

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1924

READ THIS THROUGH QUIETLY

Shall any living human being, living in the United States of America, be compelled to do all his reading in the public library; shall he be denied the privilege to study at home, away from his teachers?

Will the time ever come when all people in this country will be compelled to attend ONE church?

Can the time ever arrive when persons will be compelled to swear allegiance to one political party? Shall he be refused to exercise individual judgment in a choice of public officials?

Ah, let's not become tragic in our perspective on life—life as it is lived today. Let us quietly think.

On November 4 the people of Michigan will have a chance to express themselves on questions of national, state, and county importance. Perhaps you think that the most important issue is that of President; if you do, we believe that a little thought on the matter will change your mind.

The BIGGEST issue up to the voters of Michigan is that of the proposed amendment to Article XI of the State Constitution relative to compulsory attendance at a public school of all children between the ages of seven and sixteen years until they have graduated from the eighth grade. But, please, folks, let us put this question aside for a moment, and let us ask you must remember, YOU are really the biggest thing on the earth, and anything that tends to make you LONELY, INTOLERANT, or UNGRATEFUL should be discarded from consideration by your thought processes; an American doctrine will admit the truth of the GOLDEN RULE.

Most of us are engaged in the beautiful pursuit of happiness; in fact, it may be proved that every human being who ever trod this globe sought a certain kind of happiness. HAPPINESS is the goal of contentment—and does not everybody strive for peace and quiet?

Ever groping through the darkness of ignorance; always seeking for better things, civilization alternately accepts and rejects ideas as they occur to the people. Often, many are crushed in the process—and wars are the last method used by nations to settle their disputes.

Funny, isn't it, how even the best of friends cannot agree on even a small thing. Ever start out to take in a picture show with a friend and, on the way to the ticket window, get into a friendly argument as to which person will buy the tickets? Certainly you have—which offers proof of the willingness of perfectly sane people to disagree.

It is, therefore, quite right for one group of people in Michigan to ask that the problem of compulsory education in the public schools be submitted at the polls; this is only fair to those who, in their own way, believe that some kind of change is necessary to better the structure of American society. And it is only proper for those who believe in private schools to voice their own opinions, and cling to what they think is right.

So, folks, approach the amendment with an open mind, an open heart, and a deep conviction that the GOLDEN RULE is society's best guide. Discard any malice that you may have in your heart, for, as we said in the beginning, YOU are the biggest thing on this earth, and ought not to allow your spiritual growth to be stunted by any mental cankers.

Let us have forgotten what the Golden Rule is, we herewith place it before your eyes: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you; do ye even so to them; for this is the law and the prophets."

WHAT ARE PUBLIC TAXES?

"Taxation," as at present practiced, was once defined by a witty Frenchman as "plucking the most feathers with the least amount of squawking." In other words, governmental legislative bodies, in a frenzied attempt to obtain money for maintaining government, (often inexcusably extravagant), frame all sorts of tax schemes to reach into the pockets of the people. That is the reason that voters in Michigan will be asked to decide on the state income tax amendment at the election November 4.

The group that favors the passage of this tax amendment, which will seek money on all incomes over \$4000 per year, is backed by the farm organizations of Michigan. They are attempting to extort money from their city friends, foolishly believing that their own taxes will be reduced—forgetting that the more money that is raised allows that much more money to be spent. They make the statement that real estate constitutes 35 per cent of the wealth of this state, and therefore should pay but 35 per cent of the taxes, instead of 80 per cent, which it does now. They make no distinction when speaking of "real estate" between values in buildings and values in ground, the former being man-made and the latter the gift of Nature.

There are but two basic kinds of taxable property: one is land value, the other consists of things made by man. Taxes on incomes adopted by the Federal government, (after which certain hard-up states have patterned), was strictly a war measure to assist in paying off a war debt which was incurred by the ENTIRE NATION. It is unwarrantable except in extreme emergencies.

Instead of levying taxes on incomes, or on accumulated wealth that has been honestly earned and saved, a process that discourages energy and thrift, wouldn't it be wise to first exhaust through taxation the fund which is created by the growth of the community, and not by the efforts of individuals?—a collective value that increases as the community grows and which would disappear entirely in any given locality should the population there vanish.

What is the plan? Do you really want to know?—then spend a few hours with Henry George, reading his book, "PROGRESS AND POVERTY," which is to be found in all public libraries.

CHOOSING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL

We have often wondered, when the matter of choosing a candidate for a public office is decided, just how much they matter the average voter uses in the process. We have come to the conclusion that the average voter does not use much—partly because of a lack of interest, but mostly because he is not given a very intimate glimpse of the candidate.

This is true when the candidate lives in some remote part of the voters' territory. This is especially true this year when the candidacy of Grant Hudson for Representative in Congress is considered from the viewpoint of voters of the Republican political faith who live in Bloomfield township and Oakland county.

Mr. Hudson lives in Lansing. He is a Republican. He has served one term in Congress. Outside of the fact that he opposes the repeal of the Volstead Act, we have never heard much about him. We are sure that his interests lie chiefly in the vicinity of Lansing, Michigan.

On the other hand Oakland county has a candidate who is out for the position of representing this district in Congress. We know this man personally; know him to be opposed to the repeal of the Volstead Act; know him to be honest and highly respected in his own bailiwick; know that he has the interests of Oakland county at heart to a greater extent than Grant Hudson.

Who is this Oakland county man? Would you vote for him if we told you his name? Perhaps you will—perhaps you won't. Anyway, we're going to read his cause in Bloomfield township. His name is Willis M. Brewer, chairman of the Oakland County Board of Auditors, and president of the school board of Pontiac. And he is running on the Democratic ticket.

Desirable fact that the Democrat make him unfit for office in Congress? It would not—for, as we remember, didn't he receive his appointment as chairman of the board of auditors at the hands of Old and county supervisors, most of whom are dyed-in-the-wool Republicans?

This editorial was written to oppose the Republican party; it is simply a reminder that it is the best thing for even a staunch Republican to vote for straight. For the Stars and Stripes will continue to flag, whether or not Republicans or Democrats occupy the seats of Congress, and a Democrat whom you know personally may be just as honest as an unknown Republican.

A WORD FOR THE RAILROADS

In last week's Eccentric there appeared an advertisement from the Michigan Railroad Association, under the caption, "Make Each R.R. Crossing a Stop Street." It is a rather queer coincidence that this advertisement was published simultaneously with the news story about one woman and a little girl who were killed at the East Maple avenue crossing of the Grand Trunk in Birmingham.

The advertisement referred to ought to prove to the public that the railroads of Michigan are conscientiously (and at a great expense) attempting to educate the people of the state that railroad crossings are dangerous, though necessary, affairs. It proves that the railroads—in their desire to meet the incessant demands of the people for speedy transportation—at the same time wish to conserve the lives of human beings.

Let us have forgotten last week's timely plea of the Michigan Railroad Association, we are re-printing it again for our studios approval. Here it is:

"Most Michigan cities compel motorists to bring their cars to a full stop before crossing any heavy-traffic street.

"This law is universally approved. It saves time and averts accident. It is wise and fair.

"Yet heavy motor vehicle traffic is far less dangerous to you than a railroad train. Speed is the very essence of railroad service. A train cannot stop quickly. Not can it turn out to avoid hitting you.

"Six states have already passed laws, making stop streets out of Railroad intersections. The time may come when the State of Michigan will compel you by law to thus protect yourself.

"But, your wait for law, when you have common sense?

"Determine today that, from this time on, you will always bring your car to a full stop before crossing a railroad track, anywhere—any time.

"Everybody will approve your good judgment. Many will follow your example. And you will be relieved forever from the possibility of this, the most serious of common accidents."

Jacob Franks, father of Bobby, the little fellow who met death at the dirty hands of Leopold and Loeb, is determined that Justice shall be served; and has set aside a trust fund to be used after his death to prevent the liberation of the two youths from Joliet prison. The creation of this trust fund ought to serve widespread notice upon society that Justice IS often thwarted—that money (not particularly bribery money) can be used to interpret the laws upon our statute books.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS—of Long Ago

Just Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up the Historical Background of the Birmingham of Today

43 Years Ago. Prepare for taxes. Miss Mamie Pearsall rejoices over a new organ and we predict a very apt pupil to play the same.

Miss DeMar, an actress of some celebrity, from Washington, D. C., was in town last week.

Frank Jenks killed a coon last week which tipped the beam at the enormous weight of 37 1/2 pounds.

Owing to the continued ill health of its junior editor, the Birmingham Sun will go under eclipse for a short period.

Our curiosity shop was filled this week by Henry Leach's stem of red raspberries—a bush filled with ripe,

luscious berries for the second time this year. We heard of one of our friends going up into the burned district and being regaled by the inhabitants with bear meat and honey, much to the detriment of said friend. Martin Blunt and Samuel Loeb had a runaway last week which drove up their carriage in less than two revolutions of a coffee mill, but did not damage the boys at all. Our good friend Adna Bailey of Troy, offers to keep us in vinegar if we will allow him to use our wagon while the roads are muddy. Such neighborly kindness will ever be remembered. Married: at the residence of S. F.

Joyce in Southfield by the Rev. J. P. Gibson, on Thursday, Oct. 27, 1924. Mr. Frank B. Hollister and Miss Josephine Sever. The happy couple have our best wishes for a prosperous future.

That so called high-toned young man is very much obliged to Her Right Royal Highness and General manager of everything—school, etc., etc., for his general information, but in the future we would advise him to heed the eleventh commandment.

On Wednesday last week Milton M. Kneeland entered complaint before Squire Boone, that Page Miller had stolen a pocketbook from him. A warrant was issued, and placed in the hands of Officer James O. Beattie, who arrested his man at Leoni, Jackson County, and brought him before the court where he pleaded guilty, paid a \$400 fine, and ambled away to Jackson County again.

Mrs. Phillips has turned over a new leaf and will put in this afternoon in connection with her millinery store a full and fresh assortment of bread, cake, cookies and pastries, real rolls and bread—ready every day at 8:00 a. m. and 9:00 p. m. New styles of fall hats from 25c to \$10.00.

Every established local newspaper receives subscriptions from large cities which trouble the publishers of this city. Which the New York Times recently threw some light upon in the following: A wholesale greengrocer in this city who has become rich at the business, says that when he sells a bill of goods on credit to immediately make for the local grocer his debtor. So long as his customer advertises liberally and generously, he will not mind the grocer's debt. The grocer, however, when he goes to collect an advertising space, he took the fact as evidence that there was trouble about, and he immediately went for his debtor, and paid him. The man who is too poor to make his business known to the grocer, is a business failure.

25 years ago professors who unearthed the skeletons of a mastodon in a marsh near what place was known about 1870, and a baby found from they had learned that the animal was buried at 11:30 a. m., 7003 years ago the 17th of Oct. last week, while just beginning a meal on low-bush huckleberries, while the mercury was in the shade.

Frank Blakelee and Till Trowbridge paid their subscription with a nice string of bass and Nuts; the account we considered "nice."

For sale—30 acres of choice garden and fruit lands 1 1/2 miles west of Detroit. Will sell cheap for cash if sold at once. Apply to George T. Bench, Birmingham.

The names so far suggested in reply to the query "who would you consider the belle of Birmingham?" are: Marie Curie, Penelope and Miss Edith Bruce—Good—Guess number three is in order.

Larger beer signs were promiscuously posted upon the residences of some of our most prominent prohibitionists by the hallowen-ers.

Mrs. Margaret Sangster, who for over ten years has been the editor of Harper's Bazaar, has resigned that position and joined the editorial corps of the Ladies Home Journal, in which magazine she will hereafter conduct a prominent department.

Miss Daisy Durkee is the recipient of a fine specimen of star fish sent from San Francisco by her sister, Miss Lulu Durkee, previous to her recent departure from that point to Cuba, where she hopes to catch a baby alligator to present to her sister on her return.

Farm Journal for the balance of 1929 and all of 1930, 1931, 1932 and 1933, for every subscriber who will pay one year in advance for the Eccentric. No letter farm paper, you all need it.

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The Ballots That Are Not Counted Will Yours Be Among Them? For the honor of the country! For the honor of the community! For the sake of your pride! You know your own choice, among the candidates. You know the man you want in the White House. Your ballot registers your selection. We are proud of Birmingham. We want it to stand out as a Real American community. Your vote will help. MAKE SURE YOU GO TO THE POLLS NEXT TUESDAY AND TAKE THEM OTHERS OF YOUR FAMILY WITH YOU. Let's All Vote Next Tuesday—For the Good of Our Community, Our State and Our Nation! First State-Savings Bank BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN PLAY SAFE—PAY YOUR BILLS BY CHECK Capital and Surplus - \$125,000.00 STRENGTH, SERVICE AND COURTESY BANKING FRIENDSHIPS THAT ENCIRCLE THE COMMUNITY

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