

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.

Razing the Plan Commission

SEVERAL members of the Indianapolis city council, at that body's meeting the other night, vigorously attacked the plan commission during discussion of an amendment to the zoning ordinance.

The razing was quite in accordance with the usual councilmanic custom. Usually when there is a lull in proceedings at a council session some incandescent councilman sets fire to the city plan commission. It's a habit.

Zoning regulations are necessary for the logical growth of the city—to prevent glue factories, churches, filling stations, dwellings and all sorts of structures being jumbled together haphazardly in all sections of town. But apparently that isn't the chief purpose of the Indianapolis zoning ordinance.

It seems to exist primarily as an excuse for amendments. It is pushed hither and yon by the plan commission to permit a filling station on this residential corner and refuse one on that. A big building project is allowed to creep several feet over the established building line. Permission to complete a twenty-four-foot home started on a 30-foot lot is denied.

If the zoning idea is to bear any fruit, and the plan commission is to justify its existence, regulations once adopted must be enforced impartially and not pulled and hauled to fit individual cases.

Between the vagaries of the plan commission and the fulminations of city councilmen Indianapolis zoning plans don't know whether they are coming or going.

Governor Lowden Steps in

MOST political observers felt that President Coolidge reduced his prestige in the middle and northwestern farming States by his recent speech in Chicago. His pleasant picture of the independent farmer didn't go down so well in the bank-busting belt. Nor did his idea that the farmer is one citizen who cannot be aided by the Government. The organization which he traveled to Chicago to address waited only until he had taken his train and then adopted resolutions directly contrary to his suggestions.

The first politician of importance to step into the wide opening made by the President is former Governor Frank O. Lowden of Illinois, who came so near being nominated for the presidency in 1920 and who is suspected of still cherishing high ambitions. Lowden, who is a business farmer on a big scale and a successful one, has been studying the agricultural problem to the exclusion of most every other question the past several years. He has been speaking to farmers' organizations in all corners of the country and it has become hard for anyone with ideas on the subject to pass through Chicago without engaging in conversation with him.

Interviewed a few days ago, he said:

"I do not yield to the view that this republic, through failure to reach a sound agrarian policy, has begun to decay, and must go down as other republics have gone down."

"We are beginning to question the orthodoxy views of the so-called law of supply and demand. We must listen to the newer economists, take the findings of scientists and use them."

Then he proceeded to declare that he didn't believe the farmers could ever go back to their independence as units in civilization, or that they will be able to solve their prob-

The Road to a Man's Heart

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

THE way to a man's heart is through his stomach." Have you ever heard that noble sentiment? What a sweet, familiar sound it has in feminine ears, and how long and well it has served glutinous mankind.

The conversations we women have listened to about husbands who had to have their pie three times a week; the doughnuts whose fryings we have heard about; the boastings of wives whose spouses could devour twenty-seven pancakes at a sitting; the mental pictures we have carried about of men leaning perpetually over groaning tables eating food perpetually prepared for them by dutiful wives.

And, remembering these things, recalling all those broken down women whom I knew in my childhood, those tired souls who stood over coal ranges and baked pies and cakes and custards, and put up jams and jellies, and roasted hams and fried sausages. I somehow can't seem to get much of a steer away from our mercenary ways. But if the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, then why should they complain if the road to our hearts is by way of their pocketbooks?

Santa Claus Busy in Hoosierdom

BRIGHLY decorated Christmas trees are serving the double purpose of decorations and traffic policemen at Crawfordsville.

At the suggestion of Police Chief Shields the trees were installed again this year after a similar plan last year met with instant success.

The Ledger-Tribune at Attica is going to play Santa Claus so the kids may enjoy Christmas this year. The newspaper is receiving contributions which will go into a good-fellows' fund to purchase toys and candies for the youngsters.

Rushville's municipal Christmas tree is blazing forth in all its glory of electric lights these nights.

The tree was donated by Horrie Brooks, who resides near the city.

Santa Claus is having a busy time at the various parties and festivals given for the kiddies in Richmond.

It has been estimated that already the patron Saint of the youngsters has answered more than a million questions.

A Sermon for Today

By Rev. John R. Gunn

Text: "And she brought forth her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."—Luke 2:7.

ADECREE had gone out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, everyone to his own city. It was this that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. It brought hundreds of others and the little village was crowded to the limit. Joseph and Mary applied at the inn for a place to lodge, but there was no room and they were sent to the stable for lodgings. That night Jesus was born and cradled in a manger.

Many times as we have read this story we have grown indignant. We have felt that the Savior was treated very rudely. How unkind, we say, how cruel, that Joseph and his expectant spouse should be crowded out of the inn and forced to lodge in a stable! How unfortunate that the Savior of the world should be accorded such treatment at his birth!

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RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

NOT SO PROSPEROUS

APPOINTMENT of a receiver of creditors of the Indiana Red Ball Lines, Inc., and the Union Bus Station Company, reveals that the operators of intercity motor busses are not finding the business all ambrosia and nectar.

At least, the Indiana Red Ball Lines, Inc., one of the largest operators of lines out of Indianapolis, is not so prosperous. The receiver says the financial difficulties of the company are not due to lack of patronage by the traveling public, but to inadequate rates. The company has not been able to earn operating expenses and return on the investment. He will ask the public service commission for a fare increase.

Last week another large bus operator was granted a rate increase by the commission on the same plea.

These incidents should hearten other transportation agencies that have shuddered over the specter of bus competition, fearing that they would be wiped out of existence. No doubt motor busses will occupy an important place in the transit field—but to find their proper place and fit them to it will take time, grief and expense.

SCHOOLS HIT ANOTHER SNAG

JJUDGE GIVAN, in Superior Court, Monday, temporarily enjoined the Indianapolis school board from executing contracts with architects for constructing six new grade schools. The action was on petition of a local taxpayer.

So the school building program hits another snag. That's one of the best things it does.

For the past month or two the expiring school board has been feverishly active over the building program, after a couple of years' discussion of the necessity for increasing school construction.

But because of objections, procrastinations and legal hurdles, probably nothing more will be done until the present board dies and the new school commissioners take office.

Whether the old board or the new should let contracts and proceed with the details of providing new school facilities doesn't greatly interest the average citizen. All he wants is decent school facilities for his children as soon as possible—the doing away of present congested and unsatisfactory school rooms. He doesn't care who supervises the construction of the new buildings; he wants the buildings.

No one seriously denies the need of the new buildings proposed. But unless the building program shows more speed than it has in the last two months the new buildings won't be completed in time to benefit this generation of school children. Schools can't be built on paper or in court.

President Coolidge has let it be known that he is for the parley. But he can not depend upon his own party to back him up. He must go outside for support.

What America needs most right now is more statesmen and fewer politicians. Her popularity outside the country is at low ebb and here you have one of the reasons why.

Then he proceeded to declare that he didn't believe the farmers could ever go back to their independence as units in civilization, or that they will be able to solve their prob-

lems for themselves. That much for Mr. Coolidge's position. As for constructive measures, he suggested:

"I suggest a Federal farm board. Suppose that board found the producers of any farm commodity were sufficiently organized to be really representative of all the producers of that commodity. Suppose it should authorize such producers to form a corporation to take care of the surplus, either storing it to meet a possible future domestic need, or exporting it upon the best terms available, the expenses and losses incurred to be borne proportionately by all the producers of that commodity."

Such a board could function successfully only if it operated through co-operative commodity associations. It is vital to any plan that it should be so framed that it strengthens and not weakens the co-operative movement, for in that movement lies the best hope for the future of American agriculture."

The White House, not aware of the activities of this outstanding and ambitious Republican, probably is pondering his words and watching to observe their effect.

Sheer Buncombe!

WASHINGTON seems to be having a terrible time deciding what to do with the League of Nations' invitation to help prepare a program for another arms conference.

Confabs at the White House are followed by whisperings at the Capitol. Senator Borah confers with Secretary Kellogg and Colonel House is closeted with President Coolidge. Then they all change partners and swing round again.

Why all this to-do? A Washington observer lets us in on the big secret. "The invitation really presents a knotty problem," he says. "The United States is bent upon remaining free from entanglements abroad!"

The old, familiar chestnut. The answer, of course, is pish, tush and piffle; likewise pure and unadulterated buncombe!

President Coolidge has been telling the country, ever since he entered the White House, that he favors another arms conference. In fact he has intimated he would call one himself as soon as Europe showed signs of burying the hatchet. And now that she has done so—at Locarno—the world, including Mr. Coolidge, has admitted that the moment for the parley seems at hand.

But Washington, oddly enough, is now stalling. It talks of "entanglements" despite the fact that the league's invitation is not to an arms conference at all, but merely to arrange for one. There can be no more question of "foreign entanglements" in accepting such a bid than you entangled the United with China the last time you ate chop suey.

The truth is some of the politicians are terribly afraid the league may gain a little glory. You heard no talk of "entanglements" back in 1921 when this country called the conference. Yet America was running quite obvious to risks. She was bound, in advance, to stick to the conference, win or lose, it was her conference and failure meant a big blow to her prestige. Should she attend a similar conference, held elsewhere, she would patently be perfectly free, at any time, to withdraw and return home the moment things took a turn contrary to her policies.

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