

# 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.

## KNOW YOUR STATE

INDIANA communicates over 535,426 telephones, according to reports from various sources, as of Jan. 1, 1926. This is a gain of approximately 18,000 phones in one year, a rate of increase equal to eleven of the more populous States. Scientific development of the telephone business is advanced in Indiana, the first State to adopt the automatic system for large municipal service.

## A CITY MANAGER

The revolt has finally come. The heavy cost of politics in city government is forcing thinking men to seek a way to rid themselves of the burdens that politics places upon their property.

The blatant police announcements that there will be a drive to clean up vice and crime only emphasizes the fact that the police, for mysterious reasons, have permitted vice and crime to gain a place in this city.

An efficient force, free from political fear, would never need to make a special drive against evil.

A police force that did not have to guess whether particular bootleggers, peddlers of lottery tickets or gamblers had a pull, would put them out of business whenever they began to operate.

If men were named to the police and fire departments on merit and held their jobs on service, there would be no need for the mayor to announce that he would put into effect a civil service system through high grade citizens.

The announcement that he would take politics out of these departments is a confession that he has let politics rule these departments.

Very soon, the owners of property in this city will find out that they are paying for politics in the fire department in the form of increased insurance rates. They have already paid in a menace to legitimate business in police matters by the tolerance of lotteries to such an extent that merchants had to protest that these gamblers were getting too strong in their competition.

A survey of other departments of the city government would show more inroads into tax funds that are made by political domination of officials.

The activities of the council, the attitude of its majority members toward the public welfare, and the pitiful inability of the mayor in crises is ample proof that if any business enterprise in this city were run on the same basis as the city government, it would be bankrupt.

Can you imagine any manufacturing or commercial or transportation enterprise picking the members of the present council as its board of directors?

The operation of a city government is very largely a business matter.

Nine-tenths of all its service is a business service. It has no connection with national politics. It has no policy or program even remotely associated with national politics.

Yet we continue to make our governments partisan in their character and elect men because of their standing in partisan groups.

These cities which wish to progress have discovered that they can prosper better and grow faster by getting rid of the burden of partisan politics.

They have adopted the city manager plan of government and turned to a business from a political basis.

They have wiped out the system which makes politics the dominant note in government.

Now a group of public spirited citizens propose to bring that change to Indianapolis.

It is a movement which every citizen who wants decency in government, who wants a dollar's worth of service for a dollar paid in taxes, who wants business management not political favoritism, can support most wholeheartedly.

## RUBBER AND INDEPENDENCE

While Carmi Thompson is in the Philippines as the special envoy of President Coolidge, word comes from the summer White House that the United States Government plans to encourage the growth of rubber in the islands.

The news followed the visit of Harvey S. Firestone Jr., who told the President of his personal investigation of conditions.

American tire manufacturers, according to Firestone, are preparing to establish a source of rubber supply on a vast scale, that will make them independent of the British monopoly.

Such an undertaking will be complicated. Before American rubber interests can effectively utilize the twenty-five million acres in the island of Mindanao, which Firestone has told the President are admirably adapted to rubber culture, the land laws of the Philippines must be changed.

Those laws provide that no corporation can own over 2,500 acres. They were enacted to keep foreign interests from acquiring huge tracts.

It is unlikely that the Philippine legislature, standing virtually 100 per cent for immediate independence, will willingly relax the laws.

Perhaps Carmi Thompson will be able to find out how to accomplish the difficult task of getting the land laws changed to make rubber culture possible. That may, in fact, explain his rather mysterious mission.

An independent source of American rubber supply is desirable. The British at present control about 77 per cent of the world production and control exports in a manner that creates an artificial price.

The question remains, of course, what effect such a rubber supply would have on the premise of independence—made by Congress and by every President from Roosevelt to Harding. If Government rubber holdings are developed in the islands, the question of independence is certain to be involved, and perhaps shelved for the time.

## THE SILENT INSULL

Having admitted giving many thousands of dollars to influence senatorial nominations in Illinois, Senator Insull grows suddenly silent.

He hires good lawyers who tell him that there are technical reasons why Senator Reed can't force him to tell about more thousands of dollars spent in controlling other elections.

He refuses to tell how much money he gave to groups of politicians in Chicago, groups which are not averse to also taking the votes of gunmen and

# Tracy

Five Primaries Result In  
Three Draws and Two  
Barren Tallys.

By M. E. Tracy

bootleggers and hi-jackers to put their men in power.

The refusal to go into all his political activities will interest the people of Indiana and of Indianapolis because he is presumed to control a number of utilities in this State and city.

It is true that he has a hazy idea about his own power in this city and State and could not tell Senator Reed whether he had contributed to the recent Republican primaries in this State.

He was not sure whether John Motter, the campaign manager of Watson, was an official of one of his companies or connected with it.

He just couldn't remember whether he had given any money in Indiana, but his evasive answer was "not to my knowledge."

That rather suggests that he might make contributions without knowing it and that politics may be as much a part of the utility business as wire or coal or labor.

The significant thing is the refusal of Insull to tell what he did give.

The ordinary citizen who takes a part in politics is quite ready to boast of his activities.

He will put on a button to tell the world where he stands. He will ask his neighbor to see things his way. He is proud of his convictions on public questions and is ready to discuss the reasons for his faith.

He is rather proud if he chips in a dollar or two to help keep the show going.

There is only one reason for the Insull silence. He is afraid, of course, that the people will resent getting their Senators with their gas and electric light and street car rides. He is afraid that people may think that public officials who receive power through his cash donations may serve him much better than they serve the voters who are still fooled into voting for birds or animals.

The people, of course, would think exactly that thing and it would probably be true.

Watch the agents of these big corporations this fall. Find out what they are doing. Then a good safe bet is to vote for the candidates they oppose.

## THE FARMER'S POSITION

Farmers of the country received in the crop season of 1925-26 slightly more than three billion dollars in cash as their income after expenses were paid, the agriculture department says.

This is an average of \$779 for each farm family, for both years' work and the return on the value of the farm. For work alone the farm family got \$648.

The department says that return on the farmer's investment averaged about 3.5 per cent, compared with the 6, 8 and 10 per cent the farm mortgage holders received and the 11 per cent corporations were estimated to have earned.

Also, it adds, the farm family's earnings were about 30 per cent less than in 1920. Compared with wage earners, the latter's money return has stayed about the same for three years, and he has been able to buy about 16 per cent more than he could for the same money in 1920, while the farmer has been able to buy about 20 per cent less than he could now buy for his 1920 income.

When these figures are considered with the department's recent statement that the purchasing power of farm products has receded until it is about 85 against 100 of other products, the reasons for agricultural unrest become clearer.

Don't forget to learn the 986 new laws passed by the House. You know, ignorance of the law is no excuse.

Your luck may be bad, but a Texas man has been farming forty-two years.

Don't ask for more butter. A waiter shot a man in a Paris cafe.

Labor day is the first Monday in September. That gives us Sunday and Monday. Start resting up now.

If a white suit makes it rain, put on a bathing suit and stop it.

Even though turtles live 200 years they never get anywhere much.

They cut their hair. They bob their skirts. They diet. But they hate to reduce expenses.

Big league reports indicate farmer boys make the best fielders.

## MARTYR'S WIFE GREATEST SUFFERER

By MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

The entire country is stirred over the murder of Don R. Mellett, a newspaper man who dared to tell the truth and who gave his life because he did not know what it was to be afraid.

He was a martyr and he is dead, but his wife lives on with her sorrow. How do you suppose she feels? Does the fact that the sacrifice of his life may awaken the nation to the danger of the crime which seethes underneath our outward splendor reconcile her to existence without him? I doubt it.

Right now, we can imagine, Mrs. Mellett would not care how deeply Canton, Ohio, might be sunk in vice if she could have back her husband who walked out of the kitchen that night and never came back again.

In every path of life, upon every plane of society, it is the woman who suffers the greatest pain. Men are up and doing, working and dying. But their wives are left with sorrow that time can not wholly appear nor memory forget. Crime waves kill men, but they break the hearts and the souls of women.

Our grandmothers will read of this heinous fury with the same kind of wonderment and fascination as we are read of smuggling along the English coast, of the outlaw bands that flourished two centuries ago.

And when we count the cost of that vile deed which was perpetrated against a decent and fearless man, let us not fail to keep in mind that the same assassin's bullet wounded a woman's life.

The children who called him father will grow up and find happiness again. The fact that he played the game squarely will be for them a proud memory, and even though they have been so early deprived of his counsel, to children life is always, after a time, a glad and joyous thing.

But to the wife of Don Mellett, neither time nor distance, nor the passing years nor that quiet that comes with age, will ever give back again the same sort of happiness which that shot in the dark took from her forever.

It is horrible to think that many a woman has lived through such a thing in twentieth century America. And these lonely wives are all too soon for gotten. If we would only keep our minds upon the widowed and the orphaned instead of wasting so much mauldin sympathy over those criminals who are already caught, we should not have a condition which necessitates a woman having to give up her husband so that a gang of thugs might be driven out of a city.

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# Warner Brothers Get Ready to Invade Europe With Movie Road Shows Soon

## How to Swim—No. 16



Illustrating the breast stroke.

By Lillian Cannon

During the breast stroke, the hands and arms are under water all the time, while the head is entirely out of water.

The first position in the breast stroke is with the shoulders just at the surface of the water, the arms stretched straight forward with the hands touching and the legs in a straight line behind, with ankles touching.

Mr. Starr will be met in London by Gus Schlesinger, general manager of foreign distribution, now in Germany, and the two executives will complete plans for the reorganization of Vitagraph, Ltd., which will result in the distribution of future Warner products through Vitagraph instead of another company, as of the past.

After leaving London they will go to France and Germany to look over the picture situation there together. A recent deal places the distribution of Warner pictures in the hands of Bruckmann in Germany.

Mr. Starr goes abroad in place of

H. M. Warner, who had planned the trip, but is compelled to remain in New York to supervise the launching of the Vitaphone road shows here.

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