

The Indianapolis Times

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PHONE—MA 3500.Be courteous: not rendering evil for evil, or railing for
railing: but contrariwise blessing.—1 Pet. 3:8-9.There is no outward sign of courtesy that does not rest on
a deep moral foundation.—Goethe.

LISTENING IN ON THE PUBLIC

MAYOR SHANK did well to ask the citizens of Indianapolis for suggestions as to what could be done during the last year of his administration for the good of the city. Now that he is receiving the suggestions, he would do well to consider them carefully. All of them, obviously, can not be carried out, nor would it be advisable to carry all of them out. But some of them could be put into effect greatly to the advantage of the city.

One writer to the mayor suggests a department of municipal publicity. He would have this department see to it that Indianapolis is appreciated by the outside world and by the citizens of Indianapolis themselves. Certainly the city would benefit by such publicity, but it is doubtful whether it should be accomplished through a municipal department. It seems that it could better be conducted through the Chamber of Commerce or some other group of public-spirited citizens.

Edgar H. Evans makes some very pertinent suggestions. Perhaps the most important is that all departments be operated under the civil service or merit system. This is particularly imperative in the police and fire departments—especially in the former, where politics continues to be the controlling factor.

If the Shank administration should accomplish nothing else, it would long be remembered as a great administration if it takes steps to remove politics from the police department.

He also suggests, among other things, that boards be not disturbed with changing administrations except for cause. We doubt the advisability of this. Certainly board appointments, if the best interests of the city are to be served, should not be matters of political reward, but every administration has its policies and every incoming mayor is entitled to carry out his ideas at least to some extent in his own way.

Then there are suggestions as to the regulation of traffic. This is an ever-increasing problem about which Indianapolis has done little. There have been surveys by experts, surveys by boards, surveys by commissions, and surveys by just ordinary individuals, but the traffic problem goes right on. One of these days it is going to become so serious that a city administration will be compelled to leave off making surveys and start in making improvements. It is being done in other cities and it can be done in Indianapolis.

A mayor with his ear to the ground is to be commended. But it is just as necessary to act as to listen.

BEAUTY

PERFUMES, cosmetics and toilet preparations cost this country more than \$117,000,000 a year. This is shown by a check-up on the part of Uncle Sam.

Soon you'll find critics using this figure, along with the cost of such things as movies and tobacco, as an indication of America's gigantic spending for luxuries. As a matter of fact, it amounts to only about a dollar a year for every man, woman and child. Beauty and cleanliness are cheap at any price.

And do not charge it all to woman's vanity. A lot of these perfumes, cosmetics and toilet preparations are used by men and babes.

NEW YEAR'S BOOZE

THERE are those who say there is even more drinking on New Year's eve—and at other times—than there was before prohibition. There are others, mostly enforcement officers, who say there was almost no drinking in Indianapolis New Year's eve. The answer probably lies between the two extremes, perhaps nearer to the latter.

We perhaps hear more stories of drinking on New Year's eve now than we used to. There is a reason for this. Drinking, or at least transportation and sale of booze, is illegal. Therefore it is smart. Therefore, we talk about it.

The chances are that those who talk most now about New Year's drinking were so pie-eyed in the old days that they didn't know how much was going on. Then, too, it was so usual in those days that it did not excite comment.

Prohibition hasn't up to the present time prohibited. But anyone who says it has not had a restraining influence doesn't know what he is talking about.

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SPECIAL NOTE: Our Washington Bureau still has copies available of the bulletin COMMON ERROR IN ENGLISH.

Any reader who wishes a copy of this bulletin, place an X mark opposite this paragraph and enclose 5 cents for the TWO bulletins. (Copyright 1925, NEA Service, Inc.)

QUICK ASKS POSTAL USERS PAY FOR BAD ADDRESS

Writer Continues Discussion
of Way to Make Post
office Pay.

By HIBERT QUICK

IHAVE suggested that instead of taxing the newspapers and magazines with higher postal rates, the Postoffice Department might earn enough to wipe out its deficit if it would cut down the weight of a first-class letter to be carried for two cents to about a third of its present weight, and still accommodate business just as well. We should do as the foreigners do—use lighter paper and envelopes. The Government is too liberal in the weight it carries for two cents. It could carry the same business with less tonnage and get more money for it if it would demand the extra two cents per letter on those which weigh more than about a third of the maximum size now.

But this is not the only possible way to get more money out of carrying the mails, without taxing business or doing any one any injustice. Take the abuse of bad or imperfect or illegible addresses, for instance. Our news columns tell us that the dead letter office states that people are getting more and more careless in the way they address their letters. Dead letter busi- ness increased more than 42 per cent last year. There were 21,518,163 undeliverable letters mailed last year. Add to these the huge numbers which were sent to wrong addresses and which the admirable de- tectives of the postoffices finally after much trouble succeeded in de- livering by ferreting out the ad- dresses, and the aggregate of carelessness and error becomes enormous.

Blame Is Divided

Now this is partly the fault of the people and partly that of the Postoffice Department itself. All my life I have read the boasts of the department as to its ingenuity in finding addresses. Any one who receives a large mail occasionally receives a letter which on form ought not to have reached him at all. I got one last week addressed to me at a town in Vermont, a State in which I never had even a temporary address. I have had letters forwarded to me from places like Richmond, where I never stopped off even over night. I have had letters addressed to Hubert Quirk sent me from places I left thirty years ago. All this is quite creditable to the postoffice people and it is what they should do.

But ought not this incorrectly addressed mail pay something for the trouble it causes? I think it should. I suggest to the Postmaster General, then, that as a beginning all letters addressed to people in cities of over, say, 10,000 population should bear the correct street address or carry 4 cents in stamps.

Would End Deficit

This in itself would bring in enough more money the first year to wipe out the so-called deficit. Then I should suggest tentatively that when letters are sent to wrong addresses it would be no more than fair to make a 'postage due' charge on delivery for the trouble of looking up the correct address. This might be 2 cents. I have the ob- jection to adding postage in cases where the person sending the letter can not provide himself—but all this dependence upon the post offices to supply our own lack of effort or knowledge should be paid for where possible.

Under such a penalty, people would look more carefully after their addresses. Addresses would be on their minds. We should become educated in the matter of care in addresses. This would be good for us. Next year we should almost certainly see a decrease in dead letter business. And the Postoffice Department would have an increased revenue for doing less work per letter. What objection to that? I see none.

Tom Sims Says

A million dollars' worth of matches is a nice gift for a man who tries to smoke pipe.

Your luck may not be bad, but in Georgia a policeman has been shot in the neck, again.

Chicago medium got a spirit message for a rich man. Must have been a long distance, the charges being \$3,000.

The Turk's Sunday comes on Friday, as by the time we are having Sunday he knows who was killed on his.

There are only fifteen million phone numbers in the United States, so we can't understand how they get the wrong one so often.

About ten millions are spent yearly to keep us dry and as much spent daily to keep us wet.

Talk about hard luck; in Akron, Ohio, a man lost his false teeth the day before Christmas.

Alabama farmer went to jail for bringing home the bacon. Got into a market and stole a whole side of it.

Twelve people were killed in Mexico. Being in a hurry we didn't read to see what the election was about.

Man got arrested in Chicago for teaching how to make booze, so must hold his graduation exercises at the jail.

The sidewalk jumped up and hit quite a few folks during the holidays because they thought bootleggers were honest.

It is estimated the average man could learn to beat a drum with the energy he uses scratching his head.

Better make a resolution to keep your resolutions.

That's why pipes are better than cigarettes. They go out so often you don't get much smoke.

Many a man keeps his nose to the grindstone so he can turn it up at the bill collectors.

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RIGHT HERE
IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

Requests

THE State budget committee Wednesday made public the requests for appropriations filed by State institutions and departments. The list makes heavy reading. And is no comic strip for the taxpayer.

For all except three of the thirty-seven institutions and departments ask more money for 1925-1926 than they spent in 1923-1924. Which, if granted, would mean a total increase of \$6,000 in appropriations.

And this is a year dedicated to official worship of economy! Probably, however, the budget committee will give the estimates a good swatting. In order to squeeze them into the State's financial clothes.

Nevertheless the requests reveal why public economy is so warmly commended officially, but is so rarely attained. Every institution and department favors economy—for others. But it feels public service would be hamstrung if any decrease should be made in its own expenditures.

So that in practice there is more smoke than fire in the talk of reducing governmental costs.

Before there can be any real economy, State institutions and departments must experience a change of heart. They must base their requests not on desires—or ambition to enlarge their service—but on actual frugal needs.

As the aim of most trade unions. There is a distinction, but little difference between Capital and Labor. In both is much plain human nature.

Entertainment

It is estimated that Indianapolis has spent approximately \$40,000 in the principal downtown clubs, hotels, and theaters in celebrating New Year's eve. Yet this is only a fraction of the total spent in the city.

And as the old year died money flowed just as freely in other cities. From New York to Main streets wearing self-consciously brand new paving. For that is the custom.

The national expense for greeting 1925 will run into stupendous figures. Which it devoted to charity would astound the world. Or if added to taxes would cause the citizenship to writhe in anguish.

However, devoted to New Year's fun, the sum causes no common except blistered feet. And occasional alcoholic qualms. And is quickly forgotten.

Perhaps it's a pity so much should be spent for so little. For the New Year wouldn't be a minute late if no one spent a nickel on it.

Therefore in the old light of reason the cash dumped into the hilarity is sheer economic waste.

But people spend for what they want, not what they need. They want entertainment—and will pay for it. Such low tapers may be regrettable. But humanity is always discouraging to the upholders.

Travel

PRESIDENT W. B. HINER of the Red Ball Transit Company, believes the next ten years will see radical changes in transportation. In which airplanes will play an important part.

From lumbering stage coaches to winged mules shooting across the sky, is a far cry. But transportation has made that advance in a human life span.

In 1925 man may stick spurs into a radio wave and shoot around the world.

Man is proud of his mechanical transportation achievements. And properly so. For they have enabled him to spread over and conquer the earth.

While he traveled on his own muscles he was just a slow, weak animal struggling to exist. But when he learned to ride, not walk, he started on the road to civilization.

The first man to mount a horse was the greatest inventor in transportation. He invented motive power. From that invention the Twentieth Century Limited and the air-mail are the legitimate offspring.

But ability to travel fast and fast is by itself an empty achievement. For it isn't the celerity with which one travels from here to there that counts. The important thing is what he does after arriving there.

That was twenty-seven years ago. Since then he has served continuously on the Supreme bench, being now in point of service the oldest member of the court. Justice Holmes, who is two years older, is three years younger in service on the bench.

Physically frail and now in his 82d year, McKenna has decided to resign once more, this time retiring to the quiet of private life for the few years that perhaps remain to him.

USTICE HOLMES has an enviable military as well as judicial record behind him. Within a month after he was graduated from Harvard College in '61, he had been commissioned first lieutenant in the 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, and had started for the front.

In October of that year, in the battle of Ball's Bluff, he was shot through the breast. Recovering from this wound, and being promoted to a captaincy, he led his men into the battle of Antietam in September, '62, and got a bullet through the neck.

Within a year, however, Justice Field having retired from the Supreme bench, the little lawyer from the West was picked for the vacant seat, and so resigned his captaincy.

This latter wound, he has often said, might have been embarrassing had he not had two previous scars to attest his claim that he wasn't running away. He wound up the

bench.

WHAT else does sea water contain besides sodium chloride? "Fish."—John Hopkins Blue Jay.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Justice Holmes, son of the Oliver Wendell who

It's a Tough Neighborhood We Live In



By ALBERT APPLE

omy in national Government, taxpayers have not been sufficiently vigilant in watching the tax spenders closer at home.

So we have the farcical situation of tax burden being piled on our backs from one side about as fast as it is improved from the other.

N 1912 the combined debts of all American States and municipalities totalled less than four billion dollars. Today the figure is not far below eleven billions. Roughly, it is half as big as the national debt, which is so stupendous that it is beyond the imagination of all except professional mathematicians.

Final corrected figures apparently will show that more State and local government long-term bonds were issued in 1924 than in any year of the past.

Increased debt means increased interest to pay—and the only way to get it is by higher taxes.

We must have such improvements as are necessary. But it is perilous to imagine the future more and more. The day of reckoning cannot be indefinitely postponed.

And we will lose all the advantages of national Government economy unless similar caution and thrift are exercised in State and local expenditures.

was as aid to Gen. H. G. Wright having been breveted as major, lieutenant colonel and colonel.

And immediately entered law school to prepare himself, as it afterward proved, for the Supreme bench.

Window Faces

By HAL COCHRAN

Watchin' and waitin' for daddy to come; anxious to greet him again. Wee little tot with a heart all a-hum.

Daytime is closing and nighttime draws nigh. Time you are takin' your place up at the window where dad passes by; where you can show him your face.

Funny pressed nose that is smudgin' the pane; cheeks that are flattened and red. Waitin' and watchin', but never in vain, but always rewarded instead.

Daddy arrives and you're thrilled all anew. You rush to the door, full of vim. Whatever the pleasure he's giving to you, you're giving the same thing to him.

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The COACH<br