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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1930

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. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publishers.

Oakland County Problems

Admittedly, Oakland County's financial condition is the most deplorable in its history. Overdrafts are reported in the general operating funds. The delinquent tax lists grow bigger each day. Supervisors, members of the poor commission, and welfare workers in all parts of the county report an appalling and growing need for relief of the indigent and unemployed.

The solutions of the problems are being offered daily at the sessions of the board of supervisors. Some of these solutions are not solutions at all, others are evidence of constructive thought by unselfish men who seek improvement in government. What the ultimate solutions will be and when they will be adopted, time will tell.

Numerous theories and the presentation of facts and half-facts have been offered as causes of the condition. Some blame the real estate men for the promotion of over-subdivision. Others blame county officials and contractors. And now there is the accusation again that the state tax commission was unjust in its equalization and that Oakland County was discriminated against so that Kent, Washtenaw, Genesee, and Wayne counties might be benefitted.

But any discrimination against Oakland County in state government may be traced directly to the inane indifference of Oakland County voters.

And this statement is based upon the following facts:

Oakland has a smaller part in the state government in proportion to size than any other county. No Oakland County man holds any of the elective state offices. Oakland County is not represented on any of the important boards or commissions. In the state house of representatives, Oakland county has but two members when its population entitles it to four.

The "gentleman's agreement" between Oakland and Washtenaw counties' senatorial district whereby one county supplies the senator for one term and the other county for the next term is three times as good for Washtenaw County because it has only one-third the population that Oakland has. While Genesee County has none of the more important state posts, it has its own senator and is liberally represented on various state boards and commissions. With only 30,000 more persons than Oakland County, Kent County pays a smaller percentage of the state tax and is represented in state government by such officials as State Treasurer Frank D. McKay; Melville B. McPherson, a member of the state tax commission and of the state board of agriculture; Justice John S. McDonald of the State Supreme Court; Allen M. Freeland of the state board of education; D. C. C. Slemon, commissioner of health, and Benjamin S. Hanchett, a regent of the University of Michigan, and many others.

If Oakland County is to continue to have financial problems such as it has today it will be because of a multitude of circumstances, but if Oakland County is to suffer discrimination in state government, it will be because Oakland County neglects to assert its rights in state government by insisting on just representation.

FOR A LONG TIME, now, we have heard that foods are rich in this and rich in that—and unless something happens to improve American prosperity soon, food will only be for the rich.

IT IS ESTIMATED that there are about 90,000 restaurants in the United States. Think of all the hash that you don't have to eat—and be happy.

THE EDITOR OF OUR department on cosmetics has just discovered that lemons play a large part in the aids to complexion. Now we shall recognize the cause of a sour face—and blame it on California.

MORE THAN TEN MILLION BRITISH women spend $15.00 each annually for permanent waves. With so many waves upon the matrimonial seas, is it any wonder the domestic weather is rough at times?

IN A SOUTHERN COLORED church a one-armed man was employed to collect the offering each Sunday, with the result that the receipts immediately doubled.

A CONTEMPORARY SUGGESTS that President Hoover should not be expected to go about the country preaching the doctrine of, or against prohibition. We agree that the time for any Presidential candidate to discuss prohibition is just before an election, too. It's hard enough to go down the middle of the road on such a subject before an election, without having to attempt it for four years.

"COLOSSAL BLUNDERS of the World War" is the title of a recent book by a military authority, W. S. Woods. May we suggest that the title be changed to "Colossal Blunders of the World Are Wars."

NOW, YOU TAKE THIS here sticker campaign business, why, can't you see how this here sticker campaign makes those who use stickers spit on paper, at least—and is this any worse than throwin' mud?

Purity In Officialdom

Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, perhaps today unsurpassed in the realm of jurisprudence, offers some sobering thoughts upon the subject of our country's greatest need. He says, "The greatest need in this country today is improvement in the administration of justice, especially in the criminal law. More important than uniform laws, or mere changes in procedural details, more necessary than any statement of the law, is the fostering of respect for the law itself, and the maintenance of the primary safeguards of life and property against organized criminal assaults, against the debauching of our institutions by the capitalization of crime. Most essential is the robust sentiment which regardless of the differences of political parties and policies, demands purity and competence in official action, without which all democratic efforts are futile."

This is a brilliant statement of an undeniable truth. It has been said, not without reason, that we are a nation of law-breakers; that respect for the law which characterized an earlier day has gradually dwindled.

Especially is Justice Hughes correct when he observes that today " . . . demands purity and competence in official action . . . " There is too much hypocrisy in public office today; there always has been plenty of incompetency, and still is, sitting behind the desks paid for by the taxpayers. What this country needs today is the restoration of character, with the willingness to make personal sacrifices for the public good, from men in high, or low, places in our various governmental institutions.

In the law enforcing and judicial places, this is especially true. We believe, however, that character will not be restored to our political structure until, out in the rank and file of society, there springs up a regenerated effort to demand just ordinary loyalty and decency, competency and reliability from people elected to public office.

In brief, when the citizens, themselves, begin to improve, they will simultaneously raise the level of their government.

The Altar Of Our Youth

The money that you contribute right now to the local Y. M. C. A. work is comparable to the bread that you cast upon the waters, you know not when, as you weather the storms of life, how and when some of the crusts will be returned to you—manyfold, too! God must smile lovingly upon those who, under the stress of their own needs, set apart even a small portion of their belongings, so that others may benefit from the sacrifice. Every dollar that you give to workers in this 1930 Y. M. C. A. campaign is a dollar laid upon the altar of youth; there is not, cannot be, any finer investment in this world than boys and girls—the lively persons that all of us adults were once upon a time.

"For we must share, if we would keep
That blessing from above;
Ceasing to give, we cease to have—
Such is the law of Love."

WHEN PEOPLE FIND it impossible, or inconvenient, to discipline themselves, they at least have sense enough to hire others to do it for them. That's why we have legislatures, laws, policemen, jails, lawbreakers—both inside and outside the "high, grey walls."

NEVER TRY TO FOOL a woman. Women are too smart to be fooled. Just marry 'em and make 'em happy with a fool.

EVER NOTICE HOW MANY people are trying to do something—and making a success of it?

THE ONLY DIFFERENCE between absolute secrecy and what goes on at a modern political convention is that in the former the delegation of the secret is left to one person; at a political convention the secrecy is not delegated at all. The delegates can't be secretive about nothing, can they? Only the "bosses" can.

OTHERS MAY BE WISER than you—otherwise you would be wiser than they.

IF STEPHEN FOSTER, beloved maker of southern ballads, should come back now and try his hand at composing darky melodies, he would no longer find the romance of the old plantation as he left it. The mechanized age, wherein cunning steel fingers and intricate iron wheels and cogs take the place of human arms and legs, and hearts has taken over the southern agricultural fields.

A WAG IN THE WOMAN'S Home Companion suggests a novel way to wash spinach. It requires that the housewife place the darn stuff on the end of a fishing pole and hang or hold it under the Niagara Falls for a half-day. Of course, if you don't want the pole again, you may throw it over the falls.

NICHOLAS LONGWORTH, son-in-law of the late Theodore Roosevelt, is said to have spent some time this year in pistol practice. A friend of ours suggests that he wield it in place of the gavel he uses as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

TIME MAY FLY, to some people, but can anything surpass the flight of fancy?

OAKLAND COUNTY SUPERVISORS seem to be all wrought up over the mounting tax situation that confronts them. Don't they recognize their child?

WELL, NOW THAT THE WORLD series is over, let's get series about seriously getting serious about this great game of business.

WE ARE WRITING THIS paragraph just to show our little six-year-old daughter, Susan, how the various keys of a typewriter are smashed against a sheet of copy-paper as her dad makes an effort to fill this column each week.

IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED that Oakland County employ the manager form of government, placing all departments under one head. We suppose, then, that the one head would be responsible to the entire Board of Supervisors, and in that case we would rather see the present board of auditors plan retained and given additional managerial power; the auditors are appointed by the supervisors, and we believe that three men in such a department are better than one.

THE HEAVIEST MATERIAL in the world (exclusive of steaks and chops) is said to be platinum, 21½ times as heavy as water.

..EX-NTRIX

HARD TIMES' CURE?

Beneath a brooding bamboo bush,
A solemn salesman sat;
And pushed each care-worn thought he had
Around inside his hat.

"Ah, woe is me," he told himself,
"The people will not spend.
I cannot sell, I know too well—
I think my life I'll end."

The gruesome plan he mulled awhile
And then he looked for rope.
But there was none, and so a gun
He sought,—but still no hope.

For all the hardware stores in town
His credit did deny,
And having not a cent at all—
Of course, he could not buy.

And too, he could not purchase knives,
Or poison in a cup.
And growing weary of these schemes,
He promptly gave them up.

Upon the bridge the sad man stood
But such was his grim fate—
Full thirty others were in line—
The salesman would not wait.

He hied him to the railroad tracks
And there he laid him down,
A strike was on, however, and
No trains came through the town.

Straight home he went, with full intent
Of turning on the gas.
Collectors beat him to it, though,
And turned it off, alas.

In wild despair, he tore his hair,
When suddenly there came
A hint from Satan's Majesty
That made the man exclaim:

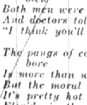
"All is not lost! I see the way!
Hope still in me abides.
I think I'll sell guns, knives and ropes
For others' suicides."

He told his boss the plan he had,
The boss agreed, and so
Their business boomed that summer and
They made a lot of dough.

But when the winter's cold blasts blew
Both men were sick in bed.
And doctors told them, quietly,
"I think you'll soon be dead."

The pangs of conscience these men bore
Is more than we can tell,
But the moral of the story is:
It's pretty hot in Florida in the Winter.

Vox Polly



"We already know now to break depression when it comes."
—*Secretary of Labor Davis.*

Horse-Scope

"If the stars incite, you in of night."

Taurus is in Leo's pasture at this time, and the peers warn women who are married to men with fire-cracker tempers to refrain from sharpening lead pencils with their hubby's pet razor.

The wise ones prophesy that during the present configuration matrimonial bureaus will be baiting their hooks with tricky advertisements. While this sway continues "Lonesome Lemanuels" and "Heartsick Harriets" are advised to fill up their ink wells with banana skins.

Children born on this day will be so proud that they will fall asleep every night with a looking glass in their hand.

Ebenezer Onesima Pushbrogh was born on this day and will be remembered as the only whitewing that ever wore a full dress suit.

FAST ONE—High and On the Inside

Shortstop: "That play with the millionaire's daughter didn't work out so well, eh what?"

Right Fielder: "Terrible—no hits, no runs, no heiress!"

Hoi Polloi

Help Wanted: Directors of the talkies these days are looking for a tall young man about 24 years old, necessarily handsome, from prominent Back-Bay family. Must have sturdy baritone voice that reproduces well. Athletic abilities favored but not essential. Must be excellent linguist. Those who does not speak Esperanto like a native need not apply. Call Mr. A. B. D'Eel at Hollywood or New York.

One For The Book

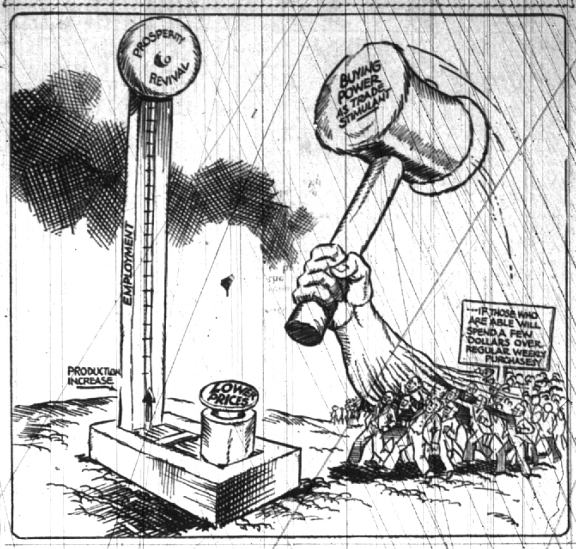
City Dweller: Do you know where Jim Simpson lives?

Man from the Ozarks: In them thar hills.

City Dweller: Very far back in the hills?

Man from the Ozarks: Well, some say it's so far back that they use raccoons for watchdogs.

All Together, Now! We CAN Ring the Bell!



The Other Chap Says Something—

THE HUMAN ALCHEMY

The life of every man is the latest link in an unbroken chain of immeasurable extent and variety. Into his inheritance are gathered the contributions of the ages, to form the unique identity which is the individual. Appetites and aptitudes are his birthright—the qualities which mark him from birth as different in potency and possibilities from his fellows. Within them lies the life which demands growth and progress throughout his brief share in this world's story.

This insistent life takes direction and determination according to the native endowment of every man. But another power is equally at work, molding and moderating from without. This is experience, with all its necessities and opportunities, pressing in constantly to shape the individual by the force of circumstances.

Between these two forces man holds a proud privilege of choice—choice among the motives within him and choice among the elements around him. No human life lacks entirely the saving dignity of such freedom. By means of it a mystic alchemy is accomplished, whereby character is made. This is the new thing which is man's own creation out of the stuff that is in him and without him. It may be gold or base metal, but it is the man's own making. It is himself, not as he was born nor as destiny has formed him, but as he has shaped his own life within the bounds of destiny.

—Emmet County Graphic.

THE SUSPICIOUS MAN—GOD PITY HIM—

One of the saddest and most ineffective figures in our midst is the suspicious man. Suggest anything to the abnormally suspicious person—and there are many in every town—and he thinks you are trying to "put something over on him." Present him with the best constructive idea of which you are capable and he immediately suspects you of playing a game.

He wonders who is behind it and what you are up to. He cannot keep close friends, even if he can make them, because they soon become sick and tired of his suspicious attitude. Perhaps such a frame of mind is brought on by a man's uncertainty of himself. He lacks self assurance. He is usually the kind of a man who lacks the power to act and is full of fears.

He thinks every one is trying to "trim" him. He believes every public official is a crook and a grafter. He believes every merchant is endeavoring to beat him. He thinks that if a mistake is made it is always in favor of the other fellow. He has the idea that every person will bear watching, and that he is a clever guy, in fact he is just about everything but what he should be as a good citizen.

And he is the fellow they are all after simply because they know of his suspicions. If they can trim him, with all his cleverness he believes he possesses, but does not, they get a great kick out of it, not because they naturally are of the "trimming" variety, but simply because they like to slip it over on one of this calibre. Officials are not all crooked, neighbors are not as bad as he pictures them, the world is full of people who would lend him a helping hand, and be pleased at his prosperity if he would only allow it. He is really to be pitied and deserving of charitable consideration.

Eaton Rapids (Mich.) Journal.

GASOLINE PRICE DECREASES

In 1929 the average wholesale price of gasoline was two per cent less than the price in 1913, according to the United States Department of Commerce.

A comparison with the changed prices of other commodities is significant. Since 1913 the cost of shoes has increased 117 per cent; milk, 93 per cent; bread, 66 per cent, and eggs, 46 per cent. Gasoline is almost alone in showing a decrease.

The mechanical progress made by the industry is principally responsible for this state of affairs. Today wells are sunk to depths undreamed of fifteen or twenty years ago. A constantly rising percentage of gasoline is being extracted from crude. Cracking, hydrogenation and other processes are playing an important part in providing the American public with the highest grade motor fuel at the lowest prices in our history.

There is but one fly in the gasoline ointment—rising tax rates throughout the country. Legislators have been adopting the attitude that "one cent more won't do any harm." As a result, we have taxes ranging from three to six cents and it is forecast that ten-cent rates are in store in the future. In some states funds derived from gas taxes have been diverted to other uses than road work, thus making the motorist pay for something he doesn't get. Unless the American public takes a definite stand in opposition to exorbitant gas taxes, the savings made possible by the oil industry's progress will all find their way into the hands of the tax collector. — Belle Fourche, South Dakota, "Northwest Post."

BUSINESS THE CIVILIZER

It is a tribute to his resourceful versatility that Dwight W. Morrow's opinions on business and diplomacy should be attended with equal interest. That he should measure the effectiveness of the one service in terms of the other is altogether natural. At a luncheon given to a group of Rotarians he said:

As a somewhat inconspicuous member of a rather conspicuous business house and since then as an amateur diplomat, I have found that the business of international understanding is being carried on by business as it cannot be carried on by any other means.

The conclusion gets down to the broader significance of business as a civilizing influence in human society. The very exchange of goods for goods, and goods for services presupposes a basis of intelligent accord and good will.

As Mr. Morrow phrased it, "When men first began to exchange, to trade or bargain, instead of using force to capture what they wanted, the first great challenge to barbarism had been made."—Nation's Business.

ParaLaffs

Attention!

Suggestions about reducing the navy promptly being all the rear admirals to the front.—Southern Lumberman.

A Friendly Tip

It is said that the sheiks of Morocco are buying large automobiles in which to take the ladies of their harems riding. We warn them that it is dangerous to drive with one arm while having the other around a harem.—Detroit News.

But Fishes Can't Tell

A medal was recently found in a salmon. It is thought the fish held the local championship for just getting away from the biggest angler.—Exchange.

The Attic's Always Best

And many a woman has helped her husband to the top of the ladder—and then left him there while she decided where else the picture might look good.—Central of Georgia Magazine.

WHO'S WHO AND TIMELY VIEWS

Steady Silver Market Regarded Essential To Oriental Trade

By WILLIAM H. KING
Senator From Utah.

(William Henry King was born in Fillmore City, Utah, June 3, 1864. He was educated at Brigham Young academy, the University of Utah and the University of Michigan. He practiced law at Fillmore City and later at Provo City. For three years he was a member of the territorial legislature of Utah, being president of the upper body one term. In 1894 he was named associate judge of the supreme court of Utah. From 1897 to 1901 he was a member of congress. He was elected to the senate in 1917 and he now completing his second term. He has been a delegate to various Democratic national conventions.)

AMERICAN EXPORTS to the orient would be greatly increased through an international agreement to rehabilitate the silver market by fixing an international ratio at 15 or 16 to 1.

There is no reason, after internal affairs in China are settled, why our trade with the Chinese should not reach several billion dollars yearly.

Of course, anything that would tend to rehabilitate silver would increase the purchasing power of the orient, but it would be much better to make it a world affair rather than to segregate it among a few of the more powerful nations.

I would prefer an international agreement, but undoubtedly, if for example, the United States, Great Britain and France should try such a plan, it would do much in the restoration of China's credit, and afford an increased market in the east.

It is the expressed policy of the government, according to an act of March 1, 1893, to continue the use of both gold and silver as standard money, and to coin both gold and silver into money of equal intrinsic and exchangeable value, such equality to be secured through international agreement or by such safeguards of legislation as will insure the maintenance of the parity in value of the coins of the two metals and the equal power of every dollar at all times in the markets and in the payment of debts, and it is further hereby declared that the efforts of the government should be steadily directed to the establishment of such a safe system of bimetallism as will maintain at all times the equal power of every dollar coined or issued by the United States in the markets and in the payment of debts.

I would consider it a great misfortune to the United States if China should be forced to adopt a gold standard.

Efforts are being made to induce China to demonetize silver and adopt a fiscal policy calling for a new currency based upon the gold standard fund, and further debase silver and curtail its use in India, which said efforts, if successful, will result in a further destructive decline in the price of silver, and, in economic and industrial injury, not alone to silver-producing countries, but to all countries of the world, and it is important not only to countries producing silver, but to all countries engaged in trade and commerce, that measures be adopted to avert the disastrous consequences that will inevitably follow a further decline in the price of silver.

The "Big Shots" Say:—

William Green, President, American Federation of Labor:
"Unemployment casts shadows at others can make the most effective entrance of your life this winter in one of the new evening cloaks."

S. J. Holmes, international authority on eugenics:
"To a degree unparalleled in previous ages, expectation of long life has come to depend upon better endowment of brains."

T. C. Wallace, pastor:
"The greatest test of a gentleman is his willingness to forgive."

Edgar Wallace, British author:
"Eighty per cent of the marriages begin in ecstacy and dissolve into a battle."

Alexander Legge, Chairman Farm Board:
"One of the surpluses that have given us the most trouble has been that of farm leaders."

H. L. Mencken, critic:
"Humor is as necessary to a marriage service as poetry is to a funeral service."

Senorita de Alvanez, Spanish female star:
"Just think of the time English people lose watching games."

Stanley Baldwin, former British premier:
"Adam was the first cad."

John J. Pershing, on his seventieth birthday:
"So few folks know where our army came from or what it actually did. Even veterans of the A. E. F. know so little. So I have set it down as a study to them and their sons."

George Dallas, member of Parliament, visiting the United States:
"World peace depends on the abiding friendship between the United States and Great Britain."

Kathleen Howard, fashion editor of Harper's Bazaar:
"Clothes influence manners more than most people know."

Dorothy Crooke, delegate to International Law Conference:
"I can't seem to make men forget I am a woman."

Struthers Burt, writer:
"A burglar is merely a man who feels that he isn't as rich as he ought to be."

Herbert Hoover, President:
"There are lots of people who commit crimes during the year who can't say they have done so if they had been fishing."

Russel Crouse, writer:
"We can't decide whether tree sitting proves Darwin right, or Barnum."

Clifford Pinchot, Republican candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania:
"The church doesn't vote as prays."

Oliver Lodge, British Physicist and Spiritist:
"We are surrounded by a crowd of witnesses and helpers beyond the range of our sense organs. Our activities on earth form but an insignificant part of our whole existence."

Howlett Johnson, preacher:
"It is vain to dream of noble cities until we provide clean ones."

OUR SCRAP BOOK

DIALOGUES OF THE SOUL
By Arthur B. Rhinow

Tell Me the Truth

Might—Tell me the truth.
Right—The whole truth?
Might—The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.
Right—I cannot.
Might—Beware! Do you not swear, I swear the robes of Justice?
Tell me the truth.
Right—I want to; I cannot.
Might—I have the power; I have police. By my word army moves. Tell me the truth.
Right—I cannot.
Might—I have dungeons and the chair.
Right—I cannot reach you with the truth.
Might—Why not? We are so close. I can touch you with my wand.
Right—You are not of the truth.

Tell Me That You Love Me

He—How young you are. How lovely. Pray, tell me that you love me.
She—Have I not told you, dear?
He—I know, but tell me so with all your soul.
She—With all my soul—
He—Until I nevermore can doubt.
She—I love you, dear.
He—Pray, tell me so words can tell.
She—You must be patient, watch . . . and wait.
He—I shall be patient, then and wait . . . and watch . . . Ah, there it is! At last! At last! I hear you saying that you love me.
She—I did not say a word.
He—I heard you just the same. How lovely you are now—but, oh, your hair is white.
She—Have you been dreaming, dear? It took ten years to tell.

The Christian Century