

# 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.

## School Buildings

**A**NOTHER blow at the school board building program, this time a restraining order holding up the work, has been struck. We do not presume to tell the court its business, but we still contend that Indianapolis needs new school buildings and that they should be erected at the earliest possible time consistent with good business and the law.

There seems to be a battle on now to determine whether the present board or the board that takes office the first of the year will have charge of the opening of actual school building work. The people of Indianapolis don't care a hang who builds the buildings so long as the taxpayers get their money's worth and so long as the children of Indianapolis are taken out of those ridiculous dinky frame buildings in which they are forced to roost and freeze alternatively, of which the people of Indianapolis are rightfully ashamed.

The present controversy affects six proposed buildings, all grade schools.

## The Mistake of Roosevelt's Friends

**A**T a cost of ten million dollars or so it is proposed to erect a great monument in Washington to Theodore Roosevelt.

If Congress consents, an imposing edifice of some sort will arise on a large lot in the Mall between the White House and the Potomac. The beautiful new Lincoln memorial and the tall shaft that pays tribute to Washington now dominate this scene. The plan of those furthering the scheme for the Roosevelt monument is that it shall be sufficiently imposing to rank with the monuments to the two men who loom largest in American history. The location selected would give it equal prominence.

This appeals to us as a misguided effort on the part of Roosevelt's admirers. Too short a time has elapsed for anyone to say that Roosevelt measured up to the stature of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

There are millions of Americans ready to defend their belief that Woodrow Wilson's place in history, when time permits a true perspective, is vastly greater than Theodore Roosevelt's. But if the present undertaking were in Wilson's behalf rather than Roosevelt's, our opinion would be the same. The day has not yet arrived when it can be said that either Roosevelt or Wilson deserve this place beside our two great immortals.

Why the haste? Why the effort to give Roosevelt a rank in marble that history may or may not grant him in fact?

America has not yet accorded such distinction to a leader whose greatness has stood the test of time. Thomas Jefferson's place in history is secure. Sincere, disinterested historians rate him among the great men of all time. But no towering memorial to Jefferson adorns our national capital.

At least until we can recognize fittingly the accepted greatness of Jefferson, why rush to perpetuate in stone the admiration his friends feel for Roosevelt?

This thing is being done by the surviving partisans of Roosevelt. With all due respect for the motive that inspires them it must be seen that they are making a mistake. If their action furnishes a precedent, the next step is obvious—the erection of such monuments to men while they live and, eventually, the erection of such monuments by our heroes to themselves, as was done by kings of old in Egypt.

## Arkansas Tells Florida

**C**ONGRESSMAN OTIS WINGO of Arkansas, in the course of a speech in the House the other day, made the following observations:

"I have been somewhat amused at some of the maneuvers on this question of inheritance tax. I shall not now discuss the matter, but will say I have been really surprised that a great State, with the intelligence of the State of Florida, should have adopted a constitutional amendment like they did and then seem to be proud of it."

"If my State had made such a fool of itself, I would not be referring to it on the floor of the House. (Laughter and applause.) Because to be perfectly fair with you, one of the

## About the 'Fighting Fish'

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to The Indianapolis Times, Washington Bureau, 1324 W. New York Ave., Washington, D. C. Include a recent postage stamp for reply. Medical, legal and ministerial questions should be referred to extended research will receive a personal answer. All letters are confidential.—Editor.

What is a "fighting fish"?

It is a small climbing perch native in southeastern Asia and particularly in Siam, where they are commonly kept in captivity to amuse

their owners by their pugnacious habits. Two of these creatures, when brought together, often rush immediately to combat, or one will attack its own image in a mirror.

Fish fights are a favorite amusement of the Siamese and licenses to exhibit them yield considerable annual revenue. An extraordinary amount of gambling occurs in connection with them. The fighting fish have the anal and dorsal fins prolonged to two points. When

the fish is quiet, its colors are dull; but when excited it glows with metallic splendor and the projected gill membrane waves like a black frill around the throat.

Why is Virginia sometimes called the "Mother of States"? The title was bestowed upon Virginia because of the fact that seven States have been carved out of her original territory. Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin in 1836. It is known as the Northwest corner at the close of the Revolution and Kentucky in 1792, and West Virginia in 1863.

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## A Sermon for Today

By Rev. John R. Gunn

Text: "Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."—Luke 2:12.

**J**ESUS was born in a stable. A stable for His birthplace, a straw for His bed, a manger for His cradle and the lowing of the cattle for His lullaby song. But from this lowly birth in the midst of want and poverty He rose until today His name stands above every name.

Why was Jesus born in such humble circumstances? Why was He not born in a palace instead of a stable? Why did He not have a crowned queen for His mother instead of a peasant virgin? Why did He not have a satin-lined cradle to lie in instead of a manger? Surely it was not a mere accident. I think it was so ordered by a divine Providence. And I think one purpose of it was that He might be an encouragement and an encouragement to all the lowly born of this earth—as well as a Savior.

Not many are born in the midst of splendor and wealth. Most of the people in this world were born in humble homes. And from these humble homes have come the majority of the world's heroes and great leaders of thought and achievement.

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## RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

### HOLIDAY BOOZE WAR

**C**HIEF KIKHOFF, following his annual custom, is making special efforts to give Indianapolis a dry Christmas. He has ordered his underlings to carry on intensive warfare against holiday booze.

He says he has always tried since he has been at the head of the police department to keep Indianapolis dry during the holidays. He wants to keep up the good record.

Very laudable. But why an especially intensive campaign to mop up Christmas booze? Why single out the yuletide?

Neither the Volstead Act nor the Indiana bone-dry law makes mention of Christmas. Those laws apply to the other three hundred and sixty-four days of the year as well as Christmas. They intend that April Fool's Day, the Ides of March, or the anniversary of the slaying of Billy Patterson, shall be just as arid as the 25th of December.

So a high pressure annual drive to make the holiday season hold out a parched tongue doesn't mean much. It's the average enforcement day after day throughout the year that will determine the success or failure of the police department.

All was confusion. The official's name is Hanford Mac Nider, or Mac Nider, or Mac Knider, or M'Nider, or something like that, but some employee or other didn't seem to know it. He spelled it with an "h" and, so the story went, the new Assistant Secretary had spelled the new Assistant Secretary's name wrong!

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