

# Indiana Daily Times

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PERHAPS Mayor Jewett was not so much interested in the Sowders gambling case when it reached the Criminal Court for reversal.

THERE ARE 299 more chances of not being able to keep on the right side of the law since the acts of the last Legislature went into effect.

THE QUESTION agitating the Statehouse seems to be whether the emergency compensation fund was created to compensate for political or State work!

JUST WHY the county officials are so reluctant to bring Edward Stevens back here for trial is one of the questions that is no nearer a solution than the question of just why they allowed him to depart.

THE ONLY TROUBLE about Mayor Jewett's belated efforts to make the street car company do as he wishes now is that he lost that power when the Legislature gave the company the right to surrender its franchise.

## Vain Yelps!

The various statements issued and in process of issuance from the various members of the city administration relative to the city's future relationship with the street car company are entertaining as light summer reading, but no one who has any competent grasp of the situation will consider them at all seriously.

The street car company has been for many years operating under the provisions of a contract made between the city and itself under an expressed delegation of power from the State to the city to make such a contract. Comparatively recent laws, enacted by the State, have recalled the power of the city to contract with the utility, provided a legal method for the abrogation of the contract and vested the authority over such contractual relationships in another State agent—the public service commission.

The street car company has arranged to avail itself of the legislative enactment that makes it possible to abrogate the contract made between it and the city when the city had the power to make such a contract.

Now, the city administration, which appears to have been dead from the shoulders up while all these changes in the laws of the State were being made, is ranting about its "sacred rights," "fighting to the last ditch" and prating of a "new contract to be negotiated with the company."

The gentlemen who guide the legal affairs of the street car company are not dense enough to fail to realize when they have the whiphand of a situation. They would indeed be poor lawyers if they did not realize and advise their clients that from the moment the old franchise was surrendered the public service commission becomes the sole representative of the State with whom they should, or may legally enter into contractual relations.

Mayor Jewett and his corporation counsel will not succeed in negotiating a new contract with the street car company. They may, if it is agreeable to the company, draft and ratify a document embodying the present intentions of the street car company as to service, but such a document will be nothing more than balm to the somewhat outraged feelings of the city administration at finding that the time has passed when it has any control over the street car company.

The present assortment of bombastic interviews which are issuing from the city hall, together with the dire threats of what the city administration is going to do to the street car company are so palpably for political consumption as to be almost stupid.

The time has passed when the city administration can do anything to the street car company.

The time is here when the public service commission can take the street car company in hand, protect it from the pirates who have done everything except bankrupt it and transform it from a political football into a serviceable public utility.

Of course the News-Jewett crowd will yelp over the loss of its ability to control the street car situation. It will yelp because the company has succeeded in getting out from under a franchise with which the News-Jewett crowd never was willing to make it comply except for political purposes. It will do this yelping regardless of the fact that only a few years ago it was yelping because the company had not surrendered this franchise.

But those persons whose good faith investment in traction securities has been impaired to gratify the personal ambitions of one unscrupulous and power-loving stock manipulator who once boasted of his intent to drive certain capital from Indianapolis will soon realize that the pack is yelping in vain.

Better street car service for Indianapolis is in sight. It will be realized when the much abused power of a little coterie of politicians over a vital public utility is completely broken.

We are now passing through that travail which will end when the politicians awaken sufficiently to learn that the power they have so long abused has at last been taken from them.

## Americanization

When it is learned that Lenin, or was it Trotsky, the leaders of the Russian debacle, were for sometime residents of New York City and did not become Americanized, it may be thought that a golden opportunity to impress the principles of liberty was lost. There are agitators who would not learn, however, and none are so dumb as those who do not care to learn.

It is refreshing, now, to note the intense loyalty of some who have adopted this country. A Mrs. Jennie Hendrickson of Waterville, Pa., refuses to go to Sweden to claim a share in a large fortune, stating that she is more contented with the few pennies she earns daily at a washbub in American than she could be in the old country. A dispatch from Kenosha, Wis., tells of the death of a cousin of former Emperor Francis Joseph, at the age of 99 years.

It should be borne in mind, in thinking of any alien, that his memory ever goes over a thousand pleasant situations in his country while the native born do not have this torment. When things big and little do not go right, the American may be angry, but he does not look back to a country of earlier days whose bad points fade as the years increase their distance.

The bewildering complexities of life which will ever arise, are trying enough in the language to which one is accustomed. To a foreigner ignorance, often magnifies faults unseen by the native. So if Pennsylvania has made Americans of some of her adopted children, much is accomplished, and if Wisconsin furnished an asylum for relatives of Austrian nobility, and held their allegiance, it is commendable.

In all the Americanization work it is well to remember the golden rule and to imagine what one would do, as a pioneer in search of a living in a foreign country.

## A Militant Sex?

About the last thing a mere man expects from any woman is a bit of rough house, and it is a fact that when it does come there is considerable surprise. It is possible that the publication of arrangements for the world boxing match is creating a pugilistic spirit where the demure should predominate or may suffice to be the catch-all and take the blame? Several instances furnish a study.

A fair daughter of Eve was recently arrested in a park in Indianapolis for disorderly conduct. The police testify that she swore for ten minutes and did not repeat once, but the woman said she really was not angry at anything. The judge sentenced her to ten days in the county jail. What she would have done had she possessed any occasion to be angry, or lost a collar button, cannot appear in print.

In Washington, the capital of our great Nation, a lady from Virginia took her own husband to a fashionable hotel for dinner. The check called for payment of \$4.40 for a steak and the woman slapped the clerk when he tried to collect. The court fined her \$100 for assault. Every one in Washington expects the visitor to be robbed by hotels and restaurants, and they, in turn, regard the public as proper prey.

Word also comes from South Norwalk, Conn., of the wife of a noted singer, who admitted she swore at a few plumbers doing a \$4,000 job in her home. This was the height of folly and can never be explained away. It probably made the abused plumbers forget their tools or caused them to smoke too much while contemplating their sad lot, so that they could not sleep any at night and it worried them during working hours. If the lady had just used Virginian methods, it is probable that the plumber would have been better understood, at least, what was meant.

It may be all the fault of the gentler sex, influenced by the late constitutional amendment permitting unlimited vote in the affairs of the day. Some never will say it with flowers.

# GEORGIA'S RULING

By O. HENRY

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to those who were about him during the last illness of his only child.

The commissioner had been a widower for years before the late, outside his official duties, had been so devoted to little Georgia that people spoke of it as a teaching and admirable thing. He was a reserved man, and dignified almost to austerity, but the child had come below it all and rested upon his very heart, so that she scarcely missed the mother's love that had been taken away. There was a wonderful companionship between them, for she had many of his own ways, being thoughtful and serious beyond her years.

One day, while she was lying with the fever burning brightly in her cheeks, she said suddenly:

"Papa, I wish I could do something good for a whole lot of children."

"What would you like to do, dear?" asked the commissioner. "Give them a party?"

"Oh, I don't mean those kind. I mean poor children who haven't homes and aren't loved and cared for as I am. I tell you what, papa?"

"If I shouldn't get well, I'll leave them you—not give you, but just lend you, for you must come to mamma and me when you die, too. If you don't die, wouldn't you do something to help them, if I ask you, papa, child?" said the commissioner, holding her hot little hand against his cheek. "You'll get well real soon, and you'll have the best of what we can do for them together."

But in whatever phase of benevolence, thus vaguely premeditated, the commissioner was proceeding, he had not the company of his beloved. That night the little frail body grew suddenly too weak to struggle further, and Georgia's exit was made from the great stage when she had scarcely begun to speak her little heart's desire. The commissioner must be a stagemanager who understands. She had given the cue to the one who was to speak after her.

A week after she was laid away the commissioner reappeared at the office, a little more content, a little paler and sterner, with the black frock coat hanging a little more loosely from his tall figure.

His desk was piled with work that had accumulated during the four heart-breaking weeks of his absence. His eyes were red, and his hands were stiff, and there were questions of law, of fine judicial decisions to be made concerning the issue of patents, the marketing and leasing of land, the classification of grazing, agricultural, watered and timbered of new tracts to be opened to settlers.

The commissioner went to work silently and obstinately, putting back his grief as far as possible, forcing his mind to attack the complicated and important business of his office. On the second day after his return he was called to the building. In that chair Georgia would always sit when she came to the office for him of afternoons.

As time passed, the commissioner seemed to grow more silent, solitary, and reserved. A new phase of mind developed in him. He could not endure the presence of a child. Often when a clattering youngster belonging to one of the clerks would come chattering into the big business room adjoining his little apartment, the commissioner would steal away and hide behind a door.

He would point to a leather-covered chair that stood near his own, and ordered it removed. He would point to a desk that stood near his own, and ordered it removed. He would point to a desk that stood near his own, and ordered it removed.

It was nearly three months after the rains had washed the last faded flower petals from the mound above little Georgia when the "land shark" firm of Hamilton and Avery filed upon him a document which he considered the "fattest" vacancy of the year.

It should not be supposed that all who were termed "land sharks" deserve the name. Many of them were reputable men of good business and character. Some of them were the most august counsels of the State and say: "Gentlemen, we would like to have this and that, and we would like to have it on these terms." But about a third of them were rogues and bull-worms, and the actual settler hated the land shark. The land shark hated the land office, where all the land records were kept, and hunted "vacancies"—that is, tracts of unappropriated public land generally invisible upon the official maps, but actually existing "upon the ground."

The land office pointed out the State scrip to file by virtue of same upon any land not previously legally appropriated. Most of the scrip was now in the hands of the land sharks. Thus, at the cost of a few hundred dollars,

they often secured lands worth as many thousands. Naturally, the search for "vacancies" was lively.

But after a very often—the land they thus secured, though legally "unappropriated," would be occupied by happy and contented settlers who had labored for years to build up their homes, only to discover that their titles were worthless, and to receive peremptory notice to quit. Thus came about the bitter and not unjustified hatred felt by the toilers and contented settlers who had labored for years to build up their homes, only to discover that their titles were worthless, and to receive peremptory notice to quit.

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and that the Chiquito River was, on the ground, fully a mile farther west from the point reached by course and distance. To survey the 2,000 acres of vacant land between the Denny survey proper and Chiquito River.

One day, however, the commissioner called for the papers in connection with this new location. They were brought, and he took a deep look at his desk—notes, statements, sketches, affidavits, connecting the dots of evidence, even the Denny documents of even date with the deed of Hamilton and Avery.

The firm was presenting the commissioner to issue a patent upon their location. They possessed inside information as to the location of the new survey, and would probably pass somewhere near this land.

The general land office was very busy, and the commissioner was driving into the heart of the mass of evidence. The pigeons could be heard on the roof of the castle-like building, cooling and fretting. The clerks were droning away, where, scarcely pretending to call the roll, the commissioner was driving into the heart of the mass of evidence.

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