



# The Indianapolis Times

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

## Fair Judges

Although the public will be undoubtedly surprised at the fact that Governor Jackson has asked for a different judge before whom he may be tried, there should be kept in mind the fact that he is well within his constitutional rights and the big evil in Indiana in late years has been that the Constitution has meant but little, either in the letter or the spirit.

The surprise comes from the fact that the Governor issued a formal statement of gratification when the trial date was finally set and told the people that he desired that full vindication which can only come from a presentation of evidence and a judgment by a jury.

The mere fact that Judge Montgomery, from whom a change is sought, decided adversely on the claim of the Governor and the others jointly indicted with him that the indictment was barred by the statute of limitations would not, of course, be evidence of bias and prejudice.

Every man, whether he be a Governor or a pauper, when accused of crime is entitled to have his trial presided over by a judge who is without feeling or any personal animosity.

That is the guarantee of the Constitution.

That there may have been in the past and will be in the future those who have used this protection against bias to get rid of a judge whom they feared to be just in the hope of obtaining a friendly tribunal does not detract from the necessity of the provision. Otherwise the bench might become the seat of tyranny and the innocent suffer.

The machinery of justice is well calculated in theory to give exact justice.

In theory, all judges are unbiased. They sit as impartial listeners to decide upon legal questions. They are presumed to live in the realm of legal lore and to have their heads lifted above sentiment or passion.

The people must rely upon themselves to obtain at the polls judges who will be impartial in all cases and likewise fearless enough to be unimpressed by either power or wealth. That is the one and only place that they can change judges.

The accused is given the right, under the law, to declare his prejudice. It is always a grave accusation and not to be made lightly. There is the presumption that the bias and prejudice is real and of a nature that would turn the court to tyrannies.

It may be presumed that the Governor did not make the charge lightly or until he had been convinced that he could not obtain a fair trial.

The people are more interested than is the Governor personally that he receive the fairest of trials, that he obtain what he some time ago declared that he seeks a vindication upon the facts and not upon legal technicalities.

The people are interested because the great majority would rejoice that the great office of chief executive be lifted from the shadow placed upon it and know that this can only be done when twelve men of eminent fairness and impartiality listen to the evidence and give their verdict.

Any action which will impress the people with the complete lack of prejudice, favorable or unfavorable, is to be welcomed.

## Build the Ball Park

Let not the snow and the cold make this city forget that spring is on the way and that spring brings with it that universal urge to go out to the ball park and fill the lungs with ozone.

Fortunately this city will have for the first time in many years a chance to put enthusiasm and civic pride behind their cheers.

The new owners of the ball team show every evidence of planning to give the city a real team of which it may be proud. And never forget that a winning ball team is the best of civic assets and a great missionary of civic pride and spirit.

These owners want to build a suitable home for their team. They want to erect something to be talked about abroad and enjoyed at home.

That they have met with protests on sites which they propose to buy is expected, of course. But after all, perhaps those who object may overestimate the disagreeable features and underestimate the advantages of having such a neighbor.

Just why the board in charge of the State fair-grounds should object to such a neighbor is unexplainable. The two should be twins in surroundings. Both need the same sort of transportation facilities. The one is no more objectionable than the other. Both should be welcomed.

The big thing is that obstacles should be removed as quickly as possible. The park should be made ready. That takes time and in all probability those who may now object will soon listen eagerly for those old familiar words, "Play ball."

Indianapolis needs some ball players. It needs team work. It needs enthusiasm. It needs enterprise.

## The Gold Star Pilgrimage

Congressmen are being asked to vote for what is known as the Gold Star Pilgrimage. The mothers of veterans killed in the World War may be given a trip to foreign cemeteries where their sons are buried, with the Government defraying all expenses.

Don't scorn this idea. Would that it were possible to send all mothers to France, so that their eyes might look upon those pitiful rows of crosses, those thousands upon thousands of graves wherein lie buried the very flower of modern civilization.

What hopes of fair and brave young souls were ended there. What futures bright with promise were

## THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

### BRIDGE ME ANOTHER

(Copyright, 1927, by The Ready Reference Publishing Company.)

BY W. W. WENTWORTH

(Abbreviations: A—ace; K—king; Q—queen; J—jack; X—any card lower than 10.)  
1. What is the most desirable distribution of cards in a no-trump?  
2. When may you bid a no-trump on three blank aces?  
3. When you hold A J X in dummy, Q X in declarer's hand, how do you finesse?

The Answers

- Four—three—three—three.
- When fourth suit contains three cards.
- Play small card from hand and finesse Jack.

### Times Readers Voice Views

The name and address of the author must accompany every contribution, but on request will not be published. Letters exceeding 200 words will receive preference.

To the Editor:

A short while since The Times invited such of its readers as chose to express their opinions on the approaching killing of Ruth Snyder and Judd Gray, convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of the husband of the former. Apparently, the trial was fair, the evidence convincing, a jury of their peers found them guilty as charged, and they were sentenced to be killed on a certain day now near at hand. The murder was sordid, brutal and loathsome in the extreme, but will it compare with the killing that will be done at the command of the law a few days hence? The murdered man was asleep, and unconscious of his approaching fate; one blow upon the head with that heavy sashweight, then oblivion; the after struggles were automatic. For that one life the law exacts two, under circumstances that far surpass in cold, deliberate cruelty to those of the crime for which they are to die. Alternating day and night, the stroke of the clock, the daily routine of the prison, all serve to warn of the flight of time and the approach of that dread hour—should they sleep, it is only to start out of it in fear and trembling—"near the end, comes the removal to the cell known as the death cell, which all understand lies next the instrument of death, with only a few hours and a few steps lying between. Perhaps a morbidly acute hearing notes the sounds of the read preparations.

This actress infers most certainly that it is within the power of a wife to persuade her husband over to her way of thinking. But why should the woman always have to be the evasive one? Why not put all the cards on the table and be honest about things? And besides this manipulation will never work with all husbands. Most of them are quite set in their ways and gentle insistence only makes them more angry and determined.

The only way in which to confront that situation of home versus a career, is to be ruthless about it before marriage. If the man insists upon having a wife who will stay at home, then honesty should compel the woman to make up her mind. If she feels that she can not live up to his expectations, she should not marry him. Above all things, both should be fair and if neither is willing to make concessions then the marriage had best be abandoned.

It is wonderful to watch the splendid dramas, the clever drawing room comedies and the beautiful movies and observe how deftly a smart wife is able to manage her husband. The trouble is that the wife has to be the evasive one? Why not put all the cards on the table and be honest about things? And besides this manipulation will never work with all husbands. Most of them are quite set in their ways and gentle insistence only makes them more angry and determined.

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Victor Hugo's "Last Hours of a Condemned Man" was no fancy sketch, he had looked deeper than the average official and was not deceived by the apparent momentary forgetfulness of the condemned, nor the bravado he assumed. A soldier of the civil war related in his hearing the execution of a deserter which he witnessed. The command was drawn up in square formation, the march of the condemned with the firing squad in the rear, led along the front of the company to which he had belonged. As he passed them with head erect and firm step he called out "Boys I'll come back tonight and tell you what hell look like!" What followed was afterward told the relator by some who took part in the final scene, he himself was at a little distance and had closed his eyes and ears. When the fatal spot was reached and the condemned man beheld the ghastly preparations, the stake, the open grave, the coffin, and the firing squad drawn up at ten paces the horror of the thing overwhelmed him, he collapsed and cords and the stake were required to hold him up until the volley was fired.

It is related of the great Frederick that when a deserter was brought before him, he said, "Stay with me friend till one more battle, if we don't win then I'll desert too!" and sent him back to his command. Frederick's soldiers stayed with him and won. This man applied for a furlough home, was refused, took "French leave," was seized, returned, court-martialed, condemned and shot. Shooting deserters and hanging spies are nearly obsolete now in our army here in the United States. Our courts, however, are yet under the influence of ideas expressed by the terms "the majesty," "inviolability" and "just vengeance" of the law. These sprang into use when there was a "sacred majesty" and a "Lords anointed" and a throne, when it was held that law was the expressed will of the sovereign king and any infringement of the least of these was an insult to the kings majesty, and flat rebellion against his authority. And so it followed that in England down through the reign of George III, the pettiness of petty larceny was punished by death, and hangings on Tyburn Tree might be witnessed any day in the week—on a certain Monday, fifteen were hanged there.

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