

# 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.

## One-Way Streets

Now they wish to eliminate the one-way traffic rule on N. Meridian St. All this agitation is caused by the fact that a reckless driver crashed head-on into the front of a street car at Illinois St. and Indiana Ave. at 3 o'clock the other morning.

It is argued that elimination of one-way traffic on Meridian St. will cut down speeding. It probably will. It will cut down speeding because it will be impossible to drive rapidly in a traffic jammed and confused two-way street in the rush hours.

Two-way traffic on Meridian St. during the rush hours is far more dangerous than one-way driving at a reasonable speed. In fairness, it must be admitted that many motorists are driving more than twenty-five miles an hour on Meridian St. during the one-way periods.

Why not retain the one-way system and require motorists to drive not more than twenty-five miles an hour?

## The Highway Squabble

The gravel interests are fighting desperately to retain the present highway commission. The crushed stone interests are fighting just as desperately to depose the commission. The reason, of course, is that the highway department uses gravel and not crushed stone in the construction of hard-surface roads. Whether gravel or crushed stone, or both, should be specified the ordinary observer is not in a position to say. The only interest of the public is in seeing that the best possible roads be constructed and maintained at the lowest possible cost.

The indictments against highway department men and others brought in the Marion County Criminal Court and the investigation being made by the United States Government have no connection whatever with the question of the use of gravel or crushed stone. This question is entirely beside the point, although some individuals and some publications are attempting to make the public believe it is involved.

The question, and the only one, involved in the indictments and in the investigation is that of the disposition made by the highway department of used war material. The department permitted to be shipped to Indiana huge quantities of material that could not conceivably be used in the construction and maintenance of roads. Then the highway department disposed of this material at ridiculously low prices without competitive bids and mostly to one concern.

The question of whether any law was violated in these peculiar transactions should be settled as speedily as possible. Public officials and the courts should not be influenced in any way by a controversy between the gravel men and the stone men.

## The Legion

LED by a group of solid and substantial young men, American Legion members are in the midst of a membership campaign.

## Bootlegging Ends Prohibition

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

By Gilson Gardner

ALGARY, Alberta, Canada (By Mail)—The case of "Emperor Pick" illustrates as well as anything what helped largely to change public opinion in Canada on prohibition, and led finally to the adoption of the present government sales plan.

"Emperor Pick" was the title conferred by his patrons on the leading bootlegger of the Crown Neck Pass, a big mining settlement on the Alberta-British Columbia boundary. He was Emilio Picariello, Italian fruit vendor. Beginning in a small way, the illegal running of rum, whiskey and beer, he soon acquired wealth and prestige of a sort. But there came a day when, in company with a woman companion, Mrs. Florence Lasandro, Picariello shot to death a provincial policeman following a chase of Picariello's son in a bootlegging car. Both Picariello and the woman, after a dramatic trial in Calgary, were hanged at Ft. Saskatchewan.

The trial attracted widespread attention. The farmer government, then in power, put forward every effort to convict the pair. The leading lawyer of the province was engaged to assist the Attorney General in the prosecution. Amazing ramifications of the bootlegging traffic were disclosed. A conviction was obtained and the death sentence dealt the two. When a reprieve was denied at Ottawa the telegraphic announcement in the legislature was roundly applauded. Mrs. Lasandro was the first woman hanged in the province of Alberta.

That is how the Canadians felt about bootlegging violence. They were trying to restore a spirit of respect for law and order. But the drop had hardly been

sprung in this double hanging when another provincial policeman was killed as the rum-running car he was trying to stop crashed into a fence. The rum-runner was tried for murder but went free. The public mind was becoming saturated with stories of this sort.

Added to the local doings there were the stories of rum-running across the international border. During crimes by international bandits in "high powered cars," with the police arming for defense in armored cars carrying machine guns and gas bombs. The colts of the wild west days were replaced by "automobiles" and the broncho by the "whisky six."

It was the same in all the western provinces—crime and bootlegging went together.

What then? Perhaps there could be found a better plan than this brand of "prohibition."

### Causes for Change

Other causes contributing to the change of mind were:

The medical and pharmaceutical professions were becoming sensitive to their loss of standing through becoming the dispensers of drink on "prescriptions."

The public was growing cynical about the new world which was to follow the war and was reacting against much which had been accepted with the enthusiasm of patriotic sacrifice in 1916 under the name of "reform." Among these was prohibition.

Cutting off the importation of the "residential allowance" and other "tightening up" policies were regarded by many as "bad faith" on the part of the prohibitionists in power.

Finally all the provinces were (and are) burdened with debt following the war, and were very anxious for

Their object is to revive the organization to its proper place in this city.

The legion stands for many praiseworthy principles. It advocates preparedness, Americanism, rehabilitation of the war stricken and served its country day by day quietly but effectively.

"Tell the boys for Lew Shank to join the legion, if they are eligible," Mayor Shank said. "I know a lot of fellows who would give their right eye to have this privilege."

Certainly, no veteran of the world war could lose by taking Shank's advice.

## Bootleggers Convicted

SENTENCES of twenty-two of the twenty-three persons found guilty in Federal Court of conspiracy to violate the prohibition laws will be pronounced by Judge Robert C. Baltzell Dec. 30.

The Government in this case effectively stopped a huge liquor conspiracy by which at least some of the demand for booze in this part of the country was being supplied. Stopping the liquor business at the source is the most effective way of enforcing prohibition.

It is much more effective than the popular system of searching the homes of innocent persons on mere rumor that somebody's friend's cousin's brother-in-law was thought to have made the statement that he had an idea there might possibly be a half pint of peach brandy in that peculiar home.

## Statesmen or Just Politicians?

SECRETARY KELLOGG, in his New York speech, said America's foreign relations should be kept out of politics.

Bravo, Mr. Secretary! But doesn't the message come a trifle late? What a pity he did not bring the members of his own party around to that way of thinking back in the days when the League of Nations and Treaty of Versailles fight was rocking the roof of the National Capitol!

Unless our memory is playing us a trick, with precious few exceptions on the final show-down, every Republican voted against the treaty and league, save with "nullifying" reservations, and every Democrat voted for them. It is putting too great a strain on human credulity to ask anybody to believe that queer line-up had nothing to do with politics.

In truth, the treaty and league were in politics even before they were hatched. The late Senator Lodge admits as much in his posthumous book. The American delegation in Paris cabled him for his advice, as leader of the Senate, to guide them in framing a just and lasting peace. Did they get it? They did not. The political bosses saw political capital might be made of the issue and they were grimly determined to take full advantage of it.

Still and all, Secretary Kellogg's suggestion is not the less welcome because tardy. Numerous foreign issues are now before the Senate, the World Court entry proposal perhaps being the most important. We hope the Senate will take his advice. There is yet time for its members to show whether they are statesmen or just politicians.

## A Sermon for Today

By Rev. John R. Gunn

Text: "Unto us a child is born."—Is. 9:6.

THE text is a prophetic reference to the birth of the Christ-child, a prophecy which was fulfilled in Bethlehem nineteen centuries ago.

Consider what that birth in Bethlehem has meant to the childhood of the world. Childhood is sacred because the world's Saviour was once a child.

Before the story of the Bethlehem manger the lot of childhood was deplorable. Parents had the right to sell their offspring and to some this was a profitable traffic. The religious superstitions of some moved them to commit their little ones to the fiery arms of the god of Moloch. The burden of children was unbearable to the wanderings of the nomadic tribes and they disposed of them in any way they pleased as needless incumbrances. Lawmakers held that it was necessary to restrict population and therefore childhood had to be cut down to save the state. Licentiousness, poverty and vanity led to heartless massacres of innocent and helpless children. Such was the cruelty practiced upon infancy and childhood in different periods and among the various peoples of the ancient days.

But since Christ was a babe in

Bethlehem there has come into the world a new spirit, more favorable to childhood. Special institutions for the care of dependent and neglected children have sprung up everywhere. Other agencies consecrated to the welfare of children have multiplied until now more is being done to provide for their happiness and unstinted growth than could be recited in a thousand volumes. As this kindly spirit has enlarged and spread over the earth, childhood has become radiant with a new hope. This new hope has sometimes been shadowed by new and threatening perils; yet all must admit that the lot of childhood is happier today than in any other age of the world.

In celebrating the birth of Christ we give the right of way to the child. In this Yuletide season we lavish affection upon our children, spending time, thought and money to make them merry and happy. All this is but significant of the new reverence the world has come to have for childhood since the Christ-child was born in Bethlehem.

"Unto us a child is born." The birth of that child has given a new meaning to every child born into the world and added to child-life everywhere a new halo of glory.

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

## RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

### TWO CENTS FOR TRANSFERS

THE Indianapolis Street Railway Company has been authorized by the public service commission to increase its transfer charge from 1 to 2 cents, beginning Jan. 1. It is expected the boost will fatten street car revenues \$100,000 annually.

Perhaps the mounting deficit of the street car system justifies doubling the price of transfers. But there is little assurance that the increase will yield the hoped for relief.

The previous fare increase granted the street car company was offset by a decrease in customers. Revenues continued to shrink. Hence another successful plea for another boost in rates, which has just been granted. If that is followed by a slump in transfer sales the street railway will be no better off than under the old rates.

The real source of the trolley system's ills is too few customers, not too low rates. Sargaging remaining patrons by raising their fares is more likely to drive some of them away than to lure new customers to the cars. In seeking higher rates a street car company is like a cat chasing its tail. It seems to be doing something, but doesn't get anywhere.

Even the sympathetic public service commission can't indefinitely spoon-feed public utilities by granting rate increases. If the city electric lines are to survive, something else will have to be tried.

### DON'T BLAME IT ON THE JURORS

DEAN M'NUTT, of the Indiana University law school, in an Indianapolis speech recently, deplored the lack of interest of the public in the administration of justice. As an example he cited the widespread tendency to evade jury service.

Don't blame the jurors for failure of our courts to function properly. True the venemans drawn for important criminal trials mostly try to get off by swearing they have a fixed opinion in the case, scruples against capital punishment, or some other perfectly valid excuse for discharge. Who can blame them?

There are ample reasons why respectable busy citizens dodge jury service. Long-drawn-out trials, disruption of private affairs, and inadequate compensation.

In Indiana a juror draws the munificent stipend of \$2.50 a day. In a very ordinary murder trial the lawyers in the case may be getting \$100 a day. The juror, who under our system of justice, is the most vital cog in the court machinery, receives less for his services than the court bailiff or the janitor.

If the conditions were reversed—lawyers received \$2.50 a day in court and jurors \$100—court procedure would speed up amazingly and there would be less complaint of the administration of justice.

### ONE-WAY TRAFFIC

THREE automobile fatalities in Indianapolis in twenty-four hours—Friday night and Saturday—have galvanized city authorities into feverish activity. The familiar aftermath of such tragedies.

Another war against speeding is proclaimed. Various proposals to put a stop to speeding by motorists are urged. Among which is a movement to abolish the one-way traffic system on Meridian St.

That's silly. Abrogation of the limited one-way rule now in force on Meridian St. would be about as effective a safety measure as requiring all automobile drivers to wear red neckties.

In the eight or nine months that Meridian has been a one-way street four hours a day it has carried a heavier motor traffic during the rush hours, at a greater speed, and with a smaller percentage of accidents than any other main traffic thoroughfare in the city. Since the adoption of the plan there has not been a single fatality or serious traffic accident in the street during the one-way periods.

The reason is plain. Though the one-way traffic moves at high speed, drivers are alert. They have their minds concentrated on the business of driving. And side-street traffic hesitates discreetly

before crossing or turning into the preferential thoroughfare.

To abolish the present rule and reduce Meridian to the status of the ordinary two-way street would contribute nothing to safety and would simply increase downtown congestion where already only sly pedestrians survive.

A lot of changes in traffic regulations and adoption of fancy new rules won't prevent such accidents as occurred Friday and Saturday. It isn't traffic regulations that need shaking up—but enforcement.

### A MATRIMONIAL MISADVENTURE

ZONA GANNETT, 13-year-old Marion (Ind.) girl, had her matrimonial knot slipped off the other day. Her marriage was annulled and her maiden name restored to her.

Thus another golden romance, fortified by an elopement, fades to something less than brass.

Last summer she and her Lo-chinvar—a 14-year-old Muncie youth—fled to St. Joseph, Mich., where they were duly joined in wedlock by an apparently near-sighted parson with an itching palm. After paying for the ceremony the young husband had 40 cents left with which to finance a honeymoon and set up a domestic establishment.

The honeymoon set at Mishawaka, where the gas tank went dry, and they were taken into custody at the request of the girl's father.

Many good people worry about this sort of divorce record. They would improve the state of matrimony by more stringent divorce laws. That's the wrong end of the problem. Little can be done to improve the matrimonial situation as long as a couple of kids and 40 cents can clamber into a flivver and lie themselves gaily to a parson.

Warner Baxter

## MR. FIXIT

Few Traffic Arrests Draw Letter From Reader.

Let Mr. Fixit present your case to city officials. He is the Times' representative to the city hall. Write him at the Times.

Arrests for traffic violations are less than in 1924 because police are less alert, is the contention of the Hoosier Traveling Man, a constant correspondent of Mr. Fixit.

"In eight minutes a few days ago three of us checked traffic at West St. and Kentucky Ave., and there were twenty-one violations of the law," he writes.

But it is when he gets into the courtroom scene that one appreciates the ability of this man to create realism that is realism and then temper it down with one of those sweet and everybody happy endings.

Am not going to repeat the story of "Mannequin" because ignorance of the story certainly made my experience in seeing it as a movie even more enjoyable.

I am going to recommend "Mannequin" as a movie entertainment to those who appreciate great directing, powerful acting, and a strong story. Don't miss "Mannequin."

The bill includes a comedy: Ruth Noller at the organ and orchestra music by Charlie Davis and his orchestra.

At the Ohio all week.

### THE CENSORS MUST HAVE BEEN NEAR POLA NEGRI

Naughty does as naughty should not when the censors are around. Carl Van Vechten is an author who is supposed to dish dirt along literary lines for the few and the many who like a certain brand of up-to-date dirt.

Carl wrote a foolish and at times an entertaining thing called "The Tattooed Countess," a story about a woman who was naughty in Europe and then brings her own brand of love-making tricks to a Main Street of a small town in Iowa. The Countess was one of those creatures who enjoyed the company of men. The poor old dear, American born, had acquired some rapid tricks in love-making while in Europe. The old girl just about caused Main St. with his gossip carrying bunch to have nervous prostrations. In the book,

## A Christmas Tree Loaded With Little and Big Gifts Awaits All at Circle

By Walter D. Hickman

CHRISTMAS tree in the form of a Yuletide program of entertainment is visible at the Circle this week.

The entire tree has been filled with gifts which will appeal to every American family, especially the children.

The children will go "wild" over Rose's Royal Midgets, twenty-five gifted little people who do everything that one expects adults to do in a big stage revue. They open with their own idea of a minstrel show.

During this week there are some of the best impressions of Eddie Leonard singing and dancing "Ida." This little man's conception of Leonard is accurate in every detail. Then another little man, the smallest of the lot, does some dancing which is

Clara Bow

is another hit. The opening is a fine flash, good set and everything that goes with it. Then the revue becomes individual such as dancing, singing and the playing of instruments. For a closing the entire company of midgets do the Charleston in a way to close the offering.

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The movie on this Christmas bill has been selected for the entire family, especially the children. "The Scarlet West" introduces General Custer, a historical character that every boy and girl loves.

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### A PRIZE WINNING STORY THAT LIVES UP TO TITLE

When they tell me that a story has been a prize winner, I have the feeling sometimes that it may not turn out to be such a prize when it reaches the screen.

Fannie Hurst won the \$50,000 prize offered by Liberty Magazine for the best story suitable for movie use. Fannie Hurst, who knows what makes a good movie story, wrote and submitted "Mannequin."

She won the prize. The story is now running serially in the magazine which offered the prize. So I must judge "Mannequin" as movie, just released by Paramount.

Fannie Hurst must have a powerful theme in "Mannequin," if not James Cruze is the greatest director. I know that Cruze is a master at creating mystery on the screen and

he comes to the front in telling force in "Mannequin." Of course, he had a great writer to conceive the characters and the plot, but it remained for a great director to make these characters live on the screen.

Cruze had the services of Alice Joyce, Warner Baxter, Dolores Costello and Zasu Pitts to all him in bringing "Mannequin" to life on the screen. As the first part of the movie is old-fashioned, Cruze has a chance to recreate the past. This he does with an accuracy that is surprising.

When he gets into the jazz tempo of today, it is equally successful. But it is when he gets into the courtroom scene that one appreciates the ability of this man to create realism that is realism and then temper it down with one of those sweet and everybody happy endings.

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The Countess ends her adventures by running off with a sort of a high school boy.

In bringing the Countess with her tattoo to the screen under the title of "A Woman of the World," the director had a bunch of trouble.

So the director kept the thermometer upon Pola and the minute she registered too much heat, the director either called Pola down or wrote a new scene. That's my impression of "A Woman of the World."

The book was silly enough at times. So I can sympathize with both Miss Negri and her director. The real hit of this picture is Chester Conklin as a Main Street husband. He certainly walks away with all the honors. Must give credit to the village gossips, two women with sharp tongues.

Be your own judge of this new Negri picture. Personally, I don't care for Van Vechten when he is in a tattooed countess mood. Again be your own judge and jury on this one because I would vote "guilty."

Bill includes a Mack Sennett comedy, a new reel, vocal, organ and orchestral music.

At the Apollo all week.

### YOU WANT MELODRAMA? THEN GO TO COLONIAL

If you enjoy melodrama—pure melodrama with all of its hundred and one little tricks—then do not pass up "When the Door Opened."

It has always seemed funny to me why in melodrama that all the bad and naughty people drown all evil, leave only the good people, or those who are supposed to be good, and yet melodrama, the brand handed out by Curwood, is such darn good entertainment at times that one feels rather guilty to even think of realism and practical things after an hour or two with Curwood.

"When the Door Opened" is one of the regulation Curwood stories, made from the same old formula which has made pots of money for this author. He has found a successful formula, and he refuses to try another.

The big scene of "When the Door Opened" is the flood scene in Canada. A castle is washed away, including the bad characters, and the good ones swim to safety.

The cast is satisfactory. It includes Jacqueline Logan, Robert Cain, Walter McNeill, Frank Keenan (here is a fine actor who hasn't arrived at the top of the ladder of fame for some strange reason) Margaret Livingston and a trained dog. This dog has been trained along sympathetic lines. He does some excellent work.

"When the Door Opened" is Curwood in his most melodramatic mood.

Bill includes a Charles Puffy comedy, Aesop Fables, Topics of the Day, a news reel, orchestral music and other events.

At the Colonial all week.

### Crossword Puzzle Island

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to The Indianapolis Times Crossword Puzzle Island, 1322 New York Ave., Washington, D. C. Send your questions in care of the Times. Send your answers in care of the Times. All questions will be answered. All answers will be correct. All letters are confidential.—Editor

Where is the Island of Re? A small island, eighteen miles off the French coast, opposite La Rochelle. Salt manufacturing is the chief industry. Wine and oysters are also exported. The principal town is St. Martin.

Can you tell me how Geraldine Farrar won her place in the musical world; under whom did she study and when did she make her first public appearance?

Born in Melrose, Mass., in 1882. Geraldine Farrar began her musical studies under Mrs. J. H. Long of Boston, from whom she went to Madame Thursty in New York. After further study with Trabaldello in Paris and Lilli Lehmann in Berlin she made her debut as Marguerite in "Carmen" at the Metropolitan Opera House on Oct. 15, 1901, and achieved a sensational success. Almost immediately she was offered a three-year contract and soon was one of the prime favorites with the Berlin public. In 1908 she appeared as one of the leading sopranos of the Metropolitan Opera House of New York, and has since then been a regular member of the company.

Can you tell me something of Stradivari and his work?

Antonio Stradivari was the most famous violin maker of the Cremona school. He was born in Cremona and was probably apprenticed at an early age to Nicola Amati, at that time regarded as the greatest of the Cremonese masters. His first instruments were made between 1670 and 1685 and were of the Amati model. They are distinguished by their lack of symmetry compared with his later work, their plain wood and generally squat design. About 1685 his originality began to assert itself and by the following year he had acquired his own peculiar style, since largely used as a model. In 1684 Nicola Amati died and bequeathed all his wood, models and tools to Stradivari, thus providing him with a large and choice stock of tempered and seasoned wood.

Does the United States commissioner of pensions supervise any Government work except granting pensions to Civil War veterans and their widows?

The commissioner of pensions supervises the examination and adjudication of all claims arising under laws passed by Congress granting pensions on account of service in the Army or Navy rendered wholly prior to Oct. 6, 1917; claims for reimbursement for the expenses of the last sickness and burial of deceased pensioners; claims for bounty and allowances based upon military or naval service rendered prior to March 3, 1865, and claims for annuities, refunds and allowances arising under the act of May 23, 1920, providing for the retirement of employees in the classified civil service.

How does the production of cheese in the United States compare with that of Switzerland?

Wisconsin, alone, in one year produced more than twice as much cheese as Switzerland.

What is talc?

A silicate of magnesium containing a small percentage of water. It has a pearly or semi-metallic lustre, is soft, and is silvery white to gray or green in color. Talc seldom occurs in crystals and its system of crystallization is still in doubt. It is usually found in foliated or granular masses. Talc is an exceedingly common mineral and in some regions is found in large beds. The granular massive varieties are commonly known as soapstones and find extensive use in commercial arts for hearthstones, mantels, sinks, etc., and when powdered as a pigment in papermaking, as a lubricator, and for dressing skins and leather. The fine granular varieties are used for marking purposes under the name of French chalk.