



## The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)  
Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-226 W. Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Price in Marion County 2 cents—10 cents a week; elsewhere, 5 cents—12 cents a week.  
BOYD GURLEY, President, ROY W. HOWARD, FRANCIS G. MORRISON, Business Manager.  
PHONE—RILEY 3351. FRIDAY, JAN. 4, 1929.  
Member of United Press, Scripps Howard Newspaper Alliance, Newspaper Enterprise Association, Newspaper Information Service and Audit Bureau of Circulations.

"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 uncapitalized 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 court 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 county.

To young men who aspire to political careers, the policy of Remy should be illuminating. He remains 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 poison 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, where the raids count 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. Alvah 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 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 organisms, 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.

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## 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 reparations 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 \$435,000,000.

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 Vare

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 by calling up some other bill, bringing in a report or doing a thousand and one other things that are permitted by the system.

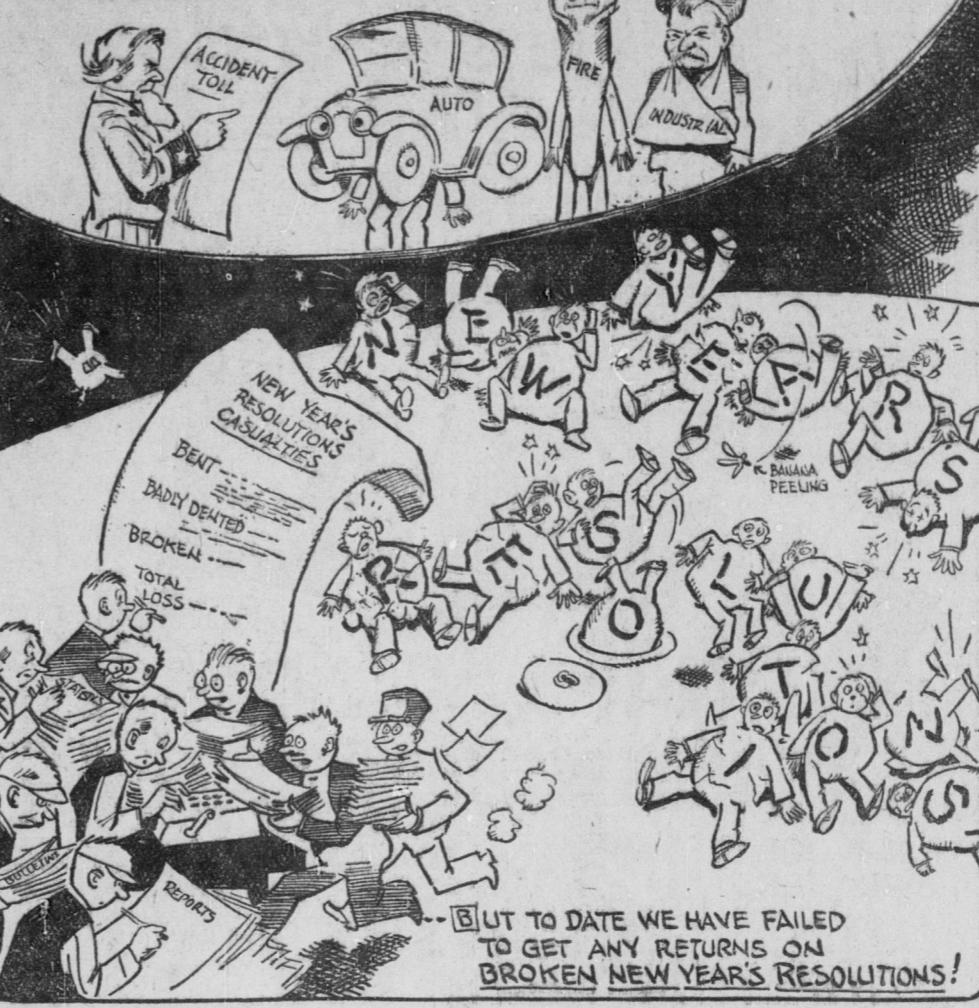
Sometimes log rolling, swapping favors, or buying each other off in similarly polite ways offers the one chance.

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.

One physician who observed 102

## Speaking of Accident Tolls

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL ESTIMATES \$3,000,000,000. ANNUAL LOSS BY ACCIDENTS IN U.S.A. ---



### DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

## Dance Marathon of Little Scientific Value

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor, *Journal of the American Medical Association* and *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

participants in a contest that extended 1,252 hours has made available a record of his experience in the *Journal of the Indiana State Medical Association*.

The dancers moved themselves

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.

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.

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.

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### STRIPES, NOT STARS

### SEARCH THE ATTICS

### WHAT ABOUT WARTS?

YOU wouldn't think the fight fans 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 demands to scuttle mad dogs, rattlesnakes, yellow fever mosquitoes and plague-carrying rats.

The difference between China and the United States is over there a man's importance is determined by the number of his