

Indiana Daily Times

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WHAT'S A LAW, more or less, where the city is concerned?

IT IS at least refreshing to have a Governor who disregards the road material dealers.

ONE good thing about war memoirs is that there can't be more than four million of them.

HERE is another blow to the taxpayer: Naval authorities have decided the battleship is not obsolete.

A REVOLT is being threatened in Mexico again. Apparently they think the Irish are getting too much attention.

FARMERS are being urged to keep their cattle off the market—and the next instalment of taxes is due in two months.

NOW it appears that the proposed constitutional amendments must be adopted in order to prevent a constitutional convention.

Harding's Problem

A phase of the coming disarmament conference in Washington which has been subordinated to the seemingly paramount question is the proposed discussion of the Pacific problems, or more explicitly the relations between Japan and China. This, even more than the perpetual peace program, will try the mettle, the craft and the ingenuity of the Harding statesmen and unless it is handled with consummate skill it will be the rock upon which the disarmament parley is likely to be dashed to pieces.

Harding, the master strategist and politician, will have an opportunity to reverse the destructive arts which he displayed with such audacity in killing the covenant of Versailles into constructive diplomacy that in the end may save the face of the Harding administration.

It is a big problem for big men.

It will pit the statesmanship of the western hemisphere against the will of the Orient while Europe will sit complacently by.

It promises even to overshadow the disarmament discussion, for unless the Pacific is restored to a peaceful area there can be no reduction of warlike forces.

Japan, with her hands on the throat of China, has reluctantly consented to sit in the conference, mainly because her ally, Great Britain, accepted with such alacrity. She could not afford to be left out of the concert of powers, even if her heart is not in the undertaking.

China, torn by dissension, with many of her ports and much of her valuable territory under alien suzerainty, sees in the Pacific discussion the only ray of hope for a name to certain future.

Shantung, which loomed so big at Paris and which was one of the things the Republicans seized upon as a pretext for repudiating the League of Nations pact, will be the big issue again.

Can the Republicans, whose orators wrung tears from the multitudes over the "Rape of Shantung," force Japan to restore China to territorial integrity. Can the Harding statesmen bring enough diplomatic force to bear to disillusion the Nipponese dreamers of an Asiatic empire and still preserve the friendly relations that have marked the course of the two nations?

Japan, even in the face of the growing disarmament fervor, is fortifying her outlying islands and her shores; she is building a navy that soon will place her in second place among the world powers; she is firmly entrenched in Korea and with a rapidly multiplying population she is casting her eyes on the fertile fields and resources of Manchuria.

The crafty Japanese leaders realize that to maintain her place in the sun the island empire must have an outlet on the mainland and impotent, docile China is a magnet that it is impossible to resist.

France is not interested in the Far Eastern problem as long as virile Germany is at her doors.

Great Britain is bound by treaty to Japan and she has Eastern problems that are inescapably linked with the aspirations of Japan.

America, always the friend of China, must bear the burden alone.

Can the statesmen trained in the Harding school reach the heights necessary to bring about a reaffirmation of the Open Door Policy, maintain the political integrity of China and still preserve the bonds of friendship that stretch across the Pacific?

If not, the Harding Administration, like the Wilson administration, is doomed to be wrecked in the mad maelstrom of world politics.

Ashby's Mistake

What profits the public from a budget system of handling public expenditures if the budget is kept secret?

What benefit to the citizenry is the right to remonstrate against any item of a taxing unit's proposed budget if the public is not to know what is contained in that budget?

We have in Indiana a State law that says taxing units shall be established after the publication by them of a budget on forms prescribed by the State board of accounts, SHOWING IN DETAIL money proposed to be expended during the succeeding year."

Here in Indianapolis we have also Samuel Ashby, corporation counsel, who is paid to interpret the law as it pertains to the municipal city.

Sam has read this law with his political glasses clamped down over his discerning eyes and he now gives it as his opinion that the law means that the budget does not have to be published in detail.

He further holds that the publication of an appropriation ordinance in which the "details" are eliminated and the various sums to be expended shown in the aggregate is sufficient.

In other words, Mr. Ashby takes the undeniably erroneous viewpoint that "what you don't know won't hurt you" when it applies to municipal affairs.

If his interpretation of the budget law is correct, there might as well not be a budget law.

If the ability of the municipal officials to hide their proposed expenditures of public money is to be enhanced by Mr. Ashby, then the right to remonstrate is a delusion and a snare and the statute with its promise of home rule on municipal expenditures is a nullity.

We believe Mr. Ashby is honestly mistaken in his conclusions relative to the publication of the budget.

We believe his mistake will open the way for taxing units to defeat about the only good feature that was contained in the tax law which was officially termed "the greatest achievement of the Republican party in Indiana since the Civil War."

Mr. Ashby's contention ought to be subjected to the court for revision and if the tax law is to stand it will have to be so subjected.

McCray's Road Program

Governor McCray's announcement of an end of the foolish and extravagant cement road program which resulted in the waste of millions of dollars of the taxpayers' money under the regime of J. P. Goddard and L. H. Wright, is cheering reading for the people of Indiana.

The Governor, in declaring that hard surfaces are to be built only on those roads where the traffic demands them, points out that the difference between interest charges on cement concrete roads at \$40,000 a mile and gravel or crushed stone roads at \$10,000 is sufficient to maintain the roads and pay for them at the end of twenty years.

He calls attention to the obvious fact that it is utter foolishness to invest \$40,000 in a road when a \$10,000 investment will give greater satisfaction.

The conclusions of Governor McCray, which are both sound and courageous, serve to call attention again to the tremendous waste practiced under the Goddard regime, which the Times first brought to public attention in 1918.

Then, mistaken advocates of good roads, skilfully encouraged by road material agents and certain contractors, forced expenditures on this State for roads that were of benefit to no one except those who shared in the profits of their construction.

This gleeful business of spending the public money where it would do the most political and private good continued until the whole good roads movement threatened to collapse in Indiana.

Governor McCray, in bringing the building of roads back to a sound financial basis, is not only saving the taxpayers millions, but he is also doing that which is necessary to the preservation of the public demand for good highways.

Right Here In Indiana

1 KILLED, 1 MAY DIE AND 5 MORE HURT IN CRASH

Two Automobiles Collide Near Anderson—Driver of One Is Arrested.

Special to The Times
ANDERSON, Ind., Aug. 22.—In an automobile collision, which occurred twelve miles southwest of this city near the village of Lapel Sunday, Mrs. Viola Bailey, 30, of Elwood was killed and six others were injured. The injured are:

Mrs. Charles Trotter, 48, of Elwood, arms crushed, breast bone broken and internal injuries.

Paul Lanham, 20, Markleville, three ribs broken, gash cut in face and injured internally.

Charles Trotter, 63, of Elwood, collar bone broken.

Hersel Bailey, 22, Elwood, ribs broken, cut and bruised about the face and body.

Commodore Markle, 20, minor cuts about the face.

Betty J. Bailey, 20-months-old, babe, left arm and right leg broken. Injured internally and may not live.

The accident occurred on the Hamilton-Madison county line three miles west of Lapel. Charles V. Trotter of Elwood and Commodore Markle of Markleville, were the drivers of the two machines and are held to blame for the accident. It is said that both cars were running at a high rate of speed and took corn shot at a yard from the center line, when the roads intersected and the drivers of the machines headed straight for opposite crossings.

Coroner J. L. Rinne of Lapel was on the scene soon after the accident and ordered the arrest of Commodore Markle on a charge of manslaughter until a further investigation could be made. Markle was taken in charge by the Anderson police and was held on a \$5,000 bond.

Mr. and Mrs. Trotter accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Bailey and little daughter, were on their way to Greenfield in the Trotter automobile to attend a basket picnic of the United Brethren Church, and were travelling south. Commodore Markle with Paul Lanham in the other car, were going toward Lapel. They were on the Noblesville Pike when the two cars ran together, with terrible force. The car driven by Trotter was turned over and upset in a ditch a few yards from the crossing. Trotter was pinned beneath the car and Mrs. Bailey, caught under the machine was killed instantly, her head crushed beneath the automobile seat. The infant child of the Trotters was pinned up in its mother's arms at the time of the crash and was hurled out of the automobile. Little hope is entertained of the child's recovery.

The body of Mrs. Bailey was taken to Elwood in an ambulance and the injured were taken to an Anderson hospital by Coroner Rinne and assistants.

Boy Refutes Charges Made Against Father

Special to The Times
COLUMBUS, Ind., Aug. 22.—Chicken

One Columbus Farmer Loses

150, Another 100—Take Setting Hens.

Ye TOWNE GOSSIP
Copyright, 1921, by Star Company.
By K. C. B.

Dear K. C. B.—I have often seen in your column where some one wrote you something and you answered it, and I have been wondering if it was true that they really wrote or if it was just make-believe. If it is really true I know you will answer this.

Two months ago I was injured and went to a hospital, and three weeks later I was allowed to sit out on the front veranda, and one day they brought a girl who was ill to the hospital and she had a dog and the dog followed them and they took the girl in and the dog sat outside of the door and the dog stayed on the front steps. The girl died and they took her away and the dog didn't know it and they tried to drive the dog away, but he would howl and run around the corner and come back when they stopped throwing stones at him.

Then I left the hospital, and the other day I was there to inquire about some man's case. The dog followed me around for the day to come out. He keeps his eyes always on the front door.

Isn't it too bad that he doesn't know that she came out. I hope you will sympathize with me in my emotions, as no one else seems to understand. R. B. P.

Los Angeles, Cal.

MAYBE YOU'VE SEEN...

YOU READERS OF MINE...

THOSE TERRIBLE PERSONS...

WHO RIDE SADDLED TRACKS...

ON MOTORCYCLES...

AND WEAR STRANGE CLOTHES...

AND STRANGER GOGGLES...

AND SEEN ALWAYS...

AT LEAST TO ME...

TO BE THINGS APART...

FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD...

AND IF YOU HAVE...

I WANT YOU TO KNOW...

I HAPPEN TO KNOW...

THAT HE WHO WRITES...

IS ONE OF THESE...

AND I AM GLAD...

THAT I HAVE FOUND...

THEY ARE HUMAN BEINGS...

WITH HUMAN HEARTS...

AND I'M SORRY...

I KNOW NO WAY...

TO EASE THE MIND...

OF THE FAITHFUL DOG...

AND HIS HELPLESS FRIEND...

THE CYCLE MAN...

I THANK YOU...

Special to The Times
COLUMBUS, Ind., Aug. 22.—A contract for the construction of the Shaw road in this county for \$10,000 was awarded to George Nugent at a meeting of the Bartholomew County commissioners today.

A contract for the building of the Dunn road was awarded to Charles Waugh, for \$7,000. The board appropriated \$1,000 for the construction of the Bolter bridge on the line between Bartholomew and Jackson counties.

Passengers Jump as Train Hits Motor Car

Special to The Times
SOUTH BEND, Ind., Aug. 22.—The New Carlisle death trap, where the New York Central and two electric roads cross the Lincoln highway, almost claimed two more victims yesterday when Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rupel of near New Carlisle escaped from their touring car, which had stalled on the track, just a few seconds before the Twentieth Century train struck and demolished the machine. Mrs. Rupel fainted after the crash, and her son had started to have a subarachnoid hemorrhage.

The elder Rupel also pleaded not guilty and declared his son's confession was false.

The son was committed to the county jail when his father refused to pay a fine given the boy for stealing a hen and the father joined his son when the boy made the confession. The two were together in the jail all night before being arraigned.

Passenger Jump as Train Hits Motor Car

Special to The Times
SHELBYVILLE, Ind., Aug. 22.—Charging his husband with coldness and indifference and alleging that for a number of years he has given attention to another woman, which drove her to distraction, Mrs. Carrie J. Fritts has filed complaint in the Shelby Circuit Court for a divorce from George P. Fritts, prominent member of the Goddard family.

Alimony of \$5,000 and the custody of their two children and \$20 a week for their support until the hearing of her complaint is asked.

The couple has been married for thirty-two years, but were separated on two other occasions when Mrs. Fritts declared he compelled her to leave him.

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In other words, Mr. Ashby takes the undeniably erroneous viewpoint that "what you don't know won't hurt you" when it applies to municipal affairs.

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Glass Plant Dividend

HARTFORD CITY, Ind., Aug. 22.—The American Window Glass Company, which has a big plant here, has declared a semi-annual dividend of 3½ per cent.

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between interest charges on cement concrete roads at \$40,000 a mile and gravel or crushed stone roads at \$10,000 is sufficient to maintain the roads and pay for them at the end of twenty years.

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