

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.

A CHARACTER WITNESS

When a man is on trial, he calls in his friends as character witnesses, if he finds that he needs them.

Quite naturally the close associates of any man know the most about him.

In the present campaign for renomination the best friend of Senator James Watson is the Indianapolis News. It is his character witness. It is, perhaps, something else, too.

That newspaper is urging the voters of the Republican party to again nominate Watson, and is pleading that he is a real statesman, a great leader, an invaluable public servant.

But there are those who remember that in the not distant past, that same newspaper had an entirely different idea of the qualifications and the abilities of Watson.

For nearly a quarter of a century, it has been alluding very frequently to phases of his public life which were anything but commendable, to talents that have nothing at all to do with leadership or statesmanship.

It is not too much to say that during that twenty-five years of constant revelation of the weaknesses of Watson, the Indianapolis News did much to create that almost universal distrust of him which is expressed in public meetings and in private conversations in every part of the State.

When he is defeated for the nomination in May, if he is defeated, it will be because the people of the State know him as a politician who has never hesitated to sacrifice the public good for his own political expedients.

The News found Watson a foe of prohibition in July of 1924, when in an editorial concerning the removal of Bert Morgan as prohibition director, it declared that it was a victory "not for prohibition but for politics." In other words, the dry forces were told that Senator Watson had imperiled their cause to satisfy his own purpose.

Here was the opinion of the News at that time of Watson:

"In dropping Bert Morgan, who was prohibition enforcement officer for Indiana, the main idea seems to be to please Senator Watson. The Senator has been after Morgan's scalp for a long time and now he has it. It was a great victory—not for prohibition, but for politics. Indiana has just been picked out as a conspicuous example of one State where something of an effort was being made to enforce the law. In return for this the man responsible for it is told to resign, and not one word of praise is given to him."

Perhaps the News was joking—and perhaps not—when it followed with the comment that "Some of Jim Watson's valiant friends must have been caught in one of Morgan's raids."

No suggestion of statesmanship here. Merely the picture of a Senator using his influence to avenge the prosecution of bootlegging friends.

If there be any doubt as to what the Indianapolis News then thought of Watson and his ideal of public office, here is another editorial taken from its issue of July 17, 1924:

"According to the national commissioner of prohibition, Roy A. Haynes, no charges have ever been filed against Bert A. Morgan, prohibition agent for Indiana, who is regarded as an efficient officer. Nevertheless, Morgan must go. Whether he has or has not administered his office properly does not appear to be considered. With the politicians the question is whether Morgan has the 'right' attitude politically. The man who is talked of as Morgan's successor is said to be qualified, but primarily he is regarded as a Watson man. This alone would appear to be sufficient qualification in the minds of the Watson politicians. He is also said to be a friend of State Chairman Wahl, who apparently regards an interest in patronage as an important part of his job. Perhaps it is, but there would appear to be enough to do this year in managing the campaign."

"Of course, appointments to State and Federal positions should be considered on the basis of merit. Morgan, according to reports, is to be put out of the way in Indiana in the guise of a promotion that will keep him traveling. Next the politicians presumably will attempt to pick the right (Watson) kind of district attorney to succeed Elliott and the right (Watson) kind of judge to succeed Anderson."

Well, Judge Anderson has gone. In the northern part of the State the Federal judge would feel insulted were any one to suggest that he is not using all his influence to renominate Watson.

This is the testimony of the chief character witness for Watson.

It is the evidence given when there was no reason to taint it with suppression or adulterate it with imagination.

Has Watson changed his entire character and viewpoint since 1924? Has he suddenly ceased to be the master politician and become the super statesman in the past two years?

If not, perhaps the charge being made day after day by Claris Adams that Watson and his new friend propose to create a political hierarchy in this State which will dominate its officials and distribute its offices should be considered.

WELL, WHY NOT?

Now comes a very unusual suggestion and, because it is unusual, one which will probably not be adopted.

A lawyer, studying the defects of our legal system, has the temerity to suggest that there be added to the constitution of every State a provision that every law be automatically repealed at the end of twenty-five years.

Here is at least a practical way to keep the law books from being cluttered with statutes which are made obsolete by changed conditions of life.

The laws of Indiana contain a number of provisions which belong to the museum or the joke columns.

Every city has ordinances that would raise a laugh were they to be brought to public attention, and yet they stand as laws, dug up on occasion by some vindictive person to furnish an excuse for venting his spite.

Every condition of living has changed in the last twenty-five years.

In the old days, there were laws and ordinances controlling and regulating hitchhiking posts in the center of cities and the manner in which horses could be driven along city streets.

Today attention is directed to the automobile

and, within twenty-five years, in all probability, the people will be more concerned with the airplane than with the auto.

The old provision that the poll tax could be paid by a day's work on the public roads was a good law when it was passed. Today roads are built by machinery.

If the habits and customs have changed, the viewpoint of the people on many questions has changed quite as radically and completely.

Occasionally the old blue laws are evoked in communities under some special stress. Most of them would be refused a hearing before any State Legislature if it were proposed to enact them as new laws.

If we are to keep pace with the spirit of the times and make laws fit the actual thought, purposes and enlightened conscience of a new day, it is more than foolish to have obsolete laws remain as a drag upon progress.

There seems to be more than sense in the suggestion that all laws lose their effect after a term of years. The laws which fit conditions can be passed again. The dead will be permitted to bury its dead under such a system.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE FARMER

President Coolidge at Chicago last December suggested that the American farmer shouldn't ask the Government to help him out of his distress. He should lift himself up by his own bootstraps, the President, in effect, intimated.

The President got a lot of criticism for that speech.

But it may be the criticism wasn't entirely justified. For the President has been demonstrating ever since December that it is quite possible to lift oneself by one's bootstraps. He has been doing it. He has been lifting himself out of the hole that speech put him in.

Conditions haven't changed. Economic law hasn't changed. But Coolidge has. He has lifted himself several pegs higher in the estimation of the farmers. It is a long step from that speech to the present farmer relief bill, drawn by his Secretary of Agriculture and having the President's support. It is a still longer step from the speech the President made at the opening of the present Congress, in which he said:

"They (the farmer) do not wish to have meddling on the part of the Government or to be placed under the inevitable restrictions involved in any system of direct or indirect price-fixing, which would permit the Government to operate in the agricultural markets."

Just how far the President has lifted himself from this position is made clear by a dispatch from The Times Washington bureau, on another page, analyzing the present status of farm relief legislation.

Blizzard in China. Bet they stuck their shirt tails in then.

The rising generation's great problem is the cost of gas.

Your luck could be worse. After a Tullos (La.) man dragged goods out of his burning store they were stolen.

IS EUGENE V. DEBS A CITIZEN?

By Gilson Gardner

Federal authorities are plainly averse to a legal test of the question whether Eugene V. Debs has been deprived of his citizenship. They will, however, have to face it.

When Debs was released from Atlanta penitentiary where he served thirty-two months for expressing his opinions about our going into the war, he was granted a commutation of sentence, not a pardon. A pardon would have restored rights of citizenship. He declined then to ask for a pardon and he declines now to make such request, taking the position that he never violated any law and, therefore, there is nothing to ask pardon for.

The matter is not important so far as the peace of mind or physical well-being of Mr. Debs is concerned. There is no intention to question Debs' right to return from Bermuda where, with Mrs. Debs, he has been seeking health.

Assistant Secretary of Labor W. W. Husband, in charge of immigration enforcement, says there never has been any question as to Debs' right to return from Bermuda. There is a presidential proclamation which supplements the so-called "quota act" which declares that residents of the United States may visit Canada, Mexico, Cuba and nearby island without passports, and without reference to the immigration acts.

What, then, are the "rights of citizenship" of which Debs is supposed to have been deprived? Pardon Attorney Finch, who has served thirty years as specialist in these lines for many succeeding attorneys general, says, "Debs lost no civil rights under the Federal law by reason of his conviction. It is very probable that he did lose, indirectly, by the operation of the law of the State of Indiana, certain civil rights, chief of which is the right to hold office, which may or may not include the right to vote."

It is this uncertainty as to "citizenship rights" in general that friends of Debs and of civil liberty want cleared up. Under what law or provision of the Constitution does a man lose his "citizenship" or his right to vote or hold office by conviction under a Federal statute?

This question has been addressed by Morris Hill, quit of New York to Attorney General Sargent with a special reference to the Debs case. At the office of the Attorney General it is reported that no such letter has been noted. Certainly Mr. Sargent has declined to reply. This is not surprising, as Mr. Donovan is the real attorney general and Mr. Sargent has a child-like absence of information as to all matters pertaining to his office. Mr. Donovan is the antithesis of Mr. Sargent, but he is ignorant officially also of the Debs controversy.

A writ may bring the matter into court.

In Congress a bill has been introduced by Victor Berger to "re-admit Debs to all the rights and privileges of a citizen of the United States."

"Depriving Mr. Debs of a right to vote is no practical hardship on Mr. Debs," said Mr. Berger. "Debs can be candidate for President when he is still in jail and can receive the endorsement of hundreds of thousands of his fellow citizens. If elected President it is likely the law would be altered, which might stand in the way of his taking the office. But, after all, the matter is very important as a matter of principle. We want to know by what right it is assumed that a political prisoner is deprived of any of his rights for exercising his plain constitutional rights."

"I have no doubt that the time will come in this country when it will be regarded as an honor to have had the experience Debs had. In England there are twenty-three members of the present Parliament who served wartime sentences in prison. They have organized their 'jailbird club' and hold their regular annual dinner."

RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

A SMALLER HIGH SCHOOL

The Shortridge High School problem approaches solution. The majority faction of the board, it is said, views favorably the suggestion that the new school to accommodate 1,800 pupils, instead of 2,500 as originally planned, be erected on the Thirty-Fourth St. site, and a system of junior high schools be started.

That seems to be an excellent solution of the dispute. Why didn't someone think of it sooner?

Educational authorities generally agree that more effective work is done in high schools with less than 2,500 pupils. So more and smaller high schools would improve our school system if not add such improvements to our city skyline.

W. M. Aiken, a prominent St. Louis educator, in a speech in Indianapolis some months ago, stated that the ideal high school should not have an enrollment exceeding 1,000.

How far Indianapolis high schools at present fall short of that ideal?

Arsenal Tech sprawls all over a township. It has an enrollment of 5,000 or more. It is not a high school. It is an educational city. Principal Milo H. Stuart, has never seen his entire student gathered together at one time.

Manual Training is double the size that the learned Miscellaneous declares is most efficient. As for the present Shortridge, it is a wreck.

In reducing the size of the new Shortridge to a school to accommodate 1,800 pupils and planning junior high schools, the board will be stepping right along with the trend of modern progressive school systems. And undoubtedly the decision will expedite erection of the new high school. And that is what plain citizens want.

STREAMS AND SEWAGE

Indiana Isaak Walton Leaguers are urging legislation to require all Hoosier cities to install sewage disposal plants and are actively engaged in a program to stop stream pollution.

Such a movement should have the support of conservation enthusiasts, nature lovers and plain citizens.

Fifty years ago Indiana was traversed by dozens of limpid, sparkling streams, gurgling joyfully between grassy banks. There are none such now. Most of them just crawl along under a burden of mud sewage, rusted tin cans, industrial waste and a thick crust of germs. Some of them emit an aroma that will keep the point of a passing automobile and make the motorist's hair bristle.

The Imperial Riley would be tongue-tied if asked to sing of his beloved Brandywine as it is today. Some months ago residents along the St. Joseph River below South Bend complained that so much of mud and waste had been dumped into that stream that it was inflammable.

As for White River, which flows through Indianapolis, it is full of sediment, sewage and suicides. White River! There is nothing white about it now. It slinks across country under an alias, viewed with suspicion by health authorities wherever it goes.

Civilization is certainly hard on rivers—at least, in Indiana.

It is impossible, with intensive cultivation of land and crowding population, to keep streams as clear and pure as they were originally. They should be sponged off, cleaned up, and unnecessary pollution prevented, to save as much as possible of their beauty for the enjoyment of future Hoosiers.

EDUCATION AND CRIME

Men who are well educated do not commit crimes, according to the Rev. L. C. Murr, chaplain of the State Reformatory at Pendleton.

In the seventeen years he has been connected with the institution only four college graduates have been confined there, he said not long ago in a public address. And of approximately 1,600 men now in Pendleton only twenty-two are high school graduates. A third grade education is about the average for all the men.

Apparently, from the statistics, education pays. At least it seems to be a crime preventive.

Probably it is. However, yesterday a graduate of Kansas University, a star athlete, was arrested in New York charged with holding up a restaurant. And yesterday the bandit who staged the sensational Indiana Harbor mail robbery, in which he obtained \$37,000 in currency, was apprehended and confessed. He was a high school graduate, an interscholastic football star.

And yesterday Chicago police arrested a radio burglar, who in a short career had stolen radio equipment and jewelry, totaling several hundreds of thousands in value, from Chicago homes. He was a graduate of Wisconsin University, he said.

No doubt education is a crime deterrent. A well educated man is likely to feel the economic urge to steal. But if we were all college graduates, crimes would still be committed.

ON THE MOVE

Dr. Ralph W. Stockman, prominent New York preacher, in a recent Indianapolis address, deplores the nomadic tendency of Americans. He thinks we move around too much. "In New York city," he said, "people are moving an average of once every two years."

According to him, the nation would be better off if people stayed in one place long enough to develop "local loyalties."

We don't dispute his statistics. Naturally New Yorkers must

either move or pay rent. Who can blame them for moving? But whether the nomadic tendency of our population is to be deplored is debatable.

It is undoubtedly true that we are restless rovers. Families don't stay put. Sons and daughters move to other towns and States and it is an unusual family tree that, in two or three generations doesn't have its branches in a dozen sections of the country. One of the surest ways to get your picture in the paper is to live fifty years in the house in which you were born. However if it wasn't for Hoosiers who have left their home State and fared forth Florida and California would yet be undiscovered. If it hadn't been for the venturesome rovers who left their old homes on the Atlantic seaboard and moved west, Indiana would never have been settled. If Christopher Columbus had stayed in Genoa cultivating "local loyalties" he wouldn't have bumped into America.

The very nomadic instinct that is deplored is what settled and developed this country.

Perhaps our failure to settle in some locality and vegetate has rubbed off some of our moral luster, as a people, and withered some of the beautiful flowers of stable family life where generation succeeds generation in the same locality. But because we are on the move we have a single, unified, homogeneous nation from coast to coast instead of forty-eight with forty-eight sets of animosities and dialects.

THE VERY IDEA!

By Hal Cochran

A Tale o' Tots

"Aw, what's the use of cleanin' up?" you've oft heard children say. "I'll only get it soiled again, when I go out to play. Ya always make me scrub myself. I claim ya hadn't oughter. It seems to me it's foolish, an' yer wastin' soap an' water."

"Aw, see it's only half past eight—why should I be in bed? That's something else, no doubt, that every little kid has said. 'I'll letcha read, an' I won't fuss. You'll never hear me peep. Say, what's the use of crawlin' in, when I can't go to sleep?'"

Just one more piece of cake—aw, please! How well a parent knows that every little tot can tease in just such words as these. "Aw, I don't like my salad, 'cause it makes my tummy ache. Of course I still am hungry, but I'd rather eat more cake."

Since first this funny world began, all kids have been the same. It's just a part of living, and there's no one quite to blame. God gave each little child a mind and, though queer things confuse it, it's teasin' and the like, you'll find, that teach a child to use it.

When fast colors don't run, how can you tell they are fast?

The Senate and the House pages run for Congress every year—but never are elected.

Prof. Otergosh, Saxes has discovered what makes the giraffe's head so far away from its body. Its neck.

FABLES IN FACT

THE HUSBAND AND THE WIFE WERE DISCUSSING STYLES PERIOD SHE COMMA OF COURSE COMMA WAS CONTENT. IN STYLE OF BE A BACK NUM. BER PERIOD HUBBY LISTENED TO HER SIDE OF THE STORY. TILL HE GOT TIRED OF IT COMMA AND THEN SAID COMMA QUOTATION MARK JUDGING FROM THE DRESSES YOU'VE BEEN WEARING LATELY COMMA FASHION AMOUNTS TO PRACTICALLY NOTHING QUOTATION MARK PERIOD FATHER WAS RIGHT PERIOD (Copyright, 1926, NEA Service, Inc.)

Many Beauties and a Circus Clown



Illinois furnishes eight of the young women shown in the pyramid, while Ontario supplies the ninth. They are members of the acme of aerial perfection, "The Flying Wards," know as the greatest trapeze act in the world. Aside from the women members there are seven young men, the entire company being members of the Ward family.

The have been connected with the Sells-Floto circus for a number of seasons and will all be with the show when it comes to this city on Friday, April 30. Their performance is unquestionably the most daring and sensational of all aerial achievements, calling for utmost skill and sureness of eye. Eddie Ward, long famous as a trapeze athlete, heads the troupe. Mayne Ward, his wife, shown at the lower right, is the only woman in the world, who while blindfolded and bound in a gunny sack does a double somersault in mid-air to a catch.

Questions and Answers

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to The Indianapolis Times, c/o Washington Bureau, 1322 New York Ave., Washington, D. C. Inclusive 2 cents in stamps for reply. Medical, legal and martial advice cannot be given nor can extended research be undertaken. All other questions will receive a personal reply. Unusual requests cannot be answered. All letters are confidential.—Editor.

How can the colors of a Wilton rug that have become dull be made bright again?

One way is to sprinkle salt at one end and sweep it the length of the rug. Another way is to use a vacuum cleaner. Still another method is to wipe the rug with a cloth dampened with water to which household ammonia has been added, about two tablespoons to a quart of warm water.

When and why was the United States Shipping Board created?

It was created by act of Congress approved Sept. 7, 1918, for the purpose of developing and creating a naval auxiliary and naval reserve and merchant marine to meet the requirements of the commerce of the United States with its territories and possessions and with foreign countries; to regulate carriers by water engaged in foreign and interstate commerce of the United States and for other purposes. It is an independent establishment of the executive branch of the Government composed of seven members.

What is sea kale?

A perennial plant of the family Cruciferae, native to European sea coasts. Its blanched sprouts are eaten like asparagus. It is especially popular in England, and is grown elsewhere to a limited extent. Generally it is propagated by offsets of cuttings of the roots and sometimes from seed.

Did Barbara La Marr finish the picture "The Girl from Montmartre," on which she was working just before her death?

No. Lolita Lee, Miss La Marr's double, replaced the star in the leading role near the end of the photograph.

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