

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.

Our Present Prosperity

It is a large country we live in. And it is an exceptional man who can see it as a whole.

Times are good, so we say, and we have in mind the entire United States when we say it. We think of comfortable conditions immediately about us as supporting our idea that prosperity blesses the land. We think of frenzied land speculation in Florida, of hectic happenings in Wall Street, and of more millions than ever before being wagered at the race tracks, as dramatizing the presence of prosperity.

Yet here is a letter from a middle western farming State:

"As you, perhaps, know, the price of corn is now around 50 cents a bushel and with a three-million-bushel crop which took 70 to 72 cents a bushel to produce, the farmer is again facing stark ruin. The whole situation is back again to conditions prevailing four years ago."

"Banks are failing right and left. Farmers are going to the wall in droves. The collapse is widespread and extremely alarming. In one week six banks failed in one congressional district."

"Three weeks ago I received a letter from my parents in the northeastern corner of the State to the effect that the bank in which they kept their money had gone to the wall. Last week my wife received a letter from her parents in the southwestern corner of the State to the effect that the bank in which they had their money had closed its doors. That gives you an indication of the spread of the thing."

This picture should cause citizens in more prosperous parts of the country to pause.

After all, the well-being of the Nation rests finally on production and most particularly on farm production. A warning is contained in this situation and this warning is that a way must be found to protect the producers. If it isn't done the people as a whole will suffer.

The plan calls for a large, beautiful and useless monumental structure. Undoubtedly, it will be a thing of beauty, and, if the copy books are right, it should therefore be a joy forever. But it can not be a thing of beauty and demanding would not be amiss after all.

tive marketing is likely to be a good measure. For—

"Farmers are going to the wall in droves."

And that must be stopped.

A Complaint of Fraud

A FEW days ago our esteemed evening temporary was clamoring for a grand jury investigation of the late city election. A little later it declared with the same amount of earnestness it used in asking for an investigation that there has been "no complaint of fraud."

Now Dr. Frank S. C. Wicks, pastor of All Souls Unitarian Church and a gentleman of high standing in the community, makes some startling statements concerning the election and insists he makes them of his own knowledge.

"I know there was wholesale corruption of the negro in the recent election," Dr. Wicks said. "I know one man who bought a carload of liquor to distribute to the colored voters. I myself saw a white man passing money to a negro."

Even those who have so suddenly discovered that there is "no complaint of fraud" will hardly question the integrity of Dr. Wicks. Perhaps that grand jury investigation which these same persons at one time were so earnestly demanding would not be amiss after all.

Plaza Churches

THE Marion County commissioners are again discussing the question of buying and wrecking the two churches on the war memorial plaza site. These are the only two buildings that have not been acquired.

If the original war memorial plans are to be carried out, and it seems at present that they will be, we fail to see how the churches could possibly be left standing.

The plan calls for a large, beautiful and useless monumental structure. Undoubtedly, it will not fit in with the architecture of the proposed memorial building. Their presence would detract from its appearance to such an extent that the entire effect would be lost. While we are determined to spend millions for a thing of beauty, let's really make it beautiful.

We can sympathize with the membership of the two churches, but we can not see how they and the memorial building can both be allowed to exist on the same plot of ground. On the other hand, we might be willing to admit that for the good of the community it would be better to abandon the memorial building and retain the churches.

A Sermon for Today

By Rev. John R. Gunn

Text: "But they measuring themselves and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."—2 Cor. 10:12.

IT is the measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves, that makes men conceited. Here is a business man who goes out among other business men, and when he measures himself by them he finds that he is superior to them. He is a more skillful trader, and can get more business. Overtopping them, he thinks himself very high. When a small man compares himself with still smaller men, he always comes to have a high opinion of himself.

What the small man needs in order to get a proper measurement of himself, is to come into contact with larger men. It is not good for any man to live always among people who are his inferior. This, some men deliberately choose to do. They would rather be big men among small men than small men among big men.

Such men are unwise. It is not good for a man in business to have dealings only with men whose busi-

(Copyright, 1925, by John R. Gunn.)

RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

A SACRED STATUTE

WILLIAM UPSHAW, intensely arid Congressman from Georgia, in an address at Ft. Wayne Sunday, characterized efforts of organizations and individuals to modify the Volstead act as "unconstitutional encouragement to drinkers, law breakers and liars."

Those are strong words. But it's quite the custom of dry crusaders to shower rugged epithets on those who don't see eye to eye with them.

Of course the Volstead act, whatever its virtues or faults, is part of the law of the land and should be obeyed and enforced like any other law.

But it's not a sacred statute. Nor are those who criticize it guilty of blasphemy. It is as proper and constitutional for those who favor its repeal to organize and work for that purpose as it is to work for the modification of the income and inheritance tax laws, the tariff measure or any other act of Congress.

One of the most recent criticisms of the dry act is the report of a survey conducted by the Modernization League, Inc. Among the directors and members of the advisory board of that organization are such men as Hale Fisk, president of the Metropolitan Life; H. S. Pritchett, president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Henry Holt, publisher; Elihu Root.

It is puerile to charge that such men are trying to undermine and nullify the constitution.

Public opinion will ultimately determine the success, failure or modification of the Volstead act. As long as it remains the law enforced to the letter. Nothing is gained, either for prohibition or the law itself, by trying intolerantly to stifle every honest expression of adverse criticism.

ANOTHER LITTLE SPEEDER WAR

FORTY-FIVE motorists were arrested by Indianapolis police over the weekend for speeding and other traffic violations. It was the biggest weekend haul since last spring, when a ruthless war against speeders was on.

There was no sudden outbreak of lawlessness to account for the sudden increase in arrests. Probably drivers didn't step on the accelerators any harder during the week before or last month.

The motorists behaved normally, but the police were super-normally active. Hence a flock of arrests.

The reason for the sudden feverish activity of traffic officers was the proclamation of the chief scorning them for neglecting their duty, and the ultimatum he delivered to them, "to get the speeders or get off the squad."

So they got 'em—forty-five of them.

Which proves that the police can make even traffic violations uncomfortable when especially goaded into activity by the heavy foot of authority and fear of losing their jobs.

But how much good is likely to be accomplished by this latest speeder war? In a couple of weeks it will be forgotten and automobiles will whiz through the streets as of yore. Law enforcement by sporadic outbursts, under the incitement of artificial stimulation, gets nowhere in particular. It just jounces up and down.

BOBBED HAIR FOR CONVENIENCE

MRS. HANNAH BRADBURY, of Greens Fork, Wayne County, who celebrated her ninety-seventh birthday anniversary Monday, wears bobbed hair. That news may cause those who denounce the present feminine style to shudder.

Here's the dope from Mr. Fixit: Of all the pests, the one I hate is the guy on whom I have to wait. And so to vent our mutual spleen, The case I told to Lieutenant Dean.

"No parking means just what it says."

Quoth Officer Dean, "and that's no guess."

He told me he would send some cops.

To halt fore'er your starts and hops.

NEARLY SMOKED OUT.

The board of health will investigate. If they can do nothing, Mr. Fixit suggests you sue the owner for damages, a course adopted successfully by the Hume Mansur Bldg. management.

However, H. F. Templeton, smoke inspector, will investigate the following complaint, which deals with a factory stack and therefore comes within the law:

DEAR MR. FIXIT: Would you please do something to help us citizens in the 2100 block on S. Meridian St. We wash our porches and windows, but a factory furnace is fired up and they get covered with soot and grime.

It seemed an open invitation to rebellion. "If de la Huerta is not plotting a revolution, the statement from Washington may well encourage him to start one," said the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. While even the New York Herald and Tribune, a staunch administration paper, published a special from Mexico City saying: "No event in recent years has stirred diplomatic

circles here so much as the two notes." Latin-American diplomats predicted "far-reaching effects of the affair."

Big Stick Resented

This puts a finger on the most serious phase. The use of the Big Stick on any one of the Latin-American countries is bitterly resented by all the rest. This, perhaps, is only natural. Anyway it is true and though they may disagree among themselves and fall out and even fight, the Latin-American Union is a solid bloc when it comes to us, all the way from the Rio Grande down to Tierra del Fuego.

Utmost circumspection, therefore, is vital in dealing with these countries. Not only is international harmony at stake, and the Monroe Doctrine involved, but there is a

thing—why this country would let them work their will.

Such was the Kellogg warning. For years this country had patiently tried to make Mexico and the rest of Latin America look upon the United States as their big brother. Now the big brother role was dropped in a jiffy and in its place was the big stick, naked and undisguised.

Like Ultimatum

Crackling like an ultimatum, the Kellogg note stung all Mexico to anger. President Calles at once branded it as an insult and "a threat to the sovereignty of Mexico that she could not overlook." Nor did she. Her reply, drafted by Calles himself, fairly sizzled with the heat of the wires between Mexico City and Washington.

Furthermore delegations from the Mexican Senate and Chamber of Deputies, the army, the federation of labor, and other popular organizations, spontaneously waited upon Calles to tell him they stood with him to a man. All in all the incident was probably without precedent in all the peacetime dealings between sovereign nations.

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Present smoke-prevention legislation is inadequate to halt many nuisances, Mr. Fixit is learning day by day.

DEAR MR. FIXIT: I most earnestly desire that you correct conditions here. There is a public garage ten feet south of my place, a very low building. A heating stove smokes and floods my apartment rooms with smoke.

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The muse of poetry is not dead among Mr. Fixit's readers. Here's one that drifted in today. It's headed "My First Poem":

Do You Know?

Mayor Shank has taken to carrying a silver-headed cane.

An Unpleasant Truth Is the Basis Upon Which 'White Cargo' Was Made a Play

Stage Verdict

By Walter D. Hickman

EX hunger is the keynote to "White Cargo," a play revealed for the first time

last night after many other cities

had passed upon it.

The "hunger" of the body of white men in a western coast town in Africa is the haunting note that races through this play. It is the

lure of colored skin upon white men facing a hot sun and a hot life.

At times it is as savage as the men, the white men, who fight each other with their weak

and wavering mentalities.

Witzel the man who stays, and the doctor, the man who has been there for many years,

know the "hell" of a debauched

existence. They have strength

enough to point out to Langford, the man who comes out to the African town, the danger that he faces.

Langford knows that he will not

step across the color line. He fights in the wrong direction. He compromises by marrying a half-breed, a "sand walker," and sinks lower and lower in the social scale. The doctor and Witzel know the formula that creates half men. They blame it upon sex hunger.

"White Cargo" is now a play that

has been seen in many cities for long runs.

It is cruel in its dramatic power.

It is the sort of a dramatic and melodramatic mixture

that gets into your very blood.

It is intoxicating at times, and at

times it becomes like a drug—it forces your will power into quiet

submission.

When men talk in this play they

talk as certain men do in certain

health conditions.

It is not pleasant talk, but it is the talk of

the resulting style happens to

coincide with the Epistle to the

Corinthians.

Why shouldn't women be equal

ly in choosing their styles of

coiffure and clothes? If they

affect a certain method of hair

dressing or style of apparel for

convenience why should mere man

grow indignant?

PUBLIC UTILITY VALUATIONS

By GAYLORD NELSON

EDWARD W. BEMIS, expert

employed by the Indiana

public service commission to

appraise the properties of the