

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1925.

"MAY GOD HELP CLARENCE BERE!"

Over in Ionia Reformatory—a place where persons with so-called criminal instinct are housed—there is confined a young chap who, a few months ago, was respected in Birmingham. His name is Clarence Bere, the specific charge against him was the embezzlement of \$3,600 from the bank that employed him as a teller.

Judge Glenn Gillespie, of the Pontiac Circuit Court, in sentencing young Bere to Ionia last week said: "Personally I haven't a doubt but what you have been fully punished by your arrest and the publicity you have received. Your crime must be regarded from the standpoint of society—the conclusions drawn by others from the disposition of this case. I am going to send you to Ionia for a short term. Your friends say if you are placed on probation you will make good. I feel that if you have the right sort of stuff in you, you will make good after you are released from prison. I hope you will come back and make good."

Of course, as far as the dispensation of his judiciary powers goes, Judge Gillespie had a perfect right to send Bere to prison. As he interprets the matter, society—meaning other boys and girls—must be admonished to do right through the example of sending a wrongdoer to prison.

We have always assumed that cases may differ—even cases of breaking the law. We have always assumed that the law was made to uplift the social structure, and that it carried out its letter better by raising the ideals of the criminals with whom it has to deal.

Clarence Bere committed a wrong; his father offered financial restitution. Bere's local friends tried to show the Court that only among friends could his ideals be restored, his actions made law-abiding. And these friends pledged themselves to lend a helping hand in the process.

We submit that, as far as Clarence Bere is concerned, confinement in Ionia was the least helpful and, after all, society's easiest, but not best, method of disposing of a case of criminology. We believe that Clarence Bere, a confessed thief among other thieves and law-breakers, has not been thrust into surroundings that will make him hang his head in shame—not in their presence. For what prisoner, within the walls of Ionia, is any better than Bere?

We do believe, however, that had Clarence Bere been given the chance to walk the streets of Birmingham, he would have undergone a stiffening of his moral backbone and a steadying of his manhood that no modern prison affords. He would have enlisted an active aid in his restoration to society's ranks of decency; he would have awakened in the minds and hearts of many in this community a real desire to extend a Christian service.

We submit that if Clarence Bere emerges from the confines of Ionia within the next six months and has a real desire to remain in Birmingham, and to "go straight," it will be in spite of his servitude in prison.

As James Anderson, local police chief, said recently: "God help the young man who gets into jail; if he is but a trifling or first offender, his chances for reformation are dimmed because of the degenerating influence of his fellow-prisoners."

The case of Clarence Bere is but one of countless thousands each year in Michigan. These cases are a direct challenge to the best social reformers in the country. May God help Clarence Bere!

THAT NEW COUNTY COURT HOUSE

A fair example of the amount of thought that actually goes into the solution of a governmental problem may be illustrated by the handling of the Oakland County Court House project, by the County Board of Supervisors last week. Fortunately, for the taxpayers, the project to purchase a small plot of ground, 140 by 240 feet fronting on Wayne street, was defeated by a narrow margin.

There used to be an ancient notion that a Court House was a distinct asset to a town's business district. This notion is not altogether without practical foundation, although modern, progressive community builders are willing to sacrifice their proximity to public institutions for the comfort and convenience of the general public.

As we see it, the only reason that a number of the supervisors tried to buy the Wayne street frontage for a new Court House was because they want to keep it where people may drop into various stores to make purchases.

The sum of \$84,000 is a lot of money to spend for the frontage on Wayne street. Sponsors for this purchase may say that the County can sell it at a future date and make money on the deal; they forget that the County should not be in the real estate business, for Oakland's taxpayers are able to finance their affairs through direct taxation—not through land speculation.

Oakland County's new Court House should be erected on a large plot of land, where people may find a parking place for their cars, and where the future building program of the County may be carried out. We believe that Supervisor Alfred Gale's idea is correct. We are sorry that our own supervisor, Robert Y. Moore, voted in approval of the purchase of the Wayne street frontage.

FOR WOMEN

Strange, perhaps, but business is conducted mostly for women in this era of many paradoxes. It wasn't so long ago that the majority of the stores traded with men, that advertisements were written to attract men and that the manufacturers were busy supplying the needs of men.

The new woman has three exclusive 'ladies' wear shops to one men's shop. Every man knows how the bobbed hair craze created "bobber" shops and beauty parlors for women only in sufficient numbers and capacity to completely overshadow the male tonsorial in-

situations. Automobile manufacturers are accentuating the appointments for women afforded by their models and where they formerly advertised that their motors were accessible to men drivers they now herald the fact that the operating levers and pedals are easily accessible to women. Department stores cater almost exclusively to feminine shoppers, and the cosmetic counters now consume the greater part of the floor space in the corner drug stores.

A few years ago womanhood had to be content with one or two small and poorly edited magazines, for the large majority of the weekly and monthly periodicals were published for men. A census taken at any newsstand today would show magazines for women predominating. The modern women's magazine is larger and carries more advertising than the more popular men's magazine and while there are many periodicals strictly for women there are few strictly men's publications. The office girls are even making encroachments on man's traditional morning newspaper, as the advertisements and departments bear witness.

This metamorphosis has not been the result of granting the vote to women. The ballot for women came with the rest of the revolution. The greatest factor in the transformation was the increase, during the war and since, in the number of financially independent women. More women working meant more money to spend and more for husbands have given wives more money to spend and more time to shop. Then also women are earning a wage today more commensurate with their needs and love of luxury.

EMULATING THE BEE

John Burroughs, the naturalist, describes the honey bee as having "the white man's craftiness, his industry, his architectural skill, his neatness and love of system, his foresight; and, above all, his eager, miserly habits. The honey-bee's great ambition is to be rich, to lay up great stores, to possess the sweet of every flower that blossoms. She is more than provident. Enough will not satisfy her; she must have all she can get by hook or crook."

When the white man came to America the Indians learned that he offered stiff competition in reclaiming the land, in the hunt and in tilling the corn. It meant that life became a little more work and a great deal less leisure for the dusky warriors and they naturally resented it. This old competition between the Palefaces and Redskins has been supplanted by an even more spirited competition among the white men. There are some men and women who are content with a bare existence and there are others who have the honey-bee's "great ambition to be rich, to lay up great stores." The energetic and thrifty man makes it harder for the indolent to eke out their bare existence and so the latter hate the ambitious ones as fiercely as did the Indian hate the white man.

A grin a day keeps old age away. Every year is leap year for the pedestrians. Love of money is also the root of all enterprise. Another eternal triangle is hootch, flivver, coroner. Culture doesn't guarantee success. Many a polished man has a dull finish.

Self-made man: One who exercised sound judgment in the selection of a wife.

In Utopia the folks can get excitedly patriotic without yearning to kill somebody.

"Backbone won't get you far however, if the knot on the upper end of it is solid bone.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS of Long Ago

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

25 YEARS AGO

Quite a number of our local hunters and a few from nearby towns left Monday last for Newberry, U. P., to hunt the festive deer. Among the party are Dr. J. W. Anderson, Bert Leonard, Bert Peabody, John Adams, George Purdy, Misson Leonard, Alf Adams, Whitehead, the senior, Tom Johnson, Dr. Parks, D. W. Johnson, John Sain, Daniel Lewis. The boys expect to be gone about two weeks and will no doubt come home loaded with game.

A much needed improvement has been made at the Baptist church. The platform, which formerly extended only a part of the way, now reaches entirely across the front of the building, the change having been made in the past week.

The regular meeting of the P. H. S. Alumni will be held at the home of Dr. Raynale this Friday evening. All members are requested to be present.

The Loves homestead property on Pierce street is being sold at a price very much below its value, because the owners are anxious to close out all their Michigan real estate.

The Van Every farm on the north shore of Wing Lake on the north end of good horses, three barns, fine lake frontage, 10 acres fine orchard, 15 acres timber. Excellent fishing, bathing, and bathing. Terms easy.

The real "yellow peril" will be present when the Chinese are awakened to the full knowledge of the resources they possess and have their attention directed to manufacturing. What the civilized world has most to fear is the arrival of China from her present lethargy to a condition to a realization of the possibilities within her reach. The Chinese are industrious and thrifty. They are willing to work and to work for small wages. They can easily be taught to do almost anything. They quickly become expert operators in cotton factories. They would not be difficult to teach them to become skillful workmen in all kinds of manufacturing.

The Corson Homestead consisting of lots 6, 7 and 8 of Willis' plat for sale for \$4,000. The owner's son wishes to sell and right away will take \$3,500. The terms can be arranged as the buyer desires. The property is well located and is well improved so that they will not be a cause of any worry.

43 YEARS AGO

The next day after election is only one fast day to get a demerol shaved, while the opposite party try to pay 25 on account of the extreme amount lengthwise of facial hair. Whitehead, the senior, took the result very hard, his first defeat almost separated his soul from his lengthened frame. The sad expression, the morbid earnestness, his trusty manner, kicking the poor damning everything in general only shows half how bad he felt to be on the losing side. Whitehead's expression "Just like a damned fool" and the senior comforts himself by soliloquizing "well after all I have defeated 24 years in succession all the same like Mitchell, perhaps I can stand it better." Mr. Whitehead has gone visiting for a month till Almerion can calm down his temper at defeat.

A pleasant social gathering occurred evening in honor of Mrs. C. Hewitt and his estimable wife, joined with music by Mrs. Hewitt, Mr. Sam'l Slade and others. Games were enjoyed and all voted the party a success.

Improved tubular lanterns just received at Whitehead and Mitchell's. Call and see them. No more swearing or waiting of matches while light your lantern.

Prof. W. C. Hewitt will give a lecture at the Baptist church for the benefit of the Ladies Aid Society. Subject: Modern Evolution.

"I can give a joke or take a joke as well as any man," said an irate republican as he rose from his sick bed the day after election, "but when I am sick on my back with election returns and Jim Beattie, an undertaker, comes under my window and sings, 'Jim waitin', my darling far there.' It is a little more than I can stand."

Married—In Southfield, Wednesday, Wm. J. Purdy to Miss Amanda Cooper. No cards.

The Detroit News is whistling "Yankee Doodle" over the vote which the free traders and congressional candidate received in Wayne county. Perhaps at the next election it will sing, "Hark, From the Toombs a Dalefus Sound."

BEST VALUES AND LOCATIONS

BIRMINGHAM :: BLOOMFIELD HILLS Building Sites :: Land Investments

BLOOMFIELD HILLS DISTRICT (Ready to Build)

Table listing building sites in Bloomfield Hills District with details like '320 Feet Brookside', '390 Feet Stone Pine Road', '250 Feet Quarton Road', etc., and prices ranging from \$5,000 to \$14,250.

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT (Ready to Build)

Table listing building sites in Birmingham District with details like '70 Feet Quarton Lake Estates', '100 Feet Goryell Park', '100 Feet Birmingham Forest Hills', etc., and prices ranging from \$2,500 to \$4,200.

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

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The Other Chap Says Something

GRAYSON'S NEW BOOK

David Grayson has a new book out "Adventures in Understanding." It is like the other Grayson books, lively, gentle and penetrating. But it is not written for the sophisticated. It is written for the great plain people who wear suspenders, darn socks, eat hash and fear God. Perhaps only a few of us are left; but those few will enjoy this book highly. It will be honey under our tongues.

Something has happened to the public critics who are supposed to read, and do more or less influence the reading public. Once it was assumed that in the heart of man there was an essential nobility, a certain unquenchable Divine spark, however low it may burn in each human breast that carried the fire of a great potential nobility.

Discontent and unfaith of disillusion have made us mad. So in a material things. With ideals unshaken and vision unsmashed, the people are now being instructed by the State. Of course the Divine spark is still burn in the human heart unquenchable, but it is making mighty little light these days. And Grayson's book is a rare and lovely flare in a dark world.

White in Emporia (Kansas) Gazette. H. E. HYVERN, Attorney for Mortgage, 608 Pontiac Commercial and Finance Bank Bldg., Pontiac, Mich.

COULD YOU COME CLEAR? Don't kill a child. Mr. E. J. Lenzell, county school commissioner, is making an effort to insure the safety of children who attend the rural schools. He properly realizes that his responsibility and that of the teachers goes somewhat beyond instructing the pupils. With the cooperation of the State police he is striving to show the kids how to get out from under the wheels of automobiles.

Buy a How... The following Police of the American Fire Insurance Co. of New York: Fire Policies No. 100,000, 100,000, 100,000, and 100,000. National Fire Insurance Co. of New York, No. 200,000, inclusive. Should these policies be in the hands of any person, they should be kindly mailed to R. S. Fleck, National Fire Insurance Co., 110 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.

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