

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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GEORGE ROGERS AVERILL, Editor and Publisher
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1926

TIME TO TAKE STOCK

Once a year business establishments take stock, weigh resources against liabilities, turn back the old pages and put pen to new. Each year the well-regulated business strikes balance and starts again, not over again from the old beginning, but fresh from the old year's finish.

Once a year the individual—serious-minded man or woman or ambitious girl or boy—takes stock, stock of happiness and the health and the wealth upon which it is founded. Each measures with the yard-stick of conscience the component elements of these two great pillars of life: health of body and mind and spirit, and wealth of experience, mental resources, friendships, the will to do, and self-esteem.

Inventory is important to the corporation and to the individual because it points out basic truths. First, perhaps, is that life is growth. Another that the matter of our growth is in our own hands. And still another that we may guide ourselves to a more productive and happier future by knowing and correcting the mistakes of the past.

To "know thyself" continues to be the first rule of happiness and success, which are one and the same. Honest self-examination is profitable, but painful, as most unaccustomed exertion is. Probing a lazy mind, a sore conscience or a hollow tooth is unpleasant. But it is absolutely necessary to prevent further decay, and eventual dissolution.

Experience exposes the weak links in the chain of life as in the chain of business. Inventory is the reading of experience. It must be done honestly, courageously, without self-deception. Else one day the chain will snap.

Let us take stock, not fees to know our weaknesses. Knowing, we may correct them. To be a stronger and surer, happier for ourselves because more useful to others.

A PARENTS' LAMENT AT CHRISTMAS

We had stayed up until after midnight—that night of December 24, just gone its way. The fireplace and living room floor was certainly sufficient proof of Santa's visitation.

Billy, John, and Susan had played hard all day, and it wasn't much trouble to tumble them into bed; they were tired and sleepy—although well they knew what was going to happen that night during their sleep.

And it was with great expectation that our wife set the alarm clock for seven o'clock (the next morning, remarking to us: "Won't it be fun to get the children up and watch their little faces when they enter the living room?")

However, Youth, it seems, needs no alarm clock—at least not on Christmas morning. For shortly after six o'clock last Friday morning, the shrill and jubilant voice of Billy resounded to the attic rafters in an "Oh, John! John!—hurry up an' come down an' see what Santa Claus brought us!"

With bounds that must have rivalled the feistiness of Santa's reindeers, John scampered down the stairs—and then the parents of John and Billy did not see the first expressions of youthful countenances that day.

And Susan? Well, she is only a year and a half old, so she had to wait until we picked her up from her pram-like bed (though she was awake when we reached her).

Moral: Youth is its own alarm clock—especially on Christmas morning. (Come to think of it, it was the same when we were children—and times seldom change for children.)

A PLANNING COMMISSION NEEDED

There can be no doubt as to the present and future growth of Birmingham and vicinity. Wherever one may go near here, the sound of the carpenter's hammer may be heard, and gradually the local sky line is lined with new homes. New business blocks are going up; building activity continues despite wintry weather.

All of which means that this community in 1925 experienced the greatest growth in its history—and 1926 bids fair to double that of the present one.

Have mistakes been made in the platting of recent subdivisions? Have improvements been neglected, or have any improvements installed been too inadequate for the future? In other words, has proper PLANNING been made?

Of course, time will tell—just as the present needs of our community point out errors of the past. But wouldn't it be better if the village commission could enlist the services of a number of local citizens to aid them in PLANNING for the future, and thus assure Birmingham of a continued and connected program of progress?

NO CAUSE FOR WORRY

There is always more or less worry connected with money. Those of us who do not have it worry about getting it, and those of us who have it are often put to a great deal of worry in hanging onto it. In addition to this no little worry is brought on by the desire to make a jiteiny grow where only a penny grew before. It seems as though poets and philosophers have conspired to bring money into disrepute, so anxious are they to tell us that the mere possession of it is a great burden.

In more recent times there has come to us the warning that money carries germs. Germ experts even went so far as to demonstrate that a bank clerk's occupation was particularly hazardous because he handles so much money. But now this dread has been dispelled. After exhaustive investigation on the subject of money as germ carriers two Illinois University experts assure us that this danger has been greatly exaggerated. It seems that the

metals from which coins are made act as destroyers of bacteria.

This relieves us of the worry connected with the handling of money. The next thing for some expert to do is to tell us how we may be relieved of our worries in trying to get hold of it.

An exchange tells of a man who is such a hypocrite that he eats cloves to make his friends think he has had a drink.

Mussolini is known as the "Duce." That may be suggestive also of the end to which his course is destined to lead.

Artistic temperament: A small portion of genius with the swellhead.

The hand that rocked the cradle didn't know how to shuffle a whist deck.

Expediency: The polite name for a bit of crookedness that seems essential to a profit.

And yet we doubt if red theories have done more to retard civilization than red tape.

Some people may get into the habit and expect Judgment Day to result in a lot of mistrials.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS - of Long Ago

Just Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Made Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today

43 YEARS AGO TODAY

Alfred de Rothschild had an electric lamp in his carriage so that he may read as he drives at night.

A Brooklyn man lately advertised in the same paper for a female copyist at the salary of \$7 a week and a servant girl at \$12 dollars a month. To the last he had just one application and to the other 554.

Don't forget the L. L. A. annual masquerade. Mattie Baldwin, manager, determined that this one will exceed all former efforts.

Last Sunday a party of young ladies who had booked a table at the "chickens" hired Jimmie Bayley of Peally's residence about 1 1/2 miles from town. These young ladies were erstwhile denominated "old

Germany will send 200,000 men to the war. Upon Russia the chief blame lies. Since the European archives were opened in 1870 scholars of the world have been getting at the truth. For a decade this truth will fill the minds of scholars, and then slowly it will flood the consciousness of the whole world.

Germany won the Belgian treaty. England wanted fully until Europe was ablaze, then came in with more fuel for the flames. America joined England because the Germans were covetous, bedevilled us until our British blood been keen for England's perpetuity.

What is a sore and sore, that lies and lies and hate and more lies on both sides of the western front kept hell open for four years.

Who won the war? Surely not the Allies for they have suffered more than Germany. Russia is in the throes of communism and the blood of her upper classes has been poured out like wine to quench the thirst of the gods.

Italy is ruled by a tyrant and the ancient liberties of the people are trampled under a boot and a possible collapse. Belgium alone, the land that bore no guilt is prosperous. America is prosperous, but is paying the price of many liberties for her prosperity.

What is a soul? Five million killed and maimed. Hundreds of billions of debt piled up—balls and chains of progress for the century and the precious faith of man in man and God shattered for a generation.

What gain has come? For what were these lives sacrificed, this fine faith of other days broken, and this servitude to a hopeless burden of debt loaded upon us?

But for one thing let us give thanks. The nightingale has passed. We are awake. We are in the noble civilization of the world. Let us pray God that the truth shall set us free.

Let us make use of our freedom and agony, it will be worth the cost. For freedom may come let us today give thanks for the love that for freedom still burning in our hearts let us be daily grateful.

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To You and Yours
A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS 1926
Our New Year Wish
Walsh James & Wasey Co.
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Pontiac and Solvay Coke
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Telephone 175-R

WHAT BIRMINGHAM NEEDS MOST

By L. O. Stanley, of Madison avenue
One of the greatest things required in Birmingham today is a swimming pool. Not only the young people in school but the older ones as well need the form recreation found in a swimming pool.

Many people in the village know that the boys scouts must pass a swimming test before becoming first class scouts. At the present time our boys are forced to go to Detroit, not for the examination alone, but for its training in swimming. Each scout really,

Village Commission Proceedings

Regular meeting of the Village Commission held on Monday evening, December 28, 1925, at 8 o'clock, in the Village Hall.

Minutes of meeting of December 21, 1925, approved as amended by President Stein, that the following p. interest be paid:

Table with columns: Item, Principal, Interest, Total. Includes items like Bonds and Extension.

Total check to Peoples State Bank—Interest \$ 279.15
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