

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.

A Wise Decision

MARION County officials have decided to stop temporarily the removal of patients from Julietta, Marion County hospital for the insane, although it is understood that the county is determined to abandon the institution as soon as provision can be made for taking care of the patients.

This is a wise decision. The plan of suddenly closing the institution and turning some of the patients loose in the community was not one that could hope to meet with general approval. These unfortunate are with us and they must be taken care of in some manner.

The principle that Marion County should not be put to the expense of caring for its insane, in view of the fact that other counties are not required to do so, is sound. Marion County, of course, has more insane persons than other counties, because it is bigger. For the same reason, it pays more taxes than other counties. In other words, Marion County is paying for the support of insane persons from other counties, while at the same time it is maintaining an institution to take care of some of its own insane.

Gas Rate Cut

A VOLUNTARY reduction in any utility rates is a pleasant surprise to the community, regardless of how small the reduction may be to any individual. The reduction in gas rates announced by the Citizens Gas Company comes as an agreeable Christmas present to Indianapolis.

Of course, the reduction still leaves the rate a long way from the 55-cent and 60-cent rate once enjoyed, but it shows a movement in the direction of lower costs that is pleasing. This is especially true in view of the efforts of the Indianapolis Water Company and the Indianapolis Street Railway Company to obtain increases.

Not only did the gas company reduce rates, but it is paying one-half of all its accrued dividends and has paid a dividend of 10 per cent on its common stock for the year. This is the limit that the stock is allowed to earn.

Certainly the gas company is in a healthy condition and its action goes a long way to put at rest stories about starving utilities. The company has made no promises to the community, but if its announcement can be taken as an indication of the future, it is not unreasonable to expect that further reductions in gas rates are possible.

Business Management

A STRIKING example of what business management can do in public affairs is contained in the record of the present city board of health.

The board of health in times past has had a record of one deficit after another. Business management has removed the deficit and the board is winding up the year with a surplus of approximately \$40,000. It is doing this with a tax rate 2 cents lower this year than in 1924 and in spite of expenditures at the city hospital which have brought that institution into the first rank of hospitals.

Much credit for this changed state of affairs is due to Sol Schloss, president of the board of health, and to Dr. Cleon Nafe, superintendent of the city hospital. It is now pro-

Beer Is Served in Alberta

Editor's Note: This is the twelfth of a series of editorials by Mr. Gardner reporting the operation of Prohibition in the various provinces of Canada.

By Gibson Gardner

EDMONTON, Alberta, Canada (By Mail)—Real beer may be had here by the glass, or the bottle, in a place which resembles the old "bar." But now one sits down to a small table and tells the waiter.

This is the first place since Quebec where this could be done. "Beer halls," or "taverns," maintained by approximately 300 hotels in the principal cities of the province, are part of the plan of Alberta's government control of alcoholic beverages.

The "open bar" and brass rail have not been restored. The bar has an inhospitable iron grating in front of it, and there is no lunch, free or otherwise. Nor music. Just beer.

Otherwise, Alberta is much like the other government control provinces. It has twenty-five "stores," located in the principal centers of population, for the sale of spirituous liquors. It has the permit system, by which the purchaser pays \$2 a year or 50 cents a purchase, and has his purchases credited to his permit.

In this province the "stores" keep open later, from 10 a. m. to 6 p. m. in rural districts and 8 p. m. in city districts. This is done to cut out the small "after hours" bootlegger.

Alberta is among the more recent converts to this "wet" experiment. The law has been operating since May 10, 1924. Incidentally, at the end of its first year it had turned over a profit of \$1,020,000 to the pro-

vincial government in addition to what the liquors had paid in excise taxes and import duties.

The Alberta Liquor Commission is composed of one man, R. J. Dinning of Lethbridge, formerly manager of the Bank of Montreal. He is, to all intents and purposes, the czar of the liquor traffic. He seems to be not a fanatic either way and his administration is giving general satisfaction.

This province was formerly the chief stronghold of prohibition. In 1915 the voters ratified a prohibition proposal by a majority of 20,786 out of a total vote of 97,453. Eight years later, Nov. 5, 1922, they voted by a majority of 39,077 out of a total vote of 162,267, against prohibition.

This mandate has been worked out in the present governmental control plan.

Against Bootlegging

Why this change of sentiment? The reaction, it is universally admitted, was not against successful prohibition. It was against bootlegging and the general flouting of the law. Prohibition here prohibited nothing, but the decent and moderate consumption of drink and the collection of a government revenue from the industry. The bootlegger flourished under government auspices. The government sold in 1920, \$2,760,182 worth of liquor for "medicinal" and "manufacturing" purposes, and this liquor of course found its way into the hands of unscrupulous druggists, doctors and others, and was consumed by the bootleg patrons.

There were bootleggers every-

RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

MAJOR LEW says he will suggest to the park board at its next meeting that the name of Riverside Park be changed to Taggart Park—in honor of Thomas Taggart, mayor of Indianapolis when the park was established. Also that Kessler Blvd., be changed to Bookwalter Blvd. in recognition of Charles A. Bookwalter, present head of the park board.

Surely a graceful gesture and a pleasing touch of sentiment.

The two distinguished gentlemen whom he would honor have no doubt, rendered Indianapolis great public service. Perhaps their names should be perpetuated on the city's map. But what's in a name?

The names given to streets, boulevards, or parks mean little, and to have one's name thus used is not a substantial assurance of fame. Hundreds of Indianapolis streets take their names from former more or less distinguished citizens of the city. In most cases who they were and what they did have long since been forgotten. The names are just names—nothing more.

So far as present day residents of the city are concerned—and so far as perpetuating the memory of former prominent citizens is concerned—Indianapolis streets might as well have been designated by numbers and the letters of the alphabet.

To change the names in common use of parks and boulevards mere-

posed that Dr. Nafe be supplanted by a political appointee.

The only possible explanation of changed conditions is the fact that the health department has been put on a business basis. If this one department can accomplish the results cited by business administration, the whole city government would benefit from the same kind of administration. City manager government would bring this about.

Deuces Wild... Very!

SECRETARY of State Kellogg made a "big speech" in New York the other day, outlining America's foreign policy. Notably he defended his exclusion of Countess Karolyi and other foreigners from this country.

Critics of this particular policy Secretary Kellogg characterized as "those well-meaning but misguided individuals among us who are engaged in promoting the cause of anarchy and bolshevism under the guise of liberty and free speech."

The law is clear, said the Secretary, and he would continue to enforce it against "prince and peasant alike."

Who let in those Russian Soviet business men who, just a few days ago, were lavishly banqueted by the biggest bankers in New York?

What does Mr. Kellogg think of vice president Reeve Schley of the powerful Chase National Bank, who presided at the feast and who, in the course of a speech, praised the general order in which he found things in Soviet Russia when he visited that country last year?

What does Mr. Kellogg think of Charles M. Schwab, head of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, also present at this Soviet-American banquet, and who, in the course of a speech, "expressed satisfaction over the fact that Russia was again trading with America?"

What has our Secretary of State to say of all this? Is this barring "prince and peasant alike?" What has he to say of our captains of finance and industry hobnobbing with Russians about the festive board? Is Wall Street amongst those "well-meaning but misguided" persons whom he castigates? Is it, too, "engaged in promoting the cause of anarchy and bolshevism?"

If Secretary Kellogg does not believe this, why not? Are dollars more sacred than freedom or business more precious than the right of a free conscience and free speech upon which our nation itself was founded?

Or is it that he thinks the king can do no wrong; that the House of Morgan and Bethlehem Steel are in a class apart, upon a plane with kings?

The Secretary spoke of China too, but said nothing his gifted predecessor, John Hay, did not say twenty-five years ago. He re-enunciated the policy of no entanglements abroad decided in Washington's day; and of no military alliances with Europe, an issue which died in 1798. And so on.

A friendly paper said the Secretary spoke from a carefully prepared manuscript as if he were conscious that his speech "would be heard around the world." Another said he made American policy perfectly clear; that he laid his cards face up on the table for all to see.

As indeed he did. And we no longer wonder that people are saying American foreign policy is at low ebb. There's not a face card or an ace among them. The most noteworthy of them appear to be merely deuces wild.

MR. FIXIT

Letter Brings Suggestion for Ending Conges- tion at Market.

Let Mr. Fixit solve your troubles with the Amish religious sect, who are in jail at Goshen, Ind., for failure to send their children to school—a violation of Indiana's compulsory school attendance law. They hold that to send their children to public school is contrary to the tenets of their church.

DEAR MR. FIXIT: Why does the traffic department let automobiles block traffic around the market house, especially Saturday evening, two or three abreast. On any other thoroughfare they never hesitate to place a sticker.

Right or wrong Indiana has adopted—by law and majority con-

sent—the policy of compulsory school attendance for the children of the State. The policy is based on public welfare to which the individual must yield, regardless of his private religious scruples.

We take glibly of the individual's inalienable right to life, liberty, pursuit of happiness and freedom of conscience.

But all such rights are limited by the rights of others. Since the first tribal government was organized life, liberty and other inalienable private rights have had their corners by law and custom. The individual can do as he leases only if it doesn't interfere with the rights of society as a whole.

In Indiana it is believed that education of children is necessary for the future of the State. Hence compulsory schooling. It is not a matter of religion vs. education or an attempted abridgement of religious freedom.

It is the attitude of people who believe that their individual consciences and scruples are paramount to the interests of the public as a whole—whether it be disregard of a truancy act or a murder statute—that keeps our law enforcement agencies running around in circles.

Mr. Fixit finds you have a box at Madison Ave. and the Belt Railroad, three blocks away and at Meridian St. and the Bluff Rd., four blocks distant. However, postal authorities will investigate necessity for another box after the holiday rush. The idea is to have boxes on mainly traveled streets so that fast collection may result.

CITIZEN. W. P. Hargan, clerk of the street commissioner's office will make every effort to obtain the cinders dumped in the first alley north of the Belt Railroad between Delaware and Union Sts. We also need a light at S. Talbot St. and Adler St. We also need a mail box in this neighborhood as the closest mail box is about four and one-half blocks away.

DEAR MR. FIXIT: Who says the street car company shall pay between the tracks? I want to put over a petition for this needed improvement.

OLD TIMER AND TIMES READER.

Anthony Sweeney, clerk of the traffic department, promised Mr. Fixit to suggest an investigation with a view of improving conditions.

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