



# The Indianapolis Times

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BOYD GURLEY, Editor ROY W. HOWARD, President FRANK G. MORRISON, Business Manager

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

## Three Minnows

The dragnet of the government in northern Indiana has delivered its catch, three minnows from the seas of crime that at one time seemed so full of shark that the federal district attorney for that district, formerly the secretary of Senator Robinson, said that martial law would have been justified.

In the announced investigation of vast election frauds and corruption of the ballot, those convicted most recently were one policeman and two bootleggers, not for election frauds, but for violation of the Volstead act.

That there was probably a connection between the election irregularities and the brazenness with which the prohibition laws were ignored can not be doubted. The inactivity of the federal agents for a very long period of time was significant and suggestive.

The inability of the government to present even one charge of crookedness at the polls is even more significant and much more suggestive.

If it becomes safe for manipulators of politics to drive truck loads of imported crooks from Chicago from poll to poll and vote them under different names, all government fails. There is little use in the rest of the state voting at all, if the will of the voter is to be overturned by fraud.

The people will not be fooled nor will their interest be slackened by trials of a few foreigners who are caught selling contraband booze.

What the people really want is a thorough inquiry into the elections that have been held in the Calumet district where the vote has often determined the election of congressmen and senators.

The people of Indiana really have a right to be represented in the United States congress. They will not be represented as long as the result is dictated by frauds and corruption goes unrebuked and unpunished.

## Important Guests

The city should be very courteous and gracious to the several hundred men who are gathered here today to look at the new model of the Marmon car and discuss plans and projects of that concern.

These men will sell these new cars and upon their persuasiveness and energy will depend, to some extent, the number of men who will be employed in the factories here during the next year.

From a very practical viewpoint, these visitors are much more important than some men of greater fame who come from time to time to talk to us and tell us how to be prosperous and happy.

That these same visitors are optimistic, smiling and eager is good. They know that they can sell cars. They have no doubts about it. That is half the battle.

The size of the gathering is even better. It seems that the army of missionaries for Indianapolis products is increasing. And when that grows, the army of workers at home increases inevitably and in proportion.

So if you happen to meet one of these energetic gentlemen who come from London, England, or London, O., treat him cordially.

The important men anywhere, are those who do things. Very important are those upon whose efforts the jobs and opportunities of other men depend. And that means every one who works. The only unimportant people are the loafers, the professional tramps, who have nothing and refuse to work, or the very rich who have so much that they become parasites upon the world at large.

## The Meaning of Christmas

It is hard to accept all the hoopla that is put forth at Christmas time for what it is without being shunted to the other extreme and concluding that there is nothing to this Christmas stuff.

There is something, something more than greeting cards and hysterical shopping. Perhaps it is worth a moment's thought as to just what this something is.

Historically it is the Christ mass. It is the celebration of the birth of the citizen of Bethlehem whose teachings founded a new era. All the other was B. C.—before Christ. All for the last 1929 years has been ante Domini, the year of our Lord.

There must have been something important in teachings which can so sharply divide the centuries. What was it?

The chief novelty in the teaching of this founder of a new calendar was the suggestion that men might cease to hate one another and begin to be more brotherly. This was a new thought. Before this it was the tribe spirit. Let our tribe survive. Let us worship a god who will enable us to make successful war against the Philistines. All who worshipped other gods were Philistines.

Prosperity and war and priestcraft. That was the burden of the Old Testament teachings. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. A jealous god visiting the sins of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.

This new prophet born in Judea said to love those who hate you and despitely use you. To the thief of your coat you must offer the overcoat. To the striker of your cheek you must turn the other.

Doesn't sound very practical for everyday life. But it is easy to see what the teacher is driving at. The doctrine of hate must be laid aside and man

must learn to live at peace with his fellow. He must be what the moderns call "more co-operative."

Never can he do this until he learns to be more tolerant, more patient, more just. A brother is supposed to share fairly. If all men were brothers—or behaved as such—there would be no wretched poverty or super-wealth. The world would work out distribution in a sounder manner. And of course there would be no wars, for men do not kill their brothers.

And is this the reason for all this buying of monogrammed handkerchiefs and hanging up of stockings? Yes. These are merely gestures of kindness. They don't get very far. That rich man in the New Testament who was told to go and sell all he had and give it to the poor no doubt concluded that this was a "commendable ideal," but nothing for him to try with. So today the Sermon on the Mount is regarded as a "doctrine of perfection," only a star to set a course by.

But there it is and in little ways our Christmas doings are set toward the Bethlehem star.

## Punishing the Buyer

In one of the most logical of all prohibition proposals, and in another way the most absurd, congress now is considering the idea of making the buyer of liquor as guilty before the law as the manufacturer and seller.

From the standpoint of logic, indeed, it might seem that the buyer should be punished and not the manufacturer and seller. The prohibition amendment's purpose is to make people stop drinking.

It is intended to reform the individual. Those responsible for the amendment consider drinking a vice, an immoral practice; they consider it also harmful to the individual's health.

These reformers do not consider business a vice, or an immoral practice; certainly not harmful to health. Nor do they look on the manufacturing industry, per se, as something to be suppressed.

Yet when they started out to make us be good by statute, it was at the industrial manufacturers and the keen, alert business men that they aimed their laws. (Nobody will deny that the distillers are industrious nor that the bootleggers are keen and alert.)

They went hot and heavy after these men, not even stopping to inquire whether they drank the stuff they made and sold; not giving a thought to whether they were harmed or helped by their profitable enterprise.

There was no logic in it. It was absurd. It still is absurd.

And yet the one thing more absurd that the prohibitionists might have done would have been to do the logical thing. That is, to punish the buyer—the man they really desire to reach.

For there are so many millions of buyers in this fair country today that undertaking to punish them all—and surely the prohibitionists wouldn't punish some of them, while allowing the others to escape—would require that half the population spend its whole time catching and jailing the other half.

Our guess is that congress, after due thought, will stick to the present absurdity instead of undertaking the new and incalculable absurdities that would follow the proposal to punish the buyer.

Eighty-five per cent of the automobiles stolen in the United States last year were recovered. Rather pessimistic results—only 15 per cent having any kind of luck.

A new practice golf ball which will not travel more than thirty feet is becoming popular. The ordinary ball, of course, would serve the same purpose for some of our friends who play.

Women in the South Sea Islands are poor conversationalists, says a traveler. The game of bridge must be practically unknown there.

## REASON By FREDERICK LANDIS

SENATOR MOSES of New Hampshire has become suddenly and marvelously mellow. Far from calling any of his senatorial brethren "Sons of the Little Jackass" in his speech at the dinner, given in honor of Senator Edge the other night, Moses was almost fraternal in his reference to those who did not agree with him.

Some may ascribe his progress from hornet to humming bird to that benevolence of spirit which we associate with the approaching Christmas season and some may ascribe it to the lambasting Moses has received since last he wagged his acid tongue, but we are inclined to believe that Mr. Hoover called in the ambassador from the imperial state of New Hampshire and informed him that his vinegar bottle is a liability.

We do not know whether there is anything in this genealogist's story that Al Smith and Secretary Mellon are distant cousins, but we suspect, and this is the important thing, that both of them have a more satisfactory checking account than they would have if their folks had stayed on the other side of the Atlantic.

TWELVE hundred forty students at the University of Nebraska drive their automobiles and if they concentrate they should be first-class chauffeurs by the time they get their diplomas.

Mr. Joseph Echikson of a Newark (N. J.) hospital, broadcast an appeal for volunteers who were willing to furnish blood for a patient and seventy of them responded.

We have quite a few real folks, if you dig them up.

Mr. Bert McDonnell, associate editor of Literary Digest, has returned to New York after having lived in the Canadian wilds for sixty days, clad only in a moose skin and a pair of moccasins to prove that modern man can endure the hardships of primitive life.

And now we'll bet his wife will have to drag him out of bed in the morning to get him to make the fire.

DEAN INGE of London thinks the churches should get together and formally renounce their belief in hell, but we would respectfully call his attention to the fact that it is a mighty comforting reflection when you think of your enemies.

The fact that the contested election case of Vane of Pennsylvania hung fire for more than three years, is due to the fact that most of the members of the United States are lawyers.

Great Britain probably will defer granting a title to the author of "Journey's End" until the determination of this suit brought by the American who claims that the play was lifted bodily from his manuscript, "Flags and Flowers."

## M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

In the Long Run, We Must Decide on Hands Off in Haiti, or Absolute Possession.

HAITI erupts again, and that, too, at a moment when we supposed everything was all right.

It only goes to show how mistaken the best informed people can be. No wonder President Hoover wants a commission, or that Senators Borah and King are willing "to go along."

But if these men feel the need of more information, what about the rest of us, and isn't that a good place to begin?

Some folks may think they understand the situation thoroughly, and know exactly what ought to be done. I do not. To my mind it seems not only complicated, but confusing.

Easy enough to say that people, whether white or black, civilized or savage, have the right to govern themselves. Easy enough to wonder what business it is of ours, whether they can do so or not. Easy enough to ask, "Who gives a hoop about Haiti, anyway?"

But where does that get us?

## Fell Back on U. S.

Of course, it's a mess, but no worse than before our marines landed.

The people of Haiti had a hundred years to show what they could do with a self-government, and where did they land?

They landed at the White House door, asking for cash with which to straighten out their hopelessly tangled financial affairs; for auditors and collectors to keep their accounts in order; for American trade and investments; for marines and a high commissioner to maintain order.

European nations had a hand in the deal; let no one doubt that.

Being barred out by the Monroe doctrine, but interested in the protection of their commerce and citizens, they were glad to see the United States take charge.

They were not so glad, however, as to refrain from knocking over Latin American policy on every possible occasion.

## Could Keep Hands Off

WHILE one may be in doubt as to what should be done with regard to Haiti, there are certain definite policies from which to choose.

In the first place, we could adopt a hands-off policy, refusing to loan money, to render assistance, or to take any interest in Haiti's condition.

But could we adopt such a policy and be just to our own people, without warning them to keep away?

Then, we might borrow a page from European statescraft and take possession of Haiti without so much as "by your leave."

That would be no more than France is doing with Morocco and Syria, or than Italy is doing with Tripoli.

But even those Europeans who charge us with such an objective know that they are lying.

In the long run, however, we are going to reach a point where we must decide between a hands-off policy on the one hand and absolute possession on the other, and whatever we do now should be done with one of those alternatives in mind.

## Just Meddling Now

AT present, we are pursuing a course of "helpfulness" as some call it, or "meddling," if you prefer, the basic idea being that we will assist Haiti until such time as she is able to reach a point where we must decide between a hands-off policy on the one hand and absolute possession on the other, and whatever we do now should be done with one of those alternatives in mind.

The trouble is that we not only have tried to fix the time, but within preposterously narrow limits—signing a twenty-year treaty, as though two million ignorant, superstitious black could be made fit to govern themselves in a short period.

And not only that, but knocking off every so often to wonder whether we have made a mistake and whether we ought to do something different.

## Attitude Is Capricious

OUR attitude not only toward Haiti, but toward all Latin America, is naïvely capricious.

One day we intervene, and the next we withdraw. One day we proclaim our love of free government, and the next we howl with alarm at fancied "nests of Bolshevism."

The Latin Americans do not know what they can depend on from one day to the next.

Our obvious task is to sit down and formulate a policy that we are willing to see through to the end.

That would be better than anything we have done yet, no matter how bad it might be.

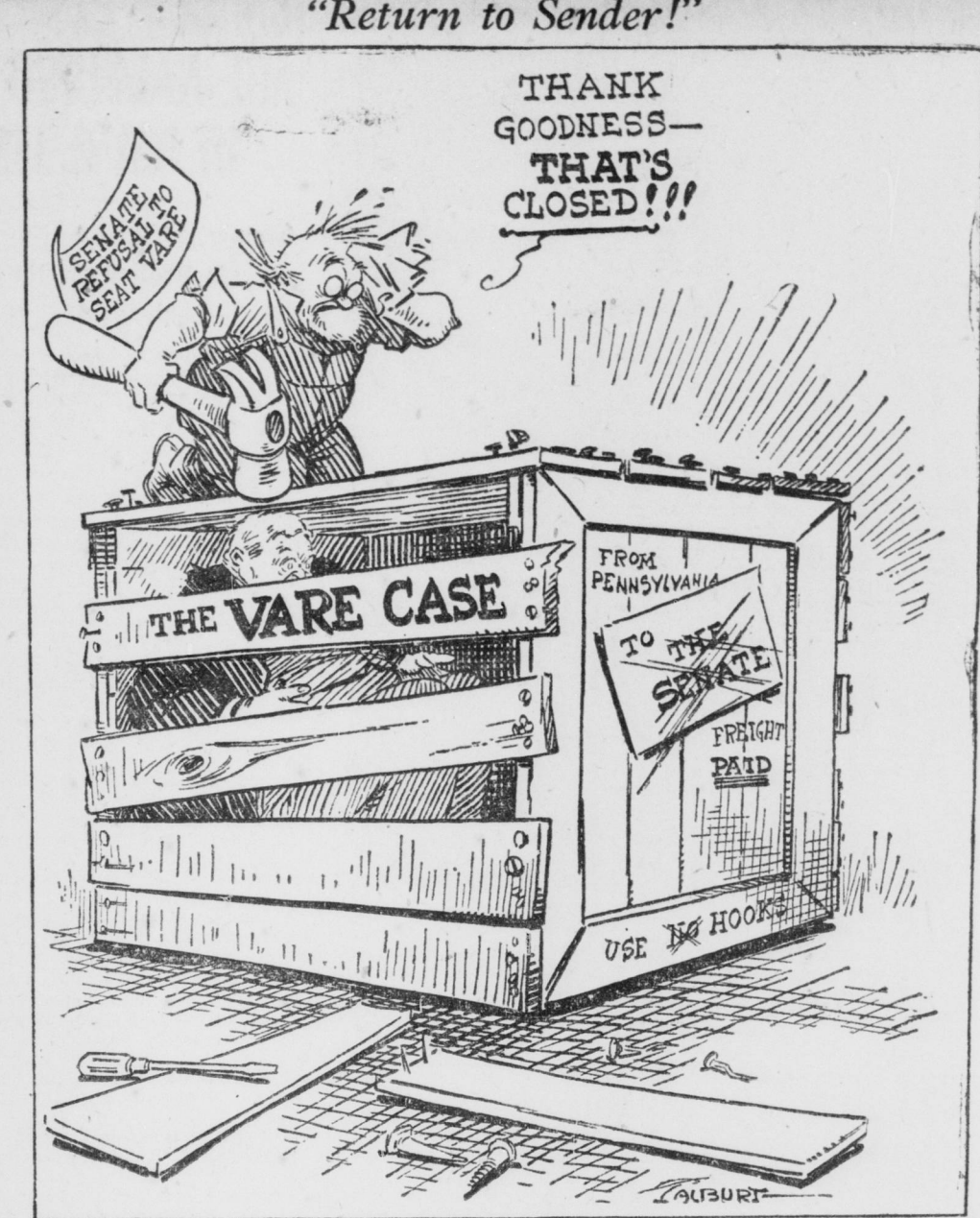
Let us have a commission by all means, and let it study not only the Haitian problem but all similar problems, with the idea of formulating a program which we are not ashamed to publish to the world, and which will be a sufficiently happy combination of idealism and good sense to merit consistent support.

## Daily Thought

I said of laughter, it is mad; and of mirth, what doeth it?—Ecclesiastes 2:2.

Mirth is the sweet wine of human life. It should be offered sparingly with zealous life unto God.—Henry Ward Beecher.

What is the meaning of the word acedophorus? That which stains easily by acids. It comes from the Greek meaning "loving (philus) acids."



## Don't Experiment With Baby's Ears

By DR. MORRIS FISHBEN, Editor Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine.

THE best thing for the mother to do to the baby's ears under ordinary circumstances is to let them alone.

If the child is normal and has not had a cough, cold or sore throat recently, its ears probably will get along well. The only cleaning necessary is the wiping of the ear with a small wisp of cotton.

A sharp instrument should never be put into the ear, nor should a toothpick wrapped with cotton be inserted deeply in the ear cavity.

It is a pretty good rule for the average person never to put anything smaller than his elbow into either his ear or his eye.

If a child has a cough, cold or

sore throat, it may develop a secondary infection of the ear. The baby with an infected ear and with pain is likely to put its hands up to the ear to protect the painful region. It will be restless and cry constantly. Irritability is continuous if the child suffers constant pain.

Usually with an infected ear there is fever, which, of course, goes down or disappears when the ear drum bursts and the infected material begins to escape. A physician can inspect the ear drum by the use of a special apparatus for that purpose and note the bulging due to the pressure from within or if the ear drum has ruptured, note the material escaping.

If the ear bulges with great pain, the physician probably will cut the ear drum to make a smooth opening and one that will heal easily.

Under conditions of infection, the physician is likely to prescribe a wash for the ear which will help to remove the infected material.

Such washes usually contain boric acid in warm water, which is sterilized by boiling water and then allowed to cool before being used. A tablespoonful of boric acid to one pint of water is the amount usually employed.

The ear is not filled with this solution, but the solution is allowed to flow from a douche can or bag about two feet higher than the patient's head. The tip is pointed upward instead of directly into the ear as the solution flows.

An ear that is discharging should not be blocked with cotton. The discharge may be wiped out and a small wisp of cotton put over the ear to absorb the discharge without damming back the secretion.

## IT SEEMS TO ME By HEYWOOD BROWN

SPEAKING of wild asses, as Senator Moses did recently, the Boston herd seems one of the largest in the country. A Boston crowd just has decided that "An American Tragedy" is obscene, which is downright silly.

There has been general agreement among all literate Americans that Theodore Dreiser's novel is a masterpiece.

One may feel with H. L. Mencken that it is too long, and that the best system is to send the first volume to your pastor and concentrate upon the second, but only a dull-witted community could find the book pornographic.

Nor should the offending class in Boston be dismissed as merely dull. There is something evil-minded in any group which finds pornography in a book so universally applauded by other Americans.

## Nice Smile

A NEW YORK newspaperman, Carl Helm of the Sun, just has returned from beleaguered Boston and reports favorably upon the city's system of play censorship, even though it did exclude "Strange Interlude."

He found that John Michael Casey, the chief pooch-bah, was mild-mannered and agreeable in conversation. This satisfied Mr. Helm, but I don't see why it should satisfy Boston.

The tones of a tyrant are of little consequence. His deeds are more important. Personally, I would as soon have a man step on my neck with a scowl as with a friendly smile.

Mr. Casey got off one ancient one which seemed to be novel and satisfying to Mr. Helm.

"The average man could be what you call the city censor of plays as well as I," said Mr. Casey. "The average man knows the difference between filth and cleanliness. He knows what is decent and what isn't. He could apply the same test that I apply to determine whether a play or movie is fit to appear on a public stage."

"And what is that test?" asked the admiring reporter.

"He answered," explains the rapturous Mr. Helm, quietly, with neither fervor nor faintness, "whether he would want his mother, wife, daughter or sister to see such a play."

Mr. Casey is quite wrong in thinking that cleanliness is the same commodity in the eyes and ears of everybody. There are all sorts of subtle and personal ramifications.

Mr. Casey, for instance, drew up a set of prohibitions which excludes "females from appearing on the stage in bare legs. Exception to this only permitted upon authority of the mayor or licensing officer."

Now, there are millions of people in America today who find nothing evil in the sight of bare legs. They are accepted as a matter of course on countless bathing beaches.

I even venture the guess that Mr. Casey's mother, or wife or sister could stand the sight of bare legs with perfect equanimity. Since bare legs frighten or do something to him, all Boston must co-operate to spare Mr. Casey's feelings.

Exceptions

AND even on this point the censor admits the possibility of exceptions. He does not attempt to maintain that legs are legs. You see, the rule provides that the ban may be lifted in the case of certain duly authorized legs.

Appeal can be had to the authority of Mayor Nichols or the censor

himself. One can imagine a young actress coming away from such an appeal to the mayor and the censor, perfectly radiant at having been licensed as an exception.

But the worst feature of the Boston censorship lies in the fact that it constitutes an invisible government. Mr. Helm, in all journalistic accuracy, should not have whitewashed the system, because he never actually came in contact with it.

He merely talked to Mr. Casey, which brought him nowhere, since that gentleman is confessedly a figurehead. According to his own admission, the test is based upon the likes or dislikes of Miss and Mrs. Casey.

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Ideals and opinions expressed in this column are those of one of America's most interesting writers and are presented without regard to their agreement with the editorial attitude of this paper.—The Editor.

Today is the anniversary of the death of Samuel Woodworth.

Eighty-seven years ago today, on Dec. 9, 1842, Samuel Woodworth, author of the song, "The Old Oaken Bucket," died.

Woodworth, an American journalist as well as a poet and song writer, was born at Scituate, Mass., in 1785.

After an apprenticeship in a printing office, he edited and printed a paper at New Haven, Conn., in 1807, and in 1809 went to New York where he conducted a weekly, the War, during the War of 1812.

He aided George P. Morris in 1823 in founding the New York Mirror. During his life, Woodworth published a good deal of verse as well as operetta, and a romance of the War of 1812, "Champions of Freedom."

However, he is remembered almost wholly for his song, "The Old Oaken Bucket."

Today also is the anniversary of the battle of Great Ridge, Va., on Dec. 9, 1775.

Home-Made Yule Candies

Our Washington Bureau has ready for you its comprehensive bulletin on how to make Fondants, Fudges and Bonbons—Christmas candies in great variety. Scores of different candies with plain and easily followed directions for making are contained in this bulletin.

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