

# The Indianapolis Times

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

## Lawyers: Model 1931

A generation back there was no little concern over the emergence of the corporation lawyer. The struggling individual attorney representing personal clients had to take a back seat in the presence of the suave, self-contained and persuasive counsel for a great railroad, bank, or commercial organization.

This man represented impersonal power and wealth. Joseph H. Choate was, perhaps, the perfect personification of the new species.

Today, however, the lawyers themselves have become corporations in fact, though they may in some cases retain the partnership relation. In the place of the dingy office, housing one or two seedy attorneys, with coats off and vests unbuttoned, we have impressive mahogany chambers in which are ensconced a corps of specialists who constitute a massive and smooth-running legal machine.

The contrast between the old individualistic lawyer and the new legal corporation is set forth well by Lewis Nichols in an article in the New York Times, entitled, "Even Blackstone Wouldn't Know Them." He might as well have said that Webster, Lincoln, or Seward would not have known them. We reproduce some of the more cogent sections of Nichols' article:

"In attaining to the proud position as one of the world's greatest industries, they found it necessary to change to meet the new requirements. No longer just attorneys, with a catch-as-catch-can practice, they now are corporations.

"The sad, inefficient—but sometimes entertaining—days of a man, a clerk, and a dog-eared copy of the works of Blackstone definitely are gone. For now seventy lawyers, due members of the bar, pore over books and call their souls their own, although bodies belong to the firm.

"In olden days their rooms did not shine like this. With dusty windows, dusty books, a tattered old roll-top desk and a dusty stenographer, they were untidy, comfortable, and the last, vague relic of the snuffbox era. Lawyers were unafraid to put their feet on the chairs, and they were feet quite as unpolished as the other surroundings.

"But that has changed—possibly in the direct ratio to the upward swing in incorporating fees.

"Their offices are hidden away in any of the lower addresses of Broadway, of Wall Street, a section of Nassau, and the more staid and sedentary parts of William. High in the air, with curtained windows, they scan the city they have helped to incorporate under the laws of Delaware.

Beneath them brokers love and hate, buy stocks on margin and hire blonde stenographers, but they have none of it. Only the majesty of conscious power is theirs.

"They own the thirty-fourth floor, the top of the building. Elevators run to them, but not beyond. A passenger, stumbling in by error, easily might conclude that only heaven can lie above.

"And it is doubtful whether the angels, the cherubim and seraphim, would feel quite at home in the offices of the mighty. There is mahogany from the west, teak from the east, marble from the south, and minerals from the north. Not to mention sixty-three attorneys from New York and Iowa.

"The office has so changed that a client, getting out of the elevator, finds himself in a massive hall instead of the small, cluttered room of yesterday. Opposite him are many doors of shaded glass, frowning and intent on something that is particularly relevant, competent, and material. Dressed mainly in gray, they are the youngsters, the late graduates of Harvard, the splinters of the firm's corporate shellings."

No doubt all this has produced a great saving of time and increase of efficiency. But we hardly can look to such organizations for tender solicitude in regard to the common man and his constitutional rights. A gain in specialized competence has been purchased at a loss in human relationships and social conscience.

## Whose Attorney General?

Attorney-General Mitchell may be long on law, but he is short on good taste. He proposes to throw the department of justice into the Hoover-senate court fight over the appointment of Chairman George Otis Smith of the federal power commission.

The President refused to recognize the senate's withdrawal of confirmation of Smith.

Mitchell is shrewd enough as a lawyer to admit that "the propriety of having another official of the department appear as attorney of record for the defendant is open to question."

He further admits that "there also is a technical question as to the statutory authority of the attorney-general to appear as attorney for a federal official in such litigation."

Having admitted that he probably is barred from the case, both by propriety and by statute, it might be supposed that Mitchell would keep hands off. Instead, he means to use department of justice lawyers to defend Smith in the "capacity of friends of the court."

In that capacity, he adds, "they will be in a position to, and intend to, support the validity of the appointment as vigorously as they know how."

Mitchell seems to forget that he is the sworn and paid attorney-general of the United States—not the attorney-general of the President.

## Help for the Blind

One of every thousand persons in this country is blind.

Yet until something like the approaching world conference on work for the blind calls it to our attention, we go little thought to this appalling condition that does not come or go with the rise and fall of prosperity, but constantly demands our intelligent help.

Forty per cent of the blind are younger than 30 years, needing adequate education in youth and needing work at which they can earn a living when they are older.

We have done something for the blind. There are fifty-four residential schools and twenty-one day schools scattered throughout the country, caring for blind young people in large cities. There are no schools of higher education, but in twenty-one states scholarships are given to employ readers for blind students.

Twenty-six states have agencies to direct home teaching and other services for the blind, and twenty-one states have relief agencies for the needy blind.

But these things are only a few of the many which could be done.

During April, delegates from thirty-five nations will be in this country to attend the world conference called for exchange of information and ideas by those working for the blind. This conference should widen the sympathetic vision of those of us who see.

## Russia Feeds Americans

Russia now is the third largest customer of the United States, the department of commerce announced Friday. Only the United Kingdom and Canada are buying more from us than Russia.

Russia paid us \$21,593,000 for goods in February alone. Unlike other nations, she buys much from us, but sells us little. That is, the trade balance is heavily in our favor—indeed, she pays us \$46 for every \$1 we sell her.

But Russia is human. She resents our attempts to embargo and discriminate against the few products she sells us. Therefore, she is beginning to withdraw her purchases from us, and is giving them to European countries willing to play fair with her.

How much longer is the Hoover administration going to let its anti-Russian mania kill the legitimate trade of American firms? Those American sales of \$21,593,000 a month stand between this country and worse depression.

Every dollar of Russian trade destroyed by the administration's ruinous policy adds to the army of the unemployed and takes bread out of the mouths of suffering Americans.

## A Few Facts

Washington announces that the federal budget deficit will approach \$900,000,000, the largest in our history.

London announces that the British budget deficit will exceed \$116,000,000.

Washington announces that the number of totally unemployed in the United States exceeds 6,000,000.

London announces that the number of totally unemployed in Great Britain exceeds 3,000,000.

But—The United States, despite its mounting deficit and the desperation of its people, continues to pay out more money for its army and its navy than any other nation in the world—almost \$750,000,000 a year, or an increase over pre-war of 161 per cent.

Great Britain, despite her deficit and the misery of her unemployed, continues to pay out about \$550,000,000 a year on her military and naval establishment—an increase over pre-war of 43 per cent.

And the United States and Great Britain continue this expensive preparation for war against weaker and smaller nations, despite their repeated disarmament pledges and their signatures to the Kellogg pact outlawing war.

What to do? Lord Robert Cecil proposed a 25 per cent cut in the arms budgets of all nations. That would remove some of the hypocrisy of nations which swear with one hand to disarm, and with the other hand increase armaments.

It would save more than \$1,000,000,000 a year. If that billion-dollar waste were turned into productive enterprise, it would provide work and self-respect for the totally unemployed of the world, which League of Nations' figures place at 17,000,000.

If our government really wants peace and a revival of prosperity, why does it not lead a world movement for the proposed 25 per cent reduction in military-naval budgets? Ours is the most powerful and most protected nation in the world. If we do not lead, no other nation dares do so.

An English lecturer says American writers don't clearly define their characters. Our authors should realize that clarity begins at home.

The pen is mightier than the sword, which might explain why Lewis and Dreiser prefer not to have it out in the good old Parisian way.

The best of motorists, unfortunately, often take turns for the worse.

Many people showed resentment at the Benedict Arnold trial over the radio. They felt, perhaps, that there was no good treason for it.

Dorothy thinks that a salutary event is what happens when a buck private meets a superior officer.

The woman who buys an article for a song usually bears a "refrain" from her husband.

It doesn't cost anything to have a seat on the Stock Exchange kicked, muses the office sage.

## REASON BY FREDERICK LANDIS

If any of you folks want to reduce, we suggest that you take up Mahatma Gandhi's bill of fare, which consists of goat milk, vegetables, cracked corn and dates.

You have only to look at Mahatma's picture in the papers to see how effective it is.

He is free from the inconvenience of Bishop Candier of Georgia, who is both corpulent and witty. Candier once was asked why he didn't play golf and he said: "When I'm close enough to hit the ball, I can't see it, and when I can see it, I'm too far away to hit it."

THE wonderful advance made in the development of television brings us closer to our greatest miracle.

And incidentally it means several things to those who express themselves over the radio. Some of them will have to pay more attention to their appearance than now when everything is left to the imagination of the listener.

We are grateful for the fact that no one expects a mere editor to dazzle the world with his wardrobe. It may interest you to know that most of those who put on large radio numbers dress for the part, the same as if they appeared "in person."

ORCHESTRAS usually appear in the studio in costume or in evening dress and those who put on plays wear the garb of their characters. This helps them put themselves into the roles. There's a lot in dressing for the part, you know. Armies could not do so much if they were not in uniform.

President Hoover may possibly be mistaken when he declares that our purchase of the Virgin Islands was a great misfortune.

The main reason we bought them was to keep somebody else from getting them and erecting a naval or aviation base which would threaten the Panama canal.

YOU never can tell what hidden value such a strategic point may possess. For instance, when the Kaiser acquired Heligoland, the world thought he was crazy, but on it he erected the greatest fortifications in Europe, commanding the entrance to the Baltic.

We appreciate the sentimental feeling which moves Dr. Pearce of London to bury his automobile after its twenty years of faithful service, rather than to send it to the scrap pile. We've felt the same reluctance about trading in our battered chariot, after all the rolling it has done with us and the trees we have climbed together.

# M. E. Tracy

—SAYS:—

Human Progress Remains Largely a Conflict Between Successful Commoners and Ancient Customs.

NEW YORK, April 4.—King Haakon of Norway will knight Knute Rockne—a belated and rather empty honor for the dead football coach—but a naive gesture on the part of his majesty.

King Alfonso of Spain washes the feet of twelve poor men, while his queen, bedecked in gold embroidered robes, does the same for twelve poor women.

Not pausing to argue the motives that may have inspired them, what the vast majority of their poor subjects need is a better chance to wash their own feet.

It's a shrewd king that knows enough to stand in the reflected glory of some successful commoner, or make a hit with the masses by observing some ancient custom.

It's about the only way a king can hold his job these days.

## Which Way to Heaven?

AS has been the case since the dawn of time, human progress remains largely a conflict between successful commoners and ancient customs.

Though proceeding by train, steamship, auto or airplane where they formerly walked, pilgrims still flocked to Jerusalem—some for the Christian Easter, some to attend the Jewish Passover, some to represent Islam's veneration for Moses.

All three religions are supposed to stand for the fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man, and peace. Yet with that wisdom which comes from experience, British authorities have mounted machine guns at the Jaffa gate, and doubled the street patrols.

The big idea is a heaven, not only for ourselves, but for everybody, yet each remains so touchy about the particular road he has chosen to get there that it doesn't take much to start a row at the parting of the ways.

## Same Old Tune

IN America, we think we have a great deal of system and discipline. But if we think we have stumbled on something new in human affairs because of the time clock, factory whistle and conveyor.

As a matter of fact, we're dancing to the same old tune, though we are a little surer of the immediate results.

Ever since the first group of cave-men decided to co-operate for defense, or control of a garden patch, humanity never has ceased to organize around ideas and activities which impress it, or to devise rules, regulations and discipline to preserve the organization.

Ever since the first savage learned how to do something his fellows couldn't we have had specialists and experts.

## New Ways of 'Detecting'

PROFESSOR CURT JOHN DUNN, who is right when he places the so-called art expert on a par with detectives, when he says that the detection of false pictures, spurious statuary and copied antiquities represents no different problem than the detection of any other fraud.

The one difference is that the accumulation of knowledge has made the problem a little more difficult, whether in the line of art, stock swindles, or adulterated food. The complexities of modern life merely have made it a little harder to catch the common thief, just as they have made it a little harder to become a successful doctor or engineer.

It is easier for the federal government to run down racketeers through false income tax returns than it is for local authorities to get actual evidence against them. In Chicago, they couldn't find a policeman who was able or willing to say that there was anything off-color in Al Capone's conduct, but false income tax returns have put a number of his chief lieutenants behind the bars.

One can not help wondering how we would have handled the racketeering problem if we hadn't adopted the income tax.

## Here Are Some Puzzlers and Their Answers

What is the size and color of a honey dew melon, and where did they originate?

They came originally from Europe, where they were being long known as White Anbiss Winter. The average size is about six inches in diameter and 7 to 8 inches in length, weight 5 to 6 pounds; the rind is smooth, with an occasional net, greenish white, turning to a creamy yellow when ripe. Flesh is green, thick, fine grained, and of good quality and sweet when properly ripened.

How many representatives has the state of New Jersey in congress?

Two senators and twelve representatives.

Between what two leap years did eight years intervene?

There never was a time when eight years intervened between two leap years. The longest intervening period between two leap years was seven years, between 1896 and 1904. A period of seven years will intervene between 2196 and 2202, provided the present calendar is still in vogue.

What is the capital of China?

Nanking. The name of the former capital Peking, has been changed to Peiping.

Of the Harvard-Yale football game, how many has Harvard won?

Of forty-nine games, Yale won 26 and Harvard won 17, and 6 were tied.

What are the water and fat contents of an egg?

An egg is 1 per cent mineral; 73.5 per cent water; 14.9 per cent protein and 10.6 per cent fat.

Where did the custom of placing candles in the windows of houses on Christmas eve originate?

Probably in Ireland, where formerly it was usual to burn a large candle, which no one was permitted to snuff except those who bore the name of Mary. The idea of placing

candles in the window no doubt was to let passersby know that the custom was being observed, and also served as a welcome sign. Candles have been used in connection with religious observances for many centuries.

How does the area of the United States compare with that of Australia?

The gross area of the United States is 3,036,780 square miles; the area of Australia is 2,974,561 square miles.

What role did Charles Morton play in the photoplay that featured Amos and Andy?

He played the role of Richard Williams.

## Hey! We Sent Him After a Haircut!



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

## Life Expectancy Shows Increase

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBURN,  
Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine.

IN 1825, man's expectancy of life was 35 years. In the period of 100 years this expectancy has increased by twenty years, so that a child born today reasonably may expect to reach the age of 55.

The life expectancy after reaching the age of 50 one hundred years ago was for twenty-one additional years, whereas today the life expectancy after reaching 50 is twenty-one and two-tenths years.

If additional life expectancy is to be accomplished, it is not enough to wait until the hazards of early heart disease,

high blood pressure, and other degenerative diseases. Such control must come through the periodic physical examination.

In the period from 1906 to 1921, there was an increase in expectancy of life of about 14 per cent, the improvement being mostly in the earlier years of life.

A child born in the United States has an expectancy at birth of 55.58 years if a male, and 57.73 years if a female. For England the figures are 55.62 for the male and 59.58 for female.

A person does not inherit any particular tendency to longevity, but does inherit a type of body or constitution which enables him to survive better than does the average man.

In 1,500 cases in which the age at death was known of both the individuals and of their parents, it was found that 5.3 per cent lived to the age of 80 when neither parent reached that age; 9.8 lived to 80 when one parent reached that age; and 20.6 lived to 80 when both parents reached that age.

The figures indicate that expectation of life among wage earners in the United States in 1923 was 56.42 at birth, whereas in 1911 it was 46.63.

Out of 3,000,000 deaths, in the experience of a great life insurance company, only thirty people were found to have reached 100 years, of whom twenty were women and ten were men.

## IT SEEMS TO ME BY HEYWOOD BROWN

MUCH has been written about the work of Arnold Bennett in the various expressions of regret following his death. And most of the attention has centered upon his long novels dealing with the Five Towns.

It will may be that Bennett's chance for literary survival rests chiefly with "The Old Wives' Tale." But I find in the estimates of his writing a certain forgetfulness.

Critics well may give the impression that there was a man of great industry, great worth, and practically no charm among modern novelists. It seems to me that Arnold Bennett was distinguished by an infinite variety of method.

He experimented in many fields. And to those who say, "Rarely, too rarely, is the spirit of delight to be found in his fifty-odd volumes," I would suggest the re-reading of "Bunty Allen."

A Needed Book

TO me this has always seemed to me of the liveliest of romance stories. I have read it half a dozen times. And it never fails to have a gaiety which few of the moderns have been able to command.

And I like to think of Bennett not only as a man who contributed much to the realistic school, but also as a person who could sit down

and spin a yarn for the fun of it. And it is in my mind that when the books of the world are called to trial on Judgment day, not the least of them will be those which enabled the reader to have a good time, even though they may have contributed nothing to his knowledge of the cosmos.

'Mr. Noodle'

I WOULD like to speak a word in praise of a recent novel by a living author. There has been a great deal of search among local reviewers for men capable of interpreting America.

The award of the Nobel prize to Sinclair Lewis undoubtedly was based upon the fact that he drew his material from people around him. There is the same virtue in Theodore Dreiser.

But I feel that insufficient attention has been paid to J. P. McEvoy. Not for an instant would I rank him with the two battling giants whom I already have mentioned.

But at least it is reasonable to note the fact that he has taken his place out of activities which are peculiarly the possession of the United States.

This is strikingly true of "Mister Noodle," his latest book. It may be well to set certain boundaries as to its scope.

Technically speaking, it is a

scenario rather than a novel. Neither incident nor character is developed to the extent which befits a full length portrait.

He deals in sharp, broad strokes with little shading. Chic Kiley, the subject of his study, is an one-dimensional as Mutt or Jeff or Andy Gump.

Hardly Believable

IT is a pity that in the reaction against gross sentimentality not enough has been said of the errors of the ironists.

The character who is completely evil falls just as far short of reality as the personage credited with every possible ampere of sweetness and light. Mr. McEvoy's Chic Kiley is hardly a believable figure. He is too rounded a rotter for recognition.

But in spite of exaggeration, Mr. Evoy has seized upon the fundamental truth of comic strip psychology. He knows the medium with which he deals.

Mason, the managing editor of the story, covers a great deal of ground without ever losing the manner in which a successful pictorial feature may be established in American journalism.

"Run it and run it and run it," he says. "A successful strip is an old strip that's been kept running long enough."

And lest any of my cartoon friends write into protest against acceptance of this arbitrary interpretation of their art, let me add hastily that the same rule applies to many other aspects of the newspaper game.

Not for a second would I exclude the column from this category. I have seen a number which survived sheerly upon momentum.

Here in the United States we live to a great extent by labels. We buy toothpastes and we vote under the prophecies of headline ambassadors. You can make a cigar or a president by constantly repeating that he or she is "generously good."

I do not sit in a seat from which complaints should rise. As one who has been occupying the same stand under the same title for a number of years, I appreciate the tolerance which may be accorded to a well-established trade mark.

Indeed, it is upon this very psychology that I am building my hope of a comfortable old age.

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# SCIENCE

—BY DAVID DITZ—

Experiment Which Gave Us Carborundum Is One of Most Famous Incidents in History of Science.

ONE of the fields to which chemists in all parts of the world are devoting their attention to day is the field of abrasives. The Machine Age needs harder and more powerful grinding tools.

Chemistry had advanced industry by furnishing it with artificial abrasives for the grinding, shaping, and polishing of glass and metals.

The use of natural abrasives is as old as civilization. Emery was used by the ancient Egyptians and by the American Indians.

It remained the best abrasive known until 1331, when Acheson, devoting their attention today is manufacture of carborundum.

In that year Acheson thought that the electric furnace might be used to produce a form of carbon which would possess the hardness of the diamond, or at least approach the hardness of the diamond, and that it would prove more useful to industry than emery.

His idea was to take clay and, with the aid of the electric furnace, impregnate it with carbon. Acheson knew that it was the presence of carbon which gave to steel its hardness, and he thought in this way to produce an abrasive by adding carbon to clay.

The experiment which Acheson tried is one of the famous incidents in the history of science.

## Acheson's Experiment

Acheson put clay and powdered coke in an iron bowl and attached one wire from an electric dynamo to the bowl.

He attached the other wire from the dynamo to a stick of carbon like those used for electrodes in arc lamps. He inserted this carbon stick into the mixture and turned on the current.

The clay melted and heated to a high temperature by the passage of a current, but upon cooling did not form the sort of compound that Acheson hoped it would.

Apparently, the experiment had ended in failure. But he happened to notice some bright sparks on the end of the carbon electrode.

He wondered what they were and picked one up with the end of his lead pencil and drew it across a pane of glass. It cut the glass like a diamond.

Fallen suddenly had turned to success.

That was the beginning of the artificial abrasive industry. A few tiny specks was the first production. Today, about 30,000 tons are produced each year.