

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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A-Thirsting For Blood

Somebody who writes editorials for our neighboring journal, the Pontiac Daily Press, certainly relieves himself quite often of a thirst for human blood. Sipped up in a nut-shell, he is eternally crying "society shall kill the killer—kill 'em dead as a doornail, and then we won't have much trouble about murder."

What hopeless, hapless, and futile logic! Speaking of the plight of one Paul Jaworski, the bandit and killer who is now lying paralyzed in a Cleveland hospital, the Daily Press says, in defense of its argument to kill, "The man who murders is not electrocuted in wrath or anger. He is put out of the way to save other men."

What a beautiful thought! (for cave men.) And how impractical, in America, has such thinking been in an effort to make a social ideal in statistics show that in states where capital punishment is used the number of homicides actually increased.

The Daily Press continues: "There is such a thing in life as futile clinging to worn-out and discredited methods. Precedent and tradition have a fine part in law and order and justice. But they are not the beginning and end of the story." That's good logic, Mister Daily Press Editorial Writer; why don't you use it consistently? For its use has consequences that would be a relief to the whole world. The slaughter of human beings will never solve the problems of international relationship.

You argue for peace among nations, for safety, happiness, and comfort for every member of society—and yet you would kill the killer. And in doing so you would take, you think, the best way but you are wrong, for you would be taking merely an easy temporary way—like cutting off the tops of weeds in a garden, and leaving the roots to grow.

Commonwealths that resort to capital punishment for the solution of their homicidal problems are to nearer the truth than the individual who, in an effort to obtain food, raiment, and shelter, kills another to get them. Both believe themselves right in killing, else they wouldn't do it. And, please, Mister Daily Press Editorial-Writer, as killing results to death, where was your fine logic in killing?

Letters For The Smiths

From at least one source of propaganda which we have been privileged to read, those ardent Michigan Democrats who hope that Alfred E. Smith will be elected President of the United States in November are certainly depending a great deal upon the Smith family to rally to their support. For instance, our bookkeeper, Miss Winnie L. Smith, the other day received a nice letter from Mrs. W. H. Jobe, organizer of the Michigan State Federation of Democratic Women's Clubs, in which Miss Smith is given to know that "we sincerely appreciate the interest and support you have pledged us in this most important work . . . of electing Governor Alfred E. Smith President of the United States, and William A. C. Connors Governor of Michigan."

The letter, of course, is perfectly legitimate and decent—the only thing we can find with it is that it was addressed to a young woman who was born in Canada, and has not yet received her citizenship papers in full, so she can't vote. When asked what party she would vote for she answered, "why, the Republican, of course."

From other sources, too, we learn that not all of the Smith family is going to vote for its foremost "Democrat" in November. Perhaps the story would be different if a candidate was Brown or Jones, and perhaps not.

Anyway, it looks as though the Michigan State Federation of Women's Clubs was getting acquainted with all the feminine Smiths in the state "for political reasons only."

Nice letter, though, Mrs. Jobe.

Politics Bring Changes

The company a person keeps often changes him considerable grief. Witness John S. Haggerty, secretary of state, and his defeat at the Wayne County election meeting.

The company, in this case, is the illustrious Milburn Carmichael, called Haggerty's political "man Friday."

Friends of the secretary of state have told him often that to continue being a patron of "Milt" would bring him disfigurement. Among the persons who advised Haggerty that the combination of "Jockey" and a Gov. Fred W. Green.

Haggerty is going through the state. Carmichael is not. The political and power Haggerty invested in Carmichael caused the delegates to leave him alone and swing their support to Edward N. Barnard by a three to one vote.

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A Sound Plan, Mr. Boyles

Much of the trouble that exists in this world is the result of misunderstanding between two or more persons; nations are plunged into war largely because of this. It is difficult to understand the thoughts, feelings, and emotions of another nation's neighborhood "rows" get started as the result of a misunderstanding that often follows hasty judgment; men and women part in our divorce courts every day when the differences might be adjusted if each were made to think from the other's point of view. No wonder, then, when so often a person finds it difficult to understand even himself.

On the job, as we are, in these rapidly moving days of Twentieth Century living, we seldom take time to hold communion with our better selves, and we conduct our activities on a level of real intelligence as thin as an autumnal frost—with the result that we so often break through the thin ice and get into deep water.

Which brings us to a bit of praise for the idea presented by Deputy Attorney-General Emerson R. Boyles, of Lansing, who would have the state legislature pass a law that will set up a sort of domestic relations court system in Michigan, to bring about reconciliation between married folks, especially those with children. Mr. Boyles, who has had many years of experience as a probate judge in Michigan, is by nature and inclination a real humanitarian jurist; his plan to bring happiness through the restoration of love and companionship in the hearts and minds of misunderstood husbands and wives is a splendid one, not for sentimental purposes alone, but for the economic welfare of society.

We hope Mr. Boyles' plan gets a proper hearing before the next legislature.

Why Girls Go Wrong

Here is the result of an intensive and interesting survey on the moral hazards confronting women in industry made by L. Col. Anne J. Cowden, executive officer in charge of women's social work in eleven middle-west states, including Michigan. Miss Cowden finds:

That of all classes of workers, women cooks possibly have the highest moral standing.

That the next in order comes assistant parlor operators and women electrical employees.

That college girls rank third.

That eighteen is the dangerous age.

That the home itself, instead of being a safeguard in many instances, plunges one into the greatest moral hazards, as proven by the figures of the survey which show that more home girls, school girls and domestic servants were found to have given birth to illegitimate children than the members of any other class.

These statistics, gathered by an agency that can be counted on as truthful and painstaking, reveal the losing influence for good that is supposed to exist in the American home. It ought to interest parents very seriously.

It is quite interesting, if possible, to learn from what classes come the greatest number of contributors to the feminine delinquency in this survey. However, due to the biological processes of nature, this is hardly possible; yet we are inclined to believe that as compensation for the physiological disturbance of these and women, an inviolate and immutable Destiny will disturb the consciences of the men in this case, thus stripping them of a large portion of happiness that was originally intended for them upon earth.

The moral to this condition of immorality is: parents in the raising of their children, will reap as good a crop of offspring as they sow, tend and nurture. Certainly, children depend upon parental aid just as much as green onions, radishes, and sweet peas rely upon a kind and loving gardener.

"CAPTURES A BURGLAR with a tennis racket," newspaper headline. Which proves that it takes lots of dogs to scare a modern housebreaker.

"NO NERVE CELLS ARE about to the body after birth," scientific note. The nerve of such contentment in these nerve-racking days of enervated energy!

National Irrigation

A paradox of nature, methinks in Alfred's stand, That he will cause the country to dry up like the sand.

That stretches o'er the desert—a hope that fills the breast Of every Volstead person, from north, south, east or west.

Emanuel would promise, if made our President, To live up to our mandates in all their full intent. Though wet in his own prospects in wettest of our states, He says he'll make America stop drinking while it waits.

For irrefragable amendments that harm a man's great thirst; In fact, you see, he promises old Bacchus at his worst. 'Tis hard for folks to swallow—no liquor, wines or beer.

But Mister Smith's queer logic about his plan to stave off the drought is based upon a flaw. So, in one breath, his dry voice is lifted clear on high As to the people of our land there comes this wet.

"Come on, ye stalwart democrats, and come ye thirsty folks. Just rally to my side and listen to my modern jokes; I'm for the strict observance of Volstead's Act, you'll find before election and I never will be wet. Until I get to Washington, the place where laws are made, And then I'll try with Congressmen to make a splendid trade.

With alcohol preserving, to fertilize our soil. With alcohol preserving, to fertilize our soil. With alcohol preserving, to fertilize our soil.

CENTURY-OLD BUSINESS METHODS REVEALED IN BACK-FLIP OF TIME

Years tumble backward clownishly for more than a century with the findings of many records of business transactions. The 38 hand-written notes, found among the ruins of an old home, offer evidence that pioneers of Birmingham were as careful to keep records of their business dealings as are the people of today.

This collection was unearthed among the effects of Elijah Willis, pioneer Birmingham resident who lived in this section as early as 1825. Mr. Willis was well known in Birmingham at that time as one of the community's leading citizens. Records of his business dealings, consisting of aged and stained pieces of rag paper which were found when his home was razed, tell of the variety of transactions that took place 100 years ago.

"Give me a dollar," friends appeared to be as common in the days of the village as they are today.

"I don't think the preceding matter is of much importance," "Received of Elijah Willis one dollar in full of All Debts and 20th, 1825," signed John Hamilton.

Still another worn portion of paper written as a negotiable instrument, is found endorsed by John Todd and demonstrates that "I do not think the preceding matter is of much importance," "Received of Elijah Willis one dollar in full of All Debts and 20th, 1825," signed John Hamilton.

Mr. Willis to Stephen Mack on July 25, 1828, states two gallons of whisky were traded for corn and one-quarter bushels of rye and calls for further attention to the interesting record one finds that barter was common in those times.

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WAR AGAINST THE FOREST

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A NEEDED INVENTION
From Paris comes news of an invention which should be hailed with enthusiasm by the motoring public. It is an automatic jack, operated from the instrument board of the automobile.

In case of a flat tire the driver may raise the wheel by simply pressing a button. Each wheel is supplied with a jack in the form of a steel cylinder fitted with a double telescopic piston. When not in use the lower end of the jack is drawn up level with the axle, so as not to reduce the road clearance.

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A Thought for the Week

"We sleep, but the loom of life never stops and the pattern which was weaving when the sun went down is weaving when it comes up tomorrow."

HENRY WARD BEECHER.