

CONCERNING THE HOOSIER.

AN APPRECIATION.

[Charles M. Walker, in *The Indianapolis News*, January 4, 1908.]

THE evolution of the twentieth century "Hoosier" furnishes an interesting sociological study. Perhaps, as the question affects the people of an entire commonwealth, it might be termed a racial problem rather than a sociological study. For although the twentieth century Hoosier is a distinct product, quite *sui generis*, he is more impressive in mass than he is as a separate entity. Not that he lacks individuality, for that is one of his strong points, but because a certain innate modesty, due perhaps to conscious merit, prevents him from appearing to so decided advantage in his individual capacity as he does in his communal relation. As mere man he is not remarkably differentiated from other men, but as a citizen of Indiana he expands wonderfully. In and of himself he is not an extraordinary person, but with his State for a background he is many times magnified.

In 1842, when Robert Dale Owen was a Representative in Congress from Indiana, a member from Maryland, during a debate on the tariff, twitted him with being a foreigner. In his reply Mr. Owen turned the point very neatly by saying: "Mr. Speaker, the

gentleman from Maryland is an American by chance; I am one by choice. I had no control over the place of my birth; could I have chosen the spot it would have been in the pocket of Indiana."

Mr. Owen was one of the most cultured men that ever served in American public life. At the time referred to he was living in Posey county, long known as "the pocket" on account of its peculiar shape and being the extreme southwestern county in the State. So, in avowing his choice of a birthplace Mr. Owen, who had traveled extensively and had the world before him where to choose, declared his willingness to accept the title of "Hoosier" and selected the county which of all others in the State has been most widely and most unjustly ridiculed as the supposed headquarters of Hoosier uncouthness. At that time Mr. Owen had lived in Indiana about fifteen years—long enough to have learned that there was no better State in the Union and no better county in the State than Posey. He continued to be proud of the State of his adoption while he lived and never failed to improve an opportunity to display the feeling.

The incident serves to illustrate a characteristic of Indianians which has become conspicuous in recent years, namely, their State pride. Another incident illustrates the same characteristic. At the beginning of the civil war Colonel, afterward General Lew Wallace's regiment was the first one to be mustered in from Indiana.

GENERAL WALLACE'S STORY.

After the mustering in, the regiment was drawn up for a flag presentation. This was done with a speech and then Wallace made one himself. Let him tell the story:

"I turned, the colors in my hand, to the regiment, then, like myself, all wrought up. 'My men,' I said, 'you all know of the battle of Buena Vista—20,000 Mexican soldiers against 4,000 Americans; yet the victory was with our flag. You know also, that Indiana was represented there by two regiments, the Second and Third. The Third did not yield an inch of ground. The Second was less fortunate. While fighting single-handed two divisions of the enemy, full 7,000 strong, eighteen to one—in the midst of their well doing their colonel's heart failed him and he ordered a retreat. He sent no flag back to be rallied on—he took no step whatever looking to a rally. "Cease firing and retreat,"

he called out, and as they stopped fighting and looked at him in wonder, again he called out, "Cease firing and retreat." There had been but 360 of them in line in the beginning, and of that total ninety were upon the ground, dead or wounded. Now, all who could obeyed the order of their colonel and broke to the rear—in flight, if you please. Still, the greater body of them rallied, and under their own flag and officers kept the field, fighting the remainder of the day, their colonel having abandoned them and found a Mississippi regiment as a private.

JEFFERSON DAVIS'S WRONG TO INDIANA.

" 'Now, the regiment the colonel joined was commanded by Jefferson Davis, whom you all know as a leader of the unrighteous rebellion we are going to help quell. That day he assisted in proclaiming the Second Indiana cowards, if, indeed, he did not originate the accusation. He was the son-in-law of the general commanding our army, and he induced that officer to repeat the slander in his official report. The sorry tale I have now to tell you clings to the brave men of the Second Regiment, the living and the dead. It sticks to the State no less. The stain is upon you and me. It attaches to these flags just received, because they are now our property, and we of Indiana. So what have we to do, my men? What but to recognize that the war we are summoned to is twice holy—for the Union first, then to wipe the blot from our State and infamize our slanderer? "

" 'And that we may not forget our duty, that it may be always present, and never more so than in battle, soldiers of the Eleventh Indiana, I give you a regimental motto leveled at the man who, from having been vilifier, has become the arch-traitor of his country. Kneel every one of you.'

"They went down like one man.

" 'Hold up your right hands.'

"Every hand was raised.

" 'Repeat after me, and swear now, "God helping us, we will remember Buena Vista." There you have a motto, "Remember Buena Vista." ' "

"They took the oath and accepted the motto. The witnesses of the scene shouted, their eyes full of tears. We all went back to our quarters better soldiers than when we left them."

APPEAL TO STATE PRIDE WENT HOME.

Wallace was a native Indianian, and his appeal was to the sentiment of State pride. It went home and its effect was felt among all Indiana regiments during the war. The sentiment is still active. Wherever natives of the State are encountered—and they are very widely disseminated—this feeling is much in evidence. There are organized societies of Indianians in Washington, in New York, in Chicago, in Cleveland, in St. Louis, in Minneapolis, in Denver, in Iowa, in Kansas, in Oklahoma and in Alaska. These societies, composed of men and women born in Indiana and now identified with other communities, hold annual meetings and banquets to keep alive the memories of their native State, to keep in touch with one another and to advertise to the world their pride in the State of their birth. They include educators, ministers, statesmen, publicists, playwrights, authors, artists, journalists, scientists, inventors, railroad magnates, travelers, explorers, capitalists, promoters—in short, representatives of every phase of modern life. Thus the cosmopolitan and progressive influence of the State is felt in all directions.

The sentiment which holds these various societies together is the more remarkable because Indiana is still comparatively a young State. Her people are just beginning to talk about celebrating the centennial of her admission to the Union, and it will not be due until 1916. When, in 1784, Thomas Jefferson proposed to form seventeen new States out of the Northwestern Territory, he suggested for them such names as Chersonesus, Michigania, Metropotamia, Polypotamia, Pelisipia and other polysyllabic monstrosities.

THE NAME OF INDIANA.

The name Indiana was not yet thought of and did not come into use until 1800, when the Northwest Territory was first divided by the setting apart of Ohio, leaving Indiana as the name of what remained of the Territory. In 1816 the name fell to the second State carved out of the vast domain and Indiana entered on a course of development which has been in some respects remarkable. The State has a number of inhabitants whose birth antedates its admission to the Union, and yet within this compara-

tively short period it has attained a rank second to none in all the elements of high civilization. It has been called the Massachusetts of the West, and many of its traveled citizens consider this comparison a compliment to the older State. It may be worth while to look a little into the genesis and development of a State which so cultured a foreigner as Robert Dale Owen was proud to adopt nearly seventy years ago and whose sons are so proud of it to-day.

ORIGIN OF THE WORD "HOOSIER."

And first as to the word "Hoosier," which is now universally recognized as the synonym of Indianian. "Words are things," and without doubt this word has had a certain subtle influence in the development of Indiana character. Its origin is unknown. It first appeared in print as applied to the people of Indiana about 1830, though no reason has ever been discovered why it should have been applied to them more than to the pioneer settlers of any other Western State. Most of the early attempts to trace its origin or etymology, including those adopted by some of the compilers of dictionaries, were too ridiculous for serious consideration. It certainly did not originate in Indiana, nor was it first applied to the people of this State.

It is, doubtless, of old English origin, and was used in some parts of the South at an early day, locally and colloquially, to designate an uncouth, boorish person. In this sense it may possibly have been derived from "Hosier," which, in old English, was sometimes used as synonymous with a low, vulgar fellow. In 1574, an English author wrote of "vulgar, obscure persons, like hosiers and tanners," and Jonathan Swift, in 1731, wrote: "You are as arrant a cockney as any hosier in Cheapside." This suggestion as to the origin of the word is purely conjectural, but is more reasonable than some of those adopted by lexicographers.

This much is certain: The word is of English origin, was used in the South at any early day to designate an uncouth, boorish person and was originally applied to the people of Indiana in derision or ridicule. It came to Indiana from the South, as did also many of the pioneer settlers of the State. As far as known, its first appearance in print was in a poem entitled "The Hoosier's Nest," published in 1830. John Finley, the author of the poem,

was a clever versifier of the period, and used the term "Hoosier" in a friendly sense. He was a Virginian by birth, had lived in Indiana only seven years when the poem was published, and may have brought the word with him from Virginia.

PICTURE OF THE HOOSIER OF 1839.

In 1839, nine years after the first appearance of the word in print, the New Orleans Picayune gave a picture of the Hoosier of that period, who came down the river with his flatboat load of produce. It said:

"There is a primitive and pristine simplicity of character and independence of mind about a Hoosier that pleases us much. His step is as untrammelled by the artifices of fashion and as free from the constraint of foppery as the mighty rivers of the West are from destruction in their impetuous course to the ocean, or as the path of the buffalo herd over the wild prairie. Born on the fructuous soil of freedom, and unchecked in his growth by avarice or dissimulation, he rises to manhood with a mind unwarped and a spirit unbent like the trees of the forest around him. He loves liberty—loves it in his heart's core; he would fight, he would die for it. He cries from his soul, 'Long live liberty,' because the instinct of his free and unsophisticated nature tells him that it is the inestimable birthright and heritage of man, and he thinks that to live without it is as impossible as to exist without the free air that wantons around his Western home. He may be ignorant of the use of the eyeglass, but is his aim with the rifle less deadly? He may not be able to discuss the merits of the last novel, but thinkest thou that he is ignorant of the cardinal principles of liberty? In a word, he may not be a thing with his face hid in a stock, long hair and a shirt collar, but might not more confidence be placed in his brawny arm in time of war than in a whole regiment of such men of doubtful gender?

"We do love to see a Hoosier roll along the levee with the proceeds of the cargo of his flatboat in his pocket. It is the wages of industry, and no lordly ecclesiastic or titled layman dares claim a cent of it. See with what pity he regards those who are confined to the unchanging monotony of a city life, and observe how he despises the uniformity of dress. He has just donned a new

blue dress coat with silk linings and flowered gilt buttons. His new trousers look rather short for the present fashion, but this is easily accounted for—they were of stocking fit or French cut at the instep, and thinking they pressed rather close, he has curtailed them of some six inches of their fair proportions. He glories in still sporting the same unpolished big boots, and the woollen, round-topped, wide-leaved hat in which he set out from home. The Hoosier says, or seems to say—‘A life in the woods for me,’ and his happy and independent life attests the wisdom of his choice.”

NOT THE SAME HOOSIER NOW.

This is a pretty good bit of humor, barring the Johnsonian English, and pictures the Hoosier of that day as he appeared in New Orleans as an original type with his future before him. Since then it has come. Times have changed and the Hoosier has changed with them. He is at home now in all the cities from Chicago to Paris, and if one undertakes to discuss the merits of the last novel with him, one is likely to find that the Hoosier wrote it.

The nicknames of some other Western States are quite as obscure in their origin as the word Hoosier. That of Ohio is easily accounted for by the early prevalence of the buckeye tree in that State. But why are Illinoisans called “Suckers” and Missourians “Pukes”? These names are said to have originated in the Galena lead mines. A local historian of Illinois says: “Late in the fall of 1826 I was standing on the levee of what is now Galena, watching a number of our Illinois boys go on board of a steamboat bound down the river, when a man from Missouri stepped up and asked: ‘Boys, where are you going?’ The answer was ‘Home.’ ‘Well,’ he replied, ‘you put me in mind of suckers; up in the spring, spawn, and all return in the fall.’ From this the appellation ‘Suckers’ stuck to Illinoisans. The following spring the Missourians poured into the mining regions in such numbers that the State was said to have had a puke, and the name of ‘Pukes’ was thenceforward applied to all Missourians.” This may be the true origin of those words, for slang phrases and epithets of that kind often originate among rough frontier characters. There is this difference, however, between the nicknames applied to the State last named and the one applied to Indiana—the people of

those States have repudiated and resented their nicknames, while Indianians accepted the term "Hoosier" and proceeded to glorify it. If they had "kicked" and protested against the injustice of the appellation it would have stuck to them all the closer and they would have got nothing out of it but humiliation, whereas, by adopting the other course, they disarmed ridicule and surrounded the word with a halo of new and historic meaning.

MUCH DUE TO ANCESTORS.

The twentieth century Hoosier owes much in the way of moral and intellectual qualities to his ancestors. He is a composite character and represents an unusual commingling of breeds and bloods. Indiana Territory began to be settled soon after the close of the revolutionary war, and the pioneers of the State represented the best blood of the new American nation and of foreign nations as well. The men who fought the revolutionary war to a successful finish were no weaklings, and large numbers of them came to Indiana. The early immigration to the State consisted of two main streams, one from the northern Atlantic States and Pennsylvania, and the other from Virginia, the Carolinas and Kentucky. It included revolutionary soldiers, representatives of prominent families in the original colonies, frontier men, illiterates and scholars, native and foreign born, adventurers and home-seekers, speculators and empire builders, men of pure blood and of mixed Americans, English, Irish and Scotch, men of various antecedents, ideals and ambitions, but all imbued with the idea that Indiana was a land of promise, and with a purpose to make it a land of fulfillment.

A large element of the early immigration was the so-called Scotch-Irish. This is one of the best strains of blood that has gone to the making of the American nation. From the foundation of the Government to the present time it has contributed largely to the leaders in American progress and to the list of notable men in public and private life. No less than seven of our Presidents have been of Scotch-Irish descent on one or both sides, including Benjamin Harrison, McKinley and Roosevelt. In Indiana such men as Vice-President Hendricks, United States Senator Joseph E. McDonald, Secretary of the Treasury Hugh

McCulloch and many others of like character came of this stock. Several Governors of the State were of the same stock.

SCOTCH-IRISH AND QUAKER BLOOD.

Local literature, of which Indianians are justly proud and which has enriched that of the nation, draws much of the inspiration from Scotch or Scotch-Irish blood. General Lew Wallace says in his autobiography: "Mine were folk who cared little for ancestors. The grandmother on the paternal side was an exception. A correspondent writes me of hearing her speak often and proudly of her uncle, John Paul, he of the famous surname Jones." John Paul Jones was Scotch and Wallace was of Scotch-Irish descent. Among the soldiers who served under General George Rogers Clark and who drew their quota of lands in Clark's grant, was one named David Wallace. This was the name of General Lew Wallace's father, and the soldier was doubtless a collateral relative. The surname and the Christian name are both Scotch. Meredith Nicholson, the novelist, is of Scotch-Irish descent. His grandfather was born in North Carolina and his father in Kentucky, showing that the family reached Indiana from Ireland by way of those States. The Scotch-Irish made a deep and lasting mark in Indiana.

Another fine strain of blood toward making the composite Hoosier character was ~~that~~ of the Quakers. These sterling people settled in North Carolina at an early day in large numbers and in later years many of them emigrated from that State to Indiana. Beginning about 1800 and for many years following, thousands of them left their Southern homes for Indiana. Many came also from Pennsylvania. In 1850 it was roughly estimated that one-third of the population of the State was made up of North Carolinians and their children.

Wherever the Quakers settled they built first a "meeting-house" and next a schoolhouse. They impressed their influence on the population very distinctly and it always made for political progress and civic righteousness. At an early day they were largely instrumental by their votes in making Indiana a free State after a struggle of several years by the friends of slavery to establish that institution and in many other moral and political crises they helped to place and keep the State on right lines. The

twentieth century Hoosier owes more than he knows for the present standing of the State to these undemonstrative but steady friends of good morals and good government.

During the first decade of the nineteenth century the population of Indiana increased more than 400 per cent. This was making new blood at a rapid rate. It was also the beginning of the movement of the center of population of the United States toward Indiana. In 1790 this center was twenty-two miles east of Baltimore; now it is about fifty miles south of Indianapolis.

The people of Indiana began to develop character and attract attention at an early day. In 1819 there was published at Edinburgh, Scotland, "a statistical, political and historical account of the United States of North America from the period of their first colonization to the present day" by D. B. Warden. In treating of Indiana the author said:

"This State is but recently settled; but many of the settlers are of a respectable class and their manners are more refined than could be expected in a place where society is but in its infancy. They are sober and industrious; drunkenness is rare and quarreling rare in proportion. They set a high value on the right of personal resistance to aggression. They possess great energy of character and, though they respect the laws generally, do not hesitate sometimes to redress what they consider a public injury by a more summary mode of proceeding."

This writer wrote at long range, but he hit off the character of the people fairly well. The Hoosier had not yet found his distinctive sobriquet, but he was already developing individuality. The meeting of different nationalities and the commingling of bloods which was to result in developing a new type of American had already begun to work.

INDIANA AN IDEA-DEVELOPING STATE.

At a Chautauqua assemblage in an Indiana town not long ago Opie Read, an author of some note, gave a theory for the unusual number of books that originate in Indiana. "In Indiana," he said, "there are more individuals, more characters, that is, people who do not think just as others do, more people of ideas; hence more books are produced here than elsewhere. Indiana is the meeting

point of the North and the South, where new ideas are interchanged and new theories developed."

This speaker from another State had evidently grasped two points: (1) That the commingling of bloods in the early settlement of the State resulted in the production of a people of unusual individuality; and (2) that the geographical location of the State, "the meeting point of the North and the South," makes it a breeding ground of ideas. It is the meeting point of the East and West, as well as of the North and South. From the earliest historic period every Indian trail from the East to the Mississippi river crossed the State; in later years the National road traversed its entire width, and now the great bulk of transcontinental traffic crosses its borders. The cosmopolitan spirit of its people, first determined by the character of its early settlers, has been emphasized by physical conditions.

It was to be expected that so virile a people, living in an atmosphere favorable to the growth of individuality, should do good work in the way of empire building and social progress. And so they have. The twentieth century Hoosier can "point with pride" to one of the cleanest and best State governments in the Union and one of the most advanced in respect of legislation. The State has been conspicuously free from political corruption on a large scale and from scandals in public life. Its political honors have never been bought and sold. It has never been controlled by corporations or trusts. It has never sent a multi-millionaire to the United States Senate.

Its public men who have become distinguished in national politics have been noted for their integrity. Its great war Governor, Oliver P. Morton, who handled millions upon millions of money during the civil war and served for years afterward in the United States Senate, died poor. There has never been a charge of "graft" in the erection of any of its public institutions. Its present State House, one of the finest in the country, was built within the original appropriation made for its erection. No political bosses had a hand in its construction, and no favorite contractors were given an opportunity to enrich themselves by farming out contracts.

The State was among the first to adopt the Australian ballot

law, which, fortified by other good election laws, has placed it in the front rank of electoral reform. It was one of the earliest among the States in advocating civil service reform, taking the State institutions out of politics and basing their management on the merit system. All of its public institutions are now on a non-partisan basis.

It was the first State to establish a separate prison for women, under the exclusive control of a woman superintendent and women managers. It has made greater advance in prison reform and in administering outdoor charity than any other State. According to recent statistics, Indiana, with a population by the last census of 2,516,462, had 3,335 persons in poorhouses, while Massachusetts, with a population of 2,805,346, had 5,387.

BEST CHILD-SAVING LAWS.

Indiana has the best child-saving laws of any State in the Union. Its parole and indeterminate sentence laws are the best of any State. It was the first State to have a law providing for a board of children's guardians, by which unfortunate children are rescued from vicious influence and environments and placed in good private homes instead of public institutions. Copies of its laws on these subjects have been sought for by the authorities of many other States.

Its juvenile court law is the best of any State in the Union and was highly praised in a discussion in the International Prisons' Congress at Buda-Pesth. The New Jersey Review of Charities and Correction, under the caption, "Indiana Leads the Way," quotes with strong approval some of the progressive laws passed by the last Legislature. Charities and Commons, an organ of social reform, says: "A full catalogue of the new Indiana law would show a notable advance in rounding out the State system of public relief and in relating statutes, administration and institutions to the human needs of the people."

STEADY PROGRESS IN EDUCATION.

The history of the State during the first century of its existence has been one of steady progress in educational facilities. In the infancy of the State there was a deficiency in this regard, but this

was due to the period rather than to the people. The subjugation of the wilderness had to precede the cultivation of literature, but the latter was simply postponed to more pressing needs.

At present the educational facilities of the State, as a whole, are not surpassed by those of any State in the Union. Its public school system is regarded by all educators as one of the best organized and best administered of any State, and its universities, colleges, technical schools, normal schools and sectarian institutions furnish ample facilities for higher learning. College-bred Indianians, educated in Indiana, are found in professional chairs and other positions requiring liberal education in all parts of the country. A census of the State University, made six years ago, showed that at that time its alumni included fifty-one college presidents, 129 college professors, 104 city and county superintendents of schools and 1,024 teachers. This was the record of only one institution out of more than a dozen.

LEADS IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY IDEA.

All intelligent public educators now agree that an ideal free public school system means extending equal opportunities to all the children of the State alike—those living in the country, as well as those living in cities and towns. No other State is applying this idea as broadly and successfully as Indiana. It is doing so by the consolidation of district or country schools, reducing their number and improving their quality by combination, and transporting the more distant pupils to the central township graded school at the public expense. This is the twentieth century idea of public school progress, and in it Indiana takes the lead.

The census of 1900 shows that the percentage of illiterates is lower in Indiana than it is in any New England State, or in New York, New Jersey or Pennsylvania.

School and Home Education, the educational organ of Illinois, says: "Our neighbor on the East is still in the forefront of all the States in the Mississippi valley in educational legislation."

PRAISED BY OTHER STATES.

Reference has already been made to the fact that all of the State benevolent, penal and reformatory institutions are conducted on a strictly nonpartisan basis, and it may be added they

are conducted with an efficiency that challenges the admiration of officials of other States. Governor Durbin, in his biennial message of 1905, after commenting on the remarkable growth in the State's industrial interests during the last decade, said:

"The progress of the State has not been confined to material development; we have kept pace with the most advanced among our American commonwealths in almost every phase of activity which has claimed the attention of States in the light of a broadening conception of the State's duty toward its citizenship. Our public service has been free from scandal; we have permanently established a precedent more powerful than any statute, that the State's business demands and must receive the same intelligent and jealous care that the honest and prudent business man gives to his private concerns or to the trusts which others have imposed upon him. We have fostered education, we have amplified the beneficence of our benevolent and charitable institutions, not simply by adding brick and mortar to them, but by infusing into their administration more of the spirit of responsibility to the people, and to the State's unfortunate wards. We may safely at this time throw open the doors of every Indiana State institution to the broad light of day without fear that scrutiny will bring reproach."

PROGRESSIVE METHODS EMPLOYED.

These words were true when spoken, and during the two years that have since elapsed, the State has made more progress on the lines indicated than it ever did in any like period before. The management of all the State institutions is progressive, and such as to attract wide attention and commendation. The Central Hospital for the Insane, at Indianapolis, has a pathological department, the first of its kind in the country, which is doing work of a high order. To extend the usefulness of the department to the physicians of the State generally, and to medical students and persons particularly interested, clinics and autopsies are held from time to time, and regular courses of lectures are delivered on subjects connected with the treatment of the insane. No other similar institution in the country is doing as good work in this line.

Under the operation of the indeterminate sentence law and

other progressive and humane methods, the State Reformatory, formerly the southern prison, is doing excellent work in the way of educating and reforming convicts who are not hardened criminals. In this prison all labor contracts have ceased and the industries retained have become an integral part of the trade school system of the institution. The work that is being done in this institution continues and supplements that which is so well done in the School for Boys.

SEPARATE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

The State School for Girls has recently been separated from the Women's Prison, thus doing away with the objectionable feature of having comparatively innocent girls under the same roof with convicts, even though in disconnected parts of the building. The new School for Girls has been established on the cottage plan under conditions which promise the best possible results.

The Indiana School for Feeble-Minded Youth is conceded to be the best managed institution of the kind in the country. In the way of legislation in the interest of children the State has a compulsory education law, a child labor law, a law prohibiting the retention of children in county asylums, a State agency for dependent children to place them in private homes, a law providing for the appointment of township boards of children's guardians, a Soldiers and Sailors' Orphans' Home, and other semi-public agencies to care for dependent or delinquent juveniles. Such legislation is indicative of high civilization.

A site consisting of 1,200 acres has been purchased for a Village for Epileptics, two buildings have been completed and patients are being received. The complete development of this institution will be a work of many years, but the State is fully committed to the work. Indiana is the first State to enact a law authorizing a surgical operation designed to prevent procreation of confirmed criminals.

PROGRESSIVE CRIMINAL LAW.

It also has a law, the effects of which will be far-reaching, providing life imprisonment for habitual criminals, and another law authorizing circuit and criminal courts to suspend sentence and

parole persons convicted of crimes or misdemeanors. All this is progressive and humane legislation.

It is believed that the State Railroad Commission of Indiana, created in 1905, is doing more effective work in the way of regulating and controlling railroads than the commission of any other State. The last Legislature passed a law providing for the daily deposit of all public funds in designated depositories, and for accounting to the proper authorities for all interest on such funds. This does away with an abuse of long standing.

The advancing standard of public morals, which requires a stricter accountability in public officials, makes itself felt also in a general demand for a stricter enforcement of law, the result being a more rigid enforcement than ever before of the laws regulating saloons, a marked decrease in their number and a material lessening of the drink evil.

The last Legislature passed an act for the establishment of a hospital for the treatment of incipient pulmonary tuberculosis, and in another year the State will have a sanatorium for the treatment of tubercular patients established and conducted on the most approved scientific principles.

PURE-FOOD LAW ONE OF THE BEST.

Indiana's pure food law is one of the best of any State, its State laboratory is admirably equipped and its State Board of Health is working on more practical lines and accomplishing larger results than similar boards in any neighboring State.

Probably no other State has profited more by the services of a board whose members serve without compensation, than has Indiana by its Board of State Charities. This Board was created in 1889 and during the eighteen years of its existence it has been of incalculable service to the State in introducing improvements and reforms in the management of the various State institutions, in maintaining a high standard of official conduct, in seeing that the public funds are properly expended, in greatly reducing the expenditure for official outdoor relief of pauperism, in the improvement of poor asylums and jails and in elevating the standard of institutional work in general. The excellent work done by this board at a minimum of cost to the people is a just cause of grati-

tude and pride for every citizen of Indiana. Its service to the State stands in the front rank of things which the twentieth century Hoosier should be proud of.

FIRST WOMAN'S LITERARY CLUB.

It is a fact of some significance that the first woman's literary club in the United States was formed in Indiana. This was the Minerva Society, formed at New Harmony, Posey county, in 1859, eight years before the organization of Sorosis of New York. This town of New Harmony, by the way, had the first free schools in America; the first kindergarten school taught by a trained teacher of the Pestalozzian system from Europe; the first distinctly trade school established in the United States; the first workingman's library in the West and the first dramatic society. The American Encyclopedia mentions the early woman's literary club and gives the name of its founder as "Miss Constance Faunt Lee Roy." The pioneer in the woman's club movement in America deserves to have her name spelled correctly. She was Miss Constance Fauntleroy, a niece of Robert Dale Owen, and a native of Indiana.

MANY OTHER CLUBS.

The movement thus begun in Indiana in 1859 has spread to many States, but perhaps no other State has more literary clubs in proportion to its population than Indiana. Some of these are exclusively women's clubs; some exclusively men's, and some are mixed, but all alike are indicative of intellectual activity and progress. With hundreds of literary clubs in operation and with reading circles and libraries forming on every hand, the reputation of the State as a literary center is likely to be maintained. been long since a Boston paper, under the heading, "Is There a New Literary Center?" said: "A newspaper in New York betrayed, the other day, an uneasy consciousness that possibly, after all, the Island of Manhattan is not the literary center of the United States. The suggestion may cause some agitation among New Yorkers, but it is doubtful if they much care where it is. Certainly there will be no panic outside the island, because no one in the 'provinces' ever suspected that New York possessed the

distinction. Some Bostonians, a few years ago, while admitting that a reaction would probably succeed the current period of decentralization, remarked the impossibility of any one foretelling where the next literary center would be, and to emphasize the obscurity of the subject he added that for all he knew it might be in Indianapolis. That seemed, at the time, a grotesque feat of the imagination, but is the contingency as wildly and humorously improbable to-day, when we see Indiana authors commanding a larger audience for the product of their pen than the book-writers of any other State, from imperial New York to the foot of the Union?"

LITERARY ACTIVITY REMARKABLE.

The discussion regarding the literary center of the country is between Boston and New York. Indiana takes no part in it. She simply points to the product of her literary workers, as she does to the monument which marks the center of population, and says, "There it stands."

The literary activity in Indiana in recent years has been something remarkable, though probably only the normal result of educational progress acting on the minds and imaginations of a naturally creative people. It was inevitable that a people whose nationalities were so variously commingled and their blood so curiously blended should eventually produce a literature of cosmopolitan quality, yet distinctively their own. The literary instinct was planted in Indiana at an early day, but it required time to mature and bear fruit. The State had creditable authors before any of those now on the stage began to write. "The Hoosier Schoolmaster," by Edward Eggleston, a native Hoosier and proud of the fact, has enjoyed nearly forty years of uninterrupted popularity and is still one of the books most sought after in all public libraries.

But what may be called the golden era of Indiana literature is embraced in the last twenty-five years. James Whitcomb Riley, the best known and most popular of living American poets, has achieved his fame within that period. General Lew Wallace's literary fame dates from the publication of "Ben-Hur" in 1880. All of the other living authors who have given fame to the State

are young. It is remarkable that seven Indiana novelists have each produced "a best seller," namely, Lew Wallace, Maurice Thompson, Booth Tarkington, Charles Major, Meredith Nicholson, George Barr McCutcheon and Elizabeth Miller.

Riley's publishers assert that no other poet of any country or period has ever enjoyed so large a sale of his works while living as Riley. They reckon that one of his poems, "An Old Sweetheart of Mine," has been read by more people than any other poem in the English language, except Gray's "Elegy in a Country Churchyard." William Dean Howells said: "Without the poetry of James Whitcomb Riley our literature would be so much the poorer that it seems idle to state the fact." Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote: "Riley is nothing short of a born poet and a veritable genius." A short time before his death Maurice Thompson said he came across an old letter from a critical friend in London who asked chaffingly, "Where is Indiana, and what right has a 'Hoosier' to be setting up for a poet?" This set Thompson thinking and he made out a list of Indiana authors that was calculated to stun the Londoner.

HOOSIERS DEVELOP RAPIDLY.

Commenting on the newness of Indiana literature Mr. Thompson wrote: "Massachusetts was within three years of two centuries old when Bryant wrote 'Thanatopsis'; Indiana was a little more than eighty years old when James Whitcomb Riley wrote 'Old Glory,' and scarcely seventy when Will H. Thompson gave to the world his 'High Tide at Gettysburg.' We Hoosiers have developed more rapidly than the Yankees. 'Ben-Hur' came out of Indiana less than a century after Clark captured Vincennes in the howling wilderness; 'When Knighthood was Flower' will compare favorably with any romance written by a New Englander within a century after the landing of the Mayflower. Meredith Nicholson's poems seem all the more fresh, native and true when read along with what the Yankee poets piped one hundred and forty years ago."

The gist of Mr. Thompson's argument is to show that literature developed earlier and more rapidly in Indiana than it did in New England. It is an interesting fact that the first published

law reports of the young Western State were quoted as authority in English courts, while the State itself had hardly found a place on English maps. These were the reports made by Isaac Blackford, one of the early judges of the Supreme Court. Chancellor Kent, of New York, wrote: "It is an interesting fact to find not only the *lex mercatoria* of the English common law, but the refinement of the English equity system adopted and enforced in the State of Indiana as early as 1820, when we consider how recently that country had risen from a wilderness into a cultivated and refined community."

DEVELOPMENT OF ART.

The development of art in Indiana in recent years has been as remarkable as that of literature. Indeed, this synchronism of growth in two of the principal elements of high civilization has been so remarkable as to suggest that the mixed blood which characterized and differentiated the people of the State from the beginning contained the germs of literary and artistic creativeness in just the right proportions to be developed together.

Anyhow, it is a fact that at the present time Indiana leads all the Western States in both literature and art. The Indianapolis Art Association, formed in 1883 for the promotion of art, exercises a distinct influence in that direction throughout the State. The "Indiana group" of artists, consisting of T. C. Steele, William Forsyth, Otis Adams, Otto Stark, R. B. Gruelle and others, has achieved a national reputation by the excellence of its work, and especially by the success of its members in dealing with strictly Indiana subjects in natural scenery. In 1885 an exhibit was held of the works of the "Hoosier Colony in Munich." This exhibit included seventy-one pictures and attracted much attention.

Another impulse to the development of art in Indiana was given by the organization of the John Herron Art School, at Indianapolis, in 1895. This institution, well endowed, with an able faculty of trained artists as teachers and with an art gallery attached, is now thoroughly established and is doing notable work. It is within the memory of persons still living when wild

turkeys and other wild game were killed in the spacious grounds and on the very site now occupied by the institution.

At the St. Louis exposition, in 1904, Indiana artists had the best exhibit made by any Western State. Of the pictures offered for exhibition in the Palace of Fine Arts nineteen works of Indiana artists were accepted. Only one other Western State was represented by so large a number of pictures in the general exhibit and Indiana artists were awarded three medals. Besides the nineteen pictures in the Palace of Fine Arts, seventy-eight pictures by native Indiana artists adorned the walls of the Indiana building during the entire period of the exposition. These pictures represented a high order of artistic merit and were the means of emphasizing to many thousands of people the high position Indiana has attained in the world of art.

The city of Richmond has a group of artists of her own almost as well known as the Indiana group above referred to. That city holds annual art exhibits, which attract much attention in art circles, and a number of pictures painted and exhibited there have passed into the hands of Eastern purchasers. Miss Amalia Kussner, one of the most celebrated miniature portrait painters living and well known in New York and London, is a native of Indiana and began her artistic career here. The art spirit which is now so active and which is being promoted by art schools, exhibits and technical instruction in the public schools, is a distinct phase of the higher life and broader culture toward which the people are moving.

FACILITIES FOR TRAVEL.

No other State in the union has a more complete transportation system or better facilities for travel and traffic than Indiana. Its system of steam railroads is such that one can leave the capital and visit any one of the ninety-two counties and return the same day, and this is supplemented by an electric traction system that has no equal anywhere. The topography of the State has proved peculiarly favorable to the rapid growth of electric interurban railroads.

It may be mentioned, by the way, as illustrative of the Indiana

habit of taking the initiative in modern movements, that the word "interurban" was coined and first used by an Indiana man, Mr. Charles L. Henry, a well-known traction railway promoter. At the inception of his connection with the business, about twelve years ago, he coined the word to describe trolley lines connecting cities and towns. It was used in his correspondence and specifications long before it got into the dictionaries.

The first electric interurban line constructed in Indiana, and that a very short one, entered Indianapolis ten years ago. Now there are fourteen electric railroads entering the city, operating 400 cars every twenty-four hours and carrying over 5,000,000 passengers a year, with a rapidly increasing business. They also handle a large amount of freight.

ELECTRIC LINE MILEAGE.

The total mileage of electric interurban lines in operation in Indiana at present is 1,816, and there are 370 miles of new road under construction, most of which will be in actual operation by the end of the present year. The roads now in operation have added largely to the value of the suburban and farm lands; have worked a great improvement in farm methods and farm buildings; have brought cities and towns and country closer together, thus developing neighborly feeling; have stimulated travel which is always civilizing; have added to the pleasures as well as the profits of farmers; have increased the attractiveness of farm life, and made it easy for dwellers in the city to have suburban homes; have enabled many farmers to give their children the benefit of the city schools, and have tended in many other ways to the betterment of social conditions.

In addition to other transportation facilities, Indiana has more miles of good highways and country roads in proportion to its population and is building them faster at the present time than any other State. The Glidden automobile tourists, who recently crossed the State in two directions, were loud in their praise of Indiana roads and pronounced them greatly superior to those of neighboring States.

The spirit of progress shown in the material improvement of

the State appears also in its recent legislation. In its pure food and drug laws Indiana is abreast with the most advanced State in the Union and far ahead of most. Its laws for the regulation of railroads are at once liberal and conservative and its railroad commission has been frequently congratulated for its efficient work in correcting such evils of the modern transportation system as can be reached by State legislation.

The twentieth century Hoosier is very proud of the capital of his State.

THE STATE'S CAPITAL CITY.

Thwaite, in his introduction to "Historic Towns of the Western States," speaks of Indianapolis as "an example of a town site staked out in a virgin forest by ambitious and imaginative speculators, and, before a house could be built, set aside by statute as the capital of the young commonwealth." This is not quite accurate. A donation of four square miles as a site for the capital was made by Congress in 1816, but it was not located until 1821. At that time there were a few settlers and log cabins on the site, but no speculators. The prospective capital was not "staked out by ambitious and imaginative speculators," but was first settled by bona fide pioneers and home-seekers. The happy location of the settlement led to its selection later as the site for the capital. Although there were no imaginative speculators here then, they came in due time, and have been very much in evidence at different periods since.

ALEXANDER RALSTON'S SURVEY.

Although Congress gave the land for the site, it had nothing to do with the laying out of the city. This was done by the State authorities and with a wisdom and prescience which, in view of later developments and present conditions, were remarkable. In platting the city in the wilderness they builded better than they knew, for they planned one of the most beautiful cities in the United States—indeed, next to Washington, the most beautiful. A well-known Washington correspondent wrote: "A visitor to the Hoosier capital, familiar with the capital of the nation,

instantly observes a striking similiarity between the two. Well he may, for Alexander Ralston, who carried the chains for Pierre Charles L'Enfant, and placed the stakes which fixed the lines and curves of the city of magnificent distances, was the surveyor of Indianapolis. When, in 1821, he carved out of the small cleared space in the center of a great wilderness the plan, just one mile square, for Indianapolis, his architectural ability and ambitions had more than a superficial justification. The result was perhaps the handsomest city between Philadelphia and Denver."

The Indianian of to-day would omit the "perhaps" and say the handsomest city between New York and San Francisco. Ralston, who had worked with L'Enfant and was personally acquainted with Washington, spent the remainder of his life in Indianapolis, died here in 1827 and was buried in an old cemetery now within the city limits.

It is not necessary to dwell upon the attractions or the commercial advantages of the Hoosier capital. Enough to say it is not only the largest inland city in the United States, but one of the most prosperous and in a pre-eminent degree representative of the best elements of Indiana life. Situated almost in the geographical center of the State, it is also the center of its social, moral, educational, industrial, literary and artistic activities. It is the ganglion of the moral influences which, concentrating at the capital, radiate throughout the State, making Indiana what it is. It would be altogether too much to say that Indianapolis is Indiana, as has been said of Paris and France, but it is true that the city is a fit culmination of the commonwealth, and the concrete expression of the influences that go to make the twentieth century Hoosier.