



The Indianapolis Times

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

A Costly Object Lesson

Seven men, shattered, shocked and bruised, tossed painfully on their beds in city hospital today, victims of carelessness and a neglectful attitude, that is growing more and more, of a peril to life and limb of Indianapolis citizens.

This peril is raised by the tendency on the part of hundreds utterly to disregard traffic rules and the rules of ordinary common sense with respect to police cars and ambulances on emergency runs.

By the testimony of a score or more of credible witnesses, the police car which crashed on North Illinois St. Monday afternoon was traveling at reasonable speed, between 25 and 35 miles an hour. This testimony is bolstered by the fact that the policemen and newspaper men were not on an emergency run that required speed. Rather, they were cruising north, in an attempt to spot a car containing holdup men, traveling at a speed which would enable them to halt quickly and turn in pursuit of the bandit car if they met it.

But no speed seems to be a safe one for emergency cars nowadays. Hundreds of motorists and pedestrians absolutely ignore the warning of the sirens and the red lights. There is one reason for this which should receive attention at once. That is the practice of motorists in placing red lights and sirens on their cars, when not authorized by laws so to do.

Police and fire department cars, ambulances and the coroner's car legally may carry sirens and red lights.

But the use of them does not stop there in Indianapolis. An ambulance owned by one city undertaker has been observed many times, dashing through downtown streets, with siren screaming—and two employees of that undertaker on the driver's seat going to lunch. Nothing more important.

The car of a city councilman also is equipped with a siren, for what reason only that councilman knows. It would seem, digressing momentarily, that the last thing the mine run of Indianapolis councilmen would want would be a siren. Several of them more appropriately could come downtown behind a duck blind, carrying Maxim silencers.

And there are many other cars in the city which carry sirens, only adding to the confusion and breeding indifference to the warning shriek of ambulances and police cars.

All this and the criminal dumbness of hundreds of motor drivers who gamble with the speed cars as they would gamble with the locomotive at a railway crossing add to the peril of those who ride on errands of mercy and law enforcement and others who drive safely and sanely.

It is time that something be done to jar the motoring public into a realization that its indifference and carelessness are nothing short of criminal.

Protecting the Children

The school children of New York will be protected against the revolutionary teachings of Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence. Their young minds will not be contaminated by such dangerous doctrines as the right of free speech, or the right of a people to resist tyranny and oppression.

No, indeed! They will be taught the "right ideas on religion and patriotism." School authorities, backed by "patriotic" societies, will teach them to revere the existing order.

This was assured when a Board of Education committee, with the support of School Superintendent O'Shea, denied the American Civil Liberties Union the privilege of holding a meeting on "old-fashioned free speech," in a school auditorium.

Leaders of this organization said they distinguished between freedom of expression on economic, political and religious questions, and attempts at overt acts or crime. Only the latter should be forbidden, they held.

"Any man ought to be ashamed to belong to the Civil Liberties Union," said Dr. O'Shea. "They try to upset our ideas."

When the subject of Thomas Jefferson's teachings was brought up, Arthur S. Somers, member of the Board of Education, said that "with all due respect to Jefferson, some of his beliefs recently have been brushed aside by our courts as at least intolerable in this age and generation."

And it is the unfortunate fact that some of our courts have been guilty of doing that very thing.

What Causes Accidents?

What causes accidents, anyway?

The Travelers Insurance Company recently drew up a table of causes of accidental deaths, based on its own statistics. The results are interesting and informative.

According to this tabulation, the automobile is the chief offender, 29 per cent of all fatal accidents being caused by traffic. A close second is the home accident, which accounts for 26 per cent. Sports and recreation are in third place with 20 per cent. The remaining causes are split up over a number of causes.

A man in a Bowery curio hall will drink a bottle of ink that any customer brings in. Probably an old habitude of the night clubs.

Leap Year is pretty well along now, and no lady should be without a bundle-carrier.

in bombing of Chicago train,"

Times Readers Voice Views

The name and address of the author must be given, if ever published, but on request will not be published. Letters not exceeding 200 words will receive preference.

Editor Times:

I think we all have been vastly entertained by Senator Robinson's gifts in repartee. The question which confronts us, however, is not his ability to hold his own in the give and take of a party debate on the Senate floor, but rather the importance of the subject under discussion.

Some efficiency expert or other has estimated that it costs the people of the United States 50 cents a word for every word spoken in Congress. From my count in the story of the debate, Senator Robinson uttered 556 words. Therefore, for the useless discussion Senator Robinson has charged Uncle Sam up with \$278.

It is my opinion that the entire argument was not quoted. If the words of Senator Pat Harrison et al., uttered in necessary (?) rejoinder were added to the bill which might be charged to our Arthur, a right royal sum might be obtained—at 50 cents a word.

I am a Republican, but even so, bad as is the party's condition, I do not deem its defense so necessary at 50 cents a word, chargeable to people. If the Senator wishes to wax loquacious, his opinions might be welcomed in a discussion of some important subject.

Let me do his talking in the committee room, where, I am told, the actual work of Congress is done, even at the cost of losing the opportunity to exercise his justly famous wit. I can buy a whole magazine of humor at 15 cents. That is cheaper than 50 cents a word.

C. R. DALTON.

Editor Times:

From time to time, with increasing frequency, the statement is made by prominent jurists that the public is to blame for lax administration of justice in the courts. How do they get that way?

The public puts on the bench men who come before it at election time claiming to possess all qualifications necessary for a wise and just administration of the law and most fulsome promises to do their duty toward State and society.

The public, partly composed of those who believe all they read in the papers, and partly of those who don't believe anything any more, put them in office, the one class hopeful for the best, the other prepared for the worst.

But neither class is able to do anything about it, except to pay the steadily increasing taxes for the legal machinery, the reformatories, the prisons and the several judicial and semi-judicial bodies created to control the "crime wave," while judges permit the law to be flouted by indeterminate sentences, professional alienists, potters and crooked lawyers, whose only and open intent is not to administer justice, but to defeat it.

To my mind, capable, honest, conscientious judges can do more to control this situation than any other class. And when they begin to "put the buck" to the poor helpless public, it is evident that it is not justice, but jobs, they are thinking of.

AN UNBELIEVER.

Editor Times:

About every session of Congress I, the one strong government that of the church; therefore medieval art was ecclesiastical, and architecture was its natural glory.

For in any civilization architecture tends to be the first of the arts, and the others rise around it as means of decoration; all the more so in a religious age, whose ruled by an immeasurable emotion was the hope of heaven; inevitably, as a Christianity based on immortality replaced a paganism based on civic loyalty and earthly born.

But some 800 years after these warriors had gone, daughter ones came, more ruthless and barbarous still; the Turks advanced upon the city without fear and without calculation; and because they valued booty more than life, and the Byzantines valued life a little more than booty, the Turks had their way, and made themselves masters of Constantinople. That was in the year 1453, it was, as we shall see, one of the turning points of European history.

THE CATHEDRALS.

In the west, during all this time,

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There were bills in Congress last winter to the same effect, but for some reason failed to become law. Opponents of such bills contend it would cost the Government too much. It did not take several sessions of Congress to raise their own salaries \$2,500 a year more for each one, or a total of \$1,325,000, when each congressman already was getting \$7,500 a year.

There are 1,500 of these war widows on file before Congress now asking for an increase. I wonder if they ever will get it. What do we elect men to Congress for, if it is not to do the will of the people?

A TIMES READER.

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