

The Indianapolis Times

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No law shall be passed restraining the free interchange of thought and opinion, or restricting the right to speak, write, or print freely, on any subject whatever.—Constitution of Indiana.

A Crime Wave

THE whole country is agitated about the increase in law violations. When law violations are discussed in this connection reference usually is made to burglaries, robberies and similar crimes. Here in Indianapolis we are awakening to the existence of a wave of law violations of even greater proportions than the "crime wave" referred to. We mean violation of the greatest of all our laws, the Constitution.

Here is what Judge James A. Collins of the Criminal Court, who is trying to enforce all the law, has to say about this wave of law violations:

"This is 'merica, not Russia, yet I suppose that within the past eight years 10,000 Indianapolis homes have been illegally entered by prohibition officers with search warrants that would never hold water."

How is that for a crime wave of enormous proportions?

This is the sort of thing The Times is fighting. The fight is one that should have the support of the entire community, regardless of the feeling of the community or individuals on the subject of prohibition. It just happens that the homes of thousands of innocent persons are being unlawfully entered in the name of prohibition enforcement. It would be just as bad as if they were being searched in the name of dope law enforcement, counterfeiting law enforcement or in the name of enforcement of any law.

The fact that illegal searches are being made in the name of prohibition law enforcement does not involve prohibition itself in the least. The objection is not to the enforcement of the prohibition law. It should be enforced just as any other law should be enforced. The objection is to the violation of the bill of rights, which makes the home of an innocent person inviolate.

On the same day that Judge Collins scored the violation of the bill of rights, he sentenced a number of persons for violation of the prohibition law. He merely was doing his duty as a judge, which obliges him to enforce BOTH the prohibition law and the bill of rights.

Judge Collins places the blame for wholesale violations of the law by officers sworn to enforce the law on the prohibition enforcement division of the police department. He referred to Justice of the Peace Henry Spiller, who has been issuing search warrants in wholesale numbers. Collins said:

"Spiller has no authority outside his township, and he has been imposed upon, thinking he was doing his duty. With the exercise of a little common sense, the whole situation could have been avoided."

The Times is not attempting to fix the blame for the present situation. It is the duty of the courts to fix the blame for law violations. But we know that the law is being violated and we expect to continue our fight for law enforcement—including enforcement of the provisions of the American Constitution.

Spare Us This Spectacle

THE Federal Council of Churches, in concluding its report on the enforcement—and nonenforcement—of prohibition, recommends that the churches resume the teaching of temperance. It finds the churches have been remiss in that respect since the Constitution was amended to establish temperance by law.

Perhaps this suggestion, if carried out, may help to get the horse around in front of the cart again. But let us hope that certain phases of past temperance campaigns will not be witnessed. We are prepared to see white ribbons appear again and to respect their wearers. We are prepared to listen to "Where Is My Wandering Boy Tonight" and to admire the miss or matron who declaims that "Lips That Touch Liquor Shall Never Touch Mine." We are ready to gaze shudderingly on terrible charts illustrating what alcohol does to our interiors. We will stare with reverent awe once more at the reformed old soak when he is restored to the platform to serve as a horrible example.

We are ready to have "Ten Nights in a Barroom" supplant "Abie's Irish Rose" as the great American drama.

Seriously, these things are all right in their way. We honestly believe they resulted in making more convinced teetotalers than the Eighteenth amendment.

What we object to is a thing that might be called the commercialization of temperance. We object to wealthy manufacturers and other big employers subsidizing sensational evangelists to win their employees over to temperance, while willing themselves to keep a little stock of spirits in their cellars. This has been done in the past by employers

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

SCIENCE BUILDS A \$70,000 DAM JUST TO DESTROY IT

By David Dietz
NEA Service Writer

SCIENTISTS are planning to build an arch dam 100 feet high near Fresno, Cal., at a cost of \$70,000. As soon as they have built it they will set about destroying it.

Put in destroying the \$70,000 worth of concrete masonry, the scientists expect to settle problems that are centuries old and to save the future builders of arch dams not thousands but millions of dollars. For, paradoxical as it sounds, scientists have found that the way to improve things is to destroy them.

The scientists call this process "testing to destruction." It is practiced by the U. S. Bureau of Standards, the U. S. Bureau of Mines, the national fire underwriters' laboratories, and many manufacturing companies, including especially the makers of telephones and electrical apparatus.

An engineer designs a telephone transmitter that he thinks is better than one in use. Accordingly the transmitter is put before a graphophone which shouts "hello" into it continuously, day and night, until the telephone transmitter breaks. The record is then compared with the record for other types of transmitters.

The U. S. Bureau of Standards tests steel beams by smashing them with a hydraulic press capable of exerting thousands of tons pressure. Steel safes are tested by throwing them off roofs down upon concrete pavements.

The fire underwriters stage fires to test fire-proof materials.

No test up to the present, however,

has been as spectacular as that proposed with the arch dam.

A SPECIAL committee of the Engineering Foundation, a national organization with headquarters at New York, is to be in charge of the work. Leading engineers of America and Europe as well as government engineers from the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, the States of California and Oregon and the cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles will co-operate in the work.

The dam is to be built on Steven- son Creek, a tributary of the San Joaquin River, about sixty miles east of Fresno.

The dam is to be built upon a foundation of solid rock. It will be seven feet thick at the base and two feet thick at the top.

The dam will first be built to a height of sixty feet.

TESTS will then be carried on for a year. Delicate measuring instruments, fully tested for accuracy at the U. S. Bureau of Standards, will be used to determine the stresses and strains in the dam and any movements of the dam under such strain.

Many of these measuring instruments are being specially designed for the work.

At the end of the year, the height of the dam will be increasing by steps until the 100-foot height is finally reached.

The place where the dam is being built is a rugged rocky gorge. This location was picked so that a sudden breaking of the dam during the tests would do no damage to inhabited or cultivated territory.

RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

COUNTY AND CITY WRANGLE

INDIANAPOLIS city officials diverted \$175,000 from the Kentucky Ave. and Oliver Ave. bridge funds to wasteful land purchases, and are trying to gouge the county for a disproportionate share of those bridge costs—which are joint city and county projects—charge Marion County officials.

Recriminations reverberate. Prospects of court action and stoppage of the bridge work loom.

Meanwhile the city board of health and county authorities are in a stew over the maintenance of the psychopathic ward at city hospital—another joint enterprise. The city was to provide the ward and the county the upkeep. The county council only appropriated \$7,000 for this purpose in 1926 to be used for patients from outside the city limits. And that fat is in the fire.

From the way they work together and the harmony they display one would think city and county officials were France and Germany discussing reparations. The city of Indianapolis and Marion County apparently have nothing in common.

Whereas, they are very much off the same piece. Indianapolis contains six-sevenths of the taxable values of Marion County and a greater fraction of the county's population.

The wrangles between city and county officials over joint adventures are mostly useless gesticulations. In the final analysis the Indianapolis taxpayer defrays practically the entire expense of such joint enterprises. It really makes little difference to him whether he pays out of the left-hand pocket or the right.

PURPOSE OF A PLAN COMMISSION

CHARLES S. WARD erected a 24-foot house on a 30-foot lot at 1435 Lawton St., contrary to solemn edict of the city plan commission. Now that august body won't grant him permission to complete the dwelling by putting a roof on it.

Of course he violated the building code and probably the plan commission is justified in its attitude. Official bodies don't like to have their orders ignored; it raises their blood pressure and makes them tingle all over with outraged dignity.

But a couple of months ago the builders of a \$2,000,000 hotel project at Fall Creek Blvd. and N. Meridian St., extended the foundation of their edifice many feet over the line allowed by the building restrictions in that section. That also flouted the edicts of the plan body.

Nevertheless the hotel builders weren't punished. After momentary indignation, the plan commission cooled off and graciously permitted the construction work on the hotel to proceed. They all but apologized for halting the work.

Probably their action was justified. The magnitude of the hotel project and its importance as a civic improvement compensates for its encroachment on the building line. On the other hand completion of a 24-foot house on a 30-foot lot doubtless irreparably mars the city's beauty. And should be sternly dealt with.

The purpose of the plan commission is to formulate rules for the orderly development of Indianapolis, so that utility and beauty will go hand in hand. To achieve this results its rules must be enforced impartially.

When it permits violation of its regulations by million-dollar projects, but fails like a ton of brick on a humble home builder, it doesn't achieve its purpose. It only makes itself ridiculous.

who believe, with some reason, that they can get more work out of a force that does not drink.

It never looked just right to us and we hope we are not to see it again.

General Housecleaning Due

"What's the matter with our Navy?

"We ask the question in all sincerity. We believe that by and large our naval officers and men are just about as fine a bunch as ever went down to the sea in ships.

"But that something is wrong, somewhere, is obvious."

SUCH was the beginning of an editorial in this newspaper a year and a half ago when explosions aboard the battleship Mississippi cost the lives of forty-eight men and, but for sheer luck, might have cost dozens more.

And such was the substance of a query by this paper the year before when eleven destroyers piled up on the rocks of Point Honda, seven as total wrecks, with twenty-three lives sacrificed.

We repeat the question today, following the sinking of the S-51 off Block Island carrying thirty-three men to their doom; the wreck of the Shenandoah with thirteen killed, and all but fatal flight of the PN-9 No. 1 out toward Hawaii.

The New York World joins in and editorially suggests an answer. Says the World:

"It is time, certainly, for a shake-up in the Navy. With the sinking of the S-51 the Navy has now lost twelve vessels during the Harding and Coolidge Administrations. That is a peace time loss, more than twice as many vessels as the Navy lost in the whole course of the war with Germany.

"We lost, while the war was being fought, a total of five ships. * * * These were the war losses of a navy whose every ship had been ordered into active service and exposed to the danger of both mine and submarine. Compare this record with the record of the last four and a half years of peace.

"On March 23, 1921, the naval tug Conestoga disappeared in the Pacific. On Aug. 21, 1923, the training ship Gopher was sunk in the St. Lawrence Gulf. On Sept. 3, 1923, seven destroyers ran on the rocks off Honda Point, Calif. On Oct. 29, 1923, the submarine O-5 was sunk in a collision off the Panama Canal. On Jan. 30, 1925, the submarine S-48 went aground at Jaffrey Point, N. H. Now, on a clear night at sea and in home waters, the S-51 goes down in a collision."

"During this same period, since March, 1921, according to the best records available, the total loss of France in naval ships has been one battleship and one hospital ship; the total loss of Britain, the submarine L-24; the total loss of Spain, the transport Espana No. 5; the total loss of Japan, one cruiser, one service ship and two submarines; the total loss of Greece, one torpedo boat and one transport; the total loss of Italy, one submarine sunk off the Sicilian coast.

"Of one disaster at sea, as of one train wreck, it can be said: Here is the hand of fate. Of a series of disasters, as of a series of train wrecks, it must be said: Here is demoralization. * * *

"There is in all navies, as in all other organizations, a state of morale which begins at the top and sifts down to the bottom. And at the top, in this case, is a Secretary of the Navy whose record has proved him neither fortunate nor wise; whose capacity for service to the American people, dwindling for months, is definitely ended. Secretary Wilbur has forfeited the confidence of the public.

"His resignation is in order."

"That something is wrong is obvious," we said. Discipline seems shot to pieces throughout our entire national defense. There appears to be in more places than one an absence of that strong, brainy, vigorous leadership that commands admiration and respect and makes every man leap to his post with a song on his lips and pride in his soul.

Wilbur alone cannot be blamed for this. Some of the worst of our peacetime naval disasters happened when Denby, of Teapot Dome fame, was Secretary of the Navy. That incident—the oil scandal—though it had nothing to do with navigation, did not improve the morale of the Navy any, if anybody should happen to ask. And the long-drawn-out and not yet ended aircraft scandal with Army and Navy officers poking out their tongues at each other and saying names, has left discipline in the Army, Navy and air force at a mighty low ebb.

There should be a shake-up all the way through. And the President, as commander-in-chief of all, is the man who should undertake the job.

THOSE who have faced the ire of bill collectors will sympathize with Marion County in the White River bridge situation.

LIKE summer, that press-agented councilmanic investigation of the board of works is dying quietly.

has been as spectacular as that proposed with the arch dam.

ASPECIAL committee of the Engineering Foundation, a national organization with headquarters at New York, is to be in charge of the work. Leading engineers of America and Europe as well as government engineers from the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, the States of California and Oregon and the cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles will co-operate in the work.

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THE SPUDZ FAMILY—By TALBURT



Tom Sims Says

What you know won't hurt you. It's what you only think you know that does the damage.

News from Great Britain. She wants the cotton market. Our boll weevils should be indicted for helping her.

Things quieted down in Washington one day recently long enough for them to hear the regular noises.

Sad thing about being a rich man's son is the world doesn't get much chance to teach you any sense.

The big towns are broadcasting stations. The small towns have their party line telephones.

The nice thing about fall is the weather is entirely too pleasant to cuss the government much.

A tourist feels more intimate with the landscape through which he is passing if he knows the names of the streams over which he trundles, the hamlets—whose skylines are dominated by hickory constables—and similar topographic features. He gets tired of reading the usual highway signs extolling the virtues of college-knit clothes, cat-sup and approaching barbecue stands.

A museum piece unlabeled attracts little notice from visitors and is soon forgotten. Indiana isn't a museum—it's a small state with a large state of mind—but it possesses many points of interest worth labeling to attract the attention of passing strangers.

DEMPSEY AND WILLS FIGHT

MARSHAL JACK DEMPSEY, the puissant and chivalrous knight with the reclaimed Grecian profile, and Mr. Harry Wills, the brutish panther, have signed an agreement for a ten-round fight at Michigan City, Ind. They will battle for honors and a million dollars.