

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

(Founded in 1878 by Whitehead & Mitchell)
Published every Friday at Birmingham, Michigan, in The Eccentric Building, 126-128 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone 11 and 12. GEORGE RODGERS AVERILL, Editor and Publisher

Entered as Second-Class matter in the U. S. Postoffice at Birmingham, Mich.
Subscription Rates: All newspaper and advertising "copy" must be in The Eccentric Office by Wednesday noon of each week.
One Year \$1.50
Six Months \$1.00
Three Months .75

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1925

"VOLSTEAD ACT DEAD—LONG LIVE PROHIBITION!"

Prohibition presents two phases: first, that which concerns material profits and personal desires—a phase that is built upon quicksand and vanity, and, therefore, an erroneous one. Second, that which concerns the potential development of man—a phase which bases its premise upon the fact that the world must become less the beast and more the Christian.

There never has been an honest argument set forth in print or in word that proves the value of intoxicating liquors; there never can be such an argument—for intemperance is not a good thing for body or for soul. Intemperance is—to personify it—a LIAR, and the man or woman who becomes its vehicle lives a lie, and is destroyed in the end.

There are those who may claim that wine has given to the world much of the world's best literature and art; yet, if you were to analyze these vineyard contributions you would find their appeals based upon human characteristics that bridge man's relation to unthinking beasts—never toward man's proximity to God.

Jesus Christ—the Man whom most of the civilized world professes to follow—never had to get drunk in order to get in attune with Divine ideas, and yet He has left a more lasting impression upon the world than any other who walked among men.

The United States has a population of over one hundred and ten millions of beings. Each of them is capable of certain development, of certain mental, physical, industrial, and moral progress. Let them spend part of the time, (and some of them most of the time,) in wooing Bacchus, and you prevent them from giving sober attention to their individual progress. Place in their paths things that will destroy their minds, their decent desires and right ambitions, and you degenerate the race; all of which reflects upon the health, peace and prosperity of collective society.

Whether or not the enforcement of the Volstead Act is successful in the United States depends upon this country's ability to array Christianity against Mammon. And this will never be decided until one or more future generations have had their chance to pit their own desires against the law of the land.

It is too much to expect that the generation which created Prohibition Legislation will succeed in enforcing its mandate.

Yet, thinking men and women must admit that it is just as necessary for society to prevent its adult population from becoming intemperate as it is to place careful guard over our school children; for who will declare that lessons are not learned in the marts of men the same as in the school room?

Else why should life be extended to past school age? In the United States today people may correctly question the success of the Volstead Act; still (the preceding word does not refer to any mechanical contrivance,) would it be out of order to paraphrase an old axiom by shouting from the housetops: "The Volstead Act is dead—long live Prohibition."

WE NEED A PLANNING COMMISSION

In an address before the local Rotary club Monday of last week, T. Glenn Phillips, nationally known city planner and advisor to the Detroit City Planning Commission, urged that "all communities which would administer good government at a minimum cost adopt a planning commission." The Eccentric believes that Mr. Phillips is correct in his statement; it believes that every resident of this village agrees with Mr. Phillips, also.

Birmingham is on the morn of a tremendous growth—nay, it is at about seven o'clock on its day of physical progress. For, next Spring, every local voter will be called upon to decide how much of the proposed annexation propositions he wants to approve. Before another year has fled Birmingham will be in the midst of an expansion that will need much thought to guide its municipal bark along the course of Economy on the sea of Municipal Government.

For the past six years the present publisher of the Eccentric has been a constant witness at the local governmental table. He has seen the community's former small and often trifling problems settled both with and without studious thought on the part of the members of the commission. Mistakes that have occurred are, in the main, mostly excusable, for the members of the commission are men who have their own personal business to conduct; they have always given their time unstintedly, however, and have done the best they knew how.

It would not be expecting too much of our citizens if they would accept a call to assist their commissioners in planning for the future of Birmingham, would it? By this we mean that our commission ought to appoint a number of individuals to work with them to the end that MORE THOUGHT might go into the planning of Birmingham.

The Eccentric surmises that residents Shain and commissioners Bingham and Bell are ready to issue such a call. Birmingham needs a Planning Commission, just as it needs the present Zoning Committee.

We hope that such a body of citizens will be given to Birmingham as a New Year's present. For Birmingham rightly deserves it!

CIVILIZATION'S BURNING CANDLE

The history of human struggle is the record made by men and women who are actuated by impulses that are as varied, almost, as are their distinct finger-prints. The progress of the world is depicted in society's combat with urges that have for their founts the well springs of animal desire and spiritual yearning. And practically all of the

decent progress of the world belongs on the side of spiritual growth.

It has been estimated that the entire population of the earth, said to be nearly a billion people, is guided by less than 100,000 men and women; upon this statement it may be possible to presume that the human race—were it capable of a 100 per cent development toward decency—has progressed to date but about one-half of one per cent.

If we were to consider each individual capable of carrying a light to illuminate his way through a huge cavern in which nearly a billion people were shuffling along, and only 100,000 of them were with candles in their helmets, we would have some idea of just how dark things are to the collective intelligence of the world.

And so, if those who carry the candles would prevent the others from falling over a cliff in the cavern, they must make their lights burn brighter. For, we believe, every man and woman has within himself or herself a potential candlepower of illumination; it must needs be exposed to the reverential, the decent, things of life—for only thus will it be kindled into a flame that lights the way for others.

CONCERNING HOLIDAYS

Some day somebody somewhere will be moved to utter a warning against the unlicensed multiplication of legal holidays. The more holidays we get, the less inclined people are to take them seriously. A few enthusiastically observed would be better for the object intended than many indifferently celebrated or neglected altogether.

New Year long ago lost its significance for most people. Even the public schools usually do not close for Lincoln's birthday or for Columbus day. Comparatively few observe Thanksgiving as a religious festival. Even Memorial day has become more a touring and outing occasion than one for remembering those who saved the Union.

If legal holidays are to be merely occasions for escaping work they might as well be distributed evenly throughout the year. It would simplify matters, for instance, to have a specified day of every month made a legal holiday, taking its name in case from some historic anniversary occurring within the month.

Who will be first seriously to suggest a revision of holiday schedules in the interests of harassed and confused mankind?

A university announces a course in book selling. Huh! All there is to book selling is getting in. Open he is in, anyone will buy books from a book salesman to get rid of him.

Presumably that Oklahoma young woman who was picked as the ideal farm girl knows as much about house-keeping as dancing.

Going to work is commendable, but working after one gets there is more so.

Sometimes a man wins a woman's hand only to find that it is mostly thorn.

While the weather bureau has its faults, it is not responsible for all the hot air.

This year's bill weevil strike reduced the price of cotton about ten cents a pound.

About the only thing that can be made without any material is the back of an evening gown.

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
Any person finding an eardrop will please leave at this office.

We received a pleasant call from Elder Harrington recently.

For sale: An old horse. Will trade for wood, corn or anything. Inquire at this office.

Miss Jennie Taylor has gone to Winnipeg, Manitoba, and ere this we expect married to Mr. Sloan of Winnipeg.

Messrs. Geo. Johnson, Ernest Wooster, G. S. Brush and John Crawford will assist J. R. Corson & Son for the Christmas trade, and they will be glad to see all their friends at the store.

The Postmaster-General says that the two-cent postage will destroy postal cards, because correspondents will prefer to pay the extra cost rather than have their letters read. Perhaps so and perhaps not, there are many stinky persons who will save that extra cost.

John Boyd of Troy and E. Miller of Bloomfield collect taxes at the Eccentric office today. Call and see them, gentlemen, and save money thereby.

The palace at Constantinople is practically in a state of siege. No body is allowed to enter unless summoned. The Sultan's alarm is owing to sedition among the troops who are angry at the way the palace guards are paid, while they are in rage. The appointment of Demas Pasha, who is unpopular in the army,

as Minister of War, has added fuel to the flames. An idea of the extent of the Sultan's fears may be gained from the fact that he has had built for his use an armored carriage, bullet and grenade proof.

The German Gazette in an article on the relations between Germany and France, says that Germany intends to retaliate against the indignation and complete immunity goods and goods of Parisian manufacture.

Dr. J. L. Campbell had an attack of pneumonia last week but has recovered sufficiently so to be able to attend to his duties.

G. E. Hardy presented his wife one day last week with one of Grinnell's beautiful banjo upright pianos for her Christmas present.

The first brick house ever built in Oakland county was sold at auction recently in the settling up of the estate of the late Dr. Henry S. Buell. The house is located near Franklin, and was built in 1835 by Delana Stoughton.

Miss Alta Worth is visiting relatives in Detroit.

Mrs. Frank Simonson and Clara Bell visited friends in Detroit Friday last.

Real estate items: John F. Leach to David Knox Hanna, lot in center of sections 14 and 15, Bloomfield, \$200; Davis Knox Hanna and wife to David Hanna, a pt. of sw. qr. sec. 22, 60 a, Bloomfield, \$2,100.

humble circumstances, judging from the class of stationery she used in returning the money. The amount was sufficient to keep an average family for a month at least. It would have meant new clothes, and Christmas luxuries to the finder. There was no chance that she would ever be "caught." The money had been found and not stolen. There was nothing but her own conscientious standing between her and the possession of money.

For a month she kept possession of her find and then sent it to The News Tribune asking that the real owner be found and the money returned.

Whether this would have been

permitted to take a vacation and get out into God's great open spaces and big woods, to feel the tang of frost laden air, to get his snuff out of his pockets and have other companions in camp for a week or more with kindred folks, and then to come back home again to live over the incidents of that trip; and enjoy the anticipation of another trip next fall. The buck law has saved Michigan's deer. Give them the same old range of cover they had years ago, and then the necessity would come to open up seasons when both sexes could be killed. Instead the limitations of their range is squeezing us into a small confine, then add to this the presence of the automobile on almost every wooded trail and cut of the way place and you will realize that deer are holding their own remarkably well. The writer would like to be a member of a club of "See their horns before you shoot." Unload your gun before you come into camp and "the man that carries his gun cocked is not welcome." Result, this year and last in all of the vast territory ranged over not a dead doe or fawn was discovered, and a great many more bucks were seen this year than last. Take your gun and hide yourself away in the deep forest and while hidden there waiting the approach of a low crack buck, have a doe or a couple of fawns come near you and feed around you and then pass on into the big woods. Unless he is a hard boiled meat hunter he will be glad there is a law that prevents his killing those beautiful creatures. We believe we voice the sentiment of our hunting friends when we say that the buck law is a good law, and if there must be any changes just cut five more days off the last five days of the season—Chebeagon (Mich.) Democrat.

YOU CAN BUY WITH CONFIDENCE

In Any of Our 20 High Grade Community Developments
IN BIRMINGHAM-BLOOMFIELD HILLS DISTRICT
Because—We have the Variety to Select from.
Because—Our properties are properly laid out and improved.
Because—No better Values and Locations are obtainable.
Because—Of our complete Building and Use Restrictions.
Because—We enforce these restrictions for the buyer's benefit.
Because—We guarantee everything contained in our contracts and advertisements.
Because—Our reputation is behind every sale.

Walsh, James & Wasey Co. REALTORS
BIRMINGHAM OFFICE: 305 S. Woodward Ave. Phone 78
DETROIT OFFICE: Penobscot Building. Chery 6500
Local Representatives: Robert R. Allen, H. D. Robertson, R. A. Patterson, James J. Martindale, Joseph Grinnell, Frank Gordon, Burton E. Drury, Marj. Manchester, T. B. Luceombe, Jr., L. H. Wilkins, Ralph Houghsack, Margaret Crawford

done if the sum had been twice or three times as large, is debatable. Evidently the temptation to keep it was very strong, but possibly the tugs of conscience would have increased in the same proportion as the temptation did.
At any rate the money was returned, and the finder will never regret the act. Her own self respect is surely worth more to her than the amount involved.
In one sense it is true that "every man has his price" and that is not necessarily a cynicism. If the temptation is great enough, the offense minimized enough, and the chance of punishment made small enough, virtually every man will stifle his conscience. One man's price may be a free street car ride. Another's may be a lifetime of comfort for an act that carries its code of honor would reject. Most of us do not know just what our "price" is or how much temptation we could withstand. But this woman at least has the satisfaction of knowing that she will not sell her conscience cheaply. All things considered she had a chance to sell her conscience for a price which would have been a good deal more than the average person would accept, when all the circumstances including her own comparative poverty and the prospect of a fine if caught, are considered. But is strength one's faith in human nature to know that she refused.—Duluth News Tribune.

PRaises DEER LAW
Now that the deer hunting season has closed, papers from one end of the state to the other are expressing views upon the buck law. Some are all kinds of suggestions are being spring forth, and will continue and to spring forth as long as man goes into the woods for meat and don't mind the loss of the season.—Chebeagon (Mich.) Democrat.

Gift Helps
From O'NEAL'S
LADIES' GENUINE LEATHER PURSES
GENUINE BILL FOLDS AND POCKETBOOKS FOR MEN

TRUNKS ALWAYS DESIRED
FOR real practicality and beauty our Trunks answer every gift demand successfully. Here are Trunks for every purpose. May we suggest an early visit while our present stock is so interesting?

GLOVES A COMPLETE LINE OF GLOVES FOR LADIES AND GENTS
HAND BAGS, SUIT CASES, TRAVELING BAGS, PORTFOLIOS, BRIEF CASES
All made of an exceptional quality of leather. A LARGE LINE IN AUTOMOBILE ROBES
E. A. O'NEAL
102 S. Woodward Avenue PHONE 133

"DON'T KILL YOUR WIFE—LET US DO YOUR DIRTY WORK"
Our Wagons are in Birmingham Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
Rough Dry 10c lb. All Flat Work Ironed
Pontiac Laundry Co.
We Use Only Pure Filtered Soft Water
30-32-34 Patterson Street
347-Phone Pontiac-1200

DIRECTORY
FIRE COMPENSATION BURGLARY AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE and BONDS
Oakland Realty Co. T. D. LYNCH - Manager LEVINSON BLDG. Phone 143-W
SEE J. J. WEIR FOR RELIABLE, SAFE AND QUICK MOVING
Modern Covered Wagon Long Distance Moving Our Specialty ALL KINDS OF LIGHT AND HEAVY TRUCKING
Careful, Competent Service on Plan of Moving
Res. -130 Brownell St. Office-119 Brownell St. Phone: 572-R-572-W

Wormer & Moore REAL ESTATE
-BIRMINGHAM -BLOOMFIELD HILLS -SOUTHFIELD -ROCHESTER
Main Office: 2231 PARK AVE., DETROIT Main 4886
Birmingham Office: 520 S. Woodward Ave. PHONE 930

Shock & Ogden General Practice
of Law
Suite 4, First Nat'l Bk. Bldg. Phone Birmingham 1055
Maurice E. Baldwin COUNTY SURVEYOR
103 1/2 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac, Mich. Municipal Engineering - Subdivisions Topographical and Drainage Surveys
Office: Room 10-12 Boster Block Res. Phone 2805—Office Phone 2313
Dr. Mabel Campbell OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN
312 First National Bank Bldg. PONTIAC
Phone Pontiac 3147. Hours: 9-12; 1-5 and by appointment

Fred L. Tucker, Dentist
FIRST NAT'L BANK BLDG.
PHONE 166
Office Hours: 9-12; 1-5
Evening hours by appointment

Dale D. Carter Painting Decorating Paperhanging
We Make Estimates Free of Charge
PHONE or WRITE R. F. D. No. 4 Birmingham
Call at 12 M. or 6:00 P. M.

Shampooing Marcelling
We are giving Soft Water Shampoos
POWDER PUFF BEAUTY SHOP
Cor. S. Woodward and W. MAPLE
... Phone 670 ...

GUST BAHIM'S BIRMINGHAM SHOE SHINE PARLOR
114 E. Maple Ave. For Ladies and Gentlemen
WE ALSO CLEAN HATS OF ALL KINDS
Our Work is Guaranteed

The Other Chap Says Something
THE VALUE OF A CLEAR CONSCIENCE
This incident of the return of "conscience money" reported in the Duluth News Tribune last Friday, illustrates in a rather striking way the fact that the average person is inherently honest and that a clear conscience has a real cash value. A considerable sum of money was found by a resident of a nearby town in a Duluth filling station. The finder was evidently a woman in very