THE ECCENTRIC

Birmingham, Michigan

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FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1923

GOVERNMENT IS SIMPLE

There is really only one deep mystery of life, and that is life itself. From whence we came and whither we go is undoubtedly a problem that man never will solve. The chief reason that he never will find out this baffling riddle is, we think, because man did not make himself; he had no voice in his coming and all the money and intellect in the world will not prevent his dying. Therefore, it is our firm conviction that birth and death are the things which constitute the mystery of life.

There is another thing that presents something of the mysterious in its successful carrying out and that thing is naught but man's ability to govern himself. To govern himself he must govern the vast collection of individuals that constitute his land. Because few minds will entirely agree on all sides of any question, laws are hard to make and much harder to enforce.

Put a number of trained minds on the solution of a problem in mechanics, engineering or any sort of the other arts and crafts, and, before long, a practical solution will be worked out that becomes a success. It will be accepted by mankind until a new invention or discovery is made that will supplant it. It is so with government—although the changes come about very much slower.

We read a lot about the running of the United States government in the newspapers and other periodicals. We often hear some intelligent persons take the platform in an effort to place before the people a better method of administering good government. And the funny part of it all is that there is an air of mystery injected into both printed and oral digressions of the theme. There cannot be any "mystery" about so practical, so tangible a thing as good government—such "mysteries" are, we believe, but myths created in the minds of facile writers and speakers who are stumbling into the pitfalls of a subject that is beyond their comprehensions.

Abraham Lincoln was beloved because he simply knew and understood his fellow creatures. Simplicity, then, ought to be the keynote of any practical working basis of good government.

Read the printed word today about matters relative to the running of our federal government. What do we see? A mass of mystifying words such as "diplomacy, foreign policy, League of Nations, World Court, lobbying, red-tape, politics, republicans, democrats," and countless other phrases that tend to create in the mind of the average reader a belief that public office-holders are the only ones on speaking terms with a knowledge of government.

It is a huge fallacy—but the professional politician, realizing that it is a good thing to mystify his audience, makes the most of the established order of things and goes on befuddling the public. And many newspaper editors eagerly devour such "stuff" and pass it on to the unsuspecting readers.

There are certain laws that pertain to the success of any institution or individual, the chief of which is to render a real service. If such service is not rendered by a private business, the business will cease to exist and go into bankruptcy. In the case of a nation, there is no bankruptcy that immediately terminates its existence—although there is a piling up of public debt and public dissatisfaction.

Therefore, if one would learn whether or not this country is on a good basis, let him ascertain if "things are quiet on the Potomac"—and if they are not, and the water is somewhat turbulent, then it becomes necessary to build a new "ship of state" to outride the storm of public disapproval.

VOTE FOR BOND ISSUE

The Board of Education of this School District last week made known the fact that $97,500 is needed to carry on the work of educating our children by building an addition to the Baldwin High School. Of all the people in the district, these men whom we have elected to serve us in school matters should know better than anyone else just what we need. Their desire for this money is prompted by no selfish motives—they are merely thinking of our children, and they ask us to pay the bill. We undoubtedly will, on July 9, place our approval on the bond issue.

Statistics compiled by investigators from the University of Michigan prove that Birmingham schools rank among the first in the educational system of Michigan. This should console people who are prone to condemn the issuance of bonds for public improvements. Money spent on education will uplift and benefit humanity. There is no worthier cause that may tax the purse of anyone than that of education. It even takes precedence over subscriptions to hospitals.

The only salvation that the human race has for present and future betterment lies in the extension of our educational systems—of which our public schools are the backbone.

SHORT AND MAYBE SNAPPY

By G. R. A.

Since the liquor smuggling operations of bootleggers have been curbed at Ecorse, they have transferred same to St. Clair, according to news despatches. All they do now is to drop a hook into the river off St. Clair and snag a case of hootch. This new method of smuggling ought to increase traffic on the river this summer.. And it will give the poor fish a chance to grow.

—

A Detroit woman found a powder puff in her husband's automobile and subsequently sued and obtained a divorce. That's right—no woman should have to live with a man whose automobile requires powder puffs to keep its color from being washed off by rain.

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The thermometer in front of the Eccentric office last Thursday afternoon went to 106 degrees. That's pretty warm. If Satan gets up a hotter heat than Old Sol does some people ought to prefer to live forever.

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If the United States Supreme Court makes good on its recent decision that no foreign ships can bring liquor this side of the "three-mile limit," it looks as though the United States Shipping Board might come into its own after all.

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Parents are advised to tell their children the truth in all matters, according to a learned psycho-analyst. He might go farther and tell the parents to be truthful among themselves as a shining example for the children to follow.

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The twelve-man jury that heard the Walton condemnation case here last Friday made a special trip to Lincoln avenue to see the land that Mr. Walton wanted the Village to pay a hundred dollars a foot for. They came back and, in a short while, decided that fifty dollars a foot was enough. That there is strength in numbers (of men—not dollars) was shown by their verdict.

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When you go to the annual meeting of the school district on July 9, you will have a chance to express your approval or disapproval of the $97,500 bond issue for the addition of the high school. Every right-thinking person will vote "Yes"—and we hope that the majority of Birmingham and nearby citizens do not think aught but right and righteously.

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News reports show that the French are still attempting to "take blood from a turnip" by their continued occupation of the Ruhr and their uninterrupted confiscation of German life and property. We, in America, boast of never waging war for profit. We go on the theory that good will come to the righteous—that's the reason we are the most prosperous land in the world today. If God rewards the righteous and punishes the wrong-doer, we wonder what ultimate good will come to France.

—

In this day and age (and it always was thus) to be successful in the business world a merchant must advertise his wares to the buying public. Therefore, believing that Birmingham is the finest place near Detroit to make a home, why do not local merchants get together and collectively tell the world about the worth of living here? We hope that the move now on foot to do so will be carried through to successful fruition.

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Cuba, as nearly everybody knows, is a land of sugar cane, hot breezes, bare feet and liquors. The Volstead Act does not include the West Indies in its dry boundaries. So we are wondering if A. D. Lasker overlooked this fact when he invited several hundred politicians of this country to enjoy a trip to the tropics on the trial trip of the good ship Leviathan. Although we, "The Dear People," are paying for the transportation on this trip, we do hope that Mr. Lasker will not ask us to pay for any "purchases" made in Cuba.

—

President Harding is now making speeches all over the country as he and his party wends their way to Alaska. What he says ought to be listened to with interest mingled with reverence by his various audiences. Undoubtedly, President Harding is in a position to know completely more about the workings of this country at the present time than any other man in it—he ought to, anyway. He is our leader—and if he has the right ideas and plans to add to our comfort and well-being we, of this country, will willingly be led by him.

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Detroit is again roused over the methods used by professional bondsmen in its Municipal Court. The claim that many forfeited bonds were not collectible has caused Prosecutor Voorheis to demand an investigation. Thus do we see injustice to the law take place within a court of justice.

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Two bandits fled when a Detroit grocer laughed at them. This grocer's way of laughing ought to be taught to the Fourth City's police force.

—

Senator James Couzens declares that Henry Ford will accept the nomination for the Presidency if it is tendered to him. Well, we hope he gets it. Ford and Cousens seemed to work O. K. together when they formed the Ford Motor Co.—and they ought to be able to do something worth while in a little town like Washington, D. C.

—

A Detroit man was arrested last week for speeding, carrying beer and a loaded pistol—all three offences at once. It's a mighty good thing that he was carrying the beer outside of his stomach—or there might have been real trouble brewing.

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A Minnesota girl, arrested for forgery, said that a mysterious ghost guided her hand over various and sundry checks—a rather novel alibi. She was sent to the penitentiary and, of course, it behooves the warden to keep good vigil over her or else the same ghost might saw out a few of the prison bars.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS

Forty-Three Years Ago

Up to Wednesday noon, Slade and Rundel had bought 30,000 pounds of wool, for which they paid from 29 to 36 cents.

The Franklin and Birmingham WhiteCaps (juveniles) played a match game of ball last Saturday. The game was fine and the boys played better in proportion than their elders. The score was 26-12 in favor of Birmingham.

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Quite an amount of interest was manifested at the depot last Saturday afternoon, by the unloading of a new self-propelling steam engine. The odd looking thing was completely destitute of whiffletrees, pole or other hauling apparatus. A fire was built and a large crowd gathered around to see the thing move. The steam seemed to make very slowly. The boys yelled, teams came past snorting with terror at the unaccustomed sight, Marshal Mills got excited and swore he'd put the whole affair in the village pound if they didn't get out of the street with it. We pulled a useless looking wire and brought forth an unearthly shriek. Albert Prickett then mounted the monster and started on a 2:40 gait backwards toward the Ellis barn, but was stopped by the operator, and turned the other way and it started off in good style down Troy street amid the shouts of the crowd and the wandering gaze of an Irishman, who remarked that "it was the first time he ever saw a steam engine go down the road on fut."

—

Will Patch has sold his place to Mrs. Nye for $350, and intends going north with Gene this fall.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Q. Pearsall marketed 70 bushels of strawberries one day.

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Bert Blakesless graduated from Ypsilanti Normal last week with high honors. His parents were in attendance and report everything very fine and Mr. Bert has a good situation already engaged at Bay City, where he starts as a teacher in their schools at the tidy salary of $700 a year. Watch this lad ascend the ladder of fame, honor and riches.

—

A very pleasant social reunion took place on Wednesday. The entire class of '95 of the B. H. S. accompanied by their worthy professor, E. F. Waldo, boarded a trolley car at 8 o'clock and proceeded to Belle Isle, where the day was spent and could be best enjoyed by a class of graduation after a separation of three years. The members of the class are Misses Iva and Grace Bruce, Gertrude Hagerman, Adele Snow, Grace Houghton, Sarah Ennis, Clara Erb, Martie Sly, Messrs. James Cobb, James Miller, Wiley Pierce and John Starr.

Preserved for All Ages.

All that mankind has done, thought, gained or been—it is lying as in magic preservation in the pages of books.—Carlyle.

Thought for the Day.

If we would greet the members of our family in the evening as pleasantly as we have greeted other people during the day, our homes would be happier.

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GOODYEAR

Fly in the Ointment.

The lucky man would be happy if he wasn't always afraid his luck would change.—Boston Transcript.

World Needs Such Men.

The man who is just and resolute will not be moved from his settled purpose, either by the misdirected rage of his fellow citizens, or by the threats of an imperious tyrant.—Horace.

Experience Valuable.

It is as much waste to take bread out of the oven too soon as it is to allow it to remain there too long. Prevention of waste requires the exercise of judgment which is gained only through experience. This is why experience is a valuable asset.

Was Some Other Fellow's Girl.

One day I thought I would get my girl and go to the show, as there was to be a special picture. She was my dearest, so I did not call her up, but dressed in my best and went to her home. When I inquired about her, her mother said her beau had taken her to the show. That ended my first love affair.—Chicago Journal.

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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 16th day of June, A. D. 1923.

Present: Hon. Ross Stockwell, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Peter D. Hilty, Deceased.

Carrie Maude Hilty, having filed in said court a petition praying that a certain instrument in writing, purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased now on file in said court be admitted to probate, and that the administration of said estate be granted to Carrie Maude Hilty, executrix named in the will, or to some other suitable person.

It is Ordered, That the 16th day of July, A. D. 1923, at eight o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition.

It is Further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

ROSS STOCKWELL,
Judge of Probate.

A true copy.
DAN A. McGAFFEY,
Register of Probate. 9-11

Sparrow Continues Its Travels.

The ubiquitous English sparrow is working its way around the world. It invaded Alaska last spring.

DETROIT UNITED LINES
BIRMINGHAM TIME TABLE
In effect June 3, 1923
(Eastern Standard Time)

Southbound Limited — (except Sunday). 6:48 a.m.

Southbound Locals—4:20 a.m., 4:55 a.m., 5:31 a.m., 5:45 a.m., 6:55 a.m., 6:17 a.m., 6:43 a.m., 7:26 a.m., 8:16 a.m., 9:16 a.m., and every 1[illegible] minutes to 6:01 p.m., and 20 minutes to 10:41 p.m., 11:31 p.m., 11:51 p.m.

Pontiac to Birmingham only—11:55 a.m., 11:59 p.m., 12:10 a.m., 12:30 a.m. and 12:54 a.m.

Northbound Locals—5:33 a.m., 6:32 a.m., 6:50 a.m., 7:07 a.m. and every twenty minutes to 8:07 a.m., then every 15 minutes to 5:52 p.m., 6:06 p.m. Limited, 6:22 p.m., 6:37 p.m., 6:55 p.m., 7:07 p.m. and every 20 minutes to 12:29 a.m., also 12:49 a.m.

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Accidents occur daily. You need protection now—tomorrow may be too late. Below is a coupon for your convenience. Send it at once and we will gladly explain in detail why Central Mutual is the right insurance for you. No obligation.

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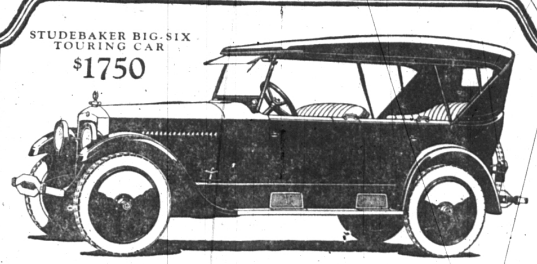

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Roadster (3-Pass.)	975	Roadster (3-Pass.)	1250	Speedster (5-Pass.)	1825
Coupe-Roadster (2-Pass.)	1225	Coupe (3-Pass.)	1975	Coupe (5-Pass.)	2550
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