

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.

Watson and Robinson

SENATORS Watson and Robinson of Indiana "emerged with least credit of any Senators" from the World Court fight, Frank R. Kent, national political editor of the Baltimore Sun, said in a dispatch to his paper recently.

Kent pays a tribute to Senators Swanson and Walsh for really leading the court fight in the Senate, and to Senators Borah and Reed for their sincere, though in his view mistaken, opposition to the courts. Then he adds:

"Probably the two Senators who emerge with least cause to be proud of themselves are Watson and Robinson of Indiana, though they would be the last to grasp the idea."

"It is true they are both up for election this year, and Senators in that situation are apt to find their convictions soften, but no one here (in Washington) thinks either had any convictions of any sort on the subject."

"It is thought here that the reason both went to the White House and told President Coolidge they intended to leave him on the court was because of pressure brought by the Klan from one direction, and pressure brought by one Albert J. Beveridge on the other."

"Affable Albert was here, and there is reason to think he hissed some hot words into the ears of these Indiana statesmen to the broad general effect that he personally would beat the tar out of either or both, if they voted for the court."

The President Insists

THE President has sent word to the Senate that he will insist on his appointment of Wallace McCamant to the United States Circuit Court bench.

McCamant has been before a Senate committee defending himself against certain charges. One of the charges is that he violated his pledge to the people of Oregon as a delegate to the 1920 Republican convention in Chicago. This pledge was an official thing. It was printed by the State and circulated to all voters. In it, McCamant said:

"I have avoided committing myself to any candidate for the presidency in order that I might be in better position to support the candidate who wins at the Oregon primary."

Elected a delegate, McCamant refused to vote for Hiram Johnson at Chicago, although Johnson had won overwhelmingly at the Oregon primary.

McCamant's explanation to the Senate committee was to the following effect:

"I made no promise to the voters. You can see that the tense used in that sentence is

present perfect, not future. I did not tell the people what I would do."

His explanation left the Senators aghast. The thought of putting a man with a mind like that on the Federal bench shocked them. But word has been sent from the White House that the President insists that McCamant be confirmed.

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To such critics we beg to remark, the relations between John Bull and Sunny It were entirely different from ours. Italy, in 1914, was engaged, in a formal alliance, to Germany. John Bull, being at war with Germany, left no stone unturned to win Italy's hand for himself. He made her glowing, not to say golden, promises if she would only come with him. So, in 1915, Italy threw Fritz over and married John Bull with Sister Marianne France as maid of honor. Financial support was made part of the wedding contract.

True, the marriage was one of convenience. And it lasted only for the duration of the war. But Italy is now entitled to her alimony. Thus instead of patting himself on the back for his generosity John Bull should consider himself lucky to collect even 16 per cent of the money he let Italy have during wedlock.

Uncle Sam was neither husband, relative nor best man, but merely a friend of the family. As such he accepted their F.O.U.'s for some \$10,000,000,000 and today is asking payment of only such part of these as the borrowers can afford to pay.

Take his arrangement with Italy, for example. He makes her a present of 74 cents on every dollar she owes him, excuses her from any substantial payments on the balance for a decade to come and lends her another \$100,000,000 into the bargain.

The magnanimity, if anybody should ask us, is mostly on our side.

Trying to See What Makes a Best Seller in Fiction

WEEKLY BOOK REVIEW

By Walter D. Hickman

WHAT makes a best seller has always puzzled me as much as how one gets into "Who's Who?"

And at that there is no mystery about either one. Accomplishment answers both questions.

Indianapolis plays its part in determining a best seller, just like any other city.

The bookshops of the city report that we follow in many respects the general demand over the country on popular fiction.

The six best fiction sellers for the past month, according to the report of Baker & Taylor, wholesalers in books and published in "Books" in the New York Herald Tribune, Sunday, is as follows: "Thunder on the Left," by Christopher Morley; "The Perennial Bachelor," by Anne Parry; "The Keeper of the Bees," by the late Gene Stratton Porter; "Wild Geese," by Martha Ostenso; "One Increasing Purpose," by S. M. Hutchison, and "The Private Life of Helen of Troy," by John Erskine.

It will be remembered that "Helen of Troy" is published by Bobbs-Merrill and so Indianapolis has a direct bearing upon the best sellers in one way at least.

In one non-fiction list also prepared by Baker & Taylor in the New York Herald Tribune, it is noted that Bobbs-Merrill is represented by "The Man Nobody Knows," by Bruce Barton.

I have told you about both of these books in this department.

Other Thoughts

Also on the list of the best non-fiction sellers is "When We Were Very Young," by A. A. Milne, published by Dutton. Here is a volume of childhood verse with an adult appeal which speaks well for what the reading public is willing to purchase.

Doubtless, Page is represented on the non-fiction best selling list, with "The Letters of Walter Hines Page."

In other words, good books are the best sellers in America today. Different tastes along literary lines of account for a mixture of heavy and light reading, but the fact remains that every best seller in either list shows that this country is reading good books. Many thoughtful ones.

I for one am not afraid of the popular verdict. I trust it.

Interesting

Although Bret Harte led one of the most picturesque lives in the history of American letters, less is known about his career than that of any other American writer of equal prominence. Biographers, hampered by lack of material, have left him an intriguing and still unexplored figure. Now, however, his grandson, George Bret Harte, has assembled and edited a large body of entirely unpublished letters, which completely reveal for the first time the man and his romantic career. Houghton Mifflin Company will publish the letters on Feb. 12.

Which countries of the world are not now members of the League of Nations?

Afghanistan, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Russian Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, Turkey and the United States of America.

Is a guard still maintained at the tomb of President Harding?

Yes. The guard is composed of one officer and twenty-five enlisted men.

What is the actual horse power of an elephant?

There seems to be no estimate of the horse power of an elephant in just that form, but it is true that an elephant can carry from 1,700 to 2,200 pounds, maintaining a steady pace of four miles per hour.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

If You Are Old Fashioned Leave Your Own Nightgown at Home and Wear a Ribbon

By Walter D. Hickman

IF a nightgown is in fashion in your own home, then miss "Artists and Models."

If you wear red flannels and believe that it is proper, then pass up this bunch.

I have been shocked so long in standard literature and music that I do not fear the revue. Main Street wanted to be shocked last night and so the crowded English's Theater to see "Artists and Models." And a capacity house means something. I know the Chief of police was there, because a friend of his was so anxious to introduce him to a friend. I asked the chief if he were the censor committee. I am so glad that I was protected in the extreme that somebody's friend wanted to meet the chief. And I admire the chief more than ever; he was like a critic, he didn't talk about the show. He said something about the weather. I don't give a rip what the chief thinks about the show and he doesn't give one yell what I think about it. I have seen other critics in the theater and they have seen me in the same theater.

And the show went on. Why should it not? It has been going on for a long time. There is lot of hot stuff to this show. In one scene when a gentleman (I trust he is that gets warmed up on a subject while a maiden reclines and declines in his bedroom (not his own house), tells a blank lie, a piece or several pieces of china fall. As more china falls (poor China), the louder the laughter.

I wanted to be caught at this show because everybody wanted to be shocked. It was a Main Street cyclone and nobody called an undertaker. It wasn't that raw. It depends on just how much you depend upon the stage to give you a thrill.

A few things they call art doesn't worry me one bit in the theater. Generally I expect art to be half draped and there is no exception to the rule. If I am wrong, then I have never been at the old swimming hole.

"Artists and Models," is a tantalizing show. It can be raw on a minutes notice. It can be fairly beautiful. There is talent in this show. There is some rank burlesque. No worse than I have seen before.

In one scene you see a grand woman by the name of Marie Stoddard known in Scene 16, 1st Act, as the Governor's wife, being kicked in that zone upon which she sits, generally, by a man known as Fred Hillebrand. This is the climax to a scene called "Insanity." I yelled out loud and many others did for a long time (me, too), because it was Hillebrand who was able to walk soon and not that fine personality known as Marie Stoddard. Fred comes out soon after the assault in the insanity scene and spills lot of smart stuff called "Spanish Juanita." A real riot of fun.

If you buy "Artists and Models" seats or seat with the idea that you are going to Hades, you are all wrong. Yes, there are models there. David Belasco once presented a play on this very stage called "Ladies of the Evening." Upon this very same stage was "Desire Under the Elms."

Yes, there are models present. Fine showmanship, but not so finely presented. Every trick is used to pack the theater. To me this show is not shocking. And at times not even interesting.

But there is artistry present. Consider these names and look upon the program to see where this happens. Mr. Massinger is in many songs; a series of fan affairs in one event; a burlesque with no excuse called "A Model Laundress" with Frank Gaby; this same Frank Gaby with a dummy; a beautiful sopp picture called "Good Night" having the services of Marie Stoddard, Jackon Hines, Nancy Gibbs (always wonderful), and Charles Massinger; a nifty with a smart tendency known as a humble burlesque upon the dining room farce, known in this edition as "Honesty" or "Around a Dining Table," a kick with the foot in the climax with Marie Stoddard and being given by Fred Hillebrand, and Grace Hayes in songs.

And remember that there is lot of scenery to this show, lights and everything.

It is an expensive show to exhibit. Lots of names I haven't mentioned. And I hate golf.

They could cut out everything they call and "pose" under the name of art, and it would be a better show. I do not go to the theater with the purpose of seeing how little or how much a girl wears. And that is honest. If there is entertaining brains back of the general idea, then I am not ready to pay.

The price of a thing didn't mean much to him, whenever 'twas some-

Stage Verdict

KEITH'S—The entire interest centers upon Joe Mendi, a chimpanzee.

ENGLISH'S—Kindly read my entire review upon "Artists and Models."

LYRIC—"Knick Knacks of 1926" tops a very good bill with plenty of fast dancing.

PALACE—"Dance Visions of 1926" is a fine mixture of specialty and ensemble dancing

natural. That is the best compliment I can pay to her.

She lets Joe toy and romp with the rooky-horse. She lets him be a child. That is what he is—a wonderful child. Joe Mendi is not blessed with too much showmanship upon the stage. Maybe that is the reason he is such a sensation. Joe is a study. Not to be missed by the entire family.

The tricks of Joe and Betty Wheel-

er, now with a third member, are well known. Same routine with exception of third member. Act is and always will be a hit on any bill.

FLO CAROL, with men forming an orchestra, one being a dancing partner, presents a colorful attempt at dancing. Tom F. Swift is making a mistake in repeating in "The God." It depends whether you have seen it or not. Tom, you are wrong doing this sort of stuff on a repeat. And not near as well as the first time.

I still do not know what Johnnie Berk and Sheila Terry are all about. The comedy attempts are terrible. The man while dancing, good. Still much doubt about sisster stuff on the part of Terry. Why does every woman have to dump that sisster bunk upon a public? This is terrible in this act.

Eccentric comedy along musical lines is offered by Coscia and Verdi.

In this act we meet Maj. W. D. Wilson of this city. The Rios open the bill in a posing, athletic and ring act.

The movie is Our Gang in "Buried Treasure."

At Keith's all week.

AND THE OBSERVER LIKES "DANCE VISIONS"

A charming dance act is to be seen at the Palace today and to-morrow in "Dance Visions of 1926."

The company numbers five girl dancers and one man. Featured are two former local dancers, Maria Chaney and Mary Jane Wright.

The act is replete with specialties and is full of pep. Everything is done with an air of completeness and care that makes for the entertainment. One scene in particular would like to call to your attention. It is the opening of the third scene, and three of the girls are posed backstage for the beginning of a some what Oriental dance. The picture was appreciated to such an extent the time of review that the audience applauded vigorously as the curtain went up. It was a beautiful picture.

Ford and Cunningham have a lot of fun with the chatter of a rather dumb husband and his beautiful, but also dumb, wife.

Jason and Harrigan are two women whose artistry is beyond compare.

They buy "Artists and Models" seats or seat with the idea that you are going to Hades, you are all wrong. Yes, there are models there.

David Belasco once presented a play on this very stage called "Ladies of the Evening."

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I do not go to the theater with the purpose of seeing how little or how much a girl wears. And that is honest.

If there is entertaining brains back of the general idea, then I am not ready to pay.

The price of a thing didn't mean much to him, whenever 'twas some-

thing he wanted. He'd rush in a store full of vigor and vim an' he'd purchase haphazard,undaunted.

A lot of folks envy this type of a man, but I can't say that I do, so much.

Because of his riches, he would know well that his missin' one wonderful touch.

To have and to hold of the beautiful things is nice, but when all's said and done, it's wishing and wanting—then getting, that bring a fel-

low a whole lot of fun.

At the Lyric all week. (By the Ob-

server.)

Other theaters today offer: "Too

Much Money," at the Circle; "Three

Faces East," at the Colonial; "Don't," at the Apollo; "The Wanderer," at the Ohio; burlesque at the Broadway, and "The Lucky