

# The Indianapolis Times

EARL E. MARTIN, Editor-in-Chief ROY W. HOWARD, President.  
ALBERT W. BUHRMAN, Editor. O. F. JOHNSON, Business Mgr.

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## WHERE DOES PUBLIC COME IN?

THE Indiana Bell Telephone Company again has gone into Federal Court in an effort to obtain increased rates. This time it cried before it was hurt and rushed to court before the public service commission could issue an order fixing rates.

It is time for a showdown on rate regulation in Indiana. It is time for the consumers to demand to know where they stand. It is time the people of Indiana learn whether a trust is to be given a monopoly over a public necessity and then permitted to ignore a regulatory body duly established by the citizens of the State.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company, which owns the Indiana Bell Telephone Company and which has the telephone system of the United States in its grip, is one of the most powerful combinations ever formed in this country. It is engaged, as are some other utilities, in breaking down anything resembling public control over rates.

The Indiana Bell Telephone Company has been granted increases. It went before the public service commission following the war, when prices were at a peak, and was given increased rates throughout the State. But it was not satisfied. It cried that it did not obtain the amount it deserved during the war and that still higher rates should be charged. The commission turned down the request and the company went into Federal Court. Then the case went back to the commission. Now, before the commission has acted, the company has gone back to court.

The telephone company not only is owned almost outright by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, but as a part of its operating expenses, charged to the public, it pays 4 per cent on its gross income to the American company for service rendered by that concern.

There have been repeated reports that the operating expenses of the Indiana company are higher than they should be. But the public service commission has no authority to go into these things. It must take them for granted. The company can charge the consumer almost anything it pleases under the head of operating expenses.

But the public service commission is rapidly becoming powerless even to regulate rates.

Utilities have discovered that if they go into the courts with the plea existing rates are confiscatory they can make a showing that will obtain for them what they want. Masters in chancery have not yet become accustomed to the theories and "fanciful figures" of engineers.

The public service commission is supposed to stand between the public and grasping monopolies. It may not always have served the public well, but at least it should be given an opportunity. If its hands are to be tied it might just as well be abolished and an understanding reached whereby the courts would take over utility regulation. Or better still, from the point of view of the monopolies, why not permit the telephone and similar companies to go wild with charges until we decide to do without their service?

## GASOLINE CONTROL

THE amount of gasoline placed in storage this year has broken all records, but before you rise to cheer, Mr. Motorist, just read the news sent out from an oil men's meeting in Chicago:

Rather than reduce the price, "twenty-five major oil refineries of the mid-continent field will close during August to eliminate an oil and gasoline surplus."

In other words, by exercising the oil industry's own peculiar economic law of supply and command, they are determined to keep prices up or bust.

## WE ARE WELL OFF

IN a little, lamp-lighted house in the isolated Vermont hills, a sleepy-eyed, collarless old farmer—a mere back-country notary public—administered a solemn oath to a younger man, his own son.

By that oath the greatest executive power of the greatest Nation on earth was transferred from shoulders that had yielded to death to those alive and alert.

The simplicity of it, the peace of it, the steadiness of it, the poetry of it and the drama, are awe-inspiring. Only a strong, solid, stable, rock-rooted system of government could be party and witness to such a scene.

We ought to know, by this and other scenes in other parts of the world that we are well off.

## THE BRITISH BACK DOWN

SO, it seems, Britain is not going to break with France and Belgium over the Ruhr and reparations matters. "Rather," says a London cablegram, "the British plan seems to be to enforce her views through publicity and bringing France and Belgium into line through force of world opinion."

How perfectly splendid if world opinion could be called in to untangle foreign complications! But can one nation swing it this way or that? Can any nation tell what is world opinion on any matter? Less than five years ago, there was a conference of the nations, in which Great Britain was a conspicuous figure. There is no question but world opinion endorsed that conference's decisions as to reparations to be paid by Germany. Can Great Britain now swing world opinion to the cutting down of those reparations?

World opinion is not merely the opinion of diplomats, trade interests, financiers and investors in foreign securities. Is any one justified in saying that the people of America, Britain, France, Italy, of the whole world, would vote France and Belgium out of the Ruhr or to let Germany avoid payment of the full bill as decided upon at Versailles?

If France and Belgium have a good thing in the Ruhr, is anybody foolish enough to think that they will let go because other nations think they ought to? It wouldn't be human nature to do it. It wouldn't be like any action in all the history of nations.

THE only solution seems to be to cut the telephone wires and disconnect the bath tub.

LOAFERS are about to be rounded up again. How about the burglars who work at their life of crime?

IT will take only a few more reports to establish the fact that sanitary conditions exist at the State farm.

## WOMEN IN SCOTLAND WORK HARD

Have Few Conveniences, but Homes Are Kept Immaculate.

JOHN W. RAPER

ANYWHERE IN SCOTLAND—Of all the things man has invented as additions to human discomfort, nothing equals the home of the worker in the industrial center, whether the industry is fishing, mining, cloth making or iron and steel.

In the Glasgow district, which includes a multitude of towns from 5,000 to 30,000, and in the city, the skilled worker of relatively high pay as well as the unskilled lives in a tenement from two to occasionally five stories in height.

The dark and winding stair of stone is a feature. On a landing on each floor is a common toilet for the use of two or perhaps more families.

In the back of the house is the scullery, a small room in which is kept the coal and the heavy and rough articles of household use. The coal is carried by the coal peddler when it is bought, as a rule, by the hundredweight, often in smaller quantities.

Kitchen and dining room are combined and there is an alcove off the room just large enough to hold a bed. One other bedroom and the old-fashioned parlor would complete the average tenement, though more prosperous workers might have two.

### Few Conveniences

The cooking stove is clumsy and inefficient. How the Scotch woman manages to prepare on it the fine meals she does is a mystery to me. She has marvelous skill.

The kitchen sink is small and without a draining board.

In the back of the tenement is an open yard filled with small brick wash-houses, generally one to every two families. The wash-house contains an old-fashioned brick furnace with a heavy built-in kettle of iron. There is a cold water pipe, generally left dripping through the winter to prevent its freezing.

To add to the joy of living the Scotch woman's home is heated by grates.

### Always Clean

In spite of all the handicaps you never see any dirt in a Scotch home outside the slums. The house always smells like a new needle.

The homes of many well to do folk have in them no more modern conveniences than those of workers with low pay.

The Scotch housewife does not know what ice is in the home and she knows of nothing like the American household refrigerator. Climate helps her a great deal, for the weather is cool the greater part of the year.

She also buys in small quantities and nothing ever "spoils" in her home.

### "American Type" Homes.

Scotch women who have been in the United States complain bitterly of the lack of modern conveniences. Several newspapers within the last month have printed letters from women now in the United States and Canada, telling of the comforts of the houses in the western world.

NEXT—Warmest spot in a Scotch home is likely to be sacred to Robert Burns, the poet-voice of the common man.

Raper visits his birthplace.

## Family Fun

### Not Long

"I am not going to talk long this evening," said the speaker. "I've been cured of that. The other night I was making a speech when a man entered the hall and took a seat right in the front row. I had not been talking an hour when I noticed he was becoming fidgety. Finally he arose and asked:

"Shay, how long you been lecturin'?"

"About four years, my friend," I replied.

"Well," he remarked, as he sat down, "I'll stick around; you must be through now."—Christian Advocate.

### Father Couldn't See

"Say, dad, c'n yuh see any change in me?"

"No, Bobbie, I can't say that I do. Why?"

"Well, yuh'd oughto, 'cause I just swaller'd th' dime yuh givin' me."

Judge Elbert Gary of the United States Steel Corporation declares that the death of Harding will be bad for business. If this is causing him any inhibition in the matter of going into the eight-hour shift in continuous process steel operations, we have a feeling that President Coolidge's attitude will be "Don't hesitate on my account."

### Where Father Argues

"Henry, what do you mean by arguing with me when visitors are around?"

"E'er-well, dear, you know I didn't do it when we are alone."—London Evening Standard.

### The Family Quid

Mary came in from recess chewing gum for dear life. The teacher noticed her and said sharply:

"Mary, come here and put your gum in the waste basket."

Mary took the gum from her mouth, but did not put it in the waste basket. And again the teacher said:

"Mary, I told you to put that gum in the waste basket."

This time Mary started to cry and replied:

"Miss J., I won't chew the gum any more, but I can't put it in the basket. It's my sister's gum and I have to give it back at noon."—Indianapolis News.

## Heard in Smoking Room

WAS TRYING a criminal case in San Diego, Cal. The State's star witness had "fallen down" in his testimony and both sides agreed when the jury went out their verdict could be nothing else than acquittal.

To our surprise and the disappointment of my client they were out forty-two hours. The only pleasant thing was their verdict was as both sides and the judge predicted—"not guilty."

I stopped the jurors in the court-house hall and learned a juror named Swanson had held up the jury's speedy return. Until the forty-second hour he had stood out against the eleven others for conviction.

"Well," he said, shrugging his shoulders and cocking his head to one side, "I might be the only smart one."

## 60M SIMS --- Says

THE second crop of straw lids is about ripe.

Los Angeles bathing girls are getting tanned this year where they were tanned before.

The mad college graduate informs us Dempsey is offered \$500,000 just to fight a little while.

A Columbus (Miss.) man who went swimming before cooling off got rescued, all right.

Small picnic parties are being called Gipsy teas, which doesn't keep the ants away at all.

Must be great to be an oyster. Oysters get four months' vacation.

A man with a fly swatter in each hand can't see anything so very wonderful in nature.

These candidates throwing their hats into the presidential ring may get them stepped on.

Wouldn't it be funny if everybody wasn't funny?

The June husband tells us he would like to see a comb without hair in it just once more.

the summer a young girl's fancy lightly turns to fancy clothes.

Our objection to work is there are so many other things to do.

Song writers are not as ragged as their music.

The smartest thing on earth may be an atom, but the too smallest is an electric fan.

## What Editors Are Saying

### Constitution

(Marion Leader-Tribune)

A course of study of the Constitution of the United States is to be added to the curriculum of the high schools throughout the State of Indiana.

The course, backed by the American Bar Association, will acquaint students both with the history of this important document and its amendments, and with the contests and meaning of the document itself.

It will be compared with similar constitutions in foreign countries and will be taken apart for criticism and discussion by the young students.

The course should be a good one, carried out in the right manner.

The wonder is that it was not added to the school schedule long ago instead of some of the apparent deadwood which has been taught.

### Why, Alvah!

(LaFayette Journal and Courier)

Alvah J. Rucker, of Indianapolis, is quoted as saying in a public speech that "public office is largely bought in this State." Alvah, it seems, will never grow up.

### Rain

(Alexandria Times-Tribune)

This particular section of Indiana, known as Madison county, would feel little disposed to quarrel with the rain god if the latter should happen to make up his mind to cork up his rain barrels and prevent them from slopping over for a week or two. What say, r. g.?

### Taxes

(Fort Wayne News-Sentinel)

Too many Americans today are proceeding on the theory that no one has any right to object to the tax burdens which a majority imposes upon it. And that sort of an idea carried too far—carried to the extent of making the minority bear the whole burden—is going to wreck the country.

### Don't Hesitate!

(Kokomo Dispatch)

Judge Elbert Gary of the United States Steel Corporation declares that the death of Harding will be bad for business. If this is causing him any inhibition in the matter of going into the eight-hour shift in continuous process steel operations, we have a feeling that President Coolidge's attitude will be "Don't hesitate on my account."

A small boy came to the city clerk's office at Elwood, laid down a dog tag and said he wanted his money back.

He mournfully said, "some one killed his dog." When the clerk told him his money could not be refunded, the lad set out to hunt for a dog to match the tag.

### Observations

If talking a lot and saying nothing means presidential candidacy, no one in sight has anything on Oscar Underwood.

### Science

The forerunner of the chemist was the alchemist of the middle ages. Most of the efforts of the alchemist were in an attempt to turn common metals into gold. He worked with incantations and amid weird surroundings. One of the elements that was supposed to be necessary in making gold was the spirit of an infant.

Despite the ignorance that we now know surrounded these attempts, the development of alchemy finally created chemistry. Today science, through chemistry, can do many of the things that the alchemist tried to do. Even the making of gold is not an impossible process, although it is not practical. Certain precious stones can be made chemically and many other things that the alchemist tried to do can now be created by the chemist.

McAdoo admits Charles W. Morse paid him \$3,000 for advice, and see what is happening to Morse now.

Hollywood will "film the Ten Commandments." Wonder how it will come out.

Let each wheat farmer help himself by starting a bakery.

"Flora McFlimley" wasn't a bit modern. She had nothing to wear, and to her credit, it is said, she didn't wear.