

Indiana Daily Times

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

Daily Except Sunday, 25-29 South Meridian Street.
Telephones—Main 3500, New 28-351

MEMBERS OF AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS.

Advertising offices Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, G. Logan Payne Co.
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WONDER if the next Legislature will attempt to "validate" the coal commission's actions!

WHAT are you going to do with the \$3 a ton Jesse Eschbach says the Goodrich coal commission saved for you?

THERE WOULD BE no lack of men at the penal farm if all the law-breakers who have violated the terms of their suspended sentences were sent there.

NO TAXPAYER appears to have been interested in the high rate of taxation before the election, but perhaps the expenses of Christmas have aroused them as the political orators could not.

ANYHOW, we know two ward heelers who will be compelled to make their pocket money some other way, since Judge Pritchard barred them from preying on the unfortunates who get into his court.

THOSE TWO POLICEMEN who went to the bushes after trying to enforce the law against the administration's pet craps shooters no doubt realize now that Mayor Jewett "has taken the police force out of politics."

Symmes Sets a Precedent

Special Judge Frank Symmes granted a suspension of sentence to Pat Stevens on condition that he keep himself separated from liquor.

Stevens was caught with a bottle of liquor in his possession and Symmes revoked the suspension and committed him to prison.

This item ought not to be so rare as to attract attention, but it is rare—so rare in fact as almost to be unique.

Stevens demanded an appeal from the commitment and it was rightly refused. Having accepted the judgment and availed himself of a condition thereof he has no legal right to appeal.

Having broken faith with the court he has no moral right to complain of the court's order.

There remains only one thing for Stevens to do, and that is to pay the penalty which he avoided by false representations.

Judge Symmes has set a precedent.

If the judges who grant suspended sentence so freely were as careful to enforce the conditions under which they are granted as Judge Symmes was in this case there would be little grounds for objection to suspended sentences.

But when, as frequently happens in the court of Judge James A. Collins, law breakers obtain one suspended sentence after another, without any effort being made to compel them to live up to the terms of the suspension, the Stevens case stands out as a rare incident.

Changing Taste

A pathetic incident occurred in Middleboro, Mass., recently at the sale of the effects of the widow of Tom Thumb, the midget. The whole affair netted less than \$300, including a four-post bed presented by P. T. Barnum and a piano especially built for the countess, which latter sold for \$11.

Tom Thumb and his wife, Countess Lavinia Magri, outlived their own generation. Once they were in great vogue, their quaint ways and little efforts amusing full houses wherever they appeared. Later audiences dwindled until recently it has been impossible for the widow and any attractions with her to fill the house.

With the introduction of the motion pictures a revolution of far reaching magnitude took place on the stage. It has been like the coming into a community of a live wire athletic instructor. Tastes have changed. The abnormal on the stage is not popular. The silly antics of some artists have not been along the line of stunted nature, the slapstick plays show athletic ability and the bold riding and other feats really are the result of highly trained bodies and well developed physical nature.

All this change is for the good. Nature is best when shown in full development, rather than when displaying some freak action and the public is aware of this. It is the healthy, normal actor or actress that is the favorite, it is now the healthy, full blooded play that the public wants. It has ceased to be amused by looking on monstrosities.

Time for Action

The school board at Shelbyville recently passed a restriction forbidding the young ladies to so wear their stockings, in a manner commonly called Susettes, that is, to roll their stockings below their knees and permit the knees to be bare.

Whether or not the order extended to the school teachers we are not informed, nor entirely advised who is to enforce the order or how it is to be enforced and indeed we do not know whether this order extends through the winter or the summer only.

The action of the school board is probably based upon modesty. Whether modesty of the board alone is not set out, but the question comes why did the school board alone do this?

There is a common council in Shelbyville, which passes ordinances occasionally; it has a board of health and a board of review and indeed our Governor of Indiana has the habit of calling special sessions of the Legislature and if this matter were sufficiently serious, it could be remedied before winter.

Whether the wearing of the stockings this way is a matter of economy or fact, or necessity, is not known but possibly the school board has studied this matter more than the average layman and has reasons of its own for making the suggestion.

It might be if these reasons are sufficiently strong that a committee should be appointed in each community to make a study of the subject. Perhaps a larger committee in Indianapolis than in Shelbyville should work on this and become thoroughly conversant with the facts in the case.

We would volunteer our services on this committee, along with the rest of the male population.

Hurrah for Feslerism!

Interesting because of the fact that it is not at all likely to cause any of our good government officials to bestir themselves in the interests of the taxpayers is the exposition of the manner in which county business is being transacted by Leo K. Fesler, our good government auditor.

The clerk of the board of county commissioners, himself a member of the administration and of the grand old party that revels under the leadership of Mr. Fesler, declares that in the little matter of paying out the taxpayers' money Mr. Fesler has evolved a much more simple method than that prescribed by law.

Here, at least, is a man who cannot be accused of representing the "sinister influences" that have heretofore borne the burden of criticism of Mr. Fesler and who yet have both the courage and the temerity to offer a criticism of the holiest of holy administrations that it has ever been the good fortune of Marion County to endure.

As we said before, we do not expect the accusation of illegal methods in distributing the spoils to create more than a mild interest among the taxpayers.

So complete is the confidence of the administration in the good faith and sheer ability of Mr. Fesler to do no wrong that we have some times wondered why the other officials in the courthouse were allowed desk room.

Certainly it is wholly unnecessary to have board of county commissioners when we have Mr. Fesler—just as certain as it is that in fact we have none.

The managerial form of government has heretofore been applied to some cities and there is a demand for it from others.

We suggest that before these seekers after a commission or managerial form of government determine beyond revocation upon that system that they give a little study to Feslerism as it is practiced in Marion County.

The greatest outstanding advantages of Feslerism appear to be that with its adoption all law defined duties and in fact all interest in expenditures and records ceases.

With Mr. Fesler in the auditor's office we need neither commissioners nor laws, claims nor approval.

In fact, all the taxpayer has to do is to hump himself to keep up with 54 per cent increases annually in his taxes.

AN OPEN LETTER REGARDING TAXES

To

Thomas H. Spain
Frank N. Stalaker
Henry W. Bennett
Joseph C. Schaf
Alfred E. Potts
Albert M. Rosenthal
J. H. Hooker
John H. Smith
Edgar H. Evans
E. A. Hendrickson
John H. Welch

Your belated effort to call a halt on extravagant expenditure of public money in Marion County will meet the general approval of all the tax payers, but it will be rightfully subjected to these criticisms:

1. It is ill-timed because it immediately follows an election in which the voters by a majority of more than 16,000 approved of the men and the policies against which you are now protesting.

2. Your suggestion of curtailing public improvements comes at a time when there are curtailments in private enterprises that have thrown thousands of men out of employment and promise to make it much more difficult for men to live than at any time in the last eight years.

3. You assume that the tremendous burden of taxes which you are called upon to pay is the result of uncured expenditures for public improvement when, as a matter of fact, the burden is created by the addition to timely expenditures of thousands that are and have been wasted in graft, extravagance and political favor.

The course of the present administration in increasing your taxes approximately 60 per cent in the last year can be defended on the plea of previous adjudication.

The issue before you at the last county election was purely whether or not you approved of the wild extravagance of administration of your county affairs to the extent that you wished to re-elect the officials who were responsible for it.

Both in your primaries and in the election you voted for a continuation of the administration and the policies against which you are now protesting.

It isn't sportsmanlike to Welch over paying the piper when by a plurality of approximately 16,000 votes you have just renewed your contract with the piper.

Before you determine that this is an economic period in which public works should be restricted or abandoned, you should give heed to the fact that all over this country, including Marion County, there are idle men to whom employment must be given if the nation is to prosper.

While it is true that the percentage of idle labor in Marion County is less than in many other communities, it is also true that the percentage is greater than is desirable and will be increased if public work is abandoned.

Much that is said of the greed of contractors and the high costs of building supplies is the result of immature conclusions.

Contractors who are compelled to split their profits with grafting officials and supply dealers who are compelled to pay big commissions in order to sell their supplies for public building must, of necessity, pass along this graft and these commissions to the taxpayer in the form of high bids.

If the graft, illegal and legal, big and little, could be eliminated from public building and sales to the taxing units the costs to the taxpayers would be reduced below the pre-war level immediately.

Does not the remedy of costly contracts lie in a return to old-fashioned honesty rather than in abandonment of public building?

You are absolutely wrong in your assumption that relief from high taxes is to be obtained by curtailing or abandoning public improvements.

There are no public improvements now contemplated in Marion County that are not economically justified and the completion of which would not be to your financial advantages as members of the community as a whole.

You specifically refer to the proposed improvement of the Pendleton pike as though it should be held in abeyance pending price readjustment.

You will doubtless agree that passable roads are a public necessity and, on investigation, that the Pendleton pike, as a connecting highway between Indianapolis, Anderson, Toledo and Detroit, is one of, if not the most important highway entering Indianapolis.

You will find on investigation that the maintenance of the Pendleton pike in a barely passable condition has already cost you, as a taxpayer, many times the total cost of permanently improving it.

You will also find on investigation that unless you improve it permanently now you will be compelled to pay out in maintenance costs a sum equal to the cost of permanently improving it, and having so paid the road will then still be unimproved.

You specifically refer to the proposed bridge across White river in extension of Maple road and you will find on investigation that the lack of a bridge in this vicinity is costing this community more in one month than the interest for a year on the entire investment necessary to build the bridge.

You will discover in the course of this investigation that as a result of the incompetency of the officials whom you elected to office, and on whose incompetency you have placed the approval of a continuation in office, the bridge over White river on the Michigan road has been closed to traffic for nearly two years and will continue closed for another year at least.

In the meanwhile, with a detour of approximately four miles necessary to ingress or egress from the city in this direction, the people of Marion County are paying for unnecessary transportation of themselves and commodities more than enough to build this bridge.

These and a hundred other instances all go to prove that the cause of the high taxes against which you complain is not public improvement but public waste.

Last week there came to public light in Indianapolis two instances of the waste of taxpayers' money which totaled more than \$80,000.

1. The fire underwriters disclosed that the city of Indianapolis had purchased \$75,000 more fire equipment than was necessary for the proper protection of the city.

2. The docketing of a claim made by Leo K. Fesler, auditor, revealed that he had grabbed off more than \$5,000 of your money in the guise of a fee for having his clerks make two copies of the registration books of the county.

The \$75,000 of city money was paid over as an inducement to certain defeated interest in the county primary to refrain from bringing legal proceedings to show that they were robbed of nomination to which they were rightfully entitled.

The \$5,000 was paid out of the treasury as a perquisite for a man whom you elected to serve you and who is making a fortune by more attention to ways to get fees than to your business.

At the same time this was going on, your pocketbooks were being mulcted of \$10,000 a year more to pay for janitoring at the courthouse than it costs the Board of Trade to supply janitor service for its entire building.

You were also paying a like sum for janitor service at the city hall.

Summed up, gentlemen, you will find, whenever you desire to know the facts, that the taxpayers of Marion County may have their necessary public improvements, and that you may be relieved of the burden of excessive taxes at the same time.

All that is necessary is that you insist that the vast sums which are now being wasted by the most profligate administration the county and city ever had be diverted toward the public improvements that are needed and that these public improvements be built without graft.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Any reader can get the answer to any question by writing to the Indiana Daily Times Information Bureau, Frederic J. Haskin, Director, Washington, D. C. This offer applies strictly to information. The writer cannot give advice, legal, medical and financial matters. It does not attempt to settle domestic troubles, nor to undertake exhaustive research on any subject. Write your question plainly and briefly. Give full name and address and enclose 2 cents in stamps for return postage. All replies are sent direct to the inquirer.)

ORDERLY LOCATION OF STARS.

Q. Are the stars in the flag designated for a particular State? H. F.

A. On Oct. 26, 1912, President Taft sent out an executive order, concerning the specific location of stars in the flag, and their definite representations. In accordance with this order, the stars of the flag were arranged in six rows of eight stars each, symbolizing the various States in order of their ratification of the Constitution.

ORIGIN OF OIL.

Q. Would like to know the origin of oil. M. J. S.

A. The general theory of the origin of petroleum is that it comes from the decomposition of the remains of myriads of minute forms of animal life that existed ages ago. The oil which is contained in these microscopic bodies forms petroleum.

GOVERNMENT PAYS WAY HOME.

Q. If a boy enlists in the Army in the States, and is in the Philippines when his term of service ends, does the Government pay his way home? D. V. H.

A. The War Department says that when a man is stationed abroad at the time his enlistment expires, his passage to the

PUSS IN BOOTS JR.

By David Cory.

You remember in the last story we left Little Puss Junior in the cave of the Wolf Man and that one of his companions had just sung a song about robbing travelers. But the Wolf Man waited in the least. Oh no, he was equal to so many adventures that he didn't care about a little thing like that, you know. "Come, my men," said the Wolf Man, "let us make ourselves ready," and once all the men jumped up and put on their bows and arrows and picked up their bows and arrows.

"You may be one of us," said the Wolf Man to Puss, "so come along," but the young man who had been bound to the tree, as I told you in the last story, was left behind, for he was too weak to go out in the cold.

Well, so soon as they all were outside, the Wolf Man turned himself into a wolf and led the way through the forest, and Puss went along not knowing just what to do, but with a firm determination that he would not help in any way to rob a traveler.

Well, after they had gone for quite a way, he came to a place where the Wolf Man and his companions, while the Wolf had waited by the roadside. And pretty soon along came a sleigh with four white horses, and when the driver saw the wolf he gave a great holla and stopped the horses, and the men in the sleigh jumped out with their bows and arrows and pointed them at the Wolf Man.

And of course this is just what the Wolf Man wanted the travelers to do, so that his men, who were hidden in the trees, could spring out and rob them. But the men from the sleigh had gone even two or three steps, when Puss Junior stood out from behind them and spoke to the leader in a low voice, and then quick as a wink he and