

The Indianapolis Times

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It is appointed unto men once to die.—Heb. 9:27.

The relations of all living end in separation.—Mahabharata.

GAS TAXES AND ROADS

MONEY collected through the taxation on gasoline should be used for roads. It is a special tax, and a peculiarly equitable one, originally designed to require those who use roads most to pay most for road construction and maintenance.

On the other hand, the proposal that all state departments, including the highway department, should come under a budget and that money for their operation should be appropriated for that purpose is fair and business-like.

It is the conflict between these two considerations that must be ironed out. Experience has shown about what can be expected in the way of returns from a gasoline tax. Would it not be possible, if there are no constitutional objections, to put the gasoline tax in the general fund and then to appropriate approximately the amount of money thus obtained for road purposes?

Certainly gasoline tax money should be used for no other purpose than the maintenance and construction of roads.

RUSS AND JAP NOW PALS

JAPAN and Russia have kissed and made up. Russia gets recognition and Japan gets coal and oil and gas and food—coal for her industries, oil for her navy, gas for her airfleet and food for her population.

Which is all to the good, for Japan. It brings complete domination of the Orient a step nearer. It makes her more nearly self-sustaining. The "open door" in the Far East closes another inch and additional agreements between Russia and Japan are forecast—probably having to do with "spheres of influence" in Manchuria, Inner and Outer Mongolia.

And so, while we persist in our refusal to recognize Russia, and our foreign policy generally remains at a standstill, the international procession moves on without us.

FRANCE'S REAL TROUBLE

EVERY once in a while the bottom drops out of the French franc. Once worth 20 cents, it is now worth a nickel.

And every time it happens, France sets up a howl. She blames it on an international plot, on New York, on London, on the Germans.

France's real enemy is herself. She owes a lot of money and she won't pay. She owes us \$4,000,000,000 and she threatens repudiation. Her budget doesn't balance and she lacks the stamina to tax her citizens.

Britain, across the Channel, likewise up to her ears in debt, is doing everything France should do but refuses to do. Her debt to us of nearly \$5,000,000,000 was refunded two years ago. She is sweating blood, but her money is back at par in United States postoffices.

The business man who wriggles out of paying what he owes loses his credit. So does a nation.

France's real trouble is with herself.

HE SOLD US ON FINLAND

PAALO NURMI, crack Finnish track athlete, has by his exploits enhanced the value of the bonds of Finland on the market by at least ten millions of dollars.

That figure comes from Chas. E. Mitchell, financier, president of the National City Company. Therefore it is worth considering.

Folks, reading daily of Nurmi's exploits, inquired about Finland. Learning what kind of people Nurmi's compatriots were, investors thought well of Finnish bonds, bought them, and their value went up.

That is bringing home the bacon, with the eggs alongside.

In the line of selling nations abroad, Nurmi's style is something new. Everybody is familiar with the line handled by that wizard of good will salesman, the Prince of Wales. He is always on the road, his sample case of personality and sportsmanship on display. He sells Great Britain abroad.

A lot of jobless Russian nobles have been peddling overseas, without much luck. Blasco Ibanez has taken a whirl at selling Spain to us. Mussolini has boomed the market value of Italian securities, and they have slumped. Clemenceau and others have tried to sell France. And many another, with his wares.

But no one has done a better job of it, in so short a time, than has this remarkable Finn, who hails from an equally remarkable country. He has the goods.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to The Indianapolis Times Washington Bureau, 1325 New York Ave., Washington, D. C. 10004. No charge. No stamps for reply. Medical, legal and marital advice cannot be given, nor can extended research be undertaken. All other questions will receive a personal reply. If your question cannot be answered, all letters are confidential.

When was the pasteurization of milk first started?
During the last half of the nineteenth century in France by Pasteur.

What is the meaning of the word "Argo"?
In Greek mythology it was the ship of the Argonauts. In astronomy it is the large southern constellation, called, "The Ship."

What is a good formula for furniture polish?
Two parts turpentine and one part linseed oil. All excess of oil should be removed with a clean soft cloth.

How long does it take tulips, grown in water, to root?
From eight to ten weeks, and then they grow very slowly.

How and when was the District of Columbia formed?
It was originally formed when Maryland in 1788 ceded Washington County, and Virginia, 1793, Alexandria County, forming a district ten miles square. The territory selected included the site of Powhatan's village, Anacostan or Nacochank, also the existing village of Georgetown, on the Virginia side of the Potomac, and on both the Maryland side, and on the Virginia side Alexandria, formerly Belhaven. In 1846, no Federal buildings having been erected on the Virginia side, Alexandria County was retroceded to that State upon the petition of the inhabitants.

An Airplane Flying With the Sun
Through a regrettable error in the Question column, it was stated recently in answer to the question, "How fast would an airplane have to fly in order to keep up with the sun?" that its speed would be approximately 330 miles per hour. This figure should have been approximately 1,040 miles per hour at the equator, decreasing constantly as points toward the poles.

What is the best method of treating ropes to make them resist decay when exposed to the weather?
Perhaps the time honored method of tarring them. For this purpose pine tar pitch is used. It is swabbed

on warm and allowed to soak into the rope. Although the pitch does not absolutely waterproof the rope, its properties prevent decay. The treatment should be repeated from time to time.

What is the size of Ireland and how does it compare with England and Wales?
Ireland is rather more than half the size of England and Wales. Its area, including the adjacent islands, is 32,606 square miles.

Does a boy under twenty-one years of age have to have the consent of his parents to enlist in the Navy?
Yes. If he enlists without their consent, they can have him discharged by applying within sixty days after the date of his enlistment, otherwise, he can be held for a four-year enlistment period.

STREET CAR COMPANIES OPERATING MOTOR BUS LINES

Motor Routes Take Place of Track Extensions in Cities.

RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

Good Will

FRANK N. WAMPLER, of the public service commission, in response to a query, expressed the opinion that public utilities may properly include reasonable charges for advertising in operating expenses.

The opinion itself is reasonable. Advertising is primarily the cultivation of good will.

Formerly many public utilities didn't give a hoot about good will. "The public be damned," was their motto. Consequently they sowed a crop of thistles in their public relations which they still reap.

If they had appreciated the value of good will, they probably would have been proposed or needed.

The value of good will in business has been startlingly demonstrated by Henry Ford.

From the very inception of the diver enterprise the kindly regard of the public was assiduously sought. No method to attain it was overlooked. Today the Ford Motor Company practically holds a monopoly in its field—yet it isn't considered a menace. Twenty years of building good will rendered it immune from attack.

If public utilities can cultivate public good will now by judicious advertising, it will benefit them and the people they serve. The public would rather have them to have operating expenses than to have high-priced lobbyists hired out of net profits.

Levies

SENATOR BATT of Terre Haute has introduced a bill to limit tax levies for local purposes in any taxing unit in the State.

Under its terms the maximum school levy would be \$1; town, ship or city, \$1; county, 40 cents; gravel roads, 10 cents.

It sounds encouraging, for the burden of taxation has become oppressive. The taxpayer anxiously scans the horizon for relief galloping in his direction.

However, it is doubtful if a State-imposed limit on local levies would rescue him—while the measure would increase centralization and drive another nail in the coffin of local self-government.

People of local taxing units know their local needs better than a State law. If local levies become unbearable the people have relief in their own hands.

Indiana once successfully limited local taxation.

A Supreme Court interpretation of the constitution of 1850 required uniform school expenditures throughout the State. As a result public schools in Indiana practically ceased to exist for many years.

A maximum for all taxation would be desirable, perhaps. Until the total—local, State and national—is limited, fixing a maximum for local taxes

wouldn't take the crick out of the taxpayer's back. He would just be fattened for a good killing by State and Federal levies.

Waterways

RICHARD LIEBER, speaking before the Indiana Waterways Association recently, suggested the possibility of developing waterways—canals and rivers—in the State as carriers of heavy freight.

Water transportation has been a favorite theme in the States of the Ohio Valley for a century. Some way the dream fails to materialize.

Theoretically development of inland waterways is feasible—and would save vast sums in freight charges. Water transportation is cheap. Heavy traffic doesn't wear out water as it does highways or steel rails.

However, despite the attractiveness of the theory, there is a catch in it some place. The Federal Government has dumped millions into river improvement. The only visible results have been political, not economic.

Indiana, between 1830-1840, embarked on an elaborate scheme to cover the State with a network of canals. The scheme covered the State knee-deep in debt—but that was all.

Today all that remains of that great canal project is the "open ditch" from W. Washington St. to Broad Ripple, the anemic ghost of the Central Canal.

Inland waterways, though robust and vigorous in the plan stage, always develop a fatal weakness when constructed. They carry more enthusiasm than freight. Enthusiasm won't pay interest charges on the bonds.

Conversion

MEN are easier to convert than women. So asserted an evangelist—conducting services at the Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church—the other night in his sermon.

The statement is interesting—if true.

Perhaps the difference is due to the relative wickedness of the sexes. Men plunge into the sea of iniquity over their heads. They are easily persuaded to accept a life preserver.

Women, generally, don't immerse themselves all over in wickedness. They only dabble in it close to shore and get their feet wet. Perhaps they don't feel so acutely their imminent peril.

Husbands, however, will say that women are less easily converted because of their stubbornness. When a woman refuses to believe he was "detained downtown by business," what chance has an exhorter to convince her of her soul's danger?

That's the experienced husband. He's spiritually weaned from differences in mental and spiritual qualities of men and women are unresolvable. Women are this or that positively declares some learned gentleman. Then events, and women, immediately prove him wrong.

The difference between the sexes is primarily physical. Intellectually and spiritually men and women are cut off the same piece—with imperfections quite evenly distributed. They are both quite human.

POISON OF PROGRESS

By HERBERT QUICK

FRANCE is taking it—the poison of progress. She is going the way of old New England. She has always resisted the mania for manufacturing at the expense of agriculture. The war has infected her. In fact, she waged the war more largely for the purpose of getting at this poison than for self-defense. She wanted Alsace-Lorraine and the Saar so she could take the place in the industries from which Germany was to be pushed.

Now her creditors are assured by economists that France will come through to solvency by the development of her manufactures and mines. She is converting herself from a self-supporting, largely agricultural nation to a status like that of Great Britain and Germany.

There now appears in France the most ominous of all signs, the abandoned farm. Think of abandoned farms in France! But there was a time when one would have exclaimed at them in New England, where one now finds the old stone walls and the foundations of houses of our forefathers buried in the forest which has crept back to mask the failure of our civilization to resist disease.

For the mania for manufacturing is a disease. To be sure, as the wants of mankind grow more of the energy of the race must be expended in mining and manufacturing. The agricultural needs of man increase with social advancement by addition only. His manufactured necessities grow by multiplication up to a certain point. So far the increased emphasis on making things is justified.

For all that, however, the infection which has mastered Britain decades ago, which has got America in its grip, and which has now inflamed the veins of France, is a disease.

Dependence upon manufacturing is justified in some cases when the rest of the world is largely agricultural, and then only. A hundred years ago Britain had certain markets in the great peoples which did not manufacture for themselves. Now, however, all the nations are striving to manufacture when they need. All of them see a future when they will not only make what they need but send surpluses to the rest of the world. India, China—all Asia—is now the last of the great markets. But it will probably not be twenty-five years before the Asiatic markets will be the great manufacturing nations.

When this time comes, the great

game of making things for the world will be over. And the peoples will have forgotten how to farm. A people once weaned from the soil never goes back to it. France has a death of farm labor. Her people are flocking to the cities. In France, Britain, the United States, and the other factory-crazed nations, the time is coming when they must be satisfied with their particular shares of the factory capacity of a world filled with factories. The markets will fail.

There will be that permanent unemployment which England has and which cannot be remedied save by putting back on the farms a people permanently unfitted for farming. It will be some such crisis as that which always has occurred in every declining civilization. No civilization has yet found a remedy for such a disease.

We have made immense progress in science and the arts but it is impossible to see in our science any such competence in social organization as justifies the hope that we shall succeed where others have failed. Our competitors of a world of things which make up our disease the atrophy of agriculture, the hypertrophy of manufacturing, the overbalancing of rural by urban life.

Yourself

By HAL COCHRAN

WHAT do you think of yourself, old top? What are you really worth? You're a success or a near-to-flop in the part that you play on earth.

Many the men who depend on pull—many who travel alone. Say, is YOUR cheerful cup real full 'cause your working is all your own?

God gave you two feet to stand upon, and you never were meant to lean on some other man. Say, why not don a thinking cap that's keen?

The road to success is an open path. It's a place where a man can speed. It's up to each man what it is he hath. Things are his if he takes the lead.

How easy it is to find the kind who wish for, but never work. You're not up in front when you trail behind, and you trail when you'd rather shirk.

Consider yourself, as you really are. Are you making the best of your job? The biggest success, I guess, by far, is the man who's ahead of the mob.

Mowing Them Down



What Do Newspapers Owe the Public?

By ROY W. HOWARD

Chairman of the Board, Scripps-Howard Newspapers.
(Reprinted From Collier's)

WHAT has the public a right to expect from its newspapers? As I see it, first of all a newspaper must be a good citizen and a decent neighbor.

It is our theory that newspapers more nearly than most any other form of public service organization take on human attributes and characteristics. Sincerity is the foundation stone of character and standing in the community. If its sincerity is above question the shade of its political and economic opinions are of secondary importance.

Our editors are urged to visualize their papers as upstanding red-blooded citizens of their communities, possessing a sense of humor, a sense of proportion, a sense of decency, and a love of fair play. They are urged always to defy cynicism, to encourage tolerance and never to forget that a smile has an asset value even in the midst of a fight.

That a newspaper must have courage and convictions is understood and accepted, but that newspapers must have the willingness and the resources to make tremendous financial sacrifices for editorial

principles is not so generally understood. The newspaper which can be bludgeoned into accepting editorial ideas merely because they happen to be in accord with the ideas of advertisers is already a victim of journalistic anæmia and doomed to a brief existence.

Must Cover News

Next to its obligation of good citizenship a newspaper owes its clientele a complete and intelligently selected coverage of local, national and world news.

The newspaper owes its readers a clearly defined editorial policy appearing in and confined to its editorial columns. Unfortunately, the recent tendency of all American journalism has been to overlook this obligation. With the decline of the personal and partisan journalism of a generation ago the star reporter has not only fallen from the place in the spotlight formerly occupied by editors of the Henry Watterson type, but he has usurped the prerogatives. The result has been an interlarding of the news columns with the opinions and viewpoints of the star reporter. Even with this digression the independent newspaper of today, taken as a whole, is a truer mirror of events than any of its predecessors.

Metropolitan journalism, like big-city life in general, is more impersonal, outward-looking, at least, more cold and thoughtless than life in smaller cities. I believe, however, that even metropolitan journalism owes to itself a kindlier and more generous attitude toward those involved in stories affecting young people and children. No news story, however interesting, is worth a newspaper what it costs in sacrificed good-will and reader respect, if publicity of the story puts a criminal brand on some young person in consequence of a first misstep which might have been retraced and atoned

for if publication had not made the stain indelible.

Sex Stories Problem

How sex matters should be treated by newspapers raises a question that never has and probably never will be finally answered. No subject has so great or so general an appeal. Due to greater liberalism in schools, the teaching of sex hygiene and the more liberal trend of all current literature, matter which would have been taboo in newspapers of a generation ago excites no criticism whatever today. No newspaper seeking to reflect everyday life, as any successful newspaper must, can ignore sex or human interest stories involving the subject. At the same time, the best and most representative newspapers in the country lag behind rather than run ahead of the public interest in sex stories.

I think the public has a right to demand of newspaper editors that no story shall be printed apt to raise any question on the part of a clean-minded boy or girl of twelve or fourteen which cannot readily be answered or explained by any parent who has acquainted his children with the normal realities of life.

One hears much talk these days of the waning influence of newspapers in public affairs. The indictment must be brought against individual newspapers and not against journalism as a whole. Where editors and publishers have kept abreast of their communities and have readjusted their viewpoints with the changing thoughts and aspirations of their readers, the influence of the individual newspaper in any cause in which public welfare is involved is as great as at any time in the history of journalism.

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