

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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Every person or group of persons handling public notices should publish at regular intervals, an accounting of such funds.

"Let's Pass a Law—"

Usually, when human affairs that are being conducted by various worldly lines go skidding in many directions, the popular cry is: "pass a law and make things better." In the wild clamor for correction of a wrong situation, lawmakers are besieged with many plans, each designed by its author as a perfect solution for the ailing government.

Someone once said that "the best government is that which governs least." This means, of course, that the more the government people are able and will be willing to control and govern themselves, they are going to apply self-discipline without the aid of any government officials. It seems to us that that good government, like the Kingdom of Heaven, is within us—and each of us, as individuals, must fulfill the many and varied part of it.

This Will Help Us

Here are some comforting and inspiring words for people who would improve themselves in these challenging days. They are from the facile pen of B. C. Forbes, the business economist. He writes: "Surely the time has come for high and low alike to cease concentrating on material things, securities, and money."

Ford's Greenfield Village

A few weeks ago Birmingham Exchanges, together with several Rotarians as guests, visited Henry Ford's Greenfield Village, over at Dearborn. Lunch was eaten in Dearborn Inn, after which the group was conducted through the Village. It is named "Greenfield" after the township in Wayne County where Mrs. Ford was born.

All of Us

By Marshall Maslin. MARK TWAIN had a daughter who he adored. He loved all three of his daughters—Jan, Clara and Susy—and their reason to believe that he loved Susy more deeply than the others.

When she was in England, she was in America and he had not seen her for a long time. But he poured out his grief on paper, with pen, to his sorrowing wife. His daughter Clara repeats that latter in a book she has just written.

"I wonder," wrote Mark Twain, "if she left any little memento, showing that the thought of me. I was not deserving of it. I had not earned it, but if there was any such word left behind for me I hope it was saved up in its exact terms and that I shall get it."

"My remorse is all but negligible for her as I was before—it is our way. We think we would do better, because of our loss. But it is a fallacy. Our duty was to go back to what they had always been, and our conduct would obey their commands. My selfishness and indolence would resume their power unassisted, and then to her, no one could be a more obliging friend and encourager and helper than I was before."

It could call up a single instance where I laid aside my own projects and desires and put myself to rest inconspicuously to procure a pleasure for her. I will forget all things else to remember that. "How YOU gave your whole self to help how you thought for her, planned for her, worked for her, lavished your capital of physical and mental strength upon her, and did it with loving interest in it. Oh, yes, and resumed the service again and again when it had apparently failed of its reward. You were the best father and best ever had dear heart, and the steadiest. Keep the thought of it in mind, and get from it the solace you have earned, dear Livy."

It is thus that the heart breaks, thus that the grieving soul lacerates itself and runs to comfort another, thus that it slashes out against life and denies all that is good in it. . . . But life comes back unannouncing and with the years we draw nearer to them and our clasps on the earth is loosened, and men and women forget, . . . it is better so.

Open Public Discussions

Last week's "tilt" between several members of Birmingham's village commission over the question of whether or not a village employer should use village-owned equipment for partisan election purposes rekindled one that a disagreement between two or more public officials is really a healthy condition for the officials themselves. Without going into the merits of the case in question, it has always seemed to us that public officials too often are inclined to sidetrack public debate, perhaps because they feel that the general public may get the impression that a "scrap" exists.

The free and open discussion of the public's business by public officials often becomes, in the heat of the debate, a real case of minds, but when controlled by the common desire to be helpful to a community (and we are sure that Birmingham's commission is motivated by the honest beliefs of its members) we have yet to see where a general discussion of a community topic harmed the rights and interests of the whole people.

In these times, of course, when certain phases of the public's business can be discussed and decisions reached without heated or even lukewarm debate; but in general, government proceeds best when the public is given unbridled opportunity to witness its making, and in such making it is only fair for the public to witness that open debate by public officials is a guarantee of mutual confidence and help.

Bigger Men Than You Were Wrong

We see evil—most of us—easier than we see good. It has ever been so, especially among good men and good women. When they see evil they see the dawn of it, and when they see good they see the dawn of it, and when they see good they see the dawn of it, and when they see good they see the dawn of it.

William Pitt once said: "There is scarcely anything around us but ruin and despair." And probably the sun was shining somewhere every day.

The Duke of Wellington on the eve of his death in 1811 expressed thanks that we could "be spared from seeing the completion of ruin that is gathering about us." Yet some of his folks who survived saw the beginning of the "golden age."

Even Darius (in 1849) said: "In industry, commerce and agriculture, we have no hope." Yet Darius had one of the greatest men that ever lived.

So you see bigger people than you have been pessimistic. Coming on down to modern times. Every four years we elect the biggest guns among our presidents unless we elect their candidate for president.

Everything looked black in 1837, 1873, 1893, 1907, 1921, and it was tough sledding for a lot of our present candidates. Yet Darius said: "I did, indeed of looking for a brighter side, the predictions of our little world have proven true."

Two Thousand Years Ago

Two thousand years ago the Romans dug tunnels and caverns beneath what is now the city of London.

From The Eccentric Columns of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO. Jackson captures the State Fair this year. There's a lull on the pond, boys, get your gun. Why don't our village milliners dress in the latest styles? "Alas, alas!" like city shops?

Miss Miss Cammell is the latest possession of a piano, which arrived last week. Mrs. William Hamilton with assistants gave the piano through clearing out for Mrs. Phillips' benefit.

A cold wave blasted struck us full in the face Sunday night and Monday, causing the spring birds to put on their sliders and migrate.

Miss Libbie Neill of Southfield has a contract to paint two large murals that were placed over the coffin of John Jones at his funeral obsequies.

Several of our young bloods will hold their annual Sabbath evening at the time they have been attending the temperance meeting by parading in the streets and warbling "Where is my boy tonight?"

The Birmingham School opened on Monday last week for the spring term of 12 weeks. The high school department enrolled over 50 names while the lower grades show a flattering attendance.

HOVER LEADS. No so very long ago it was charged that Hoover lacked leadership. He could not control the republican congress, had no influence and could not get anything done.

A FRIEND IN NEED. A glowing tribute to the home town merchant, who stands out as one of the humble heroes of the present crisis.

NOAH NUMSKILL WANTS TO KNOW. How do colors get fat when they eat nothing but holes? Why are motels called "fast" when they don't run?

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK. The following clipping was contributed by John MacLachlan, interviews with leading merchants, manufacturers and traders.

W. I. WOOD CO. Golden Guernsey Milk 2 1/2% More Food Value Today Better Flavor Local Phone 1527

GENERAL AUTO SERVICE. Eric Kurth Oliver Corwell Service on All Make of Cars Phone 336-W Day or Night 116 E. Maple Ave.

BIRD ELECTRICAL CO. We Service All Makes of OIL BURNERS 240 Park St. Phone 90

WATSON'S AUTOBODY. Body, Fender and Glass Work 44 S. Woodward in Birmingham Buick Garage Bldg. Phone 2270

BENNETT & BRAY GARAGE. Service on all cars. Starter and generator work. Dodge and Plymouth a specialty. 233 EAST MERRILL (Opposite Theatre)

BIRMINGHAM HAT SHOP AND SHOE SHINING PARLOR. E. Maple—Just off Woodward Main and Ladies' Hats Cleaned and Bleached. 608 East Lincoln Ave.

KESTERIN BAKERY. 326 E. Maple Ave. Special Attention to individual orders for parties, dinners or the home. "The Home Bakery"

CASSIUS H. CARTER. Painting and Decorating Furniture Repair Work First Class Work—Moderate Prices 612 George St. Phone 375 "35 Years Service in Birmingham"

BIRMINGHAM CAB CO. D. H. Brown, Owner TEL. 945-W New rate: cab hire in Birmingham from 40c and 25c Made for 25c

BIRMINGHAM ICE AND COAL CO. Manufacturers of Pure Well Water Ice. Also Coal, Coke and Wood 920 E. Maple Tel. 22

A. G. HARRINGTON. Painter and Decorator First Class Work at Moderate Prices Est. Expenses Local Agent for JAMES DAVID 832 ANN ST. TEL. 2168

FRED CRAVEN. Plumbing and Heating With Gas and Electric Work Day Phone 1918 Night Phone 765 608 East Lincoln Ave.

THE REAL STUMP SPEAKING WILL COME LATER



THE OTHER CHAP SAYS SOMETHING

So He Can Find His Way. Man with a beard: "I want a haircut, singe and shampoo. I want my mustache clipped, and my hair trimmed, and, er—where can I put this cigar?"

No Thoroughfare. I used to have a fragile heart. But now I have acquired the art of amputating from my brain.

Just Hearsey. "I heard you married somebody with money."

Everybody's Welcome. "Yeah! I heard the same rumorm."

Talkies. "Did you have my horse shod, as I ordered?" "Private: "My gawd, sir! I thought you said shot!"

LOUIS BRANDIS, Associate Justice of the United States. "The fact is that whoever holds South Manchuria is the master of North China."

F. W. Von Prittwitz, German Ambassador. "Gethse's works are a unique treasure of inspiration, reminding all generations that, without lofty ideal, nothing durable can be achieved in this world."

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The "Big Shots" Say:—

Norman Angell, British economist and legislator. "The only real chance we have of collecting that twenty billion of reparations is to go to Germany and drink the up in the form of beer."

Eric M. Kalight. "One must be a fat man, a gentleman or a genius to be vulgar with impunity."

Gerhart Hauptmann, German poet and dramatist. "If I were not a German I should like to be an American."

Princes of Wales. "If I can repay part of my debt by affording the new supermarine craft with a bit of added labor, I am only in glad to do so."

Robert Dollar, shipping magnate on his 88th birthday. "We are on the upgrade. Have confidence and see in good times are heading this way."

J. Pierpont Morgan, in a radio appeal for the relief of the unemployed. "We have reached a point where the aid of the government or the gifts of individuals, no matter how generous, are insufficient to meet the conditions that have come upon us."

B. C. Forbes, financial writer. "Congress, after co-operating nobly to hasten a general recovery, has kicked over the traces."

Calvin Coolidge, former President. "While no one questions the credit of the United States, a violent decline in government bonds recently gave warning that there is a limit to the borrowing power of the strongest treasury in the world."

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For Information Not Listed Here Call Birmingham 11