



## The Indianapolis Times

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

### Drugs, Prohibition and Crime

Prohibition of alcohol is under wide attack by different classes, professions, parties, and sections. Yet almost no one thinks of attacking the prohibition of narcotics.

Indeed, it is assumed that the anti-narcotic legislation possesses something like the cosmic validity of Einstein's law of relativity. It is used by the prohibitionist to push the anti-prohibitionist into a logical corner. The former gets the latter to agree that the prohibition of drugs by law is a good thing. He then invites the "we" to show why it is not logical to apply the same reasoning to alcohol.

Now Dr. Benjamin Karpman of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington comes out and attacks the Harrison anti-narcotic act as more vicious in its effects than the eighteenth amendment and the Volstead and Jones acts.

Dr. Karpman says that before passage of the Harrison act, when the administration of drugs was left to physicians and druggists, drug addiction was chiefly an individual matter. It might demoralize the addict, but use of drugs was not a socialistic practice. There was no contagion about it. Medical advice as to taking the drug also was available.

Further, drug addicts contributed far less than their proportionate share to the criminal class. The effect of the drug turned them away from crime, and there was no reason for shooting, robbing, or assaulting anybody to get the drug wanted.

Then came the Harrison act. What followed? According to Dr. Karpman, the increase of every evil directly and indirectly associated with the drug traffic.

First, it increased the number of addicts several fold, particularly as a result of the spread of the habit in prisons through the work of the convicted addicts. Moreover, without medical advice accessible, the present-day addict is likely to take overdoses of the drug.

In the second place, it made criminals of the addicts: "The urge to have the drug is so compelling that the addict will stop at nothing to obtain it; he will lie, steal, rob, and murder for the sake of obtaining a few grains."

It has made crime in connection with obtaining drugs a vast organized thing, Karpman says. The tremendous intensity of the demand, the recklessness of the addict, and the great potential profits all contribute logically to building up powerful drug rings.

Drug addiction, Karpman continues, spreading like wildfire among convicts, has increased the difficulty of prison discipline. It has encouraged the return of discharged convicts to a life of crime. The prisoner who has acquired the habit while in the pen has a double pressure on him to keep him a criminal.

Likewise, the drug act has increased prostitution. The female will sell her body to get the drug as eagerly as the male addict will commit a crime for the same purpose.

If we may believe Dr. Karpman, then, the Harrison act is as indefensible as the Volstead act, freely granting the desirability of reducing drug addiction and criminality. At any rate, his contentions are worthy of further study.

### Your Freedom

The man in the street should be as much interested in the supreme court decision upholding freedom of the press as the man behind the editorial desk. For freedom of the press is essential to all civil liberties and all free government.

Without freedom of the press, our country probably would have remained a foreign colony. Madison, the great authority on the bill of rights, said:

"Had the sedition act, forbidding every publication that might bring the constituted agents into contempt or disrepute, or that might excite the hatred of the people against the authors of unjust or pernicious measures, been enforced uniformly against the press, might not the United States have been languishing at this day under the infirmities of a sickly confederation? Might they not, possibly be miserable colonies, groaning under a foreign yoke?"

And yet the state of Minnesota in this enlightened age put upon its statute books a press gag law akin to that old curse of censorship.

If the supreme court had permitted this gag law to stand in Minnesota and later in other states, the press might have become the slave and tool of venal government officials as under similar laws in other countries in centuries past. Story's classic description of the long fight against gag laws is worth recalling now:

"The art of printing soon after its introduction, we are told was looked upon, as well in England as in other countries, as merely a matter of state, and subject to the coercion of the crown. It, therefore, was regulated in England by the king's proclamations, charters of privileges and licenses, and finally by the decrees of the court of star chamber, which limited the number of printers and presses which each should employ, and prohibited new publications, unless previously approved by proper licensers.

"On the demolition of this odious jurisdiction in 1641, the Long Parliament of Charles the First, after its rupture with that prince, assumed the same powers which the star chamber exercised, with respect to licensing books; and during the commonwealth (such is human frailty and the love of power even in republics) they issued their ordinances for that purpose, founded principally upon a star chamber decree of 1637.

"After restoration of Charles the Second, a statute on the same subject was passed, copied, with some few alterations, from the parliamentary ordinances. The act expired in 1675, and was revived and continued for a few years after the revolution of 1688.

"Many attempts were made by the government to keep it in force; but it was resisted so strongly by parliament that it expired in 1694, and never since has been revived."

But Massachusetts and other of our original thirteen states in their Constitutions found it necessary to give the press unrestrained liberty so that—to quote an early chief justice—officials could not "stifle the efforts of patriots toward enlightening their fellow subjects upon their rights and the duties of rulers."

Freedom of the press, therefore, was decreed by our state and federal Constitutions, not as a special favor to a privileged caste of editors and publishers, but as the only final check by free citizens upon their government officials.

This does not mean, of course, that editors may print what they please about whom they please without paying the penalty for abuses of that freedom. Hence the strict laws of libel to protect individuals against defamatory matter. But the laws of libel operate after publication, while the Minnesota gag law made possible "previous restraint" or the permanent closing of a newspaper.

Any layman can understand that this kind of press censorship is destructive of democracy, without reading Blackstone, who said:

"The liberty of the press is indeed essential to the nature of a free state; but this consists in laying no

previous restraints upon publications, and not in freedom from censure for criminal matter when published."

The same distinction between a justified libel law and an unconstitutional gag law was drawn by Chief Justice Hughes in his majority decision Monday, invalidating the Minnesota statute:

"For whatever wrong the appellant has committed or may commit by his publications, the state appropriately affords both public and private redress by its libel laws. As has been noted, the statute in question does not deal with punishments; it provides for no punishment, except in case of contempt for violation of the court's order, but for suppression and injunction, that is, for restraint upon publication."

Whatever its intent, the Minnesota gag law in effect was an invitation to corrupt public officials to intimidate and suppress permanently any newspaper which might expose their corruption.

By destroying that unconstitutional law, the supreme court majority has helped to preserve free government, which rests on a free press.

### Pinchot on Power

Those who still think that federal regulation of the power interests is unnecessary, because of regulations by some of the states, should study Governor Gifford Pinchot's address to the French Lick conference of Governors.

When that experienced Pennsylvania Governor declared that "the doctrine of state's rights is as important to settle this gigantic problem as commercial slavery and political domination as our history has proved it important to settle the problems of human slavery," he stated what has been increasingly obvious for many years. But it has been too long ignored by those seeking political preference.

No greater empire than that which now rules the water and air of this and other countries has been conceived. As empires do, it levies taxes. As empires do, it imposes its will on those less powerful.

The vast organization which controls electric power, the essential factor of industry, and light, the essential element of modern life; which extends its sway over heat and transportation, over communication and broadcasting and talking pictures and many other phases of everyday life, attempts also to control political life; and often succeeds.

It knows no state boundaries, and no state utility commission can take its measure.

Pinchot gives himself a titanic task when he challenges the utilities. No knight battling a five-headed, fire-breathing dragon could promise such exciting combat. His is a fight worth making and worthy of encouragement of those for whom it is made.

### Wanted: A Dictator?

Strangely enough, the unreasoning fear and hatred we feel toward those who advocate dictatorship of the proletariat does not extend to those who advocate other dictatorships for this country.

If it did, Representative Eaton of New Jersey would be beyond the pale today. For he has expressed the belief that the country would be better off if the next session of congress could be omitted entirely.

Eaton is a Republican and the Republican national committee is none too optimistic these days about the immediate political future. The administration's record in the last congress did nothing to increase its popularity in the country.

Eaton also is a former employee of the General Electric Company and has been an active supporter of electric utilities against those who sought to curb them.

It is hardly surprising that he looks forward with apprehension to a congress which will number among its members numerous gentlemen elected on anti-utility platforms, and very apt indeed to pass the Norris Muscle Shoals bill and provide federal regulation of holding companies.

A few of us still are interested in democracy, whether it always achieves results pleasing to us or not.

Why all this interest of a sudden in balloon ascensions, when our pitchers go up in the air almost every day?

### Does the Reform Count?

TWO murders drew searchlights in New York papers Tuesday afternoon.

One had to do with the killing of a prominent physician by supposedly former employees, who were sorely discharged.

The other, though equally simple, was equally brutal, involved problems which merit more than a passing thought.

Six years ago a taxicab driver of Hempstead, Long Island, was found shot to death. Suspicion fastened on a man named Phillip Knox Knapp, who deserted the army air corps at about the same time.

Detectives have been hunting Knapp ever since. They found him Monday night in West Orange, N. J., where he had been living a normal, quiet life for five years under the name of Phillips.

When a man is sentenced to prison, he is allowed so much time off for good behavior. Should he be allowed any time off for good behavior before he is caught?

We pretend that one function of the prison is to reform offenders, but what about those who have shown a disposition and an ability to reform without going to prison?

### Puzzle for Society

IT is commonly supposed that no one but a natural-born criminal commits murder and that murderers should be locked up, if not executed, on general principles, no matter how long it takes to run them down.

Further than that, it is supposed that they ought to be punished for the sake of example; that society can not survive without punishing them.

One can not help wondering whether society would be worse off if this man Knapp never had been found.

What is paper-mache?

A material made from old paper and like substances ground to a pulp with milk or lime or starch added. The pulp is pressed into form, coated with linseed oil, baked at a high temperature and varnished. It is sometimes mixed with clay or chalk.

Who wrote "Green Pastures"? Marc Connelly.

What color eyes has Viola Dana? Green.

Where is Yale university? New Haven, Conn.

One of the great propositions of American life is that every family puts the key either under the rug or in the mail box and solemnly believes that it is fooling everybody else in the land.

What this country needs is a new place to keep the key.

## M. E. Tracy SAYS:

*That Pinchot Can Get the G. O. P. Presidential Nomination Is Very Doubtful, but That He Would Make Things Interesting Is Certain.*

**N**EW YORK. June 3—The report that Governor Pinchot's can get the G. O. P. Presidential nomination is very doubtful, but that he would make things interesting is certain.

The stage is set for such a leader.

Millions of the rank and file are ready to vote dissatisfaction with the present administration.

Their attitude in this respect, however, can not be described as new.

The Republican party has been split for twenty years. Opportunism on the one hand and lack of leadership on the other have held it together.

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### Pinchot Stands Out

**O**f all those who might lead the liberal Republican element, Pinchot of Pennsylvania is, perhaps, the best bet.

When it comes to prohibition, he is as dry as President Hoover, and when it comes to power he is as radical as Senator Norris.

That he could get the nomination is very doubtful, but that he would make things interesting is certain.

Whatever the Republican party might suffer as consequence of his entering the race, it would probably do the country some good.

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### Press Freedom Upheld

**M**EANWHILE, liberalism, so-called, appears to be faring much better at the hands of the supreme court than in some other places.

The decision knocking out Minnesota's "press gag" law represents a triumph not only for honest journalism, but for constitutional government.

The decision was whether a state could curtail freedom of the press on general principles, could stop the publication of newspapers and magazines on the ground that they were "malicious, scandalous and defamatory," and could stifle criticism of public officials on that ground.

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### Safer Than Tyranny

**I**T goes without saying that freedom of the press involves the possibility of abuses. What character of freedom does not?

But, as chief Justice Hughes pointed out, such abuses are less dangerous than those that go with censorship and tyranny.

In its decision the supreme court upholds that kind of journalism and that kind of patriotism for which our forefathers fought.

The law which it annulled was irreconcilable with free government. It was the kind of law which goes with Fascism.

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### Crime Still in Spotlight

**S**PEAKING of law, what a stupendous part it plays in the news, compared with the part it plays in the lives of average people.

Outside of being arrested for parking in the wrong place or doing jury duty now and then, the average citizen has slight contact with the law, yet it is responsible for more eight-column scare heads than any other institution.

Were it not for a good, juicy murder every so often, our front pages would take on a strange appearance, not to mention the holdups, embezzlements and divorce scandals.

It is quite true that newspapers do not run so strongly to crime as they did twenty-five or thirty years ago, but it still is a very important source of copy.

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