

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.

An Ace in the Hole

For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain
The Hoosier State law is peculiar.

YOU remember Bret Harte's heathen Chinese who had all the aces up his sleeve? He didn't have a thing on the State of Indiana. As several prominent citizens who played poker at the Indianapolis Athletic Club well know, old lady justice may be blind, but that doesn't keep her from having a couple of royal flushes and at least five aces concealed somewhere about her flowing garments.

Under the law as set out by the Marion County prosecutor, if you win you break even and if you lose you get your money back. In other words, you play poker for matches or for fun and a little publicity—unless you win from a single gentleman. Hereafter poker clubs are expected to post notices giving information concerning the marital status of all players. If you play with a married man, you do so at your own peril.

All this has to do with suits filed by the prosecutor in behalf of Mrs. Robert W. Lewis, wife of a real estate man, who insists her husband lost some \$3,429 to ten more or less prominent citizens at the Athletic Club. She is seeking to recover the money. The game at which the money was lost is known as stud poker. Let us explain, for the benefit of the uninitiated reader, if any, that in this game one card is turned face downward and the other four face up. An ace turned down—technically known as an ace in the hole—is a considerable advantage. In this instance, Mrs. Lewis and the State of Indiana seem to have had an ace in the hole. Under the law, if the husband doesn't try to recover his losses within a certain length of time, his wife can have a try at it. That is what Mrs. Lewis is doing.

In other words, in addition to all our other peculiar laws, we have a law that makes gambling a misdemeanor and another law that makes the State, at the expense of the taxpayers, a collection agency whereby the loser in a gambling game can recover.

Lewis, on the face of the suits, must have been a pretty consistent loser. There is no record thus far of any one suing him to recover money he may have won. There is no evidence that he didn't know that he was playing for money or that he didn't try his damndest to win some of the other fellow's cash. Anyway, his wife wants the money back. Wives for some reason seem to have a particular aversion to their husbands losing money in poker games.

At any rate, the ten defendants hereafter probably will use considerable caution in choosing those with whom they deal the cards. Single men are safer, they are telling the world.

Was Moses Right?

THIRTY-SIX of your servants in the United States Senate have decided that you do not desire any further information concerning the Aluminum Trust—or, at least, that you are not going to get any. Thirty-three of your servants sought to open up the subject, but in vain. That was the vote, 36 to 33, against the adoption of the majority report of the Senate Judiciary Committee, popularly known as the Walsh report.

This Senate committee, after considerable

investigation, thought the Aluminum Trust, largely controlled by the Mellon family, needed looking into. The Federal Trade Commission had charged the Aluminum Company of America with violation of the law. Attorney General Stone had repeated the charge. The latter was boosted to the United States Supreme Court bench before he could undertake court action and the matter had been allowed to lie doggo by his successor, John Garibaldi Sargent of Vermont.

The Senate committee criticised Sargent for not proceeding against his Cabinet colleague's corporation. Realizing, no doubt, that Sargent might find it embarrassing to pit himself against the most powerful member of the presidential family, the Senate Judiciary Committee proposed an independent inquiry in which Mr. Sargent would have no part.

But the Senate, 36 to 33, voted the proposal down.

It would be interesting to know how much this result was due to a little speech by Senator Moses. He reminded the other Senators of the investigations which ousted Messrs. Fall, Denby and Daugherty from the Cabinet and recalled that the revelations had had no effect on the last election. His speech was based on the belief that you were not concerned by the Teapot Dome scandal nor yet by the mess in the Justice Department. Was he right?

A Pat-and-Mike Story With Two Pats and a Patsy

SENATOR Pat Harrison of Mississippi is a jolly fellow but, like a discouragingly large number of his colleagues of Congress, his vision is not always as broad as his heart.

Pat is now advocating the rejection of the Italian debt settlement. But in his objections he loses sight of the main point, to wit: Italy would not care if we did reject the settlement and we'd probably never get another.

Italy did not journey to Washington merely because she was eager to settle up. Far from it. Italy needed money very, very badly and America was the only place where she could get it. But before she could obtain another loan she naturally would have to make the gesture of funding the debts already contracted. So she did.

Whereupon, before the ink dried on the settlement signatures, the Italian mission hurried to New York and borrowed another hundred million dollars.

Maybe Mr. Mellon and his associates of the American commission made a bad bargain. We don't know. Maybe they made Patsies of us taxpayers, quite as Pat says they did. But it's too late to holler now—unless we direct our holler against Mr. Mellon. Italy doesn't give two straws. She's got the only thing she really wanted: The hundred-million-dollar loan.

If we are wise, we will all, Pat and Patsies alike, take a tip from Patrick O'Kelly, the late lamented saloonist.

"Pat," the bartender, called to his boss at the other end of the bar, "Is Mike good for a drink?"

"Has he had it?"

"Yis."

"He is."

Dixon Frasier Is a Glorious Prince and Eileen Van Biene a Dear Kathie

By Walter D. Hickman

AM quite sure that no regular theater goer would care to see "The Student Prince" better presented than as it is in English this week.

At this late date, it is not necessary to tell of the romance of a Prince with a little waitress at Heidelberg.

The score is well known. The beauty of the several scenes are familiar to thousands. Today you are concerned alone with the worth of the cast which is presenting "The Student Prince" here for a week.

Dixon Frasier is singing the Prince role with a satisfying charm and with marvelous dramatic ability. I saw Howard Marsh sing the role in New York. Mr. Frasier is just as effective and as satisfying as Mr. Marsh.

Frasier brings vigor, youth, a good voice, splendid bearing, and, above all, a really marvelous dramatic sense which develops to splendid heights at the close of the third act. I do not expect to hear this role better presented than Mr. Frasier is doing it.

Eileen van Biene is a sweet and charming Kathie. She handles her singing numbers with that proper amount of vocal attention mixed with a good knowledge of the stage. She has the very good taste not to make the role too sweet, giving the part natural charm.

The comedy scenes are handled in a mighty satisfactory and grand manner by Eddie Garvie as Lutz, George Mack as the Hubert, the valet who fixes the bath for Lutz with so much attention to romance.

James S. Murray, Walter Tenney and James Phillips have been splendidly cast as Tom, Detlev and Lucas. These three men handle the lead singing in the opening numbers in a way which guarantees the success of the performance from the very beginning.

Evelyn Darville is dramatically fine as the Princess Margaret and Charlotte Granville has her comedy outbursts as the Grand Duchess Anastasia.

The male chorus is just what one expects in "The Student Prince." A mighty fine group of singers and they look the part.

Again I repeat that a most satisfying performance of "The Student Prince" is being given at English's this week.

LOOKING OVER NEW EVENTS AT KEITH'S

The bill at Keith's this week has some interesting talent, but the bill doesn't hitch up to that extent which makes it a wow bill. It is a diff-

icult bill to arrange to get the best results.

Bert Levy has been on the stage for many years. He still whistles, writes his jokes on slides as he draws pictures.

He is a careful and entertaining artist. And this man has a great love for children.

He always gives a theater party for children who are not lucky to have sufficient coin of the realm to buy seats. He has made thousands of children happy.

Benny Rubin, with the assistance of May Usher and numerous others, presents a series of little intimate burlesque or travesty sketches.

They probably are at their best while doing a travesty upon the visiting Russians and the "rushing" craze. This act is different, and so it takes a little time to register. It is a unique event and has its moments of real entertaining merit.

The Ritz Serenaders turn out to be a ladies' orchestra with the assistance of a man and woman dancer. The act is not startling. The music is atmospheric and pleasing.

Walter Brower has his own way of putting over his stories. He is a droll and intelligent performer. He registers with ease. I am confused in the name of the opening act. It is a combination of art poses and some fine acrobatic work by a man and a woman.

Levy Murdock is a splendid eccentric dancer who handles his act and limbs in a most unusual manner. His partner, Mildred Mayo, has sufficient personality and ability to aid in putting the act over to good results.

The Kanazawa Trio closes the show. The movie is a Hal Roach comedy, "The Hug Bug."

At Keith's all week.

JANE COURTHOPE PLAYS GREAT MOTHER PART

When it comes to being a real down-trodden mother, the kind that we all know and hate to admit, Jane Courthope, at the Lyric this week, fits into the niche as if she were the only mother left in this great wide world.

Supported by a company whose fun at times reaches the plane of real dramatic ability, Miss Courthope takes the part of the mother in the regular everyday family of a husband, boy and girl. Every one gives mother work to do. The husband and daughter rag her continuously, and the boy, in his kindly, unseeing way, keeps her busy with the buttons on his clothes, the holes in his socks and the hundred and one other trifles that mount into big things when considered in the light of work.

Well, the sketch opens this way, and then mother rebels. She leaves them flat. A friend has invited her to the opera and she goes without a word, even leaving her wedding ring on the table. Of course, you can imagine what the family says and does when they all get home. After mother gets home though everything is smoothed out. Dad gives

Stage Verdict

LYRIC—Splendid character work is revealed by Jane Courthope in a sketch of family life.

PALACE—Spencer and Williams are comedy hits on this entertaining bill.

KEITH'S—The hits here are Benny Rubin and his assisting artists, Walter Brower and Bert Levy.

ENGLISH'S—Dixon Frasier makes a wonderfully effective Prince Karl in "The Student Prince." A most satisfactory supporting company. A fine male chorus. Principals are fine.

up his bad habits and enters the strange life of the good. The daughter begins to use her head and the son keeps on loving his mother. Consider this sketch the best that I have seen during the last twelve months. It may be burlesque at times, but at other times it is real drama.

The Jarvis Revue, with a company of seven women and six men is a bright, fast and snappy little act of its kind. The comedian is excellent and does much to keep the act on its toes, and speaking of toes there are two excellent toe dancers present. As in the manner of the large production short flashes are given in a comedy vein. They have several short flashes concerning crime and it's punishment that are certain to be laugh getters whenever seen.

Tuck and Toy are an Oriental couple whose one idea while out in front of you seems to be to give you the most pleasing and entertaining time that they can. And they succeed admirably. Their act consists of songs and two dances alone and together. They have one very neat little song about the learning of the two of them. They sing about the things they are learning. After seeing them you will agree that they have "learnt."

Flagler Brothers and Ruth are all Hoosiers. Need I say more? Enough to say that they have some fine songs, a very excellent violin soloist and a woman pianist who ranks high.

The Hickman Brothers are three men in blackface, who are clever comedians and add a lot to the humor of the bill.

Murand and Leo, open the bill with a comedy sketch.

Other theaters today offer: "Dancing Mothers" at the Apollo; "The Far Cry" at the Circle; "The Sky Rocket" at the Ohio; "Braveheart" at the Colonial; "Lorraine of the Lions" at the Isis and burlesque at the Broadway.

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with gymnastic tricks and the Thomas Trio close with some athletic feats on bars.

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RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

A FAMILY MATTER

ACH Indiana family pays an average of \$332.55 annually as its share in the total cost of local, State and federal government, according to figures compiled by Charles Kettleborough, director of the State Legislative Bureau.

The largest single item in this total cost of government is for maintenance of the public school system, for which the average annual charge on each Hoosier family is \$93.84.

We wish the Indianapolis school board would paste these figures in their hats, and refer to them occasionally.

They are forcible reminders that the schools are of vital interest, educationally and financially, to every citizen. They are primarily a family matter, affecting every family, and school board policies should be dictated by consideration of the general public not by the personal prejudices of school board members.

Which the present majority faction of the Indianapolis school board seems to overlook entirely. Was it in response to unequivocal public demand that they hastily seek acquisition of a tract at Forty-Sixth St. as the site of the new Shortridge High School and propose to sell the Thirty-Fourth St. site, long intended for the location of that school?

Were they thinking of each Indianapolis family that pays \$93.84 for support of the schools, when they decided to throw the Shortridge plans, prepared by direction of the previous board, in the ashcan and have new plans drawn at an expense of \$40,000?

So far about all the present majority faction of the school board has accomplished has been to feed knock-out drops to school policies and building program adopted by the former board. School affairs seem to be a factional not a family matter.

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FOR COUNTY HIGHWAYS

L. BOWMAN, auditor of State, Monday mailed out to the ninety-two Indiana counties checks totaling \$1,847,020—the counties' share of the State gas tax collected during the last eleven months. The money is to be used for the upkeep of county highways.

Quite likely, State highway officials view these payments to the counties with twinges of regret. They would like to see all the gas tax collected by the State expended on the State road system under their supervision.

And there is sound argument against such distribution. A state sum is \$1,800,000 in one heap. But, parceled out among ninety-two counties, it only amounts to an average of \$20,000 to a county—not enough to build a couple of miles of paved road system.

It is important, of course, to push work on the State highways as rapidly as funds will permit. They are the main arteries of traffic.

But many people don't live on State roads; they are dependent on county and local roads to get to market, movies, churches, schools and other important affairs of life. Considerable gasoline, on which the tax is paid, is burned in wearing out these county and local roads.

Indiana has a total road mileage of 70,000—of which 35,000 miles are in county roads and less than 5,000 miles are in the State highway system. It does not seem illogical—despite the attitude of State highway officials—that counties and towns maintaining 90 per cent of the roads in the State should share in the distribution of a minor fraction of the gas tax.

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