

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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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. The stories copy must be presented before noon on Wednesday. The right to publish is reserved, however, to make such changes in the copy submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper. Authors are requested to make such changes as are necessary in the copy submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper.

Increasing Costs Of Schools

It is interesting, even though it may be costly, to observe the manner in which American parenthood—apparently bent upon getting the most physical benefits from life—is rapidly turning over to other agencies the task of bringing up the young. Especially true is this of the school system. Because it has so multiplied in the average community that its essential demands cause considerable alarm among groups that are concerned with the paying of taxes.

The gradual breakdown of the American home—a breakdown only with regard to its fundamental mind, namely, the propagation and rearing of the human family—cannot be chiefly by the progress of science and invention, which takes the great masses of people away from their homes and offers them entertainment and amusement; as a sudden infusion of wealth may cause a serious-minded person temporarily to leave his basic tasks and become enamored of the gay and less fundamental affairs of society, so does the sudden affluence of wealth and new novelties effect an entire group of citizenry, even a nation.

The educational world, altruistically motivated by a desire to liberate people from the bonds of ignorance, is taking advantage of its opportunities to further its noble activity; cannot be blamed severely for this attitude, for some means must be provided to enable boys and girls to enlarge their lives into greater benefits for all of the social order. Unfortunately, however, the educational system of this country is made up of a very small number of people, proportionately speaking, who are idealistic as they may be in the cause of education, too often forget that they are on the spending line of the game—and not on the earning line, as far as taxation to carry on schools is concerned.

Just how far the professional educator will take the place of the parent in the rearing of boys and girls, appears to us that for every dollar expended, he neglects that takes place in the home, five or ten dollars (this is merely an illustrative figure) is required by the school system to fill the void in training.

Residents of Bloomfield Township are about to pay their annual winter taxes, which include the cost of carrying on state, county, township and school governments. Of the total amount of \$37.10 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation now being collected in this school district, more than half, \$18.36 to be exact, is for the local school system.

When compared to the various amounts of money that one may spend each year on even some of the unnecessary luxuries, this school tax may, of course, be a small item; but compared with the other items of the cost of government, the school tax is a generous item. Perhaps the answer lies in the need to change our attitude toward the school tax, and to consider it on the basis of the annual expenditures for meat and groceries, automobile upkeep, and the high cost of fishing bait.

At any rate, we all admit that modern education is getting more expensive each year, and that condition is to be good sports—as is much the fault of the one who earns the taxes—as the one who spends them.

HERE'S A SENATORIAL PARADOX: The United States Senate twice refuses a seat within its midst to newly elected William S. Vare, of Pennsylvania, whose election was proclaimed "high heaven." Now comes the Senate with a statement that one definitely identified with the Mellon-Grundy-Fisher political machine in the Keystone state will be acceptable to Washington. It appears, then, that the United States Senate, in a large part, looks with disdain upon the political affiliations of Secretary of the United States Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon. At least, you might say this is one way of "cutting" a deal.

THE MAYOR OF HIGHLAND PARK, John C. Shields, caused the arrest last week of one Ben Sizet, 20 years old, whose Hinzoner claims offered him from \$500 to \$1000 weekly if they were used in clinics was legalized in that city. It would seem would it not, that Mr. Sizet got mixed up with the wrong governmental slots when he sought to play his machine?

TELEPHONE OFFICIALS NOW boast that anyone who owns a modern telephone is able to talk over the wires to 28,000,000 people. There are times when some lines that we seek connection with seem to be nearing the second million.

D'ANNUNZIO, THE ITALIAN ROBE, once wrote 3,000 lines of verse in 17 days, and again he wrote 50,000 words in five consecutive nights. Yes, and if only his great love, Eleanor Duse, had had a telephone installed, think how much cheaper paper and ink would be.

WE ARE TOLD THAT ANY FARMER ought to be able to name fifty birds without leaving his work to find them, and he should know a hundred if he takes the time to look for them. Including, we suppose, the city bird and his picnicking family?

Hanna, Et Al, Vs. Defoe

Elmer J. Hanna, publisher of the Emmet County Graphic, at Hannasport, last week got "all hot up" about certain remarks made by editor Muriel H. Defoe, of Charlotte. It appears that Mr. Defoe, after reading press dispatches that the people "up north" in Michigan were being benefitted by the deer hunters that flocked in by the thousands, suggested that something must be done officially by otherwise to extend this season. The state has passed a generous appropriation, for a starter, at least, to boost the tourist business, but this isn't enough. The state is now engaged in the prize fight business, most fairs are subsidized by state funds, poor school districts will benefit if the cigarette tax can be collected. Why not a hundred per cent paternalism and vote a small tax for groggy resort proprietors to be determined by their scale of rates and quality of last year's butter. In other words that Cedarville correspondent suggests a new use for state funds and possibly another state commission.

Mr. Hanna, who this year is president of the Michigan Press Association, stages a valiant "come back" at the Charlotte man's suggestion, and ably defends the substantial resort keepers of northern Michigan—especially those in the vicinity of Traverse City to Chaboygan.

Those "Grown-up Newsies"

Last Saturday, during an entire winter's day of cold and sleet, members of the Birmingham Metropolitan Club, aided by a few private citizens, peddled papers at the buyer's prices, and obtained the grand total of more than \$1,200.00. This money, you will recall, will be used by the Club to defray the expense connected with bringing Santa Claus to every needy home in and near Birmingham on Christmas Day. It is the second annual appearance of the Metropolitan "newsies" on Birmingham's streets, and brought over \$400.00 more in funds this year than last—abundant proof of the willingness of the average citizen to aid in a worthy cause.

To the members of the Birmingham Metropolitan Club, on behalf of those whom it will help, and in the name of Him whose identity Christmas is commemorated. The Eccentric takes the privilege of expressing a gratitude and a thanksgiving perhaps balanced only by the fins exultation that must have welled up to the hearts of every "grown-up newsie" here last Saturday.

FROM AN OBSERVATION of the conduct of the world during the past ten years, would it be out of place to ask if business has not been conducted largely on the economic fallacy: "prosperity at any cost!"

IT LOOKS AS THOUGH many Wall Street lambs will be without fleece-lined coats this winter.

A CERTAIN PIPE ORGAN which we recently heard over the radio is said to have 100 stops, but the organist's a lot of 'em before he got one to work.

SHAKESPEARE MADE MARK ANTONY say that "the evil that men have after him, good is oft intercalated to ask if business has not been conducted largely on the economic fallacy: "prosperity at any cost!"

UNFORTUNATELY, IT SEEMS, there are as many ideas about disarmament as there are nations engaged in defining the term. Personally, we fail to see why so much difficulty should surround the removals of "arms" when the basis of the annual expenditures for meat and groceries, automobile upkeep, and the high cost of fishing bait.

NOT MANY WEEKS NOW UNTIL we all will be given the opportunity to start in breaking the New Year's resolutions.

WE LEARN THAT A CERTAIN mill hand has become an opera singer. Now if only the mills will co-operate with the concert stage as the latter has done with the mills in this case—well, who struck this discordant note, anyway?

FOR A LONG TIME THE CONGRESSIONAL "pork barrel" legislation was a troublesome ditch which the fair surfaces of good government; now we have the road hog and the blind pig—which sort of makes one wonder Chicago's belief that it controls the country's swine is true.

THE JUGEST of ALL DINOSAURS were the sauropods, giant vegetarians walking heavily upon all fours, with pillar-like legs, long, snake-like necks, far-reaching tails, and a brain weighing less than a pound to govern a body estimated to weigh four tons. In spite of evolution, a few of these animals remain in biped form, it is being argued in collegiate circles.

At Christmas Time

This is the time of year when children love to tread the aiseways of the Christmas stores, to gaze at all the board of lovely things, Children with lessons learned and well-done chores, With visions of the gifts that Santa Brings.

A REAL CHRISTMAS "SOCK"!



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.

At the request of John McCarroll, 421 Park street, we reprint the following article entitled "Government Control of Liquor in Canada" as reported published in the Covenanter Witness, a religious publication: "Authoritative statistics recently published regarding Government Control of Liquor give poor comfort to its advocates. Under it the consumption of malt liquors and wine has increased 75 per cent and 400 per cent respectively since 1921, while in the same period the drinking of spirits has increased nearly 150 per cent.

Deaths from alcoholism have more than doubled since the present system went into effect. Convictions for driving motor cars while intoxicated increased from 48 in 1920 to 1,332 in 1928 while the number of cars only doubled in that period. Convictions for crime of various kinds have increased 30 per cent. Since prohibition was abandoned in all seven provinces there has been an increase in steady and alarming increase in bootlegging. So, instead of Government control of liquor lessening the evils, as its proponents claimed it would, it has increased them. Government control of liquor interests, instead of the Government controlling liquor."

SIDESWIPES In the World of Humor

Perhaps it would be a good idea to call off this trouble in China and use it as a crossword puzzle instead.—Everybody's Weekly.

Mendelssohn composed his "Spring Song" in London. But for the composer didn't know how appropriate his melody would be for the modern pedestrian.—London Opinion.

"Mummy, can all angels fly?" "Yes, darling." "But the cook can't fly and daddy can't fly either." "No, but she will fly, dear."—Nebelpalmer, Zurich.

Mother—Now, Tommie, you must wash your hands before you get ready for the party. Son—But, mamma, you said it was informal.—Answers.

"Why did you leave your last place?" "It was too dull for me. They were living within their income."—Bystander.

Important—Old Lady—(to her man, I suppose you have had many trials in your life? Man—Yes, ma'am, but only one conviction.—Boston Transcript.

"What did father say when you told him you were going to take me away from home?" "He seemed to feel his loss keenly at first but I squared things with a good cigar."—Tit Bits.

The wedding reception beggars description," says a report in the local paper. Not to mention the bride's father.—Passing Show.

The Other Chap Says Something—

NO PLACE FOR PROHIBITION

Senator Brownart told about the liquor which was served to lawmakers at a dinner tendered by financial interests to the senate. There is nothing new or startling in the senator's disclosures. Everyone who knows anything about legislation knows that one of the chief uses of liquor is to help get laws passed. If the legislature were disbanded for a period of a few years most of the bootleggers would go out of business.

THE CIGARETTE PHILANTHROPISTS

The cigarette advertisers, energetic, resourceful and ever alert to their great humanitarian responsibilities, simply astounded one of our great public service to another. Not long ago they solved the great Dietetic Problem and, if the allure of titillating testimonials and the appeal of Out-of-the-Third-Strike radio hours are all they are cracked up to be, there shouldn't be a sweet within reach of a patriotic American to-day. Why, if they had been able to remove the coughs from the carloads in 1914, there probably wouldn't have been a World War.

INDECENT PICTURES

Somebody has done about the highly suggestive pictures that are appearing in newspapers and on billboards. By the way, we refer not to the pictures of the bathing beauties, but to the pictures of the hussy smoking cigarette. The thing that needs the attention of the police is those pictures of warlike and panache scatters over the newspaper and the billboards. They are appealing to the basest emotions of man and in the day when everyone is trying to grow thin, these pancake pictures slathering with syrup and gobbled with melting butter, are leading many otherwise slim and virtuous creatures into paths of sin.

How can anyone who is avoiding starches, sugars and fats, and who is living on pineapple and carrots, how can any aesthetic person pass these pancake pictures without a gastric juice surging wickedly up in his inwards, or hers, as the case may be, in which event it is even worse. How can one who is dieting and faced with this temptation take a thin, lithe, girlish figure look upon the waffle picture with honey, and be pure in heart? As one rounds a corner full of noble resolutions to restrict potatoes, hot biscuits, suddenly into his virtuous eye in cast this pancake picture and all the devils of hell rise in his blood, and maybe he goes out and either commits a calory or compounds a carbohydrate!

And who's to blame? Society is to blame. Naturally, we would all be svelt and sinuous and lovely even as the angels, but with society permitting these pancake pictures to bait and deprave us on every hand, who can keep fair and lovely? Who will not toddle and waddle like a penguin, or a bowl of jelly along the sixth principal meridian north of the tropic of Capricorn?

Here is a problem for fathers and mothers to consider. Heaven knows what improper thoughts toll up in the hearts of our innocent youth, beckoning them

W. C. Bulow, Governor of South Dakota

"The people of South Dakota are not getting unduly alarmed with the present apparent disturbing of the economic equilibrium among the speculators at financial centers."

George Clemenceau, war premier of France dying: "I want no woman and I want no tears. Let me die before men."

Eddie Cantor, comedian: "If the stock market goes any lower I know hundreds of married men who are going to leave their sweethearts and go back to their wives."

Because his arms were injured in a railroad accident and he is now unable to "careen" a sweethearts' heart, Frank Powers of New York City has been awarded \$22,500 from the railroad company.

Views and Reviews "What They Say Whether Right or Wrong"

Henry Norris Russell, professor: "How the sun and the planets initially obtained their rotation is not certainly known."

Jane Cowell, actress: "The war did more than wipe out any fine young men. It nearly wiped out real femininity as well."

George Bernard Shaw, British author: "I think it is quite possible that America will return to feathers, tomahawks, wigwags and moccasins."

Leonard P. Ayers, statistician: "1930 will be a year of slower, soberer business, more business failures and fewer mergers, more sweat and less awn, more trust in investments and fewer investment trusts, more faith, less hope and less charity."

Harry Emerson Fosdick, radio and pulpit pastor: "The cloth of Christianity is badly wrinkled; but people should not identify criticism of the wrinkles with criticism of the cloth."

Smedley D. Butler, brigadier general: "There has been a lot of political flubdub that a soldier should not hold office. Can you point any other public official who gives his life so willingly as the soldier?"

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