

The Indianapolis Times

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Published daily except Sunday by Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 W. Maryland St., Indianapolis
Subscription Rates: Indianapolis—Ten Cents a Week. Elsewhere—Twelve Cents a Week • • •
PHONE—MA in 3500.

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.

Florida Absurdities

THE following is from an article in the New York financial journal, Commerce and Finance, written by William J. Kelley:

"The absurdities of the 'boom' in Florida are in grave danger of completely obscuring the fundamentals of the State's situation. Already it is no simple task for the visitor to look beyond the ridiculous phases of the 'boom' and see the real bases of Florida's development.

"One must be quite mad not to appreciate the absurdities which are met with across the Florida boundary. Greatest of these is the swarming army of real estate agents. No official count is available, as the State has only recently begun a census of its citizens who have entered the realty business. My impression gained while visiting Florida in September was that real estate concerns occupy from one-third to one-half of all the offices along the principal streets of every Florida city. These range from tiny cubbyholes with space enough for a desk and telephone to the luxurious full floor establishments maintained by the pretentious subdivisions. The small agent exhibits his wares on a blackboard erected on the sidewalk with his realty offerings chalked up under some such caption as 'For Today Only.'

The other extreme is furnished by the high-grade subdivision possessed of a colorful Spanish name and a commodious office which compares in luxury with the lobby of a fashionable resort hotel. A common feature of such offices is a high model of the company's land and improvements so elaborate in design and color as to make the appended artist's signature seem quite appropriate. Milady may shop for real estate in Florida by passing from one window display to another, just as she shops for hats or selects a movie by comparing the display posters of rival picture palaces. • • *

"In Florida all the arts and wiles which America's selling fraternity has perfected are now for the first time on a large scale being applied by dealers in real estate. Florida is demonstrating that land can be distributed by much the same types of appeal used by the stock salesman, the department store, and the theatrical exhibitor. Decidedly the fair sex has its part in the general scheme. In the larger cities one encounters a class of women quite generally referred to as 'bird dogs.' This unflattering sobriquet aptly describes their functions, which is to 'point' the prey. The high pressure salesmen of some of the grandiose subdivisions maintain one or more of these ladies who establish contacts with likely prospects, and after enlisting the proper degree of interest turn the prospect over to the masculine 'closer.'

"The president of a realty concern was explaining why his firm had engaged a large staff of saleswomen. 'We have found that many prospects hesitate to buy their home sites until their wives can have an opportunity to look over the ground,' he said, seriously. 'To avoid this delay my firm has decided to add a corps of saleswomen to our staff so that the prospective buyer can get a woman's point of view on the site in which he is interested and make it unnecessary for him to wait for his wife to see it.' And the public reads his announcement in the newspapers without a smile."

ASK THE TIMES

You can get an answer to any question you may have on information written to The Indianapolis Times Washington Bureau, 1322 New York Ave., Washington, D. C. Your question must be in writing. Medical, legal and marital advice cannot be given, nor can you receive a personal answer. All other questions will receive a personal reply. Unsigned requests cannot be answered. All letters are confidential. Editor.

Is the foreign trade of the United States increasing or decreasing?

It increased largely during the first six months of the year, exceeding in value the total for the same period in any previous years except the war years of 1917 and 1918 and the post war years of 1919 and 1920. Exports during the six months period amounted to \$2,364,000,000, or, about 13 per cent increase over 1924. With few exceptions, the big groups of exports made substantial gains in value over last year. Vegetable foodstuffs, principally grains, were 51 per cent higher than a year ago; the value of vehicle exports increased 34 per cent. Textiles, principally raw cotton, were up 30 per cent, the machinery group increased 13 per cent; the metals group was 9 per cent higher; chemicals 4 per cent and animal products held their own.

Is it true that snakes milk cows?

This popular belief is not upheld by scientists. The stomach of a five foot black snake is about five and one-half inches long and an inch in diameter with a distending limit of about four inches and an excess of about seven inches. This would lure the worst and tired type of men.

Problems and trouble are waiting their turn, but surely I'll face them somehow, if only they'll let my old dream fireplace burn, and simply not bother me now.

How much anthracite coal would a cabin 9x12x7 feet contain?

A bin 8x7 feet contains 378

The Gentle Art of Debt-Dodging

CZECHOSLOVAKIA, youngest of the flock of nations owing Uncle Sam money, has come across.

Walking right up to the cashier without so much as batting a lash, she asked: "How much?"

"A little matter of \$115,000,000," replied Mr. Mellon from his stool behind the wicket. "With 3 per cent for the first ten years and 3½ per cent for fifty-two years more."

"O. K.," said she, cheerfully.

"Which will make," the cashier added, after doing a bit of figuring on the back of some European I. O. U.'s now used in Washington for scratch paper, "that you will pay, during the whole sixty-two-year period, approximately \$300,000,000."

"Fair enough!" she answered. "You've been very kind. My regards to the folks and au revoir."

Whereupon Miss Czechoslovakia gave a dimpled smile and flirted off home to Prague.

How different from the common run of nations owing us money! True, Britain settled on similar terms, but she has not quit grousing yet. Instead of Yankee Doodle she calls us Yankee Boobie and keeps muttering something about that cool billion or so we knocked off not being nearly enough.

And France! She kicks against paying even a fraction of 1 per cent interest on what she borrowed and at the same time encourages her press to carry on against us a veritable campaign of abuse. Skin-flint and Shylock are the nicest of the names she calls us.

Maybe it is Czechoslovakia's youth. Maybe as she grows older she, too, will become an adept in the gentle art of debt-dodging. But we hope not. We prefer to think it is just her nature to pay her honest debts.

Meantime she presents a most refreshing picture. She's so different!

National Dairy Show

INDIANAPOLIS has in its dooryard this week one of the biggest expositions staged annually in the whole country—the National Dairy Show.

All of us know that milk comes in bottles. Many of us know that somewhere in the hinterland cows are kept for the purpose of producing milk. Most of us know little more than that concerning the dairy industry.

As a matter of fact, the dairy industry is one of the biggest and one of the most important industries in the country. It is an industry that is absolutely necessary to human life.

The whole dairy business is represented at the show at the State Fairground. The exposition is well worth a visit.

THERE is only one thing certain about the various Indianapolis population figures. The city is bigger than it was in 1920.

DRY agents are warned that they must toe the mark or lose their jobs. This might be a good permanent policy.

CITY G. O. P. Campaign Now Going Wide Open.—Headline. It's all right so long as the campaign is the only thing that is "going wide open."

It's nice of her to feel that way about it. Probably the authorities at the penal institution from which she escaped with so little trouble feel equally relieved.

Raymond Powers, bandit, who walked out on a detective in Indianapolis, while en route from Pendleton to Greencastle the other day, has also been recaptured. He doesn't say he is glad to get back. Presumably he was content to be a fugitive.

The short time these escaped prisoners were at liberty and the ease with which they were apprehended and returned to custody when the officers gave the problem attention proves that such escapes are hardly worth the effort. But that won't deter others from trying if given a chance.

The ease with which the pair eluded their guards and gained freedom reveals inexcusable carelessness. Every chance to escape was offered them. One, a poisoner convicted of two murders, a dangerous woman it would seem, found it no more difficult to leave prison than to check out of a hotel. The other, an unmanacled bandit, sauntered away from a detective while the latter slept. Both escapes were ridiculously simple and easy.

Putting criminals in prison is a more or less expensive process. The purpose of such institutions is to hold prisoners not board them at their pleasure. Present day humanitarianism rather frowns on decorating prisoners with ball and chain and other ironmongery to anchor them as in olden times. Perhaps such treatment is too harsh. But the lax guarding that permits such easy escape does neither society nor the prisoner any good.

There are so many people who really need sympathy it just isn't right to waste any on yourself.

Being broke with somebody is the best way to make friends.

How much anthracite coal would a cabin 9x12x7 feet contain?

A bin 8x7 feet contains 378

SCIENTIST SAYS EVERY MAN IS BOTH IDIOT AND GENIUS

By David Dietz

NEA Service Writer

EVERY man is a genius at something and an idiot at something. This is the opinion expressed by Dr. Charles E. Spearman of the University of London, president of the psychology section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

"It remains to discover at what," says Dr. Spearman. "Or at least," he adds with a touch of humor, "in respect to the genius part."

Dr. Spearman bases his opinion upon the result of a great many so-called "ability tests," which psychologists have been giving in England. He finds that there is a great variability in responses, not only between different persons, but as regards the same person's responses to different parts of the test.

These differences, he says, are great enough to incline him toward his opinion that there is genius and its opposite in every person.

As a result, Dr. Spearman says that he regards the habitually unemployed and the misfits in industry merely as the victims of ignorance.

"I am quite confident that every one of them could do something that would make him a treasure in some great industrial concern," he says.

"The tragedy lies in the fact that we are ignorant of what it is," says Dr. Spearman.

RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

CHAMPION CHEESE MAKERS

good. It only causes needless expense.

ONE WAS KILLED HERE

IVE hundred signs bearing the grim legend "one was killed here," have been placed on Chicago streets. Each marks the site of a fatal automobile accident. There will be more such markers this year, as the 1925 death toll in the Illinois city is 545, with two months yet to go.

Indianapolis is also marking the spots where motor fatalities occurred. Three hundred and fifty-two white crosses on city streets and Marion County highways tell the mute story of the past four years' motor tragedies here.

Other cities and States have adopted similar plans. Soon the scenery along the heavily traveled roads of the country may consist almost exclusively of white crosses and death signs. A motorist will feel that he is touring through a cemetery.

Perhaps such grim reminders will induce driving caution and save other lives.

Meanwhile, eight Hoosiers were killed and seventeen injured Saturday and Sunday in automobile accidents. And it wasn't a very good week-end for motoring, either. Four of the deaths resulted from tries in trying to beat trains to crossings. In no case was a white cross or one-was-killed-here sign necessary as a warning of danger. Danger was obvious and conspicuous, but the victims were heedless.

It will take something besides signs and advertising to cut down the Nation's deplorable auto death record. Vigorous safety campaigns may help, but with 17,000,000 cars flying about there are bound to be some fatal accidents. Until motor-proof pedestrians or fool-proof automobiles are perfected any real reduction in the alarming accident total depends on the efforts of individual pedestrians and individual drivers.

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