

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 also is 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 eaters 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 too 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 seed 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

MR. 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, maybe 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.—Indiana 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 from 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 homicides in 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 a 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 disastrous honor of high murder records. Memphis had 67.4 murders to every one hundred thousand persons and Nashville 30.7. The cities farther north had best records. Boston, for example, had a rating of only 3.6; Milwaukee had 2.3.

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 the 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 weakest link in our chain of law enforcement programs arises out of the common failure of administrative and judicial officers to administer the criminal laws as written against the strong as well as the weak members of society."

Lesh's opinion on capital punishment is shared by some others and 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 big families because the following enemies hunt 'em for dinner: bear, puma, eagle, owl, fox, wolf, coyote, badger, bobcat, weasel, hawk, man.

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

The "stinky" 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'n 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, gabby and a fighter there'd be some hope 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 layed 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 man, even to a head of hair turned snow white.

Flies 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 odor resembling decayed meat, the myriads of maggots are born on its leaves to die miserably of starvation.

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 me 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 the most

Tom 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. Sign your name. An address 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 solid 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. These differences seem to us puerile, so much so that we feel it not proper, at all events, to fail to see why the seventy-five negro orphan children should be forced to remain in other cities in the "ragged" at Boulevard Pl. and Twenty-Fifth 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 a calamity.

We wonder now what excuse will be invented to hinder this work, now that the old workhouse 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 Orphan's home concerns every citizen in the community. Human interest should be general, not simply racial. If public officials can fiddle while negro wards suffer the time is not distant when all wards will suffer. Every reasonable consideration would seem to favor arousing public sentiment in the interest of these unfortunate children.

W. A. KERSEY, Chairman.
F. B. RANSOM, F. H. HEROD, SANDERS CO., H. L. SANDERS, G. L. KNOX, LUCAS B. WILLIS, F. E. DEFRANTZ, Secretary Colored Men's Branch, Y. 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 their chief economic trouble, as in Europe, is in our money system. If Ford runs for President, his chief policy for the farmer vote probably will have to do with a new system of currency.

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 and run an auto.

We would not go as far as to call him a typical American, but he certainly has some typical tendencies.

FUTURE FOR BONUS BILL FAVORABLE

Coolidge Indicates He Will Sign Measure if Passed by Congress.

By C. A. RANDAU, Times Staff Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4.—If Congress passes a soldiers' bonus bill, President Coolidge will sign the measure. That is the interpretation placed on the President's recent expression of confidence in the wisdom of Congress. Good measures pass Congress without coercion, and bad measures are rejected without influence. That, in substance, White House visitors were told.

What is the situation in Congress? Both houses are for the bonus. In the Senate and in the House former bonus opponents have switched and are now advocating passage of the bill. The gains of the bonus advocates, in fact, have been so great it is commonly thought the measure could be passed even though it received the presidential veto.

Signed State Bill
As Governor of Massachusetts, Mr. Coolidge signed a State soldiers' bonus bill and stated it as his belief the veterans were entitled to financial relief.

Apparently, then, the President and Congress are for the bonus. All that remains is the provision of the necessary funds. The amount needed will, of course, depend on the terms of payment.

From present appearances the same bill that failed of adoption because of President Harding's veto will again be recommended for passage by the Finance Committees of the House and Senate.

Therein, the ex-soldiers will be given the option between taking twenty-year certificates, vocational training or aid in buying homes or farms. It is estimated at least 75 per cent of the men will choose the certificate plan.

Men Pass School Age

Had the bonus been passed last year, it is thought from 2 to 5 per cent of the men might have chosen vocational training assistance, but with the passage of years, the veterans have nearly all passed the school age.

The total cash necessary to pay the bonus obligations would be \$15,000,000, or \$125 per day for foreign service. If these rates were adhered to and the entire obligations paid off immediately, \$1,240,000,000 would be required to finance the measure.

The rate of compensation decided upon is \$1 per day for home service and \$1.25 per day for foreign service.

Where are pistachio nuts grown? Mainly in Asia Minor, but there are a number of groves in California.

Which are the largest railroad shops west of Chicago? The Santa Fe shops at Topeka, Kan.

What amounts of gold and silver are held in the U. S. treasury? On July 1, 1923, the figures were: Gold coin and bullion, \$3,363,585,562; standard silver dollars, \$425,550,042; subsidiary silver, \$11,587,200.

What does the name Dolores mean? Sorrows.

How can the souring of paste made of flour be prevented? By adding a little cresote or carbolic acid.

What are dog days?

The name applied by the ancients to a period of about forty days, the hottest season of the year, at the time of the heliacal rising of Sirius, the Dog Star. The time of the rising is now, owing to the precession of the equinoxes, different from what it was in the time of the ancients (July 1); and the dog days are counted from July 3 to Aug. 11, that is twenty days before and twenty days after the heliacal rising.

It is safe to put goldfish in the same aquarium with a turtle? No. The turtle would probably nibble the tails of the fish.

Is the \$2.50 gold piece still coined? No.

What States lead in the value of all farm crops? Texas leads, the next in rank being Iowa, Illinois, California, North Carolina, Kansas, Minnesota, Ohio, New York and Wisconsin.

What States lead in the value of all farm property, including land, buildings and crops? The leading States are, in the order given: Iowa, Illinois, Texas, Nebraska, Minnesota, California, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri and Kansas.

Where does "fever bush" grow and what is it used for? Spice bush, more commonly known as "fever bush," grows wild along streams in most of the region between Ontario, Canada and North Carolina. It is an ornamental shrub and is sometimes used around homes. The bark is collected in the spring and is worth 3 or 4 cents a pound. It is used as a fever medicine.

Has there ever been a cross between a chicken and a guinea? The Department of Agriculture says such a thing is possible, and has been reported at various times. However, the resulting fowl would be a hybrid and would not breed again.

Why do pullets lay small eggs? Because their organs are not fully developed; the size of the eggs will increase as the pullet gets older, and after a few weeks they should be fairly normal size.

Why do Masons so often lay the corner stone of churches and other buildings? The Masonic order is an organization with a distinctly religious trend. Much of their ritual is built on the Bible. There is a tradition among them that the order was first organized among the masons building Solomon's Temple. Gradually the custom has grown up of having them lay corner stones with appropriate ritual.

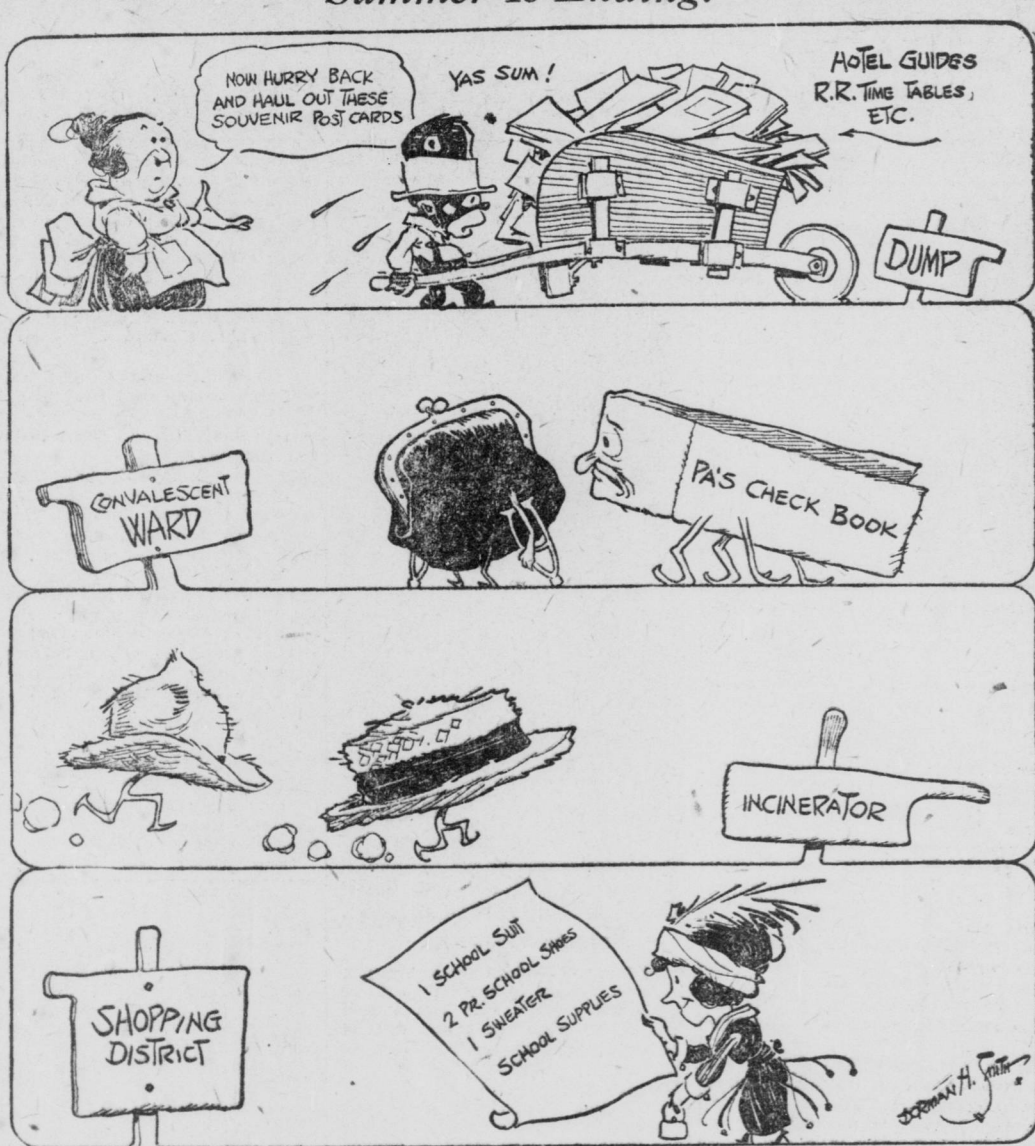
Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.—Ecc. 9:10.

OIL, feel, think, hope; you will be sure to dream enough before you die, without arranging for it.—J. Sterling.

A Thought

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Summer Is Ending!



The Hunchers

By BERTON BRALEY

Who is that lucky devil who drives a lordly car. The bird who's blowing smoke rings from a fifty-cent cigar. That ready-money person who's plastered with the kale. Who seems to own the universe and have it by the tail? He's one of that persistent and pertinacious breed, A guy who plays his hunch out to the end.

And who's the seedy fellow, the shabby-looking bloke. Who's obviously pretty flat if not completely broke? Why yes, he's up against it, there's not a doubt of that. There's fringes upon his trousers-legs, he wears a busted hat; Yet he is, though he hasn't got a single bean to spend, A guy who plays his hunch out to the end.

You say you're sorry for him? You needn't be a bit. For if you look within his eyes you'll see he hasn't quit; He may not ever duplicate the other man's success. But he won't always be the goat for Life's unkindness. For if the hunch is honest, Fate proves, in time, a friend To guys who play their hunch out to the end! (Copyright, 1923, NEA Service, Inc.)

Mother

Results come eventually, though it takes a lot of hammering. Not many years since pensions for mothers were merely dreams of visionary reformers. Now mothers' pensions laws are in effect in forty-two of our forty-eight states. Three-fourths of the appeals for this sort of help come from families where the fathers have died in most other cases the father is ill or otherwise incapacitated. Mothers' pensions involve a principle that should be extended until charity of all forms is shouldered by the whole community instead of by tagging individuals. A lot of the charity that all of us are repeatedly asked to support is a process of asking people of moderate means to take care of the victims of the rich.

Family Fun

Bray!

The more than usual lack of intelligence among the students that morning had got under the professor's skin. "Class is dismissed," he said, exasperatedly. "Please don't flap your ears as you pass out."—Froth.

For Your Smart Grocer

"Hey, mister! Have you got anything in the shape of bananas?" "Yes, we have dill pickles."—Judge.

When Father Shuts Up

"Where does that child get his temper? Not from me, surely." "No; none of yours is missing."—Boston Transcript.

Little Willie's First Puff

"Willie, you naughty, naughty boy! You've been smoking. You'll be sick." To which the polite child replied wistfully: "Thank you, mother, I'm dying."—American Legion Weekly.

Husband To Wife

"Well, Henry, if anything goes wrong, I will always be able to keep the wolf away from the door by singing." "There isn't the slightest doubt of that, dear."—Oregon Lemon Punch.

One For The Auto Man

"You told me this car would last as long as I lived." "Well, you have been luckier than I thought you would."—Film Fun.

Engaged

(Lafayette Journal and Courier)
The Filipino is indulging in philippines. The Cuban is cuckoo. Porto Rico shrieks for freedom. Haiti sings a hymn of hate. Santo Domingo is in a state of biff, bang bingo. The Virgin Islands verge upon disaster. Uncle Sam's wards are cutting up like the very mischief. This is no time to ask Uncle Sam to "bring up" Europe.

Sensible

(Deatur Daily Democrat)
The community which offers a decent tax rate is the one which will go forward. People will not build homes when the taxes make the investment bad. Manufacturers will pass up those towns and cities which do not figure the tax rate to the lowest possible cent.

Hardy

(Daily Clintonian)
Despite all the handicaps that beset the average farmer, he manages to remain the very backbone of his community and of the Nation. If he were not of a hardy species, the farmers would be pushed off the map by discouragement.

Blooded

(Frankfort Evening News)
The old bloods used to draw prizes at the county fair for blooded horses. Now their youngsters draw fines for blooded automobiles.

Company

(Rushville Daily Republican)
Nothing gratifies a busy person quite so much as to have a time killer pop in and plant himself in your easiest chair, and accept your last cigar, and puff lazily while you hold the match, and then lean back comfortably and tell you not to bother about him, but go right on with your work.

Truth

(Marion Leader-Tribune)
An institute speaker said the trouble with the boys of today is they want to live without working. Haven't they always been the trouble with about nine-tenths of the whole of us?

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