

The Indianapolis Times

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Published daily except Sunday by Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 W. Maryland St., Indianapolis 4.
Subscription Rates: Indianapolis—Ten Cents a Week. Elsewhere—Twelve Cents a Week.
PHONE—MA 1350.

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 of fact or information by writing to The Indianapolis Times, Washington Bureau, 1334 New York Ave., Washington, D. C. Indicate 2 cents in stamps for reply. Medical, legal and marital advice cannot be given, nor can extended research be undertaken. All other questions will be given personal reply. Unpublished 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 in excess 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 one 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 not allow for much milk, even if such a thing ever really takes place.

How much anthracite coal would a bin 9x6x7 feet hold?
A bin 9x6x7 feet contains 378

What is the proper initial for a bride to put on household linen and silver?
A great deal of latitude is allowed in marking linen and silver. You can use the initials of the maiden name or those of the married name. It is popular just at present to use a single initial of the married surname.

Evening Glow

By Hal Cochran

Let the logs crackle and let the flames roar. Images form in the blaze. Give me a fireplace; a spot on the floor, and let me drift off in a daze.

Spirit of loafing is holding me tight. Would that my mind rest at ease. I can find comfort in flames flaring bright. All by myself, if you please.

Warmth of the fireplace is soothing and kind, letting me really relax. Dreamily gazing and resting my mind. That's how such restlessness ceases.

Worry can wait while I seek for the cure that lets you start over again. Any old fireplace can easily lure the worn out and tired type of man.

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.
(Copyright 1925, NEA Service, Inc.)

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 3 1/2 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 flitted 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 grudging yet. Instead of Yankee Doodle she calls us Yankee Booble 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."

Tom Sims Says

Autos don't cry at night and babies do, but autos aren't worth much after being used 20 years.

Experts are unable to determine the origin of grapefruit, so the guilty party may go unpunished.

People who live in new fall clothes shouldn't eat ice cream cones.

A meteor usually flies through space and ends with a crash. The same is true of a meteoric career.

Bad news from Russia. Things are awful over there, but could be worse. Suppose hell weevils got in their whiskers?

Farmers from various sections report profits from crop pools, unless there are sharks in them.

The trouble with asking questions and learning is everybody looks as if you were so ignorant.

And some dirty crook stole a pearl necklace from a New York chorus girl who may have worked so hard for it.

All kinds of flowers enjoy life except wall flowers.

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.

INSULIN, when first discovered, was regarded merely as a treatment and not as a cure for diabetes. That is, it was supposed that the patient would have to continue indefinitely upon an insulin treatment.

This was because diabetes results from a diseased condition of the pancreas. The pancreas fail to supply the necessary secretion to the blood stream and as a result insulin must be taken to supply this deficiency.

But Dr. F. G. Banting of Toronto, one of the discoverers of insulin, announces now that he believes insulin may also act as a cure.

He says that recent investigations seem to show that as a result of the insulin treatment, the pancreas of diabetes-sufferers seem to undergo a regeneration and begin to function again.

In a number of cases which were not very recent, it has been possible to discontinue the insulin treatment, he says.

SIZE isn't always an advantage. Sometimes, it pays to be little. An example of this is pointed out by Dr. John Haldane of Oxford University, England.

Dr. Haldane points out that the air resistance offered by the body of a mouse is so great in comparison to its weight, that a mouse which fell down a shaft 1,500 feet deep would scamper away unhurt.

The fall, on the other hand, would break every bone in the body of a rat, while a man would be reduced to pulp by such a fall.

RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

CHAMPION CHEESE MAKERS

WISCONSIN is the home of cheese champions. Which is not slang but fact, for the cheese makers of that State, as usual, have won all the gold medals, but one awarded in the cheese classes at the National Dairy Exposition now in progress in Indianapolis.

Perhaps there is no glory in a man making a more assertive and huskier lumber than his neighbor. The world is more likely to beat a path to his door with a clothespin on its nose, a rope in its hand and murder in its heart than otherwise.

Nevertheless there is a moral taught by Wisconsin's preeminence in cheese production. Without more fertile soil, better climate, or more industrious people than any of the other north central States Wisconsin year after year enjoys exceptional agricultural prosperity. Its dairy products put it out of reach of wind, drought and high water that periodically afflict other husbandmen.

A single county in Wisconsin produces more cheese than the entire State of Indiana.

The profits of farming are largely in the sidelines not in the staple crops. In the wheat, corn or cotton belts where a single crop is planted and the rest left to Providence the agriculturist gets rich or poor—mostly the latter—in a single season. He merely gambles.

Diversification, development of dairying and other so-called sidelines will be the ultimate salvation of the Middle Western farmer. Even a cow or two and a couple of trained bees will strengthen an Indiana corn king so that he can look his farm mortgage in the face.

GLAD TO COME BACK

MRS. CLARA CARL, 116, who clambered over a wall and easily escaped from Indiana Woman's Prison, last week, was captured in Columbus, Ohio, and is now back in her cell after a few days' liberty. She is glad to come back, she says.

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 a hotel than to check out of a hotel. The other, an unmanacled convict, 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 bound them to the pleasure. Present day humanitarianism rather frowns on decorating prisoners with chains 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

THE SPUDZ FAMILY—By TALBURT



Mrs. Malaprop Is Queen of Dictionary; Houdini Here—Great Show at Keith's

By Walter D. Hickman
GOOD play will never completely pass out of one's memory. And Richard Brinsley Sheridan's "The Rivals" is one that will never be forgotten.

Its age, fifty years, has not damaged its humor and its charm. It seems to get better with the years, especially when the cast includes Thomas A. Wise as Sir Anthony Absolute; James T. Powers as Bob Acres; Chauncey Olcott as Sir Lucius O'Trigger and Mrs. Fiske as Mrs. Malaprop.

Mrs. Malaprop is "The Queen of the Dictionary." O'Finn Cook as Captain Jack Absolute; Fred Eric as Faulkland; Gerald Rogers as Fag; George Thomas as David, Herbert Belmore as Thomas; Lotus Robb as Lydia Languish; Jean Ford as Julia Melville and Marie Carroll as Lucy.

The stars of the cast are as well known as the comedy. If there was ever perfect acting, we have it in this cast. It is not necessary to again discuss the play or the players as this department last season used much space on this important event.

"The Rivals" as now being presented is one of the great treats of the stage. Here is delightful acting in a charming comedy.

The players and the play gives one a lot of memories to put away in one's mental box. In years to come, those who fail to see this triumph of perfect acting will be sorry and those who attend will ever be thankful.

One can go to "The Rivals" sure of seeing one of the greatest casts ever assembled upon the American stage. Mrs. Fiske is enjoying problem her greatest popular triumph. After seeing her, one easily can understand why she is called the greatest personality upon the American stage.

"The Rivals" remains on view today and Wednesday at English's.

HOUDINI OPENS HIS ENGAGEMENT AT MURAT

Two acts of mystery and magic were presented by Houdini at the Murat last night. The last act of his show was devoted to spiritualism.

The feature of the performance of magic is the water torture cell escape act, which comprised most of his second act. In this act, Houdini's feet are securely fastened in a stock and he is lowered head down into a glass tank filled with water. His body, with the exception of his feet, is completely immersed. The top of the tank is clamped down and a curtain drawn around it. In about three minutes Houdini steps before the audience thoroughly soaked.

In addition to the water cell trick, he performs his well-known trick of changing places with a girl in a locked and bound trunk. He also performs the needle-threading act, in which he apparently swallows five packages of needles and then pulls them from his mouth strung on a thread.

The remainder of the performance of magic consists largely of the usual run of sleight of hand and card tricks.

At the Murat all week. (Reviewed by F. B.)

SYLVIA CLARK MAKES HERSELF VERY FAMOUS

There are only a few people on the variety stage who take the final spot, hold it and keep every-

Stage Verdict

LYRIC—The Observer found something to like in every act on the anniversary bill.

PALACE—Cook and Outman know how to put over melody. KEITH'S—it can be truthfully said that every act is a hit this week, with Sylvia Clark being a ten-ton artistic hit. A great triumph is Miss Clark.

ENGLISH'S—The greatest of them all, Mrs. Fiske. She is present in "The Rivals," with a cast that honestly may be called All-Star.

MURAT—Houdini has put his famous escape stunts and his magic into a more than two hour show.

body in their seats and then do an afterpiece.

That is just what Sylvia Clark is doing at Keith's this week. Last summer she saw her at the Palace in New York. She stopped the show "cold" then and she is stopping it even colder at Keith's this week. She is now a headliner and the Keith-Albee office made no mistake when they put her name in the big sign at the top of the show. She is wealthy in both personality and material. She opens with a song which gives her

just a chance to get acquainted. Then she comes in with her story of how Bertha was put on a train by the whole family. This bit of nonsense is so true to life that it makes a genuine hit. Here her artistry is wonderful. She then comes back playing the part of a girl who was forgotten by one fellow. She chases paths right out of the theater with a grin. She then comes back and does a little travesty on some artists who live in the same rooming house. By that time the audience is demanding more. She then clowns to the degree that her musical conductor wants to sing. It is this woman's human personality that makes her the talk of any bill that she is on. She is a blessing to vaudeville. May she long stay there. And remember she is walking away with the honors of one of the most entertaining bills that Keith's has had for many seasons.

If Miss Clark was not so much of a great artist, I would have headlined Nitzia Varnille and her company in a dancing act that deserves every ounce of praise that it can obtain. This act knows how to use lights and drapes. It is put on with as much care and artistry as any dance act I have seen in the big revues. The stage mechanics for the first number, "Wonderland," is a splendid tribute to vaudeville. The spirit of the dance is well carried out and splendidly danced. The "Midsummer Nights Dream" is genuine artistry on the part of Miss Ver-

million and John Walsh. Miss Vermillion does her "Trot" dance as well as a Trint ever dared to put it on. Here is one of the greatest dancing acts I ever have seen. Not to be missed.

Then we have Charles Grafts and Jack Sheehan, who realize beautifully the limitations of a certain class of clowning. So well do they know their business that they two are among the real hits of the bill. Nonette again is present with her violin and her voice. Her heavier numbers seem to go best. That is encouraging.

Some mighty original chatter is flung up by Jack Princeton and Lillian Watson in "Too Late." Here is something that is new. There are no whippers on their jokes. Another real act.

Some wicked dancing feet are used to advantage by Billy Lytell and Tom Fant. Some splendid waltz dancing is given by Don Valerio. The

movie is Charley Chase in "The Caretaker's Daughter." For every cent you spend at Keith's this week you will get \$10 worth of enjoyment.

I know that you will agree with me.

COOK AND BATMAN SING 'EM RIGHT

Cook and Batman at the Palace the first part of the week have an act that it is a delight to look upon. They get themselves across to the audience in a manner that is perfect.

Their whole offering is harmony and a solo by the man but you would never get tired of listening to these two sing. Are at their best when singing harmony.

Ball and Briscoe have an act that will please forever. It centers on an old soldier of the civil war and the characterization of the old veteran is one of the best appearing on the vaudeville stage. One of the men also has a good singing voice.

"In Hawaii" is a little sketch of her south seas set to music. There are several good voices in the act and some amusing "holokuk" comedy. The laurds of the act rest on the group of dancing girls they carry. Entertaining act.

Morley and Anger offer plenty of slapstick and some excellent harmony.

At the Palace the first part of the week. (By the Observer.)

OBSERVER FINDS GOOD SHOW AT LYRIC

Every act full of entertainment value. Such is the Lyric for this week.

The "South Sea Island Revue" heads the bill and is a medley of Hawaiian guitar solos and music and some dancing and singing by the women. Heretofore had looked down upon the lowly "Uke" as one of the inferior sort of musical instruments, but one of the men of this act certainly changed my opinion. Never heard such rapid finger-licking of such a small instrument.

Ketch and Wilma open their act with the woman singing "Mandaly" in a very good voice. After this the man comes out dragging a dummy and then we have a fine example of ventriloquism. This man is a star. His chief offer is a duet with the little dummy. In other words he sings, accompanied by himself. Sounds funny but he turned the trick, giving an effect of two voices singing the same song.

"Window Shopping" is a clever sketch concerning the rich and poor loves of a young girl. Contrasts are given as to what would happen in each circumstance, were she to marry the rich man or the poor man. Miss Ann brought out.

Toria Roche has a very pretty and good little act all by herself. With the aid of rapid changes she gives us some very clever character songs. Like her best in her first number, the "Quaker Miss."

George Morton as a nut comedian furnishes some very amusing moments.

Being pressed for time, had to leave before the last act came on. At the Lyric all week. (By the Observer.)

Other theaters today offer: "The Iron Horse," at the Colonial; "Innocent Maids," at the Broadway; "Zander, the Great," at the Ohio; "The Cost of Polly," at the Apollo; "Clashed," at the Circle and "Tides of the Wind," at the Isis.

A Thought

Houses and riches are the inheritance of fathers; and a prudent wife is from the Lord.—Prov. 19:14.

Of all the plagues the greatest in untold, the book-learned wife in Greek and Latin bold.—Shakespeare.

Skin of the human palm is seventy-five times as thick as that of the eyelid. So take your hands out of your pockets.

Many an apple grower is looking forward to a pleasant winter because his cider is working for him.