

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value, and which present an interesting and original point of view. All copy must be presented before noon on the day of publication. The editor reserves the right to make such editorial changes in the copy submitted as are necessary to make the copy readable and as are required by the laws of the state. Because of a mechanical situation in the composing room, the names of the members of the staff cannot be used by those other than members of the staff.

As Others View Our Trees

One of the angles of tree appreciation that we of Birmingham, are prone to forget is the fact that our trees fascinate people from other communities. This is well expressed in the following letter which we received from a brother publisher this week. It is written by Joe Haas, of the Holly Herald. Holly, as you may recall is located in the northwestern portion of Oakland County. Here is Mr. Haas' letter: "My Dear George: I have never driven through your once beautiful town during the last few months that I have not wondered just how long this program of tree murder is to continue. It was there last Friday, and purposely took a drive around town to make a few observations.

"It was a difficult matter to reconcile the removal of the beautiful trees on Woodward Avenue itself, but it seemed that they had to go in order to furnish the required room for the widening program. "But this wanton destruction of 'God's first sentinels' on other streets seems like a terrible mistake—almost an insult to the past generation and a poor forethought for the next. It pleases me to note that a large number of your good citizens are entering a protest. They will have the best wishes of every nature lover. Your trees are an asset that can be wiped out in a hurry, but 'I will take half a century to get them back. Your best citizens of many years ago planted them, and your best citizens of today will want to keep them. Keep Birmingham beautiful; spare the trees."

A Zoning Ordinance Needed

It is interesting to note that members of Birmingham's village commission, while trying to administer to the collective needs of this community each week, are finding that some kind of a zoning ordinance must be passed as soon as possible; in this relation they are receiving the support of members of the planning commission. Sooner or later Birmingham must be zoned, they all agree, and the sooner it is done the better for Birmingham's municipal progress—especially from the aesthetic angle.

Right now the planning commission is engaged in locating a city planning expert, one of whose first duties will be to prescribe a zoning ordinance for the village. Without a zoning ordinance, all are agreed, no planning can be done.

Take the matter of tree cutting; when 51 per cent of the people on a street petition for widening on the supposed premise that it may become business frontage, there is no alternative save to grant the terms of the petition. Result: trees come down for the widening, barrenness results and a general condition of untidiness manifests itself for many years, each property owner waits for business interests to acquire his land.

The creation of an acceptable zoning ordinance for a community as old as Birmingham is no easy task; while one is being formulated, it is to be hoped that those engaged in its creation will receive sympathetic and tolerant help from the village citizens.

Even village commissioners Hubbert, McBride and Henry, who vigorously opposed the zoning ordinance here two years ago, agree that Birmingham needs such legislation, and they have pledged their support to a zoning ordinance that is found to be reasonable for all.

Know Thyself

There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide; that he must take himself into his own hands, as his portions; that the only victory is full of good, no kind of nourishing corn can come to him but thru his toil bestowed on that plot of ground which is given him to till. The power that resides in him is new in Nature, and none but he knows what that is which he can do, none but he knows until he has tried.—RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

MOST OF THE VOTERS in the United States, by this time, have made up their minds whether they will vote for Alfred E. Smith or Herbert C. Hoover. November 6 is merely the day when a majority (a great majority) of the voters of the United States will declare themselves in favor of the Republican candidate. And that includes some good Democrats of our acquaintance right here in Bloomfield Township.

DETROIT WAS HOST TO 1,000 paint and varnish men at a convention there the first of this week. It is interesting to state, however, that the great (Fred W.) should entertain the preservers of various surfaces.

1,316,158 PAIRS OF OLIVE DRABS are to be sold by the U. S. Army. Had the material resources of Germany held out in 1917, there might have been more olive drab than there are now; but there would have been more little white crosses in France.

Governor Smith, Financier (?)

Governor Smith's "sincerity" has been widely exploited by his friends, but does not appear in a convincing form in some of his public utterances, especially his acceptance speech. His attack upon the Coolidge administration with a charge of extravagance comes with curiously ill grace from a governor who during eight years of office has watched an enormous increase in special taxes, total expenditures, and the national debt. Comparison with the results of the Republican administration at Washington is startling.

Taking the fiscal years ended June 30, 1920, to 1928, inclusive, the federal taxes in that period were reduced 44.8% and the total expenditures 43.8%. In the same period, which includes Governor Smith's four terms of office, the New York state special taxes increased 78.4%. During the same period the total expenditures increased 131.8%. Indeed, the only two years when these items were held in check and did not increase were those when Nathan L. Miller was governor of New York. If Governor Smith considers that he can read lessons in economy to Mr. Coolidge and Mr. Mellon, he will find few well-informed people to agree with him.

It need hardly be said that the overwhelming majority of voters are not well informed. If they were, they would take a look at the federal debt and the interest cost as compared with that of New York state. During the period 1920 to 1928, inclusive, the federal debt was reduced 27.7% and the annual interest paid 28.7%. During the same period the state debt of New York increased 52.4% and the annual interest charge 40.8%. With such a record behind him Governor Smith's attack on the Coolidge administration sounds suspiciously like bluffing.

In the face of these figures where does the much advertised Smith sincerity come in? Is he not patently taking advantage of the ignorance of the voters, well knowing that not one person in a hundred of his audiences can supply chapter and verse in refutation of his charges against the Republican party in office? Smith is a shrewd politician, a man of his word when it comes to promises of patronage, truthful in a polite way and with an almost uncanny insight into the workings of the untrained mind. Smith knows by long experience that the voter who pays no direct taxes and does not realize that they are piled on to his rent and the cost of his living has no particular sympathy for economy in government. He rather thinks that when a city or state government is squandering freely some crumbs of the National Hotel, Frugality government is commendable, but a trifle dull. Smith is a politician, for it, although the governor of New York state, possessing the power of veto over separate items, can do more in the way of economy, proportionately, than the President of the United States.—BARROW'S WEEKLY.

Roosevelt On Going To Church

In this actual world, a churchless community, a community where men have abandoned and scoffed at or ignored their religious needs, is a community go the rapid road grade.

Church work and church attendance means the cultivation of the habit of feeling responsibility for others.

There are enough holidays for most of us. Sundays differ from other holidays in the fact that there are fifty-two of them every year. Therefore, on Sundays go to church.

Yes, I know all the excuses. I know that one can worship the Creator in a grove of trees, or by a running brook, or in a man's own house, or as well in fact, that the average man, as a matter of cold fact, does not go to church. He may not hear a good sermon at church. He will hear a sermon by a good man who, with his wife, is engaged all of the week in making hard liver a little easier.

He will listen to and take part in reading some beautiful passages from the Bible. And if he is not familiar with the Bible he has suffered a loss.

He will take part in the singing of some good hymns.

He will meet and nod or speak to good quiet neighbors. He will come away feeling a little more charitable toward all the world, even toward those excessively foolish young men who regard church-going as soft performance.

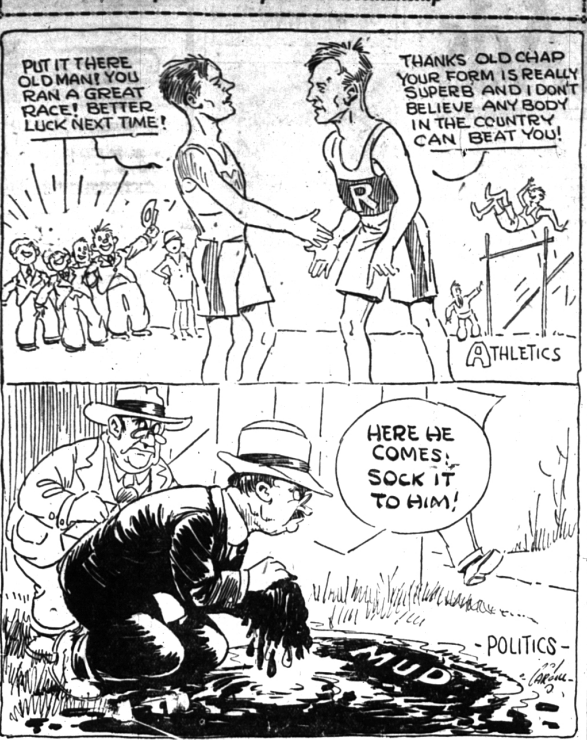
Let us advocate a man's joining in church work as the sake of showing his faith by his works. Let your thoughts run back through the years as you listen to the anthem, prayers and sermon, resolve to hold fast to what religion you have and to make it a part of your every-day life.—THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Co-operation Will Help All Of Us

The real solution to Birmingham's increasing problem of saving trees is, after all, preponderantly in the hands of the village commission; when they provision which their hands are tied by the village charter to make a man's joining in church work as the sacrifice trees when a majority of the people on a street petition for widening, they admit a fault in the charter—the mere admission of which should bring from their body a proposed change in such charter provision, to the end that they may have something to say in determining whether or not trees should be removed. In other words, Birmingham grows, and it is found that certain provisions in its charter stand out of date, or inadequate to cope with the desires of the people, who is better qualified to know about it, and prescribe a remedy than our village commission? Members of our village commission act in a dual capacity; they are our legislative and administrative body, and not only discharge the routine affairs of government, enforce ordinances, etc., but they are expected to vision ahead to the end that plans may be laid to cope for future exigencies.

And may we close by stating an observation: in a community the size of Birmingham, it is, alas! human nature to find fault with the activities of its public servants, especially when they are engaged in meeting the demands of such rapidly growing and such rapidly changing conditions. Public servants will get along better if they admit the human tendency to criticize; and the people whom they serve will be happier if they express more sympathy and tolerance to their elected officials. Co-operation will help all of us toward a better, finer Birmingham.

Sportsmanship and Statesmanship



FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS —of Long Ago

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

50 YEARS AGO

Joe Rainey carries the broom for russets.

A family cat died in Southfield aged 17 years. Let her R. I. P.

Mr. Johnson, the watch tinker, will be in town next week. Trot out your old clocks and watches now and be ready.

A new floor has been laid in the basement of the National Hotel composed of ash and cherry strips, alternate. It makes a solid and handsome floor.

The ladies of the M. E. Church turned out last week and gave the church a thorough cleaning, and when they came to renovate the spittoons in the vestibule there was only one lady among them who had enough pluck to perform that disagreeable duty. Now the ladies all say "what irritates those tobacco chewing church members are."

Clark & Roll Anthony started thrashing clover seed last Monday. Any one having any of that work to do can secure their services by dropping them a line at this post office.

25 YEARS AGO

Don't be afraid to walk in and see the four corner work. It is ten to one that you will have your feathers cleaned when you see what the machine takes out of a bed that is supposed to be reasonably clean. The proprietors earnestly invite you to call. You will be well used.

What has become of the whistle at the water works? We don't often hear it.

Some parents are letting their children go here, there and everywhere without their knowledge and when they are brought up by the authorities for vandalism, they blame everyone but themselves.

Mrs. Therese Smith entertained about 30 at Pedro Tuesday evening. An admission of 10 was

50 YEARS AGO

The Baptist church has been raised and a kitchen and dining-parlor added to the basement. There has always been a lack of room in this church and the improvement was much needed.

Will Baum has returned from an extended trip up the lakes. He spent sometime in and around Algonac and the fish he caught would fill a just ask him, we don't know what they would fill.

We should have a public park.

FIVE YEARS AGO

Farmers to benefit with \$500,000 plan. Sell to consumers. Middleman. Michigan Dairy and Farm Produce Co. is formed to unite consumer, producer; Gideon T. Bryce, a Romeo farmer, organized new company in spring of 1921 and was elected to its presidency.

The Birmingham Dairy, formerly owned by George F. Pullin, passed into the hands of the Michigan Dairy and Farm Produce Co. the owner of two going concerns that have been established successfully for many years in Birmingham. Two weeks ago the Birmingham Creamery & Ice Manufacturing Co. passed into the hands of the concern which Monday took over Mr. Pullin's property.

Village men meet to talk right-of-way. McBride and Birmingham Board of Public Works met Monday. Plans still unknown. Grand Trunk right-of-way through here may become a boulevard.

an exceedingly short period for such an undertaking as this. Some great and serious evils have resulted from this law, but these evils are often exaggerated by those who oppose the law; and most of these evils are due not to the law itself, but to failure to observe and enforce it. Most of those who oppose and disobey the law admit that it would be a benefit to our country if it were properly enforced. What is now needed is not abandonment of the unenforcement when we have only just begun it, but more earnest effort for enforcement of the law and more thorough and accurate investigation of the fact relating to it.

The assertions that this law cannot be enforced come from them, from those who do not wish the law to be enforced, who never have wanted it enforced and who admit that they hope to see it repealed on the ground that it cannot be enforced. The possibility of enforcement, however, with the statement made by Mr. Thomas A. Edison that it can be enforced, is a strong argument in favor of its enforcement. It is already better enforced than in some of our other laws, as, for example, the law against narcotics and the law against holdups.

I think Mr. Edison also gave tersely and truly the answer to the contention that this law should be repealed because it is an encroachment upon personal liberty. He said, as reported: "What is civilization, anyway; but a regulation of personal liberty? If liberty were to run wild we would have no advancement. Civilization is the better only as it curbs liberty in the interest of the general welfare."

Few governmental policies or traditions are more generally recognized. Fewer still are so widely misinterpreted as the United States the general acceptance of it. It is excluded by name from the scope of the Nation's arbitration treaties, and presumably it constitutes an exception to the operations of Mr. Kellogg's treaty for the outlawry of war. And yet the extension of statesman's jurisdiction to that treaty has almost any reservation demanded by foreign powers.

People think that the Monroe Doctrine may be accepted as a simple declaration of the United States that it will not tolerate an extension of statesman's jurisdiction to that treaty has almost any reservation demanded by foreign powers. People think that the Monroe Doctrine may be accepted as a simple declaration of the United States that it will not tolerate an extension of statesman's jurisdiction to that treaty has almost any reservation demanded by foreign powers.

The Other Chap Says Something

WHAT IS THE MONROE DOCTRINE?

In a moment of admirable prudence, the League of Nations has declined to respond to Costa Rica's request for an official definition of the Monroe Doctrine. The proposition was full of dynamite. The Monroe Doctrine, in its present form, is a mixture of convictions and the affections of the people of the United States, and it is so controversial in its nature that it has been excluded by but few of them. For a foreign organization, made up altogether of statesmen, to attempt to complete this American position entirely from the outside, to have attempted to elucidate it in all its phases would undoubtedly have stirred up an endless controversy.

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Nine Out of Ten. Already we have leased 9 out of 10 of the beautiful shops in the new Wabek Building. Five are in operation, doing a splendid business, with practically all of the others expecting to open on or before November First. Uphairs the majority of the offices are rented to prominent physicians, surgeons, dentists and business men. If you are interested in this, last shop or upstairs office space, get in touch with us at once.

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America, 117 answered "yes" and 167 "no." The natural conclusion from these two queries is that the United States should either permit foreign countries to protect their nationals on American territory or assume that duty itself. This question is selected here as one illustrative of the marked difference of opinion existing among Americans who have given the matter serious thought as to what precisely the Monroe Doctrine implies. Several other equally vital inquiries discovered an equal divergence of opinion. The record of the questionnaire is contained in a pamphlet, "The Monroe Doctrine and World Peace," which was recently published by Doubleday & Doran, and which is singularly interesting and illuminating in its comment upon a doctrine that is being universally accepted and almost equally misunderstood by the people of the United States.—(Christian Science Monitor).

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