

# 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.

## LEST WE FORGET

That fine indorsement of the city manager form of government, the law passed preventing the people from getting it until two Indiana mayors serve their terms, ought not to be forgotten.

It should, instead spur the efforts of the group of citizens who appealed to Governor Jackson to permit the people of the cities to rule themselves.

True, the law just signed sets aside a solemn contract made with the people by these mayors of Indianapolis and Evansville when they spent large sums of money to obtain the jobs of mayor.

When they sought these offices, they took them under a law which gave to the people the protection that whenever the people grew tired of the present system of these mayors, they could change to the city manager form of government by a popular vote.

It was because the people of these two cities, or at least a very large percentage of the people, wanted to change that the politicians controlled the legislature and the governor, made bargain-breakers of the mayors and shackled the cities for two more years.

But that very fact should be an argument for immediate action to secure the change in the system before the bosses tie up the prosperity for four more years of machine government.

The time to hold a city manager election and start the machinery in motion to introduce business into government and banish partisan politics is right now.

Unless petitions are circulated in the very near future, it will be impossible to hold such an election this year.

The city should get ready to enter the promised land of relief. Each day adds its evidence of the high cost of partisan political control of this city. The future and the growth of the city are constantly menaced and burdened by the tribute exacted by favored politicians.

There is no department of the city government which is free from the burden of waste and inefficiency that is inevitably and invariably tied to a partisan political government. The one advantage which the boss has is that he can generally count on a certain lethargy and indifference on the part of those who really want decent things.

He can always count on men who should lead being too busy to vote and too much engaged in some worthy private enterprise to take the trouble to follow through.

The boss stays on the job continually. That is how he thrives. It is his business.

This city movement ought not to die. It ought to be in full swing. For the people know its value. They know its advantages. They know that it will help the city.

The bosses have indorsed it by fighting. That in itself ought to be enough argument for its adoption.

## AN ABSOLUTE PRIVILEGE

"The law puts no bridle on the mouth of truth." Here is the latest epigrammatic declaration of the freedom of speech and of the press. It comes from Senator James A. Reed of Missouri.

Citizens of Indiana will be interested in this restatement of an ancient right, because of the fact that this right has been challenged from time to time in this State and in the popular mind there may be some confusion as to just where the privilege to speak and to print ends.

The absolute privilege of speaking the truth carries with it, necessarily, a duty to speak nothing but the truth.

No individual has a right to print false and malicious slanders or libels. No individual has a right to destroy reputations and cause humiliation by gossiping falsehoods.

But as long as the newspaper stays within the confines of truth, there must never be, either by legislative enactment or by judicial encroachment, any invasion of this right.

It is preservation of that right that the legislature has brought impeachment proceedings against one of the Indiana judges.

For the law provides penalties for falsehoods, uttered in malice, and the legal redress must be relied upon by all alike, whether they be a humble citizen without influence or a judge upon the bench.

The law provides that when persons print false and damaging statements, they can be held in damages.

If the false statements contain charges of turpitude, they become crimes and the liar is sent to jail in punishment.

But the law, at the same time, is jealous of the right to speak the truth and the legislature has declared that a judge who attempts to pass upon truth and falsity without a hearing, invades this sacred right and should be removed from office.

That is the reason the attention of the nation, especially of newspapers and those who have stood guard over the priceless heritage of freedom of speech, are interested in the Indiana effort to maintain it.

No one defends the liar and the maligner.

But he must be punished under the law and in a legal way. To set up any arbitrary method of punishment, to prevent a hearing upon the truth or falsity of statements, opens the path to tyranny.

The right to speak the truth is absolute. It can not be modified with safety. It can not be surrendered in fear.

## A REVISION OF WAR DEBTS?

Secretary of the Treasury Mellon has just administered a gentle slap on the wrist to the 116 Princeton professors who last week joined in the agitation for a revision of the allied war debts.

Somewhat we can not escape the impression that they had it coming to them. Quite as the secretary points out to President Hibben of Princeton, one of the signers of the manifesto, "It is not so long since that all of our soundest economists claimed, and rightly claimed that the one prerequisite to the restoration of economic prosperity in the world was an early settlement of these debts between governments."

Today the settlements are an accomplished fact—barring the notable exception of France, with whom an agreement is hanging fire. To undo all this would not be good sense. It would throw the world right back into the chaotic quagmire, where it was struggling when our economists demanded its rescue. The true, notwithstanding any blunders com-

mitted by our commission charged with the settlements.

Not a single thing has happened in any of the countries involved which would give us anything better to base an agreement upon than we had at the start.

So, as the debt liquidation period is to run sixty-three years, and as no country will be called upon to pay more than a nominal sum during the first ten years of that time, we can very well afford to wait and watch, as Secretary Mellon says, to see how things work out.

This paper is decidedly of the opinion that a revision of debt settlements is not only inevitable, but ultimately more vital to the United States than to any other nation.

The United States can, and must, correct the one fundamental mistake its debt commission made, namely, to leave the entire world under the impression that Uncle Sam's real name is Shylock.

Secretary Mellon correctly points out to President Hibben that we have virtually canceled the actual war debt of every ally that owes us, with the exception of Great Britain. But who knows this? Few Americans know it, let alone foreigners.

France's after-war indebtedness to us, with interest, the Secretary says, amounts to \$1,655,000,000. The present value of the Mellon-Berenger settlement with France at 5 per cent—a rate less than she now has to pay for money—is \$1,680,000,000, almost an identical amount.

This being the case, why couldn't we have said to France: "To show our love and admiration for our traditional friend and ally, and in recognition of the noble struggle you put up while we were preparing to take the field, we here and now make you a present of every last cent of the money you borrowed from us from the time we entered the war until the armistice. We only ask that you pay us what you borrowed after the war was over with interest at 5 per cent."

We would have been just as well off financially, Secretary Mellon himself admits. And there is no computing how much better off we would now be in the world's opinion!

We have let off every one of the allies with the exception noted, for an amount "either less than or approximately the same as the amounts borrowed after the armistice," says Mr. Mellon to Mr. Hibben. Then why in heaven's name didn't we take that as our cue and play the game that way?

The answer, of course, is, we played politics here at home. Our politicians climbed to the house-tops, gritted their teeth and shouted to the world that, by cracky, we'd make Europe pay every last red cent she owes us or know the reason why. That was for home consumption, but the world did not know it, and so has taken us at our own valuation—as a tight-fisted, hard-boiled old skinflint.

After this public exhibition of ourselves, we took off our Shylock whiskers and quietly agreed to accept whatever our debtors felt they cared to pay us.

Eventually the time will come when a debt revision will be necessary. Then will be our chance to regain from the world some of the good will we foolishly threw away.

## PROSPERITY

Prosperity means all things to all people. To the little boy, with his face glued against the candy store window, the difference between prosperity and anguish is about 5 cents.

To a Ford or a Rockefeller, the addition of fifteen millions to a personal fortune is a matter of course, calling for no prosperity bulletins.

That's why one honest man can contend that the country is enjoying a period of unprecedented prosperity, while another equally honest man can argue that the great mass of the people are really not prosperous at all.

That's about what is going on at the present time.

One man hails the report of the National Bureau of Economic Research that the average income of those gainfully employed in the United States in 1926 was \$2,010, an all time record, as an irrefutable evidence of general prosperity.

Another rises in wrath to call attention to the sad plight of the farmer, the continuing unemployment in industry, particularly in New England, and the demands to know "What do you mean, prosperity?"

Both men can be speaking from reliably recorded facts and still be shooting wide of the mark.

Right now the best of any general argument certainly rests with those shouting the praises of prosperity, provided, of course, that they make an exception of the relief-less farmer.

With the coming of spring, all the reports indicate that business is swinging into a stride which promises little unemployment, good wages and large profits during coming months.

That, of course, means "general prosperity." It does not mean there will not be individual and community disasters, and that those who want to debate the issue of general prosperity won't be able to find ammunition.

It simply means that the "average man," a product of the statisticians and not of real flesh and blood, is getting along pretty well these days.

Casualties in the day's news: Man fell 12 feet and fractured both arms and both legs. Some people get all the breaks. . . . Cabaret soprano disappeared while on her way here from Europe. Maybe she was killed while on the high C's. . . . Illinois somnambulist walked off a second-story balcony for the second time in a month. Must have been a fall guy. . . . Rancher proved easy mark for confidence men. Now one crook is dead, the other wounded. Confidence men proved easy mark for rancher. . . . Woman practiced with a revolver for a month in the basement of her home, then shot her husband. A little learning is a dangerous thing.

Pedestrians are getting their rights at last. They used to get last rites.

These are the kind of days we'll be wishing for when we have the kind of days we're wishing for now.

New York minister says the devil is busy in Russia. Then somebody actually is working over there.

# Tracy

Who Shall Control Water-power? Becomes Dominant Issue.

By M. E. Tracy

Considering the vast amount of waterpower already in the hands of private business, should the Federal Government and the States develop what they have left, or at least some part of it on their own account, or give it all up and trust to regulation?

This is the issue back of Muscle Shoals, back of Boulder Dam and back of the struggle now going on between Governor Smith and the Legislature of New York.

From a political standpoint the New York situation is of the most important, for it gives Governor Smith something to talk about in his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination besides the liquor situation.

He stands for public development of waterpower, which is a position that will appeal to certain sections of the country where his attitude on the liquor question is unpopular. The Republican-controlled Legislature hopes to put him in a hole as far as New York is concerned by blocking the program he has outlined for developing power on the St. Lawrence river.

He may be able to do this, but not without revealing his attitude in a favorable light to the west.

## Million Replies

Secretary Mellon's reply to the professors of Princeton and Columbia, who advocated the revision of our foreign debt settlements is short, practical and convincing.

He disposes of the argument that the United States should write off what allied countries owe us as a contribution to the common cause very neatly.

"Looking at the substance, rather than the form of the transaction," he says, "the situation was no different than if they (the allies) had actually sold their own bonds in the American market and our Government had indorsed them. Had this course been followed, would any one consider that the sums advanced were in any sense contributions to a joint enterprise, rather than loans expected to be repaid?"

Answering the professors' statement that in estimating the allied capacity to pay "only incidental consideration was given to reparation payments to be received by the other debtor countries from Germany," Mr. Mellon says:

"Now the fact is that all of our principal debtors are already receiving from Germany more than enough to pay their debts to the United States."

## \$51,000 Signature

Button Gwinnett's signature brought \$51,000 at a sale in New York last Wednesday night. This is the highest sum ever paid for an individual signature.

Button Gwinnett was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, to be sure, but I cannot find his name in the "Encyclopedia Britannica."

Either an ambitious collector has placed an exaggerated value on his name or what claims to be the most authoritative work of information has grossly underestimated it.

## Back in Court

The haunting, unsolved Hall-Mills murder mystery enters court once more.

Mrs. Hall and her brother, Willie Stevens, who were tried and acquitted, and her cousin, Henry Carpenter, who was indicted, but never tried, have brought suit against William Randolph Hearst and The Daily Mirror for \$1,500,000.

The issue is libel, of course, and if the suit is ever tried, all the gruesome details will have to be dragged forth and rehearsed in order to prove whether they were distorted in publication, or whether they warranted the stories and pictures that were based on them.

## What Is Man?

Clarence Darrow says that the materials composing a man's body can be bought for 85 cents at any drugstore. A distinguished physician is even more conservative, declaring that they would cost only 68 cents.

All of which may be true, but the fact remains that there is not enough wealth and knowledge in the world to put those materials to gether and make a living human being. Further than that wealth and knowledge have not reached a point where they will ever be able to achieve such a feat.

Man may be no more than a physical mechanism, but even so, he is the only physical mechanism thus far discovered that can think.

## Law and Wealth

Sinclair's conviction proves that the law can rise above wealth on occasion.

If this man had not been a millionaire, he probably would not have tried so contemptuously with the Senate. At that, he probably acted on the advice of high priced lawyers which his millions enabled him to hire.

The case is not over by any means. There are motions for a retrial to be heard, and appeals to be taken. Every loophole which the law offers will be tried, for that is the bread and meat of attorneyism.

Sinclair may get out of it in the end, or he may not. Meanwhile let it be remembered that Sinclair was convicted only in the charge of refusing to answer questions, while no one has been convicted of looting the Government oil reserves.

Is the comma always employed to set off such words as however, nevertheless, moreover, etc., in the middle of a sentence?

Yes.

How many universities and colleges are there in the United States? According to bureau of education statistics for 1924 there were 913.

## This Censorship Business



## The Shuberts Still Maintain Glory and Beauty of 'The Student Prince'

By Walter D. Hickman

When a musical success has been out as long as "The Student Prince," it being seen here once before by another company, interest now centers upon the ability of the company as well as the production.

The Messrs. Shubert have not permitted this really beautiful and tuneful romantic show to become a lame duck. Rather, it seems that they have taken strict care and pride that their product be kept most beautiful as to production and efficient as to cast.

The famous student chorus is splendid, if not better than the organization they sent here the first time. Carl Formes as Dr. Engle carries the prologue and the first act.

Gus Alexander, with his voice and graceful character portrayal. The Voice Mark of James Heaman has a ring of sincerity to it. Lloyd Garrett is the Prince Karl Franz, and the choice has been a wise one. He is young, but he has been carefully trained for the part. He sings with ease and with a pleasant voice. He is a delightful picture to behold, especially in the court scene in the third act, and as the King in the last act.

Ruth Williams is the Kathie who acts better than she sings, but she has that great quality, personality, which makes the audience adore her.

Robert Greig is a splendid Lutz. As good as the Lutz I saw in New York. He knows comedy and how to sell it to its best advantage. Gus Alexander is the half-pint sized edition of Hubert. Good contrast to Lutz. Clever.

Gertrude Maitland is magnificent in her big comedy scene, that in the third act. It is a large and capable company. The production is as beautiful and as complete as when first seen here.

"The Student Prince" is as safe a buy as it ever has been. And it is still one of the most pleasant experiences that the stage has to offer.

"The Student Prince" remains on view at English's today, Saturday matinee and night.

LOOKING OVER NEW EVENTS AT THE PALACE

Color splashed about in a harmonious manner, music well selected and, most important of all, dances arranged with care and effectiveness, are the reasons for the excellent impression left upon one after seeing

without a tympanum against which the air waves set in motion by the tree's fall could strike. In physics, however, sound is defined as "a form of vibrational energy" which occasions the sensation described above. Taking this definition the falling tree would create sound in spite of the fact that no ear was present to hear it because the vibrational effects would be produced. The matter resolves itself therefore into a question of definition. The usual definition of sound is the one accepted. If that definition is accepted, there is no sound unless there is an eardrum to be affected by the waves of air.

Is there a difference in voting age for men and women in the United States? The voting age for both males and females is 21 years.

Can you give me a recipe for fruit cocktail? Cut in small pieces one banana, two large slices of pineapple and the pulp of six large oranges. Mix with the juice of one lemon and sweeten to taste. Serve in sherbert cups, very cold. Put a cherry in each cup. Any combination of fruits, canned or fresh may be used. As a rule combinations of a sweet and a sour fruit are most piquant in flavor.

How should club sandwiches be eaten? With knife and fork.

Here Soon

What is electro-biology?

It is a phase of mesmerism and also concerns the science of electric currents in living organisms, including electrophysiology and electrotherapy or electrotherapeutics.

How are "Poussez," "Rextez" and "Tirez" applied to violin music? Poussez refers to the up-stroke of the violin bow. Rextez, keep the same position. Tirez is the term for down bow.

How many persons were accidentally drowned in the United States in 1924? 6,490.

Is it possible to have sound without the presence of a living being to hear it?

One definition of sound is "a sensation produced by air waves set in motion and striking against the tympanum of the ear." The waves or vibration may be conducted by any other gas, a liquid (as water) or an elastic solid. Taking this definition there would be no sound for instance if a tree fell in the forest with no living thing within earshot, because no sensation could be produced

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# Work

Minor Vs. Major—Which to Bid After Informatory Double.

By Milton C. Work

The pointer for today is: When answering the Informatory double of a dependable partner, bid a strong four-card minor in preference to a weak six-card minor; but, unless the major be strong, give the six-card suit the preference.

Yesterday's hand was: Sp: 8-x-x-x Ht: x D: x-x C: A-Q-10-9-x South bid one No Trump, West doubles, North passes; East (the holder of the above hand) should bid two Clubs and not two Spades. I am, however, presenting this as my individual opinion; not as the expert consensus of the country, because it is a point on which expert opinion is divided. All agree that any four-card Major should be preferred to any Minor of not more than five cards; but when the choice is between a strong six-card Minor suit and a weak four-card Major suit, a difference of opinion arises. There are many who, for the reasons advanced during the past two days, believe that the Major should be named in spite of the preponderance of length in the Minor suit (some even go so far as to prefer a four-card Major to a seven-card Minor, but there is a limit to every good thing and I am satisfied that a strong six-card Minor should have the preference over a weak four-card Major. When the four-card Major is strong, the situation is a different one and in that case all will agree that it should be selected in preference to the two-card longer Minor.

Suppose, however, the choice be between two Majors or between two Minors; for example, after West's double of South's No Trump, and North's pass, that East holds either: Sp: K-x-x-x Ht: A-10-x-x D: x-x-x-x C: x-x or—

Sp: x-x Ht: x-x D: Q-10-x-x C: K-J-x-x.

What should East bid? Answer tomorrow.

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Topic for the Week "CHRIST IS A SPIRIT" Friday

"It Means He Is Present With Us" SCRIPTURE: Read—John 16:1-24.

"Lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world" (Mt. 28:20). "It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I go I will send Him unto you" (Jn. 16:7). "I can do all things in Him that strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13).

See—Matthew 18:20; John 14:18, 19. MEDITATION: Jesus said: "He who would be with only a few people, could be with only a few people, but that of a short time. But Christ as the living Spirit can be with every one everywhere, and always. It is not good, therefore, that Jesus exchanged physical presence for spiritual? Now, the Holy Spirit who 'shows us the things of Christ,' deals with us directly in our hearts. In these inner experiences Jesus Christ is with us. May my contemplations open the door of His presence and make me a self-sacrificing servant of mankind."

"The heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee, but the broken and the contrite heart can; it is there Thou delightest most to dwell." HYMN:

O Master, let me walk with Thee In lowly paths of service free. Tell me Thy secret, help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee In closer, dearer company, In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, In trust that triumphs ever wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray Far down the future's broadening way, In peace that only Thou canst give— With Thee, O Master, let me live.—Washington Gladden, 1879.

PRAYER: Thanks for the gospel record. Pray for presence of Holy Spirit; travelers on land and sea. Collect—O God, who dwellest in the beauty of holiness, we praise Thee for the beauty of the earth, for loveliness, embodied in noble men and for the revelation of Thyself in Jesus Christ the incarnation of Thy conquering love. We are covered with shame at the thought of Thy faithfulness for we have not been ever true to Thee. Keep us from infidelity to Thy friendship. Save us from treachery of soul. From the choice of evil and from the enthronement of the lesser things deliver us. Awaken in us a living sense of Thy Spirit. Give us hunger and thirst for righteousness. May our hearts burn with the presence of Christ in us. So would we enthrone Thee; all by the grace of Christ. Amen.

How many employees are there in the Ford automobile factories and assembling plants? More than 75,000.

What is the value of a \$20 Confederate note, issue of 1861? 25 to 40 cents.

Who is the author of "Crucel Fellowship?" Cyril Maude (1899).