

The Indianapolis Times

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DRIVE THEM OUT!

In an effort to stage an effective campaign against slot machines, city, county and state officials will enforce a state law which levies a jail sentence and fine, or both, against persons who keep or exhibit these cheating gambling devices.

Enforcement of this law will loose the brunt of law violation punishment on the small operator who seeks to meet his overhead in his roadside beer joint or restaurant by having one or more of the machines installed while the men responsible for distribution of the racket devices may not be touched.

Naturally, after several of these proprietors find themselves facing jail sentences and fines, they and their ilk will run to cover. That they haven't the stamina to stand up under a barrage of criticism already has been shown when they "jerked" the machines each time The Times opened fire on them and their backers.

The operators of these places are much like their predecessors of the prohibition era. In those days the men of this type bowed to the sale of liquor, by the drink or pint, to offset the expenses of running their places.

The proposal of the officials is commendable except that it is necessary to point out that they took no real action until the press forced it. This enforcement program should have been started months and years ago—not now.

But, believing any attempt to correct evil is better than no effort at all, The Times hopes the plans of these men will bear fruit.

In this city and county there are men who make their livelihood by distributing slot machines from which they collect a percentage for keeping the devices in working condition and also for reputedly keeping the agents of the law from crossing the thresholds of these establishments for the purpose of eradicating the devices.

Surrounding these men is a network of petty crime and gambling which would amaze the ordinary citizen if he knew to what depths the roots of the condition are imbedded in this community.

At one time the saloon was blamed for evil and crime. Then the poolroom and speakeasy drew the fire. Now it is slot machines, but the point in battling these gambling devices is that they are not centered in one type of public or private place.

Individuals who are sincere in their hopes to drive out slot machines fail to realize the extent to which the devices have been distributed. You can find them in the grocery, the drug store, beer parlors, poolroom, clubroom and any number of places where the suckers gather long enough to pay profits to the owners and operators.

There is place in Marion county, northwest of the city, which because of its location in the village practically is the gathering place for the residents of the community.

Into this building come children to buy their candy, their tops, their marbles and their pencils for school.

Housewives of the community make their purchases of foodstuffs, meats and thread in this place.

And the men enter to purchase tobacco, gasoline for their cars and an occasional glass of beer.

On display so that no customer can miss the opportunity to squander his nickels, is a slot machine. It is not an exceptional machine. It's the usual kind with the customers standing one chance in thousands to win anything but exercise by pulling the handle.

The presence of this machine does the community no good. It does the proprietor some good, of course, but it is not conducive to legitimate business in a worthy community.

That this machine has been permitted to operate along with scores of others in the county is a direct indictment against Sheriff Charles (Buck) Sumner and his deputies.

There is no honest reason—not even the gall force of deputies available—for him to condone the continued operation of slot machines in this county. If Mr. Sumner ever considered calling for volunteer deputies he might find a surprising large force willing to aid him in cleaning up the situation. Before he leaves office he may be faced with such an emergency and call for volunteers. The present situation comes as near being a public emergency as any that might occur during his regime.

Now that the authorities have taken one step, it is time for them to take the second. It will be a big one—probably the biggest when politics in Marion county is considered.

But, why not take it? It will be worth while to thousands of people who have been swindled and who will be without protection until the big time operators in the slot machine racket are out of the way—FOREVER.

THE SINCLAIR SIGN

UPTON SINCLAIR'S sweeping victory as Democratic nominee for Governor of California is something for every American from President Roosevelt down to ponder, especially the reactionary minority.

In one of the nation's richest and most conservative states the Democrats have chosen an ex-Socialist novelist and pamphleteer with a state reform program beside which the New Deal at Washington is very mild. Liberal George Creel, unofficial administration favorite, ran a poor second, and conservative Justus Wardell a very poor third.

Forget the obvious fact that Mr. Sinclair's pledge to "end poverty in California" at best is Utopian, at worst demagogic; that if elected he will have to disappoint or betray the masses who voted for him. The thing to think about is that the plain people—the wage

and salary workers, the farmers, the jobless—are astir. And their faces are turned, not backward but forward. They are out for economic security, through very radical political measures, if necessary.

Timid and conservative gentlemen, sitting in their clubs and private offices and damning the New Deal—for which they offer no substitute program—have clung to a blind hope that if the Roosevelt policies could be defeated the nation, by some mysterious process not yet revealed, would return to the days of the Harding-Coolidge-Hoover era. Republican orators and hostile newspapers, thundering against "regimentation" and "experimentation," have sought by every conceivable means to destroy confidence in a New Deal—with little apparent regard for what policies might succeed it.

Sinclair's victory is a dramatic warning that if the New Deal is beaten down the subsequent political swing probably will carry us much farther to the left than we have ever gone before. Let the reactionary critics of Mr. Roosevelt paste the California returns in their hats.

Out in Green Bay President Roosevelt declared that "the people will not restore the ancient order." He cautioned those measuring confidence in this country to "look first to the average citizen." The California primary reaffirms that warning.

WHERE IS NRA?

THE textile mill owners have refused the government's invitation to attend an eleven-hour mediation conference with representatives of their workers.

A majority of the mill operators seem to welcome a strike as a test of strength with the union.

If industrial warfare comes the public will pay.

Wherever the blame for the strike may lie, a large measure of responsibility rests with NRA, the cotton textile industrial relations board and the national labor relations board. These governmental agencies were set up by congress and the President to keep the peace in industry. President Roosevelt did not intervene in the dispute because he depended upon these agencies to function. But they have failed him and the nation.

It is a long story of evasions. The cotton textile industrial relations board failed to handle the complaints of "stretchout" abuses. The labor provisions of the code were not enforced adequately. The workers threatened to strike last June when their wages were curtailed 25 per cent, but postponed action on promises that NRA would conduct five separate investigations into labor conditions and correct abuses. Later two reports were published by NRA, but General Johnson suppressed the other three—on the stretchout system, the work load problem and wage differentials.

ONE of the most lovely aspects of our remarkable scientific and technical development today is the prospect that it may be used for the destruction of the human race in aggressive warfare. The chief menace is the prospect of a chemical warfare carried on by means of aviation.

Miss Frankin has written an excellent book surveying the organization of chemistry and aviation for warlike purposes and suggesting various ways of combating the challenge. ("The Air Menace and the Answer." By Elvira K. Frankin. Macmillan Co. \$3.) She concludes that our protection must be in preventing war rather than in attempting to humanize warfare.

It is to be hoped that it will have a wide circulation and will help to offset the misleading diatribe embodied in the highly popular "Escape From the Soviets" by Tatiana Tchernavina, brought out by the same publishing house. ("Escape From the Soviets." By Tatiana Tchernavina. Dutton. \$2.50.)

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In both war and peace radio communication is bound to grow in importance. Mr. Mills has given a clear account of the science of electrical communication, including the character and possibilities of television. ("Signals and Speech in Electrical Communication." By John Mills, Harcourt, Bruce & Co. \$2.)

Liberal Viewpoint
BY DR. HARRY ELMER BARNES

HISTORIANS of human culture have pointed out that there have been two great stages in the history of civilization. The first was that of ancient Hellas, which worked out the most satisfactory philosophy of life yet produced in the history of mankind. The second is the mechanical and industrial civilization attained in the west following the industrial revolution of the eighteenth century.

Any well-rounded civilization which man may achieve in the future will have to combine the Greek art of living with our unique capacity to produce goods by machines, thus lifting the blight of slavery from human culture.

One aspect of Greek culture was more remarkable or admirable than their attitude toward sex and human happiness. Dr. Licht has given us our first complete treatment in the English language of the sexual ideas and practices of the classic Greeks. ("Sexual Life in Ancient Greece." By Hans Licht. E. P. Dutton & Co. \$5.)

It is a scholarly, frank and dignified account, based upon the protracted scholarly research. It reads easily, however, and should constitute an invaluable contribution to our knowledge of a very important phase of Greek civilization. Those who are wont to take a smug attitude toward the alleged superiority of our twentieth century civilization will do well to peruse this book with care and insight.

The current epidemic of Fascism and dictatorship suggests the memory of the greatest of modern dictators, Napoleon Bonaparte. There are a number of excellent lives of Napoleon, but it long has been recognized by historians that his famous marshals played an important role in his brilliant military career.

Mr. Macdonell has produced a vivid description of the relationship between Napoleon and the activities of his associates, ("Napoleon and His Marshals." By A. G. Macdonell. The Macmillan Co. \$2.50.) He not only deals with the military activities of his marshals, but also with their administrative and diplomatic achievements, even tracing their careers after Waterloo. It is an important and interesting contribution to Napoleonic literature.

HAMILTON FISH ARMSTRONG, editor of Foreign Affairs, has written a clear and interesting little book on European international relations today, to which he gives the significant title, "Europe Between Wars." ("Europe Between Wars." By Hamilton Fish Armstrong. The Macmillan Co. \$1.25.) The author's well-known pro-Slavic and pro-French sympathies are kept in reasonable restraint and the book will serve as a splendid introduction to those who wish to get the background of the stirring and rapidly moving events in central Europe today.

Soviet Russia is making a desperate effort to combine the mechanical efficiency of the west with something like the Greek aspiration to make life worth living here on earth.

Miss Hamilton's book is one of the most interesting of the many travelers' reports on the doings in Russia today. ("Modern Russia as Seen by an Englishwoman." By Cecely Hamilton. H. P. Dutton and Co. Inc. \$2.75.) Its chief merits are its vivid and interesting style and the author's high capacity for honest reporting.

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Capital Capers

BY GEORGE ABELL

ASTUTE, affable Mr. Freitas-Valle, Charge d'Affaires of Brazil, smoothed his black hair, glanced over a sheaf of papers, took up a pen and scratched his name.

Thus was acquired by the Brazilian government one of the finest embassies in Washington—the mansion on Massachusetts avenue which formerly belonged to Mrs. Kate McCormick of Chicago.

Mrs. McCormick's mansion has seen glorious days. It has long been a celebrated landmark along an avenue noted for its pomp and its princely residences. In the gay 90s, the old house blazed with lights as the former owner and her sister, the late Mrs. Eleanor Patterson Sr., entertained at a series of gay parties which dazzled the capital.

Mrs. McCormick had one of the finest art galleries in the United States and distinguished visitors to Washington frequently asked to view her collection.

AQQUISITION of the McCormick mansion by the Brazilian embassy, incidentally, is the deciding factor in the old Henderson feud over the preference of Sixteenth street over Massachusetts avenue as the diplomatic thoroughfare. It seems virtually certain now that Massachusetts avenue is to be the future residential street for smart diplomatic society in Washington.

The trend toward Massachusetts avenue received great impetus recently with the building there of the British and Japanese embassies—both beautiful dwellings and both housing admittedly two of the most important foreign missions in town. The Chilean embassy, the Persian legation, the Austrian legation, the Czechoslovakian legation and the Norwegian legation also are located on Massachusetts avenue.

Then they quarreled. She called the police and they took him in tow, and he had to confess that his wickedness was all imagination. Even then, however, he begged them not to tell his girl. If he was to regain her favor, he added, he was a regular little Dillinger. Impressed, she accepted him, and they were happy.

It's all quite amusing, this little tale—until you reflect that a lot of energetic young men have actually turned to crime because of just such attitude on the part of some empty-headed girl.

HOW ROMANTIC!

THERE is an odd human touch to that case of the Chicago ex-sailor who found that he could win his girl's favor only by posing as a bold, bad gunman—and who, because of that fact, got himself into a jam with the police.

This tardy action by the government might even yet convince the workers that a strike is not necessary to get a hearing for their case.

A NEW LINEUP

IF the formation of the American Liberty League, with such prominent Democrats as Al Smith and John W. Davis in the van, should help to precipitate a complete new alignment of political parties, it will be a very exciting thing for the country.

This organization seems—for the moment, at least—to be without political bias. It is, clearly, a stanchly conservative group; and for that very reason it is ideally adapted to crystallize and formulate the opposition to the New Deal.

As a nation, we are going to make some decisions of stupendous importance during the next few years. We shall be able to make them much more intelligently if our politics reflects a clean-cut distinction between conservatives and liberals.

The present situation, with each major party suffering from such division, is not adapted to serve us well in times of crisis.

Judging from the number of preachers who are getting snake bites, it'll pay better to educate your boy in a zoo if you're raising him to be an evangelist.

Homer Van Meter, Dillinger gunman, killed by police. Another meter shut off without quarter.

A booklet by an Englishman, "The Coming American Boom," has created a great stir. Just so it's not another blank cartridge.

The latest returns from the snake bite front show that bourbon still is getting as many votes as faith.

A correspondent writes in to ask where the first windmill operated, but investigation shows that political records do not run that far back.

"MAYBE THEY FORGOT TO EMBALM HIM"



Contributed by Cecil Danner

The Message Center

[I wholly disapprove of what you say and will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire.]

(Times readers are invited to express their views in these columns. Make your letters short, so o'l can have a chance, limit them to 250 words or less.)

CHALKS POLITICAL ERROR AGAINST GOVERNOR

By a Reader.

MUCH criticism is heaped on Governor McNutt and his administration.

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