

Indiana Daily Times

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EVEN A SANITARY board will improve if given time.

SOME ARE ELECTED and others appoint themselves to the Senate.

SOME ONE should organize a firebug prevention and extermination committee.

WHY WILL a man spend ten times as much energy trying to get a political job as he will working at a real job?

WITH ABOUT a million dollars' worth of rental property now on its hands the city should give an exhibition of the model landlord.

NOR IS THERE any way of escaping being surprised with the fullsome praise that one-half of the old Jewett-News machine is now handing out to its other half!

HOW LONG will it be before the plaza that was sought as a memorial to the world war veterans is publicly referred to as a memorial to the Jewett administration?

Mr. Swift's Fall

Sympathy for Lucius B. Swift in his sudden and summary fall from the chairmanship of the board of sanitary commissioners to a minority member thereof will be confined solely to that rather limited part of Indianapolis' citizenry which, along with Mr. Swift, has felt it an ordained duty to regulate the municipality.

As chairman of the board Mr. Swift has given a great deal of his time and best efforts toward the solution of the biggest problem the city has. He has worked faithfully and with the highest type of integrity for what he deemed the best interests of the city. Could he have also been tolerant and exercised a reasonable amount of consideration for others who are also fond of Indianapolis there would have been some regret over his undoing.

But Mr. Swift appears never to have read that part of the law establishing the commission which says that all its sessions shall be public. He appears never to have been impressed with the fact that as a public official he was the servant of the public. To him there was never any question of the absolute correctness of his position and he could brook no evidence of interest on the part of citizens in what his board was doing.

This attitude, rather than a question of his ability, led to the memorable declaration by Father Weber that Mr. Swift "ought to be run out of town." It further led to a great deal of resentment that was not deserved.

Mr. Craven and Mr. Elliott are now in a position to revamp the sanitary board's affairs so that a mere citizen who has business to transact with it will not be subjected to insult for his presumption. In approaching the members. They have started right by declaring that all their sessions will be open to the public and that they want the public to know what they are doing.

Under that kind of a policy the public will be in a position to protest against any such unusual affairs as the reletting of a contract at an increased figure to the bondsman of a contractor who fails to perform his contract.

As a minority member of a board that proposes to digress so far from Mr. Swift's policies, doubtless the ex-chairman will feel ill at ease. But may reflect that throughout the world there has been a great upheaval in the autoocracy and the upheaval has been felt even in Indianapolis.

Discrimination

Under Shank's order rescinding the "no parking zones" established by the Jewett administration at the behest of merchants and others to maintain delivery systems will probably have the desired effect of ending the merchants to the mayor for a "real traffic law."

There is no question as to the necessity of keeping part of the curb clear in the operation of some businesses. For example, it would be impossible for a wholesale grocer to effect deliveries if his trucks were compelled to give way to the auto driver who desires to leave his car parked in front of the business place even for the limit of one and one-half hours.

On the other hand, there can be no dispute over the statement of the mayor that these "no parking zones" constitute a special privilege of doubtful legality. The mayor's order recalls the attitude of a bank president who arranged for a "no parking zone" in front of his bank and became very indignant when a traffic officer ordered him into headquarters for parking his car in the center of the "no parking zone." This man was under the impression that on the payment of a fee he could preserve a parking place in the street for his own car to the exclusion of the cars of others.

Certainly, this parking question is one on which the business men of Indianapolis and the mayor must get together. It may not be particularly pleasing to a lot of business men to be forced to go to the mayor to settle it, but on the other hand the mayor can hardly be expected to go to the business men for the purpose of arranging something that is as much desired by them as a proper parking ordinance.

Take This, Philadelphia!

Claude G. Bowers, the editor of the Ft. Wayne Journal-Gazette, is a former resident of Terre Haute and a loyal Indianian. He waxes more or less indignant over the provincialism of the Philadelphia Public Ledger and expresses himself as follows:

"That certain condescension on the part of Easterners toward the middle West may be forgotten as something of little consequence or as the inevitable result of ignorance. The average Philadelphian, that city of brotherly love and ineffable corruption, can hardly be blamed for imagining that the buffalo still meanders through the crooked mud streets of Indianapolis. But take this from Jay E. House—whatever he may be—in the Philadelphia Public Ledger:

"That Terre Haute gave Mr. Debs cordial and neighborly greeting is not surprising. He is the town's claim to distinction and fame. Were it not for Mr. Debs, one never would hear of Terre Haute. The impressive thing in connection with the Debs homecoming was thefeat of legerdemain performed by the esteemed telegraph in providing accommodations for 50,000 persons. Terre Haute can take care of about 600 spectators, the telegraph forecast a crowd of 30,000 and found places for 50,000."

"The idea that 50,000 people could be crowded into Terre Haute is grotesque. Indeed that city of 60,000 could not be expected to take care of more than 600 spectators. And who would ever have heard of Terre Haute but for Debs? The fact that Abraham Lincoln heard about it and went there for a member of his Cabinet; that Hayes heard about it and went there for a member of his; that it was the home of Voorhees and Colonel Nelson could hardly be expected to come within the range of the Philadelphian's information. He knows about Mait Quay and Boles Penrose—and there he stops. The fact that the Rose Polytechnic Institute has educated quite a number of Philadelphians could scarcely have reached Mr. House. But we are surprised that a Philadelphian is not familiar with the name of Champagne Velvet and the race track where so many records were made and so many Philadelphians were relieved of their money."

Fire Prevention

That fire prevention work in Indianapolis resulted in the saving of a half million dollars appears from the records of the fire department for the year just ended. The gross loss from fires in 1921 was \$1,262,750, as compared with \$1,182,930 for 1920. The number of fire alarms for 1920 was 3,465, as compared with 3,108 for 1921, thus proving that the reduction in the fire loss was really due to fewer fires rather than to better control of those fires that occurred.

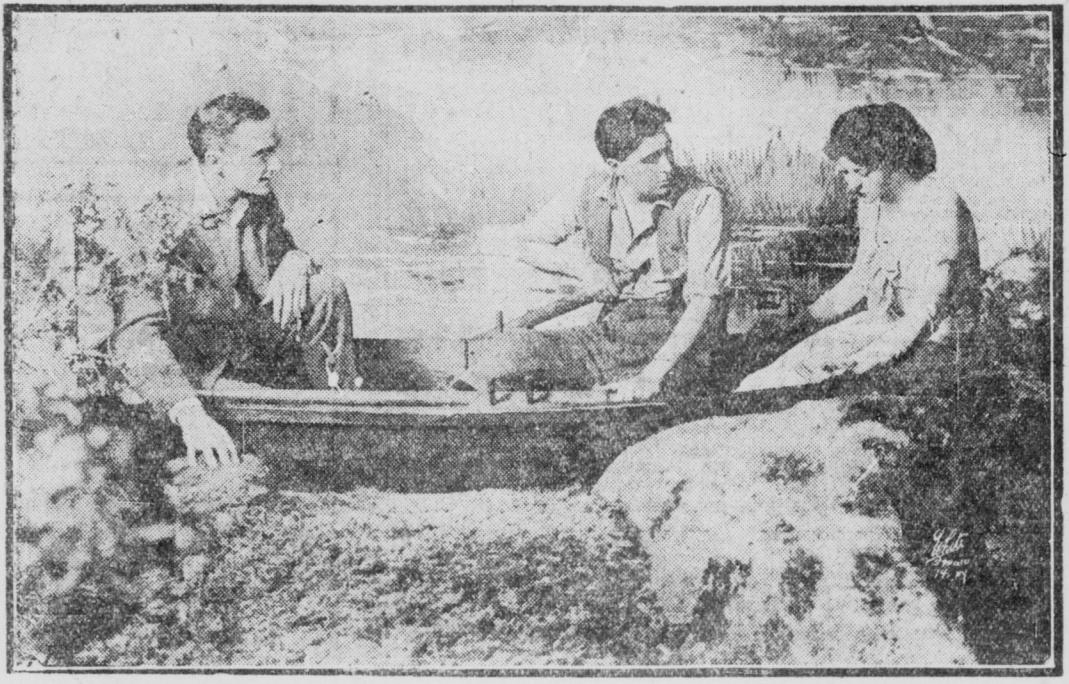
Thus it is again demonstrated that an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure, for in the accomplishment of that work which resulted in the saving of half a million, there were only a few thousand dollars expended.

It is also significant that the movement for the prevention of fires was quasi official in its nature. There was ready and proper cooperation on the part of the city administration, but the real results were accomplished by citizens who gave of their time and ability without pay.

Indianapolis citizens can accomplish much when they determine to face the few obstacles presented and work for a better city.

RUTH AND 'MARY ROSE' WILL BE A REMINDER

Of Spring and the Good Old Summer Time When Revealed at English's



IT TAKES STUDY

TO PLAY A BARBIE ROLE.

What preparation and theatrical education would seem necessary to make an actress a successful interpreter of the inclusive J. M. Barrie?

The followers of the little Scotch playwright are a clannish and worshipful lot and each individual has opinions of his own, firm and emphatic, concerning the varied qualities demanded of the player for the fitting portrayal of the unusual characters peopling the stories from the hands of their idol.

The following is a discriminating jury, rendering a first Barrie role, requires much courage, determination and painstaking preparation. The task is far from a simple or easy one.

So, to Ruth Chatterton, now playing the heroine of Barrie's "Mary Rose," in which she is to be seen here at the English tomorrow, should go a generous amount of credit and a hearty round of credit for the degree in which she has satisfied even the most critical and particular of the Barbelies.

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