

# 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.

## To the Stockholders of a Big Corporation

THIS is addressed to the 77,000 voters of Indianapolis who did not go to the polls Tuesday, and to all other voters who went simply out of a sense of duty and not because they believed the outcome of the election really would make any particular difference. In other words, we are addressing the majority of the voters of Indianapolis.

You are stockholders in a great corporation. Your monetary holdings may be large or small, but every one of you is interested. This is a mutual corporation. It is organized for one purpose and one only, and that purpose is service to the stockholders. You stockholders employ the men and women who operate the affairs of this corporation which, by the way, is among the biggest in the country. These men and women are sworn to serve you stockholders and you only.

But the affairs of this corporation, representing an investment of more than six hundred million dollars have been mismanaged. Instead of being operated for the benefit of all the stockholders it is operated for the benefit of the officers and employees and their friends. They are spending your money, paid in by assessment, for the purpose of furthering their own ambitions. Service to the stockholders is incidental.

Think of it. A \$600,000,000 corporation operated for the benefit of the officers and employees and profit and service for the 350,000 stockholders only incidental! Why don't the stockholders immediately remove these officers and employees and substitute men and women who have the interest of the stockholders at heart? The answer is that this corporation is a governmental unit and not a business in the usual sense of the word. The corporation we refer to is, of course, the city of Indianapolis.

Supposing the same state of affairs prevailed in a bank, or in an insurance company, or in any corporation representing a large capitalization and intrusted with the expenditure of large sums of money. The stockholders and depositors would be storming the doors.

A city is not essentially different from any other kind of big business enterprise. It is organized for one purpose, that of serving the public. It should be operated on this basis. Its government should be organized along the same lines as the management of any other business. Other big cities have recognized this fact and have adopted the city manager form of government. Indianapolis eventually will do the same thing.

## When Coolidge Goes to Congress

PRETTY soon President Coolidge must read to Congress another annual message. He is now giving thought to what he will put in it.

It is an important matter. The success of any President depends largely on his ability to obtain the cooperation of Congress in carrying out his policies. The present generation of voters witnessed how successful a President could be in the first four years of Woodrow Wilson's Administration, when more constructive legislation was passed, probably, than in any other four years of the Government's history. It witnessed likewise how unsuccessful a President could be in Wilson's second four years, when—excluding his war measures—he met rebuff at nearly every turn.

Measured by this standard, Coolidge has all his success yet to achieve.

In the matter of the coming message he might, if he followed his ideal of economy, simply write a note saying: "See my message of two years ago." For the recommendations of his first message to Congress have failed almost completely of adoption.

COOLIDGE, in his contact with Congress, thus far has come off badly. Leaving out the unprecedented manner in which Congress forced him to dismiss corrupt and incompetent members of his Cabinet and forced him to withdraw one nomination thereto, and considering only the purely legislative side, Coolidge has got the worst of it. Here is the record.

In his message of December, 1923, Coolidge recommended our adherence to the World Court. Nothing has been done.

He recommended the Mellon tax plan, giving primary consideration to the big fellows and secondary consideration to the little fellows. Congress turned the proposal around, giving first consideration to the little fellows and less consideration to the big.

He recommended the abolition of the right to issue tax-exempt securities. Nothing done.

He recommended further legislation to aid the consolidation of railroad systems and

entire reorganization of the freight rate structure. Nothing done.

He recommended the strengthening of the coast guard fleet to enable it to deal more effectively with liquor smugglers. Fleet strengthened.

He recommended civil service classification for first, second and third-class postmasters and repeal of the four-year term. Nothing done.

He recommended a separate department of education. Nothing done.

He recommended registration of all aliens. Nothing done.

He recommended a refusal of the bonus to soldiers. Passed and repassed over his veto.

He recommended legislation giving him authority to name a coal commission "empowered to deal with whatever emergency situation might arise." Nothing done.

He recommended Government reorganization legislation. Nothing done.

He recommended that farmers, for the most part, be left to work out their own salvation. For the most part they have been so left.

He recommended the appointment of a committee to determine whether or not and to whom, if any one, Muscle Shoals should be sold. Committee appointed.

That summarizes the important suggestions in his message of two years ago and what happened to them. The President must now make these suggestions all over again and make them sound new, if possible.

## An Odd Invitation to Mr. Duke

ACCORDING to a story going the rounds in North Carolina, the late James B. Duke received a very special invitation to come home to die. When it appeared that his days on this earth were numbered a delegation of North Carolinians waited upon him at his New Jersey home. They suggested they would like to have him breath his last as a resident of the commonwealth where he was born and where he accumulated the larger share of his fortune.

The reasons for this odd invitation were partly sentimental, but mostly practical. The committee, so the story goes, pointed out that if Mr. Duke died while maintaining his home in North Carolina the State treasury would gain several millions dollars. The inheritance tax law of North Carolina provides a tax of 6 per cent on bequests of more than \$1,000,000 to immediate relatives. The tax on the Duke estate of approximately \$150,000,000, the bulk of which went to a 13-year-old daughter, would have netted well over \$5,000,000 to North Carolina if the late tobacco magnate had had his residence in his native State when he died.

It was argued that Mr. Duke owed much of his wealth to North Carolina and that if an inheritance tax must be paid that State should get the benefit. It is said he found the argument appealing, and was making preparations to go home to die when death overtook him in New Jersey. As a result of that accident New Jersey will benefit handsomely from an inheritance tax which Mr. Duke seems to have been disposed to give to North Carolina.

If news of his illness had reached Florida, a committee from that enthusiastic State might have appeared to urge Mr. Duke to come and die there—free of charge. If advised in time, South Carolina, the source of a liberal share of his fortune which was acquired through electric power development, might have been able to present some distinct advantage to be had in dying there.

The case of Mr. Duke suggests a new field of competitive State activity which barely has been scratched. Unless there emerges from the present tax parleys in Washington a plan to equalize State inheritance tax rates, an era of cut-throat State competition is in sight.

And even if the various State tax rates are equalized there will remain the problem which faced Mr. Duke, that of finding himself unable, by the accident of domicile, to transfer his inheritance tax to the State which had been his principal partner in the making of his fortune. Until it is possible to bequeath inheritance taxes, as well as the property on which the taxes are assessed, there will remain an essential injustice in the system of collection of death duties by States. Although the question of expediency may overshadow that of justice, it cannot completely obliterate the fact that the State which contributes most largely to a man's fortune is more entitled to the tax on his estate than the State in which he happens to have his home when he dies.

## A Sermon for Today

By Rev. John R. Gunn

Text—"That ye may be strengthened with power through His spirit in the inward man."—Eph. 3:16.

JOHN MILTON said: "There is nothing that makes men rich and strong, but that which they have inside of them. Wealth is of the heart, not of the hand." Not what you hold in your hand, but what you hold in your heart—that is the true wealth, the wealth of enriched and strong manhood.

In his "Apology," Socrates, the great philosopher of ancient times, says: "For I do nothing but go about trying to persuade you all, old and young alike, not to take thought for your persons, or your properties, but first and chiefly to care about the greatest improvement of the soul." There is much need for persuasion along this line in these days. Not

that the matter of property is to be treated indifferently, but men need to be persuaded that a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things he possessed. Not that the care of the person is to be neglected, but men need to be persuaded that the thing of paramount importance is the culture of the soul. The soul must be developed, if we would attain to spiritual manhood, as surely as the body must be developed, if we would attain to physical manhood.

Paul writing to Timothy speaks of a "gymnastic unto godliness." In our day much attention is being paid to gymnastics devoted to physical culture. This is well enough. But to be a Jack Dempsey in the realm of the physical and a pigmy in the realm of the moral and spiritual, is to be a monstrous rather than a man. (Copyright, 1925, by John R. Gunn)

## RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

### DRY LAW VIOLATIONS

ATTORNEY GENERAL GILLOM, in a recent letter to prosecuting attorneys of the State, states that in May and June—the first two months under the new Indiana dry law—there were 5,098 prosecutions in the State on liquor charges.

Booze is without a serious rival as the leading hooster crime. Obviously Indiana isn't quite bone dry, despite the Legislature's intention. However, judging from the number of arrests, officers are hopelessly wielding their mops.

In the two months' total of violations, given by the attorney general, only 1,200 cases involved charges of making, owning a still, transportation, blind tiger and selling. More than three-fourths of all charges were for possession or intoxication.

Attempt to enforce prohibition by pursuing and arresting earnest private drinkers has resulted in a vast number of cases—but doesn't prohibit. It's like trying to quell a typhoid epidemic by chasing and squashing each individual germ.

Three-fourths of the stuff now being drunk is colored alcohol, say Washington dry authorities. Little whisky is coming out of government-controlled warehouses, they say, and the output of moonshine stills is comparatively negligible.

If government would concentrate their efforts on the big sources of alcohol supply and the wholesale and retail dealers in booze the earnest private drinkers—whose imbibings now make up the bulk of our liquor violations—would dry up of their own accord. Prohibition can never be enforced by merely chasing thrills.

### NOT LIKE THE BOOK

THE Indianapolis indorsers of photoplays are disappointed that the moving picture, "Romola," does not exactly follow George Eliot's famous novel of that name, from which the movie was taken. They will write to the producer of the picture voicing their grief.

Doubtless the producer was guilty of something dreadful—less majesty, debasing the currency or mayhem—in not making the movie, "Romola," conform to the classic novel, item by item. Perhaps he should be boiled in oil.

But what difference does it make whether the "Romola" of the silver screen resembles in any particular the "Romola" of the printed page? George Eliot isn't here to care what is done to her books. The business of the movie producer is to make a picture that will attract the public and entertain. His object isn't to photograph the literary classics so that every mole and ingrowing hair on the original will stand out clear and distinct.

If he introduces a happy ending where none existed before, what of it? The picture version of Hamlet might be made a box-office success with Hamlet and Ophelia doing the Charleston in the final fade-out instead of dying poignantly and madly all over the stage. The revision wouldn't hurt the gloomy Dane or Bill Shakespeare.

Movie producers are guilty of enough crimes and misdemeanors against public taste without worrying about what they do to lumber up the rusty-jointed literary classics.

### INCREASED POSTAL RECEIPTS

ROBERT H. RYSON, postmaster, reports that receipts of the Indianapolis postoffice last month totaled \$406,906.03, an increase of 7.38 per cent over October, 1924, which in turn was 13 per cent above receipts for the corresponding month of 1923. If last month's local postal receipts were invested in two-cent stamps and the latter placed end to end, they would form a crimson ribbon sufficiently long to extend from Indianapolis to St. Louis—with enough left over to paper the Monument.

That's a lot of stamps. It indicates that somebody in this city is writing letters besides Ann O'Connell, Old Subscriber and A. McGuffeyite. Indianapolis is doing its share to subdue the postal deficit.

Letters are nuisances. Most people hate to write 'em—add those received run too much to peremptory "please remit." Too few convey glad tidings of the death of a sinfully rich but unknown uncle.

Still, the mail service is an indispensable factor in modern life. Much of the country's general business—in addition to the breach-of-promise trade—is conducted by mail. The rise and fall of the volume of postal receipts is an unfailing barometer of business conditions.

The fact that, compared month

with month, the receipts of the local postoffice are increasing is proof that the trend of Indianapolis business is onward and upward. The more Indianapolis slips into envelopes the less local business slips.

### INHERITANCE TAX COLLECTIONS

SCHUYLER C. MOWER, of the inheritance tax division of the State tax commission, reports that during the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, Indiana received approximately \$1,130,000 in inheritance taxes—a gain of approximately \$240,000 over the previous year.

Recently there was considerable discussion in Washington over the inheritance tax situation. It was argued that that particular source of revenue should be left to the cultivation of State tax collector and the Federal law exacting a slice of estates be repealed.

Naturally nothing came of the discussion. The field is too productive to be abandoned by either Federal or State revenue hunters without a struggle.

Theoretically taxation of estates is most just. Man can't take his money with him when he is called out of the world. It is as right for the government that helped to make possible his accumulation of private wealth to share in that accumulation as kin and individuals who had no part in piling up the wealth.

But in practice the inheritance tax is mostly a mad scramble between State and Federal governments for a dead man's possessions. It is ghastly business. An estate scattered in several States is gouged unmercifully by all of them.

Edward Rector, who died a few months ago, bequeathed \$2,300,000 to De Pauw University. His property was in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. When the tax collectors get through it is possible that 42 per cent of the bequest will be absorbed in inheritance taxes.

In several instances lately the inheritance taxes levied have exceeded the total value of the estates.

In this scramble among the States and Federal government, one State, Florida, stands aloof and advertises the fact that it levies no estate tax, thus adding to the general confusion. What is needed is uniformity in inheritance tax laws. The levy should be used neither for propaganda nor plunder.

### Tom Sims Says

Our last criticism of those one-piece bathing suits is they don't make good winter underwear.

The things you think you get for nothing cost more than those you think you pay for.

This is the month in which to begin some bad habits to swear off on New Year's.

The dangerous thing about shoveling snow is you are so liable to fall down on the job.

It is estimated a great many people will get strong exercising to keep warm this winter.

We are against divorces, but living apart often saves a man or woman from living a part.

Watches are handy. You can look at one and claim you are late even when you are early.

The hard thing about most things is to keep on doing them.

Common sense is the only thing that can make experience useful.

Many a clothing store owner sleeps in his underwear.

The stepping stone to success is a treadmill.

Smoking a pipe doesn't injure your health half so much as worrying about your troubles does.

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### Truth

By Hal Cochran

'Tis folly to flirt with a little white lie, though maybe it's told without batting an eye. The fib that is told, just to cover things up, can only pour trouble, at best, in your cup.

It's funny how things of that nature work out. It's a funny how people can turn it about. A falsehood keeps growing, and growing each day, until, later on, it will give you away.

We all find that, often, the simplest way out, is telling a story that hinges on doubt. A little white lie maybe flows without pain, and comes so a person won't have to explain.

And yet, after all, if you're doing things right, you never need fear if the truth comes to light. The man who can look every soul in the eye, need never be hiding behind a white lie.

## THE SPUDZ FAMILY—By TALBURT



## Why Men Run Into Trees

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

WELL, you might know they would finally get to the place where they'd blame the traffic accidents on the women. Not mere feminine driving, mind you, but that subtle, elusive thing called "woman's influence" that works such wonders and creates such havoc in the world.

Up in Chicago some of these experts have been sitting for months investigating the causes of our automobile smashups and have finally handed out the information that bad breakfasts and a lack of goodbyes keep the men from driving straight.

An unkissed man going to his office is as likely as not to run into a tree and the fellow who gets a piece of burned toast in nine cases out of ten will crash into a truck before he gets to his destination. Nothing was said about bachelors. But the married men must positively have the breakfasts and the kisses, for that wife who sends her man out with any nagging conversation or complaints surrounding in his ears is more than likely to see him hauled home in an ambulance before the day is over.

It seems we exercise a tremendous mental influence over the men. Their success in business, so we are told, depends largely upon how happy we can keep them. And now this latest information tells us that their lives depend upon our good dispositions.

And you can suit yourself about feeling flattered or mad about this thing. The facts are there. It seems we have got to look after the men for they appear utterly incapable of doing this themselves. Their clothes, their food, their happiness, their morals, their very lives are in our hands. When we are not by their side, we must have our "influence" stalking them, as it were, to keep them out of mischief and danger. Our tender love must hover about them wherever they go. We must feed them well and love them mightily and nag them not at all lest they come to ruin and grief. Now there may be a lot of truth to all this, but—

Only time some men think they have no kick coming in when it comes time to kick in with some cash.

## Ask The Times

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to The Indianapolis Times, Washington Bureau, 1330 New York Ave., Washington, D. C. Enclosing 2 cents in stamps for reply. Medical, legal and marital advice cannot be given. Personal extended research will be undertaken. All other queries will receive a personal reply. Unpaid requests cannot be answered. All letters are confidential.—Editor.

Who was Sir Roger Casement? An Irishman who was captured while attempting to land on the Irish Coast from a German submarine during the World War. He was tried and executed as a German spy.

Where in the Bible is the quotation about sparing the rod and spoiling the child? Proverbs 13:24 reads, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him, chasteneth him betimes."

What railroad owns the largest steam locomotive? The largest steam locomotive is said to be owned and operated by the Virginia Railroad. It is a Mark-compound type and working single has a tractive power of 175,000 pounds. The locomotive alone weighs 684,000 pounds and with the tender 898,300 pounds.

Tune in on  
WFBM  
(268)

## A Policeman always near your home!

**NO NEED** to worry about the children when you send them to the grocers after dark for a forgotten item.

No need to be afraid when hubby is late in getting home.

Those new lamp columns in your neighborhood bring safety and cheerfulness to your street. They add to the appearance of your city and make property worth more.

The stranger is well impressed with the appearance of your city when it is well lighted.

*"Light is the best policeman."*

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