

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1930

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A Crusader's Voice

A young man named Gerald Buckley sought to cheer up "the common herd" over Detroit's radio station WMBZ; he endeavored himself to many thousands of citizens within hearing of his voice. He was murdered in a Detroit hotel lobby, and public indignation asserted itself to such an extent that Buckley's case became the crusade of many, many people.

"Under His Wings"

Fires, flood, famine, and pestilence still stalk about in various localities of this place, and many people there be who cease living as the result of these catastrophes. The latest earthquake in Italy, resulting in the death of three thousand people, recalls to mind that famous beginning of the 91st Psalm, as it declares: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

Shall We Consume Ourselves?

Human beings, in their pilgrimage upon the earth, become filled with various and sundry thoughts and ideas which pertain to the fundamental and basic needs of life, as health, food, clothing, and shelter.

Our Changing Habits

'Tis not so difficult, when you ponder the matter, to cause society to change its method of consumption by the use of the proper means, you may change the course of an entire government. Witness Turkey, today; it is an entire government. Witness since the World War, and the Sultan and his harem sought to govern itself; its women, once subject to death if they appeared on the streets unveiled, have discarded this mask and even obtain places in government; polygamy has given way to monogamy; Testament teachings, which at an individual may, in a brief hour, change from one method of conduct to another, so may a collection of them, a nation of them—yes, even a world of them!

"Howe" About This?

E. W. Howe is an ancient gentleman who, for many years, published a daily newspaper at Atchison, Kansas. During his half century of newspaper making this venerable oldster tasted much of life—not for forget in its political aspects. We think we detect just a tinge of cynicism in this otherwise careful comment of Mr. Howe's:

"I can give you two billion dollars of appropriations proposed by our government to demonstrate that, if adopted, they would not only do no good, but harm. . . . This is Democracy: representation by universal suffrage, which we regard as the greatest of our blessings. How many more centuries will we waste along before realizing that our system of government could be improved?"

WHILE MICHIGAN'S attorney-general, Wilbur M. Brucker, goes about the state electioneering for himself, the crime problem in Detroit increases to a alarming extent. Would it be out of place to ask why Mr. Brucker, who daily criticizes Alex J. Grossbeck for the latter's criticism of the Michigan power, why he, Mr. Brucker, doesn't step into Wayne County and clean it up?

Newspapers As Histories

How to prolong the physical life of our newspapers is a problem that occupies ingenuitously in the Federal Bureau of Standards. An authentic source of historical information the newspaper of today will be invaluable tomorrow. However, it is printed on paper designed for the present, and time has demonstrated the perishable quality of its makeup.

During the early history of journalism in this country, newspapers were printed on expensive paper of chemically refined cotton or linen fibers. To meet popular demand for cheap dailies and weeklies, the wood fibers were accepted around 1870 and proved ideal for the purpose. Their impermanence didn't matter then as it does now. The papers printed before 1870 are still in existence.

A movement was started some time ago among editors and publishers to issue special editions of newspapers printed on permanent paper. This takes care of our records up to 1870 and after 1927, but filling the 57-year gap is a tougher problem. The Bureau of Standards is cooperating with librarians in an endeavor to preserve what we have of these precious records. Possibly the most effective treatment for the papers is the use of strong Japanese tissue paper on the sheets with starch.

Who Controls Taxes?

You remember the old statement about "death and taxes," and the impossibility of escaping either? Without attempting to prove the immortality of the soul, let us stick to the part about taxes.

Under our form of government, of course we cannot escape some form of taxation, the money from which is used for the administration of law and order, as well as the installation of public improvements, etc. But we can have something to say about the AMOUNT of our taxes, can we?

Probably 999,999 people out of a thousand complain about rising taxes. And not one in that same thousand ever takes tangible action to reduce the burden.

If government is wasteful and inefficient; if our public officials embark on extravagant, unnecessary improvement programs involving large bond issues for us to pay during future years; if experiments with government in business have cost us millions of dollars; and if a real industry and the individual are bent beneath a weight of taxes, it is the fault of the American public.

The people alone have the power, through the vote, to keep governmental expenses down.

Science Gets A Boost

Pure science has "arrived," states a news bulletin from the Smithsonian Institution in commenting on the passage by Congress of the bill carrying an appropriation of \$4,000,000 for enlargement of the United States National Museum.

The Smithsonian was originally organized in 1846 with a charter ordering the Institution to erect a building for the reception and exhibition of "all objects of art and of foreign and curious research." Had this order been accepted literally, the bulletin points out, the Smithsonian would have become nothing more than a warehouse. To two men, Joseph Henry and Spencer F. Baird, First Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Institution, goes the credit for extending Smithsonian activities into more practical fields.

Instead of shelving the plants, animals and minerals that were collected, they sent them to specialists the world over for study and comment. In this way, a store of invaluable knowledge concerning America's natural resources was unearthen.

Vox Polly

"I do not desire the spotlight!" —Rudy Yalco, Crooner.

LOVE 'EM OR LEAVE 'EM

By Sophie Softsoap. Dear Rudy Softsoap: My mother says I am too young to have dates. I say I am 43 next Thanksgiving. I don't you think I am old enough to have a teeny-weeny date now and then with some nice man? I'm so vexed! I could cry.

THE PROBLEM OF PRISON

MADE GOODS The movement of the governors of western states against the operation of the Hawes-Cooper act, strictly of the nature of a protectionism-made goods in interstate commerce is one which interests to some extent the general public.

THE BURNING QUESTION!

THE BURNING QUESTION! CAN WE SAVE THE GOODS? ARE THEY TOO FAR BURNED OUT FOR REPAIR TO SAVE? THE BURNING QUESTION!

THE GREAT PRETZEL MYSTERY

SYNOPSIS—Peculiar E. (Peach) Pack, while testing her famous speaking discovers an unsalted cheese ever takes tangible action to reduce the burden.

EX NTRIX

THE one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the hot dog is being celebrated in Vienna.

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