

The Indianapolis Times

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Member of the Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance

* * * Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Published daily except Sunday by Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 W. Maryland St., Indianapolis.

Subscription Rates: Indianapolis—Ten Cents a Week. Elsewhere—Twelve Cents a Week * * *

PHONE 25 in 3500.

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 bank deposits increased more than thirty-nine millions of dollars between Jan. 1 and June 30, 1926. In the light of depressed conditions among farmers, the showing is accepted as a surprising indication of expanding business.

THE WRONG TARGET

The Republican women of Terre Haute, with but one dissenting vote, have demanded that Senator Watson and Chairman Walb and others dispense with the services of Mrs. Wheatcraft.

Mrs. Wheatcraft had charge of the task of getting votes of women for Senator Watson.

She did that job so well that she is quoted as saying that the Senator owes the votes of 160,000 women to her efforts.

The women are licensed because of the interview printed in the Baltimore Sun and reprinted in the Indianapolis Times to the effect that she had a "poison squad" of five women in each county and that the triumph was "victory by gossip."

The women in Vigo County declare that the method was an insult to them, and it is significant that in the gathering the one protest came from a woman whose name was listed by Watson's treasurer as being given a regular salary in his behalf.

The indignation of these women and of the many other women in the State who have been working for cleaner politics and for more decent government can be easily understood.

Why they should condemn Mrs. Wheatcraft is not so easily explainable.

It is true that the tactics described are a blow to the influence of women, are something of an obstacle to the many fine efforts being made by women in all parties to eliminate some of the scandalous conditions prevalent under male domination.

But it was to be expected from that new institution in politics which can bear no other name than Watsonism.

It is the very logic of his political life and his political methods that he would secure just such aids to his faltering and wavering cause.

He has always been the backroom, secret session politics, and is still the backroom, secret session method.

He depends upon bargains made with bosses and with those who traffic in hate and venom.

It is an open secret that he made his deal with the local boss and the head of the hooded order for their support and that his tie to Robinson is the result of just such secret methods.

The women have every right to be angry. It is true that the event was a scandal and a blow to all their ideals.

But why stop at the very efficient woman who secured the votes and let the man who was the beneficiary of the "poison squad" go back into power?

The way to clean up politics is to strike at the source of unclean politics.

THE WATSON CONFIDENCE

Senator Watson, emerging from his retreat at a northern lake, announces that he is so confident of victory in November that it seems hardly worth while to make any speeches.

That must be a pleasant situation for a candidate for the United States Senate, who in the past, has had the protective care of some national figure.

There may be some speculation as to the reasons for his vast complacency.

Certainly it can not come from any hope that the members of his party who have some regard for President Coolidge will march joyously to the polls to give him their ballots.

For the Senator has definitely broken with every major policy of the President, has gone to considerable trouble to emphasize his break by demanding indorsements of his own attitude on the world court and farm relief. Every indorsement of Watson on these matters was an indictment of the President.

There are many thousands of Republicans in this State who have faith in Coolidge and who would probably vote for him as his own successor.

These will have no illusions that a vote for Watson is assisting the President to carry out his own policies of government.

There is even less reason to believe that Watson can find such satisfaction with his own record of thirty years as to give him any real solace. He is too good a politician to believe that. He, best of all, must know that when he declared that his vote for Newberryman, an indorsement of lavish use of money to sway elections, was indorsed by the people of Indiana, he insulted the general reputation of the State for honesty.

Possibly he finds his confidence in that "little black book" which his manager for women votes so frankly says contains the lists of five whispering women in each county who were enlisted in what she just as frankly termed her "poison squad."

He may be correct in any belief he has that the time has come for government by gossip.

SHORTRIDGE AND THE COURT

Present reports seem to indicate the renomination of Senator Samuel Shortridge by the Republicans of California. Some of the same reports acclaim this as a victory for the World Court idea.

We could wish this might be true, but we gravely doubt it. We believe in the World Court, an American idea which has now found acceptance almost everywhere save in America. We don't believe very much in Senator Samuel Shortridge, who ranks among the featherweights on Capitol Hill in Washington. We'd like to think that the California Republican voters carefully decided the pros and cons of the situation and decided that Shortridge, weak though he is, and servant of the special interests though he is, should be returned to the Senate to support this enlightened foreign policy.

It would be encouraging also if we could believe that the voice of the voters, thus expressed, might cause a great light to dawn on Senator Hiram Johnson. Johnson has been rampaging up and down the Golden State demanding the defeat of Shortridge, and one of the reasons he has given Sam Shortridge's support of the World Court. But he has had better reasons and more effectual reasons from a political standpoint. Shortridge has served the interests in

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

Tracy

Another Brief Puts Sand in the Crank-Case of the Oil Suit.

By M. E. Tracy

Another brief has been filed in the Fall-Sinclair-Doheny oil case and, like all the others, it has little to do with the main issue.

This time, it is alleged, the indictments are faulty because they rest on the erroneous assumption that President Harding had power to transfer control of naval oil lands from the Navy to the Interior Department.

In other words, the case should be dropped because President Harding made a mistake and Fall had no authority to do what he did.

Not exactly that, either, since to-morrow, or the next day, you will find defense counsel arguing that Fall had ample authority, whether the President made a mistake or not.

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Decades of Pleading

This oil case has been in the hopper more than two years, and thus far nothing has been tried but the law.

Whether a special prosecutor has the right to appear before a grand jury and whether the indictments drawn by a grand jury are legal, if he does; whether the Walsh act is constitutional; whether the indictments should be dismissed because the case had not been tried in the time prescribed, though defense counsel have prevented it from being tried by their varied and technical pleadings; whether everybody is innocent because Fall did something he had a legal right to do, or because he had no legal right to do.

These are but a few of the questions that have been raised to block proceedings.

By 1934, or ten years after the indictments were drawn, we may have determined just what, basis, in law, there is for this case.

In another decade we may have learned how to formulate the pleadings correctly.

It is still another decade we may have arrived at a point where we can actually ask some body to decide whether Fall, Sinclair and Doheny were guilty of anything.

By that time they probably will be dead and the question won't be worth answering.

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This Is the Law

A wonderfully contrived institution, the law; putting Loeb and Leopold in prison for life and then providing means by which they are likely to get out after eleven years.

At all events, that is what the Illinois State parole chief thinks.

These two prodigies, you remember, were sentenced for kidnapping and killing young Bobby Franks.

They received ninety-nine years for the kidnapping and life for the killing.

Judge Caverly failed to state that the sentences were to run consecutively, so they will run concurrently. When sentences run concurrently, the longer prevails.

Which is longer, life or ninety-nine years. But the law regards life as the maximum.

At the same time and though regarding life as longer than ninety-nine years the law rates life at twenty years when figuring paroles. If life prevails as the longer term, and it is rated at twenty years, Loeb and Leopold will be entitled to parole after eleven years, providing they have maintained good records.

District Attorney Crowe says he will fight their release, but he probably won't be district attorney when the question comes up.

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And Now, Thaw

Here is Harry K. Thaw, in the legal limelight since 1906, declared insane in one State and sane in another, and now writing a book to lambast the man he murdered.

What should have been done in his case anyway, and what has the law to show for wasting all the time and taking all the money?

Here are two men convicted of murder in Ohio; the younger one, a boy of 17, given death, the other one given life, and on the same evidence.

How can we reconcile such things in the mind of a common sense public, and if we cannot, how are we to promote respect for the law?

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Floundering

There is something to think about in this country besides the world court, the foreign debts, the Mexican situation, Bolshevik Russia, or Mussolini. Important as they may be.

We are not making good in the matter of ordinary conduct.

We have thirty-six times as many murders per 1,000 people as Switzerland and twelve times as many as Canada. Our bandit, hold-up, assault and yes record is not equalled by any civilized nation on earth.

We call it a crime wave mainly to console ourselves with the idea that it is temporary and will soon pass away.

It is not a wave at all, but a bedevilment of steady growth.

I have no pet theory as to the cause, but just an idea to pass along.

You can't tell any more what a jury is going to do, what a court of appeals is going to do, even when the facts are known.

This means that definite standards have ceased to exist. We simply have no fixed idea of what is right under a given set of circumstances.

We are all floundering and the criminal is the only gainer.

What is the value of a United States large copper cent dated 1818? 25 cents.

What did the United States pay Denmark for the Virgin Islands? \$25,000,000.

To whom does Bermuda belong? What language is spoken on the islands?

Bermuda is a British possession. English is spoken by the majority of the inhabitants.

A MOUNTAIN SQUIRREL

By MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

The gay little mountain squirrel watches us with the brightest of eyes. He is bravely clad in gray with a magnificent tail that might be the envy of any animal. And he waves this plump appendage about with the utmost unconcern, apparently unmindful of human beings, those creatures which he must so distrust and fear, stand near looking at him.

He is a happy little soul, and industrious. Always searching for a morsel of precious food to store away for the white, cold winter, yet always playing happily as he goes about his work.

Up the tall pine tree he runs so swiftly that the eye can hardly follow him and he will balance himself upon a swaying twig like a round little ball of delight high up in the sunlight.

Over the rocks he leaps, to disappear suddenly in some little crevice where no man's heavy hand can follow. Out he peeps, presently, and venturing slowly forth he will climb upon a stone and sit upright, nibbling daintily at some crumb which his sharp eyes have spied.

Now and then, he raises his head and gives forth a funny harsh sound, like a giant nutmeg grater, and although you may be very wise indeed, you can never understand just where within his small body he can keep anything to raise so brave a noise.

He frisks, he sports, he plays all the time—unconcerned with the cares of any world outside his tall trees and his sheltered crannies.

And watching his buoyant happiness you can not but ask yourself whether man, after all, is such a fortunate being. He, who is continually beset by terrors, who is anguished by love, who is fearful of death, who longs to live forever. For men, whether they be wise or foolish, never can feel the simple ecstasy which the tiny mountain squirrel knows when he senses that the round, yellow sun has risen again over the eastern peak. He gambols happily through the days, satisfied with the home where he was born, never beset by any longings to leave his familiar rocks and trees for others far away.

He is only a streak of life, flashing gayly through the warm summer days, and when he leaves the bright sunlight forever his bones make a soft sod, over which others of his like will play.

With the completion of the new First National studios at Burbank, Cal., comes the realization to those who were responsible for the inception and development of the enterprise that they have conferred a direct benefit upon thousands of people to whom, theretofore, the name First National had merely stood for good motion pictures.

Today the organization must be looked upon in the light of a benefactor by owners of homesites, business sites and other real property in the confines of Burbank and contiguous territory, adjacent to the big film plant.

Two to one is a very low estimate of the increase in values. Those who seek residential property within near reach of the city can still secure it at a reasonable rate, but are long that too is going to take a skyward jump.

A new section of the city of Burbank is now in the making—of which the studios will naturally form a nucleus, so to speak.

As a show place, aside from its economic value, the First National plant has already become a thing to marvel at. The landscaping has placed it in the category of beauty spots in a valley already famed for its beauty and fame.

For a year, perhaps, say experts, home sites may still be bought near the studio at a fair price. After that—there's no telling; the example of Hollywood is no example.

When the First National organization found that it would have to seek a new home, Richard A. Rowland, M. C. Levee, and John McCormick put their heads together. These three gentlemen are respectively vice president and general manager; general executive manager and general manager of West Coast production. Naturally as result of this concentration of ideas, something was certain to result—in this case, the result was—the new studios at Burbank.

Ground was broken on March 28, 1926. The grounds cover approximately sixty-five acres the exact location is three and one-half miles northeast of Hollywood within the confines of Burbank. The Austin Company were general contractors.

The plant was delivered, ready for occupancy on June 15, a matter of seventy-four working days. An alfalfa field had become a great institution combining art with business, craftsmanship with skilled labor, in one component whole—a tribute to the tireless energy, the vision, and the industry of all concerned.

Already the site had been blessed with good roads, in fact exceptional roads from all directions, which was a help in all respects. A natural climate that is unsurpassed in the State is also a factor in favor of the enterprise.

On July 1, June Mathis started her production, "The Masked Woman" directed by Balboni. It was the first picture to be made in the new plant and—it was completed on schedule, which is a feat in itself.

There are approximately, thirty buildings on the "lot" and these cost roughly a million and a half dollars. Four of these are stages each containing 33,000 square feet of floor

First National Completes Its New Western Movie Studio at Burbank, Cal.

Wins Praise



space. There is space for four more. The electric system is perfect—both for power and light. 33,000 volts are delivered by the Southern California Edison Company, which is reduced by the big transformers in the studio to 220 AC and thence to 220 and 110 volts. There is enough available energy to supply a city of 10,000 population.

A water system that is thoroughly up to date, includes the Grinnell Sprinkling system for fire prevention and a tank with a capacity of 100,000 gallons is provided for this.

Aside from the technical buildings, the projection rooms, the dressing rooms, Coleen Moore's bungalow, etc., there is a swimming pool, for both swimming and water scenes; tennis courts, children's schoolroom, golf course, etc.

NEW SHOW OPENS TODAY AT THE PALACE THEATER

As a background for their unusual dances, poses, and dance tricks Zermann and Farrar have brought from the far-away Balkans six men who play musical instruments and introduce them at the Palace theater the last half of this week.</