

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 Building Victory

ONE of the difficulties in the way of the school building program for Indianapolis has been removed with the opinion of Judge Clinton H. Givan that the citizen of Woodruff Place who sought to block the program was not entitled to an injunction.

With the temporary restraining order dissolved, the board members let contracts with architects for six new grade school buildings. The board also is taking up the sale of the present High School and plans for advertising a bond issue for the new Shortridge.

Thus the school building program, which has so many times been blocked, is again on its way. People of Indianapolis who have the welfare of the children of the city at heart hope it can now go forward without further interference.

It is to be hoped that the new school board majority, which takes office the first of the year, will go ahead with the program without undue delay. There may be differences between the new board and the old board, but there should be no differences on the question of the necessity for adequate school facilities in Indianapolis at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. Slattery Is Out

A significant event took place very quietly the other day.

The term of John L. Slattery, United States District Attorney for Montana, expired. Slattery wanted to be reappointed.

This Slattery was the man who secured the Montana indictment against Senator Burton K. Wheeler, just before last year's election.

He is the man of whom it was testified before the Senate by those who took part in "framing" Wheeler: "Well, you know we made Slattery go through because we had so much on him that he had to go through for us."

He is the man who was investigated by the Department of Justice on charges of persistent refusal to enforce prohibition laws.

President Coolidge refused to send Slattery's name to the Senate for reappointment. Instead he appointed Wellington D. Rankin, a liberal Republican, a personal friend of Wheeler, and at one time, at the instance of Slattery, a target for criticism by the same grand jury from which the Wheeler indictment was produced.

The Senate confirmed Rankin.

All of which amounts to a repudiation on the part of the President and the Senate of Slattery, his grand jury, and the whole Wheeler persecution.

It is not too much to hope, perhaps, that the indictment will serve also to illuminate the path of those who are still trying to carry that persecution through in the District of Columbia.

LEGION DRIVE GETS GOOD START

THE Indianapolis Times congratulates the American Legion on the success of the preliminary organization work preparatory to its city-wide drive for new members.

May all Legionnaires have a happy Christmas and may they have the best of luck during the new year.

Although the official campaign for members has not yet started, more than three hundred veterans have joined the organization during the last few weeks, according to S. A. Bishop, Seventh district committee-man-elect.

After the holidays the campaign will be undertaken under full steam, according to Bishop.

John H. Holiday post, leader in getting new members, was honored again with announcement that Harry (Buzz) Martin has been appointed adjutant of the National Guard of honor for the national convention in Paris in 1927. All of the 125 members must be at least six feet six inches tall and weigh between 180 and 200 pounds.

Thirteen Indiana posts now have exceeded their 1925 totals for 1926 membership. They are at Tipton, Bedford, Huntingburg, Portland, Akron, Rockville, Hope, Huntingburg No. 221, Corydon, Angola, Warsaw, Jasonville, and Michigan City. Holiday post leads in Indianapolis.

Roland B. Daley, who has been prominent in activities of Bruce P. Robinson post, has been elected commander for 1926. Other officers: Harold E. Purcell, senior vice commander; William C. Patterson, adjutant; Elmore R. Pence, finance officer, and William Mayer, Willard Boyle and Paul Beam, executive committee members.

The post Sunday conducted funeral services at Noblesville for Cord McNally, a former member, who died at the Methodist Hospital here.

The Indiana Legion, forty-sixth among the States in membership for



1925, is now running a close race with Kansas for second place in 1926 membership at national headquarters.

A determined effort is being made, it was stated, to go into the first place position, now held by Illinois, on or before Jan. 1.

With slightly less than 14,000 in the ranks for 1925, the State department of the Legion expects to en- roll not less than 26,400 for 1926, a quota set for Indiana by national headquarters.

The expansion in membership will result in a broadening of the activities of the organization in this State, it was said.

Chief among the American Legion's accomplishments for 1925

are the raising of well towards \$4,500,000 of the \$5,000,000 endowment fund for disabled veterans and orphans of the war, comprehensive development of the Legion's children's welfare service and numerous improvements made by the Government on Legion recommendation in its rehabilitation work for the disabled, according to National Commander John R. McQuiggin.

Other important activities for the year were the working out of a Legion peace program, formulation of plans for a junior world's baseball series, preliminary preparations for holding the 1927 national convention in Paris and the occupying of the new national headquarters.

Two cottages were opened during the year at the children's billet operated by the Legion at Otter Lake, Michigan. A \$35,000 hospital administration unit was started there. A billet was opened at Clarkesboro, New Jersey, and another was built at Legionville, near Independence, Kansas. It is now ready to be occupied.

Approximately 300 children were cared for during the year by the Children's Welfare Division of the national organization, not saying nothing of the work done by Legion departments and posts. The Legion Auxiliary cared for more than 3,000 children. More than fifty children passed through the temporary care given in a billet and were re-established in their own homes when the family difficulties had been solved and the parents were again able to care for the children.

The structure, which is to be three stories with a basement, will be used exclusively for company offices.

BUILDING BOOM AIDED

Standard Oil Company to Erect \$100,000 Structure.

The building boom of Indianapolis took another upward swing today with announcement the Standard Oil Company will build a \$100,000 office building at Eleventh St. and Capitol Ave.

The structure, which is to be three stories with a basement, will be used exclusively for company offices.

RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

IT MIGHT HAPPEN IN INDIANAPOLIS

TWO children were injured and 117 persons—pupils, teachers and others—barely escaped with their lives when a temporary school building, an old barn, near Huntington, Ind., burned the day before Christmas. It was the last day the old structure was to be used for school purposes.

A horrible catastrophe was averted by a very narrow squeak, just blink back. And in the episode is food for thought for Indianapolis school authorities and school board members, outgoing and incoming.

What would happen if fire should break out in decrepit old Shortridge High School while that antique is crammed from cellar to attic with students, as it is during school sessions? What would happen if any of a dozen ramshackle, inflammable, portable structures that serve as grade schools here caught fire while the children were within?

The outcome might be different from the result of the fire that consumed the temporary schoolhouse near Huntington.

The Indianapolis school building program is being obstructed and delayed. Apparently the dilatory tactics are part of the game of school board politics—to prevent any action in the winter until the new board takes office. Every day's delay prolongs the menace of fire in our crowded, makeshift schoolhouses. Is the game of delay worth when it risks the lives of Indianapolis children?

RISING COST OF EDUCATION

RANK B. NUSEBAUM, clerk of the State tax commission, reports that from 1914 to 1924—ten years—the cost of education, including all branches of schools, in Indiana increased approximately three-fold. In the period school expenses rose from \$15,000,000 to \$51,000,000.

A larger fraction of each dollar raised by taxation in Indiana is spent on schools than for any other public purpose. In the same period that educational expenses increased three-fold, State, county, township and city expenditures only doubled.

Frequently impassioned educators publicly bemoan the fact that in this country so little is spent in education in comparison with the immense sums squandered on war.

They point out that the Nation spends more on chewing gum, tobacco, movies, lipsticks, respectively, as well as other frivolities than in providing school facilities for the children. All of which may be true but really doesn't mean very much.

The fact that Indiana spends three times as much on schools now as ten years ago and the total public expenditures for education in the State exceed the ex-

The SAFETY VALVE

It Blows When the Pressure Is Too Great.

By The Stoker

States Veterans' Bureau, so that the claims of the disabled are heard and awards are made in the field in direct contact with the veteran himself, was the greatest forward step in the Government's care of the disabled since the establishment of the bureau in 1921.

Another far-reaching improvement in rehabilitation work was the establishment by the Government on Legion recommendation of two diagnostic centers where particularly baffling cases are sent for observation and diagnosis by leading specialists. At the instance of the Legion a guardianship service was set up by the bureau to protect the interests of incompetent veterans, minor orphans and aged and incompetent persons who are beneficiaries of the bureau and hundreds of whom had been defrauded by their guardians of money paid for their use by the Government.

The Legion joined vigorously with the guardianship service to investigate the care and treatment of these unfortunate.

In the legislative field the Legion succeeded in 1925 in getting from Congress grants of aid for disabled veterans totaling \$345,313,000.

ITALY NOT TO CHANGE

Won't Become Empire Says Indianapolis Consular Agent.

Dr. Vincent A. Lapenta, 2424 Park Ave., Royal Consular Agent of Italy, today announced rumors published regarding the contemplated project of transferring the Kingdom of Italy into an Empire are absurd and without foundation. Dr. Lapenta received the word from the Royal Italian Embassy.

It is obvious that a change of title to the State would bring no advantages, the greatness of a nation being based on actual qualities and not on designations of words," he said.

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