

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.

PARKS OR JOBS?

Next to schools, the most important public enterprises in this city are the public parks.

They beckon the tired, the weary, the worn. They offer relaxation, health, a chance for pure air, untainted by the smoke of industries, an opportunity to get back to nature.

These playgrounds of the people fill a pretty big place in the lives of most of us. A modern city without parks is unthinkable.

As a theory, these parks are too precious and too important to be under political control, and the law has endeavored to keep them from being used for partisan advantage.

The people have only one real concern in the present quarrel between the mayor and the board which manages these parks.

They want to know whether this spirit of the law is being violated, or has been violated.

They want to know whether the members Mayor Duvall seeks to replace have given them full value for their money which they pay for these parks and if they have, why they should be removed.

They want to know, and are entitled to know whether the parks are to become political instead of civic assets.

It might seem reasonable to ask the mayor for a real reason for his changes. Does it mean better parks for the people or more jobs for a machine?

WHAT PRICE MERCY?

"The quality of mercy is not strained," wrote the ancient bard, but he evidently did not have in mind our modern system of organized mercy or the fact that the successors of Portia would become very, very greedy.

The declaration by the head of the pardon board of this State that he intends to investigate outrageous fees charged by lawyers who appear before the board will be very welcome to most citizens.

Every State has had from time to time its scandals over the issuance of pardons. A power that was given for the purpose of either correcting injustice or of extending leniency to those who had suffered enough has been sadly misused from time to time.

Political friends of the pardoning powers have not hesitated in this or any other State to traffic their friendship.

Originally the power of pardon was placed in the hands of the Governor alone. He still is the final arbiter and decides when and how mercy shall be given, but because of the large increase in crime, the vast number of appeals, the danger of imposition and the lack of judgment on the part of many governors, a pardon board now makes its recommendations and its investigations.

The head of that board says that lawyers have charged as high as \$1,000 for a few minutes appearance before the board. That only means that this lawyer is presumed to have exceptional or unusual influence with some member of the board and is trading not upon his legal knowledge but is selling his personal influence.

As a matter of fact there should be no necessity for any lawyer appearing at any time before any pardon board. Presumably the law has done its duty when a man is lodged behind prison walls.

The pardon board is not intended to review the legal points of any prosecution. Its members are expected to consider each case from the standpoint of society and decide whether enough punishment has been inflicted and whether the general welfare will be promoted by the earlier release of the prisoner.

There is no reason why a lawyer should make this plea. The friends of the prisoner, the warden of the institution, those who are interested in his case and who know the facts, are in much better position to plead than any hired attorney.

There should be no price for mercy. The liberty or the lack of liberty of any prisoner should not depend upon the ability of his friends to hire a lawyer with political influence. The appearance of such a lawyer before a board ought to put the members of that board upon their guard. They should understand that when one of their personal or political friends appears to argue in behalf of a prisoner, that friend has been obtained because something else than the facts are needed to secure pardon or parole.

Let it be hoped that before the pardon board finishes with its inquiry as to fees charged by lawyers it will adopt the simple rule of barring all lawyers asking such fees from appearing before the board.

If there is any place where there should be no suggestion of pull, politics or plunder, it is in the board which deals with human destiny and which has intrusted to it the divine power of forgiveness.

FOLKS, MEET YOUR PRETTY COUSINS

It's odd how we frequently know people a long way off better than we do our next-door neighbors—or even members of our own family.

We of the United States, for instance, know more about folks in Europe than we do about folks in Latin America. And these neighbors of ours know more about Europeans than they do about us.

We're foolish to let that sort of thing go on. Pan-Americans have today, and always have had, much in common. Every republic from the Great Lakes to Cape Horn, at some time or other, has belonged to some old world power and won its independence. Our ideals, past, present and future, are similar.

But somehow we haven't seemed able to get acquainted. The Monroe Doctrine of "don't tread on us," now more than a century old, while giving us a splendid family slogan to rally to, and one that has successfully warned off foreign aggression, has not acted as a cement.

Nor has the more recent Pan-American Union. A good idea, in practice it has meant little more than a fictitious or superficial union of governments rather than of peoples. We still know next to nothing about one another and Latin-America continues to look Europeward for friends.

However, we believe, we see a change coming. Of late, Latin Americans have been showing interest. They are demanding to know more about us and today, in consequence, the United Press is daily

cabling vast quantities of information to newspapers throughout that part of the world.

Also a Pan-American Press Congress has just met in Washington. Its delegates are now touring the United States, learning a lot. And it was the sense of this Congress that a permanent association of Pan-American journalists should be formed at once to "create bonds of sympathy and closer understanding" between us.

So it looks as if we might get acquainted at last. We hope so. But let's not forget it takes two to be friends and that we should meet our South and Central American cousins at least half way. If we don't do it, Europe will. In fact she is doing it already.

We've heard a lot about "hands across the sea." Which is all very fine. But let's have some handshaking on our own side of the water—some hands across the Pan-American frontiers.

THE PEOPLE DECIDE

By a very emphatic vote, the people of Chicago have decided that they have no objections to watching boxing matches.

The vote on the question was so large that there is no suggestion that it represents the views of a very brutal minority whose ideas are those of the savage.

A State legislature hesitated about passing such a measure. The members were afraid that women voters would strongly resent any letting down of the legal bars against such exhibitions. They need not have feared, for the women at least did not march to the polls and protest against what has been termed a brutal form of sport.

The vote is significant. It suggests that the viewpoint has changed somewhat since under a nation-wide movement directed by very sincere people, laws were passed in most States making it a crime to stage anyistic contests.

No one has ever claimed that such contests have an elevating effect upon ideas or ideals or that they add anything to the progress of man from the jungle to cultured life.

As a matter of record more people will pay real money to see two pugilists perform than can be dragged to hear the most famous singers render the artistic dreams of the great composers.

The heavyweight champion is always worth at least a million to the man who can get it away from the fellow who has it. That indicates something of popular taste.

But aside from the matter which is settled, the vote indicates that whenever the people get a chance, they knock down laws that attempt to regulate life in its purely personal aspects.

They seize upon every opportunity to take a stand for that personal liberty which places responsibility upon the individual.

They grab at anything which offers a protest to the theory that men and women can be made good or decent or finer through the passing of a statute.

They vote against the theory that all life can be standardized, habits fixed, and tastes or desires controlled by forbidding acts which may be undesirable.

The trend is back to the individual. We, as a people, are beginning to remember that every man and woman has a definite responsibility for decisions and that the greatest strength can only come through choice of the good, not through fear of jail.

It is safe to predict that were a similar vote taken in any Indiana city, the same protest against the doctrine of "You Can't" would be recorded.

It is even safer to predict that not even a very small percentage of those who voted for legalized boxing matches in Chicago will ever see one.

INDIANS USED MICA FOR MIRRORS

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to The Indianapolis Times Washington, D. C., enclosing 2 cents in postage for reply. Most questions and advice cannot be given nor can extended research be undertaken. Please do not expect personal reply. Unsigned requests cannot be answered. All letters to the Indianapolis—Editor.

Did the Indians in this country have mirrors?

Mica was known to some North American tribes and was used by them in making mirrors.

Where were the scenes of the motion picture, "The Vanishing American," filmed?

Nearly all of them were filmed on the Navajo Indian Reservation, 160 miles north of Flagstaff, Ariz. prologue was filmed in the Saguaro Canyon.

What is the effect of coffee on the human system?

It is a stimulant to the heart and nervous centers. It increases the activity of the skin and kidneys and in some persons acts as a mild aperient. It takes away the sense of fatigue. With cream and sugar added it is nutritive. In excess it acts as a poison, producing toxic symptoms such as tremor of the muscles, nervous dread, ad palpitation of the heart. It is an antiseptic to poisoning by opium and alcohol.

When do the orange trees bloom in Paraguay?

In September, October and November. The exact time depends on the location.

What is the name of the paper that is being edited by Eugene V. Debs and where is it published?

It is the American Appeal and the address is Chicago, Ill.

When did the duel between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton occur?

They fought at Weehawken, N. J., July 11, 1775. Alexander Hamilton was killed.

What was Pola Negri's real name? Is she an American citizen?

Her real name is Appollonia Chalupex. She is Polish by birth but has taken out first papers to become an American citizen.

What was the first day of spring of this year?

In 1926, the vernal equinox (spring) occurred March 21, at 4:02 o'clock a. m., Eastern Standard time.

Does Switzerland recognize the right of expatriation; and can American citizens of Swiss origin be conscripted for military service in the United States?

If a Swiss citizen renounces Swiss allegiance in the manner prescribed by the Swiss law of June 26, 1903, and his renunciation is accepted, his naturalization in another country is recognized, but without such acceptance it is not recognized, and is held to descend from generation to generation. There is no conscription law in the United States. However, in the event of war between the United States and a third country, the United States can require the services of a naturalized Swiss in either the Army or Navy, provided he is not within the jurisdictional limits of the Swiss government.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

Just a Warning That Engagement of 'The Big Parade' Is About to End at English's

She Dances



Jeanette Hackett

Two men in khaki stood on a street corner one evening not long ago, debating on their entertainment for the next few hours. Said one, "Let's go to the movies," and the other agreed. What to see, however, was a problem. There was a great variety of film shows, and the two "buddies" were hard put to decide on which one to see.

A toss of the coin ended what threatened to be an argument, and the first theater they came to with a film on view was to be their goal.

"The Big Parade" happened to be the attraction, and here again one of the soldiers balked. "Aw, that's the bunk," cheerfully remarked the first, a grizzled top sergeant with a yard of service stripes on his blouse, "I never saw a picture about the Army that was worth a hoot. They're all wet." "Come on, Sarge," urged the other, "I'll buy." That decided it, for a top sergeant will never turn down an invitation to share something for nothing.

In the theater, before the lights went off, and the film showing began, the sergeant told his companion of the many glaring examples of poor taste in films he had seen, but he piped down as the lights died out. A scornful grunt or two from the grizzled non-com as the first views of the rookies were shown, then silence, until the end of the first half of the entertainment.

In the lobby, his trusty blackened brier glowing under his eagle nose and grizzled mustache, the sergeant spoke grudgingly. "Say, kid, this is good. Did you see the way that detail carried on?" There followed a technical dissertation on the topic under discussion, and an admission that "Maybe I was wrong about this show, after all."

As the two service men came from the theater later, the sergeant remarked, "Say, where's there a canteen about? That was real stuff, that picture, and I'll set 'em up for you. I must tell old Bill Wright about that. It was a great show, and that chap Stallings knew his oats, I'll say."

That it may be remarked about the Lawrence Stallings production, "The Big Parade," at English's now, is the keynote of the entire production.

The author knew whereof he wrote, the director, King Vidor, guided by experts in their line, and taught by years of experience turned out a masterpiece of screen art, and the personnel engaged in the production, from John Gilbert and Renee Adoree, down to the smallest "bit," were all engrossed, because they fitted, in experience and type, the characters they represent on the screen.

"The Big Parade" is on view at English's today and Saturday.

THEATER GUILD AGAIN DOES SOMETHING NEW

We are never going to have Hoosier playwriting unless we encourage the production on Indiana theater.

Last night at the Masonic Temple the Indianapolis Theater Guild presented for the first time on any stage, a farce comedy, "From a Clear Sky," by Augusta Stevenson.

As far as I am concerned I had a perfectly wonderful time last night. I believe that I acted nearly human. Laughed and then laughed some.

I know that a new play is never finished until the doctor has worked on it. There is a lot that can be done with this farce comedy, that is the writing of it.

Miss Stevenson has some things to learn about how to make characters do things while they are on the stage. And yet she has a story.

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Trade In Your Old Furniture On a New Suite

HUBBY HAD BEEN KICKING ABOUT A MISSING BUTTON FROM HIS OVERCOAT FOR A LONG TIME PERIOD. FINALLY FRIEND WIFE DECIDED TO SURPRISE HIM COMMA, BUT SHE COULDNT FIND THE BUTTON PERIOD. WHAT TO DO?

"See America First," as the act is billede, is a group of four girls and two men, who take us on a pleasure trip around the country. The whole thing is worked out in a light way, and stress is laid on the beauty and color of the places we are supposed to visit. The outstanding features

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