

# 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 produced bituminous coal during 1925 valued at forty-five and a half millions of dollars. This was on a program of curtailed production. With normal conditions restored in the industry, it is expected this figure will show a gain of more than 15 per cent.

## THE REAL TROUBLE

Whether the Attorney General names special prosecutors who draw rather sizeable fees or the county hires a few more lawyers to send bootleggers to jail is not a matter of much importance.

Under the State dry law, convicted bootleggers convicted by special prosecutors pay a special fee for each case, which goes to the lawyer thus engaged.

The whole theory of that law was to make it profitable for lawyers to prosecute the liquor violators.

Under one of its sections one of the attorneys for the State Anti-Saloon League makes his salary by putting padlocks on property after the police and fire departments at the State Fair grounds tomorrow and Saturday.

The receipts will go to swell the pension fund. That will care for the widows of those killed on duty, for the children of those who lose their lives guarding life and property, for the aid of those who are disabled while giving themselves to the public service.

Both of these services invite danger. There is a growing menace in these days when crime is on the increase and the modern gunman thinks nothing of taking a life to keep his liberty. The number of offenders killed has grown rapidly under Volsteadism.

Whatever criticism may be passed upon the policies and control of these departments should not be visited upon the men.

The men who form the departments and who risk their lives are not responsible. They are eager and willing to give service, to risk their lives if necessary in behalf of the public welfare.

Mere purchase of tickets is not the whole answer. Your presence at their annual outing will give an inspiration for better service that could not be had in any other way. Go out and show your interest and your appreciation.

when she made her wager. It seems she had entirely overlooked the fact that if she were beaten Texas' million school children would be forever deprived of the benefits of education. Her heart went out to the poor things, so it did, and you couldn't expect Mr. Moody to ask a lady to live up to such an agreement. He would have been a mean old Simon Le gree if he had.

Now, if Ma had beaten Moody by 100,000 instead of Moody beating her by that number, would she expect Mr. Moody to live up to his part of the wager and resign? Of course she wouldn't. Now you just ask her. Why, she wouldn't take advantage of a fellow like him.

So, after this, remember, everybody, we're playing under the new rules. Marquis of Queensbury on Hoyle doesn't go any more, dears. We shall play the game strictly according to the Ferguson amendment. You have to beat a lady twice now in order to win a bet.

## HELP THIS FUND

Let it be hoped that there will be a very generous attendance at the Field Day of the police and fire departments at the State Fair grounds tomorrow and Saturday.

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## HERE'S REAL PROGRESS

Since Herbert Hoover became chief of the Department of Commerce he has standardized hundreds of things that we use in our daily lives.

It is because the profits are so big that no matter how big the fines, others will embark on the business.

So why worry whether the county pays a few more prosecutors to send men to jail or the specials get their big fees from the bootlegger.

The only possible effect can be in the price of booze, not in respect for law or in sobriety.

## OIL AND THE STOCK MARKET

The Wall Street Journal reports to its customers that there will be nothing in the coming report of the Federal oil conservation board "to affect the stock market."

That's probably another way of saying that there won't be anything in the report. Otherwise it wouldn't be safe to predict that our sensitive and temperamental stock market won't be affected.

If true, it's too bad. Not that anybody wants to see Secretaries Work, Hoover, Davis and Wilbur—members of the oil conservation board—deliberately upset the stock market.

It certainly is to be hoped, however, that they will have some potent remarks to make about the production of oil in this country.

It is the estimate of one nationally known oil geologist that 80 per cent of the oil that's discovered is left right in the pools where it is found. Allow him a wide margin of error, and it's still true that most of the oil that is located never gets out of the ground.

One of the reasons, at any rate, is perfectly clear. By permitting free-for-all drilling, instead of developing oil pools as a unit, most of the oil is wasted. Gas pockets, available for use in forcing oil out of the ground if pools were scientifically exploited, are now frequently tapped, and the gas is allowed to escape. Competitors, all trying to get oil from the same pool, vie with each other in putting down wells. That reduces pressure. The result is oil left in the ground which would otherwise be recovered.

With our oil reserve going down at an alarming rate, it's time to put an end to the primitive methods we've been using in oil mining.

Such a move might affect adversely the interests of some oil companies. It might conceivably affect the stock market."

The assurance that brokers need not be concerned about the report suggests that it may be going to sidestep the oil drilling problem on grounds of a possible conflict with the anti-trust laws, or the provisions of the Constitution protecting private property.

If that develops to be the cause it will be unfortunate. It's time to take vigorous steps to check the needless dissipation of oil resources even, if need be, at the expense of a flurry on the stock market.

## SAY, MA, YOU'RE A CARD!

We don't want to be mean to a lady. Indeed, we want to give the ladies every chance in the world to get along. So we have adopted a new rule for the game, boys and girls. Hereafter, in order to win a bet from any lady, you have to beat her twice. Isn't that fair enough?

Just before the recent first primary in Texas, we remember vaguely, something about Governor "Ma" Ferguson saying that if Dan Moody should lead her by a single vote she wouldn't dare to show her face in the second, or consolation primary which Texas accords its candidates just to make sure.

We recall also that Ma said something about if she led Mr. Moody by 25,000 votes, he should be expected to erase himself from the second primary, too.

But Ma hadn't had a minute to think things over

when she made her wager. It seems she had entirely overlooked the fact that if she were beaten Texas' million school children would be forever deprived of the benefits of education. Her heart went out to the poor things, so it did, and you couldn't expect Mr. Moody to ask a lady to live up to such an agreement. He would have been a mean old Simon Le gree if he had.

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The great new light with regard to farm relief did not dawn for President Coolidge after all.

It flared for a moment, but only to make the White House spokesman hide it under a bushel of higher priced wheat.

The President, according to this will of the wisp mouthpiece, knows nothing about a scheme to have big business help the farmer.

That settles the matter, of course, as long as the grain market remains bullish.

Meanwhile, the four-day background is worth recording.

Sunday papers seemed quite sure that, though the administration was still opposed to direct Government aid, it would look favorably, if not enthusiastically on the formation of a \$100,000,000 pool by private interests for agricultural relief.

Monday papers hinted that big business was not altogether pleased with the task cut out for it.

Tuesday papers found treasury officials cautious in Secretary Mellon's absence, but willing to recall that a \$25,000,000 pool of similar design and object did good work several years ago.

Wednesday papers found the White House spokesman insinuating that the President had no idea what the commotion was all about.

Thursday papers found the Peacocke, who is synonymous with laughter, stages his famous comedy sketch, "The Sign Post," in which he plays the role of the lawyer whose specialty is divorce cases.

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