

The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."—Dante.

Labor Day

Perhaps the finest vindication of Labor Day as a holiday is the fact that very few of us could give, off hand, the reasons that prompted the setting aside of one day under this name.

Contrary to popular suspicion it was not created for the purpose of giving demagogues a chance to talk about the dignity of labor or cheap politicians the opportunity of deluding those who work for wages as to their "friendship for labor."

In the days when this country began to change from a strictly agricultural nation to one of industry, the wages of the worker and the conditions under which he worked were real problems.

It was a fight to get rid of the 12-hour and 14-hour day and that strange phrase a "living wage" was a platform and a purpose.

The problems have been solved to a large extent in this country without creating that class consciousness which exists in other countries and divides citizens into working classes, leisure classes or middle classes.

Labor saving machinery, mass production, intelligent selfishness have combined to give all a standard living never before reached in the history of any nation and a general distribution of comforts and of education that have wiped out class distinctions.

Few can tell whether that shiny auto in front of a factory belongs to the chief stockholder, the general manager or the man who operates a machine or lathe. Department store managers would be marvels if they could tell whether the girl who buys that new dress is the daughter of the city's richest man or the girl who works in an office in the next block. The sons of the owner of a big enterprise and of the man who is its night watchman are to be found in the same class in state universities.

The triumph of labor is that it has taken dandery from toil and maintains a standard of living that preserves self respect.

The politician would draw only a laugh who talked these days about the "dignity of labor." Everyone knows that we are stepping lively along the road to the point where machinery and electricity will do most of the hard jobs.

The day when it was necessary to set aside a day for human beings to talk about their rights and to plan to get them industrially bettered to a historic barbaric past.

Can you remember why Labor Day was so designated? Neither can many other people.

Why Wait?

Shall Indiana and Indianapolis be compelled to wait two years before it rids themselves of conditions and scandals which are humiliating to citizenship and a positive barrier to progress?

No such situation has ever existed in any other State or in any other city.

We now have the amazing situation of a mayor under indictment, holding office only because of an act of legislature which prevented the people from replacing the system which created him with the City Manager form which the people have voted.

We have the more amazing situation of a grand jury calling witnesses who could only tell of the truth of the charges made by this newspaper that the present Governor, then secretary of State, offered a former Governor

\$10,000 for attorney fees and a jury which would not convict in return for a friendly prosecutor, and that Governor silent and making not even denial.

These things are not helpful, either to the moral sense of this State or to its industrial progress.

Every newspaper in this State has declared that if the charge a story concerning Ed Jackson, then secretary of State and now Governor is true, he should not be Governor.

Is the only remedy that of waiting two years until the people have a chance at the polls?

That seems intolerable. Certainly there are men in this State who have interests great enough in its prosperity and growth, citizens with a regard for its reputation, who are strong enough and courageous enough to demand that this situation be ended and ended at once.

It is not a question of politics. It is one of citizenship and of Indiana.

The Baron, the League and the Press

Lord Hewart, Chief Justice of England and Baron of Bury, speaking before the American Bar Association at Buffalo, took occasion to criticize the press.

Misrepresentation in the news, he declared, is more dangerous to mankind than communism. With which sentiment this newspaper most heartily agrees. "Is it not really a kind of treason against the political sovereign," he asks, "deliberately to mislead the public either by active misrepresentation or by calculated suppression?"

Again this newspaper concurs with the general thought, though certainly not with the inference that the newspapers themselves are most generally to blame for said misrepresentations and suppressions. The "political sovereign" itself, that is to say governments, are today the most dangerous offenders, by far and away, against what the baron complains of. Many governments maintain their own "official" news agencies for the sole purpose of being able to transmit news to newspapers colored to suit, else suppress it altogether. And many governments maintain a peacetime censorship for precisely the same reason, namely, that they may control the news as one controls the flow of water for a faucet.

Here is "treason" indeed, and of the worst kind, but the newspapers are the victims, not the perpetrators. It is highly significant that the First International Press conference, which has just adjourned at Geneva, made this very thing the main theme for discussion. An international committee of journalists, of which President Karl A. Bickel, of the United Press, was the American member, drew up a resolution against any such control over the news. And another resolution was offered by Robert P. Scripps, president of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, against peacetime censorship because it makes for dangerous news abuses. Both these resolutions were passed unanimously and Friday, at Geneva, German Foreign Minister Stresemann and M. Paul Boncour of France, urged the League of Nations to adopt these resolutions as being of utmost importance.

The journalists, M. Boncour declared, were to be congratulated for what they had done, particularly for their condemnation of peacetime censorship which gives rise to so much false news inimical to world peace.

This is the answer of the press to Lord Hewart. Like the bar association, the press is made up of good members and bad. But so long as the press is free, that editor is a fool who thinks he can mislead the public for long. Where newspapers are at liberty to discuss any and every public question, the truth, in the long run, must rise above all attempts at misrepresentation.

Lord Hewart need not lose any sleep over the menace of a free press, no matter how flagrantly that freedom sometimes may be abused. A free press inevitably carries with it its own antidotes for any and all possible poisons.

What Other Editors Think

(Marion-Leader Tribune)
As Warren T. McCray left Atlanta prison, on parole, he was faced by a group of newspapermen such as might have talked with him in his political days.

So says a dispatch. His refusal to talk was published report that \$10,000 had been offered him by Governor Ed Jackson, then secretary of State, in an effort to influence him to appoint J. McDonald, prosecuting attorney of Marion County, when W. P. Evans, McCray's son-in-law resigned, "I am not responsible for that report," he said, "and I want to keep out of it."

We know of no better way for the former Governor to win back the good graces of the people in Indiana than to talk, if by good conversation he will be able to help in a good house cleaning. His refusal to talk may be understood, in a degree, by the punishment he has endured and a desire to keep out of additional entanglements. Nothing will do more, we imagine, to sap a man's courage than a term of three years behind the bars of a penitentiary. But, on the other hand, McCray was honored by the State and elected to the highest office within the gift of the people. He later disgraced the office, was untrue to the oath, and betrayed the faith and confidence of the people who had so signally honored him. In what better way can he receive, or deserve, forgiveness than to assist those same people in cleaning up the horrible state of affairs which now exist in the Hoosier State? No one should know better than McCray whether the Governor offered him \$10,000 for a dishonorable purpose, and surely no one should be more anxious to assist the officials of the State in a determination of the question.

McCray has suffered much, and he has the sympathy of many people. He would win the respect of the majority of them if it was shown that he had been asked to further dishonor his State, by entering into the alleged illegal conspiracy. It has been intimated that McCray refused to accept the \$10,000 and predicted his refusal on an unwillingness to so betray the State, and to thus lose his self-respect. No finer motive could be imagined, and if the allegations are true, the ex-prisoner is a much better man than he has been pictured. The offenses proven against him concerned financial transactions surrounding his personal dealing in farm products and cattle. None of such offenses were high crimes against the peace and dignity of the whole State. But here is an alleged

crime which touches the entire State, and the highest official of the State. Every newspaper in the State has declared that if the charge is true, first made by The Indianapolis Times, then Ed Jackson should not be Governor. In the meantime the Governor spends his time in vacationing and refuses to talk. Has the Governor, the right to even retain the office if he continues to remain silent? Are not the people of Indiana entitled to an explanation?

The Leader-Tribune believes that the legislature of the State should meet and investigate this intolerable situation. We are sickened almost to death by the continuous flaunting of the good name of the State from one end of the nation to the other. Has the time not come for a showdown? How much longer will we be compelled to put up with this terrible silence, and this failure to act?

McCray refuses to talk. Does he mean by that that he is unwilling to assist in helping to restore the good name of the State, and does he not believe that he never had a better chance to show penitence, and to come clean?

(The Richmond Palladium)
The Indiana law requires automobiles to come to a stop when school buses are discharging or loading pupils. The reason for the law is apparent. It is to give the children a chance to leave or enter the bus without suffering harm from passing motorists.

Here is a law that is not well known. A school will resume in a few days, so the warning of State authorities that the law will be enforced should prompt automobile drivers to remember that children have certain rights, one of them being entrance and exit from school hacks without having to watch every step they make.

The requirements of the law are reasonable, and every automobile driver should obey it implicitly. In several counties drivers have been instructed to report the license numbers of drivers who drive by hacks without coming to a stop. In Henry county vigorous prosecution of offenders is promised.

Wayne county drivers are not exempt from the operations of this law. They, too, should come to a stop whenever they see that a school hack is taking on or discharging its young passengers.

A number of flagrant violations of the law have been prosecuted in this county. Authorities will be protecting the rights of the children if they insist that motorists obey it.

M. E.

TRACY

SAYS:

Farming and Local Mining Are the Two Darkest Spots in Our Industrial Situation Right Now. It Is Only Fair That They Receive Some Attention on Labor Day.

I have just returned from a trip through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana.

These states form a section of the country where farming and coal mining play an important part.

Farming and coal mining are the two darkest spots in our industrial situation right now.

It is only fair that they should receive some attention on Labor day.

Lowest Paid Labor

According to the latest government report, the average income of farmers in this country is \$855 annually.

Leaving out Sundays, this amounts to less than \$3 a day, but most farmers have to work some on Sunday.

In a majority of cases, common labor earns more.

Some of the skilled trades earn three times as much.

Though a good many people think so, the farmer can not be classified as a common laborer.

No Farm Protection

Most branches of labor have been assisted by law.

The eight-hour day has been established with regard to public and semi-public work, supervision of mills and mines has been provided to safeguard the health and safety of employees and compensation in case of accident has been made compulsory.

Farmers enjoy no such protection at the hands of the government.

There is no one to pay them when they get kicked by a cow or cut their fingers in the mowing machine.

There is no inspector to see that their barns are properly lighted or their houses properly screened at somebody's expense.

Their economic status is such that they must attend to these things for themselves.

They are exposed to handicaps and difficulties, however, which the government might help them overcome, and they are no less entitled to its assistance than any other class.

Low Wages to Miners

The situation of coal miners is about as serious as that of the farmers.

The industry is over-capitalized and over-manned. There is a market for only about one-half the coal which the available mines and miners can produce.

This has led to a cut in wages in several sections and to idleness in others.

The average income of coal miners is probably not more than that of farmers—\$853 a year.

Favors Open Shop

Trouble centers in the soft coal end of the industry, which is by far the biggest end.

West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee miners are generally on an open shop basis, and wages in them run as low as \$5 a day, if not lower.

Ohio, Indiana and Illinois mines are generally on a union basis, with \$7.50 a day as the bone of contention. Such a condition gives the open shop mines an obvious advantage, especially if freight rates permit them to ship coal to the great markets on fairly equal terms.

It is a curious fact that until the recent decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission, the open shop mines, although much farther away, could send their coal to Chicago for very little more than the union mines.

It is an even more curious fact, that after the Interstate Commerce Commission had insisted on lower rates for the Ohio, Indiana and Illinois mines, the railroads running out of West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee to Chicago voluntarily lowered their rates.

Hazardous Work

Operators in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois contend that the freight rate situation makes it impossible for them to pay the union scale.

Union officials contend that if they were to cut wages in these states, there would be still more of a cut in the open shop mines, and that all they would have accomplished is to make pay lower all along the line.

Such statistics and sidings furnish the background for an interesting and complicated discussion. Back of it all, however, there is one big important issue, and that is, whether or not the coal miner is entitled to as good wages as are other skilled laborers.

The issue can be side stepped by saying that there are too many miners, that freight rates prevent justice, or that because some have yielded to wage cuts the rest must.

The fact remains that coal mining is a hard and hazardous occupation and that those who engage in it should have an opportunity to earn a decent living.

Considering what carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers and railroad men receive, no one who is familiar with the coal mining business can argue that, as a general principle, miners are unreasonable when they insist on \$7.50 a day.

Attention to Plight

The farmer and coal miner, however, are in a bad way, and Labor day would not be serving the purpose to which it was dedicated if their sorry plight went unnoticed.

Are there any figures showing the comparative number of horses on farms in the United States twenty-five years ago and today?

Horses on farms Jan. 1, 1926, were estimated at 15,778,000, compared with 18,272,000 in 1900.

The First and Second A. E. F.—No. 4



Forward Pass Is Used by Douglas MacLean in His Film Travesty on Arabian Nights Entertainment

—BY WALTER D. HICKMAN—

The forward pass now so valuable in football was used many, many years ago by three bold and clever bandits—a young, good-looking bandit, an ugly one and a fat one.

My proof is "Soft Cushions," which is Douglas MacLean's latest effort to make the world a happier place to live in. "Soft Cushions" is really a travesty and a burlesque on the Douglas Fairbanks' Arabian Nights type of entertainment. I have thought all along that some wise producer would some day burlesque this type of entertainment and life into the realm of delightful comedy. And that is just what has been done with "Soft Douglas MacLean Cushions." We first see Douglas MacLean as one of the clever robbers in an Oriental city of years ago strutting down the main drag, meaning street, just before the robbers use their famous forward pass to extract without pain the very fat purse of a victim. MacLean is using a mighty light, dashing comedy touch through the entire action of this travesty. When he makes his vow to pull the beard of the Sultan when the chief of police or something like that should annex a certain slave girl, you are sure that he will pull the beard of the said Sultan with a smile on his face. When he does said pulling, MacLean gets into a peck of trouble, but he is able to frolic his way from ever getting his head under a sharp ax which was used years ago to put robbers in everlasting sleep.

It seems that "Soft Cushions" gives MacLean an easy birth, the train known as popular favor. He is more legitimate than ever in his comedy situation, and one gets the impression that this man is actually improving.

I do not recall having seen before Sue Carroll, a really beautiful girl, who is cast as the chief slave girl. She is mighty easy on the eyes, regardless of what she is not wearing. Richard Carl, who at one time was considered an important somebody on the musical comedy stage, is cast as the old man who sells pretty slave girls to harem owners.

The bill includes "The College Kiddo," a news reel, Emil Seidel and his orchestra and Earl Gordon at the organ.

At the Apollo all week.

POLA NEGRI COMES BACK STRONG IN "BARBED WIRE."

Many of us were beginning to ask what is wrong with Pola Negri lately. And now comes along "Barbed Wire," and we will all agree that Pola has come back strong in an American made movie. Miss Negri became famous in this country years ago when a German made picture, "Passion," was brought over. In time she came to this country and unfortunately went "native" on the coast and started to do pictures having stories that were either bad or unsuited to her type of work. Par-

amount this time has seen to it that Miss Negri has a chance at dramatic acting in a war story which is different. Pola is cast as a French farm girl in northern France before the war. She is really a day laborer on her father's farm. Then war comes and her younger brother goes to war. Pola hates the enemy and this hate flames up more than ever when word comes that her brother has been killed in action. About that time the French government takes over the farm and turns it into a prison

camp where hundreds of Germans were kept after being captured.

Mona, the name of the character played by Miss Negri, fights her better self and tries to prevent herself from even considering a German prisoner a human being.

It is during this struggle that Miss Negri does some dramatic work of the highest type that she has ever given the screen. She is able to register in an emotional way the mental flight of Mona not to fall in love with a German prisoner by the name of Oskar, who worked in Paris before the war and so spoke excellent French.

Mona learns through bitter experience that man is man even in war. It is the way that Miss Negri registers the acceptance of that doctrine which gives "Barbed Wire" its finely drawn dramatic moments.

Clive Brook is the German prisoner, Oskar, who also learns the real meaning of war. Brook does a strong and masterfully characterization of a human being who was ordered to fight and did. Elmer Hanson is wonderfully fine and sensitive as the brother of Mona.

One expects strong and powerful drawn characters on the part of Claude Gillingwater and he lives up to that expectation as the father of Mona.

"Barbed Wire" is blessed with a strong dramatic story and it is also blessed with the strongest dramatic work that Pola Negri has ever done before the camera. She is not a vampire in this movie, but an every-day girl in France who suffered and thought during the war.

Borrah Minevitch and his crowd of harmonica playing boys prove that the humble mouth organ can become as mighty in tone and as beautiful as a pipe organ when properly handled. This is the first time that Minevitch has played this city, but I told you about his band on one of my trip to New York. I said at that time that this boy harmonica band was the greatest novelty on the vaudeville stage. It still is and one of the finest all-round entertainments to be seen any place.

Minevitch is a good showman. He knows how to get natural comedy touches and the boys help him get those effects. These harmonica players play "In a Little Spanish Town," "Ain't She Sweet," and other popular tunes.

Minevitch shows that the harmonica is not limited to simple things alone because he plays part of Gershwin's "Rhapsody." Here is an act which is a compliment to the stage. It is by far the best of the Public presentations given at the Indianapolis.

The bill includes an overture by the orchestra, organ solo, "At the Indiana State Fair," by Maurice Cook; a news reel and other events.

At the Indiana.

DON'T BITE THE HAND THAT IS FEEDING YOU

Another title for Ben Lyon's new movie, "For the Love of Mike" might be "Don't Bite the Hand That Is Feeding You."

"For the Love of Mike" is one of those masculine Pollyanna stories in which the chief character is a boy and not a girl. Ben is cast as a lad who is left on the door step of a home of three merchants in the Hell's Kitchen district in New York, when just a baby.

Of course Ben does not attempt Mike when he is just a baby. Ben has too long legs for that, but when Mike arrives around the age of 18 Ben

Lyon steps in as Mike. The three cronies and merchants are played by Ford Sterling, George Sydney and Hugh Cameron. This was probably done because comedy times are becoming mighty successful on the stage. These three actors know their stage business, especially Sterling and Sydney. The three "dads" to Mike bring up the lad and they are proud of him and after a bitter verbal fight they decide to send

Pola Negri

Ben Lyon

Mike to Yale. Mike lands on the varsity boat team and becomes captain.

He gets the swell head or some sort of a kindred ailment, and he high hats his three good and true "dads" and the "dads" get off of their favorite.

This rebuke gets under the skin of Mike, and after some temptation he refuses to throw the boat race to Harvard. His good work and his honesty causes the three "dads" to love Mike more than ever.

Of course, there is a love story, and this part of the movie is done by Lyon and Claudette Colbert, whom I am told was highly successful in "The Barker" in New York. She photographs beautifully and acts in a quiet and honest way.

Skeets Gallagher, pretty well known on the vaudeville and musical stages, is cast as one of the members of the Yale boat team.

"For the Love of Mike" is not sensational entertainment, but it has a certain brand of human boat drama that appeals. The boat scenes have been well photographed.

I stated last week that Waring's Pennsylvanians was the best orchestra heard at the Circle this season. It is now in the second week of its engagement at the Circle. A complete new program is being given.

At the Circle.

"NEVADA" TURNS OUT TO BE A GOOD WESTERN

The term "Western" is often used to define a type of a picture which Bill Hart, Tom Mix and others have popularized.

An attempt has been made to put these westerns in the larger movie theatres and "Nevada" is one of those big league westerns.

Gary Cooper is cast as one of those wild ne-men of the West who rides as he fights as well as he rides and who, when he loves, loves with all of his strength.

Nevada starts out defying the law in a western town.

Nevada at that stage of his development believed that his gun could settle disputes more satisfactorily than any court or jury. After he meets by accident a pretty English girl going to the ranch of her brother, Nevada decides that his fire arms are out of date in polite society.

Most of the story is concerned with the efforts of Nevada to run down the cattle thieves. Good theater are these scenes. The natural western scenery makes a beautiful background to this story.

Thelma Todd is seen as the English girl of fine manners who finally falls in love with Nevada. "Nevada" is a de luxe edition of a western. Good entertainment.

The bill includes "Her Silent Wow" and a news reel.

At the Ohio.

MRS. REID EXPOSES SOME MODERN EVILS

Having produced, some time ago, a picture that intended to show the evils of narcotics, Mrs. Wallace Reid now presents a picture which shows the sordidness of the "white slave" traffic.

Written by Adela Rogers St. Johns, "The Red Kimono" shows that a girl who is down is invariably being pushed on down, no matter how hard she may try to rise. But by being able to perform a service to humanity she may win back her self-respect.

Priscilla has the part of the country girl who was lured to the red lights by a "bouncer" from the city. She is taken to New Orleans and

Why the Weather?

By Charles Talman
Authority on Meteorology

WORLD WEATHER RECORDS

With the aid of funds supplied by John A. Roebling, the Smithsonian Institution has compiled and published a monumental collection of weather records from 387 stations widely scattered over the world. In a volume of about 1,200 pages this work presents mean monthly values of temperature, rainfall and barometric pressure for the entire period of trustworthy observations at the places selected. Several of the records cover more than a century, the oldest of all being the temperature record for Charleston, S. C., which was begun by Dr. John Lining in 1738.

The plan of this undertaking was formulated at the International Meteorological conference held at Utrecht in 1923. Dr. Felix Exner of Vienna, was made responsible for the collection of data from European stations; Sir Gilbert Walker of London, for the stations of Asia; H. H. Clayton of Canton, Mass., for the stations of North America; Robert C. Mossman of the Argentine Meteorological office, for those of South America, and Dr. G. C. Simpson, director of the British Meteorological office, for the stations of Africa, Australia and the oceans.

The task of editing the work was assigned to Mr. Clayton, and occupied him and a staff of assistants for nearly three years.

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Questions and Answers

You can get an answer to any question by writing to the Indianapolis Times Washington Bureau, 1322 New York Ave., Washington, D. C., enclosing 3 cents in stamps for reply. Medical, legal and marital advice cannot be given nor can extended research be undertaken. All other questions will receive a personal reply. Unsigned requests cannot be answered. All letters are confidential.—Editor.

What are the longest and shortest days in the year in the Northern hemisphere? How do the days get longer and shorter?

In the Northern hemisphere, June 21, is the longest day of the year, and Dec. 21 the shortest. From Dec. 21 to June 21, the length of the day (the period of daylight) gradually increases, until it is a maximum on June 21; from June 21 on through the summer and fall and up until Dec. 21, the length of daylight gradually grows less, each period of daylight being shorter by a few seconds than the day before until the minimum occurs Dec. 21, and so on.

Where in the Bible does it say that Judas Iscariot hanged himself?

There are two accounts in the Bible of the death of Judas Iscariot. One is in the first chapter of Acts, verses 16 to 20. The other is in Matthew 27:5, where it says Judas cast down the pieces of silver in the temple and went out and hanged himself.