

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. Augustus 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.

Often times, 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 behoves 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 chaffon 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 out 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 to 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 constitutionalist 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 "unmerging," 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 Cali-

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.

His 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 in war contract overpayments. The growing competition from numerous little independent packing plants, do-

ing a local business on an economic 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 interlocked 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.

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.

IF YOU ARE WELL BRED

You will realize that a typewritten letter is much easier to read than a letter that is written in even the best of handwriting. Consequently you will feel perfectly free to use for practically all social correspondence the little portable typewriter which you have already found practicable for business purposes.

Your signature to a typewritten letter will, of course, be made personally in ink.

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
NEA Service Staff Writer

NEW YORK, Nov. 27.—Inez—I'll omit her last name as the type I know now belongs to the steady tramp, tramp, tramp to the theatrical agencies. She had snap a nap 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 garment was high—where they were wearing them three years ago her blouse was of cheap material and evidently home-laundered, 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 forebore 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 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

troubles, we sank down on two chairs in the anteroom just outside Packard's office door.

"My mother has broken her hip," she explained. "She's an actress, too, so you see I was born in it. I

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.

"Finally she didn't even have car to go back and forth. She's got 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 unhealthy by a bunch light which shone from the apron.

John Golden, Madge Kennedy and P. E. McCoy walked up upon the stage.

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



MISS VAN DE GRIFT



"ARE YOU JUST REGISTERING HERE, TOO?" I ASKED.

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 ingénues 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



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