

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1925

CIVILIZATION'S UNEVEN PROGRESS

Wherever one may look, these days, there exists physical manifestations of the material and scientific progress of mankind. Within the past few decades the world has been given such inventions as the telegraph and telephone, the steamship, airplane, radio, moving picture, and a host of other things that have entered into the lives of every civilized nation.

But what can be said for the moral and spiritual development of the race during this same period? Certainly no one can furnish proof that these sides of mankind have kept pace with the physical and scientific progress of civilization.

As a matter of fact, most of the adult population of the world today is like a child with a great array of playthings; the child, awakening on Christmas morn with a pop-gun, a toy chest, and a miscellaneous assortment of building blocks, often uses them to harm the persons and things about it—simply because it does not yet know how to apply them to play or to work in a useful manner.

Civilization, with its engines of destruction, with its tools for construction, has not yet learned how to apply its physical and scientific inventions to uplift society. And this is merely because people have not been given a rounding out in education; the world would teach many things about the world, but so little about the wonderful capacities that lie within us for moral and spiritual progress.

We are rushing through a material world, most of us bent on material pleasures; these things, the Bible says, are those that "moth consume and rust decays." If the human race is majorly concerned with such "vain things," can there be any question about the eventual termination of our civilization?

A TRIBUTE TO BIRMINGHAM

It must prove gratifying to residents of Birmingham to know that an adjacent subdivision, basing its reasons upon the proper functioning of local government, will seek annexation to this village. The statement last week by Joseph Hinshaw, that "we folks in the Birmingham Estates have been watching Birmingham's conduct of municipal affairs for the past few years, and we are satisfied to have our municipal destinies placed in their hands," is an excellent commentary on local public affairs.

COUNTY OFFICIALS SHOULD BE HIGH-CLASS

Cassius J. Crawford, of Pontiac, who preceded Arthur Spencer as Oakland County Drain Commissioner, last week admitted in court that "I signed the Lawson drain roll but I did not prepare it and I did not know of any irregularities it contained or I would not have signed it." Mr. Crawford was referring to the huge Royal Oak drain about which so many inequalities of assessment have been brought to light.

Mr. Crawford's excuse that a clerk in his office prepared the roll is a poor one, for the clerk declares that he made out the roll under the supervision and direction of Mr. Crawford. Certainly, Mr. Crawford ought to believe that he, alone, is the man the county looked to to carry on its drain business.

The whole situation, which is being contested by the people who are assessed several hundred thousands of dollars for this drain, prove that more care must be exercised by the voters in selecting men for positions of responsibility in governmental affairs. We do not question the integrity or honesty of Mr. Crawford, but we do believe that he was not qualified for the intricate technical duties of the office of County Drain Commissioner.

The rapid growth of Oakland County now demands in every public office the best kind of mentality to dispense fair and equitable public service to the people.

WHO IS RICH?

In a recent issue of the Nashville Banner a Tennessee clergyman tells a simple, little story of two rich men, which illustrates the fact that wealth is not measured by worldly possessions alone.

In front of a little store at Thompson's Station the richest man in Williamson county chatted with a group of friends, when they were approached by a neighbor farmer, bearing three small packages in his hands, who said in substance:

"Well, I have sold ten bushels of wheat and I am taking a few things home to Mollie and the children." Holding the packages up one by one, he continued: "Here is a calico dress for Mollie, some apples for Lizzie and a dime's worth of candy for little William. They will all be waiting for me down by the lot gate. Mollie is not expecting this dress and the children will be tickled to get the apples and candy."

As he drove away, the rich man in the group turned to his companions and said:

"Boys, I would give every dollar I possess if I could feel the happiness that man feels at this moment. When he gets home he will find more affection and rejoicing than I have experienced in ten years."

In thousands of humble homes throughout the land such scenes as that which marked the Tennessee farmer's return are being enacted daily. These are the homes of those who are truly rich.

Free speech: The wonderful privilege enjoyed by all good and honest men who agree with the majority.

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC HOME

I did not know that home could be so wonderful and fine. Until I'd been away a while and then returned to mine. I did not know these dear old walls could hold so much of joy.

Their very shabbiness, I thought, would tire me and annoy. I did not know my bird could sing so sweetly, nor could be. When she and I were here alone, such charming company; Nor that the window boxes, filled with plants so fresh and green.

Were quite the very prettiest that I had ever seen. There's music in the sound of happy children at their play. I hear it very often now, since I have been away; And though I've had a lovely time and dearly love to roam, The finest path in all the world is one that leads to Home.

—Beatrice McDonald.

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 Misses Safie Trowbridge and Tillie McMaster visited Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Clizbe of Lapeer over Sunday.

If you want a bunch of fun, ask Till Trowbridge if Kip Opdyke is kicking Dexter's heels with the whip that Till's money bought—because of the awful political change.

The handsomest, richest stock of carpeted chairs can be seen at the store of Whitehead and Mitchell that ever was brought to Birmingham. All the latest styles, suitable for presents of any kind, can be had.

Last Friday night was a profane one for parties. Miss Emma Smith was surprised by a crowd of young acquaintances; Miss Edla Park gave a musical social to a select few, and more couples to hear from.

About 35 couples met at the house of Kip Opdyke last Friday evening for a most enjoyable dancing party. Kip was in his glory, Mrs. O. felt happy and contented, the company in her usual happy and pleasing manner. The company was right royally treated and hours filled with chicken, etc.—too good to try and describe. Music was furnished by King and Dewey, and Ez say it was the best party he ever played for.

A very pleasant Baptist social was held at the house of Dr. Post in this village Saturday last and continued a week. A goodly number of persons were present. To add to the entertainment, Prof. W. H. King, a well known poet, "Spartacus" in a very agreeable manner. Prof. H. is evidently well versed in the art of elocution and avoids the faults to which Hamlet refers, for he did not "saw the air too much with his hands," and in the "torrent and tempest" of the poem he exhibited a "temperance" which gave it smoothness.

Agreement has been signed by the representatives of the two countries for the exchange of money orders between the United States and Belgium, to become operative Jan. 1, 1925.

25 YEARS AGO Miss Carrie Mitchell presided at the Library Saturday last and gave out between 30 and 40 books.

The real estate bank offers the Loves Homestead property on

directly penalizes parents for trying to give their children the benefit of high education, for giving them a chance to acquire general culture and to become doctors, lawyers, engineers, school teachers, nurses, and so forth.

Nov. 19, was the 100th birthday of the meeting of the first congress which assembled in Washington after the Capital of the republic was transferred to that city from Philadelphia.

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There are always two ways of looking at most everything. There are people who are blind and cannot see at all. There are still others who are quite completely blinded by the fact that they will not see.

The strange thing to us in this newspaper debate between Governor Groesbeck and Senator Harry Whitley, of Dowaigue relative to the state innkeeper, is to find that the state has a surplus.

If a farmer should mortgage his farm at the commencement of the season, and use that money to run his farm during the year and put what he got from the products of the farm in the bank, and it just equaled the amount he got on the mortgage, would you say he had a surplus? How much surplus could the Groesbeck administration show if the counties were paid what is due them, the interest on the debts he has contracted were paid and the indebtedness of the state that was due was paid? These are two kinds of surplus—a real surplus and a paper surplus. Who had the absolute control of the vast sum of money that is collected each year in Michigan?—Huron County Tribune.

A SENSIBLE CHANGE Many a parent in the United States will be pleased, and more so thankful upon learning that the ways and means commensurate of the house of representatives has included in the program for tax adjustment which it is approving, a provision that extends the 8400 annual exemption for dependents, so that hereafter it will apply to children in school, up to twenty-one years of age.

At present, the exemption for children ends at eighteen years of age. The assumption is that by that time a boy or girl is prepared to become self-supporting, which generally speaking is the case. The fact, where young people content themselves with a common school education. But there are hundreds of thousands that are not content to do any such thing, as the site of the attendance upon the colleges and universities of the country testifies.

Williams Allen White in Emporia (Kansas) Gazette.

Three street, in this village, for sale at exceptionally low terms. Better investigate.

Are we to stand on the street corner and shiver and shake all winter while we wait for the electric car? We wish it were our fair fate to be treated as the patrons of some lines are treated.—A Citizen.

The Chrysanthemum Club met at the home of Mrs. L. Hubert, last week. Tuesday evening, the gentlemen's ace prize won by W. A. Bartray; ladies' ace prize won by Mrs. E. J. Blair; ace prize won by M. B. Blair.

Sunday evening last "Uncle" George Taylor, while seated at his own fireside, was suddenly seized with lockjaw and for a short time was in a critical condition. His better half worked over him for some time and finally succeeded in bringing him through.

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BEST VALUES AND LOCATIONS

BIRMINGHAM :: :: BLOOMFIELD HILLS Building Sites :: Land Investments

Table with columns for BLOOMFIELD HILLS DISTRICT (Ready to Build) and BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT (Ready to Build). Lists various lots with sizes and prices.

OTHER SIZES AND LOCATIONS Before looking obtain our information map of Districts

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Christmas Slippers. As Gifts. THE KIND THAT TIRED FEET REST IN. Assorted Colors and Combination From Which to Choose.

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COMMERCIAL SIGNS. E. N. Gravin. 215 MERRILL ST. Phone 155.

Leon B. Miller. 138 W. MAPLE AVE. Phone 772. BATTERY REPAIRING. ACCESSORIES - OIL GAS - VULCANIZING.

Maurice E. Baldwin. COUNTY SURVEYOR. 103 1/2 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac, Mich. Municipal Engineering - Subdivisions Topographical and Drainage Surveys. Office: Room 10-12 Baper Block. Res. Phone 2805 - Office Phone 2313.

Emerson C. Brown. LANDSCAPE GARDENING and TREE SURGERY. Room 12 Levinson Bldg. Phones: Office 695-W. Res. 608-R BIRMINGHAM, MICH.

Dr. Mabel Campbell. OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN. 312 First National Bank Bldg. PONTIAC. Phone Pontiac 3147. Hours: 9-12; 1-5 - and by appointment.

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