

Indiana Daily Times

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MOTHER M'CORMICK is trying to close the door of a certain Swiss very stable, it seems.

SOMETIMES it looks as if when the blacksmiths went out of business they got jobs selling soda water.

THE LATEST official check of the Speedway returns shows no changes in the positions of the drivers.

WHEN A man says, "I run things at my house," he often means the lawn mower and the washing machine.

INDIANAPOLIS citizens who obtained their mail several hours earlier today will be strong boosters for aerial postal service after this.

HARRY C. HENDRICKSON evidently reasons there is no use being county attorney if he can't be Republican county chairman. Hence he resigns.

IF HENRY FORD could count on the support of every one of his car owners he could be considered a dangerous presidential possibility. But he can't.

INDIANAPOLIS burglars are improving. They not only apologize to women for robbing them, but leave notes telling merchants they did not have to muss up their offices.

The Democratic Platform

The Democratic party, through the platform adopted yesterday and which should commend itself to those citizens who feel the State government has drifted into the hands of bureaucracy and its twin evil, an intolerably high tax rate, wisely "recognizes no class distinction and asks the voters of Indiana to join it in restoring home rule, reduction of taxes and in aiding in placing Indiana's affairs on a business basis." Therein lies the strength of the Democratic appeal.

Naturally, the platform was not filled with as many platitudes as were incorporated in the Republican planks of a week ago, and for the same reason it contained more condemnatory utterances. It was the Republican job to "point with pride" and the Democratic task to "view with alarm," and both performed accordingly.

Unfortunately, however, the convention lapsed into the same blunder that the Republicans did—a meaningless attack upon the public service commission.

The Democrats pledge themselves to restore the public utilities law by necessary legislation to its original purposes and standing. If the Republican control for more than five years has so weakened its usefulness that this cannot be done, we pledge its abolition." A week ago the Republicans recommended "that the next Legislature either abolish the Democratic public utilities law, or so amend it as to make it responsive to the people's welfare."

Both planks were framed to catch the votes of those opposed to the commission and those in favor of it.

The convention wisely predicated its main issues upon the management of State affairs and called for a reduction in tax rates and decentralization of governmental authority.

It proposes the repeal of the Goodrich tax law, unquestionably the most odious ever enacted in the State, and the restoration of a law whereby the State board assumes its original status, one of appeal and equalization. It proposes to give the people—the people who foot the bills—a voice in affairs by submitting bond issues to a referendum, instead of to three members of the tax board, as the present law requires. Unquestionably this will prove a popular stand, but unless the Legislature skillfully frames the law it is likely to prove a cumbersome method.

Other stands, such as curbing the powers of the State board of health, the checking of huge expenditures by the State highway commission, the curtailment of the powers of the State board of accounts, the abolition of useless boards and offices and the restoration of public salaries to a pre-war basis, will present a strong appeal to the voters.

Sound judgment in the main seemed to prevail in the convention, both in regards to the adoption of a platform and in the selection of candidates, and to the credit of the delegates it should be noted that they ignored the radical proposals of the so-called home-rule group, which had its principal strength in Marion County.

Where the Sympathy Belongs

When a railway train strikes an automobile which has been carelessly driven upon the tracks at a grade crossing, turning the car into a mass of crumpled steel and killing or maiming the occupants, the person most entitled to sympathetic consideration seldom gets it. He is the locomotive engineer. He does everything within his power to prevent injuries and loss of life, and yet, in spite of all he can do, reckless drivers often turn his run into a nightmare.

The June issue of the Illinois Central Magazine, in announcing the campaign which will be carried on by all the railroads of the country from June 1 to Sept. 30, to get the drivers of motor vehicles to use greater caution at railway grade crossings, publishes statements from twenty-one of the seasoned engineers of the Illinois Central system, giving their views of the grade crossing peril.

"I have seen men with nerves of iron, men who are gray from years of service as engineers, sit down and weep after striking an automobile and killing the occupants," says Charles J. Barnett, whose locomotive pulls the Panama Limited, the Illinois Central's crack train, between Memphis, Tenn., and Canton, Miss. "Automobiles cause us more uneasiness than any other part of our work. We have automatic block signals to protect us from a defective switch or a broken rail, but we have no protection from an insane person who will deliberately drive into the jaws of death."

A number of the engineers quoted in the magazine advocate the passage of laws which will require the drivers of vehicles, under penalty, to stop, look and listen before proceeding over a grade crossing. Given the laws, they urge their strenuous enforcement.

The article states that forty-one persons were killed and 18 persons were injured in 406 automobile grade crossing accidents last year on that railway system alone.

During the four months of the "careful crossing campaign," railway employees will do everything they can to prevent accidents, but it is pointed out that ultimate success lies in the cooperation of the public.

For the Good of the Play

It looks very much as if Jack Pickford, film star, will have a game of patient waiting similar to that of Allister McCormick, if Marilyn Miller, Jack's fiancee, holds to her recent statement that their wedding will be "a long time off."

Like the average young girl, Miss Miller, star in "Sally," a Ziegfeld girl, is willing to ponder the fatherly advice of Florenz Ziegfeld, who asked her to consider twice before marrying any one just now.

Miller objects to Pickford because of his bad war record. Little need of this before, but Pickford has grasped it as the one straw to Marilyn from the film star which indicates that a war record can be against one in civil as well as military life.

As bad as his war record, it could not so materially influence the happiness of Marilyn's married life as consequences of wild parties which Pickford has been known to attend, one of which directly preceded the death of his first wife.

It is not often that a theatrical manager is interested in the personal affairs of his company, but Ziegfeld, who is a proven connoisseur of girlhood beauty, intimates that it is to the interest of the production that he protect the star of "Sally," now playing in Boston.

Either Miss Miller is taking Ziegfeld's advice because of his relation to her position as star, or she is not sufficiently enamored to oppose an adviser against her choice.

REAL LIQUOR UNAVAILABLE, SAY OFFICERS

Prohibition Director Says Result Is Due to Cooperation.

ATLANTA, Ga., June 2.—"Real liquor for beverage purposes is practically unavailable; the bootlegger market is diminishing daily because of universal fear of their poisonous product, the home brew fad is waning and moonshiners are on the run."

These statements are made by Federal Prohibition Commissioner Haynes in a letter to Fred D. Dismuke, Federal prohibition director for Georgia, congratulating him on the strict enforcement of prohibition in this State.

The prohibition commissioner attributes these results to "cutting off sources of supply, especially on the part of enforcement agencies of every character, backed by crystallized public sentiment and aroused press." He also gives credit to helpful cartoonists, many convictions by juries and stiffer sentences by courts and to action by Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs and similar organizations.

The letter followed the last report of Federal Commissioner Georgia, showing an increase of 10 per cent in all lines of enforcement activity.

"The eighteenth amendment is being enforced to an extent greater than ever dreamed possible," Commissioner Haynes wrote, "and is a pleasure to command the progress that is being made in our State through your excellent corps of officers."

CHICAGO, June 2.—Many women have been swindled by an old posing as a gambler. He tells his victims their husbands instructed him to get money from them to buy seed for their lawns.

CHICAGO, June 2.—"Young Avery Smith's A foolish wop; He argued with A traffic cop."

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Jollies of the Minute

BY FRED MYERS.

A handsome figure