

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.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

The grand jury, or some other public body or official, should be interested in the revelation, made in the Times today, of the peculiar purchase of trucks by the county commissioners.

When trucks cost the people of the county \$1,000 more than was paid by the State highway commission for a similar truck, it may not be unreasonable to inquire the reasons for the transaction.

Such an inquiry might open up for public view more interesting facts concerning the disbursement of the county funds.

The little matter of the voting machines bought from the son of one of the commissioners might be investigated with some satisfaction to the public.

It is true that the former grand jury suggested that further inquiries be made into the matter, for the law unfortunately, does not look with favor upon the letting of contracts, especially at fancy prices, to relatives of officials.

This truck purchase seems so peculiar that it should be explained.

Buying a truck ought to be a rather simple transaction.

Many business men buy trucks. They go about it in much the same way. And they generally go about the same motions.

They get bids from those who sell the sort of trucks they want. They select a truck that will do the work they wish done. And then they get the best possible price.

Theoretically the two majority members of the county commission who voted for this purchase did the same thing, but they finally did something that business men would be unusual.

They paid, according to the records, \$1,000 more for each of six trucks that they could have purchased a similar truck guaranteed to do the same work.

Why was that extra thousand paid? And perhaps it may develop that it is really more than a thousand dollars on a truck and that a careful business practices would have saved even more than that.

Is there some reason why the people's money should be treated differently than private money?

The grand jury seems to be the proper body to discover the reasons and explain the business practices of this board.

The people should have at least an explanation for that thousand.

STILL BOOSTING RAILWAYS' CLAIM

Fifty billion dollars!

What's that? Somebody making a bid for the United States?

Not a bit of it. It's what the Wall Street Journal says it would cost to construct the railroads of the country today. On other words, it's what that publication estimates the railroads are worth.

In announcing this figure the Wall Street paper says:

"The total is staggering."

It's worse than that, it's paralyzing. The last time the wealth of the country was added up its total value was only three hundred and twenty billions of dollars. It's little higher now.

The railroads, according to the New York financial publication, represent a sixth of all the wealth in the country.

Perhaps some one will think the Wall Street Journal is having a little joke?

Not a bit of it. It says that it plans to prove these figures. It probably can. Already smart figuring has raised the total value of thirteen billion, where the late Senator La Follette placed it, to the thirty-five billion, argued as the true value by railway lawyers in recent hearings before the Interstate Commerce Commission. What's a few billion more or less to a good calculator?

Where the final value of the railways is fixed, however, means an enormous amount to the American people. For every dollar of valuation added, the public will have to pay higher freight rates.

Let the figure be fixed at fifty billion dollars, instead of twenty—the tentative figure being used by the Interstate Commerce Commission—and there will be the basis for more than doubling the present railway rates. Such rates directly affect every person in the country.

In the settlement of the question of railroad valuation, now under consideration, the American people have a tremendous stake. From the standpoint of dollars involved the question of collecting European debts is almost trivial in comparison.

The latest entry in this controversy is the fifty billion figure of the Wall Street Journal. There will be others. Upon the figure which wins will depend everything from the price of the baby's shoes to the cost of battleships.

WELL, MAYBE JAZZ IS ALL RIGHT!

There is far more truth than bunk in the old saying that whatever is worth doing is worth doing well.

When Roger Wolfe Kahn decided a short time ago to embark upon a career as jazz band leader, he immediately encountered the opposition of his father, Otto Kahn, the well-known banker and opera patron.

The father stood for music in its highest, most esthetic form. The rebellious attitude of his son was a keen disappointment. Otto Kahn did everything he could to discourage the lad.

And now Roger, at 18, has ten orchestras bearing his name, is making a lot of money and has decided to buy a night club in New York. And his family, according to the boy, seeing that he is in earnest about his career, has relented.

There is nothing bad about being a jazz orchestra leader. Nor is there necessarily anything low-brow about it, particularly if you are a good one. Roger Kahn seems to have demonstrated that he can succeed in his chosen business better than in any other one, and it is quite sensible on the part of the father to withdraw his parental opposition.

The case is somewhat similar to the career of a youth named Yoelson, son of a rabbi, who incurred his family's displeasure by announcing he had chosen a stage career. For years there was an estrangement. Then, when it was demonstrated that the boy had chosen the career that he seemed above all others, to be fitted for, the family relented. The boy is known to millions today as Al Jolson.

POISONING LAW VIOLATORS

Government chemists, we are informed, expect soon to perfect a new formula for denaturing alcohol, which will defy efforts of bootleggers to redistill and industrial product for beverage use.

The nature of the formula is not revealed, beyond the fact that it will be "guaranteed sure death" for any one who attempts to redistill and drink it.

The new formula probably will be in use in three months. It will replace existing formula which calls for the mixture of creosote, gasoline, wood alcohol, benzol and other poisonous substances with grain alcohol.

Thus we may soon expect an enormous increase in deaths from poison liquor, beside which the 700 deaths in New York City last year, and the forty-four recent deaths in territory near Buffalo will be insignificant. It is not to be expected that this "sure death" alcohol will be kept out of the hands of bootleggers. They have been accustomed for several years to redistill enormous quantities of alcohol denatured under existing formulas, and no one can be lieve their trade will die overnight.

Meanwhile, millions of gallons of this "recooked" alcohol, as the bootleggers call it, are being sold for beverage purposes. This is not guesswork; prohibition officials admit it.

This alcohol, while fairly palatable in most instances, is seldom completely free from wood alcohol or other poisons. According to J. W. Quillin, chief chemist of the bureau of internal revenue in New York, it is "not immediately harmful, but sure death eventually to any one drinking it."

The head of the New York prohibition office is quoted as saying that efforts at "redistillation are sure to produce alcohol only partially free from highly poisonous adulterants."

Thus we have it on authority of officers of the Government that hundreds of thousands of citizens who regularly drink bootleg liquor are being slowly but surely poisoned and that an attempt is being made to make denatured alcohol still more deadly.

What will be the effect on public health ten or twenty years hence? Will men now in their twenties and thirties pay with their lives or with broken health, when they should be in their prime? And not in isolated instances, but by the hundreds of thousands?

This is not argument against prohibition nor an effort to frighten any one. It is a recital of facts, which surely challenge attention. While we argue prohibition pro and con, we need not lose sight of the things that are going on around us.

You may say, as do some reformers, that law violators deserve whatever they get. Or you may call it murder, as does Senator Jim Reed. That won't help matters.

While we are spending millions and more millions enforcing prohibition, we might set aside a few dollars for a scientific study of this wholesale poisoning and its social and economic effects.

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Landlords lead a hard life. Tenants have so much inducement to commit suicide when the rent comes due.

Cleveland school is to teach women how to vote. Can't be done. Been trying to teach women for years.

A bomb with a time fuse makes an excellent alarm clock.

Never count your socks before they are matched.

BE KIND WITH YOUR EYES

By MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

It is a pitiful story, that tale from Washington about the deformed young man who, imagining that all passers-by were casting curious glances at his misshapen form, ran amuck, and tried to vent his rage upon some women who went by him, laughing.

The most of us are entirely too careless of the feelings of others. We will let our eyes stray and fasten themselves upon the person who looks odd. We do not have the sympathy to refrain from a steadfast regard of that which seems horrid to us.

Naturally the imagination of one who has been afflicted with a twisted body, might be easily inflamed. Can we wonder that he should be sensitive to every act, or that he might believe that all who looked his way were jeering at his ugliness?

Life is terribly cruel to such as these. Their days must be one long agony of fear and shrinking, their nights one sore regret. The person who would laugh at their misfortune is unworthy to be called human. One must even pity them delicately, those poor, hating mortals.

The sight of their burden should teach us kindness and should also awaken within us a thankfulness that fate has seen fit to deal with us more gently, that we have healthy bodies.

A sturdy frame, energy, symmetry, vitality, health are the greatest blessings of life. There can be no doubt that those possessing them value them too lightly. We seldom give thanks for our most precious possessions.

It is never well that we undervalue cripples. Some of the greatest minds of this world have been harbored in weak and sometimes deformed bodies. It is possible for man to transcend the physical. Those who are thus afflicted and who are yet able to find life sweet and work pleasant and humanity kind, have reached the ultimate in spiritual development.

How can shine be removed from woolen garments?

Sponge the garment thoroughly with hot vinegar or ammonia (one tablespoon of ammonia or vinegar to one quart of water). Cover with dampened cloth and press on right side. Remove cloth and brush.

The name of Gilda Gray is well known by those who go to the theater.

She was known as a dancer with the Folies for years, then as a specialty artist in dance in the larger movie theaters.

She has now gone into the movies.

Her first venture is "Aloma of the South Seas," a South Seas melo-

Tracy

Clemenceau Makes the Job of Poincare More Difficult.

By M. E. Tracy

Clemenceau's terrific letter, though addressed to President Coolidge and designed as an appeal to the American people, will produce its most important effect in France. It is Poincare who will feel the blow—Poincare, with his carefully worked out program and his apparently safe majority in the Chamber of Deputies.

As I said the other day, he is not out of the woods yet, and will not be until the debts are ratified.

Clemenceau, speaking with the weight of a grand old man, a national idol, has made this extremely difficult.

His biting words will not only be received as balm by the Socialists, as justification by every Frenchman who does not want the debt paid, approved, no matter for what reason.

Possible as it may be for us to see the lack of logic in Clemenceau's scathing arraignment, the average Frenchman will read it as the gospel of his fondest wish, and in that lies its power, whether for good or evil.

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A Queen's Designs

It is still the tribal law of most countries that titles descend through the male line.

If a girl marries a duke, she becomes a duchess, but if a man marries a duchess, he does not become a duke.

That explains why so many of our rich daughters, and so few of our rich sons, marry into noble families.

Queen Marie of Rumania, inveterate matchmaker and of democratic leanings, to let her tell it, seems in a mood to change the fashion.

At all events, she is heading west with her daughter, Illeana, and the impression prevails that her object is to find an American husband.

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Red and Redder

What it is all about, nobody seems to know, but there is trouble in Russia—trouble right at the top and among the few who rule.

Dzerzhinsky is dead, Zinoviev has been expelled and Trotsky is reported in revolt.

The issue is between those who would be red and those who would be redder, but who is which remains the puzzle.

The latest report has it that Trotsky represents the extremists while the State machine, guided by Bucharin and Stalin, prefers moderation.

Why they are quarreling is not so important as is the fact that they are quarreling.

The strength of Bolshevism has consisted not in its doctrines, but in the solidarity of the small group that ruled.

Let that solidarity be broken and the regime will crumble like a house of cards.

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Will Farmer Stay Hitched?

This country is quite harmonious in believing that the tariff is responsible for most of the farmers' difficulties but when you ask why, the harmony resolves itself into a hedge-podge of discordant opinions.

Some say the farmer is in bad because he hasn't a tariff and some say he is in bad because other people have too much tariff. Some say that he needs more protection and others say that other people need less.

In order to save the farmer, for the Republican party, he is carefully trained to the idea that protection is fine and that he would be all right if he could get a share.

When he tries to get a share, the votes are invariably lacking, and he is told that the East doesn't understand.

I wonder just how long the farmer will stand for it.

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Medical Saviors

A narrow, dirty street, filled with chulls, kids and coolies; the cholera comes, striking swift and sure, like lightning.

Mothers weep only to turn sick and die with their sobs.

There are no hospitals, no doctors, nobody to do more than what is absolutely necessary, and not all of that.

It is some task to bury 1,000 a day, even in such a populous city as Shanghai, and that is what the people are up against right now.

Twenty thousand white foreigners, living in their own clean, sanitary quarter are unaffected, but can do little but look on in helpless pity.

We have more money to save heathen souls than heathen bodies.