

The Indianapolis Times

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TREASURY WATCH DOG PROPOSAL

PRACTICALLY every branch of government to which Indianapolis citizens contribute is asking an increased tax levy for 1924.

That ought to put us all in a receptive frame of mind for the Chamber of Commerce civic affairs department's proposal that a permanent committee to serve as "treasury watchdog" be created.

The Chamber committee proposes:

1. Appointment of the committee, from Chamber membership, to bring about "practical and orderly budget procedure" by conferring with officials of all taxing units.

2. Employment of an expert to advise this committee.

3. Re-organization of city departments so as to place control of all city equipment under one head.

4. Classification of all city employees and city equipment according to fixed standards so budget items would be more intelligible.

5. Immediate inventory of all city property by city employees under the direction of the city controller, there having been no such step since the first year after adoption of the city charter.

6. Assignment by city controller of competent members of his staff to aid departments in budget preparation.

Now if somebody will do something about all this problem there will result a budget which is a budget.

INDIANA'S CRIME RECORD

IF WE are to accept crime statistics as are presented by the American Bar Association, Indiana's record is most favorable when comparisons are made with other States. Likewise, the murder record for Indianapolis is also favorable. But when comparisons are made with foreign countries and foreign cities (with London, for example) the record is one best forgotten.

Statistics always are valuable if they are beyond question. That these statistics are beyond question, we doubt. Not that they paint too bad a picture of the crime conditions in the United States and its cities, but that they are offered with something of a note of apology. It is well that the Government has begun a systematic effort to record our crime statistics.

The condition is bad in this country and in Indianapolis and Indiana, nevertheless. And what make it bad? The bar association tries to explain and does a good job of it. It is bad because of disrespect for law, the injustice of the law as administered, and the tardiness of justice.

London has a police force as efficient as is a military organization in time of war. Every murder in London last year was solved and the guilty were punished speedily. The Scotland Yard force, famous throughout the world, owes its existence only to the public, caters to no politician, and is free from hampering influences. The members are police officers at all times. The judicial machinery works rapidly. The prisoner is sentenced, and during his incarceration is compelled to reflect on the fact that he committed a crime.

On the other hand, the United States has a police force subject invariably to political machines; has a judiciary subject all to often to the same influences; has legal machinery that moves so slow it defeats justice and has all too many attorneys interested only in abusing the law and the public.

FROM MINNESOTA TO MAINE

DOLLAR wheat, excessive railroad rates and farmer distress upset the normally overwhelmingly Republican State of Minnesota. The Department of Agriculture officials are busy issuing statements designed to show that the condition of the farmers in the Northwest is exceptional, and anyhow things are looking up for the farmers. So is the United States Chamber of Commerce. So is the Guarantee Trust Company of New York. So are other gentlemen.

And while these delightful reassurances are handed out to the horny-handed sons of toil, the Department of Agriculture contradicts itself.

It's some distance from Maine to Minnesota. But what has happened to Minnesota wheat farmers has happened also to Maine potato growers, according to a report just completed by Frank E. Manning, Agriculture Department investigator.

Maine is the greatest potato growing district in the United States. Maine potatoes used to be a very profitable crop for Maine farmers. Their potatoes used to be shipped as far south as Baltimore and Washington, and as far west as Pittsburgh. Maine sold potatoes—the finest in the country—used to go as far south and west as Texas. But not any more.

The freight rate on Maine potatoes from the center of the growing area to Boston, used to be around 30 cents a hundred pounds. In 1920 the Boston & Aroostook raised the freight rate to 44 cents. Now the Maine farmers' potatoes can only get as far as Boston. Unfortunately the Agricultural Department's investigation does not follow the potato to the consumer's table, but based on the retail price of potatoes in Boston, it is obvious that the railroad gentlemen take between 15 and 20 per cent of every dollar the consumer pays for potatoes.

The report shows that the Maine farmers got \$1.24 per hundred pounds for his potatoes in 1921-22, and that this price was below the actual cost of production to him.

The conclusion from this report is obvious: The Maine farmers are losing out because they are being asked to produce potatoes at less than cost; the potato consumer is losing out because potatoes cannot be shipped out of New England at the present prohibitive railroad freight rates.

Maine farmers are traditional Republicans. So were Minnesota farmers. There may be as much political dynamite in potatoes as in wheat.

THEY CALL IT FAVORABLE

MRS. HOOVER'S Commerce Department chortles over a "favorable" balance of trade for July.

Goods exported from the United States were valued at \$303,030,404, while imports were \$287,335,239.

That means that during July we were able to let the world (which already owes us ten or fifteen billions of dollars that it can't pay) go in debt to us half a million dollars a day or \$15,595,165 for the month.

Favorable? Well, mebbe so.

Do your Christmas shopping early and avoid this warning.

This climate does not always agree with the

CRIME LIST IN INDIANA RATED LOW

U. S. Lesh Informs Bar Association He Is Opposed to Capital Punishment.

By JOHN CARSON, Times Staff Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4—Indianapolis is presented to the American Bar Association as a crime exhibit, in the reports made public here today, and but recently commented upon by the association in convention at Minneapolis. The Indiana prison records are presented for the State.

The Indianapolis exhibit is one favorable to the city if the statistics are to be accepted. The statistics on prison population show an increase in the Indiana prisons in 1922 as compared with 1910 of only 2.8 per cent. That is a very favorable rating as compared with most other States, in some of which the prison population has increased 60 per cent to 100 per cent.

It is not in these statistics alone, however, that the State and city are judged. The record for homicide or the murder record is one equally as interesting. This record shows Indianapolis had 9.9 murders each year to every 100,000 persons in 1912 to 1916, had 10.1 murders in 1917 to 1921 and that in 1922 the record was 6.9. Records for other Indiana cities were not present.

Record Is Good

The average murder record for twenty-eight large cities in 1922 was nine to every 100,000 persons. Very few of the large cities, and especially very few large cities with large negro population, had as good record as Indianapolis. Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, Los Angeles, Louisville, Memphis, Nashville, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, St. Louis and Washington had worse records. New York had a record of only 5.8 to every 100,000 persons.

The Southern cities capture the most distasteful honor of high murder records. Memphis had 64 murders to every one hundred thousand persons and Nashville 30.7. The cities farthest north had bad records. Boston, for example, had a rating of only 3.6. Milwaukee had 2.9.

Lesh Writes Letter

Because of the tremendous crime record in the United States as compared with other countries, the Bar Association sought some opinion from lawyers in every State. From Indiana, only one letter was published. It was from Ulysses S. Lesh of Indianapolis. Lesh said:

"While I cannot say I have positive convictions upon this subject, I have always doubted the right or the propriety of imposing the death penalty since Government is apparently able to protect society without this extreme measure. In my opinion, the best link in our chain of law enforcement program arises out of the common failure of administrative and judicial officers to administer the criminal laws as written against the criminal as well as the weak members of society."

Lesh's opinion on capital punishment is shared by some others and opposed by equally as many. The Bar Association, commenting, said the differences emphasized that opinions only were being expressed and they were entirely personal opinions.

Animal Facts

Snappiest, friendliest, most intelligent of all the numerous squirrel family is "Master Antelope Chipmunk," white tailed sprite that lives on slopes of the lower Rockies. They have two to three litters a year, with five to twelve children in each. They need a hard winter in their "rathole" at Boulevard Pl. and Twenty-First St., with all the attending expense, to gratify the personal ambitions of any set of men. We greatly fear that the building of the negro orphans' home is regarded by some as a sort of political pawn. To connect politics with this institution in any way would be a calamity.

We wonder now what excuse will be invented to hinder this work, now that the old workshop has been sold and a bond issue becomes unnecessary? Is there no law which defines the respective prerogatives of the county council and the county commissioners?

We submit the matter of going forward with the Orphans' home to the Indiana legislature.

Fixed daily diet for a lion in Philadelphia Zoo is sixteen pounds of horsemeat, rare.

The "slimy" salamander, so-called because his skin exudes a milky substance into your astonished fingers when you touch him, is very numerous in Eastern United States. He looks worse than pizen, but is none the less timid, entirely harmless little beggar. For which reason his days are numbered on this earth. If he were bold, giddy and a fighter there'd be some room for his race.

Following intensive advertising campaign for depositors by Louisville, Ky., Bank of Commerce, a thrifty hen walked in one day, picked out a well-filled waste paper basket and laid an egg in it. Pays to advertise.

John Smith, cebus monkey born in captivity, has just died at the Philadelphia Zoo, of old age, in his 27th year.

Was in perfect health till recently but looked the part of an old, old man, even to a head of hair turned snow white.

Files lay their eggs on decaying meat when they can smell it out, the idea being that the young will have food when hatched. But many a fly gets fooled by a plant, one of whose names is the "carion plant," with an odor resembling decaying meat, the myriads of maggots are born on its leaves to die miserably of starvation.

We wouldn't go as far as to call him a typical American, but he certainly has some typical tendencies.

Typical

A man is arrested, charged with neglecting to support his wife. According to the testimony at the hearing, he kept his family of five in a shack, provided only one bed, and failed to furnish enough to eat. Notwithstanding, he manages to own an auto.

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Heard in Smoking Room

"Nobody loves a mother-in-law," he was saying as the man with the Missouri meerschaum was entering the smoking room. "No, friend," said the latter as he removed his pipe, "you are wrong there. I'll admit there are some mother-in-laws who deserve to be hated, but there are other. I mind of a story I heard the other day about Hugh Duff, state oil tax inspector over in Kansas. Hugh has a mother-in-law of the right kind. He loves her, she deserves it, and she is his good old pal. However, he doesn't get credit for his devotion on all occasions. Not long ago, Hugh took his family, including the mother-in-law, out for an auto ride. All went merrily until the machine hit a rut that Hugh didn't see. In about a second the scenery was full of that family in every direction. It was found that the mother-in-law was a happier world."

"Oh, that's all right, Hughie, you're a brave man—that's what you are. I've wanted to do that sort of thing to my mother-in-law ever since I bought a car, but I have never worked up the courage. I want to congratulate you on your nerve and the good job you did. If more married men were like you this would be a happier world."

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

60M SIMS Says

Wives are women who tell husbands when to change their socks.

Husbands are men who kick about the grocery bill.

Babies are real small people who cry before company.

Young children are little people who run everything around the house except errands.

Grown people are large people who are going to the dogs.

Married children are grown persons who are doing much better than everybody expected.

A small boy is a young person who shouldn't do the things his father did at that age.

Little girls are young persons who are not going to be a help to their mothers soon.

Brothers are your parents' boys who won't leave you alone.

Sisters are your parents' daughters who usually ought to be ashamed of themselves.

Young girls are medium-sized people who horrify parents.

Young boys are medium-sized people who stupefy parents.

Grandparents are old people who didn't cut up as we do.

Sweethearts are people who think you resemble some movie star.

Cousins are people related just enough to fuss.

Stenographers are good-looking girls who can't spell cat.

Editor's Mail

The editor is willing to print views of Times readers on interesting subjects. Make your comment brief. Your real name is an evidence of good faith. It will not be printed if you object.

To the Editor of The Times

We, the undersigned citizens speaking for ourselves and many others, wish to call your attention to a matter of public concern and solicit aid in seeing that the just thing is done.

For some time the question of building a home for negro orphans here has been before us. It seems that the project has been held up, pending a settlement of some supposed differences between the county council and the county commissioners.

Building a home for negro orphans should be forced to remain as other winter in the "rathole" at Boulevard Pl. and Twenty-First St., with all the attending expense, to gratify the personal ambitions of any set of men. We greatly fear that the building of the negro orphans' home is regarded by some as a sort of political pawn.

To connect politics with this institution in any way would be a calamity.

W. A. KERSEY, Chairman.

F. B. RANSOM, H. L. HEROD, S. SANDERS CO., H. L. SANDERS, G. L. KNOX, LUCAS B. WILLIS, F. E. DEFRAZNTZ, Secretary Colored Men's Branch, M. C. A.

Money

In Kansas they are bartering clothes for wheat. A farmer buys a popular make of clothes and pays for it with wheat elevator receipts at \$1 a bushel.

Money is not needed at all, except as a bookkeeping convenience. Our farmers are learning that our chief economic trouble, as in Europe, is in our money system. If Ford runs for President, his chief problem will probably be to get the farmer vote.

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