

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

Mars Is Not A God—It Is But Mammon's Agent!

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich. in The Eccentric Building, 126-128 North Woodward Avenue.

Subscription Rates: (In Oakland County) One Year \$1.50, Six Months \$1.00, Three Months .75.

The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association; Michigan Press Association; Oakland County Weekly Press Association; and University Press Club.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1928

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff.

You Should Be There!

Complete reports from the sub-committees of the group named to study the proposed new city government for Birmingham, published on page one of part three, this edition of The Eccentric, are worthy of the most careful consideration by residents and taxpayers of Birmingham.

This proposed change, to be voted upon at the election in March, is a serious problem and one which vitally will have an effect upon everyone, directly or indirectly, in Birmingham.

There is to be a meeting of the group and with citizens for a general discussion tomorrow night in the village offices. If there is a question in your mind about the advisability of the change, about the method used in arriving at the conclusions the committee have reached, if anything in the report is not clear, it is your duty to ask questions at this meeting.

From the data this committee has gathered it appears best to remain, for a while, at least, the village office of government. At the meeting tomorrow night, there will be another side to the question.

Some residents feel they have information that the committee did not have opportunity to touch upon and they will present this to the committee. Whether that will be important enough to offset the data gathered by the group remains to be seen.

Any rate, it is their duty to present this information, for when the committee make their final decision, it will do so after having all the facts which seem to be available, at hand.

The Eccentric praised the naming of this group to make the study. It realized the many intricate problems that entered into the decision and felt it was the work of a committee which represented the city and spend a great deal of time on the matter and report their findings.

When The Eccentric favored changing Birmingham to a city it was because all the evidence gathered at that time pointed to the advisability of a city government.

If it changes its attitude, it will be because more information, revealed after the intricate scale of the state has been interpreted differently, throws a new light on the matter.

The issue will be settled, temporarily at least, after the meeting tomorrow evening, and if the citizenry of Birmingham respond to the invitation to attend this meeting, it should be settled to their satisfaction.

"The Gates Of Hell . . ."

Joe Sturgeon, enthusiastic publisher of the Gladstone (Mich.) Delta Reporter, seems to be on the verge of changing from a proponent of capital punishment to one not so favorable to this medieval tort.

Of course, he is not coming out flat-footed in his change, but his recent comments are certainly a willingness to listen to more humane arguments for the handling of or correction of major crime.

Whenever Joe gets a vision of the fallacy of killing human beings, whether it be by an individual, a commonwealth, or a nation, he will realize the foolishness of it all. "Thou shalt not kill" applies to all mankind; whether it be the insane mind of an individual, or the heated passions of a mob.

In his editorial column last week Joe mentions that he met a prominent clubwoman while in Lansing recently who informed him that the advisory committee of the Federated Women's Clubs of Michigan is swinging over to capital punishment.

War, so we are told by those who are the guiding genius in the progress of the world, is the very natural outcome of a condition of business rivalry between one or more nations; they inform us that such business rivalry is able to continue for an indefinite period of time, until it appears that one of the rivals is about to leap far ahead of another; at such a climax, the law of self-preservation steps in and the losing rival, in order to save itself, starts out with a big stick and seeks to slaughter the business competitor.

In the conduct of ordinary business, this picture is probably more or less accurate. An observer of business life on any other nation, must admit that the law of self-preservation generally rules the conduct of both big and little business.

Taken in the aggregate, a mere handful of people are able to bring about conditions that lead a nation into the real hell of the latter. By the same token, this same group can keep their country out of war, if they so wish. The history of mankind, though it may be littered with the chapters of many wars and their accompanying devastations does show a marked desire on the part of society to live in peace.

We, too, have a good deal of thought to this problem of war. We have three very good personal reasons, namely, our three children, whose lives we feel are worthy of being directed in fields other than where the cannon growls, the rifle cracks, and the Youth pays the price.

What is the answer to this age-old problem of war? In its utter simplicity this answer proves so difficult for mankind to cope with successfully. It lies in a statement made by Moses even centuries before the advent of Christianity; it is contained in that Biblical Commandment which says: "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." is further expressed down in our State, that "you cannot serve two masters. You will love one, and hate the other, or you will cling to the one and forsake the other."

People, today are taught that Mars, the god of war, is the monarch of a separate kingdom among men; we disagree with this popular conception. Mars is but one of the agents in the kingdom of mammon. Mars lives and thrives upon the crumbs of unfair business rivalry, unethical greed and grasping, that drop from the table of mankind. War is not the cause of any good, advance, or usefulness; rather it is the helpless result of such human characteristics.

"You cannot serve two masters. . . . You cannot love and hate at the same time. Peace—permanent peace—is the very natural result of love. War—permanent or occasional—is the very natural result of any human characteristic that is unlovely, such as the anger, rivalry, the hatred, and the greed."

Some day, when men and women literally apply the Biblical admonition to "seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto thee," then will Mars, or war, be but a vague memory in the recollection of this planet earth.

Who says that time be? It could be today, we believe. It is up to the leaders of this nation to determine how long the United States, for instance, may postpone war. One of the first steps in making for the continuance of peace—or at least the postponement of bloodshed upon battle fields—will be taken when this country joins the League of Nations.

War is a terrible thing to contemplate—especially so in these days of chemical and mechanical advancement. To outlaw war nations must seek peace; and in the seeking they must be willing to sacrifice the unfair and unethical portions of mammon upon the altar of the God of Love.

Harry Brooks came home here last week with a new record for long distance air flights in flivver planes. That's only a starter—just keep your eyes on Harry and watch him make an international reputation in the airplane game. That's only one of the many advantages of growing up in Oakland County.

Next Tuesday morning, before Judge Gillespie in the Pontiac Circuit Court, the law will determine whether or not Birmingham has a right to continue its long and bitter fight. If you want to listen in on the case, we suggest that you get there early, unless James Campbell and his crowd decide to withdraw the suit before the case gets under way.

The Eccentric always has, and always will, welcome communications from its readers on BOTH sides of any local question. This newspaper has never excluded or refused articles from any of its readers, even though certain articles may have been in opposition to its own editorial policy. The Eccentric will, above all else, keep its columns open to the clean and wholesome opinions of those who seek an outlet for their thoughts. The Eccentric's news columns are not for sale—they are free to those who wish to use them legitimately.

George English, in his excellent Huron County Tribune at Bad Axe, makes the following statement: "It has been suggested in a number of places that prohibition could practice in the country, it would be dry. In the pre-Vietland days church members were urged to vote as they prayed. Now they are asked to drink as they voted."

Birmingham's financial affairs are in excellent shape, and its auditors who recently went over the village's books. They say that Birmingham lived well within its income—which ought to please local taxpayers. That is more than can be said of some nearby communities in Oakland County, also including the big city of Detroit.

Two Women
I know a little woman true and brave,
Who greets you with a smile.
Her life seems rosy hued and free from care,
A place where flowers bloom, and sunshine rare
Makes all the hours worth while to share.
And yet her hopes lie buried nigh a grave.
No loving pal returns to her at night,
And wearied with his day
Looks up to her for comradeship and cheer.
No shouts of joyous laughter greet her ear
From children at their play,
And yet her eyes are beautiful and bright.
A neighbor comes sometimes to make a call.
Her face drawn in a frown,
She fights against the bitterness of fate.
The years her many longings can not stave.
She needs another gown,
And future destinies her soul appal.
A troop of merry romping girls and boys
And faithful loving man
Are here, a little home and garden plot,
Through all his life's golden span
Life's richest treasures, yet she heeds them not.
The seed of discontent her heart employs.
—BEATRICE McDONALD.

The Other Chap Says Something

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
We are glad to welcome again across the editorial roof top our old friend, the Congressional Record.

MAN'S SAD TWILIGHT
Miss M. Hore, of Cornwall, England, is knocking gently at the door of matrimony. She has just won first prize for a tenor solo in competition against 10 male competitors.

DOCTORS AND EDITORS
"Every once in a while some one takes a justified poke at the editor but here is one that, while it drops into the pen pushers, it lands a jabbing blow to some men who prefer pills for their sins."

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nothing to say about them in the Bible. I think the editor is the missing link we read of, and stayed in the bushes after the flood and then came out and wrote the thing up, and has been here ever since. If the editor makes mistakes, folks say he ought to be hung; but if the doctor makes mistakes he buries them and people don't say nothing, because they can't read Latin. When the doctor makes mistakes there is a big lawsuit, and swearing, and a big fuss. But if the doctor makes him or anyone else knowing what it means, but if the editor uses one he has to spell it. If the doctor goes to see another man's wife he charges the man for the visit. But if the editor goes he gets a charge of buckshot. Any college can make doctors to order, but editors has to be born.—Exchange.

STATE AFFAIRS

Gov. Grosbeck has the reputation of being the hardest working executive in Michigan history, but Gov. Fred W. Green is a harder worker. When Grosbeck worked hard for three days each week, Gov. Green works just about six days. He is able to do this only because he has given up his private business."

WELL SPOKEN, DOC

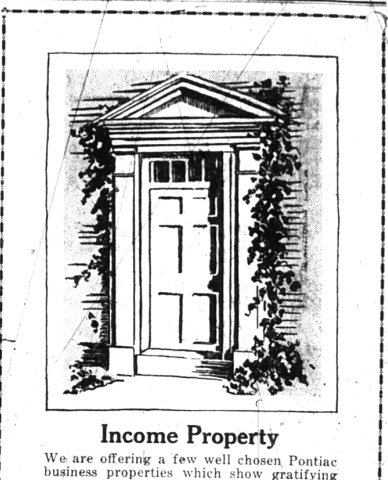
Fred D. Keister, whose guest we were Sunday, has done a notable piece of newspaper work, in some ways the most outstanding in Michigan. Among an old classmate, listed daily, Mr. Keister in November, 1921, started the Ionia county News and the venture has been a distinct success.

GRAVEL ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT SOUGHT

An attempt will be made to improve the Pleasant avenue gravel roadway without repaving it, as was decided by the village commission Monday night following a discussion of the matter by residents to the proposed repaving of the road brought about.

Try An Eccentric Classified Ad.

Advertisement for Classified Ads, listing various services like Dr. G. R. Norton, Dr. Mabel Campbell, Dr. D. L. Stilwell, Clare H. Ogden, Allen Engineering Co., Maurice E. Baldwin, and Frank Couzens Builders.



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