

# THE TWENTIES

## WILL ROGERS “TIMELY TOPICS”

Transcript of sound recording  
 recorded Feb. 6, 1923, New York City  
 78rpm vinyl record, RCA Victor 45347  
 audio in American Jukebox, Library of Congress  
<http://www.loc.gov/jukebox/recordings/detail/id/9195>



You know, these talkin' machines are great things. When you come to a theater or movies to see some of us and don't like our act, you just kinda out o' courtesy you have to stick and see us through. But on one of these if you don't like us, you just stop the machine, take the record off and accidentally drop it on the floor. Then the only annoyance we cause you is sweepin' up.

Now folks, all I know is just what little news I read every day in the papers. I see where another wife out on Long Island, near New York, just shot her husband. Season opened a month earlier this year. Prohibition's caused all this. There're just as many husbands shot at in the old days but women were missin' 'em. Prohibition improved their marksmanship ninety percent.

Never a day passes in New York without some innocent bystander being shot. You just stand around in this town long enough and be innocent and somebody's gonna shoot ya. One day there was four shot. That's the best shootin' ever done in this town. Hard to find four innocent people in New York, even if you don't stop to shoot 'em. That's why a policeman never has to aim here. He just shoots up the street anywhere. No matter who he hits, it's the right one.

Robberies. Did you ever read about so many robbers? I see where some of our cities and towns are talkin' about bein' more strict with these robbers. When they catch 'em from now on they're gonna publish their names.

We've been havin' every kind of a week here in New York—"Smile Week," "Apple Week," and one called "Don't Get Hurt Week." Taxicab drivers couldn't hardly wait for the following Monday to run over you.

Everybody's talking about what's the matter with this country and what the country needs. What this country needs worse than anything else is a place to park your car. What our big cities need is another orange in these Orange-Aid stands.

See where a New York society woman is suin' her ex-husband again. Claims she can't properly support that child on \$50,000 a year alimony. Somebody's been feedin' that young one MEAT.

Lots o' people wondered why we left our soldiers in Germany so long. That's so they could get the mail sent to them durin' war. We had to leave 'em over there—two of 'em hadn't married yet.

I'm all for Ireland for home rule from now on. I read an Irish paper the other day and it said liquor is eighteen cents a quart. Can you imagine a nation wantin' more freedom than that?

See where the Klu Klux is comin' into New York. Yes, sir, they're here. I'm no fool—you ain't gonna get me tellin' no jokes about them!