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THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1929

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 of the paper. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesdays. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the work submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper and as are required by laws of the state. Because of a mechanical situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used.

Pierce St. vs. Woodward Ave.

Members of Birmingham's village commission last week, after twice considering the proposal of manager Parry and engineer Corson that Pierce street be used as a north and south dividing line for renumbering the village, finally okeyed the plan, thus eliminating Woodward avenue, south of Maple avenue, as the traditional base line. This means, then, that Birmingham will have some new east and west streets of the same name, such as Brown, Lincoln, and Frank.

The Eccentric recognizes in the proposed new plan some benefits; it has seen, however, a number of evils in changing Birmingham's dividing line from so well known an avenue as Woodward to something of an obscure (to the outside world, at least) street as Pierce. Yet, when viewed from all angles, there are benefits of a controversial nature to both methods.

One of the peculiarities of the change, however, is the fact that many local people have expressed themselves in favor of retaining Woodward avenue as the dividing line for re-numbering Birmingham, yet have failed to appear before the commission with their pleas. Notably included in the list of objectors to using Pierce street, are many local real estate concerns who, despite their individual objections, failed to mass their strength and, collectively, win what they have failed to do as individuals.

Looks as though manager Parry and Corson have more than one person's number tucked away in their vest pockets.

Hearst And Barleycorn

William Randolph Hearst, journalism ar excellent and, peradventure, way beyond the fondest dreams of ordinary newspaper Utopian dreams, has now come forth with an offer to give $25,000 to the person who can prepare a "plan to repeal the eighteenth amendment and substitute in place of prohibition a more liberal and more American measure, which will secure for the public more genuine temperance, with less offensive interference with the fundamental rights and personal liberties of the citizen."

As a man who, on occasion, can furnish anything that money will buy—for he's worth many millions of dollars—Mr. Hearst is hard to beat; he charters trans-Atlantic dirigible airships to make news for his 28 daily newspapers, stages a flight over the Antarctic Circle, and even once became a party candidate for President of the United States—not to mention the Spanish-American War which, it is reported, he had much to do in carrying on. For real red-blooded sportsmanship, tireless energy, inventive creative ability along certain lines, Mr. Hearst cannot be surpassed—no sir, hardly equalled.

So it is no surprise to learn that he has copied after W. C. Durant's plan of staging a nation-wide contest to create news—only in Hearst's case he has taken the other extreme, and would advertise ways and means of restoring intoxicating liquors as legal merchandise upon American marts.

Well, if Mr. Hearst thinks he can repeal the eighteenth amendment as easily as his newspapers made a movie star of Marion Davies we venture the opinion that he has much to learn yet about the grocery business. It's a long grunt from the eighteenth amendment and the Volstead Act to legalized liquor traffic, to say the least. And our own guess is that Mr. Hearst, with all his ability to grumble, will soon overtax his respiratory organ as he tries to arrange his grunts into a national anthem that will vise the passport of old John Barleycorn, the un-American citizen of today.

THE PROCESSION STARTS from Birmingham Friday at 6 a. m. to visit the state prisons at Ionia and Jackson. J. E. McMullen, editor of the *Linden Leader*, who is an advocate of harsher treatment for criminals, will be the guest of *The Birmingham Eccentric* on the trip. He will reveal in an article in the next edition of this newspaper whether the trip has changed his point of view. Norman C. Orr, Oakland County prosecutor, and Murl H. DeFoe, editor of the Charlotte *Republican-Tribune*, two other members of the party, will also have their opinions recorded in an early edition.

YOUTHFUL PAT O'BRIEN (young despite his three score and ten age) humorously laments the fact that he missed some of the 5,600 plum puddings packed by a London, England, hotel chef, each pudding being thoroughly soused in strong liquor. Well, Pat, judging from newspaper reports, more than that number of puddings could have been soused in Iron County if your sheriff had kept his confiscated liquor until the holidays.

ONE GOOD QUALITY attached to the office of President of the United States lies in the willingness of scores of wealthy people to turn over their homes to the Presidential family. No matter how poor a President may be in worldly goods, he is always assured of decent shelter. American people really are very hospitable.

It Is Always Working

How the law of compensation, that works days as well as nights all over the world, has applied its regulatory rules to traffic conditions between Birmingham and Detroit was aptly stated by village commissioner Lee A White last week. "Ten years ago, over a sixteen-foot pavement, it took me about an hour to reach Birmingham from downtown Detroit," said Mr. White to his fellow-commissioners. "Today, with splendid wide highways, it requires about the same period of time; increased numbers of motor cars, and traffic stop and go lights have decreased the efficiency of the speed that more and wider highways promised us." Well, we all agree with Mr. White's symposium on the subject, and probably join with him should he ask: "What shall I do with time saved getting from where I am to where I want to be, anyway?"

Just An Exaggeration

In his recent declaration that prohibition is opposed by two temperance influences, namely, the Episcopal Church and the Hearst Newspapers, William Randolph Hearst has stretched the truth. Of course, he may well speak for the Hearst papers; but the Episcopal Church has never favored the repeal of the eighteenth amendment, we are reliably informed, although a group from within a small minority of the Episcopal Church, styling themselves as Church Temperance Society, have come out for a change in national legislation on the liquor question. This group, too, has been severely criticised by the country's Episcopal leaders. So it looks as though Mr. Hearst really stands only with the brewers and distillers, whose stock (wet or dry, or both) he must feel a kindly interest in.

A Modern Peace Influence

Some idea of the influence that modern service clubs are wielding in the world is portrayed in a recent syndicated news dispatch from Will Irwin, writer, who has been with President-elect Hoover on the South American trip. Writes Mr. Irwin from Rio De Janeiro: "Rotary clubs seem to be a powerful international force in these countries. When hostilities broke out between Bolivia and Paraguay, Rotarians telegraphed from almost all other South American countries, appealing for a peaceful settlement, and calling attention to Article 6 in the Constitution of Rotary International. It is believed here that this had great weight in bringing about the peace which followed." The Article 6 referred to by Mr. Irwin is: "The advancement of understanding, good-will, and international peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service."

Worse Than Liquor

Temperance is an improvement over drunkenness; total abstinence is an improvement over temperance. Yet there are things worse than intemperance or drunkenness—things that contribute toward making this world a sad place for many to live in. Among them may be included: idle chatter or gossip about other people, cheating the butcher, baker or candlestick maker out of money that is owed him, an artificial assuming of material wealth that is not possessed for the sake of "putting on airs", and plain, ordinary mental laziness. These things do more to shrivel up the good capacities of people than liquor does in making enlarged hearts or enfeebled bodies and morals. Some tee-totalers may think themselves angels; God doesn't judge people solely by their attitude toward liquor—He wants something besides aridity from His children. Not all evil spirits come in bottles, either.

R. N. HOLSAPLE, superintendent of the Michigan branch of the Anti-Saloon League, is so zealous in his crusading for the strict sobriety of mankind that he has vigorously pleaded for the sentence of a fourth-time liquor law violator (Mrs. Etta Miller) to life; of course, under the present Criminal Code, Holsaple is correct in demanding that the law be enforced, but his remarks on the subject should, we believe, be tinged with some mercy. Holsaple ought to know that there are qualities of human activity much worse than selling or drinking liquor—and one of them is an extreme intolerance for the blunders of ignorant people.

IN THESE STRENUOUS DAYS of industry, when a tax of some sort or other is charged against most business or professional service to society, it is gratifying to learn that Michigan refuses to tax a certain thing occasionally. For instance, a soldier stationed up near the Soo finds that he can open a tattooing establishment without having a license fee. This will be gratefully received by millions of people, no doubt; without paying for a license fee, tattooinf ought to become a fairly cheap ornament—within the reach of even the most humble income. No longer will arms and legs have to go unadorned.

"GUNMEN SHOOT LAWYER", stated a Detroit Times headline the other day. Now may we expect some changes in criminal prosecution procedure in our courts. A few more such shootings and legal profession will tumble to the fact that it, more than any other single agency, can clean house in metropolitan underworlds.

ROY CRISSEY, in the Midland (Mich.) *Republican*, last week said: Ruth Elder has flu, reads a headline in the New York *World*. Shouldn't this be Ruth Elder has flown? (No, Roy, our own notion is that it should state "Ruth Elder is flighty.")

DON'T BE TOO HARD on United States Senators and Congressmen. In order to be law-abiding citizens they are compelled to meet every December. It's the same way with the weather—April brings rain and May the flowers; November the turkey, December national powers.

There is a word, of grief the sounding token;
There is a word bejewelled with bright tears,
The saddest word fond lips have spoken;
A little word that breaks the chain of years;
Its utterance must ever bring emotion,
The memories it crystals cannot die,
'Tis known in every land, on every ocean—
'Tis called "Goodbye".

—AH FOO LIN.

ROLLING DOWN TO RIO

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.

VILLAGERS IN CUBA

Havana, Cuba,
Jan. 1, 1929.

To the Editor:

To meet Birmingham people in this distant city of Havana seems quite an interesting coincidence and one that I thought might also be news for The Eccentric.

Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Mattingly, of 514 Tottenham road, Birmingham, have been in our party here during our stay. We all leave together tomorrow, Jan. 2, for another short stay at Everglades Hotel, Miami, Fla., before returning home.

To those on their first visit here a few of the outstanding impressions are first, the extreme courtesy accorded the American tourists—prompted, I am told by the spirit of gratitude held toward America since the Spanish-American war. The somewhat recent visit of President Coolidge when he officially opened the Pan-American congress here served to enhance friendly relations; second, the absolutely universal cleanliness of the streets, even in the poorest districts, is very remarkable. I have not seen even the smallest bit of paper thrown about—this is largely because Cuba has had to wage a terrific battle against disease. Since the regime inaugurated by Gen. Wood, of U. S. A., all building regulations, city ordinances, etc., are framed to eliminate the many plagues previously suffered here. All floors must be of tile, marble or cement and all stairways, even in modest homes, are of marble (this material being very cheap here). These provisions are made to prevent the use of wooden floors and promote hygiene by exterminating rats.

An outstanding, and to me, surprising, thing is the many, many beautiful buildings one sees throughout Havana. Comparatively cheap labor, perhaps, may account for their number. I am told that many of the beautiful homes that in our part of the country would easily cost $60,000 to $70,000 may be built here at an approximate cost of $20,000.

Last week the weather was quite cool, almost like our normal October, but without frost of course. Since then it has moderated considerably. New Year's Day I noticed a street thermometer in the shade registered 80 degrees. Evenings are always quite cool as the island is swept by continuous breezes from ocean, Gulf and the balmy trade winds.

Perhaps you have already noticed my inclination to ramble on, so Finis!

Most sincerely,
MRS. MILTON R. SCHATZ.

The Other Chap Says Something

DOCTORS AND MINISTERS

Speaking of doctors, Crane and Moyer, we were reminded of an essay we read some time ago on "The Doctor" by F. W. Boreham, an Australian Methodist preacher, who lectured in this country a few months ago. The late Major Duff, anything but a Methodist, first introduced us to these Boreham books. He surely knows humankind. In this essay on The Doctor, he is trying to show how preachers and doctors both belong to the same school of healing. As Boreham says:

"There are times when the dentist feels that the trouble is not in the teeth but in the nerves, and he sends his client to the doctor. In exactly the same way, a doctor must sometimes discover that his patient's trouble is not within the scope of his treatment, and, if he be wise, he will invite the co-operation of a minister. These two—the doctor and the minister — cross each other's tracks so frequently, just because the physical and spiritual realms with which they deal are so inseparable."

John Wesley in his famous Journal approved, in part at least, of what we call Christian Science today. The great divine says:

"Reflecting today on the case of a poor woman, I could not but remark the inexcusable negligence of most physicians in cases of this nature. They prescribe drug after drug, without knowing a jot of the matter concerning the root of the disorder. And, without knowing this, they cannot cure. Whence came this woman's pain? From fretting over the death of her son! And what availed medicines whilst that fretting continued? Why then, do not all doctors consider how far bodily disorders are caused, or influenced, by the mind? And in those cases which are utterly out of their sphere, call in the assistance of a minister, just as ministers, when they find the mind disordered by the body, call in the assistance of a physician? No man can be a thorough physician without being an experienced Christian."

The whole Boreham book pictures the harmony that should prevail between preachers and doctors (not the scratch my back and I will scratch yours policy) as a means of healing. Mr. Boreham goes on to say:

"If ever I see a doctor looking askance at a minister, or a minister treating a doctor to scant courtesy, I shall remind that doctor that the very first Christian doctor was a minister, and I shall whisper to that minister that the very first Christian minister was a doctor. He was the first great preacher and the first great healer. 'God had an only Son, and He was a Missionary and a Physician,' wrote David Livingstone from Central Africa to his brother in Scotland. Yes He was a Minister and a Doctor. And, in His turn, "He called His twelve disciples together, and sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. And they departed, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere." These two God hath joined together. The union is a very sacred and very beautiful one, as the heroic story of medical missions can amply testify. The minister and the doctor are comrades, brothers, partners in the holiest and lovellest service of humanity."

Which thought is amplified in one of our later day religions as told by Mary Baker Eddy in her Science and Health, when she pleads that:

"A higher and more practical Christianity, demonstrating justice and meeting human wants in sickness and in health, stands at the door of this age, knocking for admission. Will you open or close the door upon this angel visitant, who cometh in the quiet of meekness, as he came of old to the patriarch at eventide? * * *

"The history of our country, like all history, illustrates the might of Mind, and shows human power to be proportionate to its embodiment of right thinking. A few immortal sentences, breathing the omnipotence of divine justice, have been potent enough to break despotic fetters, and abolish the whipping-post and slave market; but oppression neither went down in blood, nor did the break of freedom come from the cannon's mouth. Love is the liberator.

Mr. Shakespeare was two jumps ahead of all of them in this regard when he set this down,

"There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so.

—Murl H. DePoe in Charlotte (Mich.) Republican.

Hoover May Not Want Extra Congress—Now

By CHARLES P. STEWART
Washington Correspondent for Central Press and The Eccentric

Washington,—All the indications are that Mr. Hoover would like to get out of the extra session of congress which he promised for next summer, unless the national lawmakers grant some sort or agricultural relief at their regular session during the coming winter.

There are not many signs that he will be able to sidestep it, however.

Prospects are for a big jam of legislative business to be handled before adjournment the first of March, and if the farmers get what they want, it probably will tie up something else, and an extra call will be necessary to take care of that.

Mr. Hoover's objection to an extra session is easy enough to understand.

Congress is a good deal of a pest to any president—particularly so at the very beginning of his first term, before he has had time to get his hand in.

Calling it together to do some one thing would not be so bad, if the chief executive could make sure that it would do exactly what he wants done and then quit and go home. Unfortunately he has no way of compelling an adjournment. The senators and representatives must come when he says so, but once gathered together, they can stay as long as they please. They can also take up any subject they may happen to fancy, whether it suits the president or not.

* * *

Theoretically, Mr. Hoover should have an easier time managing the Seventy—first congress than President Coolidge has had with the three or four he has had to deal with.

A senate which the White House was unable to control has been the great blight on the Coolidge administration.

Mr. Hoover appears certain to have a working—though not a very large—majority in the upper chamber, as well as a good-sized margin in the lower one.

It looks all right on paper, but it may not work out so well in practice.

* * *

Possibly Mr. Hoover will not prove to be just the kind of president some folk imagine.

As advertised in advance, the supposition is that he will carry on the Coolidge policies—meaning that he will be an ultra-conservative. If so, he will soon have the progressive element on Capitol Hill lined up against him. But, on the other hand, maybe he will turn out to be more of a liberal than the G. O. P. conservatives expect. Several of the progressives profess to think so, at any rate. In that case, he will have the conservatives after his scalp before long.

The old-time "regulars" are suspicious of him—there is no doubt about that.

They are politicians, and he never has been. He seemed to be learning the game pretty fast during the campaign, but the old guardsmen remain decidedly fearful that he may not play it their way, now that he is in.

Congressmen, unlike the president, are favorable to the idea of a special session. They have a good time in Washington, and may just as well be here as anywhere else.

Consequently, they may not even try to rush their winter's work, as Mr. Hoover assuredly wishes they would.

The Kellogg treaties—the navy bill—taxation—farm legislation—tariff revision upward — something is middling certain to be left over at the last minute that can hardly afford to wait until December, 1929.

If that happens, there will be no dodging an extra call, whether or no.

SIDESWIPES
In the World of Humor

"Have you heard the Porous Song?"

"Why, how does that go?"

"Over the Hills to the Porous."
—Life.

—

"What's the difference between a plumber and an Economics professor?"

"I bite, what?"

"A plumber doesn't pretend to know anything about Economics."
—De Pauw.

—

Archaeolgists have discovered a roadway in Peru which they believe was started 5,000 years ago and never finished. That gives it all the earmarks of a Government job.—Life.

—

Daughter—Dad, I won't need any clothes this winter.

Daddy—Ye Gods, has it come to this?—U. of Virginia '29.

—

Enquirer (to nerve specialist) —And is your treatment completely successful?

Nerve Specialist—Quite. So much so, that only last week one of my patients tried to borrow fifty pounds from me!—Humorist.

ANOTHER MERCHANT ENLARGES

MONTHS ago the F. J. Mulholland Company came to us with the problem of finding them larger quarters to take care of their growing business.

Through advance knowledge of certain changes which were going to happen, we were able to get them the new location which they have transformed into one of the most attractive stores in the Village.

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Friendly Thoughts
By G. Dewey Kimball

Youth is brave in the face of the dawn of life, in which it sees no hidden dangers. Age is courageous, facing the sunset, after having passed through its life's trials.

It is natural for us to wish that more people should know about our abilities, facilities and fairness of fee.

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