

The Indianapolis Times

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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. There is no necessity for enabling farmers to obtain exorbitant prices for the things they raise. All that ever has been needed is that they should receive their fair share of a fair price. They cannot get this for themselves; at least they cannot get it short of many years of organizing. They need the assistance of the consumers and the consumers, composing the whole of us, can only give it now through the Government.

Why should the Government shy at the suggestion? The Government protects any manufacturer that asks for protection. The present Government is even inclined favorably toward special assistance to ship owners.

More than one measure calculated to assist the farmers will be before Congress during the coming session. Any one of these that will tide them over the difficult period through which they are struggling to achieve coopera-

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

AFEW days ago our esteemed evening contemporary 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 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 with two churches standing in front of it.

Undoubtedly, the churches themselves are architecturally beautiful, but they certainly 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 among 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 inferiors. 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-

ness ability is inferior to his own. He may hold his advantage over them, but he will miss the challenge to a better and bigger business that would come to him through dealing with men ahead of him in business ability and achievement. The same principle applies in one's intellectual and moral life. It is not wise for any man to associate continually with men who are intellectually and morally beneath him. To do so will deprive him of the incentive and stimulus that comes from contact with better and greater men. Comparing himself only with his inferiors, he will come to think of himself more highly than he ought to think.

It was a wise man who said, "If I could choose a young man's companions, some of them should be weaker than himself, that he might learn patience and charity; many should be as nearly as possible his equals, that he might have the full freedom of friendship; but most of them should be stronger than he, that he might ever be thinking that he might ever be humbled by himself and be tempted to higher things."

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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 the repeal of the act 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 Moderation League, Inc. Among the directors and members of the advisory board of that organization are such men as Halsey Fisk, president of the Metropolitan Life; H. S. Pritchett, president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; Henry Holt, publisher; Ellhu Root.

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

Public opinion will ultimately determine the success, failure or modification of the Volstead act. As long as it remains the law enforce it 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 gas pedal more 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 scoring 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 guided 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 whizz through the streets as of yore. Law enforcement by sporadic outbreaks, 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 of short locks to shudder.

But the near centenarian lady of Greens Fork is not an abandoned flapper or a daughter of Belial. For eighty-two years she has taught a Sunday school class in the church of which she has been a member eight-fifty years. She had her hair cut off for convenience not to entrap susceptible males.

Most of the bitter condemnation hurled at feminine cropped heads, and still appearing from time to time in burning letters to the press, is ridiculous.

Such critics make much of "woman's crowning glory" and bemoan the effect of a hair cut on woman's morals. These critics mostly men quote St. Paul to reinforce their condemnation. But they aren't so careful to observe

the Apostle's precept that interfere with their own comfort or convenience.

Only about one hundred years ago men wore long hair and rambled beards flecked with soft-boiled eggs. Yet St. Paul says if a man has long hair, it is a shame unto him. Until the invention of the safety razor and modern barber tools men didn't pay much attention to St. Paul.

Now it is more comfortable and convenient to have smooth-shaven and short haired. So men pursue convenience and for the moment the resulting style happens to coincide with the Epistle to the Corinthians.

Why shouldn't women be equally free 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

EDWARD W. BEMIS, expert employed by the Indiana public service commission to appraise the properties of the Indiana Bell Telephone Company in connection with the telephone rate hearing now in progress before the commission, places the present valuation of the company's properties at \$28,000,000.

Appraisal of the same properties by the Telephone Company's staff give a total valuation of \$45,360,871.96.

Quite a difference. The two appraisals—both presumably the work of high minded experts who wouldn't knowingly falsify a figure to save their skins from the gallows—are not within speaking distance of each other.

Which valuation more nearly approximates the truth? No one knows—not even the experts—though the 96 cents at the end of the Bell Company's figures give their appraisal a bland air of rectitude hard to dispute.

Yet the valuation figures depends on the future peace of mind of Hoosier telephone subscribers. Rates fixed to yield a fair return on the valuation of the commission's expert would be one thing, fixed to yield a fair return on the company's own appraisal would be another. In the latter event something distinctly unpleasant would befall the subscribers.

The wide divergence of the experts' figures in this case are characteristic of most public utility rate hearings.

Usually numbers of investigation and expenditures of dollars are expended in accumulating a mass of conflicting data that only serve as the basis of argument. As far as the public is concerned utility rate question might just as well be settled by mere strong lunged debate without a digit in the room.

'I Forgot'

By Hal Cochran

NONE of us do half the things that we could. Our tasks of us do half the things that we should. The answer? We simply forget.

Often we think on a single track mind and thoughts are confined to one thing. Then when accomplishment's falling behind, while listlessness is having its fling.

"Sure I can do it," has often been said and probably honestly meant. Then to some other thing people are led and the best of intentions is spent. Memory's a mighty good thing to promote. Its use makes your life seem more fun. Always forgetting can get a man's goat through worry o'er things left undone.

Life's greatest alibi's easy to say, but really, 'twell help you a lot, to always be able to shout, day by day, "I did it" and not "I forgot."

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What is the proportion of epsom salts to use in a reducing bath? Is there any prescribed time for the duration of such a bath?

One-half pound of the salts to a gallon of water is a good proportion. There is no prescribed time for the duration of the bath.

Did Sherman really say "War is hell?"

This saying is attributed to Gen. Sherman by John Koebel, aide-de-camp to Gen. Winfield, who claims to have heard the remark after the Battle of Vicksburg. Sherman did not remember making the statement.

What is the weight of hammered silver? Silver, cast hammered, weighs 656 pounds to the cubic foot.

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

By Walter D. Hickman

SEX hunger is the keynote to "White Cargo," a play revealed here 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 weakening 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 promises 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-hungry. 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 unhealthy conditions. It is not pleasant talk, but it is the talk of emotions that have been boiling, but have never quite gone over the kettle. But when the spill does come, it is quite a splash.

The woman in "White Cargo" is not romantic like the poor native woman in "The Bird of Paradise." The "sand walker" in "White Cargo" even poisons her own white husband. She is dirt just through and through.

There was romantic beauty or rather romantic intoxication in the "Bird." There is honesty in "White Cargo," because men who are lost are "honest" in the wrong way.

Here is realism—frank, vulgar, powerful and at times real. Strong situations call for strong acting and that is supplied by Leon Gordon as Witzel; Wallis Clark, a former member of the Gregory Kelly stock company at English's some years ago, as the doctor; B. N. Lewis as the missionary; James C. Carroll as the skipper; Allan Wallace as the engineer and Frederick Forrester as Ashley, a human wreck, who honestly desired to come back.

Gordon mounts to great heights in the second act, second scene when he tells Langford that two and two make four and nothing else but. It is a cruel but an honest scene, splendidly acted by the man who wrote the play.

Wallis Clark as the "drinking doctor" gives a marvelous conception of a character that is steadily sliding toward the end of everything. Clark shades the different mental experiences of the doctor as only a great artist could.

Austin Coghlan as Langford is better as the natural young man than he is the hopeless human wreck. This may be that I have a little different conception of Langford as a wreck than Coghlan does. He is probably right and I am wrong.

To delecto, the "sand walker" of mixed blood, is a symbol more than she is a character. And that is the way that Jean Downs plays her. Tondeley might be considered a black skin edition of Cleopatra without the snake and the fan.

And that is "White Cargo."

At English's all week.

KEITH'S BILL HAS

LOTS OF PEP AND DASH

The Thanksgiving Week Bill at Keith's is a snappy comedy show.

Harry M. Snodgrass, pianist who became famous over the radio and now breaking house records all over the Keith circuit, is the chief headline attraction.

Snodgrass with the aid of J. M. Witten, radio announcer, places the act in a radio setting. Wise showmanship causes them to follow this idea. Snodgrass plays the popular songs of the day like many other performers.

He doesn't try to be a comedian. He doesn't say a word. He plays the piano. The public expects him to play "Three O'Clock in the Morning," his own arrangement of this former song hit, and he does.

Snodgrass leaves his audience honestly wanting more of his kind of melody. The radio public has elected Snodgrass as a success and vaudeville seems to have the same verdict. He attempts nothing else but plays the tunes that the public demands.

Ben Ryan and Lee Harriett have an eccentric bit of delicious nonsense. It is noisy but the showmanship of the team really makes it a classic. They nearly come to blows, should say that they do. They know how to "sell" an eccentric comedy across the footlights.

Billboard posters come to life when Bryan and Fairchild appear in "Billboard Steps." The opening of the act is novel and gives the dancers a good start to strut their steps. Act pleases.

The Roman Troupe offer an acrobatic review, filled with speed and lot of fine stunts. The whirling acrobatics of these five men cause them to be one of the real applause winners on the bill.

Clark and Bergman, with the assistance of Margaret Hoffman, present an intimate little sketch with music and much personality by the name of "Sensory Mary." It is the way those three people that hum comedy way, which makes this little but enterprising affair become a feature on the bill. The cast of three does enough work for about ten people in the average musical comedy sketch.

Stage Verdict

English's—"White Cargo" speaks in plain English of what happens when sex gets the better of men.

Keith's—As a holiday week show, there is a lot to be thankful for at this theater.

Lyrie—The Spirit of Vaudeville with its many different offerings is certain to appeal in one way or another to you. Palace—Flanders and Butler have some new things in a musical offering that are worth listening to.

Evangeline and Kathleen Murray dish out the crooning blues songs and the jazzy homespun stuff with the aid of the eukulele with such effect that they do step into the hit class. Nice work.

Zelda Brothers are contortionists and robots. They frolic in their own unique way, getting their share of real applause and appreciation.

The movie feature is Our Gang in "One Wild Ride." At Keith's all week.

SNUB POLLARD TOPS SHOW AT THE PALACE

Although the popular idea is that jazz is a creation of late years, in the act of Flanders and Butler, at the Palace today and tomorrow, you are given a sample of jazz as it was written twenty-five years ago. When they play old one and played it for us. The name of the piece was the "Maple Leaf Rag." Wonder if any of you remember it.

You have probably heard the classics japed up many times, but in this act the reverse is true. A modern jazz hit, one that has proven quite popular is given new clothes and is played and sang as if it were written an aria.

"Meet the Prince," is a little sketch done in a musical comedy way. Concerns the troubles of a bunch of flappers at a country club, who are expecting a visit from the Prince of Wales. An impostor gets in and impersonates the prince and the comedy idea is worked out from this.

Joy Brothers and Gloom is some comedy put out by a couple of eccentric dancers and a policeman who sings.

Snub Pollard has an act full of humor concerning a couple of burglars and a husband, who will not stay home, presented under the title of "Say Uncle," written by Test Dalton.

At the Palace today and tomorrow, (By the Observer).

LOOKING OVER NEW BILL AT THE LYRIC

A delightful little fantasy "The Spirit of Vaudeville," takes the honors of this week's bill at the Lyric.

As the curtain goes up you are in front of what appears to be a mystic palace. A girl inquires of an aged man what is contained therein. He tells her that it is the home of all the amusements, that drama, opera, musical comedy, burlesque and circus all live there and indulge in a continual squabble as to who is the best entertainer of the people.

Then from out the old castle come each in his turn the amusements mentioned above.

First we have Musical Comedy, as this offering we are given a tango done in a very swift and pleasing fashion. Then Drama, Drama, played by a man in a Shakespearean character literally acts all over the stage, gives us some real deep stuff. The Circus and Burlesque are represented in turn and then we have some opera. For those who have a liking to hear a real good voice here is a treat.

Have you ever heard a rooster do much more than crow at the wrong hours of the morning? If

About Sidney Lanier

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to The Indianapolis Times, Washington Bureau, 1323 New York Ave., Washington, D. C. Please include your name and address in stamps for reply. Medical, legal and marital advice cannot be given nor can extended answers be undertaken. All other questions will receive a personal reply. Unanswered requests will be answered. All letters are confidential.—Editor.

Where is Sidney Lanier, the poet and hymn writer buried? When did he die?

He died in 1881, and is buried in Greenmount Cemetery, Baltimore, Md.

What are the proper hours for a children's party?

For very young children the hours are from four to seven or from three to six. For children under sixteen but over ten they may be from seven to ten or eleven but never later.

What was the relationship between the present King of England and the former Czar of Russia.

The mother of King George V of England and of the former Czar of Russia, Nicholas II, were sisters. King George and the former Czar were, therefore, first cousins.

Is an alien visiting the United States as a tourist temporarily for business or pleasure an immigrant within the meaning of the Immigration act?

No. Only those who come with the expressed intention or purpose of making their homes in this country are immigrants under the meaning of the law.

Is it possible to tell a pedigreed fox terrier by the markings? No. The markings are so varied that it is impossible to judge a pedigreed dog by them.

What causes water to flow downhill or seek the lowest level? The force of gravitation.

From what college did the poet Longfellow graduate? Bowdoin College, Maine, in 1825.

Can you give me an Indian name for little bird? Zitkala.

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The Mistakes of Kellogg

III. The Threat to Mexico.

By William Philip Simms

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24.—Secretary Kellogg's sudden and sizzling threat to Mexico last June was not only the biggest mistake of his own bare eight months in office, but was one of the most serious diplomatic blunders of the decade.

Just when everybody thought all was serene, the Kellogg note to Mexico burst upon the world like a bolt from the blue. Genuinely startled, the public of two nations sat up, scarcely realizing what had happened. Americans, the note said, in effect, were being mistreated in Mexico and it would have to stop. Otherwise should revolutionists seek to overthrow President Calles—and there was already talk of such 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 along 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.

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 patriotic

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

dollars and cents side to be considered. All things being equal, Latin-American trade ultimately will