

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1927

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which are new and which are written by persons connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be presented before noon of Wednesday. No articles are returned, however, to make such superficial changes in the work as submitted are necessary to the printer. Because of a mechanical situation in the composing room, the printer will not be able to print any copy of the paper which is received after 12:30 p. m. on Wednesday.

An Opportunity For Mr. James Campbell

If James Campbell, local realtor, and a sort of self-appointed oracle on the subject, "Why Birmingham should remain a village," is really serious and sincere in his premises, he should become an active participant in the newly created city-village committee organized here last week. We agree with Louis Haszard who, you will remember, said at the first meeting of the committee when Mr. Campbell (who had been invited to be present) failed to put in his appearance, "I believe that this committee is entitled to Mr. Campbell's information on Township taxation matters; I believe that, should Mr. Campbell further refuse to join this group, he should be requested to keep peace and refrain from taking any part in the election that will come in the spring."

Commissioner Laurence Hulbert, a staunch friend of Mr. Campbell's, said at the meeting of the village-city committee last week, "what we need to do is to get all the actual facts regarding the respective merits of city and village forms of government. The report of the recent city-village committee last winter was but a report—it did not set forth clearly the true picture of taxation conditions; it did not show actually what the effects of changing to a city would do to Birmingham."

Mr. Campbell, you will recall, was chairman of the sub-committee on taxation last winter. This portion of the report finally submitted contained no actual statistics relative to the change from village to city; it merely set forth an opinion that, under the change, Birmingham would feel an increase in taxes. This is why Commissioner Hulbert referred to it as "But a report."

It is impractical—and even unnecessary—for every voter in Birmingham to make an exhaustive study of the respective merits of changing from village to city form of government, in view of the fact that a committee, composed of very responsible citizens, has volunteered its assistance. And to help this committee Mr. Campbell was invited—and he evidenced poor commonsense, by refusing to attend the first meeting last week.

The Eccentric joins every member of the newly formed city-village committee in seeking Mr. Campbell's constructive help between now and the spring election. However, should he further refuse to join the group, we believe that his utterances on the subject should be taken as the opinion of a single human being, working outside the pale of a responsible group representing the entire village of Birmingham.

The Eccentric believes that the city form of government will result in less taxation for the citizens of Birmingham than under the present village form; it believes that, as Bloomfield Township grows, this saving will materially increase. We await, with interest, the findings of the new city-village committee's investigations into the subject.

And let us all hope that Mr. Campbell will convene with the city-village committee when it meets next evening, around the table he will find plenty of opportunity to offer his information, whatever it may be. The opportunity to help for Mr. Campbell to help the Community whose character determines the value of the real estate that provides a portion of his livelihood. His decision will characterize him as one who is willing to co-operate with his fellow-citizens, or as one who lacks civic sincerity in solving an important problem in Birmingham.

Skating For Our Children

Birmingham is sadly in need of some place where its children may enjoy the healthful sport of ice skating during the winter months.

At the present time children of the village are forced to skate in fields where a few feet surface of water has frozen, or that is worse, risk their lives on lakes in the vicinity where skating is not safe at various parts of the winter season.

We are talking a great deal now about making the streets of Birmingham safe for school children, and do we give enough thought to the safety and adequacy of their recreational facilities? Do we provide the opportunity of enjoying the winter sports in safety?

To provide a safe skating rink in the village would require expense and considerable work. But for the amount of good that could be derived from it, the effort seems little as compared to the results that are possible.

In our zeal to correct the errors which we inherit from past generations, we too often commit errors for the next generation to solve. The philosopher would correct this by telling this generation to mind its own business. Such was the case with the man who invented the first can; he couldn't market his invention until another human being invented the can opener.

Textile men are trying to invent a wrinkle-proof fabric, while beauticians are working to perfect a wrinkle-proof face.

Bankers are sponsoring a course in public speaking, but a banker's most frequent and impressive speech is limited to the word "No."

From Young Pat O'Brien

In an editorial two weeks ago The Eccentric, in paying tribute to Patrick H. O'Brien, of Iron River, and his newspaper, The Reporter, we referred to him as "Good, old Pat." As we recall his antiquity, Mr. O'Brien is well side of a hundred, yet able to get about about the age of a school boy. Here's the way he retailed in his Reporter last week, in his front-page column "Through The Old Man's Spectacles."

Now, Friend Averill, we seriously object to being dubbed "Good, old Pat O'Brien." We are not old and we object to being designated as such by our friends. We may refer to ourselves as the "Old Man Hero!" but it is not for others to do so and get away with it. When we inform you that this objection is written at 12:30 in the morning you must consider that no good "Old" man is doing it. You may inquire "why we are up so late?" Well, we just got home from a Pythian social time and this company had to be ready for the linotype operator in the morning. In fact we had only seen your splendid Dec. 1 Eccentric a few hours ago and was so blamed hot under the collar that we had to get the heat out of our system before retiring. Don't do so anymore, George.

Thus are we publicly denigrated. However, for the coming year we may refer to ourselves as the "Old Man Hero!" but it is not for others to do so and get away with it. When we inform you that this objection is written at 12:30 in the morning you must consider that no good "Old" man is doing it. You may inquire "why we are up so late?" Well, we just got home from a Pythian social time and this company had to be ready for the linotype operator in the morning. In fact we had only seen your splendid Dec. 1 Eccentric a few hours ago and was so blamed hot under the collar that we had to get the heat out of our system before retiring. Don't do so anymore, George.

Having thus relieved ourselves of our feelings in the matter, we will close by wishing our old young friend, Pat, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and may his Irish countenance soon darken our doorway as he journeys about Michigan.

Hoover As President

In this game of life and living upon the planet earth, it has been found necessary—in heavily congested spaces where a degree of intelligence filters through human consciousness—to institute rules and regulations for the protection of life and property, to the end that human effort may bring to those who labor the fruit of their endeavors. These rules and regulations are enacted into laws; in the United States, they constitute the federal Constitution, under the provisions of which America has become a nation of the more experience and wisdom, permeated with understanding, that our public officials have, the better will be our government, and the happier will be those who are governed.

Next year the citizens of the United States elect their president. He will be either a Democrat or a Republican. We, in Michigan, hope he will be a Republican; also that this Republican will be Herbert Hoover, statesman, achiever of great things, reliable to the trust of humanity—and very little the ordinary politician.

By his personal life and his public record, who is brave in America today who can loom larger on the horizon than clearly the great number of men who are finer than Herbert Hoover? There probably is none. We have read recent statements to the effect that, if the American people voted a successor to Calvin Coolidge today, Herbert Hoover would be their first choice; if that be the will of the people, we trust that the political alchemy at Kansas City this is the logical thing to do. As a candidate for the Republican candidate for the Presidency of these United States—according to public opinion—means Herbert Hoover.

We shall try to remain optimistic but—as they say in political circles—you never can tell what will happen at a political convention.

Detroit Judges are united in a desire to make driving while drunk a felony. That's fine—in fact, much finer than any mere fine that might be imposed on one who mistakes his mouth for a radiator funnel while pouring alcohol these cold days.

New York, say newspaper dispatches, will make New Year's Eve celebrations very wet. Just why this is an unsolved riddle for you, you will remember, the great daily journals have coined the slogan "news is something new that never has been printed before." New York's wet manner of celebrating is no longer news—it's a tradition, handed down from generation to generation.

Birmingham business and professional men are planning a welcome reception for Harry Brooks, local aviator, when he arrives home this week after carrying Mrs. Evangeline Lindbergh to Mexico City. That is fine. Harry, who promises to make a national reputation for himself in flying circles, is deserving of all the honor that his home-folks may heap upon him.

Of the thousands of acres of land in Bloomfield Township, most of which were being worked as farms a few years ago, only a few hundred of them are still retained for that primitive and useful purpose. The rest have been turned into subdivisions. This means that vast improvement projects are being, and will continue to be, made in Bloomfield Township outside of Birmingham. As long as Birmingham remains a village, it must expect to pay for some of these improvements, without direct benefit to it. That's but one argument for changing to a city.

Christmas has now come and gone for this year. Only 360 1/2 days remain for shopping before next Christmas.

"Barbers declare one man in three has halitosis." Advertisement. Some of us suspect that the barbers are not entirely immune, either.

The Old Song In A New Setting



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request.

METROPOLITAN AREA

The meeting of the Board of Commerce in Detroit looking to the formation of a Metropolitan area is certainly a step in the right direction and we hope to see that this will be brought about in an early date. The sooner this project is consummated the better and less costly it will be for all small communities that are trying to work out their problems of sewer, water, and street extensions. These communities know that at some future date their problems cannot be worked out satisfactorily. For instance, their water supply must come from some other source than wells, and it is certain that each small community cannot bring this supply individually but must accomplish it collectively.

The same holds true on the sewer problem. For instance, our sewer disposal system in Birmingham is giving our commissioners great concern at present. The writer remembers well when New York extended its limits to a Metropolitan Area, how each small village was struggling with the above problems and spending millions of dollars trying to do something along the sewer and water proposition and found out that this is the logical thing to do. As a result of this method, Los Angeles extended its area for the same purpose, and the same thing is being done in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties are so thickly populated, and have so many small cities and villages within their limits, that it should be clear to every one that this is the logical thing to do. As it stands now each village or city within this small area has its own plans and each one of these is working and planning for its individual town, and in many instances to its own detriment, simply because their plans would not dovetail with those of their neighbors. This is mostly true in the way of street construction. Were we to have a Metropolitan area we would carry more prestige to the outside world.

It would be far easier to bring large projects into force by having a million people back of them instead of one million. We believe that this plan will have no opposition and we hope to see the Metropolitan area question take a different form at the next meeting of the representatives.

BIG BILL GETS HIS ANSWER

Prof. Van Dyke, of the University of Michigan, explains the Chicago "circus," with Mayor Thompson's war on King George and his attack on American historians for telling the truth, as merely an attempt of politicians to conceal and mislead the vote of all non-British racial groups. To satisfy them you must be definitely anti-British—Detroit Saturday Night.

About 16,000 whites dominate more than 13,000,000 natives in French West Africa.

The favorite cat of a Japanese prince was recently borne to its grave by 24 warriors and buried in a costly casket.

The Other Chap Says Something

SEN. J. COUZENS

Henry Ford seems to have particularly warm spot in his heart for Senator James Couzens—a man with whom he was once reported to have had a serious quarrel. A who so liberally patronize their entertainments—Detroit Saturday night.

Neither of Michigan's senators are notably muddled. Neither are political hack horses. They play the game in the spirit of independence rather than dependence, and the worshippers of the "regular" fetish have formed an anti-complacent attitude toward them. We understand that they have not been more ably represented by that August body within their recollection.—Harry Royal in Oceana (Mich.) Herald.

AMENDING THE MICHIGAN STATUTE

Mr. Yost's reply to criticisms of the exits of his new stadium at Ann Arbor was made before the Adraft Club of Detroit the other day in these words: "We can empty the stadium in 15 minutes if all will walk out in orderly manner. Mr. Yost apparently misses the main point of the criticism, that a crowd of 85,000 cannot move in an orderly manner unless it has adequate space to move in. People who have been caught in any of the jams at the new stadium know that only too well. But Mr. Yost wants them to believe that the space is adequate, for he says:

I am responsible for the location of every seat, every aisle, and every gate. Before the stadium was built, I conducted tests to determine the size of the seats and aisles in order to quickly vacate the stadium. I also gathered information from sources where large crowds were being handled. The aisles are little wider, if any, than the aisles of the average theater, which has less than half the number of rows of seats to empty. The circus seats around the top of the stadium provide an effective obstruction to the distribution of the crowd on its way out. The gates at the front of the new stadium are so narrow that

the congestion there after the last football game was quite as bad as anything ever seen at the old stadium.

It ought to be possible to correct these conditions before another football season opens. If Mr. Yost does not care to correct them, perhaps the president and regents of the University of Michigan can be interested in the safety and comfort of the public who so liberally patronize their entertainments—Detroit Saturday night.

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