the children of the city have been furnished a place to play. The results are direct, positive beyond question.

In the first place, proper play, with apparatus, makes better bodies. This was demonstrated during the war. The records of the courts show less juvenile crime when the childish activities are conducted under proper direction. This is self-evident. In the third place, childish activity in the open is so guided that children learn to appreciate each other and to understand that democracy is sustained by justice to all, sound co-operation and good spirited team work. The pageant so successfully given is an example of the latter.

We have passed out of the age when necessity alone is to be considered in the training of the child and in so doing we find that the presence of some of the so-called luxuries makes better men and women of those who were there during tender, formative age.

The instructions in art, as given under the supervision of Miss Rose Lynn are commendable; the hours enjoyed in the music under Mrs. Martha Carr will never be forgotten by the person who was privileged to have them. The entire movement is healthy and good. The response of almost a million visits indicates it was popular to a remarkable degree and it is gratifying to note that it is established as a regular feature of Indianapolis.



## DAVIS PLEDGES DECENTY

Democratic Candidate for Prosecutor Outlines His Policies

### THE GOVERNOR INTERFERES

James L. Murray, deputy prosecutor under Chas. Adams, prosecutor of Marion county, wrote to Theodore Stein, Jr., on April 20, 1920, as follows: "Replying to your letter of April 29th, I wish to say that about this time last year, at the request of the industrial board of Indiana I did instigate a number of prosecutions against employers throughout the state, who were violating the workmen's compensation law. "And apparently because of the fact that some of our governor's friends were tampering with me, I suggested that such prosecutions be dropped."

"Of course he has no jurisdiction over the prosecutor's office of Marion county,

## HOROSCOPE

"The stars incline, but do not compel."

THURSDAY, SEPT. 8.

Venus and Mars rule strongly for good today, according to astrology.

Women come under the most inspiring and helpful influence making for constant and successful work.

It is a promising day for weddings and love affairs. The girl who marries under this rule of the stars is likely to have a strong arm on which to lean.

Theaters are well directed by the planets at this time, when there should be large profits based on artistic achievement.

Actresses should benefit greatly while we were dependent upon the industrial board for their support and aid in the records and statistics, they knew that great benefit would be derived from an enforcement of the law, they hesitated to advise or act contrary to the governor's will, especially since he has assumed direction over all departments of the state, and the procedure undertaken was dropped."

Gov. Goodrich has no right to interfere with the prosecution of law violators in Marion county. You may rest assured that if I am elected prosecuting attorney, my guild will be the statutes and not the governor of the state.

PAUL G. DAVIS,

### WHEN A GIRL MARRIES

A New Serial of Young Married Life

By Ann Lisle

#### CHAPTER LVIII.

For just one minute I was inclined to put Sheldon firmly back in his place with an abrupt word. Then I thought of Jim—content to be alone with Evvy—and taking me so completely for granted as his own property that he could bundle me out with Sheldon as calmly as if he were a midden child. It was not to enjoy this ride—and if I squelched Sheldon he would right-about-face and take me home. So I grinned as mischievously as I dared, and said:

"Well—I've missed you too."

"Meaning that I've managed to keep my charms hidden pretty thoroughly?" asked Jim.

"I was. Well, I see what you've mixed—the way I do," asked Sheldon almost tenderly, as the gray roadster drew out on the River road and drove into the heart of a glorious crimson and purple gold sunset.

"We'll drive on into the heart of the sunset—and then on into the dark—and then—and then, Little Lillie Lady?" asked Sheldon in a low voice with a queer vibrating note.

"And then we'll turn around and drive home again, I suppose," I said in a dry, practical tone. For suddenly I had come to realize that Sheldon Blake was flirting with me—flirting hard, and with all the certainty and finesse of a man to whom I had given my heart. I was shocked, not merely because he was "that sort" and kept his hand in with any woman who came along. Or was it because it had piqued him to have Evvy send him out unceremoniously while she stayed alone with Jim?

"We'll turn and drive home now, if you have had enough," Sheldon answered grimly.

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