

The Indianapolis Times

ROY W. HOWARD, President.

W.M. MAYBORN, Bus. Mgr.

FELIX F. BRUNER, Editor.

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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.

Not Wet, but American

THE head of the Anti-Saloon League of this State has listed this newspaper, along with numerous other important publications, as "wet," and in his report to his directors charges that it has engaged in an "unpatriotic" effort to overthrow the law.

The gentleman is mistaken.

The readers of this newspaper understand the policy of this newspaper in its comments on prohibition.

They know that it has stood for law and that its effort has been to restore law and respect for law and to preserve, most of all, the traditions of American liberty.

It has pointed out from time to time that there has been a lack of enforcement of the prohibition law and it has called attention of its readers to the fact that the workings of prohibition have not resulted in a reduction of crime or poverty which the real friends of temperance and the real foes of alcoholic excesses had hoped it would bring.

It has been the dry spokesman and advocate at all times, because it wanted sobriety and not drunkenness; law, not anarchy.

It has been always the advocate of any measure which will reduce drunkenness. But it has not been so foolish or so blind as to believe that any act of Congress has the authority of divine inspiration or is beyond all scrutiny, examination or repeal.

The charge of being "unpatriotic" is a rather serious one, for we have believed that we were especially patriotic when we tried, as far as we might, to save the foundation principles of this Nation.

We believed we were patriotic when we hoped that the time would come when this crime would not be fashionable.

We believed we were patriotic when we demanded that the final law of the land be the will of the people.

If we should desire to adopt the methods of our accuser, we might retort that the Anti-Saloon League has become a commercialized institution, that it carries on its work for hire, that it has challenged our traditions by endeavoring to link the forces of church and State and has endeavored to make organized religion a dominating force in politics and government. But we prefer to settle the matter on the facts and the record.

It is not a defense, but it is significant to note that the policy of this paper on this subject has been that of a committee of great Americans, including ministers, college presidents, statesmen and financiers which have demanded an honest study of the situation and a solution based on facts instead of fanaticism or appetites.

It is also significant to note that the temperance societies of at least three large church organizations are on record as approving exactly the stand which this paper has taken.

This newspaper believes that it has a duty to perform and it intends to perform it despite the charges and libels of paid propagandists for any cause.

WEEKLY BOOK REVIEW

Clyde Griffiths Stages Great American Tragedy

By Walter D. Hickman

UNDER is a tragedy in any country and it is an American tragedy also.

Theodore Dreiser, in his first novel since 1915, makes the murder of a girl by Clyde Griffiths the great American tragedy.

And he calls his two-volume, three-book edition of this tragedy "An American Tragedy."

In two other reviews I have been concerned with the first book and half of the second book.

Today we are concerned with the last half of the second book and the entire third book. We consider murder not as a fine art but the misguided reason of Clyde Griffiths in removing from this world a girl, a factory girl, who he had wronged. Her name was Roberta Alden.

And while her dead body was in the cold waters of the lake this murderer for accommodation purposes alone basked miles off in the smiles and embraces of Sonora, a society girl of rather wild habits, but she refused to become a part of an sex program that Clyde might arrange.

Dreiser's genius rests in the fact that he develops Clyde as a murderer upon a strange and yet common basis. Clyde could not see how he could be discovered. He forgot there might be such a thing as conscience. He forgot that the law makes it a duty for prosecutors to hunt out murderers.

A Bad Plan

And so Clyde deceived himself in thinking that the removal of his victim would solve his future happiness with the rich Sonora.

And the price he paid for his own

life. The electric chair was the means. Dreiser, I believe, is at his best when telling in page after page the method used by the State of New York in running down Clyde and then trying him.

Clyde's life could not stand on the witness stand, and above all, it couldn't stand in his own mind.

And yet this boy became a murderer and a sex expert in his book just as he would in real life. Clyde

A Big Egg

A novel bearing the provocative title, "The Dinosaur's Egg," is promised for publication in the latter part of March by E. P. Dutton & Co. It is Edmund Candler, whose book of mingled travel, observation and philosophy called "Youth and the East," which the Duttons published last year, attracted attention and much comment.

Giffiths and all the other characters step from the printed page and become real, living personalities.

Clyde is not a lovable murderer because he was such a little fool in his own makeup. He refused to pay the price only until the State demanded it.

He was a weakling and a coward and yet his evil weakness was his strength. No reader can sympathize with Clyde when he becomes a man and moral heathen. He had his chance and he became a murderer by careful plans.

A Great Novel

Dreiser stands alone today, way above the many ordinary writers of fiction. He challenges respect by his very daring. He paints ugly but natural life. There is little sun-

Gay Night Club Music Turns Modern Home Into a Bright and Gay Broadway

By Walter D. Hickman

THEY are turning night into day in many American homes.

The glorious "blame" goes to the phonograph and to the radio.

Sister entertaining her best parlor friend with the phonograph for a little at home dancing. The dance music, such as being played in the gay clubs of night life on Broadway, oozes through into neighborhood homes.

In a flat there is generally a turning off hour of the phonograph, as it is generally understood that some people do a little sleeping. It is then that the head phones get in use over the radio.

I know that some of my friends have their radio on the lamp table near their beds and with a headphones on they Broadway themselves to sleep by hearing the gay tunes coming from the night places in New York.

The phonograph companies are making a big effort to keep up to date with their "night life music."

Have before me a statement from Okeh in which it is stated in connection of the playing of "I Never Knew" and "Don't Wake Me Up" as done by Vincent Lopez and his orchestra that "Okeh record buyers can hear the same music that is being played nightly in one of Broadway's very gayest night clubs, Vincent Lopez's—the Casa Lopez—when you play 'I Never Knew' and 'Don't Wake Me Up.'

And Okeh lists gay records as follows:

"Hurray! Hurray! My Wife's So Good to Me." Tenor-baritone duet, accompanied by the Boys of Happiness Boys.

"I Would Rather Be Alone in the South." Tenor-baritone duet, accompanied by the Boys of Happiness Boys (Billy Jones Ernest Hare).

"Close Your Eyes." Fox trot. Palledo.

"What-Cha-Cha-Em Blues." Fox trot. Palledo Orchestra of St. Louis.

"I'm a Good Girl." Fox trot. Phil Baxter's Orchestra.

"Tell Me." Fox trot. Phil Baxter's Orchestra.

"Barney's Girl (Roll Your Own)." Fox trot. The Red Hotters.

"You Told Me to Go." Fox trot. The.

"Tomorrow Morning." Singing with banjo. Barney Barnum with Bill Bailey (The Old Timer).

"Heidi." Fox Trot. The Boys of Happiness Boys.

"It's Ever Cry You'll Never Know." Contralto. Piano accompaniment by Miller Gottschalk.

"I'm a Little Lovable." Fox trot. Merritt Brundin and His Friends Inn Orchestra.

"I'm a Good Girl." Fox trot. Merritt Brundin and His Friends Inn Orchestra.

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