

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 is one of nine States of the Union imposing a tax of 3 cents per gallon on gasoline, as a means of providing funds for the construction of highways. The gasoline tax imposed by forty-four States and the District of Columbia ranges from 1 cent per gallon in Rhode Island and Texas to 5 cents in Kentucky and South Carolina. Twenty-one States and the District of Columbia impose a 2-cent tax.

GOOD THING TO KEEP

Politicians and their financial backers are making a persistent fight to destroy the primary election and go back to the old convention method of nominating candidates for public office. They make use of the exposure of vast sums of money in the Pennsylvania and Illinois primaries to knock the primary.

One of the arguments is that a poor man can't be nominated for office because of the high cost of primaries.

Bunk! A poor man, in most cases, can't be nominated for any important office by any method unless the bosses want him nominated. And they don't want any poor man nominated unless he'll obey orders and stand without hitching.

In the Pennsylvania primary the big business crowd that spent the most money didn't win. But it probably would have won if it had had to buy only a convention instead of an entire electorate.

Unless the people are thoroughly aroused over some issue they'll get trimmed no matter how nominations are made. But when they do get mad and want to turn politics inside out their best chance is in a primary election. If they elect delegates to a convention, even when they are mad, there is still an opportunity to buy enough delegates to control the convention.

Anyhow, that's what happened in the old days. That's what drove the people into adopting the primary election method of nominating candidates. That's what drove the people to the direct election of United States Senators instead of leaving the job to the Legislatures.

It was the buying of seats in the Senate by millionaires from venal Legislatures that led to the direct nomination and election of Senators; and there are fewer ignorant millionaires and more poor men with brains in the United States Senate now than there were in the old days of purchasing legislatures.

It is not surprising that the political bosses prefer the convention. They get the money either way, but they don't have to distribute it to so many people when they have to buy only a few convention delegates. It would have cost Sam Insull just as much to buy the nomination for Frank L. Smith in Illinois under the convention system as it did with the direct primary nomination. But his cash wouldn't have been so widely distributed.

Ordinarily half of the eligible voters don't go to the polls either at primaries or elections unless they are fighting mad about something. They don't often get fighting mad. But they had better keep the gate wide open so they can burst through when they've got their mad up and want to give the bosses a good licking.

Life preservers may hang around for years without being used, but they came in handy when they're wanted. A fire extinguisher is a good thing to have about the house even if it isn't used but once in a lifetime.

The right of the people to go to the polls and cast their ballots when they really want to, is both a fire extinguisher and a life preserver. So better hang on to the right to nominate candidates by votes at a primary election.

WATCH THESE AIRMEN

The most important visitors which this city will receive this year arrive tomorrow.

They are the aviators who will bring the fleet of airplanes which are demonstrating the safety of air transportation.

By guiding these planes to the different cities of the west, they do more than provide an interesting event in the summer schedules of these cities.

They are mapping out the lines on which planes will be flown regularly in the very near future.

Most of all, they help all of us to get rid of our fears of the airplane and be ready to adopt it as a means of travel as soon as commercially minded men make that possible.

Postmaster General New has done more than any other one man to bring about the era of air.

His mail planes have demonstrated that they can travel on schedule during all sorts of weather. The record established by the planes for arriving on time was better than that of railways and steamships last year.

But most of us are still afraid to ride in these planes and as long as that fear exists, air transportation will not be profitable.

But there has always been fear of new means of travel.

It was difficult to find passengers for the first steamship.

The people of its day believed that a boat loaded down with an iron engine was sure to sink.

The same was true of the first railways. There are men and women still alive who remember how the sane and conservative said that such things were dangerous and that they would keep on with the old stage coach.

The fear of the automobile is still in the memory of most people and was removed largely by the racers like Barney Oldfield and Eddie Rickenbacker.

It is a safe prediction that within the next ten years much of long distance travel will be by air.

The saving in time is too great to be long resisted. Time is the great asset of humanity. Anything which saves it really prolongs life through multiplying experiences.

Europe has its well organized lines of air transport. Berlin only today announces an airplane with Pullman sleeper accommodations. It will fly to Moscow and eventually to Peking, China. It saves three days on the Moscow trip and twelve to Peking.

The time of Americans is more valuable than

that of other nationalities. At least it has a larger cash value.

So the airplane is more needed here. It is coming. The cities which provide landing fields and catch the image of possibilities will profit most.

Go out and see these planes. Very soon, when you go to New York or to Florida or Los Angeles, you will be riding in one of them, with no more sense of danger than you now have in coming down town in a bus.

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR WHEELER

General Andrews says—well, he doesn't exactly say it, either; he just intimates—that he isn't going to resign at the end of this month. He plans to continue as prohibition enforcer.

That isn't bad news, save that it puts a crimp, for the time being, in our campaign to have Wayne B. Wheeler appointed as his successor. We hope to see Wheeler appointed eventually, but in the meantime General Andrews is as good a man as the country is likely to get.

The general is intelligent and sincere. With him on the job, doing his best, no unbiased person can contend that prohibition is not being given a fair trial. Of course Wheeler and other professional prohibitionists will so contend, but we are speaking only of unbiased persons.

It has been understood for a long time that General Andrews intended to resign at the end of his first year if he felt that he had not made a success at the job. The reason then that most of us expected him to resign Sept. 1, end of his year, was that we didn't consider prohibition enforcement a success. Too many drunken parties, too many empty bottles being collected daily by the garbage man, and all the other evidences that meet the eye of the average man.

But Andrews obviously had in mind not the success of prohibition, but his own personal success. And he knows that personal success consists simply of doing the best that you can do. Which being so, he is entitled to believe that he has made a personal success of his job.

Anyhow, we propose to let our campaign rest for the moment. We are not going to join with Wheeler and his friends in any sniping tactics aimed at Andrews. If these tactics should result in Andrews being removed, however, our campaign will be resumed right where it stands now.

And that is with the country demanding that Wheeler come out of the shadows, right out into the daylight and attempt to enforce his own law.

CORRUPTING ELECTIONS

A member of Congress is demanding that the United States Attorney General prosecute the Anti-Saloon League for failure to comply with the corrupt practices act in regard to elections.

The Attorney General of this State might look into the possibilities of a similar action against the league in this State.

It is now demonstrated that the league, as far as Indiana is concerned, is a one man affair.

The directors of the league have disowned any responsibility for its annual report or for the propaganda which is put out for political purposes during the year.

The inquiry at Washington shows that the Indiana league spends rather large sums each year for the purpose of influencing elections.

It has on its pay rolls and expense accounts public officials.

The local laws are rather strict in regard to contributions of money spent on elections. The people are presumed to be able to know who is interested in candidates and how great that interest is.

Under the law the candidates and campaign managers must make detailed reports so that the voters can know what influences are behind and back of the different candidates.

Corruption of elections is likely to be a matter of national interest this fall.

The expenditure of money by any party or any group will interest the voters. We may find out who it is that is trying to make our laws, and enforce them.

A good start might be made with the Indiana league and a demand that it tell where and when and how much money it spent in the last primaries.

Incidentally, such a move would have much more public backing than an effort to make falsehoods concerning court decisions its only offense.

Unless corruption can be taken from elections, the whole system of self-government fails.

That is idealistic rather than practical.

People cannot make themselves pure, or perfect through law.

When they undertake to do so, they invariably develop cess-pools of corruption which, though kept out of sight, breed moral disease.

We have preached a "Frankenstein" into existence, a cabal of crime of violence; have caused the liquor traffic to coagulate in the cellar where it sits and ferments amid all sorts of devishness.

The Record

The record speaks for itself.

The last six years have witnessed a material increase in crime of every sort but especially crime against the person—murder, rape, assault.

The era of Volsteadism has not brought that relief which was expected; has not saved the home, protected property nor made it safer for average people to walk at night.

Our prisons are just as crowded as they ever were and would be more so if we had not instituted an unheard of pardoning and parole record.

The poisoned booze that is being peddled hither and yon, that is causing death and blindness on every hand, may be discounted as the least of the resultant evils.

What really hurts is the spread of crime, the increasing arrogance of criminals, the seeming inability of authorities to cope with the crime situation.

What is the largest hog on record?

A Poland Calf was exhibited at the First National Farm Show in Omaha, Neb., in 1915. This hog weighed 1,140 pounds. There are many others approaching that same weight.

Whatever may be said of her, this much is certain: She was a brave pioneer down a path which is thorny for the feet of women. And she has done what ten years ago would have been laughed at as an impossibility. She got the majority of the men in Texas to vote for her once. That in itself is a stupendous achievement for a woman.

Tracy

British Railroads Carry
1,700,000,000 in Year
—One Fatality.

Just one death on British railroads last year and that resulted from heart failure due to shock.

They carried 1,700,000,000 passengers, or a number equal to the world's entire population.

In 1901 and 1908 they made a deathless record while in 1909 there was only one fatality and only three for each of the years 1916, 1919 and 1923.

The worst year the British railroads have had since the present century began, was 1915, when vast and rapid troops movements led to the loss of 224 lives.

Now look up the American figures.

Can Farming Pay?

Senator Couzens says he does not know whether farming can be made to pay under present conditions, but is willing to learn.

He has a 500-acre farm which he offers rent free to any man who can provide it to show a profit.

It is no rock-farm either, but well-equipped and well-improved for the senator, has spent quite a bit of money acquainting himself with the mysteries of agriculture. He is convinced there is money in it, because he has been putting it in.

He does not assert that the money is in for good, but admits that it will take a better man than he is to get it out.

He is not only ready to let such a man have the farm rent free, but to pay the taxes and, perhaps, a little more.

The Senator, of course, is not making this proposition to any fly-by-night that may drift along, but to an expert farmer who can deliver the goods.

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Soft Justice

Bandits have killed five New York policemen since Jan. 1, one right at headquarters—and wounded twelve.

Commissioner of Police McLaughlin says that the leniency of courts and parole boards is largely responsible.

He says that criminals are growing bold and defiant because of the softness with which so many of them are treated.

He says that bootleggers are growing bold and defiant because of the increase of crime than anything else.

Bootleggers flourish on the idea that law breaking of one kind is respectable.

The patronage protects them.

They stand in with the police, not because of their trade, but because of the people they serve.

The thief, yegg, and even the murderer, trails along with them because of this standing.

Nation-wide prohibition has resulted in nothing so distinctly far as the development of a great underworld cabal with which it seems entirely unable to cope, but which is contributing much more to public discomfort than the bad liquor it peddles.

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The "Cry Baby" Gang

It has become very common for burglars and bandits to explain their property, the goods and money found in their possession, the fact that they can live without work by pleading guilty to bootlegging.

Five members of the "cry baby" gang now on trial in New York are attempting to alibi themselves in that way.

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Mellett Murder

The Chicago gang war, in which more than 100 have been killed, is directly traceable to the rivalry of bootlegging factions.

The murder of Don R. Mellett at Canton, Ohio, was palpably the result of anger on the part of a bootlegging conspiracy.

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Cess Pools

We have a bigger underworld than we did ten years ago, an underworld that is more powerfully organized and closer to the surface.

You can argue that the only course is to pull off our coats and go at it, there can be no compromise with such a state of affairs.

That is idealistic rather than practical.

People cannot make themselves pure, or perfect through law.

When they undertake to do so, they invariably develop cess-pools of corruption which, though kept out of sight, breed moral disease.

We have preached a "Frankenstein" into existence, a cabal of crime of violence; have caused the liquor traffic to coagulate in the cellar where it sits and ferments amid all sorts of devishness.

Just why "Mismates" is being presented in a better movie season is beyond me. This is my idea of this one. Certainly, have your own.

The audience has two chances to sing this week at the Circle. First when Dessa Byrd is playing her organ solo and second when "Sally" is being reflected on the screen as well as being played by the Circle Ensemble.

On the stage this week we have Harry Webb and his entertainers.

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