



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### Swift Justice

There should be a better way of stopping banditry than a war of bullets between the bandits and the police. The lives of policemen, ready to do their duty, are too valuable to be sacrificed, if some other way can be found that will protect the public from the bandits.

These bandits have just one thing in common. They may differ in every other way. Some come from protected homes. Others have had lessons in crime. Some are drunken. Others are sober. But not one of these youths who engage in crime ever expects to be punished.

No gang or a single individual ever committed a crime with any idea that he was to pay the penalty.

It is because he believes he can get away with it that he chooses what looks like an easy way to get money.

An examination of the record shows that the one factor which persuades these bandits that crime is safe is the delay between arrest and trial.

When an arrest is made for one of these crimes, the usual procedure requires weeks and sometimes months before the accused is brought to trial and many months, where an appeal is made, before sentence is actually carried out.

During the weeks that the accused is out on bond or in jail, interest in his case dwindles. It is also very easy to manufacture a defense. It is even more easy for the victim to forget and become confused when placed on the witness stand and then the lawyer provided by friends or the gang, takes full advantage and the chances of acquittal of the guilty grows.

The one thing that would terrify any youth who contemplates a crime, whether acting alone or with others, would be the knowledge that if he was caught in Indianapolis, he would be placed almost immediately on trial and punished.

Crooks give Milwaukee a wide berth. It is known as a city where delays in criminal trials are brief. Those accused of crime are given quick trials. If innocent, they are restored quickly to their proper standing. If guilty, they do not wait for months before paying the price.

Judge Collins is doing what he can and it is commendable that he is giving up a part of his vacation that the Criminal Court may be in session.

Prosecutor Remy is not at fault. He has been vigorous in demanding quick trials, but has few deputies.

But the courts are clogged and there are many in jail and on bond who are accused of crimes of violence.

Just as a practical method of curbing the crime wave, which is serious, The Times suggests that a few special judges, a few special prosecutors of experience in criminal trials, drafted for the occasion, be placed on the job and every man now accused of banditry of any sort be given the speedy trial which is a right under the Constitution and a right also for the State which expects protection.

There are vacant courtrooms now available, for the civil judges are resting.

There are many men in jail awaiting trial who should be tried and who, presumably innocent under the law, should desire speedy trials.

Let the word go out that in this city every person accused of crime goes on trial without delay and there will be fewer widows of policemen, fewer mourning families of wild youths, fewer holdups on the highways.

Remember this one fact. No one who commits crime expects punishment. They have that in common, the criminals. They expect to escape punishment.

A reputation for swift justice is a better protection than the largest police force.

### Mexico's Tragedy

America mourns with Mexico. Sorrow brings the two peoples closer together in the spirit of friendship exemplified by the assassinated leader, President-Elect Obregon.

The spontaneous outpouring of sympathy by the American people and Government over the heroic death of the flier, Captain Carranza, whose funeral procession is crossing this country today, is a measure of the good will between these sister republics.

It was Obregon's privilege to strive as a public figure in pedestrian ways for the same understanding between the two nations symbolized by the flash and sacrifice of the young aviator.

For the President-elect had shared and ratified the agreement of Ambassador Morrow and President Calles, which lifted the threat of intervention. Obregon personally helped establish the present official relations of mutual respect and friendship.

The United States Government contemplated with assurance and gratification the Obregon administration, which was to have begun next December. American business men had confidence in him. And the American people, knowing less about him, were in the main sympathetic, because they believed him a man of the people.

As a nation which thrice has passed through similar crises, we can understand the horror of this experience in Mexico.

This would be a grave test of the stability and balance of any nation. It will be a trial for Mexico—

## THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

M. E.

### TRACY

SAYS:

"Obregon's Death Has Served No Purpose More Distinctly Than to Intrigue Calles and Instill in Him a Ruthlessness Toward His Opponents That He Has Never Exercised Before."

FATE is never so ironic as when she sets the stage for a great man's murder.

Here was Mexico settling down to peace after eighteen years of tumult and disturbance; here was a program which, though some might disagree with it, was still a program, and here was leadership, which, though some might oppose it, was still leadership.

Of even more dramatic significance, here was a people preparing to immortalize a young man who had distinguished himself as a messenger of good will, preparing to reconstitute itself at the grave of a new kind of hero.

No one looked for trouble at such an auspicious moment, which is one reason, perhaps, why trouble came.

" " "

### Way to Despotism

One thinks of Caesar fallen at the foot of Pompey's statue; of Marat stabbed while in his bath; of Lincoln shot down at the moment when his great task seemed completed and his first chance to rest was at hand, and one tries to recall a single assassination that did any good.

Not that assassins always have been common killers, or have lacked plausible excuses, but that progress is not to be had by the wanton destruction of human life.

Brutus may have been as honorable as a murderer could be when he struck to save Rome from dictatorship, but he only paved the way for a despotism.

Charlotte Corday may have been moved by the illusionment that she could stop the reign of terror with a dagger, but she only made it a little easier for Napoleon to lead Europe in the bloodiest war dance of modern history.

John Wilkes Booth may have been crazy enough to believe that he spoke the truth when he cried "sic semper tyrannis" after shooting Lincoln, but he only destroyed the best friend the South had.

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### Tool for Others

God knows what a cartoonist thought he could accomplish by killing Alvaro Obregon. No doubt he had some kind of a dream, that seems to go with assassination.

No doubt he had explained to his conscience, if not to his friends, just why such an act should be performed, and just why he was the man to do it.

Like many another of his kind, he may have heard voices commanding him to spill blood, may have felt called upon by God to slay, may have visualized himself as the instrument of Heaven-born destiny.

The chances are, however, that he was just a poor dupe, a piece of spineless putty, a brainless fool for stronger men to use.

" " "

### Spreads Hate, Alarm

They will take him out and stand him against the wall, after wringing from him all the information it is possible to get, and folks will say he has paid the price of his folly.

That is sheer nonsense. He cannot pay the price, cannot repair the damage he has done, cannot calm the confusion he has wrought, cannot restore the situation he has destroyed.

It is Mexico that will pay—Mexico, with her confidence shaken, her hopes blasted, her anger aroused, her feeling of security gone.

Putting aside what the nation may suffer, there will be a thousand widows and 10,000 orphans to satisfy the thirst for vengeance.

One of the most curious weaknesses of human nature is our inability to realize the consequences of invoking death as a political remedy, the evil effect of planting the idea of murder in the minds of millions of people by killing their idol.

Obregon is dead, but his friends are alive—alive with hate and alarm.

There are hundreds of marked men in Mexico today, and the man who shot Obregon marked them.

" " "

### Entrenches Calles

Now that the deed has been committed, a child can see its effects.

Even those who egged the murderer on, if there are such, realize now not only how futile it was, but what danger it holds for them. Instead of feeling safer, they are white with fear.

Queer is it not, how many more things we can perceive a moment afterward, than we could a moment before. Of more immediate and practical consequence, the very rule it was thought to end through this assassination has been strengthened.

Obregon's death has served no purpose more distinctly than to entrench Calles, to crystallize around him all the liberal elements of Mexico, to afford him a protection and support such as he has never enjoyed, to visualize him as the sole hope of the present regime, to instill in him a degree of caution for his own protection and of ruthlessness toward his opponents that he has not exercised up to this time.

What ever chances the opposition may have had before, it has none now. Calles will not only be confined in office, but he will be given the powers of dictator. What ever his own inclination may be popular feeling will demand that he exercise those powers.

For the immediate future at least, his regime has been strengthened and established beyond recall, and it is likely to be less considerate of opponents than it would have been but for this wanton, inexcusable crime.

Some astronomers think that they are in reality dying stars, that they are growing so cool that a crust is beginning to form over their molten surfaces. Such a crust would dim the star.

However, the gases underneath would rise in temperature and pressure until they broke through, causing an increase in the brilliance of the star. Then the crust would begin to form again. However, this theory is a little difficult to maintain in the face of the regularity of the light changes.

## Just a Few Pointers on 'How It's Done'



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## DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

### Nervous Infections Crippling, Painful

This is the first of three articles on the subject of nervous infections of the nervous system. Next: Infantile Paralysis.

By DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN  
Editor of the American Medical Association and of Hygieia, the Health Magazine.

OF ALL the diseases that afflict mankind those of the nervous system take a premier position in their crippling, painful, serious nature.

The nervous system is the great electric switchboard of the human body controlling thought, movement and action, as well as sensation. Therefore, any disease that particularly selects the brain and the spinal cord is likely to result most disastrously.

Epidemic meningitis is caused by small round germ first isolated in 1887. The germ may live on the mucous membrane of the nose of man and is transmitted from one person to another.

Before the discovery of the serum, the deaths varied from 65 to 90 per cent. Today the mortality is under 25 per cent.

Before the discovery of the serum, epidemic meningitis attacking infants one year old killed about 100 per cent; now less than 50 per cent

die because they are helped by serum treatment.

When the germs get into the body they are carried to the spinal cord and there they attack the covering of the cord, spreading even to the covering of the brain.

These coverings are called meninges, which gives to the disease the name meningitis of inflammation of the meninges.

In this disease we know then definitely the cause and we have a specific medical treatment which, if used early, will produce favorable results.

Sometimes severe paralyses result from this disease.

With modern methods of treatment it is possible to lower the incidence of paralyses and it is possible also by study of the paralyzed nerves and muscles to secure favorable results in the matter of development and movement after the disease has passed.

### With Other Editors

Kokomo Dispatch

Flaming youth's passion for joy riding in stolen automobiles could be curbed by reviving the public whipping post, Emsley W. Johnson of Indianapolis told the Indiana State Bar Association at its meeting in Ft. Wayne.

While many persons may not agree with this suggestion which would mean a return to corporal punishment, supposed to be a remnant of the dark ages, all will have to admit that drastic measures of some sort will have to be taken.

The speaker estimated that his methods of dealing with these particular social delinquents would decrease automobile banditry in Indiana by 75 per cent.

It seems to us, however, that Attorney Johnson dug nearest to the real solution of our criminal class problem, when he turned to his lawyer listeners with the following declaration:

"Some of the greatest protective implements of the criminal are the technicalities of the law. They have been abused to the extreme in the United States and are generally considered of no value, except to the criminal in the protection it affords him for the deserved consequences of his crime."

With very sound argument, Johnson insisted that "there should be no such thing as motion to quash. The court should have the right to correct errors in the indictment, and the rule preventing a prosecuting attorney from commenting on the failure of a defendant to take the stand of a disgrade to our legal procedure."

He defined the jury system and spoke against the proposal that the court should direct jury verdicts.

Attorney Johnson showed that our Nation leads the entire civilized world in the number of crimes committed, and he blames part of this disgraceful record on the fact that we have too many laws and too little respect for law.

When he tells us that in the last five years 67,000 new laws have been passed in this country by Congress and the Legislatures, we are forced to the same conclusion that he makes, when he inquires: "Is it any wonder that the people do not know the law and, of course, have but little respect for it?"

Certainly Johnson stated the situation correctly when he asserted that there is too great disposition to let pity and sentiment enter into our punishment of criminals.

"In order to stop crime we must detect the criminal and we must promptly punish him," he said. "We may feel a certain degree of pity for the wrongdoer, but we must have a wider charity for the victim. The life of one good citizen supporting his family is of greater value to society than a penitentiary full of robbers."

Let us hope that the lawyers will give serious consideration to the suggestions which have been brought out before the State bar association, for they have it within their power to be of vast service in correcting an evil to

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