

THE ECCENTRIC

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GOVERNMENT

In the first stages of human society the right to rule was accorded to whomsoever could cudgel or cow the others into accepting him as dictator. Usually this was the strongest and most savage member of the tribe.

The masses of common people have learned that their power is enormous. They will no longer tolerate for long periods a government that crushes them. Hence the overthrow of kings. Had the kings been shrewd enough they might have continued to hold their scepters.

If there were any assurance that monarchs would always be wise and just, man would thrive as well under the "divine right" system as under any other. But kings have frailties. They dream of conquest and power, and human welfare is sacrificed to their greed. Therefore man has established republics wherever he hopes to rule himself.

Even here he is dissatisfied. He has dreams of more perfect systems; of Democracy, of Socialism, of Sovietism. And he will perhaps continue to chase bubbles for centuries to come. He has yet to learn that a government can be no better than the people. The fault is not in the system but in himself.

"Men must be free and equal" yell the radicals. "Here we have outlined the perfect system of government! It is Utopia! Adopt it and you shall live in an earthly heaven!" Fools!—or backward! Men have never been equal, can never be equal, and will never be more free than their own passions will allow.

So long as we base our systems upon incontrovertible and universally-applicable law, just so long shall we fail in finding a government to suit us. Verily the republic of the ideal—of conscience—is preferable to the republic of the absolute—of dogmatic rule. Until each person is sufficiently advanced to do his full duty to society without the need of force, we shall never be satisfied.

In this anarchy? Yes, in a sense. But even anarchy may be unity. When may we dispense with government? The day is far in the future. Perhaps it will never come. In the meantime we have our republic—and ourselves. We cannot leap to the clouds. We must climb the ladder rung by rung. Our republic is the foundation of our future temple. We excavated the dirt of monarchy to install our basement. If our walls crumble it will be due to the weakness of our intelligence, which is the mortar, and not to the failure of our principles, which are the stones.

ECCENTRICITIES

The stuff appearing in this column under the above caption is written in this office by a member of the staff. It is not "canned stuff," even though you may think it should be canned from the paper. Many have asked from what sheaf we clip this junk, so we take this opportunity to remark that the pen and the scissors are not in any way responsible for the product. The one who writes it is perfectly normal in all other respects. WE THANK YOU.

A hen attains her best laying capacity in her third year. She will lay in an average life-time from 300 to 500 eggs. And then when the hen dies, the consumer gets the first egg she laid.

Ducks carry oil in a little pocket near the tail. With this they coat their outer feathers and so make them waterproof. With this arrangement it is not necessary for them to stop at the wayside oil stations.

Whalebone is used in Greenland for making boats and sledges. Boneheads in this country are used for most every purpose.

If, in doubt, a man's wife usually removes the doubt from his mind. Even footpads have cold feet at times.

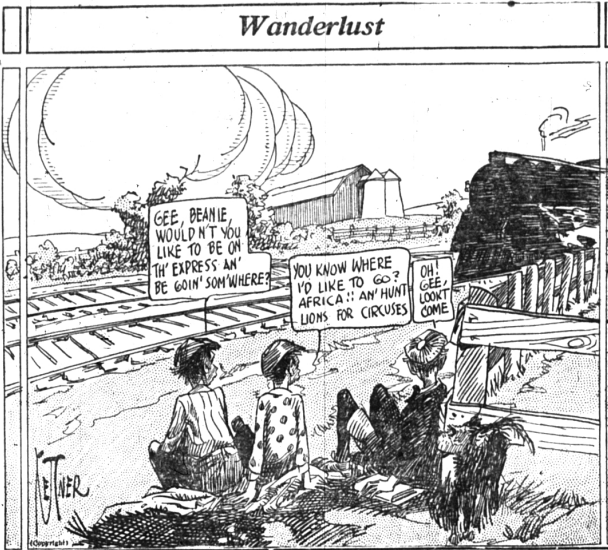
There are approximately 500 blind World War veterans in the United States. For these boys the war will never be over. Time may cause them to forget, but in their own darkened lives these fellows will always remember.

Railroad crossing accidents amounted to 4,411 during the period from June 30 to September 30, an increase of 3.6 percent over the same period in 1921. Some run risks—others "stop, look and listen."

"Having hurls his gauntlet"—so reads a newspaper headline. Better keep it, Warren, it's going to be a cold winter.

The average duration of human life is 33 years. One quarter of the people of the earth die before the age of six, one half die before age 20, and only one person in each hundred lives to be 65. But these statistics do not hold good in Birmingham.

FATHER'S CHRISTMAS
Christmas comes but once a year, but old one is "most here. For most of us it is good fun. For Dad the bankroll's just 'bout done.



Gifts for John and presents for Jack in Dad's long green they cut a huck.

When gifts are opened on that day And all thoughts of gloom are far away, Dad gets his usual gaudy tie. The best that half a huck will buy, And he will smile—he does believe in giving to give than to receive.

Season's most popular sayings: "Don't let me forget to send Aunt Sarah something!"

He who makes a hit at the club may strike out at the office.

American typists are said to surpass those of Great Britain, owing to the fact that they use the "touch" system. We do not know if the same is true of American pick-pockets.

Mayor James Couzens of Detroit has been appointed to succeed Senator Newberry. It is quite a "pouzzle" to the politicians," says one of Oakland County's papers. It ought to be from the sound of the word.

No two persons can ever see exactly the same rainbow, it is said. And next summer no two persons can use exactly the same rain check, either, he believe.

Sixty percent of plum jam is said to be sugar and 40 percent is plum, but these figures do not mean much to the average kid.

Venezuela has no labor unions. But who would want to belong to one there anyway?

How's the Christmas bank roll holding out?

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS

Forty-four Years Ago
About fifty people gathered at the residence of our esteemed friends M. James and wife, to celebrate the 77th birthday of the general, our Mr. James had invited a few to partake of an oyster supper. Mrs. James to surprise the squire, had invited the rest and a most enjoyable time was had. Short speeches were made by the Hon. O. Poppleton, Rev. Thomas Middlena and Rev. Gibson, and an original poem was read by Judge Hoyt, after which all company departed, wishing the squire many, many happy returns of the occasion. The ECCENTRIC returns thanks for a generous remembrance of the affair.

Married on Thanksgiving Day, Miss Maria Heard and Clinton Osborn, by Elder Harrington. The couple have the best wishes of a large circle of friends.

John Duncan started for Jacksonville, Florida, on Monday last, to rejoin his wife and to take up his permanent residence in the land of orange blossoms and alligators.

Married a week ago last Wednesday, Mr. Gerge Greer to Miss Polly Nixon.

On Saturday night, December 6, thieves visited the western part of this township and appropriated almost everything portable, geese and turkeys in particular. From John Greer they obtained 14, from Henry

Carpenter six turkeys and seven geese, from Charles Randall 14, from Henry Haines six, from Mr. William...

Several other places, besides parts taken from one to three turkeys were taken from each place, besides parts of harness, whips, blankets and robes.

If the geese were sold in the local market, we congratulate the dentists of the surrounding villages on their prospects for a job, for two of the geese were between 28 and 30 years old, and twelve of the turkeys were over 14 years old.

Twenty-five Years Ago
The Detroit and Pontiac Electric railways carried 65,000 passengers in September, 73,000 in October, and

78,000 in November, or at the rate of 1,000,000 passengers yearly. The Detroit and Mt. Clemens line carried 600,000 passengers last year, and the Wyandotte and Detroit line carried 50,000. So it will be seen that the Detroit and Pontiac line does most business of all the electric lines running from Detroit.

William Young, a respected citizen of Birmingham, aged 81 years, died at his home Monday morning. He had been complaining for some time past but was seen on our streets last week and only a few days before his death was out among his fowl and attending to other duties around his home. The funeral was held at the house Wednesday at 11 A. M. in September, 73,000 in October, and

EVERYTHING BACK HIT THE DIRT.

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Interment was made at Southfield. He leaves an invalid wife and one sister, Mrs. Todd, of this place.

The following officers were elected for Birmingham lodge No. 149, Knights of Pythias: C. C. Satterlee, W. C. Frank Denison, P.; W. D. Clabe, M. W.; H. A. Poppleton, M. E.; Lyman Peabody, M. F.; Dan Johnston, K. R. S.; A. W. Campbell, M. A.; George E. Daines, I. G.; Claude Harris, O. G.; Alex Parks, Trustee; Alf Johnston, Grand Rep.; George E. Daines, Alternate.

The little seven year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Bray, known as "Duck," met with a serious accident last Saturday, receiving an ugly gash in his knee by coming in contact with some broken glass. He is attended by Dr. Raynale and is getting along as well as could be expected.

Miss Mary Lee, of Farmington, was the guest of her aunt, Mrs. S. W. Fuller, over Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Eber Allen, of Detroit, spent Saturday and Sunday at their uncle's, James Marble.

PRESS PICKINGS

No longer is the strawberry merely a "spring fruit." Development of so-called everbearing varieties has resulted in lengthening the season to such an extent that Michigan growers can now plant strawberries in June, until frosts arrive, according to R. E. Loree, of the Michigan Agricultural College horticultural department.

A vigorous campaign for additional members for the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce is now in full swing, having been started November 5 with more than usual enthusiasm.

The annual bazaar of the Methodist Ladies' Aid of Walled Lake was held in the church Friday, December 8. A chicken supper was served. Following the bazaar a program was given, including vocal and instrumental music and a playlet by high school pupils entitled, "No Men Wanted."

A stock company is about to be formed at Oxford to be known as the Oxford Packing Co., to deal in wholesale meats.

C. Leidich, steamship agent of Detroit, returned from his 70th. Four of the old countries two weeks ago. He says that the German conditions are almost unbearable, and at good Berlin hotel he was charged 14,000 marks for a double room over night.

Man and Opportunity. Men make their own opportunities—especially the opportunity of showing how powerful their biceps is.—St Louis Globe-Democrat.

Table with 2 columns: Location and Time. Includes Southbound Limited, Southbound Local, and Northbound Local times.

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL OF MUSIC
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MRS. WELCH, Director
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STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 12th day of November, A. D. 1922.

In the matter of the Estate of Frank P. German, Deceased. James A. Miller, executor of said estate, having filed in said court a petition praying that the time for the presentation of claims against said estate be limited and that a time and place be appointed to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands against said deceased by and before said court.

It is Ordered, that four months from this date be allowed for creditors to present claims against said estate. It is Further Ordered, that the third day of April, A. D. 1923, at eight o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for the examination and adjustment of all claims against said deceased.

ROSS STOCKWELL, Judge of Probate. DAN A. McGAFFEY, Register of Probate.

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