

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.

CRIMINALS BECOME HEROES

The State Historical Society has just erected a tablet to mark a station on the "underground" railway in this State, the junction point rather where two of those very real but very secret lines met.

The present generation will interpret "underground railroads" in terms of the subways of the larger cities, those swift means of moving vast throngs of people from the great skyscraper districts to the distant apartment sections.

It had a different meaning seventy-five years ago when the men of the north chose to violate a Federal law in order to help black men escape human slavery.

Then the underground railroad was the route by which slaves who made their escape from Southern plantations and crossed the Ohio River in safety, could be aided to Canada or havens in communities in which it was impossible to enforce the fugitive slave law because of public opinion.

The men who operated these railroad lines did not stop for the letter of the law.

That law violated their consciences or their sense of humanity and they set it aside quite as ruthlessly as some men today set aside laws which do not conform to their opinion as to what are proper subjects of legislation.

Today these technical criminals are venerated as benefactors and contributors to the cause of liberty and freedom. They are no longer branded as out-law and criminal.

Through those lines which flourished in this State many a black man found a friendly guide, food and aid in his desperate dash for liberty.

It was the duty, under the law, to return these men to their owners in the South.

It was a duty, under the laws of the Nation, to keep them for those who could flog them into obedience, could sell their children as a litter of prize pups are sold today in fancy kennels, could if they desired, take their wives from their homes and subject them to any indignity.

Not often, of course, were men flogged. Not often were children sold or wives outraged. The men of the South were gentlemen. Slavery to them was an inherited institution to which they had been accustomed to look with favor and as more than legitimate. To their credit, they were far more often solicitous of the welfare of their chattels than are today the employers of labor. They felt a sense of responsibility that was more binding than written laws.

But they were troubled about the escape of slaves. They had sufficient votes in Congress to make it a crime to harbor an escaped slave, just as our modern laws make it obligatory on farmers to return stray cattle or horses.

It was against that law that the men who formed the underground railroads rebelled by open violation. Every man who participated in it became a criminal under the eyes of the law. True, they stood no more chance of conviction than does a man who sells liquor today in Baltimore.

They obeyed something higher than written law when they stood for a freedom of conscience in these matters.

And because of their rebellion against the law, they are today, after seventy-five years, venerated as heroic figures and the place they hid the runaway slaves marked as a shrine of liberty.

The incident may suggest that there are some subjects on which laws are futile and that never in history will men recognize any law which violates their ideas of personal liberty and freedom of action. The only real law is that which has behind it conscience and public opinion.

THE VALENTINO PICTURES

The question of whether the films made by Valentino should be shown after his death is being seriously raised and just as seriously debated.

The cry of commercialism is raised and the suggestion made that the showings should end with his own life.

It all depends on whether the film is a form of art, to take rank with other arts, or is merely the idle amusement of an idle hour.

There may be contempt and pity for the thousands of women who crowded about his casket—but it is quite understandable.

Undoubtedly to many a young woman, whose life is ruled by her emotions rather than her reason, this man was a more real character than the youth who will dance with her tonight or park his Ford with her along some country road.

To those, he had become the expression of all their idealism and their hungered sense of romance. Conversation being one of the lost arts, especially in these days of cryptic slang, there is little revelation of character, little interchange of thought. The most is an exchange of information, rather than of ideas.

So it is not beyond argument, at least, that here was a character who meant something more than a companion. The film became the expression of hopes and ideas and fixed desires, more real than the human companions who tried to imitate his dress but did not imitate his expression of chivalry and courage and melodramatic love.

The suggestion that there may be something ghoulish in exhibiting his films is an indictment of the film as worthy of any place in our modern life. Art has always sought a new form of expression. Art is the search for the ideal and for beauty.

The proper aim of every producer of films and of every actor in the film should be the creation of something eternal in its expression of truth and beauty and ideals.

The great indictment of the film is that so few are produced that can outlast their first exhibitions. Science has put in the hands of the artist a form of expression which is as great as paint or brush or marble.

No one suggests that the records which keep permanent the great voice of Caruso should be hidden away because that voice is stilled.

Science has preserved his art, to still thrill the human heart as he did when in the flesh.

There is no suggestion of ghoulish commercialism in the constant reproduction of these records, and the demand continues from those who delight in real art.

Why should not the world of filmdom take as its high aim the production of such works of beauty

and of truth, such constant inspirations to loftier thought and greater courage, that they, too, will long outlast the changing customs of a world that needs permanency in its idealism?

If this man had nothing but a pleasant smile and a tricky appeal, he will be forgotten in the rush to a new idol.

If he had more, something that is worth keeping, why imprison it in a grave?

ONE OPPORTUNITY

The league of Women Voters has performed a real service in its survey of reasons why citizens fail to vote.

The truth is that the political parties and the candidates have not made it seem worth the trouble. The vote slakers make up their minds that "politics is rotten," and, adopting a philosophy of defeatism, try to get along as best they can without politics.

One of the great reasons for disgust with political conditions in this city is the widespread and thoroughly justifiable belief that the votes are not counted honestly and that through trickery and various forms of fraud, the results of elections are manipulated to suit the bosses.

It is justifiable, as easily evidenced by the fact that before the last primaries friends of candidates appealed to the powers that be to give their friends a fair count.

The irony of it is that they secured such a promise and that no indignation was expressed that such an insulting and insulting appeal had been made.

The further proof is to be found in the fact that in certain precincts candidates for membership on the local Republican committee filed with the prosecutor affidavits from citizens showing a much larger number of favorable votes than had been counted in their behalf.

Those men who announced independence of the local machine understand some of the difficulties of political preference and some of the reasons why some people refuse to take part in a farce.

Here is an opportunity to assist the good work begun by this group of women who want a more general participation in politics.

A strict scanning of the lists of registered voters in this county to prevent repeating, an organization of independent citizens dedicated to honesty at the ballot boxes, on guard on election day to prevent frauds and some thoroughly competent watchers to guard the vote might pave the way to a genuine interest in elections.

Fraud in election amounts to treason and should be made so by statute. As long as it is tolerated as an accepted form of sport, there will be no great interest on the part of those who could contribute most to improved results.

A patriotic movement to assure an honest election in Marion County this fall would probably reduce the number of vote slakers to a minimum.

MACNIDER AMUCK

One somehow expects high cabinet officials to have a certain sense of proportion and balance.

Perhaps that's why the late outbursts of Col. Hanford MacNider, assistant secretary of war, seem so shocking. In a recent speech, MacNider advanced the proposition that any man who does not get into the American Legion and do his part is "just as much a slacker as the man who refused to serve when his country called him to arms."

Perhaps it isn't just the absurd extravagance of the statement that is shocking; perhaps it's the downright injustice to the four million ex-servicemen who are not in the legion of which MacNider was once the head.

There's no occasion to quarrel with MacNider about the virtues of the legion. It has some noble works to its credit, and it has the possibilities of doing much good in the future.

It is, however, an organization of private individuals, engaged in conducting their own private affairs to suit their own private tastes.

Whether one cares to join is likewise a matter of personal taste. A few million men who did what they were asked to do during the war apparently don't care to extend their war experience by becoming members of veterans' organizations.

Perhaps that is too bad. There may be good reasons why they should join.

Whether they do or not, however, has nothing to do with their patriotism.

When the assistant secretary of war characterizes those who don't care to join as slackers, he not only makes a ridiculous spectacle of himself, but he gratuitously insults four million of his fellow citizens.

FORGET YOUR CHILDREN—AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

By MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

Several letters have recently been printed from women who call themselves "Lonely Mothers." They are unhappy because their children, being busy with the affairs of life, do not find time to come home very often.

Somehow, in reading them, we get pictures of several lonesome middle-aged men and women sitting alone in comfortable homes, looking forward with longing to the occasional visits of their sons and daughters.

This attitude toward life and children, after middle age has passed, is what ails half the unhappy mothers and fathers of today. Immediately their children are grown and married, they have no other interest in life, with the natural result that they become more miserable as the years go by. Mothers have a terrible tendency toward martyrdom at all times, and it takes a strong character to throw off this creeping mental disease when one starts down the hill of old age.

Time was when this condition was inevitable. But today, there is no excuse for any man or woman quitting work until they are ready for the grave. There are so many fascinating things to do, so many interesting people to become acquainted with, so much work to be done.

If you keep up with the new books and the latest music and politics and science; if you take an interest in community affairs and look about you into the lives of your neighbors; if you study the condition of Europe and strive to do something to alleviate the woes of those who are more miserable than yourself; if you get to work doing something, you will not have the time to worry about how you are neglected by your children. It is the highest form of egotism to concentrate on your own children anyway. Other people's children are often quite as interesting to think about.

Forget your children as much as possible. When you do that they will start thinking more often of you.

Tracy

More Publicity Needed on Earnings, Activities of Corporations.

By M. E. Tracy

Professor Ripley of Harvard wants more publicity by corporations with regard to their earnings and activities.

He is right, too. The corporation has come to play an all-important part in the business life of this country, and we can't know too much about it.

There are 200,000 corporations in the United States right now, with millions of stock and bond holders. The idea of selling stocks and bonds to the public is becoming more popular every day.

At present most of the stocks and bonds are bought on faith rather than intelligence.

The ordinary man invests \$100 here, \$200 there and \$1,000 somewhere else, not because he has convinced himself that the investment is sound, but because the general impression is to that effect, or because someone in whom he believes has told him so.

Every three months, or six months, he gets a statement which looks all right, but which he finds it hard to understand.

So far as he can make out the old book seems to be rocking along as usual and the stock ought to pay about what it has been paying.

Suddenly he finds the stock taking a ride, either up or down, and he doesn't know why.

If it is because of "inside stuff" why wasn't he let in?

It is due to shenanigans, why isn't he protected, or given a chance to protect himself?

The fellow who buys the securities of all these corporations needs to be educated if the values they represent are to be stabilized and maintained to a reasonable extent.

He can't be educated by such infrequent, puzzling, complicated, unintelligible statements as are being put out by most corporations.

The Valentino Crows

The dead Valentino called forth such a morose demonstration as the living Valentino never provoked. With all of his love making, his kissing, and new fangled trousers he never stirred up such an exhibition of pure assnity as occurred around his corpse.

Some will say that it could not have occurred anywhere, except in the greatest city, but that is an un-called for and unprovable slander on New York. There are no more fools per thousand there than in other places. They simply have a better chance to congregate.

And they do not represent such a big part of the population when you come to figure it—50,000, perhaps, out of 6,000,000 or about one to every 120.

Educated Lunacy

There is not so much occasion for alarm in the presence or prevalence of lowbrows as there is in what some of our highbrows are doing.

Precocious youth murdering to get a thrill, college prodigies committing wanton and causeless crimes just for fun—their and other manifestations of educated lunacy are what make serious folks think.

And science, though able to do a lot of deducing and defining after the mischief has been done, appears totally unable to forestall, or prevent it.

If the psychiatrists could pick a diseased mind before it knocks somebody on the head with a hammer, you would have more faith in the diagnosis they make afterward.

They never seem to guess that anything is wrong until enough has happened for everybody to realize it.

Test for Watson Law

After months of conferring, railroad men east of Chicago and north of the Ohio River have agreed to arbitrate their demands for increased pay.

It is the first real test of the Watson-Parker law which the railroad men supported.

This law provides for arbitration by agreement if both sides are willing.

The men—conductors, brakemen and switchmen—have asked for a flat raise of \$1 a day.

They have agreed to let a board, for which the law provides, determine whether they are entitled to it, or a part of it, or no raise at all. The board will consist of five members, two appointed by the men, two by the railroads and a fifth to be selected by their four.

W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Trainmen, says that future arbitration will depend largely on the degree of justice the men receive.

He says that they supported the new law before Congress because of the feeling that they had not received the consideration they believed was due them in the past.

He says that as good citizens they are willing to go the limit in giving the new law a tryout.

LABOR URGES MODIFICATION

By United Press

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., Aug. 27.—Modification of the Volstead act to legalize the manufacture of light wines and beers was urged in a resolution passed Thursday by the New York State Federation of Labor convention here.

PRISONER VISITS KIN

A thirty day parole has been granted by Governor Jackson to Ivan Willis of Muncie, serving a two to fourteen-year reformatory sentence for forgery, in order that the man may be with his sister, who is seriously ill. Mayor John Hampton of Muncie said the chief of police urged clemency. Willis has served about a year.

Courage Is the Greatest Asset for Those Attempting to Carve Movie Career

What is the one outstanding requisite for success in motion pictures?

Perhaps that is the one question most frequently asked of all persons connected with the motion picture industry by those who feel that there is a place in the movie world for them.

The writer asked Ray Rockett, one of the First National's producers now making pictures in New York, this same question and Rockett answered it with a single word.

"Courage!"

"Of course, you take it for granted that the movie aspirant has good personal appearance," says Rockett. "The man or woman who tries to get into pictures without good figure and face might have all the other assets in the world, but what would be the use? Granting they have those, the greatest asset they can have is courage."

"I am not speaking alone of those who start by way of the extra ranks, but of those who come from the stage, and they are already established. A person of considerable stage ability and experience may step into the game in a picture for which they are admirably fitted."

"They may score a success; and then, with no vehicle at hand in which there is a part fitted to them, they may go for weeks and maybe months without playing in another picture."

"Of course, this is trying and at times almost discouraging, and you see them drop back to the legitimate stage. But these things are to be expected in the motion picture game. And it is the man or woman who sticks to it that eventually gets there."

"Perhaps the place where real courage is needed most is among the vast crowd of men and women who make up what is known as the extra list. The men and women who while only playing atmosphere, nevertheless are among the most vital things in picture making."

"Take away the extras and where would the motion picture industry be? Here is where the real tragedies take place, and here is where real courage is needed if the young girl or young man really hopes some day to make a place on the screen."

"Sometimes a girl or boy will work for several years without ever getting even a 'bit' or small part. To keep that up day after day, with perhaps periods of maybe several weeks at a time when they do no work at all, requires a dogged courage and determination that many people do not have. However, these people, if they have their eyes and ears open, are learning all the time and should be fitting themselves for a place when the time comes."

"But it takes courage to work for small pay from month to month, year in and year out—hoping that a part will fall your way. And unless a boy or girl is prepared to go through with it they had better stay away from pictures, for without courage there is little chance."

Rockett is one producer who constantly keeps his eyes open when he has a crowd of extras on the set. He is ever watching for a face that may some day be another star. An extra on his set never knows but what some time Rockett may see in him or her a type he is looking for, and he believes in giving the extra a chance.

Rockett's next picture for First National will be the screen version of the stage play, "Not Herbert." This goes into production shortly and will have Ben Lyon in the featured role with a cast of real screen celebrities surrounding him.

OLD MINSTREL SPARS ON VIEW AT THE PALACE

Most of the members of the Four Jolly Theatrons have been active on the stage for at least thirty years.

They are all minstrel men of the days when troupeing was troupeing on the road.

These four men today on the variety stage are doing the same songs, dances and stunts they did on the stage when the minstrel was a favorite amusement.

Although advanced in years they give an active routine and win on their merit instead of sympathy. This act pleases the older type of vaudeville patron.

The younger generation will find their language spoken in Gus Edwards Juvenile Frolic. This act is not as elaborate as some of the Edwards routine, but he has a lot of talent in a chap called Sandy. This lad has ability and personality. A Charleston dance and an eccentric offering are the high spots of the revue.

Eldridge, Barlow and Eldridge go in for small town humor. Mildly interesting. Stanley and Quinette have some individual material which they put over in a quiet manner. I arrived late and missed the first act. The movie is Lon Chaney in "Outside the Law."

At the Palace today and Saturday.

Other theaters today offer:

"Nathal at the Lyric; 'The Love Test' at English's; 'The Show-Off' at the Apollo; 'Fine Manners' at the Ohio; 'The Windjammer' at the Isis; 'It Must Be Love' at the Circle; 'A Trip to Chinatown' at the Colonial and 'The Eagle' at the Uptown.

At the Palace today and Saturday.

ILLINOIS MOTORIST DIES

Killed When Auto Overturns Near Winchester.

By United Press

WINCHESTER, Ind., Aug. 27.—The body of B. R. Newland, 47, of Lawrenceville, Ill., was taken home today for burial. Newland was killed when the auto in which he and his family were returning to Illinois from an outing overturned near here.

REUNION SUNDAY

The annual reunion of former Orange and Crawford County residents will be held at Garfield Park Sunday afternoon. Archie N. Bobbitt is president of the association. There will be a program of music and entertainment.

Questions and Answers

You can get an answer to any question of fact or opinion by writing to The Indianapolis Times Washington Bureau, D. C., enclosing 5 cents in stamps for reply. Replies will be given in the next issue of the paper. All other questions will receive a personal reply. Assigned questions cannot be answered. All letters are confidential.—Editor

What is the average capacity of storage tanks in oil fields?

Storage tanks contain from 5,000 to 10,000 barrels; tank farms contain 37,500 to 55,000 barrels, and an 80,000-barrel tank farm is being built in California concrete reservoirs are built, one of them containing as much as 4,000,000 barrels of oil.

What will remove iodine stains from a white dress?

Soak the stain in alcohol.

Does the song, "Comin' Thru the Rye," refer to a field of grain?

The reference is to the Rye River in Scotland, and the basis for the song is the old custom of collecting a toll of kisses when men and women passed each other crossing over the stepping stones.

Were paper wheels ever used on railroad equipment?

For a while some passenger cars were equipped with Allen compressed paper-cored wheels which made the ride easier. Their use has been discontinued on account of the increasingly heavy equipments in iron and steel wheels. The paper-cored wheels were intended to deaden sound and were never used in freight equipment or locomotives.

How are needles made?

A suitable wire is cut into lengths of two needles. These are collected into bundles, slightly softened by heating and pressed to make them perfectly straight. They are pointed at both ends by a grindstone, and the ends punched by dies, after which they are broken apart. They come the polishing, tempering and grinding of the heads into shape.

What is the difference between a university and a college?

In the United States the words have been used interchangeably and some institutions that are nominally universities have standards lower than those of others called colleges. There is a general tendency, however, to restrict the use of the word university to institutions offering nonprofessional instruction beyond the Bachelor's degree and having affiliated professional schools.

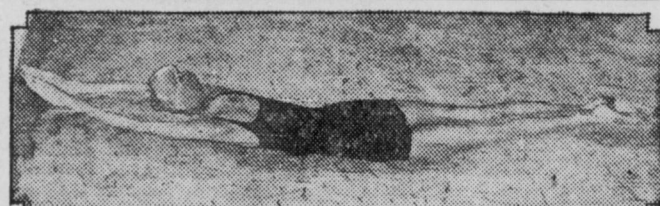
When a bullet goes through the brain does it cause pain?

The brain itself is insensible to pain. It is from the nerves outside that the impression of pain is carried to the brain. The answer to the question depends entirely upon what part of the brain the bullet enters. If the bullet could enter without injuring the nerves, there would be no pain.

What does Rhea mean? Is it the name of a boy or girl?

It is a girl's name and comes from the Greek. Rhea was a mythological goddess, daughter of Uranus and Ge, that is, of Heaven and Earth.

How to Swim—No. 35



Coming up from a shallow dive.

By Lillian Cannon

After entering the water, the position of the hands, arms and head becomes of the first importance. For a deep dive the body should be perpendicular when the head enters the water.

For a shallow dive the body strikes the water at any angle. Even in the shallow dive, however, there should be a minimum of splashing. For a deep dive the hands are kept straight out before the face and the back is kept straight.

For the shallow dive the tips of the fingers bend upward and the back is arched so that the whole tendency is to curve upward.

In deep diving it is very necessary to keep the hands before the face until the depth of the dive has been reached, to guard against any hidden obstruction.

The concluding article on how to swim will appear Saturday. (Copyright, 1926, NEA Service, Inc.)

Do You Recognize His Collar?

What are the answers to these questions? In case you don't know, you'll find the correct answers for every question of page 22.



1. Whose picture is shown above?
2. Does the Constitution of the United States prohibit one man from serving three terms as President?
3. What are the Virgin Islands?
4. When was Porto Rico acquired by the United States?
5. What range of mountains extends nearly parallel with the Atlantic coast from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico?

U. S. RAZORS POPULAR

American Brands Replacing Well-Known Kinds.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.—American safety razors are cutting their way into the regions where cutlery manufacture has been an art for generations.

More than half the exports of American safety razors and blades go to the British Isles, while the popularity of the American product in Germany is said to be replacing the well-known German brands, according to the Commerce Department.

BRITISH PROTEST BOOK

Say American Tells Too Much of Love Affairs of Edward VII.