

## BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1926

## WHAT IS WRONG AT LANSING?

With the return of Governor Alex J. Groesbeck from Mexico to his chair as Chief Executive of Michigan, the citizens of the great commonwealth may sit back easily in their chairs and turn again to affairs of state. From now until the voters have expressed themselves next fall, everybody will be afforded an opportunity to enjoy the news dispatches that emanate from Lansing.

It will be remembered that, during the Governor's absence during the past few weeks, certain of his supposed-to-be staunch supporters, including Frank McKay, state treasurer, and Charles DeLand, secretary of state, demanded an accounting from the State Budget Director regarding the condition of the state highway funds. According to reports given out at that time, it was found that most of the funds to be collected this year are pledged for 1925 highway work. To be true, Messrs. McKay and DeLand, together with many others, are interested in giving out unfriendly information about the Governor, because they apparently seek to defeat him or his political friends at the next gubernatorial election; however, can it be possible that such men as the state treasurer and the secretary of state are so ignorant of the affairs of state that they would deliberately misinform the people? We hardly think so.

Perhaps they have exaggerated certain conditions of state, hoping thus to discredit Mr. Groesbeck at the polls; that must be expected when public officials begin "to play politics." Taking this to be true, then are any of the Governor's statements exaggerated? Are they all true to fact—or are they tinged with "politics"?

In a public statement which he gave out last week the Governor said: "There is, therefore, no occasion for anyone, much less a public official, to become panic stricken or unduly alarmed over something that is not going to materialize. It has been my constant purpose to keep everything pertaining to highway construction free from political issues and intrigues and the debasing influences following therefrom. The whole problem has been treated as a business matter of paramount importance to the public."

The Governor's statement is soothing; if it were entirely true that Michigan is "sitting pretty" regarding its highway finances, then why doesn't Mr. Groesbeck, in his own defense, make Messrs. DeLand, McKay, and auditor-general Fuller retract the ugly insinuations which they are spreading about?

The people are responsive to truth—the question of the moment is, as we view it, to determine who can substantiate his claims in the matter. The people demand proof. Let sworn figures tell the story!

## APRIL AND SPRING

Signs of spring! The signs of spring are legion but never any mention of a sign of summer, fall or winter. Why does one watch for and believe in signs of the advent of only spring, unless it be because no other season is so welcome and no other sign so easy to believe? One believes in the signs one wishes to come true.

John Burroughs observed that spring extends from the middle of March to the middle of June, coming to a close only with the unfolding of the last leaf. But April is the very heart and soul of spring. It is as the month of spring that the poet sings of April:

And now comes April, mingling smile and tear,  
Each hour a shower, each hour a zenith clear.  
Her blended hope and sympathy so vast  
Smiles for the future, weeping for the past.

April was the month of wonders and immeasurable joy for those immortal naturalists Thoreau, Whitman, Burroughs, Hudson and Wordsworth. The signs of spring they observed during this month of thirty days were not mere fantasy or guess-work prophecy. They knew the secrets of nature and that spring is her busy season and April her housecleaning month.

## THE BEST CITY

There are some folks so constituted, that if you put them into the highest class city or town in America, they would look at its institutions and privileges in a depreciating sort of way. They would be constantly remarking that if they could have their way they would go elsewhere, but they merely stay on there because they are forced to by having a job or business there.

And there are some, who if placed in any old ordinary town, where there is nothing out of the usual, and no exceptional advantages, will yet love it and say it is the best town on earth. They will be such loyal friends and good neighbors, that they will attract the affection of all the people they meet. They will feel such deep attachment to a community where these ties exist, that it will seem the best place on earth. And so it will be, for them.

Lots of us are looking for a path of least persistence. One pretty good reason why a man marries is some woman.

Keep your health at home so you won't have to go away for it.

Some people save money. Others have a daughter in college.

Still, it isn't at all glorious to die defending your rights if the other driver is a road hog.

Affluence consists in ability to keep the old car instead of trading it in on the new one.

If you wish to ingratiate a man with a swell head, just ask his advice and let Nature take its course.

Doubtless there were times when Noah wondered if there were really only two chiggers on the Ark.

## 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.

## 43 YEARS AGO

Is winter really going to linger in the lap of spring, all summer? That's what we want to know most. Is she?

It was a sight for gods and men to see "Partridge and the rest of the boys" light out on a quest for Utica whitefish on Thursday last, and we just wish we had time and space to give full particulars, but we haven't. We can only express our regret to hear that Walt North fell into the fish box and Bill Durkee and Eugene Brooks pulled him out. The fact that there were no fish in the box at the time made it worse for Walt. It didn't hurt the box any, though—it was used to that kind of fact. The total catch consisted of one solitary denizen of the deep, and when we say that they brought home one more sucker than they took over whypreto, the tale is told.

J. R. Corson, Jr., has traded his house and lot over in Brooklyn to Wm. Manner for his house and shop and lot on Mill street next door to this office. Of course, "Billy" will have an "uptown" office and equally of course, J. R. Corson & Son will build a fine two story brick store where the diminutive shoemaker has sat so long "peering the happy hours away."

New blinds on A. Whitehead's house improves its looks very much.

We are becoming degenerate in Birmingham as far as changes of firms are concerned. If we do have our regular weekly change of firm we're mad. Last week Mr. F. Hagerman, after a long career of three or four days in the hardware trade with his brother-in-law, H. H. Chaple, sold out to that gentleman and retired from the business. The firm name will be H. H. Chaple for the present. Next!

Miss Tina Swan was visiting in Pontiac last week.

## 25 YEARS AGO

Rev. H. S. Justina returned yesterday from Marine City. His family prolonging their visit another week.

Mrs. Betsy Shaw is back in town again and is living in the new house just east of the Presbyterian church.

## The Other Chap Says Something

## ENRICHING THE "THREE R'S"

Times was when the education of youth centered around the "three R's." Not only did teaching revolve around this trio but it confined itself solely to it. That day is past. We have discovered there are some things—things vitally necessary to education—the development of character and physical education, a stimulation of the intellect, the promotion of clear thinking and clear living.

Today reading, writing and arithmetic are basic as ever. But a more rounded training that develops reasoning and fosters individuality. We know outgrown primitive educational methods.

Likewise our attitude toward living has changed. We build our homes, we have reduced our working hours and increased our social activities. We wish playthings rather than toys for our boys and parks are being planned for picnic grounds for our citizens. We want better buildings for community centers for play and social recreation and as headquarters for adult education and training.

We have come from an striving to an evolving life. We are existing to make education a means to wisdom. Today the school house is the measure of progress. Often it is the architectural pride of the community. It is equipped beyond the dreams of a generation ago. Class rooms and subject matter no longer repel pupils. Compulsory attendance laws do not vacuum for the yearling pyramid of school attendance. The teacher is a personality, combined with fresh air, sunshine and good cheer are impelling forces. Physical development is encouraged, the practical in education is stressed and the cultural side of the curriculum. Foundations are laid for a better and more abundant living and a finer spirit of human relations.

Our schools are the mirrors of our national progress. It is one of the blessings of our democracy that we keep these schools pliant, responsive to the country's growth. We are of those who feel that the "three R's" have not suffered by the change but that a great stride "three C's"—character, culture and citizenship.

The enriching of the "three R's" is a story not only of educational progress but likewise community betterment. Fat O'Brien in Iron River (Mich.) Reporter.

## ANENT GROESBECK

The state organization of "rebels" and others, against Governor Groesbeck appears to be in a state of confusion and size like a rolling snow ball under a thaw. The list of big 42 centimetre guns who are determined to keep Groesbeck from passing a 4th term now consists of these well known state republicans:

Sec. of State, Chas. DeLand, Sup. of Public Instruction, Thos. E. Johnson, state Treasurer, Frank McKay, Gen. O. B. Fuller, Ex-State Treasurer, Ex-Sec. of State, C. C. Vaughn, Mayor John Smith of Detroit, Geo. Green of Ionia, Ex-state Chairman Bart Galy of Fort Huron, Ex-A. E. Sleeper, Ex-Sec. of State, Chas. E. Foster of Ex-state committee man, John Hager of Detroit, Ex-Labor Com. Dan Fletcher of Detroit, W. C. Potter of the Utilities Com. and the ball is still rolling. They are determined to keep Groesbeck out and only to scare Alex off the track but actually push him off.

The four named above are members of the Administrative Board and constitute a majority of it.

Supplementary to a above are such powerful newspapers as the

Miss Baldwin has some seeds of red bud, persimmon, and paw paw trees. If you wish to try your skill at growing them, ask her for some.

Fred Taylor left Monday last for Greenville, Mich., where he has good position working at his trade as a janitorial artist.

Mrs. Adam Reis and three children, who have been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew McBride, the first of the week.

Ernest Abelt of Willow ave., is making extensive improvements on his grapes. The fence has been moved, trees set out, and the looks of the place greatly enhanced. Real-estate on that avenue are patiently looking for new sidewalks.

Married, at the M. E. parsonage, April 13, 1901, Mr. James Gee of Birmingham and Miss Blanche Gordon of Minneapolis, Minn. Rev. M. H. Bartram officiating. The Eccentric wishes Mr. and Mrs. Gee much joy, a happy life, and great prosperity.

Ever since Bro. Frank Young drove the school kids from the street playing ball to the little vacant space between the bank and the laundry, Whitehead while working at his desk wears a baseball mask to keep the ball out of his face and the flying glass out of his eyes, and the cotton in his ears to deaden the yells as Harriet Rindel makes his usual home run.

On Saturday evening, April 13, a number of relatives and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bassett of Frankfort, Ky., gathered at the home of the latter, to celebrate their twentieth wedding anniversary. They were preceded with a handsome mirror, after which refreshments were served and which a pleasant evening was enjoyed by all.

C. A. Bingham of Franklin who, in the sheep raising business, shipped nine ewe lambs of the celebrated Bluebelly breed to J. R. Hunter of Bedford, South Dakota, Monday last. This is only one instance of Michigan stock being shipped west. Anybody thinking it does not pay to raise stock is receiving mistaken. Mr. Bingham received \$135 for the nine lambs.

Grand Rapids Herald, Detroit Free Press, Detroit Saturday Night, Detroit Times and lesser rights of Detroit Estate—Huron County Mich. & Indiana.

## YOU'LL DROP DEAD

I could not find a more heart-breaking week you could drop dead. Well—right, if you're determined to take the class, go on. Rev. George C. Bellminger, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Flushing, Mich., last week received an increase in salary of \$400. And who you may ask? Here is the reason. Because in the last year a large part of the revenue of his church was being derived from dinners and entertainments given by the women of his congregation. Mr. Bellminger claimed that until a church was in a condition where the budget could be met entirely from regular contributions, it was in no condition to increase its pastor's salary.

If the women of the Presbyterian church don't raise a monument to Rev. George C. Bellminger, they deserve all the mean things Paul said of them. William Allen White in Emporia (Kan.) Gazette.

## BUICK BREAKS RECORDS DURING PAST 8 MONTHS

In the eight months since the current series was introduced, the Buick Motor Company has broken by 1400 cars its highest previous shipment record for an entire fiscal year. During this period Buick has also smashed practically every production and shipment record made since its founding 23 years ago.

The monthly average for the past eight months is better than the highest previous single month in Buick history.

The climax of this most active period was reached in March when 23,300 cars were shipped.

The previous high mark prior to 1926 was made in October, 1925, when 22,500 cars were loaded and sent out. This record, however, was broken in each of the first three months of this year.

In January the shipments set a new record of 22,200 cars, which is 115 better than the mark of last October. In February the record of the previous month was beaten by 22 cars. The March record smashed that of February by 2011 cars.

In addition, the average shipment for the eight month period was 22,267 cars. This average also breaks the previous record.

Production to date of the current series is 182,023 cars. All of which have been shipped from the factory.

The Buick plant has been at capacity continuously since August, 1925, when the 1926 models were first introduced.

E. T. Strong, General Sales Manager, gave some hint of what Buick was accomplishing in an interview two weeks ago. He stated that the first time he could remember Buick dealers had been able to stock only a few cars in anticipation of the Spring demand. Shipments have been going into the hands of customers as soon as they arrived from the factory, he said. The statement was based on personal observations made during his annual trip around the country in which he visited practically every state.

Indications of what Buick expected in 1926 were furnished by Harry H. Bassett, President and General Manager. Bassett stated in an interview last fall that \$2,000,000 would be spent for plant expansion in order to increase production to 1,200 cars a day in anticipation of a banner year. One of the most important developments in this expansion program is the United Line, which, it is said, is the most nearly automatic assembly system yet devised. According to the plans of the United Line will be released to the public within the next thirty days.

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OAKLAND AND PONTIAC SIX IN GREAT DEMAND

Pontiac, Michigan, April 15: The gigantic strides made by the Oakland Motor Car Company were strikingly revealed this week when total production figures for March showed that more cars were built during this month than during the entire first four months of last year.

A record-breaking total of 12,005 Oakland and Pontiac Six cars was manufactured and shipped last month. Another factory record was smashed on March 11 when 750 cars were the rate of 300 a day.

These achievements were made possible, in great measure, by the phenomenal sales of the new Pontiac Six which was introduced the first of the year as a companion car to the Oakland Six. More than 10,000 Pontiac Sixes were produced and sold during the first three months of the year. A record number of new motor cars in the annals of the automotive industry.

By mid-summer the number of Pontiac Sixes produced will exceed the best record ever made by any car during its entire first year. Pontiac Sixes are now being built at the rate of 300 a day.

Officials of the Oakland Motor Car company point out that public acceptance of the new Pontiac Six is rapid and complete as to eliminate the usual "probationary" period. This is due in great part, they believe, to the slow and careful development of the new car, which was based in production only after three years of intensive experiments and tests.

The sales of the Pontiac Six in the United States have been so large that the company has yet to be able to make any foreign shipments.

While the Pontiac Six was establishing new production and sales records for a new car during the first quarter of this year, the Oakland Six was likewise establishing new production and sales records, showing an increase of approximately 70 per cent over the corresponding months of 1925. All of the cars produced so far this year were required for immediate retail delivery.

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