

The Indianapolis Times

BOYD GURLEY, Editor.

ROY W. HOWARD, President.

WM. A. MAYBORN, Bus. Mgr.

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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.

TRIAL BY JURY

If you read again, as all good citizens will, the Declaration of Independence on the celebration of its 150th anniversary, you may be struck by the fact that one of the reasons of revolt was the refusal of King George to grant trial by jury to Americans accused of crime.

It may be well to ponder a moment over that fact and ask how far we are drifting in the direction of the King George attitude.

Last week the attorney for the Anti-Saloon League obtained an injunction—and a fee of \$100—against an aged veteran, resident of Martinsville.

He owns a farm and rents it. He has been unfortunate in his tenants. Some of them have violated the prohibition law by erecting stills for the making of moonshine.

So the league, bringing into play the law it obtained from the last Legislature, has a judge order the aged man to prevent his tenants from violating this law.

The operation of a still is a crime. If the owner rents his property for this purpose he commits a crime. If he commits a crime, he is entitled under what the founders declared to be an inalienable right of a trial before a jury.

Charged with a crime, it would be necessary to prove that he had some part in the crime. Men who rent farms and houses are sometimes imposed upon. It might be just possible that even after the most careful investigation of his tenants, he could be led to turn over his land to those who would misuse it. A jury might believe him innocent of wrong intent.

But if he rents his land to any person, uses all possible care, and then his tenant violates the law, he can be dragged into court, not for a crime, but for a contempt of court and a violation of an injunction.

He could be sent to jail for that contempt without a trial by jury. In the final analysis he would be punished for what is a crime. Technically he would be jailed for a violation of a mandate issued by a judge.

That is the whole purpose of the league's law providing for such orders.

Its leaders openly announce that it may be necessary to waive the bill of rights in order to enforce their law.

That is the policy of the league, to impose its will and enforce its wishes, no matter if the rest of the Constitution is tossed into the discard.

How much does the right of trial by jury mean to you? Is it worth keeping? Is the league right in its policies? Were those sturdy men who wrote that Declaration of Independence and backed it with their blood and fortunes, fools and dreamers?

BILL NYE'S NEPHEW WINS

The farmers of North Dakota are sending Bill Nye's nephew back to the United States Senate.

Maybe Washington will laugh that off and maybe Washington won't. For Coolidge was made the issue in the Dakota campaign which ended Wednesday and the voters reversed the majority which they gave him two years ago.

Not only that, but Nye—Senator Gerald P. Nye—won on a platform that will sound more radical in Washington than the farmers' plan of farm relief, which the Administration succeeded in killing last week.

This program, however, doesn't sound so radical, in North Dakota. It includes keeping the State in the banking business, the milling business, the insurance and bonding business, meat packing and manufacture of twine.

The supporters of Nye claim that the State-owned bank of North Dakota has reduced the interest rate on farm loans from 10 per cent to 6 per cent. That the State-owned mill raised the price of wheat 10 cents a bushel while reducing the price of flour \$2 a barrel, and made \$114,000 profit; that the State's twine factory made \$1,000,000 profit; that the State's bonding, fire and tornado departments made \$1,000,000 profit; that the State's insurance department has saved the farmers \$26,000,000 in premiums.

A lot of shrewd thinkers will be prepared to argue, in the face of any showing that North Dakota may make, that it is bad business to have the Government in business.

But even these must admit that the Dakota farmers have got hold of one vital principle in their efforts to solve the farm problem.

That is this: That the farmer will always get too little for his product and the public will always pay too much for it, as long as the present array of middlemen stand between the farmers and the public.

In North Dakota they have compelled the State government to take over the role of middlemen in some lines, absorbing all the other profit-takers and returning the profits to the people, through better prices for the grower, lower prices for the consumer and reduced taxes for both.

THE SPIRIT OF NEIGHBORS

Out in Kansas Mrs. John Hubel's husband died, leaving a seventy-five-acre field of wheat and a ten-acre plot of oats standing. It was the height of the busy season, with all hands busy in their own fields.

But they were not too busy to lend a hand. The other days eleven binders and twenty-seven shockers descended upon the uncult fields. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon the wheat and oats were in the shock.

The old spirit of neighborliness seems dead sometimes. In the cities people live next to one another for years and never say as much as "How do you do?" A next-door neighbor might die and be buried without his fellows knowing anything about it.

It is good to know that the spirit of the old neighbor, who used to rush in with a glass of grape juice whenever any one in the family would fall ill, has not vanished from the earth.

WILL WATSON ACT?

All of the brave words of the United States Senate on the subject of election slush funds will prove to be moonshine if the Senate does not call from the subcommittee today the resolution by Senator La Follette fixing a limit on the money that can be spent in senatorial primaries.

All the brave orators on this subject, Republican

Tracy

Can We Successfully Challenge Personal In-genuity of Public?

By M. E. Tracy

With an appropriation of \$29,000,000 an enrollment of 4,000 men and a carefully worked out campaign, General Andrews should be able to demonstrate whether the Volstead Act can be enforced during the next twelve months.

One weak spot, as he himself admits, lies in the fact that even if the diversion of industrial alcohol and the sale of beer are stopped, people can still make their own liquor by processes and from materials which the law does not prohibit.

No matter how successful the Government may be in guarding coast and border, or in putting boot-leggers out of business, there is still the possibility of millions of home distilleries spoiling it all.

In challenging personal privilege, we have necessarily challenged personal ingenuity and if citizens can't get what they want through trade and exchange there is always the alternative of turning to their own firesides for relief.

It is not a pleasant thing to contemplate, but it is within the bounds of possibility that we have wrecked the big gin mill only to have it reappear in a multitude of kitchens.

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Not So Spectacular

Considering how the West resents the failure of farm relief legislation, and more particularly how consistently North Dakota has flirted with the Non-Partisan League, it is not surprising that Gerald P. Nye should have won the Republican nomination for United States Senator in that State against the Coolidge candidate.

Another reverse for the Administration, of course, but so unexpected or spectacular as some of the others have been.

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Work for Women

"Civilization perishes where women are idle," says Rabbi Mayer of Kansas City.

They should go into industry, says, "not in the limited sense of factory labor, but in the broader sense of all work."

Now that woman is relieved of the drudgery of past ages," he says, "with nothing to do after day, she spends her afternoons playing cards and her nights rushing to dances, trying to forget her idleness in a frenzy of boresome pleasure."

A lot of truth in that.

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A Milestone

The great Delaware bridge has been finished and dedicated, a vivid illustration of how far we have gone since this Republic was established and a fitting monument to the 150th anniversary of its birth.

It is nearly two miles long with a middle span of 1,750 feet and 6,000 vehicles can pass over it every hour, not to mention electric cars and fast interurbans.

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Corruption Yardsticks

It is illegal for Congress to fix a general limit on what senatorial candidates should spend.

There is too much difference in the size and population of the various States.

New York, for instance, contains 175 times as many people as Nevada, while Texas has 250 times the area of Rhode Island.

If \$25,000 is a legitimate amount for a senatorial candidate to spend in one it is vastly too much or vastly too little for the others.

Besides it is impossible to substitute a given sum of money for honesty.

A candidate might spend \$100,000 without offense.

On the other hand, he might spend only \$25 and commit a crime. We have too much of this yardstick legislation altogether and not enough of that intangible, but wonderfully effective thing known as common sense.

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Grapevine Telegraph

You wonder sometimes how information travels so far and why it takes such peculiar forms.

So far as cable mail and the printed word are concerned, the process is easily understood and generally the right idea finds it mark.

But the grapevine agencies that still play a large part in the transmission of thought, the chance remark, the careless gossip and swagging yarn—these are harder to define and harder still to keep within the limits of dependability.

Where, for instance, did that little Serbian lad get the inspiration to run away from his home and visit the United States for the sole purpose of seeing Coney Island?

We certainly do not regard Coney Island as the most worthwhile or beautiful thing in this country but that was his apparent conception.

He has been two years making the journey, working his way painfully westward by stealing rides, begging food and suffering all kinds of hardships.

The pathetic part of it is that he should have landed in Boston, instead of New York, and that the authorities will probably deport him without giving him so much as one single peep at the goal of his ambition and the altar he paid such an awful price to visit.

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HOW QUIET SHOULD THE WEDDING BE?

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

Probably no girl in this country but was thrilled over the story of Alice Mellon's wedding. For romance recognizes no rich and no poor. The wealthiest bride of the nation who gives her hand and heart to a man of small means is a lovable a figure as the beggar maid to whom a king stoops.

Not all girls may have weddings as sumptuous as was the Mellon-Bruce nuptials, but each may have her own smaller affair, and even in the shabbies surroundings the preliminary preparations for marriage are interesting.

Many people nowadays object to elaborate ceremonies. They will advise lovers to go quietly to some sequestered spot, away from the world and their friends, and become man and wife without the bother of bridesmaids and rice. But this is never wise advice.

Every girl is entitled to her pre-nuptial good times, to those thrilling hours when she is the center of attraction to her small world. And keep this fact in mind. If all marriages were attended with ceremony beforehand, if guests were invited to the wedding feast, there would be fewer unhappy marriages.

Not that large weddings make for happiness, of course, but they do give both bride and groom time to contemplate the step they are about to take. Large weddings are much safer than these jumped up marriages which are made on a dare or a bet or because a girl becomes suddenly over-persuaded by her sweet heart. Ceremonial weddings are often ill-fated, but the per cent of these that end in the divorce court is small when compared to the secret, hidden, eloping sort which occur so quickly and are decided upon so hastily that neither boy nor girl has time to realize what they are doing.

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\$500,000 GAIN SHOWN

An increase of nearly \$500,000 in receipts of the office of Frederick E. Schortemeyer, secretary of State, is shown today in the semi-annual financial report. Total business for the period was \$5,034,018.50, as against \$4,583,625.58 for the corresponding period last year and \$4,879.37 for the first six months in 1924.

The automobile license department shows the largest increase, \$390,014.68, with total collections of \$4,820,690.63 for the first half of 1924. Receipts of the corporate department and the general business office show a \$55,717.77 gain.

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RAIN AIDS FISHERMEN

Sweeps Away Spillway of State Hatchery at Illinois Town.

YORKVILLE, Ill., June 25.—Besides being a big aid to farmers of this vicinity a rainstorm here will prove of great benefit to fishermen.

High waters swept away the spillway of the State fish hatchery and washed 1,500,000 newly hatched

“Stars of Tomorrow” Looks Like It Will Live Up to Its High Title at the Palace

COURT ATTACHES TO WORK MONDAY

Criminal Judge Collins Insists on Holding Regular Arraignment Despite Independence Day.

Independence day means a holiday

next Monday for most persons, but

it has a singular significance for at-

taches of the Criminal Court, who

will be obliged to work that day—

at least most of the forenoon. Judge

James A. Collins has decreed that

the regular monthly arraignment

must be held that day and no fire-

works will blast his determination to

give all persons indicted during the

past month an opportunity to enter

their pleas in open court.

“Isn't that sickening?” signed Miss

Billie Billman, deputy clerk. “I

can't plan any week-end trip because

I must be back Monday morning.”

However, Miss Billman admitted

that while her independence will be

curbed a trifle on that day, there are

a lots of people in the county jail

whose independence is completely

surrounded by thick stone walls and

barred windows.

“I wonder what a prisoner in his cell thinks about on Independence Day,” asked Miss Billman. “Perhaps after all, it is a little selfish of me to grumble when those poor men and women must realize that their confinement may be months and even years.”

Mrs. Josephine Ahlfeldt, who as-

sists Miss Billman in entering

plaques of defendants, declared

“it will feel funny to come to work

Monday when all the rest of the

courthouse will be closed.” “But

there'll be plenty of time to celebrate afterward,” smiled Mrs. Ahlfeldt.