



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### Shooting to Kill

Banditry having reached the stage of boldness where life and property are unsafe upon the public highways, the necessary and inevitable response of organized society is shooting to kill.

It is not a pleasant situation—nor a pleasant task. It is a reflection upon the good sense and the two thousands of years of civilized life that such a course is ever necessary.

But banditry could have been expected and prophesied. No one should be surprised that errant and bold youths take their guns in hand to violate laws and resort to the very primitive methods against which organized society itself is a protest and an answer.

We have been breeding bandits these last few years by some new and strange developments in our governmental life and the things which have happened in this State and in this city could be expected to bring forth nothing else.

We have, to begin with, picked the laws we ourselves choose to regard and follow. The big majority of citizens have taken to themselves the right to select for themselves the written statutes they choose to follow.

That was because we have believed that law meant order and character. That was because we have followed the belief that by passing a law we could change the entire outlook of society and make men good through fear.

We have laws which the majority, or at least a very large portion of society does not regard as morally binding. We have made crimes out of acts that are perhaps sinful. And the answer was that those in very high places disregard these laws openly and flagrantly.

That has produced a disregard for all law. If the banker or the judge or the merchant picks his law, what shall be expected of the ignorant, perhaps degraded, type of human being, who also sees nothing particularly wrong in using a gun and a mask to get what we want?

An even greater factor has been steadily increasing disrespect for courts and the machinery for the enforcement of law.

Crime has become a comparatively safe business, with fewer hazards for failure than the starting of a corner grocery.

Even the criminals who are caught still have many chances to escape punishment. Lawyers have introduced technicalities that bewilder the officials who represent the State. Delays in trials and in decisions on appeals delay the hour of penalty, if it is ever paid.

More than that, the government has been built by throwing the votes of a very small group of the undesirables into the conflict between elements who want the decent things, but who are divided by slogans and party labels and appeals to prejudices.

We have a government, in many instances, founded upon the trickeries and the skill and the zeal of the underworld at elections.

There is a very definite connection between the bark of the bandit's gun and the vote of a repeater, the vote of dead men, the vote of the eal of the underworld at elections.

We are now shooting to kill. That seems to be the only way out. But after we have shot and killed and temporarily frightened off the pack of wolves who prey, we might take time this fall to spend an hour on election day in an attempt to see that we have a government that is not built on the votes of those who produce bandits.

We might even forget prejudices and hates and party names and decide that we will have a government that produces justice, not guns. We may even return to a government by ballots instead of bullets.

### A Warning to Young Fliers

The rapidly increasing popularity of the airplane has caused the Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics to issue a word of warning to young men who want to learn how to fly. It quotes Colonel Lindbergh on the subject, as follows:

"There are many schools that advertise that they will teach a novice how to fly an airplane. Some of them give the course for \$100, usually turning out the student as a finished pilot after about ten hours in the air.

"Hours of flying will not make anyone a pilot, and \$100 will not buy a good course in training. The man or woman who wishes to become a pilot should be prepared to spend at least \$500 for training, and some agreement should be reached whereby the use of a plane for practice may be obtained after the course has been completed.

"A great many serious aviation accidents occur because of pilots who are turned out of cheap schools without sufficient experience to meet emergencies.

If the aviation bug has bitten you and you are thinking of learning to fly, you had better think over this advice from America's greatest flier.

A promoter has bought John D. Rockefeller's birthplace and will move it to Coney Island for exhibition as an object lesson. Folk seeking object lessons probably can find a healthy one whenever they pass a gasoline station, too.

The champion female rolling pin thrower is reported as one of the many curiosities Washington, D. C., possesses. Now can some city please produce the champion staying-with-a-sick-friend husband?

### Failure's Rough Hands

"Although I have perhaps achieved more than the average person at my age, still what I have achieved is so very far from what I wanted to achieve that life is not worth living."

After writing a note containing these words, Henry Drucklie, middle-aged New York real estate broker, killed himself by sending a revolver bullet into his head.

It is tragic to reach middle age and find that one's deepest ambitions can never be realized; tragic enough to make many people besides this real estate broker think of suicide. Yet it is the inevitable lot of all of us. Our reach, invariably, exceeds our grasp. We can never quite do the things we want to do.

This inevitable disparity between the desires of the spirit and the capabilities of the flesh is at once a curse and a blessing; a curse because it brings suffering and tragedy, and a blessing because it is the mainspring of all human progress.

Never a young man began life without high hopes. A boy in his 'teens looks ahead to certain triumphs. He will be a better man than his father; the stumbling blocks that trip others will not trip him. He feels his own expanding powers and is sure that they will carry him through to any goal he seeks.

In the fullness of time the boy becomes a man and finds it isn't so easy as he imagined. Life is more complicated than he thought. One by one he sees his towering air castle dissolve in the hard light of every day experience, and at last, no matter how successful he has become, he has to admit that he has not gone as far as he once expected to.

This is always a painful awakening, made endurable only by the fact that it comes very gradually. Yet most of us survive it. The men who commit suicide are the exception. We learn to discount the notes drawn by our high expectations.

But always, fortunately, we remember what we dreamed. Always we have in the back of our minds a picture of what life might be like if he had not failed. We are persuaded, thereby, that the world is potentially a better place than we have made it, and that we ourselves are, at bottom, better men than we seem. We must be; cannot we dream gorgeous dreams?

So, in the midst of our disillusion, there remains a spark of deathless optimism that persists quite irrationally.

It makes us receptive; and now and then, when some man greater than the rest of us comes along, shows us a great deal and demands that we follow it and stop worshipping Baal, we obey. And when it is over, although we have not followed as far as we intended, we find that we have, after all, made progress.

### Fuhr, the "Flopper"

There are many strange jobs in this modern world, but few are any stranger than one by which Irving Fuhr of New York made his living.

Fuhr was a "flopper." He explained to New York authorities, who are conducting an investigation into the tactics of ambulance-chasing lawyers, that he specialized in falling over obstacles on sidewalks, stairways and hallways. He could fake a very bad fall and pretend to be seriously hurt; a lawyer who hired him would sue, or threaten to sue, the firm responsible for the obstruction, and tidy damages would be collected.

Part of the time Fuhr worked for a straight salary of \$75 a week. Part of the time he free-lanced. It was a fine graft while it lasted, he told the investigators.

The lawyer who gave Fuhr a salary is in prison now, however, and Fuhr may find himself going there to join him. For the heartless officials have decided that "flopping" is not quite an honest way of making a living.

A man fined \$1 in a New York court for traffic violation had only a \$5,000-bill and a \$1,000-bill on his person. Probably he was just on his way to buy a couple of sandwiches and a glass of ginger ale at a night club.

David Dietz on Science

### Star's Brilliance Varies

No. 104

If you will observe the star Delta in the constellation Cepheus every night for four or five nights in succession you will discover for yourself one of the most interesting facts of astronomy.

We must assume that by now you know how to find Cepheus and the stars composing it. Delta lies just above the five-sided figure formed by the principal stars of the constellation.

Delta, you will discover if you follow the suggestion made, does not shine with a constant light. Its brilliance changes from night to night.

A star of this sort is known as a variable star and the time it takes to go from its minimum brilliance to its maximum and back again to minimum is known as its period.

Astronomers have made a careful study of Delta and find that it has a period of five days eight hours and forty-seven minutes and thirty-nine seconds.

It is a remarkable and amazing fact that this star is so accurate in its changes that it could be used as a clock.

At its minimum, it has a magnitude of 4.9. At its maximum, it is three times as bright, having a magnitude of 3.7.

The study of variable stars was begun by David Fabricius, a Dutch astronomer, in 1596.

Undoubtedly the ancients had noticed the existence of variable stars. But apparently they received no serious study until the time of Fabricius.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, three of the most famous astronomers devoted much of their time to the study of both double and variable stars. They were Frederick Wilhelm Bessel, F. G. W. Struve and Sir William Herschel.

All three were born in Germany, but Herschel lived most of his life in England and so is known as a British astronomer. Struve did most of his work at Pulkova Observatory in Russia and so frequently is classified as a Russian astronomer.

These three men, as much as any others, laid the foundations for present-day astronomy.

Herschel was the discoverer of the planet Uranus. Bessel was the first to succeed in measuring the distance from the earth to the star, although the problem was solved at about the same time by the Scotshman, Henderson.

The champion female rolling pin thrower is reported as one of the many curiosities Washington, D. C., possesses. Now can some city please produce the champion staying-with-a-sick-friend husband?

M. E.

## TRACY

SAYS:

"Savage as the Russians May Be in the Criticism of General Nobile's Conduct and of the Still Unproved Desertion of Malmgren, They Have Earned the Right to Make It."

CIVILIZATION is separated from the jungle by only two or three weeks. If you doubt it, read the record of the Donner party or of a dozen shipwrecks. Hunger can do a quick job at repealing our law and religion.

It is easy enough to play the hero in a swivel chair. Most men can be brave and self-sacrificing when there is no need. All of us preach that the captain should be last to leave his ship, but it takes the captain to prove it.

That is what Gen. Umberto Nobile fails short. It is inconsequential to argue that most of us might have done as he did under the circumstances. The chances are that we would have, but leadership calls for something different.

General Nobile will not go down in history among the great pioneers.

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Criticism of Nobile

Savage as the Russians may be in the criticism of General Nobile's conduct and of the still unproved desertion of Malmgren, they have earned the right to make it.

When the Russians declare that the time has come for Nobile to speak they are within the bounds of history.

The Russians have gambled with death to rescue men whom they owed nothing except what the laws of common decency demand.

Those same laws apply to General Nobile. If he had a right to leave before the last man was saved the Russians had a right to remain at home, and so, too, did Roald Amundsen.

We are not dealing with silly sentiment here, but with a conception of conduct which forms the bedrock of civilized life, which spells the difference not only between man and other animals, but between man and his primitive ancestors.

All that we are, all that we have and all that we hope for rests on the idea that strength must bear the heaviest burden, wealth pay the highest tax, and leadership assume the greatest risk. Scrap that idea and there is nothing left but the caveman's code.

Defy Fatal Maladies

The census bureau reports that the rate of infant mortality for 1927 was the lowest ever recorded in this country.

Such condition was not brought about by strong men playing safe, by doctors using their knowledge to avoid danger or by healthy people running away from epidemics.

We have reduced the ravages of disease, not only among infants but among adults, because men and women dared to expose themselves to fatal maladies not alone to aid and comfort their fellow beings, but to discover preventives and remedies.

If the baby born today has a better chance it is because untold numbers of people work to make it better at the risk of their own lives.

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Population Is Older

The reduction of infant mortality means more than a better chance for babies. It means that we can keep up our population without imposing such burdens of motherhood on women as were once necessary.

Two hundred years ago, or even 100, a family of six was necessary to meet the death rate. Today we are meeting it with families of four.

Not only that, but we are developing a saner social, political and economic structure, no matter what some folks say.

The average age of people living in this country is much higher than it was to be, which means that the average intelligence is better, the average judgment more mature and the average experience greater.

Those who call this a day of "fanning youth" have failed to consult the record.

As a matter of cold figures, young people represent a smaller percentage of the total population than they ever did.

Dr. Ira S. Wile, noted psychiatrist, who has just completed a study of the subject, says that there are proportionately half again as many persons over the age of 50 as there were in 1870. In 1870 persons under 30 years of age represented more than 67 per cent of the total population. Now they represent only 53 per cent.

In 1870 persons over 40 represented less than 20 per cent of the total population. Now they represent almost 27 per cent.

Those who think youth is running things to a greater extent than ever before are fooled. We may average younger in spirit, but we are older in years.

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Crime Wave Unchecked

Considering the success we have enjoyed in the battle against disease, our failure to reduce crime is rather appalling.

One finds it hard to reconcile our wealth, energy and ability with the fact that we have more murder, theft and crimes of violence than any other civilized nation.

The Baumer commission finds comfort in the fact that New York City had only 278 homicides last year, while it had 289 the year before and 308 the year before that.

The figures look good, until one remembers that London had only about one-tenth as many homicides during the same period, and that while every case was solved in London hundreds went unsolved in New York.

We fight disease with science, but we continue to fight crime with talk and politics. The result speaks for itself.

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