

# 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.

## School Board Election

REMEMBER when you go to the polls next Tuesday that one of the most important jobs you have to perform is the election of a school board ticket. The school board spends hundreds of thousands of dollars annually and the schools are perhaps the most important institutions in the community. Election of a school board is just as important as election of a mayor.

Remember, also, that the school board election is NON-PARTISAN. Politics has no place in the conduct of the schools. Formation of slates in the school board election is just another form of politics. The groups who support slates are just as much political parties as are the groups labeled Democrat and Republican.

Get acquainted with your school board candidates. The Times has printed the records of each of them and if there are any candidates you do not know, this paper will help you to learn about them. After you are acquainted with the candidates, go to the polls and vote for those you think will serve the community best. Vote for INDIVIDUALS.

## Play Fair!

THE Times is not for John L. Duvall for mayor, but this newspaper does believe in fair play, even in politics. Criticism of Duvall because he, as county treasurer, retained the interest on Barrett law funds is unfair. This interest has been looked upon as a part of the remuneration of the county treasurer and until the Legislature amends the law it probably will continue to be so considered.

Several years ago the Legislature enacted a law eliminating the fee system then in operation in most of the county offices and placing the officials on a salary basis. The Times advocated this law long before it was enacted. But for some reason, the Legislature, while fixing the salary of the county treasurer at \$5,000 a year and doing away with most of his other compensation, permitted him to retain the interest on Barrett law funds. It is said this interest runs as high as \$30,000 a year. That is too much compensation for the county treasurer. Being treasurer is not that big a job.

Nevertheless, every preceding treasurer has pocketed this money, and most of them have pocketed considerable more. Why jump on Duvall because he is doing it? The Legislature, not the treasurer, is to blame.

Opponents of Duvall have enough material to defeat him in his association with George V. Coffin, Bill Armitage and others of our prominent political gentry who wish to obtain or retain a part of the spoils of the city administration. Why manufacture an issue?

## The Peking Parley

THE nations are now in conference at Peking considering China's demand for justice. Better late than never.

For close on to a century the great powers have simply shoved a gun down China's throat and taken what they wanted.

The indications are that some of the powers are still inclined to continue along these lines. If such is the case then the best thing the United States can do is to cut loose from their rotten company and, if necessary, stand by China alone.

According to the United Press, Washington seems to have some such idea. We hope so. Though certain of the powers do not appear to have waked up to the fact, the day is gone when profit can be had by bulldozing China. To the contrary, the country that sticks by her today will be richly repaid tomorrow by being in on the ground floor of Chinese trade developments now about due.

The people who are making most money in China today are the Germans. Why? Be-

## WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to the Indianapolis Times, Indianapolis, Indiana. Bureau, 1323 New York Ave., Washington, D. C., inclosing 2 cents in postage. All questions must be brief. Marital advice cannot be given nor can extended research be undertaken. All personal questions will receive personal reply. Unsolved requests cannot be answered. All letters are confidential.—Editor.

What were the names and nature of the acts taxing various articles in the American colonies that finally led up to the Revolutionary War?

First an act, passed in 1733, known as the molasses act. It placed a tax of 6 pence a gallon on molasses. It was followed by a tax on sugar, and a year later by the stamp act, that put a duty on all legal documents and almanacs. The stamp act was repealed in 1766, but was followed by the Townshend act that put a tax on tea, glass, paper and painter's materials. That act particularly incensed the colonies. It provided that some of the proceeds

should be used to pay the salaries of colonial governors and judges, and ordered the trial of revenue cases to be heard before judges without the presence of juries. The act instigated the Boston tea party, after the colonies had protested to England, without avail, against the injustice of the tax.

Do grapefruit trees have to be grafted to bear fruit?

It is not necessary to graft grapefruit in order to make them bear, but in order to know what kind of fruit is to be produced. It is never at all certain what a seedling will produce, for each seedling is different.

What are the provisions concerning the admission of Canadians to the United States?

Native born Canadian citizens are freely admitted into this country. They are not considered as "immigrants." If they come with the in-

tention of residing permanently they have to pay a head tax of \$8, payable to the immigration officers at the border port of entry. The quota limitation does not apply to them. They are, however, subject to medical examination, and may be barred from admission if found to be infected with contagious or other dangerous disease.

How many Federal penitentiaries are there in the United States and where are they located?

There are only three federal penitentiaries. They are located at Atlanta, Georgia; Leavenworth, Kansas, and McNeil Island, Washington.

What is the proper pronunciation of the word "Versailles"?

In English it is pronounced "Versailles," the "e" being like that in fern. In French the pronunciation is "Versa-ye," the "a" being as in art.

Perhaps he wasn't prophesying, merely paying for his dinner. But

## A Sermon for Today

By Rev. John R. Gunn

Text: "He begetteth a son, and there is nothing in hand."—Ecc. 5:14.

True greatness is not determined by the circumstances surrounding one's birth.

Solomon was born in a palace. Jesus was born in a stable. Yet, when Jesus began his public ministry he stood on the site of Solomon's palatial birthplace, and said: "Behold, a greater than Solomon is here." Doubtless this declaration coming from the son of a carpenter, sounded ridiculous to the people who first heard it. But considering it today in the light of nineteen centuries of history, we know it was true. Jesus was incomparably greater than Solomon—greater in character, in wisdom, in his ideals of life, and in his achievements.

Ask the Japanese what they think of it. They have played the bully. In 1915 they virtually tried to annex China at the point of a gun—the old stuff. They failed. They are boycotted there today in a business way. They have a hard time selling goods labeled, "Made in Japan." Today, in a sort of panic, they are changing tack. They are moving heaven and earth to make friends.

Britain, too, for nearly a century has bullied China. Whether she has yet seen the light we do not know. But she will, some day, or her blindness will cost her dearly. Russia has seen it and is attempting the German plan.

As for America, China regards her as a real friend. We must continue to justify her faith. In the first place, it is the right thing to do. It is the just, the moral, the honest thing. In the second place—if you want to put it on a dollars and cents basis—it will pay us well. China is not only a land of yesterday but, above any spot we know of on earth, she is the land of tomorrow.

To throw away our present advantage as China's friend now would be worse than a blunder. It would be a crime against morals and against business.

## One State or Forty-Eight

SOME of the Governors who are endeavoring to stampede Congress into abolishing the Federal inheritance tax have failed, perhaps, to consider every phase of the subject. The idea that the States should collect the inheritance tax naturally appeals to them. Some may have hidden away in their minds the notion that once the Federal tax is removed, they can remove the State tax also and so attract millionaire tax dodgers, as Florida is so proud of having done. Of course, all the States can do that if there is any advantage in it.

But there are certain States, at least, that should do a bit of thinking before they follow the lead of their Governors. These are the numerous States of large natural resources which are now being developed or exploited by outside capital. When the big Eastern capitalist dies what State will collect the inheritance tax on his estate? Not the Western, middle Western or Southern State out of which his wealth came, but the State in which he maintains his residence. A few States could collect the bulk of all such inheritance taxes.

One essential element in the theory behind the inheritance tax is this: That some men by foresight, energy and fortunate circumstances turn the natural resources of the country to their own financial gain. They amass huge fortunes. This is considered fair enough. They have the vision, the courage, the intelligence and are entitled to the reward. But they die, in due time. Then the right of their relatives to all that these pioneers have garnered is questioned. The pioneer's claim, according to this theory, passes to some extent with his passing. His wealth has come from the soil and the people. Draining huge fortunes from the rest of the country for the perpetual use of idle families in New York or Palm Beach is not sound national economics.

It seems the fairest of all taxes to assess some of this unearned wealth for the needs of the Nation. The people have come to believe so, despite silly labels, such as "tombstone tax," that opponents have applied.

It is a sound tax and a fair tax. The only question is whether it should be collected by the Government or by the States. There is talk of States' rights, but some States will never get their right to a part of their wealth through a State tax. New York will collect on fortunes made in forty-seven other States.

## BUDGET STILL BUDGES

THE annual paroxysm of transfers of money from one fund to another—to keep the city departments that have exhausted their budget appropriations going until the end of the year—has begun. Eight such transfer ordinances were presented to the Indianapolis city council Monday night.

A beautiful, businesslike budget system is presumed to exercise a restraining influence on our municipal expenditures. But our city budget is largely pomp and vain show. When funds allotted for a specific purpose are exhausted, money is transferred from another fund and the spending goes on unabated.

All very legal, of course, but how does that easy transfer system encourage departmental economy?

Joseph Hogue, city controller, announced about a year ago, when fund transfer ordinances were springing up on every side, that in 1925 city departments positively would have to keep their expenditures within the budget. It was a noble resolve. Apparently it didn't mean anything, for a year later the council is harvesting the usual crop of transfer ordinances, just as if Joseph had not spoken.

Some transfers of funds may be required as the result of unexpected emergencies and unforeseeable expenditures. But ordinary diligence in framing the city budget should make such cases rare. In the Indianapolis budget emergencies have become settled habits. Funds are continually transferred with little excuse.

Consequently about the only restraint our municipal budget exercises over municipal expenditures is the moral restraint of an occasional frown. The budget binges, the taxpayer squirms, and economy is only a pious hope.

JUST ORDINARY PEOPLE

FREDERICK HUSEMANN, president of the German Miners' Union, a visitor to Indianapolis Monday in his tour of America to study the coal mining industry, emphatically declared the German workers want

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there was truth, nevertheless, in his remarks.

A traction line possesses inestimable advantages over its motor bus competitors. Its operation is independent of weather conditions and it has its own private right of way.

Using public highways, motor busses are limited by State laws to a speed of thirty miles an hour. With the growing congestion of the highways there is little likelihood of that limit being raised. And the exigencies of other traffic limit the size of motor busses.

Traction lines, with their private right of ways, are not so restricted. Roadbeds and safety are the only limits to the size, luxuriousness and speed of their cars.

Fast schedules and comfort are what travelers want whether they travel by train, boat, bus or horse.

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