

The Indianapolis Times

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No law shall be passed restraining the free interchange of thought and opinion, or restraining the right to speak, write, or print freely, on any subject whatever.—Constitution of Indiana.

The Booze Squad Controversy

THE new city administration has abolished the booze squad. It isn't a bad idea—unless the police department is to be divided into separate squads throughout, with a homicide squad, a hold-up squad, a burglary squad, an auto theft squad, and so on.

Perhaps with the abolishment of the booze squad the entire police force will take an interest in enforcement of the prohibition law. The only way to bring about law enforcement is to charge every man on the force with responsibility for enforcing all the laws and to see that he lives up to that responsibility.

Letting every man understand that he is equally responsible with every other man for the performance of his duty does away with the "let-George-do-it" attitude. If Chief Johnson goes through with his law enforcement promises it is safe to say that better liquor law enforcement will result than could ever be obtained through the maintenance of a booze squad.

Real Boosting

BOTH Marmon and Stutz, the leading Indianapolis automobile manufacturing concerns, have been taking active steps to increase their business—and, incidentally, to boom Indianapolis.

This is the kind of city boosting that pays. It is the kind that gives men and women employment and thus adds to the permanent prosperity of the city. One factory working full time or overtime is of more benefit to the city than all the parades, red fire and oratory that ever were let loose on a community.

The way to boost the community is to get busy and work at producing prosperity. Actual work goes much farther than talk.

More power to Marmon and Stutz.

Don't Get the Cart Before the Horse

NOW that President Coolidge has signified his intention to have the United States represented at the Geneva arms conference, it is important that we should not lose sight of what it signifies.

Reduction of armament is an effect, not a cause. Big armies and navies are the result of menacing international situations rather than the cause of them. Kaiser Wilhelm II created a big army and a big navy because his ambitions were so vast he knew he would run imminent risk of war in realizing them. France's big army was the result of her fear of Germany. Britain's stupendous navy was the inevitable result of her far-flung empire which, at any time, she might have to defend against rival empires.

And so the World War was not the result of big armies and big navies, but because of clashing international policies and fears.

The United States Army today is the smallest army of any great power on earth. Why? It is quite simple. We have no neighbors that can invade us, and we have no intention of invading any of our neighbors.

Today the United States Navy is as powerful as any on earth. Why? Again the answer is obvious. We have interests to protect overseas and our own extensive shores to defend. Measuring the menace as carefully as we can,

MR. FIXIT

Reader Complains That Dogs Have Ruined Yard This Winter.

Let Mr. Fixit solve your troubles with city officials. He is The Times' representative at the city hall. Write him at The Times.

One would say hogs, not dogs, were promenading on a certain lawn on Bancroft Ave., according to a letter received by Mr. Fixit today.

DEAR MR. FIXIT: What can be done to rid our neighborhood of a nuisance in the form of a dog? The man who owns it has ruined his own yard as well as mine. I have spent time and money to get my yard in condition and now from having six to eight dogs in it daily all winter, it looks like I had kept hogs in it this winter.

All the neighbors as well as myself will have our spring flowers broken down after spending money and time in buying flowering bulbs.

TAXPAYER.

Go to the police station and swear out a warrant against the owner of the dog. If he refuses to pen him up, you have that legal right.

DEAR MR. FIXIT: I wrote you some time ago about a light at Church and McCarty Sts., but you failed even to put it in the paper. I just got home when I glanced

across the street and saw a man crawling on all fours up the hill which is in the alley between Capitol Ave. and Church St. So you see the danger which exists.

MISS INDIGNANT READER.

Roy C. Shaneberger, board of works president, told Mr. Fixit the board would be pleased to consider a petition signed by you and your neighbors. You may obtain a blank form for the petition at the board of works office in the city hall. Get as many signatures as possible.

A Sermon for Today

By Rev. John R. Gunn

Text: "Now while Paul visited at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry."—Acts 17:16.

A WELL-KNOWN poet, a professor of Northwestern University, feels tragic life of city, goes to the forests of northern Wisconsin to seek the unspoiled society and surroundings of the woods. So ran front-page announcement in a recent issue of The Times. The modern city, "with its emotional stress, its social complexity, its hot-house, coddling, its jazzy life, destroys happiness and manhood," declared the runaway poet. "I want to get away from it all," he said, "away from the shrieking taxicabs, the jazz bands, the jammed street cars, the mad hurly-burly, the stench and the smoke."

I have no word of censure for this poet. Let us hope that he may send

back to us from his place of seclusion many poems that will reveal to us new visions of life and its spiritual beauty. Yet, as I read the account of his action, I could not but recall one of George MacDonald's poems, which, in part, is as follows:

I said, "Let me walk in the fields,"

I said, "There are no flowers there."

I said, "No flowers, but a crown."

I said, "But the skies are black."

I said, "There is nothing but noise and din."

I said, "There is more," he said, "There is sin."

I said, "But the air is thick."

And now, are the vials the snare."

He answered, "Yet sons are sick,

And souls in the dark undone."

The author is evidently speaking of his own experience. He halts between the lure of the fields and the call of the city. As the poem goes, he finally represents himself as casting one last look at the field and then setting his face to the town, leaving the flowers for the crown. And as he goes about the city, ministering to its need, he finds himself walking with light divine the path he had feared to see.

Of Paul it was said, "His spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry." He saw in "the tragic life of the city," not something to flee from, but something that stirred his soul with compassion and called him to its relief. And to this he was at once responded. As between Paul and our fleeing poet, who will question that the great Apostle chose the better way.

When a fellow proposes these days he can't get down on his knees, mainly because the girl is usually sitting on them.

RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

A SACRIFICE TO THE LORD

MRS. MARGARET HOUSE, a middle-aged wife and mother of Shelbyville, Ind., crawled, under intense religious excitement, into the furnace at her home, Tuesday, and was burned to death. She had previously announced she would offer herself as "a living sacrifice to the Lord."

Of course she was temporarily deranged. But it seems incredible that such an act of voluntary immolation in the name of religion could occur in Indiana in 1926.

However, strange things are still done in the name of Christianity.

Recently an aged French priest was seized, stripped and scourged with knotted cords by members of a fanatical order, including several elderly women, to expel from his body the "evil spirits which possessed it." They believed they were thus glorifying God and exercising the devil. An echo of the superstition of the Middle Ages.

The priest is in the hospital and the "mortifiers of the flesh" are in jail.

"God is Love," wrote the inspired evangelist. And that is the central theme of all the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. Yet nineteen hundred years later we find so-called Christians believing in a God of vengeance who must be propitiated by burnt offerings, physical torture, and pagan rites like Moloch.

It will take a long time for Christians to soad in.

AN UN-AMERICAN BUSINESS

CARTLES M. FILLMORE of Indianapolis, secretary of the No-Tobacco League of America, has hurled a challenge to the Tobacco Salesmen's Association to debate whether or not propagation of smoking and chewing of tobacco is an abuse of personal liberty.

All because the weed vendors condemned the recent letters of the No-Tobacco to President Coolidge and Vice President Dawes—asking those officials to swear off smoking—as an invasion of personal liberty.

In reply, the No-Tobac organization says "the tobacco business is one of the most un-American institutions in our country."

The charge has a familiar ring. "Un-American" is the favorite epithet organized uplifters and crusaders apply to those who do not see eye to eye with them and do not joyfully join with them to regulate everything.

The tobacco habit may be filthy, wicked and devastating, but the tobacco business is the most American thing in America. It's a native. The weed was cultivated and used here before the ancestors of the No-Tobac gentlemen ever set foot on this continent.

Intolerance and the efforts of rabbid crusaders to thrust their reforms on an unwilling people, to regulate personal habits and draconian private consciences, are the most un-American manifestations of the times.

THE VERY IDEA!

By Hal Cochran

The Fireside

I'M not askin' much of this world where man lives, 'cause I feel that I've had a good share. But, one little thing, that I'm glad that it gives, is a fireplace and comfortable chair.

I want to sit back, when my day's work is done, and gaze in the embers that glow. That's somethin' to me, that's a whole lot of fun. I've tried it, an' I ought to know.

The peace and the quiet, of logs burnin' bright, put worries and frettings to rout. For they, like the wood and the fumes, rise at night, and drift till they're all faded out.

At ease! That's the thing a man needs now and then, to clear up a mind that's aching. A toaf by a fireside's a good thing for men, and women, and well worth the taking.

So let the logs crackle, and pull up your chair. With spirit of loafing be blest. Then gather around you, a family affair, and give all their minds a good rest.

Judge: What became of that last case?

Bailiff: That's already been tried, yer honor, an' it's full of empty bottles.

If you look all the steps that father uses in walking the baby to sleep, and put them in a haphazard line, who cares how far they would reach?

It's the popularity of a piece of new music that makes radio broadcasters use it until it loses its popularity.

NOW, HONESTLY

So you're broke, huh?

Well, what are you doing about it—just borrowing?

Why, you've only got to pay back what someone else loaned you.

The better way out is to plug that much harder and harder in more finances. And then, when you get more, pay a bit of attention to the expression, "lay something aside for a rainy day."

Be careful it doesn't rain I. O. U.'s.

I miss my husband," said friend wife.

Now, isn't that a shame?

For she had spent 'bout half her life,

At taking proper aim.

When a fellow proposes these days he can't get down on his knees, mainly because the girl is usually sitting on them.

(Copyright, 1926, by John R. Gunn.)

A Woman's Viewpoint

A Husband's Appetite

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

FANCIS MURRAY, 16-year-old boy, who recently lost his hands in an explosion in Houston, Tex., is coming to Indianapolis as soon as he can leave the hospital, to his mother from whom he has been separated fifteen years.

When a boy his parents were divorced and his mother, unable to keep him, placed him in an orphan asylum. She lost track of him and he became a homeless waif, shifting for himself, growing up without parental love or guidance. He did not know who or where his parents were—whether they were alive or dead.

He might thus have continued to the end if sympathetic persons following his accident had not interested themselves in him and attempted to locate his family.

"If mother is coming it's worth losing two hands for," he exclaimed joyfully when told that she had been located and was coming to take him home.

One can't expect husband and wife to continue in hateful wedlock. They have their own feelings to consider, their own lives to live. Divorce solves many domestic problems. It's a great institution—for the crew of the matrimonial bark that goes on the rocks.

But the divorce court is rough on the babies—the innocent victims of marital shipwreck.

A SUBSTITUTE IN PRISON

CHASE OSBORN, former Governor of Michigan and Hoosier born, in a letter to President Coolidge offers to take the place of Warren T. McCray in Federal prison and serve the balance of his sentence if the President will release the former Indiana Governor.

It's a generous offer, a touching exhibition of friendship, regular Damon and Pythias stuff. But of course the gentleman from Michigan knows it's unacceptable.

Several centuries ago he might have been taken seriously. It was quite all right then for a convicted person to hire a substitute to serve his sentence. According to our modern ideas a prisoner is expected to serve his sentence in prison.

Probably, without impugning his good faith, no one would be more horrified than Chase Osborn if he should be dragged to Atlanta to serve the remainder of McCray's ten-year term. He only intends his letter to influence the President to extend clemency to the former Hoosier chief executive.

Perhaps McCray should be paroled. His health is said to be failing and he recently gave up some of his prison activities, because of his physical condition. And he may have suffered sufficient punishment to satisfy the demands of justice. Further confinement might be just useless cruelty.

However, the question of his release should be determined by the actual facts and merits of the case—coldly and dispassionately studied. Importunities of friends and former Governors of Michigan and elsewhere have no bearing. It is a matter only of McCray and justice.

How many Popes of Rome have had the name "Benedict?"

Fifteen. The last bearing this name was Pope during the World War.

In what year was the Colossus of Rhodes set up?

The date is said to be about 280 B. C., but fifty-six years later it was overthrown by an earthquake, and lay in ruins until 653 A. D. when the Arabs captured the city and sold the metal to a Jewish merchant.

Just Inside Street Door to Left.

SELIG'S SUBWAY

EXTREME VALUE

FOR YOUR MONEY

Selig's Subway for Values.

January Clearance of

COATS

ONLY 35

Fur-Trimmed Coats

All fully lined.

Were \$19.75 and

\$25.00. Choice...