

Indiana Daily Times

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Now Who Is Right?

Regardless of several announcements to the contrary it appears on no less an authority than that of C. Gray, chief engineer of the State highway commission, that the road specifications of Indiana have not been altered so as to bring brick and asphalt to a competitive level with cement concrete.

Mr. Gray, under date of Dec. 21, writes to R. L. Bernath of Fulton County, Ohio, as follows:

"We receive bids on pavements only, namely bituminous concrete on a six-inch concrete base, vitrified brick on a five-inch concrete base, and one course plain concrete, seven inches at the edges and eight inches in the center. Due to the high cost of brick and asphalt pavements, it is quite likely that the greater portion of our program for the coming year will be concrete. Both the concrete and asphalt roads, which we laid to date, having laid approximately 125 miles of concrete and 10 miles of bituminous concrete since the commission was organized, have been very satisfactory."

The information which Mr. Gray furnished the Ohio surveyor is in direct contradiction of statements put out here in Indiana by the commission in which it was declared that the road specifications had been changed so as to enable the brick and asphalt contractors to compete with the cement concrete road builders.

There is something radically wrong in the highway department of Governor McCray's administration and the Governor himself is cognizant of that fact.

Throughout the Goodrich administration the cement concrete road contractors had a merry carnival over the State contracts. They laid approximately 125 miles of one course cement concrete roads without expansion joints or steel reinforcement, at a cost to the State that was greater per yard than Marion county spent for two-course steel reinforced cement concrete roads with expansion joints.

The specifications in effect in the Goodrich administration called for the least expensive cement concrete construction known to engineers. They also called for asphalt and brick construction that was of the highest class. When bids were received on the three types of roads the cement concrete builders were invariably the lowest and they got nearly all the business on that theory, regardless of the respective merits of the type of roads they proposed to build.

Recently the unfairness of the specifications was called to the attention of Governor McCray and some changes were made in them. It was declared by the commission that the changes would tend to equalize the differences in the costs of the three types of roads and that there would be competition between the contractors under the changed specifications.

Now we find the commission's chief engineer contradicting the commission and advising that "due to the high cost of brick and asphalt pavements, it is quite likely that the greater portion of our program for the coming year will be concrete."

The people of Indiana would like to know whether the "high costs of brick and asphalt pavements" is a high cost artificially created by specifications drawn to favor the cement concrete contractors or whether it is a natural condition.

They would like to know whether, in predicting that the "greater portion" of a road program, consisting of between 125 and 150 miles of highway, is to be cement concrete, Mr. Gray is speaking for the administration or himself.

And above all, the taxpayers of Indiana would like to know whether they are to pay for the next 100 miles of State highways the same exorbitant prices for inferior pavements that they were compelled to pay for the first 100 miles under the supervision of the discredited L. H. Wright.

Mr. Gray certainly is not speaking for the taxpayers of Indiana when he declares that the 125 miles of cement concrete highways laid to date by the commission "have been very satisfactory."

These highways have not been satisfactory for the reason that the cost thereof was out of all proportion to the value received and for the further reason that there is already evidence that the pavements will not stand the traffic to which they are subjected in some localities.

Crime and Criminals

Comes now one Amos Butler, secretary of the State board of charities, and blandly presents for the edification of those who do not think the argument that because there were fewer persons in the penal institutions of the State in 1921 than in 1915 it follows that there was less crime in 1921 than in 1915!

And unquestionably, Mr. Butler is sincere in his argument. In his official position he deals with statistics relative to convictions and prisoners. In his myopic view there is no crime committed unless there is a prisoner by which to prove the crime. Consequently, when he casts up the number of prisoners on hand he measures the number of crimes committed by that figure and has no trouble in convincing himself that there is no crime either here or elsewhere. For, reasons Mr. Butler, there cannot be a crime without a prisoner and if we have no prisoners we cannot have any crimes.

Following this theory to its conclusion, would it not be well to release all the State prisoners, turn all the State penal institutions into penitentiaries and specifically warn all officers of the law against making any arrests that would indicate the commission of a crime?

For, if a few prisoners in our reformatory indicate less crime, would it not be logical to declare that no prisoners at all indicate no crime at all?

Interesting indeed are the figures presented by Mr. Butler for the reason that they prove what has long been suspected—that the law enforcement agencies are not functioning properly.

Mr. Butler says:

"The commitments to the Indiana State prison during the year 1915 numbered 454, and in 1921, 355; to the reformatory in 1915 the number was 623, and in 1921, 831; to the women's prison in 1915, 15, and in 1921, 25. The total number of commitments to the three institutions during 1915 was 1,091, and during 1921, 1,189."

"Now turning to the county jails, the total number of persons confined in the county jails in Indiana during the year 1915 was 45,750, and during 1921, 24,934. Of those who served sentence during 1915 there were 14,644, and during 1921, 3,596."

Here, indeed, do we have the evidence as to why there is so much crime in the State. Here it is disclosed that in spite of an increasing population in the communities there is a fewer number of law violators sentenced to prison.

But, of course, it never occurred to Mr. Butler that crimes are generally committed by the criminals who are not in our penal institutions, rather than by those who are in confinement.

Action at Last!

The board of works order to the street car company to put into immediate effect the skip-stop and middle of the block loading recommended by the society of engineers is a commendable start toward the solving of the city's transportation problems.

For entirely too long a period we have had discussion and theorizing. It now appears that we are to have some action.

Of course there will be walls from a certain part of our population which still lives in the days of the mule cars, which might be flagged at any place in the block, and bitterly resents anything that savors of progress. But the great majority of street car patrons will welcome any practice that makes it unnecessary for them to spend almost as much time on the street cars as they would spend walking to and from their homes.

Skip-stops impose a hardship on no one. They speed up the cars, reduce the company's operating expenses and materially cut into that shortage of equipment of which the company makes an annual complaint.

Loading at other points than the busy corners of the downtown streets will, of course, render useless those massive concrete piles that the Jewett administration installed at several congested intersections, but that ought not to be unsatisfactory, especially since it will afford the present administration opportunity to build some more of them.

The thing about the board order that will appeal to the clear-thinking man as of most benefit is the promptness with which it was enacted and the incorporation of the word "immediately." It appears that the present administration intends to do something besides talk about better street car service.

12,000 THEATERS TO JOIN In Tenth Anniversary of Motion Picture Industry

Approximately twelve thousand theaters throughout the United States will join in the tenth anniversary celebration of the multiple-reel feature picture. Every town and hamlet in the country will be given an opportunity to participate in the big birthday party for the newest of the arts—the motion picture.

The motion picture has come a long way since Sarah Bernhardt starred in "Queen Elizabeth," the first multiple-reel feature of an artistic nature, ten years ago. The grandmothers of Adolph Zukor, the president of the Motion Picture Corporation and theater owners as well as producers are planning to celebrate this advancement by many special features of entertainment during the month of March.

Some of the big productions which will be released during the anniversary month include "Cecil B. DeMille's" "Paradise," "Wallace Reid in 'The World's Champion'" and "The Dragon Claw," the first of the spectacular U. F. A. production, "The Mistress of the World," which is to be released as a series of four Paramount pictures.

ZONE GALE BEGAN WRITING
AT THE AGE OF SEVEN.

Zone Gale, the author of "Miss Lucretia Bett," which Brock Pemberton will present at the Murat, beginning Monday, started writing at the mature age of seven years.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, she served an apprenticeship in the New York World, writing many and varied short stories and sketches. But the call of the Middle West was too strong for even the varied interests of New York City to resist and Miss Gale returned to the little white house in Portage, Wis., where the intervals of tending her garden, she began writing the multiple tales of that small-town life which she knew so well. Perhaps the best known of her works are the five books on "Friendship Village," "Pelleas and Etarree," "Birth" and finally "Miss Lucretia Bett."

Miss Gale is essentially a product of the Middle West, and knows by heart the small-town life and characters which she so vividly and realistically puts into her book, and which she dramatized so successfully in "Miss Lucretia Bett."

When she was in New York City last winter attending the rehearsals of "Miss

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

LENO COUNTY JAIL, RENO, NEV.

Dear K. C. B.—I am a railway postal clerk in Uncle Sam's mail service. Two years ago, when living costs were so high, and my salary was \$100 per month, trouble overtook me. My wife was very sick and the doctor said an operation in the next twenty-four hours was the only thing that would save her life. The hospital demanded cash, and I had only a \$50 Liberty bond. So, K. C. B., I stole the money to pay the bill. More operations were needed and I stole more money. And then the doctor said she should go to the coast, and I stole the money to pay the bill.

FRED S. RIDLEY.

MY DEAR Fred.

IF I were broke.

AND MY wife were ill.

AND I needed money.

TO SAVE her life.

IF I GET the money.

AND IF I were weak.

AND LACKED the grit.

THAT ONE must have.

TO SEE one's way.

THROUGH TROUBLED days.

THEN IT may be.

THAT I would steal.

AND IF I then.

SHOULD LAY the blame.

FOR WHAT I'd done.

UPON THE thing.

THAT I stole for.

MORE SURELY then.

WOULD I be weak.

AND IN your case.

IT SEEMS to me.

YOUR WEAKNESS lay.

IN THAT you chose.

THE EASIEST way.

WHEN IT may be.

YOU MIGHT have found.

SOME OTHER way.

IT is that.

WHO ALWAYS choose.

WHAT LOOKS to them.

THE EASIEST way.

WHO SOON or late.

FIND THEY have picked.

THE ROUGHEST way.

AND I who preach.

AM NOT sure.

WHAT I would have done.

HAD I been you.

AND IN distress.

THANK you.

GRADUATION OF EIGHTH GRADES

McCulloch School Holds Exercises Friday Night.

Graduating exercises of the 8A class of the Oscar McCulloch public school No. 5, 612 West Washington street, will be held at the statehouse at 7:45 o'clock Friday evening.

The exercises will be largely of a patriotic character and a short play on Americanization will be given. The address of the evening and presentation of diplomas will be by Judge W. W. Thornton of Superior Court, room 1. Members of the graduating class are: Ralph Boles, Lester Denny, Nellie Denny, Goldie Dillon, Clarence Eakin, Laurene Golay, Eleanor Hill, Earl Horton, Kathleen Hulick, Thea Houston, Ardine Luedke, Marion Madelaine, Dorothy May, Willie Phillips, Arthur Reeder, Vera Windard.

Closing exercises of the 9A class of the Brightwood Junior High School were held yesterday afternoon in the assembly room of the school. A short talk was made to the graduating class by the Rev. Ray E. Ragsdale, pastor of the Brightwood M. E. Church.

Excess of expenses over income..... \$5,800.00

From the foregoing example you readily see that you are not subject to tax, although under the law of the land the law you must file a return.

A husband and wife living together having a net income of \$2,000 or over must file a return. Separate returns may be filed, or the income of both may be included in one return. If the gross (net not) income of both was \$5,000 or over, return must be filed in accordance with the above.

PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS ALLOWED.

A single person is allowed a personal exemption of \$1,000.

A married person, provided his or her net income is under \$5,000 (note the amount), is allowed a personal exemption of \$2,000.

If husband and wife make separate returns, the personal exemption may be taken by either or divided between them, whichever is the higher. If the husband claims \$2,500 exemption, then the wife in her return cannot claim a deduction as personal exemption.

For each person dependent upon and receiving his chief support from you, if such person is under 18 years of age, or is incapable of self-support because mentally or physically, a personal exemption is allowed of \$400.

Section 216-C of the law states: "There is also the reduction of the personal exemption from \$2,500 to \$2,000 operate to increase the tax, which would be payable if the exemption were \$2,500, by more than the amount of the net income in excess of \$5,000."

This is illustrated in the following table: Assuming a married man (no children) after compiling his return has a net income of \$5,000, his tax would be:

\$ OVER \$5,000 MAKES HIM TAKE THE \$2,000 EXEMPTION.

Net income..... \$5,000.00

Less personal exemption..... 2,000.00

Balance taxable..... \$3,000.00

At 4 per cent, or..... 120.16

Surtax..... .04

..... \$120.20

TAX WITH EXEMPTION OF \$2,500 APPLIED.

Net income..... \$5,000.00

Less personal exemption..... 2,500.00

Balance taxable..... \$2,500.00

At 4 per cent, or..... 100.12

Surtax..... .04

..... \$100.12

As \$4 over a \$5,000 net income means an increased tax of \$20, Section 216-C protects such a taxpayer, in this case, would mean a tax of \$104.20 (\$100.00 plus the amount over \$5,000 of \$20, or \$20 of \$104.20).

TAX RATES.

The normal income tax on net income after deducting the personal exemption is