



# 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 unbuckled, 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 malon roll-top desk and a dusty stenographer, they were tidy, 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 yesteryear. 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 shingle."

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 Otto 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 property 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 give 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 50 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.

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.

# THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

## 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, decked 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 flock 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 the machinery, 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 cavemen 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.

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 DUCASSÉ is right when he places the so-called art expert on a parity with dentists, 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.

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

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

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

## 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 will approach \$800,000,000, 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.

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 propose 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.

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