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THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1929

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.

Pontiac's County Valuation

There are always two sides to a proposition, sometimes three, seldom four.
For instance, there is the idealistic side, and the practical side; there is the side that happily combines the two and we may call it the compromise side;

All this is by way of introduction to a tax problem which has been raised by the city of Pontiac, through its duly appointed supervisors and the rest of Oakland County, through their supervisors.

As you may recall, at a meeting of the Oakland County Supervisors' equalization committee last week in Pontiac the real and personal taxes of Pontiac were raised to \$130,000,000.00, an increase of 71 per cent over its previous total of \$76,000,000.00 in 1928, or \$10,000,000.00 over the new 1929 valuation of \$100,000,000.00 placed by Frank Ely, Pontiac's city assessor for many years.

Naturally, Pontiac is opposed to the \$130,000,000.00 figure, and has, through Mr. Ely, appealed to the State Tax Commission for relief. In this action you do not criticize him, for, certainly, such action is necessary to justify the manner in which he has conducted his job for Pontiac; but what we do object to is the following statement which he has made regarding the appeal from the County Supervisors' equalization committee, as follows:

Mr. Ely declares that the real and personal property in the city of Pontiac was assessed by our petitioner in 1929 at approximately cash value, while the real and personal property in the townships of Farmington, Bloomfield, West Bloomfield, Southfield, and Independence were assessed for much less than cash value, as your petitioner is informed and verily believes.

Such a statement, in our humble opinion, is aptly described in a modern word which is spelled "b-o-o-e-y."

For the sake of those whose dictionaries do not explain "hoey," we will use several synonyms, such as "blatant," "apparent," "biological," and "hokum." It is a lamentable situation when a taxpayer is so impacted and necessarily closely knit as a city government cannot get along with a greater degree of co-operation on its Board of Supervisors than is manifest in Oakland County today. Pontiac, for many years advertising itself as "one of America's fastest growing cities," has, in our opinion, ably managed to keep down its tax assessments to a county equalization roll; to a certain extent, from the political side, Pontiac can receive compliments for the astuteness and cuteness of assessor Ely to control the equalization committee. But, as the copybook says, "it's a long roll that hasn't a flip-flop on its surface," and now assessor Ely squawks because he no longer controls the situation.

Perfectly natural, though, for it generally accompanies the affairs of those who become impractically political, or politically impractical.
Personally, we feel sorry for the citizens of Pontiac, who are those who own property within its borders, should they receive the entire assessment of \$130,000,000.00 on their collective tax roll; we do not know what the State Tax Commission will do in the matter, but we do know that assessor Ely has completely ignored the welfare of Oakland County and the citizens of Pontiac when he declared his own method of assessment was nearer the cash value than in all other areas.

There are always two sides to a proposition, sometimes three, seldom four. Assessor Ely may have found an Einstein fourth dimension in taxation matters, but we'll wager that few people will be able to understand his formula.

Parental Example

It is interesting to note the effect of parental example upon young and growing children. In one instance, as the father of two little boys and a littler girl, for quite some years we were met with the question from both boys: "When are you going to quit smoking, Daddy?" And, like most fathers who admit the habit of catering to their children, we would reply, "Oh, some time I'm going to quit." Now that we no longer bother trying to make a cigarette lighter work once in ten tries, we no longer meet the children's question, "when are you going to quit smoking, Daddy?" So we have concluded that the removal of our example in smoking from their presence is the best means we can devise to assure that they, when they grow up, will not require, in our opinion, an unnecessary and expensive habit. Thus we are able to see how parents, by proper exemplary actions, are placed in excellent positions to mould their children just about as they will.

MICHIGAN'S AREA OF LAND devoted to the bean industry represents 37 per cent of the total area of the United States that raised the foodstuff after which our sea defense was named. We are perfectly willing therefore, to allow Massachusetts to claim the Calumet and the coal, but I think the time has come when the supremacy of Boston's beans should be disputed by the Wolverine State.

Up-to-date Methods

Means and methods of putting over messages in these increasingly complex days of scientific progress are many and varied. A modern paraphrase of an old advertising slogan connected with Castrina's famous "children cry for it" is revealed by a local parent who, when the recent Barnum school bond election was up a few weeks ago, agreed that "children tease for it"—"it" being the swimming pool of the election. According to our informant, getting the children to "tease" their parents for the swimming pool aided greatly in putting over the issue.

You And Me

"Isn't it strange that princes and kings and clowns that caper in sawdust rings, and common people like you and me, are builders of eternity?"

To each is given a bag of tools, a shapless mass and a book of rules. And each must make, ere life has flown, A stumbling block or a stepping stone."

A Snob

Be a snob, urges one college professor. Be Christ-like, urges another. And so go the public prints day by day. The first professor has nothing new to offer. Nineteen hundred years ago fewer fatalities were urging others to be snobbish. Is there still the same amount of urging?

"Miss Liberty Will Be All Lit Up Tonight," stated a Detroit News headline the other evening, referring to the use of incandescent lights to illumine the Bartholdi statue in New York Harbor. Looks like they're trying to turn the nation's welcoming figure into an emblem of New York's night life.

THE SOONER THE STATE OF Michigan moves the Grand Trunk railroad to its new location, the sooner Woodward avenue can be completed with another strip between Royal Oak and a point north of Birmingham. When that is done fewer fatalities may occur on this busy thoroughfare. In the meantime, drive as ladies and gentlemen, not as hoodlums or demons; that is, if you would live longer.

PRESIDENT HOOVER HAS GIVEN his home town, West Branch, Iowa, a case of the first specimens of fossils which he collected, and which decided him to become a mining engineer. The world now awaits his gift of political fossils which decided him to become President of the United States.

IF ONLY THE HEARTSTRINGS of mankind could be submitted to a purserstring, what a benevolent world this would be!

PUBLICITY NOTICES BEING SENT out by Detroit fight promoters refer to the State Fair Grounds stadium as "Fitzsimmons' new outdoor arena, the largest plant in the country, designed and built especially for boxing." Well, would it sell, so Michigan's gone into the fight arena business!

UP IN LAPEER THE CHAMBER of Commerce is trying to have its city commission adopt a city planning and zoning ordinance. It will be interesting to watch the outcome of the effort—especially since Birmingham is about to engage in a second attempt to legislate against conditions that allow a community, like Topsy, merely to grow up.

EXACTLY FIVE PEOPLE ATTENDED the annual school district election over at Mason, in Ingham County, last week. One of them was the janitor, another a resident teacher. It's a good thing that the law compels juvenile school attendance, else there'd be no scholars. We'll bet that Mason's church attendance is on a par with its interest in school elections—or are we wrong, editor Brown?

Hiawatha Land

Do you wonder, tourist brother, where to spend the summer days, Where to find a shady refuge from the hot sun's torrid rays, From the city's din and uproar, from the prairie's dusty ways?

Do you long, O tourist brother, for a land of quiet streams, For a land of virgin forests where the northern sunlight beams Through the interlacing branches in a pattern-work of gleams?

Are you dreaming, tourist brother with the yearning, tired eyes, Of a camp among the pine trees, where the scented lake wind sighs, Whipping ancient melodies of peace beneath the dreamy skies?

Are you weary of the struggle, of the turmoil, of the care? Has the vengeful God of Profit stalked you through the thoroughfares? Has your spirit drooped and languished in the fetid city air?

Listen then, O tourist brother—up beside the northern seas, Where the sky-blue waters wrinkle in the balsam-accented breeze, And the tall pine-woods are chanting mystic Indian symphonies;

Where the long, green hills are dreaming in the mellow August haze, And the rivers wind among them, threads of shining silver-gray, And the white-tipped deer go bounding through the piney forest ways;

Where the waves of Gitche Gumee splash for the golden sand, Where there is peace and rest and freedom for the weary heart and hand, There's the place of all your dreaming—it is Hiawatha Land.

—MICHIGAN PROPERTY OWNER.

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE



WHO'S WHO AND TIMELY VIEWS

MERCHANT MARINE DECLARED TO BE MAKING PROGRESS

By E. C. PLUMMER
Vice Chairman of the U. S. Shipping Board
(Edward Clarence Plummer was born at Presbury, Mo., Nov. 3, 1863. He is a graduate of Bowdoin college. From 1888 to 1896 he was engaged in newspaper work at Bath, Me. Two years later he began the practice of law at Bath. For 17 years he was secretary of the Bath chamber of commerce. For 21 years he was attorney for the Atlantic Carrier's association. He has been a member of the United States shipping board since 1921 and vice chairman since 1923. He has written a number of sea stories and poems.)

The need for an American merchant marine of substantial proportions is reflected in statistics regarding water-borne foreign commerce for last year, which show that 6,100 vessels of 23,000,000 gross tons, representing 28 different countries, found employment in handling the commerce of this country.

We paid \$750,000.00 for ocean transportation—\$2,000,000.00 per day for every day in the year; and the sum the foreigner took \$1,333,000.00, not stopping on Sundays or holidays. The effects of the Jones-White Merchant Marine Act of 1920, designed to retrieve for the United States its lost position on the seas already are noticeable.

The mail contract provisions of this law has assured the building of some 30 vessels, ranging from a few freighters of as low as 13 knots to five passenger ships of 21 knots, not to mention the two mammoth crafts of not less than 27 knots which will be built under the shipping board's contract with the United States lines. The building program is but a beginning.

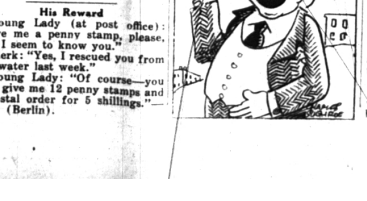
Practical shipping men in foreign countries have built 1,000 ocean-going vessels of 10,000,000 gross tons and they now have 2,000,000 tons more under construction. And still we hear criticism of this program because it now has made possible the building in this country of 30 ships for the benefit of our own commerce. The cost of such aid to commerce, estimates, amounts to about one-tenth of one per cent of the \$2,000,000,000 worth of ocean-borne cargoes which the United States sends to and takes from foreign countries.

Just as a good name, once blighted, may only be restored through long and arduous efforts, so our famed merchant marine, blessed for his wife, the other day, was refused saying it was "day man's work." The wife got the Bible read from II Kings 21:13: "And will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down." The young man is still doing the stunt.

—Walker Herald.

No Vacation
"I sure sympathize with the faher, it's a penny stamp, please. "When I asked his mother, "Because they are in schools all the time."

His Reward
Young Lady (at post office): "Give me a penny stamp, please. But I seem to know you." Clerk: "Yes, I rescued you from the way corners of the street." Young Lady: "Of course you may give me 12 penny stamps, and a post order for 5 shillings." UK (Berlin).



The Other Chap Says Something

PHIL OSOPHER'S COLUMN

You can't judge a girl's speed by the runs in her stocking.

The hand that wabbles the steering wheel is the hand that makes business for the undertaker.

Unless somebody plants a few future generations need not worry about soliters.

One of our readers suggests that about the best definition one can think of for the word "detour" is the roughest distance between two points.

A Lapeer physician says, his treatment for nerves has proved so successful that one patient tried to borrow \$10 from him.

Warning
"Lord helps him who helps himself." Said Nellie, reaching for the shelf. On which a man keeps her nice red jolly. But if a man sees her, Lord help Nellie!

Then, Now, and Later On
Thirty years ago eggs were 12¢ a dozen, butter 16¢ a pound, and milk 5¢ a quart. The butcher gave away liver and treated kids to hologna. The hired man got \$2 per week and did the washing. Women did not powder, paint, smoke, or play poker and no tips were given above her shop-top she was abjectly disgraced for life. Men solely discredited for life. Men bought whiskey and boots, chewed tobacco and spit. Beer was 5¢ a mug and lunch was free. Laborers worked ten hours a day and never went on a strike. No tips were given to waiters and the hat-check was unknown. A kerosene hanging lamp and a stereoscope in the parlor were luxuries. No one was operated on for appendicitis or bought monkey glands. Now everybody flies or rides in automobiles, plays golf, shoots craps, plays the piano with their feet, goes to the movies nightly, smokes cigarettes and drinks hooch, blames the high cost of living on the political party in power, never go to bed the same day they get up, and think they are having one heck of a time. These are the days of self-frageting and profiteering, excess and prohibition, and if you still think life is worth living, join us in believing that April showers bring May flowers.—Lapeer County Press.

Dinner Stories

A man has to go to school and study for years to be a pharmacist, or else he might put two slices of ham in a sandwich.—Life.

If an impressionistic window dresser wants a new idea, he could discard the dummies and display the summer frocks on a rhubarb sauce.—Life.

Its Circulation
A visitor to the small town was chatting with the small-town editor. "Do tell me," he said, "why do you ever call your paper the Pleasantville Blat?" Why the Blat? "Because," said the editor with a sigh "nobody seems willing to take it."—Boston Transcript.

A spinster living in a suburb was shocked at the language used by two men repairing electric wires.

Colgrove Buck & Tillotson REALTORS
An Attractive New Home in The Quorton School District \$15,250
A splendidly built new house, on a heavily wooded lot 70 x 150, in the fashionable Quorton Lake District. Four bedrooms, sewing room, living room, dining room, kitchen, heated garage, electric refrigerator, etc. Shown by appointment only.

Friendly Thoughts By G. Dewey Kimball
Take my hand, it isn't far you have to go—I know every step of the way. I've a home on top of the hill and you know I'd like you to stay with me. Until morning with me—we will eat, rest and sleep. I like to meet people, don't you? I've always held that it helps one to be happy: Traveling's tiresome—friends are so few. It is natural for a family to turn for service to an organization about which they have heard favorable comments. G. DEWEY KIMBALL FUNERAL DIRECTOR. Ambulance Service 408 N. WOODWARD AVE. PHONE 850

DIRECTORY
Advertising in this column assures your patrons that your services are dependable. A. C. ADAMS Funeral Home 108 North Bates Street Ambulance Service Packard and Lincoln Hearers Phone: Birmingham 1131 and 1496. Clare H. Ogden Attorney-at-Law Room 3, Oakland Savings Bldg. Phone Birmingham 1055. Dr. J. S. Donaldson Dentist X-Ray TELEPHONE 1937 Suite 209 WABECK BUILDING Hours: 9 to 12 and 1 to 5. McAlpine-Starr, Inc. Engineers - Surveyors (Registered) 616 South Woodward BIRMINGHAM, MICH. PHONE BIRMINGHAM 805 CIVIL ENGINEERING Farm Surveys Lot Surveys Subdivision Design "Accurate Work At Reasonable Charge" Dr. G. R. Norton OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN 134 1/2 West Maple By Appointment LEONARD BLDG. PHONE: OFFICE 1699