

# 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.

## Justice

**N**O better demonstration of the weakness of human justice and of the element of chance contained even in trial by jury can be had than the story of John Thomas Shaw.

In November, 1923, Mrs. Helen Hager Whelchel, a young Indianapolis widow, was kidnapped and her body was thrown from a high railroad bridge west of the city. Shaw was arrested a few days afterward and almost immediately placed on trial. The jury found him guilty and recommended the death penalty.

Shaw appealed to the Supreme Court of the State. The Supreme Court held that there had been a mistrial in Marion County and a new trial was ordered. Less than a year ago Shaw was tried a second time before a jury in Martinsville. The jury disagreed.

Last week he was tried for a third time, again before a Martinsville jury. The twelve men deliberated a little more than an hour and returned a verdict of not guilty. Shaw, who had been behind the bars for more than two years, became a free man.

The evidence was substantially the same in each trial.

## Who Pays Federal Taxes?

**S**ENATOR SMOOT, chairman of the Finance Committee, says nobody wants to pay taxes, and every one thinks he pays them all. Which raises an interesting question: Who will pay the taxes, finally, under the bill Smoot's committee has reported to the Senate?

Well, for one thing, only two out of every 115 persons in the country will contribute directly to the Treasury in income tax payments. The other 113 will pay in some other way.

The Government will collect, from income taxes, some \$1,681,000,000, should the Senate bill become law. About 2,000,000 persons will pay it. Rich men, with surtax rates cut from 40 to 20 per cent, will pay less than before.

This amount is less than half of what the Government will spend during the next fiscal year. Something like \$1,813,000,000 will come from other sources.

About \$550,000,000, for instance, will come from the highly protective tariff. There's no secret about who will pay this. The consumer will—rich and poor alike, but mostly poor, for there are more poor people. The more dependent the consumer has, the more he'll pay. His payments won't stop with the \$550,000,000, either. By the time the final burden of the tax has reached him, he will pay, perhaps, four or five times that, through multiplication of profits in turnover. The consumer thus will pay around \$2,500,000,000 because of the tariff. The Government will get 20 per cent of it, and protected interests will get most of the rest.

Miscellaneous internal taxes—taxes on tobacco, autos, etc., will contribute perhaps \$650,000,000 more. These are widely scattered taxes, which all pay.

The main thing to remember is that the income tax henceforth will be paid by comparatively few citizens, and that the rich will pay relatively less.

Many believe this emasculation of the income tax is unwise, and that it opens the door to indirect taxes, which are apt to take much more from the person who finally pays them than the Government gets. Also, these indirect taxes violate the principle that those who have an excess of wealth should contribute relatively more to the expense of Government than those of small means, because the ultimate consumer pays.

Also, many believe that it is a mistake to cut surtax rates, which have tended to reduce large accumulations of capital, and spread them among the whole people.

Don't think, Mr. Average Citizen, that by some magic hocus-pocus you're to be relieved of helping keep up the Federal Government through the new tax bill. You'll pay all right. You'll pay more eventually than you are paying under the present tax law.

## Shipment of Coal

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information to The Indianapolis Times, Washington Bureau, 1320 N. New York Ave., Washington, D. C. A postcard with a stamp for reply. Medical, legal and matrimonial questions cannot be answered. All letters are confidential.—Editor.

What is the proportion of imports to exports of coal in the United States?

The latest figures available are for the eleven months period ending Nov. 30, 1925. Exports—Anthracite 2,832,264 tons; bituminous, 14,193,364 tons. Imports—Anthracite, 155,390 tons; bituminous, 476,846 tons.

Are there many cities in Maryland with a population over 100,000?

Baltimore is the only one.

How does the railroad mileage of the United States compare with that of China?

The railroad mileage of the United States is given as 262,482 miles and that of China, 7,520 miles.

What is the distance between states in the game of quoits?

Eighteen yards.

Is the cost of food in the United States decreasing or increasing?

The Retail Food Index issued by

the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor shows for Dec. 15, 1925, a decrease of 1 per cent since Nov. 15, 1925; an increase of over 9 per cent since Dec. 15, 1924; and an increase of about 59.1 per cent since Nov. 15, 1915.

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