

The Indianapolis Times

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

THAT LIQUOR LEAK

Something more than the idle question of what became of the 330 cases of liquor which disappeared from the custody of the Federal authorities is involved in this most peculiar transaction.

The confidence of the people in the integrity of all government will be badly shocked if there should follow no action and no inquiry.

The facts of the matter as now established by the records are simple:

A raid upon the Squibb distillery resulted in the seizure by the Federal Court of 1,453 cases of liquor.

The court turned that liquor over to the custody of the Federal marshal and it was stored in the Federal building in Indianapolis.

An inventory by an examiner for the department of justice now shows that 330 cases of that liquor, easily marketable at more than \$50,000 at bootleg prices and possibly twice that sum, are missing.

There are some other facts, not in the records, which make an inquiry more than necessary.

Outstanding is the repeated assertion of United States Marshal Linus Meredith that he had never taken an inventory of the liquor when it was received and that he did not know how many cases were in his custody.

This assertion was made despite the fact that the court records show a receipt by the marshal for the amount named by the attorney general.

It is proper to inquire whether the denial of the marshal that he had made an inventory of the liquor was due to forgetfulness or whether it had a real motive, especially in view of the flat declaration by the Department of Justice that these thousands of dollars' worth of liquor are now missing.

What is to be said of the efficiency of Government if it fails to prevent the leak from its own custody of one-fourth of the liquor taken from a private violator of the law?

The one purpose of the seizure of this liquor was to prevent it from getting into the hands of citizens who might and would use it in violation of the Volstead act.

It was taken from the distillery for the one purpose of preventing its being used as a beverage. On no other theory could a court enter an order that it be destroyed.

The whole success of the Volstead act depends upon this liquor seized in this manner being destroyed and not drunk.

But over and beyond this is the necessity for inspiring confidence of citizens in the actions of public officials.

Especially should the believers in prohibition and in the ultimate success of the Volstead act be interested in seeing that no suspicion attach to any legal proceeding or act of any Government official in connection with the prosecution and enforcement of this law.

Support for that law is likely to wane, if there be placed in the public mind any thought that through carelessness or worse, officials permit illegal booze in their custody to be again circulated in illegal channels—and there is no legal channel for any liquor seized by the Government to circulate.

The disappearance of 330 cases of liquor from the custody of a Government official is much more serious than the disappearance of a like amount, illegally, from the distillery.

The sale of liquor by the illicit maker is a blow only at the one law.

The disappearance of such liquor from custody of the Government hits at confidence in all laws.

The people are entitled to know the facts about this matter.

They are entitled to know exactly what means were taken to protect this booze from again getting back to the thirsty.

They are entitled to know whether it was kept in a manner which was reasonably safe.

They are entitled to know whether it was possible for thieves to steal it from the Federal building.

They are entitled to know why the same thieves showed such admirable restraint that having easily taken the 330 cases they did not return for the rest.

They are entitled to know why that leak was not disclosed or discovered until a member of Congress from a distant State made the open charge from the floor of Congress.

They are entitled to know why denials were made that it was gone up to the hour that an outside investigator made a check and the disappearance was thoroughly disclosed.

They are entitled to know the truth of the charge by former Prohibition Director Bert Morgan that two or three years ago an official report of the disappearance of a smaller amount was made and that no action was taken.

They are entitled to know the reasons for the lack of action, for the secrecy, the evasiveness, the exploded denials, the conflicting statements by officials.

They are entitled to know whether the Government is less interested in the disappearance of \$50,000 worth of liquor from its own officers than it is in the sale of one drink of moonshine in a back alley—and why.

OUR CINDERELLAS

When a rich, eccentric real man in New York married a 15-year-old girl, placed her in a magnificent home and made provisions for her future as far as money is concerned, a humane society gets busy to undo the act on the ground that it is cruel to a child.

The idea that a very young girl, not old enough for mature judgment, is hurried to the altar by one whose life has been mostly lived shocks our Western sense of propriety.

We have campaigned, in large groups, against the child marriage customs of other countries, have turned with disgust from the practices of orientals who sell their daughters in the cradle or marry them in babyhood.

Nationally we have tried to make the marriage relation something more than a civil contract, to give it some sense of sacredness, although the protest against the marriage of this girl is based upon the legal theory that she is not old enough to make

ents are unfit to guard her interests when they consent.

We have recognized that the marriageable age is largely a matter of latitude and that the girl of the tropics, who marries at ten, may be as physically fit for that relation at that tender age as the girl of 20 in a land that has winters.

What should interest these very sincere people who are investigating this case, is not the fate of this one girl, but the conditions of society which make it a temptation for parents to turn over their immature daughters to the arms of ancient satyrs.

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Here is a matter and a question not for busybodies and self-ordained guardians but for those who have ideals and who really think.

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FEBRUARY NEVER HOST TO GOOD FRIDAY

You can get an answer to the question of fact or information by writing to The Indianapolis Times or Indianapolis Journal, 110 E. Market St., Indianapolis, Ind., enclosing 2 cents in stamps or money order. Your name and marital status cannot be given or your address given, and personal reply. Unsigned requests cannot be answered. All letters are confidential.—Editor.

Did Good Friday ever come in the month of February?

No. Easter Sunday can not come earlier than March 22 or later than April 25; therefore, Good Friday must come either in March or April.

On what day and date does the Speedway races take place? F. F. CHAFFEE.

For the past few years the Speedway races in Indianapolis have taken place on Memorial day, May 30.

Is William S. Hart now playing in the movies?

He is back on the screen after an absence of two years. He has recently completed "Tumbleweeds," a Western story.

What is the meaning of the name McCann?

It is an Irish name meaning "son of heroes."

How many times has the State of California been visited by earthquakes?

The earliest recorded severe shock occurred in 1812, destroying mission buildings in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties and killing about forty persons. In 1851 San Francisco was considerably damaged; and there were other shocks in 1855, 1856, 1865 and 1918. On April 18, 1906, the State was visited by the worst earthquake in its history, extending over about 190 miles and centering in San Francisco.

What is calomel made?

It is found native as "horn quicksilver," but is generally manufactured by triturating a mixture of mercuric sulphate, common salt, and metallic mercury, subliming and washing with boiling water. It is a white, heavy, odorless and tasteless powder that is almost insoluble in water.

Will you please explain the work of the United States budget bureau and how the receipts and expenditures of the United States are balanced?

The bureau of the budget was created by the act approved June 10, 1921, and has authority to assemble, correlate, revise, reduce or increase the estimates of the several departments and establishments of the Government. Heads of departments are required to appoint an officer whose duty it is to prepare departmental estimates of appropriations and such supplemental or deficiency estimates as may be required. The accumulation of all these estimates makes possible the general Government estimates of receipts and expenditures which compose the national budget. In 1925 receipts and expenditures were \$3,780,148,684 and expenditures \$3,446,416. For 1926 it is estimated that

receipts and expenditures will be \$3,718,942 and expenditures \$3,618.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

Robinson and Fields Turn Out a New Song of Sympathy About An Old Street Singer



By Walter D. Hickman

There seems to be a little twist in the public taste in music these days.

The ballad and the song of sympathy is again coming to the front.

Proof of this is the success of the sentimental "The Prisoner's Song."

J. Russell Robinson, song writer of this city, who is now on tour over the Orpheum circuit with Marion Harris, and Arthur Fields have recognized this new turn in popular taste.

Robinson and Fields have just published through Leo Feist, Inc., a new song of sympathy called "The Street Singer."

Robinson wrote the music and Fields the words. It is a dramatic little thing with a broad dramatic musical background which gets into the heart.

Robinson at my request has given me the words of "The Street Singer," which tells a complete story as follows:

"Outside of my window I heard a voice

"Sing a song of the long ago,

"I could hear by his tone he had been better days."

So his story I wanted to know.

He said he sang in op'ras while "she" stayed at home.

The one love of my life,

But somebody else had him all alone.

The woman whom I made my wife,

"Now I sing a song who sings on the street

For a penny, a nickel or dime."

"I fainted and fell to the floor."

"I'm only a singer, who sings on the street."

"My voice is all tired and torn,

Not long ago it was mellow and sweet,

But now it's all husky and worn.

It seems to be a day I heard millions applaud."

"Two days I was in my prime,

Now I sing a song who sings on the street

For a penny, a nickel or dime."

"I'm not the only singer, who sings on the street."

"Sing a song of the long ago,

"I could hear by his tone he had been better days."

So his story I wanted to know.

He said he sang in op'ras while "she" stayed at home.

The one love of my life,

But somebody else had him all alone.

The woman whom I made my wife,

"Now I sing a song who sings on the