

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.

Indianapolis Crime Record

INDIANAPOLIS is being tamed and civilized. So far this year there have been only thirty-two homicides in the city, according to detective bureau records, while in 1924 there were eighty-two killings. And, comparing the two years, traffic fatalities have decreased an even dozen.

Human life in the city isn't as short and tempestuous as it was last year.

But that's all that is safer. Burglary, hold-ups, auto thefts—crimes against property not life—all show marked increase over last year. Indianapolis is not yet a rival of the New Jerusalem—peopled only by the righteous. Golden pavements wouldn't last long here; they would be carried away in a couple of nights.

A few months ago New York authorities started a big advertising campaign in that city to check crime. Conspicuous posters, depicting sowering criminals in the hands of burly cope and similar devices, were plastered over the city. "You can't get away with it," shrieked the posters. These were supposed to scare potential evildoers into paths of rectitude.

But such advertising is a lie. In New York and elsewhere the criminal does get away with it in a majority of cases.

During 1925 in Indianapolis there have been 26 arrests for homicides and 10 convictions, 155 arrests on burglary charges and 94 convictions, 189 arrests for vehicle taking with 99 convictions, 879 arrests for miscellaneous felonies and 353 convictions. A total, in those four groups of crimes, of 1,249 arrests and 556 convictions.

Does the criminal get away with it? He does. Right there is the answer to the crime problem in this country.

Mitchell Found Guilty

THE Mitchell verdict probably surprised no one—the Doughty colonel himself least of all.

Having criticised, and made charges against the War and Navy Departments absolutely unprecedented in the history of the armed services of the Nation he admits he expected arrest at once.

Irrespective of the merits of his case, he could no more escape punishment than you can stick your finger in a buzz saw and hope to get off without a scratch. You who read these lines, would be fired in a jiffy if you publicly tweaked your boss's nose and branded him as an incompetent no matter how much he liked you.

So it was with Mitchell. He left the jury no option. He had to be punished. Discipline, without which the best army in the world would become only a mob, demanded it.

None knew this better than Col. Mitchell himself. Perhaps he even deliberately sacrificed himself to attain the end in view—an independent air service on a par with the Army and the Navy. We have sometimes seen, or fancied that we saw, evidences that this was the case. If so, his sacrifice will not have been in vain.

Although the spectacular colonel did not prove all his case, and though he had to admit that much of what he said in his charges was merely his own personal opinion, the hullabaloo he raised will ultimately work for the good of our national defense. Expert opinion is against his project for the present, at least, but the row has done much to awaken this country to the vital importance of aviation. The echo of the Mitchell-esque blasts will far outlive his five-year suspension.

If you started this item prepared to shed a tear for the colonel, save it. He doesn't want it or need it. He is probably quite happy over what he has done. He is reported to be well to do and his Army salary means very little in his young life. As for the honors he is missing, he has had most of them already. While as for the future—why he is probably the most popular America hero in the public eye today—the future will take care of itself. Never fear.

For unless we miss our guess, if you will pardon the slang, Billy Mitchell has really just begun to mitch.

That World Court Vote

AMERICAN editors have just been painstakingly polled by Edward W. Bok's peace foundation to find out how they line up on the world court. They voted 80 per cent in favor of joining.

This seems to have come as quite a blow to the antis. They realize it indicates that the country at large favors adherence by approximately the same majority. The fact seems to have left them groggy, that is if one can judge by their groping for a come-back.

One very much depressed Washington paper, for example, says it is obvious the

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

BOYS! PAGE MR. HOUDINI

A PUZZLED and indignant Hoosier sends RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA the following plaint:

"R. H. I. I.: Notice on back of wrapper in which 1926 automobile license are sent out reads:

"Rear license tag must be placed next to lamp so constructed and placed as to throw a white light on the plate and render the numerals thereon visible for at least sixty feet in the direction from which the vehicle is proceeding."

"F'rinstance, the direction from which the vehicle is proceeding is the east; car traveling west. Looking east howinly is a feller going to see the rear license tag, especially in bad weather. Howze going to tell whether he has a rear license tag or no?"—at's what I'd like to know."

The answer is beyond us. All we know the Statutes of Indiana prescribe the rear license tags must be visible for at least sixty feet in the direction from which the vehicle is proceeding. Apparently Hoosier solons expect drivers will develop long, limber necks or the license plates must be more agile than usual.

It will take magic as well as profanity to affix the rear plate in accordance with instructions. Boy! page Mr. Houdini. We have a sleight-of-hand job for him.

Still and all it is quite on a par with the rest of the argument. The same paper opposes the world court on the ground that it is a "league court" rather than a world court.

The country's best minds have agreed that the court is about as independent a body as it is humanly possible to make it. But pass that.

Suppose, for the sake of the argument, that it is a league court, as charged. What is the league? The league—good, bad or indifferent, as it is—is the world banded together in one society. That is, it is the world minus the United States, Russia and Turkey. It is the whole world, minus ourselves and a country or two we refuse to recognize.

So if the present world court is not a world court, let's frankly acknowledge Mars as our God and have done with it. For, in that case, there can never be a world court.

For Whom Are They Working?

WHEN Congress ordered a power survey on

the Tennessee River, at a cost of \$500,000 to the people, was Congress acting solely for the benefit of private power interests?

The Federal power commission seems to have thought so.

The survey was made and the information obtained was, according to Senator McKellar, turned over to the power interests without any notification to Congress that the work was even completed.

Congress, in fact, was not advised until after hearing of petitions for the most valuable power dam sites had already been held in Chattanooga.

McKellar probably will contest the validity of the hearings before the Federal power commission finally acts on the petitions. But even if he protects the people's interests along the Tennessee River he will be touching only the edge of the water power problem.

This paper has pointed out how private power corporations, without paying a cent to the Government, are obtaining options on every available dam site of any value from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

It is to be hoped the Tennessee River incident will cause such a congressional row that the Federal power commission will finally realize it is working for the people and not for the private power corporations. The commission is composed of the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. O. C. Merrill is executive secretary.

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Better Business

THE first step toward the establishment of systematic self-government of business.

This is the language of the United States Chamber of Commerce in describing a conference just held under its auspices. The conference decided to create a committee that will "act as a clearing house for business and set up standards of ethical and economical business practice."

Whether this "first step" is a step forward or a step backward depends on the spirit which moves the men taking it.

If by self-government of business they mean to so regulate business as to protect the public against unfair practices and unfair prices, thus making any other control of business unnecessary, they are moving in the right direction. If, on the other hand, they aim to set themselves above any government control, whether or not the interests of the public require such control, they are heading for eventual disaster.

An examination of the minds of the men composing the conference doubtless would reveal members of both schools. But there is reason to believe that those having the public interest at heart actually outnumber the others. Recent years have shown them that the path to permanent prosperity does not lie in reckless exploitation of the public. Even the most unenlightened of them is beginning to see that he must help curb other exploiters, even if he himself, doesn't stop exploiting.

So, concretely, the conference agreed to attempt to reduce the number of middlemen between the producer and the consumer. The public has reason to cheer this purpose.

BIBLE HEIRLOOM GONE

Book, 300 Years Old, Stolen From Evansville Office.

By United Press

EVANSVILLE, Ind., Dec. 18.—An old Bible, said to be more than 300 years old, was missing today from the office of C. B. Kolker, in whose family it had been kept as an heirloom for generations. Police are searching for the thief.

NEW PASSENGER AGENT

T. P. Hinchcliff, former assistant general passenger agent of the C. B. & Q. Railroad, has been named general passenger agent of the St. Louis district, which includes Indianapolis. He succeeds C. J. Rohwitz, assigned to the Omaha office Jan. 1.

The longest and most complicated claim for the insurance of a deceased world war veteran ever presented and one of the longest in insurance history has just been settled by the United States Veterans

Beer Sans Rowdyism in Vancouver

Editor's Note: This is the thirteenth of a series of articles by Mr. Gardner reporting the operation of liquor laws in the various provinces of Canada.

By Gilson Gardner

VANCOUVER, B. C., Canada (by mail).—Ever since October, 1920, British Columbia has had the "government stores" plan of liquor control. This year in April it adopted also the "beer-by-the-glass" plan in operation in Alberta. There are "taverns" in some of the other provinces. He deals in the wares of the liquor commission and caters to the suddenly thirsty who want to buy after the "stores" have closed. Truth to tell, there is also another bootlegging interest in this province getting stronger all the time, namely, the man who withdraws liquor from the bonded warehouses on the pretense that he is to reship to some foreign destination. If the liquor were really destined to a foreign port, it would legally go out without paying excise tax. The withdrawal is not really for a foreign port, and by fraud and trickery it gets diverted to the cellar of the bootlegger, who can then make money selling it in direct competition with the provincial "stores."

All that is necessary is the official label, over the cork, and this is had either by counterfeiting or by a bribe purchase of the genuine ones. One outgrowth of the system here

assures a clear working majority on all occasions.

How about bootlegging?

The big, overweening, flourishing bootlegging, such as we have in the United States, is not to be found here. There stands up at the club bar and calls for drink and gets it, he is supposed to pay the bartender for "service." If it happens that the charge for the service is enough to cover the cost of the liquor also, that is not a matter which can be inquired into under the law.

It is the general testimony here that the Act has not increased drunkenness or restored the well-known evils of the "corner saloon." It has, instead, wiped out the glaring evils of the illicit days of so-called prohibition. H. A. Stein, managing editor of Vancouver's leading newspaper voiced this opinion:

"It seems," said he, "to be largely a matter of psychology. Given the opportunity to get drunk, it loses the interest it had when forbidden. We have ceased to make liquor and bootlegging our principal topic of conversation. It has settled into its proper place and we are free to give attention to other things."

The Philippine Purchase

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to The Indianapolis Times, 214-220 W. Washington, D. C., inclosing 25 cents in postage for reply. Medical and legal advice cannot be given. All other questions will be answered. All correspondence will be answered. All letters are confidential.

How much did the United States Government pay for the Philippine Islands. Did this Government ever promise the Islands independence?

The Philippine Islands were ceded by Spain to the United States by the treaty of peace concluded between the United States and Spain on April 11, 1898. The United States paid \$20,000,000 to Spain. In the act of Aug. 29, 1916, the United States Congress declared that it was the purpose of the people of the United States to withdraw their sovereignty over the Philippine Islands and to recognize their independence as soon as a stable government can be established therein.

To how many years of shore duty is an enlisted man in the Navy entitled?

They are entitled to two years shore duty at the end of every six years. There are, however, so many men of long service in the Navy and so few shore jobs, compared to the number of men, that it is necessary that the men's names be placed on a waiting list and they are given shore duty whenever there is a vacancy and in their turn. They are not, however, allowed to take more than two years shore duty at any one time.

Who is Mrs. Zachary Lansdowne, who is being tried before an Army investigating board?

Mrs. Lansdowne is the widow of the commander of the dirigible air-

ship Shenandoah that was destroyed by a storm while flying over Ohio. She is not being tried, but has appeared as a witness before the military courts. She was a witness before the Army court that is trying Col. William Mitchell and testified in his behalf. She also testified in the Navy Court of Inquiry that is trying to fix the blame for the Shenandoah accident.

What is the official name of the ruler of Hungary and what is the religion of the majority of its inhabitants?

Hungary is one of the states of southern Europe formed out of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. The head of the country is styled officially "Protector of the Magyar State," or "Regent." The state is classified as a monarchy. In religion 63 per cent of the population is Roman Catholic, 21 per cent is Helvetian Evangelical and the remainder is divided among a number of other sects.

What became of the U. S. Cruiser Memphis?

The armoured cruiser Memphis was launched Dec. 3, 1904, at Philadelphia. It was originally named Tennessee. It was commissioned in 1906. In 1916 it was made the flag ship of the cruise force in the West Indies. On Aug. 29, 1916, while lying off the city of Santo Domingo, it was driven ashore by a tidal wave and completely wrecked. It was stricken from the Navy list Dec. 1917.

Is there a pistol which fires an illuminating rocket?

There is a pistol called the "Very" pistol that fires an illuminating rocket.

INTEREST REVIVED BY 40 AND 8

The Forty and Eight, famous funfair of the American Legion, is in the midst of a revival in membership and interest, it appears.

The Times acknowledges gratefully the following words from V. M. Armstrong, chef de gare:

"The writer has noticed with a great deal of pleasure that you have been giving the American Legion so much cooperation and some publicity."

"The ideals of the American Legion and La Societe des 48, Hommes et 8 Chevaux are for the betterment of the community, State and Nation, and your kindness in helping us is deeply appreciated. On behalf of the Local Voliture of La Societe we want to thank you sincerely."

All veterans may attend weekly Forty and Eight luncheons Tuesday at the Board of Trade.

The annual election of officers for the Forty and Eight will be held tonight at the Chamber of Commerce. Two strong tickets will be in the field under direction of the party chairmen, Neal Gridier and H. E. Sutherland.

Nominees are:

Chef de gare, H. C. King and Joe R. Beckett; chef de train, A. D. Dittrich and J. A. Langen; correspondent, Ben A. Wienke on both tickets; commissaire intendant, E. S. Barnhill and H. E. Sutherland; garde de porte, E. S. Teaford and G. I. Seybert; inner guard, M. G. Henley and H. B. Pike; conducteurs, Sam E. Becker and P. E. Clements; garde de prisonnaire, C. L. Lamb, Roy Bailey, L. J. Koster; C. L. Lamb, Roy Bailey and W. H. Maxwell;