

The Indianapolis Times

ROY W. HOWARD, President

BOYD GURLEY, Editor.

WM. A. MAYBORN, Bus. Mgr.

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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" railroad 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 outlaw 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 death.

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.

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

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

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, \$500 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 boat seems to be rocking along about 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?

If it is due to shenanigan, 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 not be educated by such infrequent, puzzling, complicated, unintelligible statements as are being put out by most corporations.

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The Valentino Crowds

The dead Valentino called forth such a moronic 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 assinity as occurred around his corpse.

Some will say that it could not have occurred anywhere, except in the greatest city, but that is an uncalled for and unproveable 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.

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Educated Lunacy

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

Precocious youth murdering to get a thrill, college prodigies committing wanton and carelessness crimes just for fun—these 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 disease 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.

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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.

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, it not only makes a ridiculous spectacle of himself, but he gratuitously insults four million of his fellow men.

The men—conductors, brakemen and switchmen—have asked for a half 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 these four.

W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Trammen, 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 a 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.

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.

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 he may be with his sister, who is seriously ill. Mayor John Hampson of Muncie and the chief of police urged clemency. Willis has served about a year.

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.

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 where 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 actors become discouraged 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 start early, for with no vehicle 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.

Engagement RINGS

3. What are the Virgin Islands?

4. When was Porto Rico acquired by the United States?

5. What range of mountains ex-

tends nearly parallel with the Atlantic coast from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the State of Alabama?

2. Does the Constitution of the United States prohibit one man from serving three terms as President?

3. What are the Virgin Islands?

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5. What range of mountains ex-

tends nearly parallel with the Atlantic coast from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the State of Alabama?

6. How many players are there on a football team?

7. In what State is the Grand Canyon?

8. In what city is radio station WBAL?

9. Who is Octavus Roy Cohen?

10. What does "Mare Nostrum" mean?

11. What is the difference between