

# The Indianapolis Times

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BOYD GURLEY, Editor ROY W. HOWARD, President EARL D. BAKER, Business Manager  
PHONE R-1755  
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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

## Dry "Logic"

The logic of the dries who so violently oppose a referendum on prohibition is difficult to grasp.

"It is an effort to short-circuit the regular constitutional process for amending the Constitution," they say.

"It would be destructive of, and repugnant to, not only the letter, but the spirit of the Constitution."

"The theory that a vote to resubmit the eighteenth amendment may be a neutral vote is false and can not be sustained. On the contrary, it is an attempt to evade a congressional duty, to surrender a constitutional prerogative, and to shift responsibility."

"Those asking for resubmission have not advocated any definite plan for control of the liquor traffic."

"Prohibition was adopted after all other methods had been tried and failed."

"Under our present financial crisis we need all our energies to work out a plan for the return of prosperity. It is a poor time for congress to advocate a resubmission of the question that would arouse intense antagonism among the people."

It is true that the machinery for resubmitting the prohibition question to a vote of the people may have to be set up through passage of a constitutional amendment.

But, is this a reason for denying that referendum? Is or is not this a government "of the people, by the people and for the people?"

We recommend for serious reading to the vehement dries the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, which it will be recalled, preceded the drafting of the Constitution:

We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundations on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

Examined one by one, the arguments against a national referendum fall to the ground and scatter as leaves in the wind as completely as did Deets Pickett's argument that Finland voted five to one for repeal because of economic pressure.

## Old Man River

As you read of the break of levees, the inundation of a third of a million acres, and the peril of the new Mississippi rampage to the lives of hundreds, think also of the cause and cure of floods.

When the Pilgrims landed, America was one gigantic forest as far west as the great plains. The year round, because the winter snows and spring rains were held back by forest carpets, Old Man River rolled blue and peacefully on his way to the sea.

Unfortunately, the first white Americans were not forest-minded. In their eagerness for farms, they cleared, logged, and burned their way into the wilderness. Later, to make quick profits, self-made timber barons invaded the forests for masts, houses and Grand Rapids furniture.

As forests disappeared, floods appeared. The blue waters yellowed with silt. Whole farms were carried southward in solution and deposited on the delta. To losses in vanished timber were added billions in eroded soil, bleached areas, flood damage, and costly levee works.

How far we have gone in the ruin of our greatest asset, the land and its forest wealth, is seen by the fact that in 300 years seven-eighths of the virgin forest has been destroyed, 17,500,000 acres of good farm land has been ruined by gullying, more than 100,000,000 acres have been abandoned by private owners and reverted to public ownership.

In the last decade alone, 46,000,000 acres, an area bigger than North Dakota or Missouri, have gone out of use, and 3,500,000 Americans have left the land. "In no other nation is depletion of soil resources taking place so rapidly as in the United States," says Dr. O. E. Baker, department of agriculture economist.

Wise conservationists know that the ultimate remedy for floods lies not in levees and by-passes, but in forests. We must restore, by a big and national tree-planting program, the natural reservoirs for flood waters.

And what better time to begin such a program than now, as a measure of unemployment relief?

## Not a Home for Cats and Dogs

The nation turns with hope to the reconstruction corporation. Within a few days this two billion dollar machine for lubrication of credit will be working, and, wisely operated, it should succeed.

The difference between wisdom and unwisdom will be spelled in that one word—lubrication.

Stripped of all its technicalities, the purpose of the reconstruction corporation is to do the thing that the banks of the country have not been doing, namely, extend credit where credit should be extended, but has been denied.

To be clear, in our view of the possibilities contained in the reconstruction corporation, it is necessary to understand why credit that should be extended has been denied. The reason is the banker's recent abnormal effort for liquidity, and that reason in turn runs back to the boom and the mistakes the banker made during the boom.

For example, a bank that took on a certain amount of now defaulted South American bonds and other foreign and domestic cats and dogs, when the storm hit, when that collateral went bad, and when the era of bank failures set in, the bank, with such collateral on its hands, naturally applied the first law of man—self-preservation.

To prepare itself to meet the possible demands of its depositors, it put on full steam ahead for liquidity. To become liquid, it couldn't use the bad collateral. The cats and dogs wouldn't help. Therefore, the bank turned to the only other source from which liquidity could be secured—its solvent customers.

It began calling their loans, and thereby was created the worst season of credit restriction that this generation ever has seen.

It should be borne constantly in mind that the key to the whole trouble was that sin of the past for which the present is being made to pay. The just are forced to suffer for the errors of the unjust.

Now comes the government with its reconstruction corporation to do a job that the bankers, through their lack of vision and of wisdom, failed to do. The purpose is to superimpose on the banking structure

a credit extension the banks in normal times provide, a function on which they, in their scramble for liquidity, have fallen down.

It is to extend credit where credit should be extended and already would have been extended by the banks had they been one-tenth as cautious in boom times as they are today.

It is to extend credit to solvent and legitimate business from which credit has been withdrawn.

And this is vital—it is not to thaw frozen bank assets that should remain frozen. It is not to provide a home for cats and dogs.

The scope of the bill is ample. It is open both to industry and to agriculture, as well as to banks and trust companies. It contains within its provisions the germ of restored confidence. But it must be administered wisely.

History will record it either as the turn of the tide or as our government's greatest financial mistake—dependent on how that administration proceeds.

And the eyes of every community into which the measure's influence extends will be on the banker, to see whether the part he plays in the administration is in the interest of his whole community or in the interest of his own bad collateral.

## Deflating the Alimony Racket

Not a few students of the social and economic aspects of the alimony problem will approve the action of Supreme Court Justice Salvatore A. Cotto, in freeing members of the Bronx Alimony Jail Club.

The judge observed that he could not see that any good social purpose was being served by keeping the men in prison.

"Motions for punishing defendants for contempt for arrears in alimony cases have become a serious sociological problem in these trying times of depression. While I fully appreciate that courts are limited to interpretation of laws applicable to the case, nevertheless the courts should take into consideration the exigencies of the times, the ability of the defendants to obtain work, and also what useful purpose will be served by incarceration."

This is good so far as it goes. But this abuse deserves general legislative action. It should not be left to sporadic rulings by one of our more sensible and open-minded judges.

There is grave doubt whether all women are entitled to such generous alimony settlements as they now receive in many cases. Particularly is this true of the many alimony racketeers among the fair sex.

In the case of a devoted woman who is deserted by children after years of labor and solicitude by a husband who suddenly has become infatuated with a chorus girl, the situation is different. Doubtless she deserves all the monetary solace which the traffic will bear.

Yet even in the most worthy cases, jailing the future or deficient spouse will achieve little. Stringent laws in regard to attaching the husband's earnings will accomplish all that is possible in the matter of financial payment.

Jailing only kills the goose which might lay the golden egg of alimony. The jail sentence for alimony default is a hangover from the old days of imprisonment for debt. It should be sent to the limbo without hesitation.

An expert says while long skirts may not end the depression, wool socks would help. Probably help a lot of people who have cold feet. And as for long skirts, half the world couldn't tell if the other had a leg to stand on.

Turtles are said to have a larger percentage of bone than any other animal. But that must have been said before the stock crash called attention to investors' heads.

Experts say women are becoming bald. Henceforth when women lose their heads they'll be easy to find. Baldness certainly will convert most women from wags to wigs.

A golf club has been invented that plays sweet music if you hit the ball right. Giving the effect, perhaps, of getting a birdie. Now all we need is a fishpole that can take pictures.

Pierre Laval of France quit one job and got two. But for once France probably will not kick about being two-timed.

A professor says feeding "light" to cattle helps their production. But apparently feeding baloney to the public doesn't have the same effect.

Prosperity note: a new organization is being formed to succeed the Ku-Klux Klan. Frock makers, bring out your tape measures for 15,000,000 new outfits!

## Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

THE phrase "falling in love" has universal allure. To those who are young it holds an especial appeal and therefore is especially dangerous.

For falling in love is nothing but a process of nature, and human beings share it with all animal life.

Girls and boys generally believe that the throes of tender passion they feel for one another are unusual. They are certain that the electric thrills which stir them prove they have found their life's mate.

Very gently, very carefully, they should be taught that this is not always true, and that all young things experience exactly similar emotions and that such emotions are often transient.

Perhaps if we could impress this truth upon them we could save them from much misery.

Yet I firmly believe that it would be an evil thing to teach the young to distrust romantic love entirely. It is over-confidence in it that does most of the harm.

REAL love is an achievement. One seldom tumbles into it as into a ditch dug for unwary feet, but climbs toward it, sometimes through suffering and pain. It is a fine mingling of spiritual and physical affection and marriage can not be a happy state without this balanced relation.

The adolescent boy or girl is the most sensitive of beings. Parents and relatives who scoff at their emotional upheavals can do them immeasurable injury. And one of the most vicious of adult traits is our desire to "tease" youngsters about their love affairs.

Sometimes our jokes assail all the most sacred sensibilities of innocent hearts. We overwhelm them with self-consciousness; we destroy their dreams and tumble down their air castles.

To make fun of any youthful emotion marks us as thoughtless beings. For seriousness is the curse of adolescence. And if we would help our children, we must approach their problems with the same outward seriousness they bring to them.

Furthermore, it is no joke to fall in love at 17, and the parent who regards it as a jest is likely to lose the confidence of his son or daughter.

## M. E. Tracy

Says:

Find the Biggest Diamonds and You Find the Most Arrogant Rulers, the Most Pompous Courts and the Most Heartless Epochs.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—New York's latest jewel robbery, which netted a loot worth more than \$300,000 is unique in one respect.

It took place in a private residence, to which the thieves gained easy admission by telling a maid they were bootleggers and had some "wet goods" for the boss.

Just one more example of what prohibition has done for criminals. The average bootlegger enjoys such a welcome as few of his fellow-beings can boast, especially in homes of the well to do, and, more especially still, in the eyes of maids and butlers.

What more natural than for thieves to ape his calling?

## Wealth Irritates

WHAT is more natural than for thieves to seek necklaces, brooches, bracelets and other costly gewgaws at a time like this?

Whether they are in need, whether they would be Robin Hoods, or whether they are merely crooks, the background is such as to lend them encouragement.

Wealth, particularly when put on display in the form of bodily decoration, has become little less than an irritant to diseased, or distraught minds.

Those who have collected a large amount of precious stones should have sense enough to keep them out of sight until this agony is over. Their presence, even in wall safes, represents too much of a temptation.

## Jewels and Despotism

THE part played by jewels in human progress is associated closely with the part played by tyranny and despotism.

Find the biggest diamonds and you find the most arrogant rulers, the most pompous courts and the most heartless epochs.

They just have opened a tomb in Mexico, discovering breastplates of gold and pearls as large as pigeon eggs.

The same era which saw kings strutting about with such ornaments saw temple walls deeply incruited with the spattered blood of sacrificed men and women.

## Look at India

YOU can't think of jewels without thinking of India, the mogul empire, the Koh-i-Nor, the peacock throne and the sheet of pearls which Shah Jahan had woven as a drape for the sarcophagus of his beloved Queen Mumtaz Mahal. India's present-day poverty can be traced in some measure to the misused taxes and forced labor which made such a vulgar display of the country's wealth possible.

Bad as British rule may have been, it represents a marked improvement over what preceded it. The people of India would copy more and resist less they soon would realize this.

## Highbrow Nonsense

TWO 16-year-old girls are on trial in the murder of a British official. They were students at the Bengal university, and might have done something with the education they were getting.

What they got out of the philosophy of nonco-operation and passive resistance which Mahatma Gandhi has been preaching was to procure guns, gain admission to a magistrate's office by pretending they wanted to present a petition, and then shoot him down like a dog.

Their wasted, wrecked and ruined lives furnish a vivid illustration of where such highbrow nonsense leads.

## Triviality on Top

ONE of these girls laughs and the other weeps in a proceeding which neither understands nor moves heavily forward to determine their fate.

At the outset, they informed the court that they would not "participate" in the trial, unless they were furnished chairs.

The chairs were brought—a minor triumph for the girls; a minor concession by the court—making every one feel a little happier.

Strange, is it not, how trivialities can dominate the mind when it is supposed to be struggling with matters of gravest importance?

## Questions and Answers

What words are most frequently used in the English language?

The fifteen most common words according to Prof. Brigham, a Princeton psychologist, are: in, and, that, a, the, to, with, be, of, as, all, at, not, for, and on. These words comprise more than 25 per cent of all the words used in the average modern book.

What happens to the chalk in the chalk mark on a blackboard when the marks are erased?

Most of the chalk rubs off on the eraser. A small amount remains smeared on the board, and particles are sifted into the air during the rubbing.

What is the plural of noise? Noises.

How many French Canadians are in the Canadian parliament? There are sixty-five in the house of commons and twenty-four in the senate.

Where are the leper colonies in the Philippines and in the United States? In the Philippines the colony is at Cullion and the one in the United States is at Carville, La.

How many school teachers are there in the United States? 752,055.

How many daily newspapers are there in the United States? Approximately 2,000.

When did Thomas Nelson Page die? Nov. 1, 1922.

Who is the governor of Ohio? George White.

## Rolling His Own!



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

## Pure Air Is Important Health Factor

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine.

STUDENTS of public health are placing increasing emphasis on the importance of pure air in relation to health. When even crowds of human beings assemble there exists the increasing possibility of transmission of the germs that cause respiratory diseases.

There is furthermore the fact that these germs are more likely to be carried on mucous membranes that are below par than on a healthy mucous membrane.

Finally, air that is too dry, that is full of dust or otherwise unsuitable, is likely to bring about a lowered resistance of the mucous membranes of the breathing tract.

Various cities of our country differ in the amount of industrial smoke that is present in the air.

Furthermore, considerable amounts of smoke in the air interfere with the passage of sunlight, which is known to have a definite effect in promoting health and in limiting the development of bacterial organisms.

Observations made in several great industrial centers have shown that the amount of sunlight received in the center of the town is 30 per cent less than that received at the edge of town.

Observations made in Manchester, England, revealed that 45 per cent less sunlight was secured in the center of the city than at a spot ten miles away.

Of particular interest is the question of ventilation in places where many people are assembled, as, for instance, in music halls, lecture rooms and motion picture theaters.

It is not safe to rely, for fresh air, in places which must be kept darkened, on entrances, exits and more permanent air inlets are rare in such places and it is not possible to flush the air thoroughly between performances.

It therefore is necessary to supply mechanical ventilation, using exhaust fans which draw out the air constantly and perhaps agitator fans to stir up the air in dead corners, beneath balconies and in similar places.

If possible, means should be developed for completely flushing the air of the house through open windows between performances.

## IT SEEMS TO ME

BY HEYWOOD BROWN

THE Anti-Saloon League in convention assembled has declared that Bishop James Cannon Jr., is "a champion of freedom of conscience and intellect."

Competition being so fierce, I do not know whether the good bishop is entitled to the free conscience championship, but his procedure in the matter of handling campaign funds certainly entitles him to a high rating in this group.

As to his title as king of the free press of intellect, I am much less certain. If he were that tournament it must have been in a heavy fog and on very soggy greens. The details of his victory never were fully reported, and the score, to the best of my knowledge and belief, was never duly attested.

Prohibition has blinded many among the Volstead violators, but it has taken its toll among the dries as well. Surely it is strange that an organization founded upon religious lines openly should espouse practices which are at the very least devious and dangerous. There is not a single factor in the snide corruption of the franchise brought about by machine politics which has not been duplicated by the Anti-Saloon League and its agents.

It is up to the courts to decide whether Bishop Cannon is legally an offender, but few will question that he has established precedents which are far from helpful in establishing a frank record of the source of political sinews.

## Robinson Behind Times

AND at the same meeting where the stalwart, pulpitering, Protestant politician was canonized Senator Robinson of Indiana made a speech in which he declared, "If the United States government goes into the liquor business Uncle Sam necessarily will become the bartender for 120,000,000 people."

Seemingly the senator does not keep abreast of the news or he would realize that such a procedure hardly would be an innovation. He seems to have forgotten that on several occasions government stool pigeons have set up fake speakeasies in the hope of collecting evidence and have manned them from doorman to washroom boy.

I will agree with Senator Robinson that this violates good taste. But I do not object so much that it discredits the enforcement unit as that it tends to bring an ancient and honorable order into disrepute. Surely no self-respecting bartender would care to mingle on terms of equality with a prohibition agent.

Uncle Sam has empowered agents to snoop, to pry, to provoke crime and kill. It seems to me that Senator Robinson's horror about federal bartenders is ill-timed and out of accord with existing facts, and, in addition to everything else, I might as well testify for the record that some of my best friends are bartenders.

The truth of the matter is that the preachers in politics, from Bishop Cannon up, have betrayed their useful function in the community. They have sold their birthright for a mess of prohibition.

## Little Help to Jobless

IN a time of deep economic distress very few clergymen have manifested more than the most

casual interest in the problem of unemployment. In a time of war almost no ministers at all refrained from draping themselves in the flag and spurring on their parishioners to hate the Hun.

Brotherhood has had practically no hint of a helping hand from the pulpits of America. Instead warlike declarations have thundered forth as to the necessity of calling out the army and the navy to enforce the eighteenth amendment.

Preachers seem to glory in the fact that our jails are filled with the bursting point and that legislation has created new criminal classes never known before. In all the churches of the land the cry goes up for savage punishment.

Some wearers of the cloth have even joined that savage mob which cries for floggings and other cruel and unusual punishments to make good that freedom of the intellect and conscience manifested by Bishop James Cannon Jr.

Among certain groups propaganda is rife to stifle organized religion and all its communicants. I have no patience with the point of view or the tactics of these militants. Denominational religion begins to fall of its own weight.

The plain fact is that today we have a church which is almost the last place in the world where anybody rationally could go to seek that everlasting mercy which was brought to earth by Christ, the founder.

Freachers seem to glory in the fact that our jails are filled with the bursting point and that legislation has created new criminal classes never known before. In all the churches of the land the cry goes up for savage punishment.

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## SCIENCE

BY DAVID DIETZ

Smithsonian Scientist Will Trace Columbus' Trail, Seeking Identity of Indians Who Greeted Him to New World.

THE trail of Christopher Columbus in the western hemisphere will be retraced by an expert