

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.

What Is a Republican?

WHAT is a Republican? The question is becoming almost as hard to answer as the famous old query: "Why is a mouse when it spins?"

Out in Wisconsin the plain voters think they know a Republican when they see one and, after looking over all the possibilities in the State, they picked out young Bob La Follette and sent him to the United States Senate, bearing a label which said, in effect, "This is our idea of a Republican."

Actually, the label was merely the certificate of the Secretary of State telling that the new Senator had been duly elected under the law of Wisconsin and the Constitution of the United States. The fact that he was elected as Republican was only to be learned from the newspapers which told that he had more votes in the Republican primary than all his opponents put together and then as the Republican nominee had a bigger majority over his Democratic opponent than most any other member of the present United States Senate.

Does that make him a Republican? Many members of the Senate think not. To be a Republican, they argue, La Follette should prove he is willing to take orders after he gets to Washington. He must forget the instructions of the Republicans in Wisconsin and become as nearly like the average Republican Senator as possible. As soon as he convinces them that he is ready to be average, they will ratify the decision of his State as to his Republicanism.

Meantime a committee has been seeking to determine the question. The chairman of the committee is Senator James E. Watson of Indiana, a fitting man for the purpose, for Senator Watson was once investigated by a congressional committee himself. That was before he became a Senator, but after he had been a member of the House. It was charged that he had been employed as a lobbyist for a certain group of manufacturers who wanted a certain kind of tariff. The congressional committee, a majority of them Republicans, summed up its opinion of Mr. Watson in the following language:

"The committee questions the propriety of one who has been a member of Congress and attained a personal and political influence, capitalizing that influence in pressing legislative propositions upon Congress for hire by personal contact and personal efforts with members, as was done in this case, and we confess to a feeling of regret that upon any question, whatsoever its merits, the lobbyist for it should be able to say, as Mr. Watson said in this case (p. 2571 of the hearings), 'I had various members of Congress coming to report to me about how their delegations stood.'"

That is Senator Watson. That is the man to tell the country who is a Republican and who is not!

Let's Accept the Bid

THE United States, Russia and Germany have been invited to meet with the League of Nations to discuss further disarmament plans.

America should accept the invitation. President Coolidge has been talking of some such conference as this for years and here, at last, is his opportunity.

Of course, we have little or nothing to scrap in the way of armaments, either on land or sea. But that should not prevent us lending our moral aid to those who have.

The invitation to Russia is almost startling, coming as it does, as a sort of reversal of policy on the part of the great powers. Also it is of the utmost importance. We have not recognized Russia, of course, but that should not cause us to hold off. Rather Russia's presence should be an added inducement for us to be there.

Some time ago this paper published the details of Russia's new universal and compulsory military service law. Soon Russia will have well over a million men under arms and ultimately she will have a first and second line of reserves totaling from twelve to fifteen millions. We showed how this means a new and

How An Auto Works

You can get an answer to any question of fact in this column by writing to The Indianapolis Times, Washington Bureau, 1322 New York Ave., Washington, D. C., enclosing a stamped and stamped envelope. All letters will be given every attention and will be answered. All letters are confidential—Editor.

How does an automobile engine work?

The motive mechanism of a gasoline automobile is the engine. Gasoline mixed with air, in proper proportions, is the fuel for the engine. This fuel is introduced into the cylinders through a manifold, and is exploded in successive cylinders by means of an electric spark furnished by a battery, or magnetized through the spark plugs. The explosion in each cylinder drives the

pistons' downward imparting force to the crankshaft. This energy is sent through the transmission assembly to the differential gears located in the rear axle housing, and these gears drive the rear wheels which impart motion to the car.

What government department should one write to for information about cultivation of horehound and mint?

Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

What nationality was Hans Christian Andersen, the author of the fairy tales? Did he ever write anything else?

He was born at Odense, Denmark, April 2, 1805. In 1835 he wrote the "Fairy Tales" which made him

famous. He also wrote "Tinderbox" and "Big Claus and Little Claus" in the same year. He was both a poet and a novelist. He died at Copenhagen, Aug. 4, 1875.

Can you name some famous Shakespearean actors of the past and present?

Eminent Shakespearean actors of the past and present are: Edwin Booth, Tom Salvini, John Edward McCullough, Edwin Forrest, Edmund Kean, Henry Irving, E. H. Sothern, Julia Marlowe, Fritz Lieber, Walter Hampton, John Barrymore, Robert Mantel, Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree.

Where is the city of Ratioph?

It is an ancient city of Bavaria on the right bank of the Danube. It has endured seventeen sieges since the tenth century, the last being conducted by Napoleon in 1809.

It was a sort of Daniel-in-the

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

RIGHT HERE

IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

ONE-MAN STREET CARS

THE Indianapolis Street Rail- way Company is considering the feasibility of putting into service on some of its shorter, light traffic lines a new type of small one-man street cars. This, it is believed, will reduce operating costs.

The company now operates one-man cars on the Alabama, Minne- sota and Lexington lines.

There are only two ways the financially harassed trolley system can close the gap between outgo and income. One is by increasing revenue; the other is by reducing operating expenses.

The first method has been tried without conspicuous success. The fare increases granted caused a dwindling of the ranks of customers and the deficit continues to mount. The present plea to the public service commission for authority to double the price of transfers probably will have the same effect. Instead of bringing in more revenue it is quite likely to constrict the transfer market.

Why not, for a change, attack the problem from the other angle—operating expenses?

If the one-man cars can be operated more cheaply the experiment is worth trying. Of many of the city lines the present cars of the two-man type are filled to a quarter of their capacity or less during all except the rush hours. So for most of the day the conductors are just scenery for which the passenger pays. All the customers want to buy is transportation.

ALL FOR STATE ROADS

EARL CRAWFORD, member of the Indiana highway commission, at a meeting of highway and municipal contractors recently, opposed the distribution among counties and cities of one-third of the gasoline tax collected by the State. He argued that the money should be spent on the state highway system.

"You can't solve road problems by making them local propositions," he said. "If the counties only knew it, their greatest relief would come when the main arteries of traffic are established, thus drawing the load from the county roads."

Quite naturally State highway officials regret to see any funds collected by the State diverted to county roads. They like to spend it themselves.

It is important, of course, to push work on the State highway system as rapidly as funds will permit. That bears the heaviest traffic and the improvement of State roads will benefit the largest number of people as they are the main arteries of travel.

But many people don't live on State roads. They have only a secondary interest in the main arteries of traffic and are dependent on county roads in getting to market, the movies, and other important affairs of life. So there is, and always will be, considerable gasoline—on which the gas tax is paid—burned in wearing out county roads.

Indiana has more than 70,000 miles of roads—of which less than 5,000 miles are in the State highway system. More than 90 per cent of the roads are county and local. Why shouldn't 90 per cent of Indiana's road mileage receive a minor fraction of the gas tax?

SHEIKS NOT ALONE TO BLAME

OMEN, representing the Garfield Civic League, complained to Prosecutor Remy the other day that slick-hailed sheiks in autos and on downtown corners are annoying south side maidens and matrons. They demanded suppression of the nuisance.

Probably a devastating and exterminating war on drugstore cowboys and mashers by police authorities would be welcomed by many mothers with nice daughters. The scalps of a few sheiks could be taken without loss to the community.

Certainly women, young or mature, should be able to traverse Indianapolis streets without being subjected to the quips and insulting advances of imitation Lotharios. As a part of the local fauna and flora the masher is neither beautiful nor edible. He is just a pest—like mosquitoes or weeds.

But he can't be eradicated entirely by public authorities impelled to activity by a deputation of women.

The sheik accosts passing fair ones because he has found out by experience that some of the girls fall for his advances. The party of the second part by dress, looks or actions frequently just begs to be approached and insulted. If the accoster was sure to be indignantly rebuffed and metaphorically impaled on a hat pin whenever he made advances he would soon seek other diversions.

Policemen may now the sheik crop

time to time without achieving more than temporary results. A lot of the sheik stuff can be eradicated by parents wielding the family hair brush on the sheba daughter of the house.

WHY IS A TOWNSHIP

H. N. SHERWOOD, State superintendent of public instruction, in addressing the annual convention of the Indiana Association of Township Trustees Wednesday, said the township is not a satisfactory unit of taxation for school support. It denies children of poor and wealthy townships equal educational opportunities.

It was a sort of Daniel-in-the

Prohibition Point of View

A series of articles by Mr. Gardner reporting the operation of liquor laws in the various provinces of Canada.

By Gilson Gardner

OTTAWA (By Mail), Dec. 11.—Anxious to get the prohibition point of view, on the prohibition province of Ontario, I went to see Mr. Lyle Reid, former secretary to the provincial premier and an active campaigner against the wet amendment last fall. Mr. Reid is an official and manager of a big insurance company in this city, and is out of professional politics. He is president of the Y. M. C. A. of Ontario.

Mr. Reid voiced the moral against the mercenary argument.

"After all," he said, "a lot of people in Ontario thought they would have better business if the province were wet. This no doubt accounts for the increase in the wet vote last fall. They see the influx of tourists from the United States into Quebec, and see that province drinking itself out of debt, and they are tempted. But I doubt the morality of a State drinking itself out of debt—or getting out of debt by selling drink to others."

The system of township government once served a useful purpose in Indiana. Towns were few, population predominantly rural, roads bad, and a trip even to the county seat an all-day adventure. Then the township was a social unit and the logical administrative area.

Under the circumstances why continue township organization and government at all?

It is only a governmental uniform appendix which could be amputated without detriment to the body politic—an archaic survival of governmental forms like the English king whose only real power is to set the styles in spats.

"We have made drinking more ex-

pensive and therefore confined it more to the class of those who can afford to drink—to the so-called smart set.

There is a good deal of talk of drinking by the young people—the flapper and the sheik. In the first place, I think these stories are very much exaggerated. They tend to get exaggerated by reason of their picturesqueness. Not all young men have the flask on the hip. Not all—any large per cent of the young girls get drunk at dances, and indulge in auto petting parties. There are still boys and girls growing up in homes where parental authority is respected and who do not know the taste of liquor.

And as to the others, I do not think it is due to any system of drink laws or other laws. I think it is a psychological phenomenon. It is the young of this generation—or some of them—experimenting in freedom. Why, or to what end, are other questions? It is not a question of drink or the ease or difficulty of procuring drink."

Mr. Reid said he had received reports that the western provinces are not very well pleased with their new liquor laws' operations, but he has not as yet verified these reports. He says the new "four point four" beer which Premier Ferguson got Parliament to authorize after the fall referendum has not pleased anybody. The drinkers find the beer not strong enough, the prohibitionists find it too strong. In communities like Ottawa the new beer does not compete with the drink of the Quebec Liquor Commission to be had very easily in Hull, just across the bridge. So there are many people who thought they were going to found prosperous drinking resorts on the 44 who are finding their hopes in vain.

Hoosier Briefs

GREENSBURG sheriff is dis- appointed. Since the county jail has been improved, only one man has been lodged there. He was too drunk to appreciate it.

Thumbs aren't down for Mrs. A. E. Wainscott of Frankfort. One is tied up. She broke it in a fall from a haymow.

Elks lodge will stage its annual Christmas party for 600 children at a Lebanon theater Dec. 24.

Out of fifty-eight rabbits bagged for a Marion church supper, one was scared to death. Three hunters fired at it and missed.

Austin E. Poe is the new commander of the Franklin Spanish War veterans.

LD hitch rack at Hartford City is viewing modern progress. Wires are being laid underneath it for "silent cops" on the square.

Where there's smoke, there's cigarette, according to State Police-man A. H. Ayres, who visited Elwood and other towns in search of a quantity of fags stolen from Portland.

Santa Claus is going to get a real welcome at Frankfort. Electric decorations are being strung on downtown streets.

Orie D. Sawyer has been appointed police chief at Kendallville by Mayor-Elect William C. Atman.

New Elk's lodge at Decatur will be dedicated Dec. 15.

Dr. N. R. Melhorn, Philadelphia, will be the principal speaker at the dedication of the new Trinity Lutheran Church at Ft. Wayne.

Elwood will have buffets meet for Christmas. James A. Creagmire, butcher, will offer it.

This Handsome Davenport

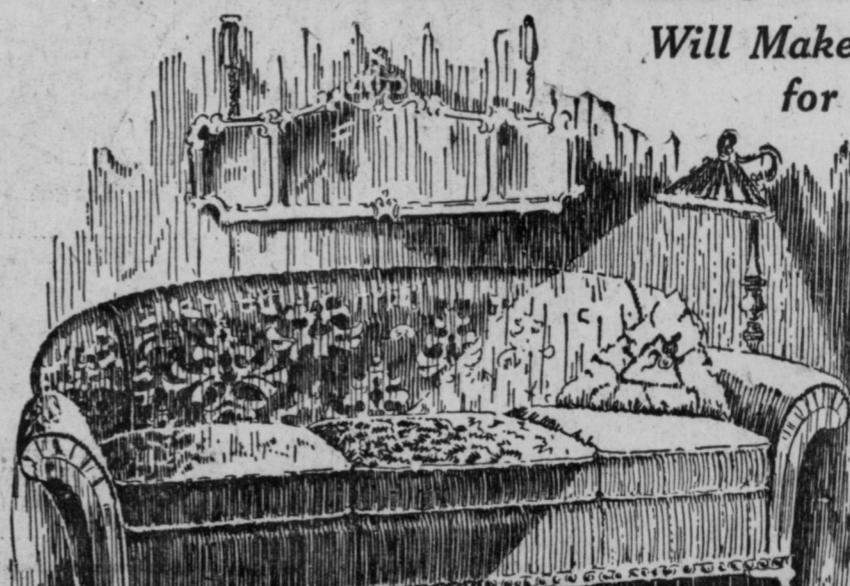
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