

Indiana Daily Times

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THOSE THREE JITNEYS will hardly be sufficient to relieve the congestion in traffic, however.

MERCY! The school board is going to meet weekly instead of every two weeks as heretofore.

YESTERDAY the city hall rested while Mayor Shank enlightened some of our neighboring populations!

WHY NOT move the Shriver avenue bridge to approaches on Delaware street instead of building another?

TESTIMONIALS for Senator New continue with a regularity that indicates there is something else besides spontaneity behind them!

INCIDENTALLY, the law says that a suitable place shall be provided for the impounding of dogs and the present quarters do not appear to be suitable.

For Lower Rates

Lower electric light rates for the people of Indianapolis are practically assured with the announcement of the public service commission that it will open the whole subject of rate schedules in connection with the petition now pending for a revision of power schedules.

The petition is set down for hearing on Feb. 17 and in the meanwhile annual reports will be filed by the two electric utilities. It is known that the Indianapolis Light and Heat Company's report will disclose that the present rate schedule is yielding it a greater return on its valuation than can be reconciled with the intent of the public utility law and there is no likelihood of opposition from this company to a reduction in the schedules.

The situation brought about by the competing companies is peculiar. The public service commission cannot make rates for one company and different rates for another, but it appears from the operation during the last year that rates which are not unreasonable when viewed from the one company's premises are too high when viewed from the standpoint of the other.

The natural inclination of the public service commission is to provide a reasonable earning for each of these two companies, but the consumer doubtless views the predicament of the one company and of the commission as of no particular concern to him. He wants as low a rate for electricity as it is possible for him to have and will contend that it is the business of the commission to establish such a rate regardless of the effect in the competitive field.

Cognizance of this situation appears to have been taken by the Merchants Heat and Light Company, which has not been heard to protest over the prospective reduction of electric rates.

In this hearing, the consumer does not stand to lose in the popular plea for a reduction of utility rates, a fact that makes the case considerably different from any that has been heard by the commission since the wartime conditions brought so many utilities to its door.

Bonus Prospects

Washington correspondents who are not hampered by the necessity of pleasing Republican editors back home do not hesitate to say that the administration has no present intention of granting a bonus to ex-service men. They regard the proposed bonus taxes as methods evolved for the purpose of creating sentiment against a bonus rather than as methods to raise the money necessary to pay them.

President Harding's position is described as that of a man who is shifting from his stand during the primaries to a stand as the Nation's executive through a tortuous course that involves getting around certain obstacles in the form of promises without breaking them. Mr. Harding is declared to remain in favor of a soldiers' bonus, but not so thoroughly in favor of it as to be willing to assume responsibility for a method of raising the money to pay it.

As one correspondent says, the Republican Administration has discovered that there are more taxpayers than ex-service men and it is now confronted with the possibility of the loss of the support of the taxpayers through the granting of a bonus, just as it is threatened with the loss of the support of the ex-service men if it fails to provide a bonus. How to retain the support of these two elements is a question that Congress would like to have Mr. Harding to solve. And the only solution that has yet been evolved lies in "indefinite postponements" such as will keep both the ex-service men and the taxpayers guessing.

As was stated in these columns only a few days ago, it is apparent that the business interests which are in control of the Republican party do not propose to pay the soldiers' bonus and it does not at this time seem possible to saddle it on the little fellow. Until the money can be raised for the bonus without interfering with the big interests and without alienating the votes of the little fellow, there will be no bonus.

Mr. Ralston's Decision

The announcement of Samuel M. Ralston that he will not be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for United States Senator is a distinct disappointment to thousands of members of his party who saw in his candidacy the prospect of a rehabilitation of the party organization and an excellent opportunity to recover Indiana.

Mr. Ralston's refusal to seek the nomination is based purely on personal reasons over which none may dispute with him, but it is nevertheless a hard blow for Democrats.

With the prospect of Mr. Ralston's candidacy out of the way there are a large number of aspirants and "possibilities" coming to the fore and it does not seem unlikely that there will be a contest in the party ranks over the nomination. Mr. Thomas Taggart might obtain the nomination without opposition were he inclined to listen to appeals from all parts of the State. But, Mr. Taggart has steadfastly refused to sanction the suggestion and it is known that he was very much in favor of Mr. Ralston for the position. Whether with Mr. Ralston removed from the list of possibilities he will look on the matter in a different light remains to be seen.

This year is an excellent time for the Democrats to unite in the support of a proper candidate and elect a United States Senator.

Corrigan's Case

In the matter of John Corrigan, patrolman, charged with neglect of duty, the board of safety has chosen the expedient course rather than the legal or proper method of dealing with a recalcitrant member of the police department.

Corrigan received an order from the board to report to the police physician for examination as to his fitness to remain on the force. He failed to report as directed and the board quite properly took steps to uphold its order. Corrigan pleaded that he was prevented from reporting to the physician by conditions he could not control, but he admits having been advised by some other authority than the board not to continue attempts to report and he admits having acted on that advice.

Thus, he opens the question of whether the board's orders may be set aside by another authority and in failure to punish Corrigan the board admits that such is the possibility.

Inasmuch as it avers, at least for the time, friction between the board and the mayor, the recession of the board has its advantages. But precedent is dangerous and the issue remains unsettled.

AD MILLER AND 'HICK' APPEAR IN COURT SCENE

In 'Lightnin,' but It Was Milt on Nobles Who Got All Applause

BY WALTER D. HICKMAN.

I made my stage debut yesterday afternoon.

I sure did.

I didn't receive any applause because

Lightnin' Bill Jones grabbed off all of

the applause and wouldn't share honors

with me at all.

Yesterday afternoon, I journeyed over

to English's to interview Milton Nobles,

that grand old veteran who is turning

all box office records upside down

and doubling them in

"Lightnin'."

Manager A. P. Miller,

known as Ad

Miller, suggested

that I go on in the

courtroom scene

and "report" the

trial. Matthew Allen,

company manager,

thought it

was a "grand idea,"

but "actin' up"

in my line, I began

to balk. I was

assured that all I

would have to do

was to walk in and

take a seat.

"Act just as you do

in Judge Collins'

court every day," Mr. Miller advised.

"But who will guide me?" I asked.

"I'll go with you," said Mr. Miller.

And it was settled, but I learned afterwards

that Miller "rehearsed" his

entrance and exit several times without

telling me anything about it.

"Of course you know this isn't my first

time on the stage," said Miller. "Oh, no,

I appeared with Fred Stone the last time

he was here. It was in the circus scene."

Somehow or other, Ad Miller is getting

more like Lightnin' Bill Jones every day.

(Get the idea?)

At the close of the first act, Mr. Miller

and Mr. Allen escorted me back stage.

This courtroom was just being put

together. A ceiling was being hung. The

"clerk" of the court was placing the

judge's chair on the bench and dusting

the judge's bench and chair is dusted better

in this show than it is in many a real

courtroom I have been in.

Mr. Allen took us on the stage and in-

troduced us to the court reporter and

the sheriff.

"Shall I take my hat off?" asked Mil-

ler.

"Sure, take it off," answered Allen.

"Now sit down on the bench near the

witness chair," directed Mr. Allen. "You

will get by all right," he said to me.

About that time the sheriff sat down

in a chair near a table, put his feet on

it and began reading a paper. The court

clerk went to his desk.

And then the curtain went up.

Miller whispered to me, "How do you

feel?"

"Like —" I whispered.

"I know, I know," he laughed in a

whisper.

The footlights blinded me at first.

Gosh, how glad I was I didn't have any-

thing to say.

Miller poked me in the ribs and said:

"There is Nelson Trowbridge laughing

because of the way you are acting."

About that time the sheriff rapped and

announced, "The Judge."

As I have covered courts for a dozen

years, and then come, I rose just like

I do each morning in Judge Collins' court

when he takes the bench.

Judge Trowbridge didn't pay one bit of

attention to the press. (These actor folk

are all business. No time for play with

these people.)

After I had found that my legs were

strong enough to support me while

greeting the court, I settled back on

the bench again and tried to conceal

myself behind the witness bench.

Miss Bacon, consulting an audience and

yet she didn't appear to be acting. She

was no different than hundreds of women

who appear in the courts of this country

with the exception there is no love affair

between the witness and the court.

The sheriff of the court in this play

was the important part just as he gener-

ally is in a real court room.

The clerk generally has a sense of humor

and the court clerk in "Lightnin'" was

After the court retired and then re-

appeared. I rose to my feet with perfect

calm. I wasn't troubled in the least that

time.

"Does a reporter have to stand in a

real court?" Ad Miller asked me.

"He sure does," I replied.

"Then Milton Nobles as Lightnin' Bill

Jones arrived on the scene in his old

Army uniform. The house went wild."

Then for the first time I felt the

"warmth" of the audience. A something

came stealing over the footlights the

second that Lightnin' Bill came on the

stage. While the applause was going on

Mr. Nobles noticed Ad Miller and myself.

He didn't step out of character and

passed us up as if we hadn't been there.

There is no room for kidding or fooling

in this company. The play is the thing

you know.

I watched the facial expression of

Lightnin' Bill and for the life of me I

couldn't tell who Bill was and who

Nobles was Nobles. The transformation

was so complete.

I felt the response of the audience

when Bill and John Marvin began to

stampede the city engineers in the court-

room. I heard the roar of laughter and

then when as if by magic I saw under

the scrutiny of Mr. Nobles, the chuckle

and the laugh of the audience melt into

a subdued sob. As Bill told Mr. Nobles

would go back to the soldiers' home and

stay there until, until—

And I want to tell you that all the time

that Milton Nobles had the audience

in this scene, he is "actin' up" every

minute. His facial expression changes

and follows the action of the play just

the same whether the audience sob or

laugh or not.

Milton Nobles is the actor every

minute, giving his audience the very best

that his fifty years' experience on the

stage has awarded him.

I came pretty near breaking up the

show and going to jail for contempt."

As I was just in the act of applauding

with the audience until I caught the eye

of Judge Townsend and then I remem-

bered, I was in a courtroom.

I said to myself, "You wouldn't ap-

plaud a witness in Judge Moll's court-

room, would ye? And I knew I wouldn't

think of such things.

The curtain came down as Bill and Ma

embraced and made up.

Some one whispered to me, "Exit."

I grabbed my hat.

"I want you to meet Nobles," Ad Mil-

ler said.

Horror, I said, he has to take this

curtain call.

"I forgot," said Miller, as he turned

his back on the audience and made his

exit.

I followed.

The audience was applauding like mad.

I knew that the audience was prepared

to honor Mr. Nobles and so Lightnin' Bill

went before the footlights.

As I stood in a fussed sort of a way

on the stage, Captain English came up

and said: "Congratulations. You did

well."

I am glad, really glad that one person

at English's yesterday afternoon appre-

ciated my debut.

Then I met Judge Townsend (Barney

Glumore).

He was no longer the "Judge."

"Glad to meet you," he said. "Ex-

cuse me, I must change for the next act."

Then Milton Nobles grabbed my hand.

Or was it Lightnin' Bill Jones?

He led me to the door of Mr. Nobles' dressing

room.

"My wife is dressing for the next act,"

he said.

Ye TOWNE GOSSIP

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By K. C. B.

ALONG ABOUT TWO.

ON EVERY morning.

A ROOSTER crows.

NOT VERY far.

FROM WHERE I sleep.

AND FROM his voice.

A DEEP bass voice.

I JUDGE he has.

A GREAT long neck.

AND A very fat neck.

AND UNTIL he crows.

IT'S SO very still.

IN OUR neighborhood.

THAT WHEN he crows.

I SIT right up.

AND THEN sink back.

AND ANYWAY.

WHEN HE has crows.

I'VE LEARNED to wait.