

The Indianapolis Times

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"BALLING UP" THE PUBLIC

"FANCIFUL figures," as Taylor E. Groninger, city corporation counsel, has so aptly designated many of the figures used by engineers in the Indianapolis Water Company rate increase case, are again complicating matters.

The case at this early stage of the hearing before the public service commission is wound up in theories. There are theories of overhead, theories of depreciation, and theories of nearly everything else under the sun. The layman cannot make head or tail of them. Perhaps he is not supposed to.

One cannot help wondering what would happen to an uncontrolled, unprotected private business enterprise if it became involved in so many theories and so few facts.

The public would be better off if there were fewer "fancies" and more horse sense in utility practice.

AUTO INTOXICATION PERIL

ONE of the contestants in the Indianapolis Times' traffic problem contest wrote to the editor "the blare of the auto gong or horn had become so constant it was beginning to fall on dulled ears."

But there is another and psychological reason why horns, whistles, gongs and the constant shriek to beware apparently fail to reduce the number of casualties on street and road. The average human has no hereditary instinct, working with eyelid velocity, with which to protect himself against rapidly moving vehicles. For years human beings have been taught by experience to merely look out for the slow-moving animal-drawn conveyance and their descendants of today have as yet been unable to adjust themselves to the sudden change of speed that has come over the world.

Thus there are great numbers of people whose nerve centers do not telegraph the warning sufficiently quick to the muscles for instant action—and the deadly auto ten feet away certainly calls for instantaneous muscular response.

Moreover, the man at the wheel is quite likely to be in the same class.

It is a fact, as one writer declares, that possession of an automobile gives to some people a "sense of superiority" over the fellow who walks which they never had before and that this produces a sort of psychic intoxication. This is evidenced by the irritability with which they use their bellowing horns in ordering pedestrians out of what they mistakenly regard as their road. Such "auto-intoxicated" people are dangerous and it is probable that many of the auto accidents in the streets are caused by them.

NO MOTHER HUBBARD STUFF

THE plan to have a commission of experts decide how much Germany can pay on reparations seems about to win out. The Indianapolis Times and other Scripps-Howard newspapers were the first in the country to offer the suggestion. But let's keep our eyes open lest a kicker be run in on us.

The suggestion comes from London, for instance, that J. Pierpont Morgan and other international bankers should be on the commission.

It should not be left to bankers to say how much Germany can pay. They are interested parties.

The expert we had in mind was of the cold, weighing kind, like the keen, searching, United States bank examiner who goes around with his adding machine, adds up figures, and makes his report, let the cashier turn out an embezzler or not as he may. His not to make a good case or a bad one for the bank. His to find out its exact standing, come what will.

This the banker could not do for Germany. The ideal thing, from an international-banker's point of view, would be to see the whole reparations debt wiped off the slate and let Germany go scott free.

For Germany, you see, is potentially the most promising customer in the world today from the money-lender's standpoint. The only thing in the way is reparations. A loan needs security and if all the security goes to back reparations claims, there would be none left for loans.

Like Old Mother Hubbard, when the international banker got there, the German cupboard would be bare. There'd be nothing and he'd get it.

Work out your own equation. The smaller the amount Germany is let off with, the larger her borrowing capacity will be and the more the Wall Streets of the world will prosper.

Indeed, banks would lose nothing if all the war debts of the world were wiped out. The people own the bonds. The people would be the losers. The only thing the banks have to do with bonds is to handle them at a profit, just like a department store handles pots and pans.

They should have real experts, experts who have nothing personal to gain and with only the peace of the world to serve, to tackle Germany's ability to pay.

FARMERS AND "FAIR RETURN"

MARION County farmers will lose \$160,000 on wheat this year because of low prices, Royal McClain, county agricultural agent, says. This figure is astounding when the fact there is not a great deal of farming in Marion County is taken into consideration. Consider what the loss must be in some other Indiana counties which far outranks Marion in wheat growing.

To the city dweller this situation may not seem serious, but it has far more effect on him than he may suppose. Agriculture is the basic industry of the country. When agriculture fails other industries must necessarily slump.

There has been much talk about helping the farmer. It is principally concerned with lending him money. The farmer is not working primarily for the privilege of renewing his mortgages. He is trying to make a profit. What he needs is a public service commission to guarantee him a fair return on his investment. He would like to have the same privileges as, say, a water company for just about a year.

IN OTHER words, Mayor Shank did not consider him a Blessing.

WHATEVER else may be said about Germany, it certainly knows how to stand off the collector for a long period.

ASKING FIGS OF THISTLES, IMPOSSIBLE

International Parley Says

Time Ripe to Try Christianity on Nations.

By HERBERT QUICK.
THE time has come to try Christianity in international relations," So says the International Conference on Christian Citizenship.

The time has come to say this thing, perhaps; but the people saying it would not have had the hardihood to make the appeal if they had stopped to think of the crowd to whom they are appealing.

They are asking the states of the world to be Christian in their dealing with each other. Now states have grown up historically out of the domination of certain classes perfecting an organization for the purposes of robbery.

Pirates Were First
The first states were formed by stockmen, or pirates, for the purpose of getting wealth without work. There are two ways of getting wealth. Only two that amount to anything. The first is by the economic means. The man who works and produces, whether in agriculture, mining, commerce or finance, lives by this economic means.

The second is the political means. He who profits by a tariff, a monopoly organized because of the existence of the state, by slave-holding, by land monopoly, or by any scheme which gives him what he does not produce, and disburdened as it may be in appearance, is not every world state to which these Christian gentlemen appeal to practice Christianity, a robber state, somewhat modified from the time when the herdsmen of Asia first flung the fetters of their rule over the common people of the Nation.

Robber States
Where is the nation or state in the world today in which the getting of wealth by the political means is against the economic means, is not the impulse which rules? Tempered and disguised as it may be in appearance, is not every world state to which these Christian gentlemen appeal to practice Christianity, a robber state, somewhat modified from the time when the herdsmen of Asia first flung the fetters of their rule over the common people of the Nation.

The conference appeals to thistles to yield figs.

What Editors Are Saying

Ralston

(Columbus Ledger)
A straw vote of the leading Democratic politicians of the country, taken by Collier's Weekly, indicates that Samuel M. Ralston, recently elected Senator from Indiana, will be the Democratic nominee for President in 1924.

The Nation's politicians stated that Ralston is undoubtedly one of the strongest men in the country today. His sweeping victory in this State last fall marks him as a man who carries the stamp of approval of the common people of the Nation.

Ralston's record while Governor of Indiana also is a strong point in his favor and Democratic leaders, the straw vote indicated, feel that with a ticket headed by Ralston the party would be sure of success. Mr. Ralston is known as a man over whom the special interests have no influence, and a man who stands for the best interests of the people at all times.

'Gas' Tax

(Bluffton Banner)
The returns are in for the first month of gasoline tax, and Governor McCray is something around \$300,000 in his strong box—cash that he would not have had but for the 2-cent tax on gasoline. Of course, the taxpayer pays the tax, and while the Governor may be able to reduce the tax rate in Indiana, the extra, such as gasoline tax, will make the highest rate we have ever had in Indiana.

Giddap

(Alexandria Times-Tribune)
Alexandria has the best water of any city in the United States. It also has the best stores, the best churches, the best preachers, the best schools, the best butchers, the best druggists, the best hardware dealers. The only thing that isn't the best in Alexandria is the brick pavement on Harrison Street.

Heat

By BERTON BRALEY
It's hot! The asphalt's seething! And running like a stream; The air that I am breathing Is surcharged steam; Thermometers are breaking, Exploding like a shot; Our ice we use for baking—It's hot!

It's hot! My hair is frizzling And singing in the breeze; The water-cooler's sizzling, I work in B. V. D.'s. But perspiration's dripping, And from my chair, I wot, I cannot keep from slipping—It's hot! It's hot! I cannot utter The words that might be said; We bottle up our butter And pour it on the bread! Is this exaggeration? Well, maybe, maybe not, But here's the situation— "It's hot!" (Copyright, 1923, NEA Service, Inc.)

Heard in Smoking Room

THE story-tellers in the smoking-room were talking about story-tellers. The man in the easy chair, with his feet on the tooth-wash basin, insisted that one of the best story-tellers he ever knew is Mike Jefferson, the hardy perennial townships' assessor of Indianapolis. Here is Mike's latest, as related by the man with his feet on the tooth-wash basin:

"I have a good old Irish friend down on the south side who gets his only kick out of life by walking abroad. He is not over-careful at street intersections and frequently

TOM SIMS - - - Says

Teeth are nice things. If you had no teeth what would you grit when a collector comes?

Everything has its place. Files keep lots of people from just sitting around doing nothing.

Difference between bachelors and used autos isn't much. Both have been run a few thousand miles.

Trouble with mixing business and pleasure is you are liable to run out of business.

Catcher ought to wear his mask and pad home when he is out late.

Nights are getting too warm for two to sit in the same chair.

Winner of the Firpo-Willard bout may fight Dempsey if there is enough money to make Dempsey mad.

They are denaturing alcohol with pine tar. One drink of the stuff will cure any cough.

When they don't have enough sky to go around they fill up the holes with clouds.

Kissing her until you get red in the face isn't so much kissing.

Friday is one of the seven days on which it is unlucky to cuss your luck.

A bride tells us she doesn't mind hubby's mustache because she kissed a brush to get tough.

You seldom hear about a man hitting a cop again.

Indiana Sunshine

A man entered a Bluffton store laid down a package and remarked that the trousers contained in the package were too long. He wanted 'em cut off. The clerk didn't recognize the purchase. Then the customer explained he had bought the trousers eleven years ago, and hadn't worn 'em. Hard times made it necessary for him to resub the apparel from among the moth balls and bring them into use.

"Baby Marie" Osborne, child movie star, visiting Marion, was given a fine pedigree Airedale puppy by the Tiaré kennels. She is going to see to it that a soft cushion is provided in her McFarland car for her doggie.

When it comes to a choice between a vacation Bible school and a street carnival the latter has a unanimous decision among Newcastle boys. Of course, the school was seriously considering closing the school because of the carnival's inroads on attendance.

Greensburg business transaction: Pong Wing, recently arrived from China, purchased the laundry of Sun Lee. Sun is going to Cincinnati to start a chop suey emporium.

Warning to peddlers: Don't stop at Clinton without license. Don't go to the homes of officers. Charles Kazak tried to sell his wares to Hattif B. Harrison. He's in the jug now.

King Grimes, porter in a Blooming-ton barber shop, has a pet frog, Tut. Also three gold fish, Alpha, Omega and Ditto. Tut carries crumbs to the fish. Grimes affirms. Moreover, he croaks lullabies to them each evening.

Laughs

Thrasher's Machines
A little chap was offered a chance to spend a week in the country, but refused. Coaxing, pleading, arguing, promising of untold wonders, alike brought from him nothing but the stubborn ultimatum: "No country for me!" "But why not?" some one asked finally.

"Because," he responded, "they have thrasher's machines down there, and it's bad enough here where it's done by hand."—Interior.

When Father Goifs
What do you call that sick you use when trying to get out of low places? Sh-h! Don't you see there are ladies present?—Judge.

Keep This From the Cook
"How many afternoons do you want out?" asked the lady of the applicant for a cook's position. "Does you mean in the automobile, ma'am?" was the haughty reply.—Yonkers Statesman.

Why Dad's Son Idles
Why isn't your son making a garden this year? On account of the chickens next door. Heh? He doesn't like for those girls to see him in overalls.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

RECLUSE, 82, SUED BY HIS DAUGHTERS

Aged Farmer Declares Girls Drove Him From Home and Want Property.

A Page From Life's Book

After eighty-two years spent since boyhood in hard work and saving worth approximately \$250,000.

Forced, he claims, by two daughters to leave the farm home near Corydon, Mo., where he spent fifty-four years.

Sued by two daughters for \$31,900 "back pay" for work which they claim was done on the farm, but unrewarded.

Living alone in his huge house, practically bare of furniture, in an exclusive residential section of Kansas City, trying to overcome with memories of the past, bitterness of the present.

By LINCOLN GUARBERG.

(Copyright, 1923, by United Press.)
KANSAS CITY, Mo., July 20.—Frederick Lieser, aged farmer, today declared the suit brought against him by his two daughters for "back pay" for years of hard labor on the farm was filed because the women wanted all his property for themselves.

"I was made an outcast from my own farm home, where I toiled for fifty-four years, because I refused to turn over the bulk of my property to my two daughters," Lieser said as he spoke regretfully of the family wrangle and court action.

The aged man, sought through two States by subpoena servers to give him legal notice of the suit, was found living the life of a recluse.

Rooms Are Bare

In a large house, which he owns, the wealthy old farmer lives alone, in rooms most bare of furniture. The daughters claimed Lieser promised them if they would remain on the farm and not marry he would give them a large sum of money and leave his property to them in his will. This they claim they did, working in the fields, side by side, with the men, and giving up opportunities for advancement and pleasure.

"I wanted by girls to marry and establish a home of their own," Lieser said. "My happiest moments now are when my little grandchild, 10 years old, throws her arms around my neck and calls me 'grandpa'."

Claim Is Ridiculous
The claim I forced my girls to work in the field is ridiculous. No one worked harder than I.

"My girls never worked in the fields. They had better clothes than any of the neighbor girls; they were given every opportunity for education. I sent them to college."

There was no trace of bitterness in the old man's voice. "I can't understand it," he said, explaining his confusion and bewilderment at the girls' charges. "There is always trouble and confusion. I only want to live the rest of my life in peace and quiet on the farm home which I worked for so many years to make for myself and family."

The girls ask \$600 for each year they spent on the farm, since reaching the age of 18. Edna is 36 and Lena is 34. The latter acknowledges receiving \$500 in 1921.

"I ought to have made them pay me board," Lieser said. The old man told stories of personal sacrifice that his girls might be well taken care of.

Lieser showed no feeling of bitterness toward his wife, who has sided with the girls in the suit, and is now living with them.

"I have always been a good and faithful husband to her," was all he would say.

A Thought

Unto the pure all things are pure; but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.—Titus 1:15.

THE man who in this world can keep the whiteness of his soul is not likely to lose it in any other.—Alexander Smith.

Little Brother's Economy

"You mustn't get into bed, yet, Bobby, you haven't said your prayers."

"Yes, I have. I said them while I was cleaning my teeth, to save time."—Boston Transcript.

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How did the slang expression "savvy" originate?
Probably from the word "saber," from the Spanish verb "saber," which means "to know."

When was the organization, "The Sons of the American Revolution," established? Where are the headquarters?
In 1889. The secretary general is B. F. Steele, Buffalo, N. Y.

How does a giraffe sit down?
In much the same way as a cow; that is, it goes down on its front feet first and then on its haunches.

Where are olive trees found?
In Italy, Spain, Syria, Assyria, Australia and the United States (in California).

Where is the original of Rosa Bonheur's famous picture, "The Horse Fair"?
Metropolitan Museum, New York City. It was presented by Cornelius Vanderbilt, who paid 268,000 francs for it.

When is the first day of summer?
The day of the summer solstice, or the longest day of the year, is considered the first day of summer. This year the date fell on June 22.

What is the fastest animal?
The whippet, which can run 200 yards in a shade over ten seconds.

What is the range of the Navy's sixteen-inch coast defense guns?
Fifty thousand yards.

What was the story of the fight between McCarthy and Pelkey in which the former was killed?

There was a quick exchange of blows at the start, then the clinch in which McCarthy received his death blow. The blow was delivered in the first round after one minute and forty-five seconds of fighting. Pelkey delivered a moderate blow in the region of the solar plexus and McCarthy crumpled up and went down. To the spectators it looked like a fighting pose as he dropped lower and lower, then they could see his eyes rolling and he suddenly collapsed, and fell full length on the floor. The referee counted, but McCarthy did not move. Eight minutes later the doctor pronounced him dead. His death was said to be due to either organic heart trouble or paralysis of the heart.

Fearful Figures

Day by day, in every way, we are hoping harder Mr. Harding is having a bully time on his vacation; for, he is likely to return to Washington to discover his Department of Commerce is, statistically speaking, puncturing large holes in his nominal boom.

The department's figures show in May exports of cotton, grain and beef products fell off one-third, with big falls in iron, steel, copper, and leather. And there's a big boom in production. A picture of indications of November would show wheat being fed to chickens, apples and potatoes rotting unharvested, corn the popular feed in the Middle West and the farmer's dollar worth about 45 cents.

Science

Helicopters are airplanes that will rise from the ground without a running start. Their perfection will be the next big step in aviation.

The British air ministry recently offered a prize of a quarter of a million dollars for any British built helicopter that will rise to a height of 2,000 feet carrying a pilot. It must also be able to hover over one spot, within a very limited radius for at least half an hour and this must be done in a wind of not less than twenty miles an hour.

A few years ago these conditions would have seemed impossible. While they have not yet been met they are considered practical and many inventors and aviators are working to meet them. At McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio, the De Botheat helicopter rose in the air more than twenty feet and made a short flight.

The development of the helicopter and the glider are the most important events in aviation since the World War.

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Animal Facts

A doctor over in London says man would live longer if he were as careful about his food as animals. Balderdash. An animal will learn to eat almost anything, and to like it, whether it be its natural food or not. Ever see a polar bear in a zoo eating peanuts? Sure. Again as a matter of fact there are few animals, even in their natural habitat and subsisting on their natural food, that live a third of the number of years enjoyed by mankind. Also it is true wild animals not infrequently taste wild food that makes them sick and they die before their time.

Laws for Homes

Now returneth to Washington, fresh from the International Suffrage Alliance, at Rome, Delegate Mrs. J. O'Connor, of our National League of Women Voters, who observes: "The women of all nations have agreed laws should be remodeled so the woman who wears the little gold band shall have a legal right to a share of her husband's income." Maybe. But, as a rule, when man or wife "draws the law" on the living room window contains a conspicuous picture of over the hill to the divorce court. Love needs no written statute. Love feeds, lives on justice. This is true of the home life, and of every other relation of this terrestrial body.

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