



## The Indianapolis Times

**SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER**  
Owned and published daily (except Sunday) by The Indianapolis Times Publishing Co., 214-220 West Maryland Street, Indianapolis, Ind. Price 5 cents. 3 cents elsewhere. 3 cents cents a copy; elsewhere, 3 cents—delivered by carrier, 12 cents a week.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1931.

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."

### A Rare Opportunity

Seldom does there come to any citizen such a chance as is that of Arthur Sapp, just named a member of the highway commission.

He was former head of International Rotary, whose motto of profit as the result of service fits so well into the needs of the particular body of which he is a member.

Conditions in the highway department have not been wholesome for some time. The inquiry by the legislature was revealing. It required considerable political and personal pressure from high places to prevent the abolition of the board itself.

To say that its activities have been under suspicion is to paint the situation with mild words.

The passing of member Murden will not be lamented by any citizen who desires to have the vast funds of the highways administered with some regard for public welfare instead of political advantage.

That he is succeeded by a man of such reputation and principles as Mr. Sapp is the most encouraging incident in the present administration.

The burden upon the new member will be as enormous as the disrepute of the department has been vast. It will require unusual courage to destroy all the influences that have permeated the department. It will require wisdom to throw light into the dark spots and drive out the verminous evils that have infested the place.

But such tasks as these are a challenge to men who devote themselves to preaching and practicing high ideals. Here is a job worth while. It is the job for a man.

And in that task every good citizen will give not only every support but every encouragement to the new member. The state has all too few of his caliber in its service.

### A Correction

William H. Hodge of the Bybless Engineering and Management Corporation takes exception in a public address to an editorial published in this newspaper.

The editorial in question stated that profits of electric utility companies increased by nearly \$44,000,000 last year. Mr. Hodge says, and is quite correct in saying, that the \$44,000,000 increase was in gross earnings, not profits. We thank him for catching our error.

In spite of the error in use of terms, the editorial was written on the assumption that the \$44,000,000 was gross earnings, and the logic of the editorial stands.

The editorial called attention to the fact that this increase, breaking all utility company records for the second successive year, occurred during a time of depression when most other industries were losing money or closing their doors.

The difference is that in the case of astrology we can check its fallacies by the exact and well developed science of astronomy. We have no such perfect and agreed upon sciences of economics, politics, morals, and religion.

A new "robot" mechanical man smokes cigars. When one is built to pick ashes off the parlor carpet that will be news.

Maybe business in this country is shackled because it is in "chains."

An auctioneer, when you think of it, does a lot of knocking around.

## REASON BY FREDERICK LANDIS

THESE are the days when commencement orators are telling college graduates all about it and we have just given the once-over to a speaker who told the boys and girls to go forth and make a lasting impression in the community in which they are going to reside.

Which reminds us that once upon a time we did this very thing; we made a very deep impression in a city which we were then honoring with our society.

It was down at Great Neck, which is on Long Island, the valuable piece of real estate which the palace acquired from his crimson brother in return for a jumping jack and a little loose change.

The books never have been obtained, though the trade commission still is attempting to get them.

The commission has secured certain other data, however. It found, for instance, that a construction company subsidiary of one of the big holding companies has been earning 68, 80 and 82 per cent profit collecting fees from utility operating companies.

The construction company is, of course, not regulated. The utilities showed very low rates of return—4, 5 and 6 per cent—during the same period. The construction company profits find their way at once into the holding company coffers.

The commission discovered also that the three million holders of utility stocks do not always possess exactly what they think they possess.

Investigating the affairs of the Electric Bond and Share group of companies alone, it found that book values of the companies included in this group have been "written up" approximately \$325,000,000. In other words, the book values, upon which securities are issued, are not, to the extent of \$325,000,000, supported by finding of economists in the trade commission.

As our first editorial stated, no one wants to see the utilities impoverished. However, we still believe that the fortunate few who receive the bulk of utility earnings through holding company profits are acquiring a disproportionate and unjustified share of the country's wealth.

### Feudal Mines

Judge Rowand's injunction restraining national miners' union members from interfering with operation of the "first 100 per cent mechanized mine in the world," at Wildwood, near Pittsburgh, is a standard document of its kind.

It not only prohibits injury to mine property, but forbids picketing nearby, and forbids inducing employees to quit their jobs, anywhere—all medieval terms, familiar to Pennsylvania.

It is the first injunction asked or granted in more than three weeks of strike turmoil in western Penn-

## M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

*It Isn't What You Give or What You Get, but the Principles Back of It.*

**N**EW YORK, June 19.—Services at Harding's tomb were concluded with the singing of Mrs. Bond's beautiful "The End of a Perfect Day." Wonder if Harry M. Daugherty, who occupied a place on the platform and heard President Hoover tell that Harding had been betrayed by some of his associates, got the point?

Appropriately enough, when "Scarface Al" Capone appeared before the United States court at Chicago to enter his plea of guilty, it was in a sulphur-colored suit.

The fourth son of ex-Kaiser William rises to remark that Adolf Hitler is "God's own gift to Germany."

No one having come forward to pay Mussolini a similar tribute, he does it himself. Calling religion indispensable, he says the state is all-important and "that's me."

**The Right Spirit**  
**D**ISTURBED over conditions in this country, as painted by a local African, natives send the Presbyterian board of foreign missions \$3.77 for relief.

The amount is trifling and the misconception apparent, but more than one of us could find something worth copying in the spirit.

It isn't what you give, what you charge, or what you get that counts for most, but the principles back of it.

**A Tariff Argument**

**S**YDNEY ELBORNE, running as a conservative candidate for parliament in the Ardwick district, exhibits a tweed suit which he says was imported from Poland to retail at \$2.36.

He is using it, along with many other samples of "dumped goods," in urging a tariff to protect British manufacturers.

Whatever one may believe regarding the tariff there can be no doubt as to the effectiveness of such argument.

It represents another idea which we Americans would do well to copy.

Most of our political chatter, whether with regard to the tariff, or anything else, is mixed up with such stupendous sums of money and such complicated statements as no ordinary human being can understand.

It is the situation after two years' experimentation by the federal farm board in stabilizing prices. The board is out of the market, but it faces the biggest task of all—disposing of what remains of the 200,000,000 bushels of grain it acquired at prices well above a dollar in the biggest grain operation in history.

Marketing of new wheat, foreign crop conditions, export demand and the action of the federal farm board will affect the future trend of prices. Whatever happens, it seems clear that any material improvement will be slow and difficult.

### Astrology on the Air

Watson Davis recently raised an interesting point in regard to the intellectual ethics of radio broadcasting. He declared that astrology should be excluded from the radio.

He did not regard the fact that one prominent astrologer received far more letters each week than a President of the United States does upon his election as sufficient ground for broadcasting astrological lore.

He said in part: "That there are many gullible persons who by wishful thinking persuade themselves that astrology contains some essence of truth is no excuse for the inclusion of such pseudo-scientific material in radio programs. In general, radio has five pigeons pure alcohol for two years.

They became such hopeless sots that they couldn't touch wheat but when killed were found in good condition.

Dr. Hanzlick concludes that it is not alcohol which causes the trouble, but impurities.

One can agree with this conclusion and still doubt that alcohol helps to drive a car straight, or keep the home fires burning.

After all, it is not the effect on lights or lives that makes liquor a curse, but on the mind.

**Still More Speed**

**I**f what Fred Duesenberg says is true, we are going to need all the mind we have and then some.

According to this renowned designer of racing cars, the time is not far off when we shall be hitting the pike at 100 miles an hour.

Interesting as it may sound to those who get their biggest kick out of stepping on the gas, it increases the problem of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" for school kids, mail carriers and other people who have to walk.

Twenty-five years ago people thought that any one who inhaled some dust was making his lungs subject to tuberculosis. There was no attempt to distinguish one kind of dust from another.

Men working in open quarries run less risk from the dust than those who work on stone under half open sheds.

Men grinding working in factories have severe exposure, but the hazard probably, is worst among miners in underground galleries.

Workmen used to talk about miner's tuberculosis, grinder's rot, and potter's rot.

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