

# The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)  
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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

## Who Fights?

The directors of the gas company, reflecting the policy of the trustees, have now declared their readiness to carry out the bargain made with the city twenty-three years ago under which the city has the power to acquire and own the property of that utility. They agree that the terms of the contract are definite and clear. The property, under private ownership and the rulings of public service commissions and courts, could easily be capitalized at from fifteen to twenty millions of dollars, on which gas users could be forced to pay dividends or freeze. But the city has the right, and it is a just right, to take it over by giving back to the holders of stock certificates two millions of dollars and assuming bonds for about five more. Those extra millions of uncanceled value were created by the citizens who have paid gas bills during the past twenty-three years. The extra value came from the growth of the city and rightly belongs to the people. There can be no quarrel with the ethics or justice of the contract. The men who invested their dollars will get exactly what was promised them. The city, thanks very largely to the vision of the late Alfred Potts, and those whom he associated with him in his dream, will get from one utility what it put into that utility. It should be a very easy matter to make the transfer. Yet there is opposition. Speculators want to grab this fine property. Greedy interests will object that the city has not the sense or judgment to run a plant that has been semi-publicly operated in the past. The first step ought to be to smoke out those who fight so that the people can see their enemy. If there is to be a fight, let's find out who is doing the fighting.

## A Real Record

In leaving the office of prosecuting attorney, William H. Remy takes with him the satisfaction of having made a real record in that office. The people will be fortunate if his successor succeeds in striking as much terror to the hearts of those who may be tempted to paths of crime. The success of Remy, aside from the courage which he exhibited, came very largely from the fact that he did not hesitate to fight the corruption of machine politics and engage in bitter battles for decency. From the very start, he refused to go along with the local bosses. He refused to view favor to criminals as a legitimate perquisite of the machine. He refused to liberate those who voted right but acted wrong. That was something new in politics. It was expected that a man who had received the support of a political party owed it to the bosses to do the things that might help the party's success. It must be remembered that the bosses thoroughly understood that Remy was not their kind. There is the matter of record on that question, the evidence that one future Governor offered a Governor a bribe to keep him out of that office and put in a henchman of the boss. Remy got his election by boldly challenging the power of the boss and then making good on his challenge. He has had a colorful career. His prosecution of Stephenson when that dictator was in power was of minor importance compared with his later indictment of the Governor of this state and the boss of this country. To young men who aspire to political careers, the policy of Remy should be illuminating. He retires with the respect of the community. He remained in office as long as he pleased. And he kept office not by making deals with the boss, but by fighting him. Bright young men should get the moral.

## What Is Whisky?

Once upon a time, in pre-prohibition days, the whole nation came to attention over a pure whisky issue. So important was the contest that it went for settlement to no less a person than the President of the United States. Today, though whisky is outlawed, it nevertheless is consumed in vast quantities, and the same nation that once backed the fight for purity, now rather apathetically accepts the presence of rank poison, and goes on its way—the way sometimes of blindness and death. Yet the human body of 1929 is no less susceptible to poisons than was the human body of 1907, when Dr. Harvey Wiley's "what is whisky" fight was the most talked-of controversy of the day. Wiley, attacking a certain type of distiller, declared there was only one kind of whisky, that made by the "pot still" method of distilling the mash, the liquor then being aged in charred wood. He assailed the "rectifying" process as one which produced something that was not whisky. The "rectifiers" fought back, carried the battle to the department of agriculture, congress, and finally to the White House. Theodore Roosevelt took a hand and the controversy was ended by an executive order which directed that straight, blended, compounded, and imitation liquors must be labeled correctly. The order later was confirmed by President Taft. Wiley's crusade was carried on in the interest of public health and formed a conspicuous chapter in the long history of his fight for pure food and drugs. His description of pure whisky and the effects thereof on the human system is interesting, in light of what people are drinking today. He drew a sharp distinction as to alcohol, even though the alcohol be absolutely pure, and pure whisky. The former, he said, coagulates the protoplasm in the cells and is dangerous, whereas, testifying before a congressional committee, he said: "The alcohol that is in whisky or brandy or rum is so mingled by nature's operations that it is an entirely different proposition. Nature has a way of combining the elements of food which man cannot imitate. Therefore, when nature produces twenty different substances, as she does every time a whisky is fermented, and all twenty of them come over in the still, alcohol among them, then you put those natural elements away to become mellow, to marry, as the distiller says, which takes years to accomplish, you

make a beverage which is tonic and wholesome and healthful and nonpoisonous. There is all the difference in the world between a drink of straight alcohol and a drink of whisky, brandy, or rum." It is safe to say that the worst whisky of Wiley's time was better than the best today. And, Wiley's description of pure whisky, read together with the news of what The New York Telegram has found in a survey of New York's speakeasies, will give the country's drinking population some idea of the "far reaching" effects of the experiment which has been called "noble in motive." The Wiley standard of purity is out of the question today. But the ranker poisons at least can be driven out by raiding, the raids could most; by putting out of business for good and for all those who sell poison; by instilling the fear of the law into the hearts of those who sell wood alcohol as a beverage.

## The Flagellant

For Dr. Work political life is paved with good intentions that don't look so good in retrospect. His career has been just one grand alibi after another. He is kind to his enemies by giving them constant causes for flogging him. Then, to be on the winning side, he usually begins flogging himself. The good doctor, having nothing much to do since the election, got to dreaming dreams and seeing visions. Apparently he saw himself as the maker of cabinets. So it was let out discreetly that among his cabinet ideas was his docile vice-chairman, Mrs. Alvin T. Hert of Kentucky, as prospective secretary of the interior. She was a woman and a faithful party worker, and as such was adequate cabinet timber, according to his political logic. Of course there was immediate reaction against Work as cabinet maker. It is even hinted that Hoover far away on the battleship Utah, reacted with unexpected speed. Anyway, Work belatedly, as usual, discovered his error and ran for cover, with an official statement informing the world of what it already strongly suspected, that the President-elect was quite capable of picking his own cabinet without unsought advice. Hoover must grow weary of the Work alibi. Not long ago, it was a case of Work "explaining" his extreme incompetence as secretary of the interior in renewing illegal Sinclair oil contracts. Before that, he was trying to evade responsibility for the sectarian appeals of Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt, his campaign speaker. Earlier, he was deciding publicly for Hoover what the campaign issues were to be, only then to decide that he was not going to decide. Work is more interesting as a flagellant than as a statesman. Truly, he has a thick skin. But presumably Hoover requires other qualities in his advisers.

## Relief for Consumers

The public, which patiently pays and pays and pays will be glad to learn there is a limit to what public utility companies can claim and get away with. The United Fuel Gas Company of West Virginia sought higher rates. To do this, it sought to claim as part of its rate-base the value of its natural gas still in the ground. Sold without state regulation of rates, the company contended, the gas might bring to it \$30,000,000 to \$45,000,000. This company and the Warfield Natural Gas Company also sought to stop service in Kentucky if their rates were not increased. The lower courts refused to permit them to do this, and also had refused to increase rates. The supreme court yesterday upheld the lower court, and refused to permit the rate base to be inflated by such gaseous computations.

A New York woman is asking for a divorce because her husband refuses to fire his stenographer. Maybe there's a reason on his side, however. The girl may be able to spell.

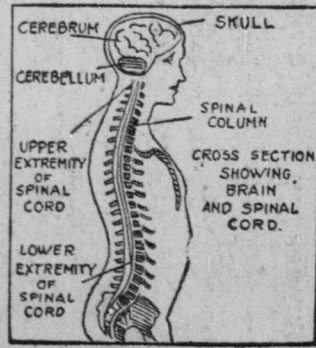
An unprecedented number of plays failed in New York this year. People are getting tired of the theater; you can't even pick up any new profanity there any more.

## David Dietz on Science

### Nerves Control Body

No. 251

THE nervous system has been called the most important system of the human body. This is true from one point of view and not so true from another. For the body is a unity and what happens to any system or organ or tissue is likely to have marked effect on every other one. But it is a fact that the nervous system is the master system of the body. It governs and controls the human body. The nervous system of man spreads through the entire body, but finds its greatest concentration or localization in the brain. Comparative anatomy, the science devoted to the study of the different organs of man, shows an increasing centralization of nervous tissues from the simplest creature to man. Man has the most complex brain organization in the world. The central parts of man's nervous system are well protected. The bony structures of the skull protect the brain. The bony structures of the backbone protect the spinal cord which grows out from the brain. From these centralized structures, the brain and the spinal cord nerves run to every part of the body. The study of the nervous system of man has been intensely interesting. Nerves are divided into two classes. They are the sensory nerves and the motor nerves. As their names would indicate, the sensory nerves receive sensations. The motor nerves cause reactions. Let us take a simple example. A person touches a hot stove with his finger. Immediately he pulls his finger away from the stove. It was the sensory nerves in the finger which received the impression of the heat. It was the motor nerves which caused the muscles to contract and the finger be withdrawn. Physiologists have made a careful study of the action and behavior of nerves. We will see next what they have found out about the three parts of the nervous system, the central nervous system, the sensory nerves and the motor nerves.



# M. E. TRACY SAYS:

"I Am No Seer and Possess No Crystal, but I Can Make Just as Good Guesses."

HERE is a paradox indeed. The Germans want to be poor, while the allies want them to be rich. S. Parker Gilbert brought things to a showdown when he pointed out how well the Germans had done with reparation payments. That should have made Berlin feel proud and Paris blue, but it did not. The bug under the chip is what remains to be done. Everybody concerned, it seems, preferred to look ahead rather than backward.

Gilbert never said Germany was able to pay in full. What he did say was that she had kept the agreement thus far, without impoverishing herself. That was enough to upset many calculations. It revived French hopes that the reparations debt need not be reduced, and it revived German fears that it would not be. You can not always tell how people are going to take things, even a plain statement of fact.

## The Kellogg Pact

NO sooner has the cruiser program been sidetracked for the Kellogg pact in the senate, than a house committee comes forward with an army bill carrying an appropriation of \$455,000,000. As though that were not sufficient, it is feared that James A. Reed of Missouri may gum up everything by introducing a report on the Vore case.

There are more ways to block action than to get it in congress. If a bill can not be stopped by voting or filibustering, it can be shoved out of line by calling up some other bill, bringing in a report or doing a thousand and one other things that are permitted by the system. Sometimes log rolling, swapping favors, or buying each other off in similarly polite ways offers the one chance.

It frequently happens that a good bill can only be saved by promises to support a bad bill. That is one reason why we get so many bad bills.

## Prohibition Prizes

W. C. DURANT having acquired a plan to enforce prohibition at a price of \$25,000, W. R. Hearst offers a similar amount for one to repeal it. Whatever else may be said of the idea, it certainly answers the demands of sportsmanship. We are now assured that both sides equally will be well armed. Among other missiles, they can hurl their prize plans at each other, and if these fail to produce the desired effect, they can fall back on the several thousand schemes that were offered but did not win. Meanwhile, very few will look for the problem to be solved. Where are the prize books, prize essays and prize songs, not to mention prize peace plans?

Theoretically, some genius should invent a way to make prohibition successful, or get rid of it, and theoretically, offers of \$25,000 prizes should stimulate inventiveness, but experience suggests that too much is not to be expected from the method. The country will muddle along until it makes up its mind in the good old-fashioned way. Eventually it will decide whether to tolerate the miseries of an exalted pretense, or go back to the pleasures of an admitted weakness. Until then very little can be hoped for but a prolongation of the argument.

## Prophecy of Seeress

A FRENCH seeress predicts this will be a year of tragedy and disaster. Gazing into a crystal, and going through such other motions as the art calls for, she finds that king will die, that there will be at least one war scare, that airplane wrecks will occur, that water will be responsible for quite a few accidents, that two prominent men of letters will pass out, and that the living cost will rise. The lady is safe. She has taken in too much territory for failure. Most of her predictions are simply bound to come true. Every year has been one of disaster and tragedy since the human race consisted of more than a dozen beings. As for a king dying, there are in sufficiently bad shape now, to make the prediction particularly dangerous. As for two prominent men of letters passing out, the breed has become so numerous that there are more likely to be ten. As for airplane wrecks, how can we expect to avoid them, with the machinery still unperfected and youth raring to go?

## Ahead of Us

I am no seer and possess no crystal, but I can make just as good guesses as this Parisian prophetess. So can any one else who has given the slightest thought to the law of averages. If you doubt it, put the following away and see how the following compares with the forecast twelve months hence: Tom Heflin will make an anti-Catholic speech, possibly more than one. A new heavyweight champion will appear in the prize ring. Mr. Hyman will not be elected mayor of New York. The argument as to whether prohibition is a failure will continue. Elocution teachers will enjoy an unusual period of prosperity in Hollywood, and at least one wild party will be thrown. One-eye Connolly will crash a gate. Upsets are indicated in this year's football season. At least 25,000 people will die from snakebite in India. There will be a great famine in China if not somewhere else. We shall continue to make more traffic arrests than any other kind. The bolsheviks will declare their government a success. Murders in the United States will number about 10,000 and suicides about 14,000.



## Dance Marathon of Little Scientific Value

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editorial Journal of the American Medical Association, the Health Magazine.

WHEN the marathon dancing craze attracted public attention a few months ago people began to view with alarm the participants in these exhibitions. One physician who observed 102

about for forty minutes and then rest for twenty minutes, being removed from the floor, in hospital carts; usually they were asleep before they reached their training quarters. During the first ten days the chief complaints were sore feet, blisters, callouses, corns and bunions, although many of the dancers suffered with inflammations of the eyelids.

The first disturbance of the body of serious importance noticed was a change in the mental state after ten days, when the contestants began to become hilarious, depressed, or irritable. These changes in temperament were the result of continuous exhaustion. At such times the dancers seemed to be semi-conscious, some of them suffered with delusions or hallucinations and some of them were so clouded mentally that they did not seem to know where they were. A young widow developed a men-

tal condition known as exhaustion psychosis, becoming hilarious and bursting into tears alternately, and developing the delusion that she was being maintained against her will in a place of ill repute.

Most of the contestants developed a fall in the blood pressure with disturbance of the rate of the pulse. However, in general, the heart did not seem to be permanently disturbed in any way. After all such dances prove nothing of value to scientific medicine, since conditions of severe fatigue occurring in industry or associated with remarkable athletic feats provide a far better test of what the human constitution can undergo and still recover.

Such studies made in the past affirm again and again the remarkable factors of safety that exist in the human body and the tremendous ability that it has to overcome severe damage if given half a chance.

# Reason

By Frederick LANDIS

CHICAGO broadcast an official New Year's resolution not to enforce the liquor law when the head of her police force announced that it was safe to violate it while watching the old year out, so long as it was done in an "orderly manner."

Surely Chicago's failure to enforce any law is not so sensational as to demand such a proclamation, but such a proclamation was a blow below the belt of law and order by one paid and sworn to uphold it. Bootleggers are patriots alongside such officers and the officers should wear stripes, not stars.

American politics lost its most colorful figure when Governor Smith left the Albany statehouse and New York said farewell to the greatest chief executive she ever had, and this means greater than Cleveland, Roosevelt or Hughes. Elihu Root, greatest living Republican said Smith knew more about the government of his state than any other man.

Since he so vociferously insists that all the rest of the people should obey the Volstead law, the Rev. John Roach Straton of New York City should not have violated the speeding law in Maryland. The inference is that he would violate the Volstead law, if he did not approve of it.

So many priceless paintings are now being dug up in out of the way places that it is up to all of us to take a week off and ransack the cellar and garret.

During the last week we've seen the pictures of half a dozen bald-headed scientists carefully pouring a few drops of acid from one thing into another, each drop of which is said to be sufficiently deadly to exterminate a city.

These fellows used to give us cold chills, but we are beginning to suspect that they are spoofing us.

This order of the government of Haiti, forbidding outsiders to stay more than thirty days, will drive out all the plumbing salesmen, for you couldn't hope to sell a bathtub there in any such time.

This senate subcommittee which is investigating political appointments in the south reports that Dixie postmasters paid \$20,000 into the Republican campaign fund. What of it? Practically all appointees of all parties always have made such contributions and they always will.

## STRIPES, NOT STARS

SEARCH THE ATTICS  
WHAT ABOUT WARTS?

YOU wouldn't think the fight warts would fall for the proposal of Tex Rickard's to have somebody fight Jack Dempsey for the heavyweight championship. It's too much like having somebody fight the Kaiser for the military championship.

The League to Abolish Capital Punishment has too limited a program; it should not stop with murderers, but should include in its tender solicitude mad dogs, rattlesnakes, yellow fever mosquitoes and plague-carrying rats.

THE difference between China and the United States is that over there a man's importance is determined by the number of his wives and over here by the number of his honorary pallbearers.

fall, sacrifice the Jack of spades, because this play guarantees game. Opponents capture Jack of spades and then win two tricks in clubs. Declarer wins all of the remaining tricks, making game. If played in any other manner, there is no certainty of making game.

The Principle—Draw trumps and sacrifice one if necessary when holding an established side suit that insures game.

Where is the largest telescope in the world?  
The largest refracting telescope has an objective 40 inches in diameter and is located at Yerkes Observatory, Williams Bay, Wis. The largest reflecting telescope has a mirror 100 inches in diameter and is located at Mt. Wilson Observatory, near Pasadena, Cal.

Who invented the first successful paper making machine?  
The credit belongs to Henry and Seely Fourdrinier, who, interested by an Englishman, John Gamble, in a machine invented by a French printer, Nicolas Robert, and assisted by Bryan Donkin, turned out in 1803, the machine which bears their name.

Where is Magdalena Bay located?  
Lower California.

What is sulphuric acid?  
An acid compound of hydrogen, sulphur and oxygen.

And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.—Isaiah 61:4.

A. H. to build, to build; That is the nobles of all the arts—

## This Date in U. S. History

Jan. 4  
1790—Washington issued his first annual presidential message.  
1835—Forty degrees below zero registered in New York state.  
1896—Utah admitted to the Union.  
1899—President McKinley sent treaty of peace with Spain to the senate.

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# IT SEEMS TO ME

By HEYWOOD BROWN

DR. HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, took occasion to rebuke Professor Harry Elmer Barnes, who argued for a new conception of God before a session of the organization. Just what the customs and practices of the association may be I don't pretend to know, but I'm for Barnes.

His speech more than any other directed popular attention to the proceedings of the wise men and I take it that one of the purposes of the convention was to acquaint the public with the latest trends in scientific thought.

Moreover, I think Dr. Osborn went too far when he declared that there can be no antagonism between science and religion. "Some of the greatest men of science have been very religious men," said Dr. Osborn.

And yet I do not think that the religion of a scientist is apt to be restricted within the boundaries of old-fashioned Christianity. Certainly it is not easy to conceive of any great astronomer as thinking along precisely the same lines as Dr. John Roach Straton.

Ape and Adam  
AND in the evolution battles before state legislatures it seems to me that the liberals have been a little less than candid. When the embattled preachers say that a belief in the Darwinian hypothesis wars against the literal acceptance of the Bible they are quite right. The conflict should be frankly recognized. It is sharp and fundamental. You can not have both ape and Adam.

Romantically and sentimentally the scientific concept is more appealing. It is easier to hold high hope and visions of man's future if you think of him as having worked his way up from the primeval slime.

To take Genesis at its word man has run down a little from his starting point, Adam, before he fell closer to God than humankind has been since that day. He did not justify the high hopes of the Creator.

In arguing against Darwin the preachers have many times thundered out the scornful query as to whether anyone would choose to accept a monkey as an ancestor.

My Great Ancestor  
I WOULD, I do. It is not shocking to admit kinship to some little fellow swinging upward through the branches and climbing hand over hand, with some little assistance from the tail, toward tree tops and a blue sky.

There is more dignity in that than in lineal fellowship with Adam, the cursed and dispossessed. For under the Darwinian dispensation there are always loftier branches and room to scurry high and higher upon sweating jungle. I choose to think that Eden lies ahead and not behind us.

At that same convention Dr. Shapley told his hearers that the universe consists of something more than 10,000,000,000 stars. With so much territory in which to function, it is difficult to conceive of God as one wholly intent upon leading his chosen people to their appointed meadows in the promised land.

Quite obviously the Old Testament chroniclers thought of God as a man, although a large one. Conventional religion aims to magnify God, but in its practices he is minimized.

Many articles of faith present him to us as both petty and petish. Why should the Lord of the light years be moved to anger because some little insect upon a whirling eggshell took his name in vain? Preachers are fond of saying that God is infinite, but hard upon the heels of such a statement they undertake to tell parishioners the divine will in regard to Smith and Hoover, or whether the Lord would prefer a dry or wet as representative from the Eleventh congressional district.

Accordingly, I believe with Professor Barnes that the world needs a larger and a more magnificent conception of the Creator. Mankind should grow away from the crippling notion of a devil and pits of eternal torment. Relativity must always prevail in things theological.

There has always been a keen inclination upon the part of men to dodge perplexing problems with a pious exclamation, "The Lord will provide."

Perhaps even modernists and fundamentalists can meet upon a common platform of believing that this world at least will be precisely what we make it and nothing more. It is better to toil and spin than be seduced by the brief glimmer of the lilies.

'Sin' Needs Revision  
PROFESSOR BARNES is right. I think, in surmising that sin is a word in need of revision. Right and wrong have become too much muddled with our misty conceptions of God's intention.

For instance, I think it was a mean deed for Calvin Coolidge to shoot at deer, because he might have hit one.

I do not think it is wrong to drink wine, to dance, or to play golf on Sunday. First, I must be convinced that some one has been hurt by these activities. It is a little world, this earth of ours. A poor thing, perhaps, but our own. Why not put our back and shoulders to the task and burnish this little cinder so that it may shine and twinkle bright as any in the billion?

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