

Indiana Daily Times

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HE IS A fortunate appointee who is sure of his job.

SHOOTING through the side of a house is a novel way of ushering in the new year!

AMONG the problems that the coming of a new year has not solved are Sellers farm and the suspended sentence.

ABOUT the only way to be real sure who is who in the new administration is to visit the city hall and see who is really on the job.

ANYHOW, the variations in the bids for the first State highway to be built in 1922 will disclose who is right about the fairness of the specifications.

BURBANK is planning to announce some new plant discoveries, but it is reported on reliable authority that he has not been able to make money grow on trees.

WHITE RIVER may be a dump for stolen cars, but experience has taught that auto thieves are more inclined to sell the cars they steal than to run them into the river.

Honesty Talks

An appeal to superintendents of schools to start "Honesty Talks" in the schools with a view to combatting the crime wave is being made by a surety company. The president writes as follows:

"Robbery by violence is more prevalent today than at any time during the last half century. No home is safe!"

"American children read of the seeming success of these crimes. They never read of the subsequent punishment of the criminals because trials and convictions are rarely prominently featured in the newspapers. American children are obtaining the erroneous impression that crime is much more often successful, and much less frequently and less severely punished than it really is.

"Never have American children so greatly needed daily lessons in the practical wisdom of honesty."

The press, as usual, is again subjected to criticism which rightly belongs elsewhere. In this community, at least, the newspapers seem faithfully to record the "subsequent punishment" of the criminal whenever there is any such a thing as subsequent punishment.

Comparison of the court records and the daily blotter of the police discloses that there is a wide difference between the number of crimes and the number of subsequent punishments. The province of the newspaper is to report the facts, and it can hardly be said that newspapers are responsible because the facts are not such as the critic might desire them to be.

This surety company's president may be making a very laudable suggestion to the school superintendents, but he is also disclosing a woeful lack of knowledge of conditions he criticizes.

Publicity Problem

Approximately a dozen citizens of Indianapolis sat around a table a week ago engaged in a public work. The represented a number of enterprises that have succeeded in Indianapolis. Jointly the capital and to their direction equaled the capital invested in any one of the city's utilities.

Coming from the question under consideration for a moment, one of the gentlemen expressed the opinion that if the Indianapolis Street Car Company were to make the necessary effort to lay before the citizens of the community frankly, and fully, the conditions that confronted it, there would be no street car problem.

Every man at the table agreed with the statement and several went far as to assert that if the street car company had, in the past, been frank in its discussions of its problems as it has recently tended to become, there would never have been a transportation problem in Indianapolis.

Unanimously, a group of business men who have successfully used capital equal to that possessed by the street car company, agreed that the street car company must solve its publicity problem before it can be successfully managed.

The suggestion is not a new one and the opinions of these gentlemen are not the only opinions that could be gathered to support the suggestion.

Whenever the people of Indianapolis become conversant with the facts concerning the transportation problem they will unite in a solution of it. But until they are enlightened prejudice and mistaken conclusions will stand in the way of a successful administration of the street railways.

These successful business men learned long ago the value of publicity. They used publicity to build their own businesses and from their experience they have pointed out the road to success for the management of the street car company.

A Real Job

No member of the incoming Shank administration assumes a greater burden than Taylor Groninger, the corporation counsel who succeeds Samuel Ashby.

In addition to guiding a mayor who is much more inclined to look on the human side of affairs than on the legal side, Mr. Groninger will find that in representing the people of Indianapolis before the public service commission he has a task that will require more time than he can find to devote to it.

Throughout his term of office Mr. Ashby showed a devotion to his work that was exceptional and he accomplished more than the city administration had any right to expect of one man. His appearances before the public service commission were not always in the role that made for best results, but he reflected the attitude of the administration in its stand on utility questions and none will assert that he did not do so both ably and conscientiously.

Mr. Groninger finds awaiting him the question of telephone rates, of street car rehabilitation, of high gas rates, of an electric company merger, in addition to any amount of less important legal work connected with the plans of Mayor Shank.

Just how he will arrange with the limited assistance afforded him to attend to all this work remains to be seen. Certainly the compensation of the office is out of all proportions to the importance of the work.

Sooner or later the city of Indianapolis will find it to its advantage to create a bureau to deal with the legal side of utility controversies. Until that time the public should look upon the corporation counsel as an official who has more work than time and who serves the community for far less than the same effort would bring him were it directed by some other client than the public.

The Poison Squad

Among both the admirers and opponents of the Volstead act there will be general sympathy with those four Federal prohibition enforcement agents in San Francisco who have been suffering from the effects of forbidden brandy which they tasted as a matter of duty. Fortunately, none of them was made seriously ill; but their case throws a little light on the stern ordeals to which their employment exposes them. "It is sometimes necessary," says the assistant enforcement officer at San Francisco, "for the agents to drink this poisoned liquor in order to get evidence against the distiller or seller." This compulsory sampling of the poisoned cup must be the bitterest function laid upon them. Sometimes, it seems, they carry about with them antidotes to mitigate the dangers of the bane.

"The symptoms of the poisoning are a general lassitude, loss of appetite and a desire to rest." These are interesting, and were once too familiar symptoms. At least we have been assured by sociologists who made practical experiments in the indica of post-alcoholic results in antiprohibition evil days that, whether the guilty cause was champagne or burgundy or Scotch highballs or whisky sours or rum and molasses or any other demon drink whatsoever, symptoms like those described at San Francisco were exhibited by the sufferers the next day. In this bantam time the public is protected from these maladies of remorse. Like Arnold von Winkeldei gathering in his bosom the sheaf of firebrands, the intrepid enforcement agent pours the poison into his unshrinking midst. He suffers, but he is stronger, stronger than the "potable damnation," he fronts and envelops.

The victims of this forced poisoning for the common weal, envied though they may be by any other survivor of the old Babylon corporation, the rest of us will be gratified and mislead. —Newspaper.

IRISH PLAYERS REVEAL THE MOST LOVABLE AUNT

'Mecca' Opens Local Engagement—New Style in Feminine Haircuts

A play full of laughter and tears, that intermingling of pathos and humor for which all dramatists strive and which few attain—that is "The White-Headed Boy."

After seeing the opening performance of "The White-Headed Boy" at English's last night it is easy to understand why the Irish Players who give the performance have taken by storm the cities in which they have appeared. The company is said to be the original one from the Adelphi Theatre in London.

"The White-Headed Boy" is not the kind of a play that would appeal to the seeker after the sensational. It is a well rounded drama about everyday people and it is acted as the kind of everyday people represented would act. That is why it is great.

The story of the play concerns a large family in a small Irish town. The mother is dead, the son is the head of the family.

"Mecca" is somewhat theatrical material and does not need the whitewashed press presenting that it is a naughty and an unadressed show. It possesses enough pretty scenes, dramatic passages, some

Donough Brosnan (engaged to Jane) J. A. O'Rourke

John Duffy Artie, a sensible

Doll (his daughter) Gertrude Murphy

Hannah (a servant) Christine Hayden

Aunt Ellen Marie O'Neill

Besides Marie O'Neill, those who de-

serve more particular mention are in our

opinion Maureen Delany and Sidney

Morgan. As the mother and the eldest

son, respectively, they are convincing and real.

"The White-Headed Boy" will close at

English's Wednesday night with a mat-

-rehearsal.

CONCERNING

"MECCA" AND CLOTHES.

'Mecca' has arrived in Indianapolis at

last.

Instead of something decidedly shock-

ing, naughty and crude, I found "Mecca"

very sensible, beautiful, well done and

artistically presented by a large cast

and a talented ballet.

"Mecca" is somewhat theatrical material

and does not need the whitewashed press

presenting that it is a naughty and an

unadressed show. It possesses enough

pretty scenes, dramatic passages, some

women wear very few clothing but the

clever and artistic handling of the light

and a slight exposure of the

is that the clothing of the dancers in it

is that their blues might be seen to and

Patricia dished it out in full measure

Her moonshine jazz song caused an

earthquake of applause. If you like your

jazz songs rough, then Patricia will

take you to paradise of jazzland. She

has few equals when it comes to delivering

this sort of stuff. She also plays

her violin.

Kings and Hollis in "The Two Doc-

tors" start 'em laughing by springing

a comedy curtain on which is printed

funny signs and announcements. Their

comedy is of the nut variety. Jack La

Vier makes honors with Patricia in the

applause line. His awkward trapeze

stunts and his rapid remarks upset the

house yesterday. He is a solid popular

hit.

Jay Dillon and Betty Parker offer a

smart little song and dance review (that's

what I call the act). It is one of well-

mannered but informal little offerings

which fits well into this rapid bill of

jazz and ultra-modern vaudeville.

Catts Brothers are soft shoe dancers.

They start the act in darkness and end

in a blaze of light. The Harringtons

open the show in a reviving ladder act.

Sons and Dellers close the show in

an act in which the man of the team

balances the girl on the team chin

while she sits a bicycle. Of course

the bicycle is attached to a pole. Here

is a good closing act and will hold any

audience.

This week's bill at Keith's possesses

all the elements which go to make up a

profitable week. People will talk about

Patricia and her songs and they will

marvel how Miss Eby of the Rock act

obtained her strange "haircut."

At Keith's all week—W. D. H.

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THEY HAVE A PAINTIN' TIME OF IT AT LYRIC.

The paint is being splashed at the Lyric

this week.

This happens in "The Corner Store," a

romantic comedy sketch which heads the new

bill at the Lyric. This act has the

usual character one expects to find in a

country general store. Most of the com-

edy is furnished by the characters splashing

paint over each other while engage-

in painting the fixtures in the store. The

small town boys paint the fixtures in

order to get a "stand in" with the

widow who owns the place. It's a good

act of its kind.

Worl and Wayne open their act with

some songs and a morning golf. They sing

several songs and close the act by "clown-

ing" with the orchestra. Irene Myers

sings a number of character songs

which are cleverly handled, making the

act of pleasing nature.

Mato and Rizzo are killed as accord-

ions, but one of them played a violin

when the show was reviewed. This is

a clever and original act. Their pro-

gram is well chosen.

Johnny Singer and the Dancing Dolls

open the bill with a fast dancing act.

Singer does some good Russian dancing.

The act called "Adrian" is in reality

a trio with a stage hand doing a "bit."

For the most part it is a "nut" act.

One member of the act has a good voice

and sings an operatic number. The

stage hand came from a good share of

the English press.

Mowatt and Mullen, a man and a woman, who sing, dance and have some

comedy lines. The Bird Cabaret is an

elaborately staged offering with many

well trained birds as the chief performers.

Here trained birds are a good act.

At the Lyric all week—W. D. H.

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UNDERWORLD MELODrama

HOLDS THE BOARDS AT PARK.