

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1929

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have new value and interest to the community. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesday to be considered for publication. Material received after that time will be held for the next issue unless otherwise specified by the publisher.

Hot Shovel or Cold Ice?

For several years agitation for the extending of Merrill street from Pierce street through to Woodward avenue has stirred the village community; to date much money and time has been expended upon this project, yet it seems to be at a standstill now, awaiting revision of the special assessment roll; in the meantime, many alley projects are being held up.

If it was necessary to open Merrill street extension, it still is necessary, and only last Monday night Commissioner Laurence Hubert made the significant statement: "this street extension is the one chance this Commission has had to do something big for Birmingham. Let's get it done."

We agree with Commissioner Hubert, and suggest that somebody in authority visualize the means to accomplish the project before some on-rushing glacier appears upon the scene and, at the rate of several feet per year, digs its cold heel from Pierce street to Woodward avenue, choosing, perchance, the proposed Merrill street extension for its route.

Or else, it would seem, village officials might manifest a desire to forget the project entirely—without forgetting to notify the glacier of their intention.

Religious "Pepper"

What is going on in the minds of some of the modern preachers was revealed to one of our people last week when, while in another community not far from Birmingham, we overheard a preacher talking to a man who must have been a member of his congregation. The words that struck us as unusually business-like were: "...and you see, by going through on this church building and expansion program, we will have created something to pop up our people for at least three years." Then, we suppose, in three years, after the pepper had been shaken out, at least the pepper shaker would remain in the form of the new edifice—even though there might be no seasoning left with which to leaven the congregation's religious appetite.

THE CORNERSTONE for Birmingham's new Community House was laid several weeks ago, and fitting ceremonies. When completed, it will be a beautiful edifice, with a beautiful piece of civic work cut out for its future. The mere raising of the money to build it, and the building of it, splendid though they be, are as naught when compared to the problem of carrying into the lives of men and women, boys and girls, the potentialities of its basic plan. Much effort has been put into the Commission's ideas here, and much more will be required to carry on this eternal business of grinding into new brilliancies the facets of that diamond of gems which we call the family of mankind.

WHEN HE OCCUPIED the highest office attainable in this country, Calvin Coolidge was known to his constituency as "Cal." Now that he has been elevated to the ranks of private citizenship he is being heralded the length and breadth of the land as "Mr. Coolidge." Well, that ought to be sufficient compensation for any President.

AN IMPORTANT SOCIAL discovery just made in our Labrador laboratory, and rushed to us by special messenger this week, is included in the following suggestion: "guest lists may be limited by not borrowing too many things for the party from too many people." Thanks, Lab, for your discovery.

NOW THAT THE VILLAGE commission here has debated at some length the serious problem of golf club caddies, we may expect to hear no more about it.

BIRMINGHAM IS MADE UP of a number of lovely streets. Take Bates street, for instance; for the beauty of its trees and the number of its well kept yards and gardens, it is doubtful if any other street in Birmingham can eclipse it.

WHEN GOVERNOR GREEN signed the Lennon cigarette tax bill the other day he offered the world evident proof of the prosperity of the Wolverine state for, as the lowly fag is henceforth puffed in these parts, the puffer will prove not only that they have money to burn, but can save some during the conflagration process—for, you will recall, the state solons fixed it so two cents paid on each package is turned over to the state treasurer.

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO a number of Birmingham's automobile dealers banded together and staged an outdoor "auto show," preceded by a parade along the village. Although something of a novelty, it contains some very real and practical possibilities, and we hope the automobile chaps will continue the practice. Out of it all will be impressed upon local and nearby motorists the wisdom of "buy your automobile where you live."

"Chet" Chins Cheerfully

Chet M. Howell, State Senator from Saginaw, publishes in his weekly Chinesing Argus a column captioned "All Over The Lot." Last week the inimicable Chet, referring to the adjournment of the Legislature, puts it this way:
Lamenting Political Note:
"Ye—ye—and the people should be tickled—cause the dear legislature can't make any more laws—and maybe the gunner will veto some—and there can't be any more funny bills presented and no more trick plans for state funds and members are back home and eatin' three squares a day again and it's been a hard job to try and pay \$4 per day for a room and eat and try and make out on a "salary" of three bucks per day—and now the job of the folks back home is to try and find out the new laws they are supposed to obey and it'll take a long time—probably not until the legislator meets again will the folks find out and then the lawmakers will meet again—and anyhow it's a bad job keeping up with the legislator—it takes as they say a Philadelphia lawyer.

Plans For Immortality

Many people, after a night's sleep, arise in the morning with scarcely any plan that fits into the days that preceded and the days that are to follow. Oh, yes, you may say that men carry out, each day, certain definite plans that have been created weeks, or years, before; quite true, but most of these plans have to do with mere physical things, things that in themselves are inanimate and susceptible to decay and rust. There is another and important, phase of ourselves—that dreamy dream state of mind; the gossamer webbed structure in which we hang those pictures of ourselves as we would be—as we would be if circumstances were just a trifle different.
Many people arise, after a night's sleep, and remain thoroughly asleep until somehow or other they begin to taste their breakfast; they have been entirely oblivious to the morning beams of sunlight that slant into the house, or the staccato twitter of the birds outside, or of the radiance of colors that are revealed from leaf and flower, or—of even, of the glorious thrill of merely being alive. Many people, tired with the grind of the day's work, go to a nervous, fretful sleep, day after day, day after day—with plenty of plans for their physical welfare, but no plans at all for the upbuilding of that immortal phase of their being, known to our ecclesiastical friends as "the moral and spiritual man."

Human Beings Then

During these days we give boundaries on wolves and other destructive animals.
One hundred fifty years ago the communities along the Wilderness Trail, to the west were offering bouquets on the scalp of Indians.

We are exercised these days when a ship bearing liquor to the United States is shot at and sunk.

A hundred twenty-five years ago ships were smuggling to the United States human beings, black and white, and selling them as slaves.

Do not be discouraged. We are making progress.—Grand Rapids (Minn.) Herald-Review.

TWO OF THE THREE Detroit dailies, the Free Press and the News, editorially have requested capital punishment for Michigan; the other, the Times, is opposed to such barbarous means to curb and correct criminal tendencies. In the newspaper heaven, a good mark has been registered for the Times, we believe, which on this problem revealed a courage that is worth commendation.

"BAD BOYS SELDOM come from good homes," Dr. Willis from Stevens, headmaster of Cranbrook School, recently told to members of the Birmingham Lions club, adding, "often it is the parents who should be punished for their children's wrongdoings, rather than the children themselves." The Doctor's statements are worth pondering deeply.

PEOPLE WHO SEEK to implant good signposts of morality into the world to become better by, have two means of doing it: one is being youth, and second, by trying to change those thoughts, habits, and customs of persons already grown up. The most effective way, it is agreed, is to bend one's efforts upon the young mind, so that the succeeding generations will live better than the one that planted the seed. This is the oft-quoted "living for posterity"—a practical way of being unselfish.

WHAT A HURLY-BURLY we make of life!—Though it has only a few elements—food, clothing, shelter, the pursuit of happiness, and with some thought given as to the Hereafter! A calamity that more of us are not sensible like Thoreau, with a Walden Pond and a cabin in which we can retire for straight thinking. Through its complexity, life is losing its purpose—we are just living!—Eaton Rapids (Mich.) Journal.

My Own Shall Come To Me

Serene I fold my hands and wait,
I care for wind, or tide, or sea,
I rave no more 'gainst time or fate,
For 'ho! my own shall come to me.

I stay my haste, I make delays,
For what avails this eager pace?
I stand amid the eternal ways,
And what is mine shall know my face.

Asleep, awake, by night or day,
The friends I seek are seeking me;
No wind can drive my bark astray,
Nor change the tide of destiny.

What matter if I stand alone?
I wait with joy the coming years;
My heart shall leap when 'tis has dawn,
And garner up its fruit of tears.

The waters know their own, and draw
The brook that springs in yonder height;
So flows the good of pure equal law
Unto the soul of woe and delight.

The stars come nightly to the sky;
The tidal wave unto the sea;
Nor time, nor space, nor deep, nor high
Can keep my own away from me.

—JOHN BOROUGHES.



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive answers to questions from its readers. All communications must be signed and the writer's name and address will be held confidential upon request.

SCHOOLS—BUSINESS

To the Editor: Considerable criticism has arisen in certain quarters of late because of the cooperation of groups of business men with school and colleges in the matter of text-book revision.

The critics assume that the interest of business men in this matter is entirely selfish and actuated by a desire to direct the thought of students along lines in conformity with big business. The business men declare that they only seek to bring the textbooks up to date and in some instances to eliminate Socialist propaganda which has been introduced.

The subject is one of great importance and one concerning which it is not safe to jump at conclusions. Certainly it is in the interest of the students, as well as the interest of the community, that they should have accurate information in their textbooks. The accuracy and fairness of presentation of a subject is the vital thing.

Recently the United States Bureau of Education in an official statement said of the activities of business groups in this connection: "In the past many text-books for commercial subjects have been prepared by authors whose business experience, if any, was not sufficient to enable them to record accurately the practices in business. As a result of research, 4,600 corrections were made and reported to 25 publishers of the text. The responses from the authors and publishers have proved the worthiness of business groups to put commercial education on a fact basis."

No reasonable person could object to the fact that a text-book business men and the schools. It is only when attempts are made, from whatever source, to inject prejudiced matter into textbooks that a halt should be called. Each case should be considered on its merits, and wholesale criticism, without discrimination as to the real purpose sought, is unwarranted and unjust. VILLAGER

The Other Chap Says Something

GUIDES TO YOUNG MEN I am compelled both by desire and circumstances, over which I have no control, to agree with the comforting spiritual philosophy of Miss Royden rather than the hard, cold, calculating scientific reasoning of Sir Arthur. The past is water over the dam and yet, my friends, it is through the past that we chart the future as individuals as well as nations. Every person at any age is only with the future the sum total of his past service, which is another word for experience, and we sample it as we go along, more or less by example. I am thinking now of a man who has been a quiet-but definite influence for good in my life. That others coming to me learn, possibly actually profiting, I have been held enough to set down a few suggestions regarding the initial steps that we chart the future as individuals as well as nations. Every person at any age is only with the future the sum total of his past service, which is another word for experience, and we sample it as we go along, more or less by example. I am thinking now of a man who has been a quiet-but definite influence for good in my life. That others coming to me learn, possibly actually profiting, I have been held enough to set down a few suggestions regarding the initial steps that we chart the future as individuals as well as nations.

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WHO'S WHO AND TIMELY VIEWS

By DANIEL WILLARD President, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad (Daniel Willard was born at N. Hartland, Vt., Jan. 28, 1861. He studied at Massachusetts Agricultural college for one year, and holds honorary degrees from four universities. He entered the railway service in 1875 and served in various capacities on different roads until 1899. In that year he was made assistant general manager of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad. He has been president of the road since 1910. He is a director of several other railroads and public utilities. Since 1914 he has been president of the board of trustees of Johns Hopkins university. During the World war he served in the engineering service of the United States army. His home is in Baltimore, Md.)

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ISLAND LAKE ESTATES
Still another beautiful site has been sold on the oak-covered shores of picturesque Island Lake. Situated just a few minutes west of Bloomfield Club on Long Lake Road, Island Lake Estates offers the most charming all year round residential possibilities in fashionable Bloomfield.
Colgrove Buck & Tillotson REALTORS

Friendly Thoughts By G. Dewey Kimball
A harsh word is a rusty sword leaving poison in the wound it makes. A kind word is the balm that heals. Sympathy is the bandage of understanding. Forgiveness is a healing art that can be acquired even as we learn to walk. The world needs more healers.
Conversation among friends increases the confidence of the community in this organization. Courteous attention. Sympathetic attendance.
G. DEWEY KIMBALL FUNERAL DIRECTOR 401 N. WOODWARD AVE. PHONE 110 Ambulance Service

did the monarchs of olden times. This is all wrong. It is perfectly easy to say anything is wrong, but much harder to offer a constructive plan to remedy the evil. Now then, who shall work out this remedial plan? There is only a disposition now to take building of our common law out of the hands of the lawyers, and give this to business men. The idea, which is prompting these suggestions is that so doing might eliminate many of the technicalities which the legal profession now professionally breaks down in behalf of their guilty clients. Whether this point is well taken or not may never be known until it is once tried. However this may be, a workable set of sensible laws, and a workable and equitable method of trying those charged with violations is a matter which needs the most serious consideration by those entrusted with our governmental machinery. Frank L. Beyer in Grand Lodge Independent.
Guelph, Ont., will have golf links, club house, hotel and several athletic fields through the gift of Arthur W. Cullen, Chicago grain operator, who was born there.

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