

The Indianapolis Times

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Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!—Psalms 133:1.

Preserving Vision

"BETTER Vision," subject of a talk by R. C. Augustine of Decatur, Ill., president emeritus of the American Optometric Association, given for the benefit of Indianapolis school children and industrial workers, is indeed a timely subject.

For many years people did not realize that to face the light while reading or working was injurious to the eyes, and many school children and office and factory workers were compelled to sit facing a window while working.

Oftentimes, too, artificial lights are placed so far from the person's work that the eyes are put under a decided strain.

In this age of motion pictures and fast moving vehicles, where the eyes are forced to comprehend objects rapidly from the automobile or the car window, the eyes are exercised beyond the apprehension of folks who lived in the slow-moving days of our forefathers.

It seems that more and more is being required of the delicate muscles of the eyes, and it behooves us to take every precaution to care for our eyesight, the most important of our five physical senses. Anything adding to the education of the public on so essential a matter as preserving sight should receive every encouragement.

Life's Responsibility

THE freedom from financial responsibility of the wife who leads a carefree life may be her greatest liability if by chance she is divorced or widowed and forced to "fight life's battles alone," judging from a note left by the wife of a Chicago business man when she committed suicide.

The girl who has always made her own way in the world is used to the hardships and takes them as a matter of course, but to the woman who has led a chignon life it is worse than death to battle for herself.

Perhaps it would be wise for those wives who are sheltered and protected to step into the more serious world occasionally, learn the ups and downs, and become accustomed to the environment so that it will not seem so terrible to them when they are forced to become a part of it themselves. Many already do this by going into stores and factories doing social relief work, or taking up some line of business to which they can devote their attention.

It is to be regretted that it ever becomes necessary for women to enter the commercial world, as their natural abode is the home, the cares of which, no matter how strenuous, seem to be to their liking.

Moody Is Moody

JOHN Moody, business expert, feels moody. He sees another period of deflation coming late next year. That is, unless farmers get better prices.

Present national prosperity, as Moody sees it, is not well balanced. The farmer's purchasing power is less than before the war, while city people's income averages higher. Until the two become better balanced, Moody doesn't see how there can be a smooth and big-scale exchange of products between city and farm. Sounds sensible. Equilibrium will come.

To make prosperity last, economists say, the farmer must get a bigger share of the nation's income. Otherwise he can't buy much, which automatically curbs sales of city-made products.

So it's good news, from the government, that the farmer's normal buying power is being restored to him. A long way to go yet, but the twelve leading crops at present prices are worth nearly \$1,300,000,000 more than the same crops a year ago.

A Volunteer Hangman

IN these days when complaints are heard on all sides that professions and trades are overcrowded it is refreshing to find a line of human endeavor in which no destructive competition has developed.

An offer to act as hangman recently was received from a New Jersey man by the Illinois judge who is trying the "Herrin massacre" cases. The applicant gives the warden of a New Jersey prison as reference his skill and experience.

Apparently he is a believer in the doctrine of getting on the job early, for the jury which will try the case has not been selected. However, it is not likely that there will be any great stampede of applicants. From the dawn of history there is no record of the profession of executioner becoming so popular that it was necessary to organize its members into unions or to pass laws regulating their activities.

Recognizing American Talent

THINGS do happen in the families of ordinary men sometimes. About a year ago, 14-year-old Marion Tally was one of the many students in a Kansas City music school. Today she has a voice recognized by critics as really great.

Things began to happen when a critic on the Kansas City Star attended her commencement exercises and heard her sing. Then a benefit was given and \$10,000 was raised to further her education.

Marion was taken to New York, where she sang before probably the greatest music critics in the country. They acknowledged that they had discovered an American vocal prodigy.

Her father is a telegraph operator and it was hard for her parents to send her to school. Now she has begun studying in New York.

It seems that now native genius wins recognition as quickly as genius imported from abroad. With more great American artists, probably we won't always have opera programs that read like an Italian menu.

Whose Ox Is Gored

WHEN Senator Bob La Follette criticizes the Supreme Court for throwing out the child labor law as unconstitutional and proposes a congressional "review of decisions," the whole conservative constitutional group has the shivers and brands La Follette as a dangerous radical theorist. But when the big and wealthy shippers of California come to Washington and proceed to overturn a recent decision of the same Supreme Court affecting their interests, that's something entirely different.

Oh, very, very different.

The cause involved in the Southern Pacific-Central Pacific "unmerger," now being heard before the Interstate Commerce Commission, is of very real interest to the entire country.

"The Pacific Railroad," built in '69 with Uncle Sam's money, included the Central Pacific from Ogden to San Francisco, but for years this line has been controlled by the Southern Pacific, which traverses California from end to end and goes east via Portland on the north and El Paso on the south.

In 1921 the Supreme Court held that the S. P. control of the C. P. "is in violation of the Sherman anti-trust act of 1890" and therefore the lines must be unmerged.

This decision seemed to particularly please the Union Pacific, which owns the Salt Lake-San Pedro line running southwest from Salt Lake to Los Angeles. The U. P. folks seemed to think that the decision might enable them to secure possession of the C. P. in some way and thus ultimately take the control of the Pacific Coast railroad situation out of the hands of the S. P.

But the same decision which pleased the Union Pacific so much and which has caused its owners to be so strong "for upbuilding the Supreme Court" has caused profound sorrow in the Southern Pacific camp and made these agree with Mr. La Follette that there ought to be some way "to review decisions of the Supreme Court."

At least, that is the viewpoint of the 250 big shippers of northern and central California who are in Washington, headed by E. O. Edgerton, late president of the California railroad commission, seeking to overturn the Supreme Court decision ordering the S. P. C. P. "unmerger."

What's the Constitution among friends?

Letters to the Editor

OFTEN WHIPPED ARE MEANEST.

To the Editor of The Times:

I would like to know if it is right that there is a law against assault and battery on adults who might get even, and not against poor helpless children who have no way to defend themselves.

Grown-up children cannot be driven to do a thing, neither can children without ruining them. The children who are whipped the most are the meanest and those who are loved and reasoned with are much more agreeable. I say have a law against corporal punishment.

A FRIEND OF CHILDREN.

OVERUSE OF ROD IS WRONG.

To the Editor of The Times:

I am in my 63d year, yet have never tried to break into public print, but this time I shall.

If all the children that were, are and shall be were living around the throne of God in heaven, it would then be very practical to do away with the punishing of children by their parents, but here where our parents conceive and give us life in sin, and where the iniquity of the fathers is visited upon the children unto the third and fourth generation it is absolutely impracticable.

What we sow we shall reap—well, the harvest time generally means tears, sorrow, suffering. This was God's plan according to his word, so why attempt to abridge, obliterate or set aside?

Solomon, the wisest, said, "Spare the rod and spoil the child."

I was an orphan boy and God knows I know what abuse means. I was bound out five different times. I have been beaten with everything they could lay hold of, and sometimes a large hob-nailed boot with a foot in it.

The fear of punishment in all kinds of iniquity is the only safeguard we have to keep everybody and everything from going to the devil. Please do not destroy what moral status we have.

If the golden rule prevailed and the doctrine of love had full sway, then there would be no need of punishing the children or any one else.

Mrs. R. C. Perkins' proposition to do away with child punishment is illogical, irrational and destructive, as long as the world is governed and actuated by conditions that exist today. So in spite of my experience, I favor not doing away with punishment. It is not the use of the rod that is wrong, but its overuse.

JAMES B. WRIGHT.

Permit Us to Say

Suppose you were the Sultan of Turkey? He is away from home and 300 wives running up bills on him.

What this country needs is pipes that will stay lit without puffing.

They threaten to broadcast grand opera in German. But this threat won't make us cancel the debt.

It is estimated cigarettes have burned one billion holes in shirts.

The last rose of summer has gone, but the last nose of the rummer is yet to come.

Ishii is to be made Japanese ambassador to the United States, maybe. Aw, Ishii?

Women never will be men's equals until men object to being kissed.

A fourfuser is a man who is always shown up at a showdown.

A self-made man usually is a man who selected a wife that made him work.

Your luck may be bad, but in St. Louis a man's wife is worth \$400,000 and she is suing for divorce.

Rumors travel so fast because all rumors are wild rumors.

TOM SIMS.

The Jazz Baby

By BERTON BRADLEY

THERE was a time when babies were gently sung to sleep by soft and tender lullabies that brought them slumber deep. They drifted off to sleep in drowsy happy bliss. While mother crooned a little song, a lullaby like this:

"Rock-a-bye baby, on the tree top,
When the wind blows the cradle will rock,
When the bough breaks the cradle will fall,
And down will come baby, cradle and all."

But now it is the age of jazz and even babes in arms are devotees of music that has syncopated charms. And when the infant's bedtime comes, the modern mother raily. Accompanies her lullabies upon the ukelele.

For syncopated rhythm is a universal passion. And so the baby's lullaby runs something in this fashion:

"Rock—rock—rock-a-bye baby,
Mother will buy you a saxophone, maybe;
Hear the wind a-blowin',
Set your shoulders round."

Baby's up a tree, up a tree, up a tree,
Swingin' to the breezes in a minor key.
Oh, my.

Hear the jazz music of my lullaby
When the bough is breakin'
Cradle starts to shakin'
Shakin' like the dancers at a barbers' ball.

Too on the saxophone, bang on the drums,
Jazz 'em up, jazz 'em up—here the baby comes;
Down on the ground you can see him fall,
Baby an' the cradle, an' the cradle an' all!

Baby an' the cradle an' all!
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LA FOLLETTE LEADS PROBE INTO BIG PACKER MERGER

By Times Special

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—To find out just what effect the proposed Armour-Morris packer merger would have on your bill at the corner butcher shop is the purpose of the senatorial investigation launched by Senator La Follette.

The resolution directs Secretary Wallace, to whom the plan has been referred, to supply the Senate with all the information he has at hand. Armour Would Control.

Combining of the two big firms would place under the control of J.

Ogden Armour a gigantic corporation operating 400 branch houses throughout the country and showing sales of approximately one billion dollars a year.

But that's not all—

Government approval of the Armour-Morris merger, it is believed here, would set the precedent for the absorption of Wilson and Cudahy by Swift soon thereafter. And not beyond possibility is the prospect that at some later date Armour and Swift would go together, thus merging the last traces of the "big five" into one

great concern, doing nearly 40 per cent of the nation's meat business.

How this reduced competition would affect the prices charged for meat and the prices paid for cattle is what the Senate wants to know.

Proposed Saving

In the Armour-Morris proposal to Secretary Wallace, it has been declared that the reduction in overhead expenses—meaning less duplication in branch houses, fewer refrigerator cars, etc.—would save at least \$10,000,000 and perhaps \$30,000,000 a year. The growing competition from numerous little independent packing plants, do-

ing a local business on an economical motor truck basis, is cited by the big packers as the reason why they must reduce their overhead.

Those friendly to the packers say that the "big five" are already so interlarded by secret trade agreements that the public would be better protected if the Government recognized and sanctioned an open combination.

The Senate is not so sure. Likewise, the Department of Agriculture has its doubts. The reply to the packers will be made only after an exhaustive study of effects of the amalgamation.

Inez Warns 'Hulda' to Give Up Stage but Country Girl Is Determined on Career

This is the third of a series of six stories by Josephine Van de Grift describing how she, posing as a country girl, sought to get on the stage in New York.

By JOSEPHINE VAN DE GRIFT

NEW YORK, Nov. 27.—Inez—I'll omit her last name although she told me readily—was the type I know now belongs to the steady tramp, tramp, tramp, tramp to the theatrical agencies. She had a snap to her clothes.

The day before I had noticed a girl with snap. She had on a blue suit with white collars and cuffs and a fur thrown carelessly across her shoulders.

Then I saw the waist line of her suit was high—

where they were wearing them three years ago—her blouse was of cheap material and evidently home-

launched, her fur was old and much brushed, her shoes were cracked but highly polished, her white kid gloves had been carefully mended.

How many months of tramping she had done in that little blue suit I forbore to guess. But she was immaculate. And she had style.

So did Inez. Her veil was thrown across her hat with an air, her wrap fell from confident little shoulders. She was exquisitely groomed. Without knowing exactly why you looked at her twice. Which was what I did when I came out of Packard's office. Her eyes looked tired.

"Are you just registering here, too?" I asked.

"Yes, you see, it's been ten years since I was on the stage and now I'm trying to come back." For some reason, possibly a desire to tell our

gave it up ten years ago to get married. Now I've put my boy in school and I'm trying to get back."

The door opened and Packard's voice came through. He was ushering out a caller.

"Don't let anybody ever tell you that an agency exists for the actor," he said. "It doesn't. It exists for the manager. If we place a well-known actor at \$500 or a \$1,000 a week, that's where we make our money. If we place an amateur at \$25 a week, we make just about 30 cents."

The door closed. Inez was still speaking. "—been doing ingenues with Joseph Murphy and then I was with Pauline Boyle. She always said I was the best ingenue she ever had. She's running an agency now. I went over to see her but she couldn't

remember me. I talked and talked and after a while she did begin to remember me. The stage is life to my mother but I wouldn't stick to it if I could do anything else."

Another door opened. Miss Mason had taken off her glasses, had put on her coat and hat with the evident intention of going out to lunch. The door closed—

"I'd like to do social service work. I know I could do it because I've brushed up with all kinds of people and I can read character at a glance. But instead of that they want somebody with a college certificate."

She stopped suddenly.

"Are you just trying to break in?"

"Yes," I said.

She looked at me critically.

"Oh, my dear, the stage is hard. It's hard even on the old-timers. I have a little friend—she was starred last year—this year she's speaking two lines in a road show."

Tramps Streets

"I have another friend—wonderful talent—she held out for two years, just tramping from one agency to another. They'd tell her to come around in two weeks. Then they'd say the part was just filled. One time they rehearsed four weeks and then the show didn't open."

"Finally she didn't even have care to go back and forth. She's got a job at a glove counter now."

"I'd advise you not to go into it, but of course if your heart is set on it—"

"Oh, it is," I breathed.

"Well, I'll tell you. John Golden is trying out amateurs this afternoon over at the Little Theater."

Over at the Little Theater I found 400 persons ahead of me. They crowded the theater, their faces lit up unhealthily by a bunch light which shone from the apron.

John Golden, Midge Kennedy and P. E. McCoy walked out upon the stage.

The next story is on filing two jobs from 400 applicants and my experiences at the Hippodrome.

Daugherty Will Push Trials of War Profiteers

By Times Special

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—While Congressmen Woodruff and Keller are preparing evidence to prove laxity in his prosecution of war frauds as grounds for impeachment proceedings against him, Attorney General Daugherty has announced the filing of four suits to recover \$20,000,000 in war contract overpayments. This amount is said to have been fraudulently obtained in the construction of military cantonments.

These suits, Daugherty said, represent about fifteen months of preparation and work will be supervised by special assistant to the attorney general, Roscoe McCulloch, Federal district attorneys, in the four jurisdictions involved—New York, South Carolina, Ohio and Arkansas—will take charge of the trial work.

"What should be recovered now will be a matter for the courts to determine. Considering the fact that these cases take no precedence over other cases in the courts, they will be tried as soon as all preliminary questions, if any, are raised and disposed of and the courts will assign them. We will use all means in our power to hasten trials and conclusions."

The cantonments and funds involved are: Camp Upton, Yaphank, L. I., \$6,000,000; Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C., \$6,500,000; Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio, \$5,000,000, and Camp Funston, Ft. Riley, Kan.

Husband Sewed in for Winter

AKRON, Ohio, Nov. 27.—"Cleanliness is next to Godliness," says the Bible, but W. C. Carpenter was neither cleanly nor Godly, according to divorce petition filed Tuesday against him by his wife, Mrs. Elsie May Carpenter.

"All last winter he never took a bath," Mrs. Carpenter alleged. Carpenter was so mean, charged his wife, that he tried to stop her from taking her children to Sunday school and abused her whenever he found she had been at church.

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