

# The Indianapolis Times

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## FIRE DESTRUCTION ON INDIANA FARMS

**T**HAT considerable part of Indiana's population whose business is farming is urged by the National Board of Fire Underwriters to heed the wisdom of schooling in practical fire prevention.

"It is found," says the board, "that during 1918-1921 no less than \$2,270,360 worth of Indiana farm property went up in smoke, the great bulk—probably 90 per cent—of this loss being from causes that were strictly or partly preventable.

"Chiefly responsible among the known causes in the State was 'lightning.' This element alone inflicted \$548,906 damage, although its ravages might have been reduced to trifling proportions by the proper installation and maintenance of approved lightning rod equipment.

"Prominent also among the causes of rural fires in Indiana were 'sparks on roofs,' with \$299,607 recorded loss; 'defective chimneys and flues,' with \$282,833; 'spontaneous combustion,' with \$108,650, and 'matches—smoking,' with \$82,139 loss."

Every one of these causes is regarded by fire prevention engineers as strictly or in large part preventable by the exercise of care.

"To appreciate what this permanent waste of property means, it is only necessary to think of such a sum as \$2,270,360 spent constructively in the interests of the rural population of Indiana," the underwriters continue. "It would for example, have purchased 4,540 farm tractors at \$500 each, and thus have helped to lighten labor and to increase production; or it might have been invested in good roads, of which no State has more than it needs; or again, if thrown into farm loans it would have been no negligible factor in agricultural financing.

"As to fatalities and mutilations due to fire on the farm, while there are no statistics available to serve as a guide, conservative opinion holds that of the 30,000 deaths and injuries by fire in the United States last year, a regrettable number occurred in rural districts—and Indiana did not escape the payment of its share of this grisly tax.

"It might have done so, as well as materially reduced the property destruction, if to their strong strain of common sense the farmers of the State had added a reasonable amount of fire-caution."

## JUDICIAL ARROGANCE

**K**ANSAS CITY has a crime wave that has aroused its population and press to justified protest. On a recent Sunday, the Rev. Baxter Waters, a leading pastor of that city, preached a sermon of general comment on the prevalence of crime there and the apparent breakdown of the police, courts, and all law-enforcing and administrative powers. The following morning he was summoned to the Circuit Court of Judge Thad B. Landen, where, standing at the bar, he was severely censured and condemned by the court for his utterances in the pulpit.

There was no case or charge pending against Dr. Waters; he was not in direct or indirect contempt of court; he had interfered in no way with the orderly processes of judicial or legal affairs; he had violated no rules of any court; he had jeopardized no act of justice. He had merely given voice to and comment on what was of very common knowledge in the city.

Without the slightest authority and without one scintilla of moral or legal right, he was haled into this particular court and humiliated and browbeaten. More than that, the court employed the occasion in telling the preacher just what he should and should not say in his sermons. He made plain that his judicial purpose was not alone to visit unwarranted and illegal punishment upon the helpless man before him. He was attempting to place a muzzle on free speech.

If there has been, at any time, a more flagrant and arrogant violation of the lawful rights, powers and privileges of a court of justice than this, it has escaped eyes that are ever on the watch. And yet there are lawyers and jurists who pretend they cannot understand why contempt for courts is a growing sentiment among the people.

## BUT HOW ABOUT THE BOODLERS?

**T**HAT Senate committee on the Veterans' Bureau has wound up its "constructive investigation" and made its preliminary report. It may be constructive, but:

It says nothing about the charges of graft, fraud and corruption, which General O'Ryan, committee counsel, says was established by witnesses' testimony and documentary evidence.

It says nothing about the purchase of hospital sites at more than twice their value at Livermore, Cal.; Sulphur Springs, Mo., and other points.

It says nothing about the payment of huge sums to architects for worthless plans for hospitals never built.

It says nothing about the clean-up in the sale of Government drugs from Perryville which witnesses said officials were planning when caught.

It says nothing about the use of wine, women and song in Washington by agents of big contractors to bag generous building contracts at fat and unfair profits.

It says nothing about the testimony of one Elias Morlimer that at least once \$50,000 was split three ways, officials sharing, for the granting of certain construction contracts to Morlimer's company.

It says nothing of the costly inspection junkets by which tens of thousands of dollars were squandered giving high bureau officials "swell trips" and good times.

It says nothing of a lot of other rotteness in the old Veterans' Bureau, which was hinted at the hearings, but which was hushed up when it developed into too much of a high up Washington scandal.

A "constructive investigation" and a "constructive report" may be all right, but it is no excuse for whitewashing fraud, corruption and bootlegging in general.

Somebody was responsible.

The most constructive thing the Senate committee can do is brand the responsible parties and turn them over to the proper authorities for trial.

When grafters and bootleggers in Government service are punished for crookedness just as certainly in public as in private employ, then and then only will we have good management of Government.

## QUAKES ARE CAUSED BY CRUST SLIPS

Tremor Zones Follow Mountain Chains, Weakest Part of Earth's Surface.

By DAVID DIETZ  
Science Editor of The Times  
Copyright by David Dietz

**T**HE contraction of the earth's surface, as we have seen, is responsible for the rise of continents and mountain ranges. All life upon the earth, therefore, owes its existence to this fact.

But while this contraction makes life possible, it also results at times in the destruction of life. For it is the chief cause of earthquakes.

An earthquake is caused by a sudden movement or slipping of a part of the earth's crust.

Earthquakes occur in certain regions. These are the regions of greatest upheaval, during the last movements of the earth's crust which resulted in the buckling up of the present great mountain ranges.

The largest earthquake region extends along the line of the Alpine-Himalayan mountain system. It starts in the Alps and extends to central China, taking in Italy, the eastern Mediterranean, the Caspian, and the Himalayan mountains.

**Youngest Mountains**

These mountains are among the youngest upon the earth. Many geologists believe that they are still growing; that is, still being pushed up by movements of the earth's crust.

Over one-fifth of the earthquakes occur in this region.

Another great earthquake region extends from the Bay of Bengal to north of New Zealand. It includes the mountain region through the Malay Archipelago.

A third region starts at Kamchatka, a peninsula at the eastern end of Siberia, and follows the eastern coast of Asia to the Philippine Islands. This region includes Japan.

There are three earthquake regions in America. One lies along the coast of Alaska and British Columbia. The second begins in California and ends in Ecuador.

The third is along the west coast of South America from Peru to Patagonia.

Another earthquake region is the West Indies. Geologists believe that at one time these islands were all connected together into a continent, but that great regions subsided, owing to movements of the earth's crust, leaving the present archipelago.

**Southern Quake Region**

A southern earthquake region extends from South India westward to Mauritius in the Indian Ocean.

Another large earthquake region extends from North Africa to Spain and Portugal. A smaller region includes the Bermuda Islands.

Many factors tend to aggravate the natural instability of these weaker portions of the earth's crust.

One is the atmospheric pressure. Delicate measuring instruments prove to the satisfaction of geologists that when the atmospheric pressure is heaviest in western Japan and when heavy rains fall there, the result is an upward tilt of eastern Japan. It is noticeable of course, except for the records made by exceptional delicate apparatus.

Strains in the earth's crust are also aggravated by the tidal pull of the moon and by the fact that the earth does not rotate smoothly upon its axis but wobbles somewhat as it rotates.

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Next article in series: Volcanoes.

## PARALAUGHS

It is being dug up faster than the money for a soldier bonus.

Should the golf ball be lighter? We doubt it. But a pedestrian tells us the auto should be lighter.

Senate is considering a \$729,000,000 post office appropriation so we can get our bills on time.

Presidential slogans are being coined. Here's ours: More action and less fact.

A ring of leather thieves is operating in St. Louis, possibly shipping the leather over disguised as steaks.

Some man buy loud speakers, some marry loud speakers and some loud speakers are elected to office.

A grandmother will marry again in Charlestown, Mass., this being the first sign of spring in that town.

Ireland is competing with Egypt. A skeleton dug up near Dublin is said to be 7,000 years old.

Henry Ford employs 162,792 men and worries many more.

None being Government officials, five Dallas (Texas) oil men have been sent to the penitentiary.

It says nothing about the use of wine, women and song in Washington by agents of big contractors to bag generous building contracts at fat and unfair profits.

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## Bishop Is Facing Heresy Charges



REV. WILLIAM M. BROWN

By ALION, Ohio, Feb. 18.—Adam

and Eve figure prominently

in the forthcoming trial for

heresy of Rev. William M. Brown

Episcopal bishop, now living here.

In a bill of complaint, formally

filed by three members of the House

of Bishops, the clergyman is accused

of holding and teaching through a

book "Communism and, Christian-

ism," doctrine contrary to those

held by the Episcopal belief.

Rev. Brown, who says he be-

lieved his father even helped Captain Kidd

hide some of the valuable loot in the

very same Sheepscot River, not far

from the village of Wiscasset.

The Buccaneer Trask had willed to

the fourth generation charts, maps and

diagrams showing the location in the

Sheepscot River of the buried loot.

The story goes on to tell how after

repeated trips made up the stream from Wiscasset in the sloop "Glory" by

Moses King, Sr., Trask, a profes-

sional diver named MacGregor and

young King, then a lad of 20, the

party finally came across a sort of

chest which they believed to be that of

the notorious Captain Kidd.

Trask told his friend King his great-

grandfather had helped Captain Kidd

hide some of the valuable loot in the

very same Sheepscot River, not far

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