

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 right to publish is reserved. Payment will be made for material published. An erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person or organization appearing in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

The Bigness of Little Things

Just as a mere ray of sunshine, trickling through a tiny crevice in a prison wall, may light up a dungeon, so do new phases of human thought brighten up portions of our world.

The world changes under the constant birth of new thoughts. Customs and traditions are often upset in a moment, as somebody does something in a way slightly, or even radically, different than it has been done before.

For instance, imagine the feelings of a Dublin, Ireland, newspaper editor not long ago when, at the annual meeting of Rotary International, held in Minneapolis, the following incident took place:

The Mexico City Rotary club had brought with it its splendid Grand Opera company, which staged a musical program one evening. The Dublin editor, during the program, was called upon to make a brief speech, which he did by concluding as follows: "I had always thought that Mexico was a country of barren, rocky hills, mountains, desert wastes, poverty, and penance. I will return to Ireland with a different idea of Mexico—for I have learned this evening that you have wonderful people in it—people filled with the same ambitions and yearnings, the same lofty idealism, that other countries have. Thus do Rotary, and similar movements, bring about better assurance of peace between international understanding."

As the Dublin editor sat down, the leading tenor of the Mexican Opera company strode forth to the center of the platform, made a gracious bow to the Irishman and, as the orchestra began to play in the universal language of concord of sweet sound, he sang, in perfect English, the familiar strains of "My Wild Irish Rose."

And you may blame the Irishman if his eyes became misty, his heart panted a bit, and his hand was welded within the crucible of his own soul a bond, unbreakable, as he gained this new (not strange, nor) concept of Ireland's relation to the Mexican nation?

Situations such as this one, when just a mere ray of brotherly love was made manifest between two foreigners, are what we need in this old world to bring about a happy day when, in the words of Joseph Newton Mathews,

"His neighbor spoke to neighbor with the love demands of all. The rust would eat the walls. The spear stay at the altar. Then every day would gladden And every eye would shine And God would pause and listen, And his love be divine."

OUR FORM of government in the United States is based upon the belief that you can have men and women to become candidates for public office, and then have them remain honest after election. So is private business so constructed; only the man who is a man because of the facts in the case, with no public official you do not find combustion so easy.

IN MITE of the fact that the earth contains more salt than its inhabitants will ever need, this cheap substance is raising much trouble in India. The man who is leading the Indians to revolt against Great Britain, took, certainly selected a choice symbol, when he determined the salt shaker method. Since then he has been "peppered" with British attentions.

OKLAHOMA CITY is threatened with extinction in its established sections because of the inroads of new oil wells. The two most serious and citizen of that city are also metacred by the danger that a casual spark may cause, should the oil reservoirs be ignited. Truly, material wealth is between two things with a much more terror and hazard.

HAVE YOU MADE your pledge to "keep the good work going" in the annual campaign for funds for the Community House? Every dollar you give for this cause goes a long way towards creating practical happiness for the people in and near Birmingham.

FIRST LINDBERGH achieves distinction with the use of a propeller on his airplane, then, without a propeller in a glider. In no case, however, did he furnish any of the wind—as befits his modesty.

There are many outbreaks of enthusiasm in this world, but few of them more bubbling than the official reports of some governmental unit about its own activities.

Mod Or State Killing?

Here's something for those who favor capital punishment to ponder: what is the exact difference between an act of violence that is committed with cold, premeditated action, and that which is done on the spur of the moment, in the heat of passion?

On the other hand, there is the paradoxical problem upon the same sort of killing problem when done by those states that have capital punishment, when this form of punishment is compared with mob lynching. Recently the Atlanta Constitution, of Alabama, editorially scored those who led or participated in mob lynchings.

To which the Detroit Free Press, Michigan's leading exponent for the use of capital punishment, replies with: "Straight talk is hope to be taken to heart by those who appear to think that lynching is deprecated only in the north. All decent people, south and north, are against it. Whether white or black, a lynchee is the victim of a spirit that has no place in this age and country."

For, to us, as we agree with the Free Press' argument, we can see in capital punishment only the comparable act of the cold-blooded murderer, just as we agree that the hope is to be taken to heart by those who appear to think that lynching is deprecated only in the north.

Reward Of The Soil

Michigan used to be a great agricultural state; it is now the horse-drawn carriage lot of transportation race to the horseless descendant. This means that a majority of Michigan's population lived in small towns and upon farms. The growth of the automobile industry lured many rural folk to the cities; high (?) wages paid to factory workers, plus good marketing conditions for the average farmer, transformed fertile crops and tidy farm buildings into shambles and wastes.

Is the tide of human activity in Michigan about to change from the over-populated cities, where too many people seem to be gathered to do a dwindling amount of farm work, and to take human hearts in human families back to the soil? According to J. F. Cox, dean of agriculture at Michigan State College, the soil of our state offers a better living to our citizens than eking out a scant livelihood from the ranks of the unemployed in the cities.

Dean Cox believes that the management of small poultry, dairy cattle, fruits or field crops, such as peas or potatoes, offers a real and enduring prosperity to those who will till the soil. The use of more machinery upon farms by wealthier landowners is destined to make profits, too, asserts she dean.

What you may think, though, you must add to that, in spite of the shifting of man's endeavors from the soil to a more artificial way of earning a living, the seasons continue to return; warmth, sunlight, rains, winds, erosion, and the PLAN behind each seed dropped into old Mother Earth offers the promise of life and the means of keeping the human family from starvation. Blessed, say we, is he who can love the soil; such a one surely need never fear the morrow—if he will but use intelligence and labor in co-operation with Nature.

Inspired Thoughts

One-fourth of all the accidents taking place each year in the United States occur in the home. In these "Safety First" days perhaps more people will live longer away from home, some one may say; it will only seem longer.

ONE MIGHT PONDER and ponder whether or not certain phases of the modern leveling of taxes, and their expenditure, does not legalize a form of looting.

So we stand on the bridge—the two shores between—the one we shall see, and the one we have seen—And the one we have left seen far away Shrouded in mist—just a fading day.

Then—the rose clouds change to a golden hue—The gold is lost in a morning blue—The blue grows white with a mid-day sun And evening comes in the land of dew—And behold the way that was promised new Is only the trail so old to you—Dusk reaching for sunrise. Night is a bridge—The path of Eternity's Pilgrimage.

EX-NTRIX

JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE

Last week on Friday, Per Greenback, Michigan's "EX-NTRIX" killed the "Stein Song" from morning till night. But what a horrible sight! But the jury agreed. The defendant's were right.

Horse-Scope

According to the stars this is not a bad time for a "butcher boy" on a railroad train, as the stuff is very like to be a fluid that has been brewed from old suitcase handles, and flavored with a powder that has been extracted from third-class track-ers.

Hoi Polloi

"Gold is the most useless thing in the world." —Henry Ford.

THEY WILL BOUNCE OUT OCCASIONALLY

TEETH—Upper plate; East Bottoms or near 61st Street; Reservoir, Clifton 6242—Kansas City Star.

HOW'S CONNECT HINTZ?

A Connecticut mechanic has invented a doorbell that will not ring after the installment collector has presented the button for five minutes.

BROODING

The most unhappy people I have known were brooders. They could never forget their troubles, real or imaginary.

Famous Finales

BROWNSVILLE, Pa.—Ire of Socialist Party. Prohibition and voters in Point Marion and Springhill townships was aroused through a campaign by the two respective political parties, and found that there were no ballots for their parties.

Words Of Wisdom

All places are filled with fools. Sweet meat must have sour sauce.—Johnson. Death is a black camel, which kneels at the gates of all.—Abd-El-Kader.

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THE BIGGER THEY ARE THE HARDER THEY FALL!



The Other Chap Says Something—

WILD STATEMENTS

Several papers are sending out an early warning to their readers about "playing down" the stories that will soon be broadcast by candidates regarding the condition of the state finances.

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PEOPLE'S COLUMN

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To the Editor: The school board's action in transferring the duties of the club director from the village playground to the new Barnum swimming pool at the new Barnum School this year, deserves, I think, commendation for good sense.

Surely the new Barnum School swimming pool will afford a pleasant recreation opportunity for the children who spend their vacation time in the Barnum School Park under the supervision of men and women trained in such work.

Y. M. C. A. boys' work also should provide an ideal playground for children. Not only the beautiful advantage of being away from home, may solve the problem of what to do with the growing care of the youngster during the summer time.

Our Scrap Book

For the benefit of our readers' scrapbooks we give the figures on the cost of the world war to the United States during the present year of the centenary of America's entrance into that conflict.

Under the prohibition of the first hundred year's liquor is the hardest. Edgar A. Guest, poet: "Had I really applied myself to it in the last ten years, I could have read twice as many books as I own. I have simply frittered away my time on other things."

Farmers who fail to do so for about the same reason that causes children to play war merchants, plumbers, and authors. "I have never known a husband to wear longer than six months."

No ball player or golfer or tennis star will ever take the money that he carries away from the ring in the last ten years. He will be gradually increasing. So far, interest payments on the war debt have totaled \$6,748,988,000. This item will gradually grow smaller, as the interest payments on the war debt have totaled \$6,748,988,000.

Salvador de Madariaga, Chief of the Disarmament section of the League of Nations: "The success of war works is due to the fact that people like them. War works are a success because people like war."

Edwin E. Stinson, famous chemist: "As far as we can foresee, the future of power (water, etc.) will gradually pass to the black and yellow races."

John T. Flynn, American observer and writer: "The oil business is a world of incessant war, but nowhere is the battle marked by such ceaseless, ruthless, say, age, competition as that which marks the oil business."

William L. Bolitho, journalist: "All nations should not make a living with an honest grocery; not one of the greatest of gangsters in any country is the standard of business ability."

William Lyon Phelps, Yale professor of English Literature: "I can play my musical instrument. The first thing I do when I get to heaven will be to learn the piano. I shall spend the first million years on the piano. It will take me about that length of time to master the instrument."

Mrs. Thomas Alva Edison: "I have never heard him say he dislikes any piece of the instrument. He will give it more gas. Business has lost some of its momentum. The remedy is more gas—more advertising."

Robert Benchley, author and dramatic critic: "It is safe to predict that a comparative tabulation of words in common use in England and America, analyzed phonetically as pronounced in each country, would give America a startling lead over the mother-country in accuracy."

So We Hear Do re-arrange drivers move forward in the front-drive auto's.

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