

The Indianapolis Times

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Member of the Scripps Howard Newspapers • Client of the United Press, United News, United Financial and NEA Service and member of the Scripps Newspaper Alliance. • Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Published daily except Sunday by Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 25-29 S. Meridian Street, Indianapolis. • Subscription Rates: Indianapolis—Ten Cents a Week. Elsewhere—Twelve Cents a Week. • PHONE—MAIN 3500.

BOARD OF HEALTH BUDGET

THE city board of health is asking an increase of \$314,830 in its annual budget. Undoubtedly there will be a protest. There always is when a city or any other governmental department asks for an increase in appropriations. Perhaps such a protest will be justified. Only a close study of the facts will decide.

But there are some things on the board of health budget that appear to be absolutely necessary. Among these is an appropriation for new ambulances. Lack of ambulance service in Indianapolis has amounted almost to a scandal. Persons requiring speedy medical attention should be served at any cost.

There has been much talk recently concerning the necessity for a psychopathic ward at the city hospital. Certainly the treatment of the insane could be improved. Our jails still have in them insane patients who are confined like prisoners because they can be taken care of in no other way. If a psychopathic ward will relieve the situation surrounding the treatment of the insane, let's have a psychopathic ward.

BLESSING MAKES WISE MOVE

COMMISSIONER EDGAR M. BLESSING made a wise move when he stepped out of the Indianapolis Water Company case. He has relieved himself, the commission and every one else concerned of considerable embarrassment.

Mayor Shank probably went considerably farther than facts warranted in his insinuations concerning Blessing, but nevertheless Blessing committed an indiscretion when he accepted the invitation of Clarence H. Geist, president of the water company, to visit him. It is not customary for judges to have social engagements with persons whose cases are pending before them.

The change in the handling of the rate petition is merely in the nature of a change of venue. This practice is common in the courts and is no reflection either on court or party to pending action.

OBSTACLES ALONG YOUR PATH

WE do our best work under difficulties, the same as an army puts up its best fight when trapped in a corner.

No songs ever were written, no orations delivered about an army that had easy picking. Heroic deeds—really big accomplishments—are staged by the warriors who win in the face of desperate odds, such as the handful of men holding the mountain pass or trench until help arrives.

A good thing to keep in mind, when our obstacles seem beyond our powers to handle them.

It's the working of a natural law.

Farmers and amateur gardeners often wonder why crops can't grow as prolifically and with as much strength as weeds.

This is the answer: Weeds grow wild, with no helping hand, and they have to fight hard for existence or perish. They fight hard. That's why they survive.

Take a garden. The vegetables receive almost constant aid from man. They are, in effect, pampered. Through many generations they have come to "expect" this outside aid, in the sense that by having this aid supplied to them they have lost much of the natural vigor and initiative of vegetable life in the wild state.

Progressively, as you take the obstacles away, the garden truck becomes weaker in ability to compete for existence with other growing things. So with all of us.

Obstacles are sent to make us fight, thereby developing our powers, our strength.

Caraveth Wells, explorer, blazed a railroad route through Malay jungles. He and his crew hacked their way through the dense wild growth. When they returned, months later, they found that the surveying stakes which they had driven along the path had grown up into tall bamboo trees. That wouldn't happen with domesticated trees, accustomed through generations to being pampered and aided, and thereby weakened. The bamboo, forced to struggle in competition with millions of other specimens of plant life in the dense jungles, had built up a tremendous power of growth and victory.

You find the same thing in the far North, where short summer seasons make the struggle for existence so acute and intense that vegetation grows with almost asparagus speed, and spilled grass seed even sprouts in the cinders along railroad tracks. Compare this with the trouble you have growing grass on your lawn.

You have observed how rats and mice flourish and multiply as a reaction to being constantly hunted. So on, all through the animal kingdom, man included. Success of the able, like survival of the fittest, necessitates a hard struggle—obstacles galore.

PREMIER BALDWIN wants a larger air force. That's another way of saying the House of Commons is too small.

FREQUENT RAINS eliminate dust on State roads—head-line. And make the detours impassable.

WATER COMPANY seems to be attempting to put a drink of legal liquid in the same price class with the illegal variety.

PRICE OF WHEAT is the lowest in years. And the price of bread is almost as high as ever.

"WHO Is Who in China?" says a headline in the Los Angeles Record. All right, we'll be the goat. Who is?

SOME DAY soon the few survivors of the automobile epoch will get together and have a reunion.

THOSE Turks had better abandon war entirely and stick to diplomacy, wherein they are winners.

MR. DEMPSEY may have failed to knock out Mr. Gibbons, but he certainly hung the kibosh on some of the promoters and Shelby, Mont.

AMERICA is certainly interesting itself in European affairs. There are 250,000 of us touring over there now and blowing money.

FRENCH will stay in the Ruhr, says General Gouraud. If it doesn't a lot of generals probably will find themselves out of jobs.

C. H. GEIST, president of the Indianapolis Water Company, says he is chewing cherry twigs instead of smoking. Next thing we know the reformers will be cutting down the cherry trees and pointing to Washington as a great example.

BOOZE POLL FINDS WETS IN MAJORITY

Those Asked Readily Admit Buying Liquor in Violation of Law.

By C. A. RANDAU

ONE-THIRD or more of the passengers who travel on the Congressional Limited, the best-known train running between Washington and New York, patronize bootleggers.

Thirty-six people on the train which left Washington on the afternoon of June 19 informed the writer they regularly bought liquor in violation of the law.

According to Conductor H. G. Duvall, the Congressional Limited on that day carried a total of 123 passengers. Of these about ninety went from Washington to New York, while the others got on or off the train either at Baltimore or Philadelphia.

The questionnaire, which was given to all passengers who boarded the train at Washington, and to some who boarded at Baltimore, had as the first question:

"Do you favor the Volstead act as at present written?"

The vote was: Yes, 16; No, 79.

Of the seventy-nine who voted "No," slightly over one-half, or 41, favored the Eighteenth Amendment, but desired a less rigid enforcement act permitting light wines and beer.

Repeal of both the Eighteenth Amendment and the Volstead act was favored by thirty-eight.

"Do you patronize a bootlegger?" was the next question.

Half Confess

Sixty persons made a direct answer. Of these, thirty-six frankly declare they bought whisky and other liquor illegally.

The question "How does your present liquor bill compare with what you spent before prohibition?" brought a variety of answers.

Some said their bills had dropped to zero—that they had made no purchases since January 1920. Others said they were now spending ten times as much as formerly. Of the thirty who answered the question, nineteen said they were now spending more, the increase running from "slightly more" to "ten times." Seven answered they were spending "about the same amount" and four found their bills had decreased.

"How did you establish contact with your bootlegger?" was the next question. Among the answers were the following:

"He sent me letters and circulars." "I am approached by strangers and acquaintances bootlegging every day." "Get it from a friend. I am third party in deal."

"Through the policeman who patrols my home neighborhood."

"Through my banker."

"He calls for orders and delivers."

"As a result of constant solicitation."

Bellboys Are Mediums

"I am a traveling man. Always get it through bellboys or hotel porters. Have never yet failed to get it, but once had to make three attempts in one hotel in the West before I got it."

Under "Remarks" both the wets and the drys went to bat. Among the comments were "I never drank before the eighteenth amendment was passed."

"I believe we should have some sort of prohibition law. Possibly a less rigid law which should be uniformly enforced."

"Prohibition does not exist, but graft and disregard for the law do."

"Prohibition in time will prove one of the greatest blessings the world has ever known."

"Repeal the law and put the sale of all liquor under direct Government control with heavy tax—some Canadian provinces offer good examples."

Of the ninety-five persons who answered the questionnaire, seventeen were women. Of the seventeen, only one favored the Volstead act and similarly one favored repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment. Eighteen favored light wines and beer.

The answers were all returned in sealed envelopes, and were without means of identification.

The passengers on this train do not represent a true cross-section of the people of America, but they do reflect the opinion of great numbers of well-to-do city dwellers.

A Thought

Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flock, and look well to thy herds—Prov. 27:23.

DILIGENCE is the mother of good fortune.—Cervantes.

Points Made by Poets

WE: what do we see? Each a space Of some few yards before his face; Does that the whole wide plan explain?

Ah, yet consider it again!

—Clough.

Heard in Smoking Room

One by the Business Manager.

THE Pullman smoker was held up by a wreck between Columbus and Dayton and soon was jammed with newspaper business offices boys en route to a conference at Cincinnati. Somebody cracked a joke on "Moving Day," when a northern Chio business manager related, to:

A man who had been hanging around his club all day, finally about 5 p. m., yawned and said: "Oh, well, guess I'll go home. The wife's moving today and if I don't get there, I won't know where I'm going to sleep."

One of his friends exclaimed: "Why you big loafer, why didn't you stay home and help her move?"

"No, not me. I did that once, and never again. I stood around willing to make myself useful, but I seemed

Ships

By BERTON BRAILEY
When you see a ship, an American ship.
That's riding the open sea.
When you watch her clean bows, rise
and dip.
And her pennant flying free;
If you have ever had Yankee pride
In even the least degree,
You'll thrill, as over the surging tide
In glorious majesty.
You see a ship, an American ship,
That's riding the open sea!

Have you ever heard the gallant tale
Of clippers of Yankee make,
That never were known to shorten sail?

However the storms might break,
Oh, those were the days when our
flag unfurled.

Wherever the ocean rolled,
And American ships sailed 'round
the world.
On argosies manifold.

"Five million a month," they say,
"we lose."
By sailing our ships today;
Let's junk the vessels and fire the
crews.

For it certainly doesn't pay."
Well, maybe they're right—but some-
how I
Am tempted to disagree.

When I see an American ship drive
by
In the spray of the broad blue sea.
And I say, "Five million a month is
cheap."
Or that's how it seems to me

To keep our ships on the rolling deep.
With their brave flags flying free;
American ships, American ships
American ships at sea!"

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FARMERS IN INDIANA ARE LAND POOR

Louisville Bank Patronized—
Fletcher Shows \$10,331,-
811.84 in Mortgages.

By Times Special

WASHINGTON, July 17.—The W. Indiana farmer is borrowing money from the Federal land bank in greater amounts than farmers in some other sections of the country.

Whether this means the Indiana farmer is in worse financial condition or that he is learning to utilize the government farm banks more rapidly is a question. It is significant, however, that the land banks which have greater total loans than Indiana are in sections of the country where the financial condition of the farmer is bad.

The Louisville bank had total net mortgages on June 30, 1923, amounting to \$68,301,211.71. The St. Paul bank had the highest mortgage total, \$60,233,450.94. Only St. Paul, Omaha, Houston and Spokane had greater mortgage totals than Louisville.

The Fletcher joint stock land bank at Indianapolis had net mortgages of \$10,331,811.84. Banks in only Chicago, Kansas City, Lincoln, Redwood Falls, Minn., and Dallas surpassed this total.

TOM SIMS SAYS:

WISH this hot weather didn't work on Sunday.

German passive resistance is in the active voice.

We will not have a new world war, but several nations are trying to make the old one over.

A Cleveland man who stole an auto for a joke has nothing to do for thirty days but laugh.

Friday is one of the seven days on which diving into shallow water is said to be unlucky.

Very few husbands slap their wives twice.

Everybody in the movies seems to be a star.

In Seattle, a crazy man thought he was Harding, but of course he was only mistaken.

Don't get mad at the grocery man. He has only run into you as others run into him.

Next to home the worst place on earth to be is away.

What this country needs is a law against men wearing coats.

A June husband tells us he has been married a month and hasn't washed a dish yet.

Nature cares for animals. You never see a goldfish fanning.

Animal Facts

Man at Calallen, Texas, breeds queen bees and pockets \$50,000 a year out of it.

White-throated pack-rat builds elaborate forts for defense. One burrow near Tucson, Ariz., has several entrances, each of them guarded for several feet around with carefully constructed barriers of cactus joints bristling with needle-pointed spikes.

You can imagine a wise coyote or fox jumping into that mass to nab a pack-rat.

It is a far cry from the highest to the lowest of the human race, says W. T. Hornaday, veteran doctor of zoology, "and I hold the highest animals intellectually are higher than the lowest men."

Professor Allen of Cornell captured a ruffed grouse and nursed, fed and treated it like a mother to tame it. At the end of a year, the drummer boy of the woods was as hopelessly wild as at the beginning, and Allen gave the bird its liberty.

Before Iowa protected quail by law, two men hunted Bob White for ten days on a 400-acre farm and took the bag limit of fifty per day, yet the birds wouldn't leave that farm. The only exception is where a flag is suspended between buildings across the street, when the field of blue should be to the east or west.

We believe that merchants have no desire to have our American flag desecrated as it was last week in many instances, but we believe that if their intent will insist upon it that decorators follow the universal flag code adopted by both the United States War Department and now by one hundred patriotic and fraternal organizations throughout the country.

The July 6th edition of the American Legion Weekly publishes the entire flag code on how to display it and how to respect it, and also numerous illustrations, which ought to be obtained and studied by patriotic citizens generally.

E. S. SHUMAKER, National Patriotic Instructor, Sons of Veterans.

Yells

Jones took his ten-year old boy to have his tooth pulled.

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