

Somehow along the path that leads from childhood to adulthood boys and girls obtain a mental change that, unless it is controlled and governed, may become a prodigious instinct. It is the first manipulated selfishness. From the average such is the world's trouble.

FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR—No. 36

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

By G. R. A.

Monday evening, along with a hundred or so other dads and mothers, I visited at the Adams School, where Mrs. Edith Caroll, the mother of four to sixth grade boys and girls through some Christmas merriment, was giving a very regally lighted up colored bulb, reached up perhaps a foot toward the ceiling, a miniature, a stage ground for the dandy little "sing-along" a proud look graced the face of the little girl who was watching their most beloved possessions file into the auditorium. More than one heart beat faster, throat tightened, as the next generation in that setting raised in musical prayer of the various carols, which recall the first verse of "O Little Town of Bethlehem," which goes: "O little town of Bethlehem! How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by: Yet in thy dark streets shineth the ever-living Light: The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."

As I heard the childish voices thronged with the sentiment, my own thoughts thrilled to the whole scene, and I told myself that I would like to see the very same when I reached home—and here it is, fitted to the whole scene of boys and girls. How fair and good you are! As the songs of Him who long to be our Guiding Star. In thy young lives we seek to plant the seed of Love—God's joy That is the right of Man.

As Charles Wagner, the great French essayist, phrased it more than a century ago, "The Simple Life," "One of the chief penalties of our time is the necessity of being seen to emerge from obscurity, to be in the public eye, to make one's self talked of, to be recognized as consumed with desire, that we are justified in declaring that we are attacked with an itch for publicity."

Continuing his thought upon this subject of all children, Mr. Wagner might have been discussing the problems of 1933, because his concept is precisely it today. "In their eyes obscurity is the height of ignominy; so they do their best to keep their names ever young. In their obscure position they look upon themselves as the most important of men, when a night of tempest has cast on some lonely rock, and who have recourse to their valise, valley, fire, all the signals imaginable, to let it be known that they are there, to get contents with their crackers and innocent rockets, many, to make themselves heard at any cost, have gone to the limit of peridy and even crime. The incendiary Etruscan has made his name, and the modern has become notorious for having destroyed something of mark;—or, at the least, he has pulled down—some man's high reputation; signalled his passage, in a scandal, a meanness, or an atrocity."

"This rage for notoriety does not surge through cracked brains alone, or only in the world of advertising and show business generally; it has spread abroad in all the domains of life, spiritual as well as material. From the even science, and—through the all-philanthropic and religion are the most Trumpets of a new good deed done, and souls must be saved with din and clamor. Pursuing its way of destruction, the rage for noise has entered places ordinarily silent, troubled spirits naturally serene, and vitiated in large measure all activity for good. The abuse of showing everything, or rather, putting everything on exhibition, the growing incapacity to appreciate that which is shown, the habit of not realizing the value of things by the racket they make, have come to corrupt the judgment of the masses, and sometimes one wonders how it will end by transforming itself into a game with each one beating his drum in front of his tent."

And so, in these 1933 days, Charles Wagner's thoughts upon the past and the future of man. Proving, again, that "there is nothing new under the sun." The same things come from new, when our children are holding the world's reins, Wagner's conclusions are not unwelcome. At the times. Slowly nature changes. The primitive cry of a child who would not be put to bed, the declaration of some child-dweller, the thunder and lightning, the wild animals, the barbarian's tom-tom beat echoes in their noisy hearts. If so, you win.

FURNITURE STORAGE

119 Broadway Phone 7624-74

Edison Co. Official Heads Exchange

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The meeting has been called by Charles W. Crandell, superintendent of schools, at the request of the Department of Public Instruction, the Emergency Welfare Commission and the State Board for Vocational Education, which are handling the program in Michigan. School officials are to have a leading part in the program in the local communities.

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BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1933

Ypsilanti Normal Choir's Conductor

Dr. Frederick Alexander

Big Audience To Hear Choir

Alexander Announces Program For Second Annual Christmas Festival

Noels from French, early Italian, Russian and German ecclesiastical music, the Sanctus from the Bach B Minor Mass, and modern nativity scenes are included on the program to be sung by the Ypsilanti Normal Choir, under the direction of Dr. Frederick Alexander, at the Christmas Music Festival to be held Friday evening in the First Baptist church.

Much Work Done

Much of the work here has already been done, however, with the city anxious to begin collection of school taxes as soon as possible. Mr. Corson said, State, school and county operating expense taxes have been spread on the rolls, leaving the figures for 1933 at \$1,174,495. The grand total still to be added, and the statements to be made up, are \$1,174,495.

W. D. Threatens Figures

The county's budget, adopted Friday, totals \$962,958.05, as compared with \$918,183.00 for 1932. Of the amount to be raised this year, \$518,483.55 is for debt service.

Despite the fact that Birmingham

and most other tax collecting agencies have been ordered to send out tax statements on the figures now set up, there is still a possibility that they may be revised.

The Cities of Birmingham and

Hill have joined, and are protesting against their equalized valuations as being too high. The Birmingham city council, advised by Frank W. Atkinson, Bloomfield Hills city attorney, has not yet taken any action.

He advised City Assessor Harry

S. Starr to hold up work temporarily until the Birmingham City Commission advanced the date for the collection of the first penny from Jan. 10 to Feb. 10.

State Courts Have Ruled

that the city of Birmingham is not liable for the cost of a fire. The ruling was made in a case involving the city's liability for the cost of a fire.

CITY JOINS MOVE FOR UNIFORM RUM CONTROL

City Commissioners Frank S. Packard and Arthur J. Kane have been appointed by Mayor Harry Allen as a committee to represent the city in a conference with representatives of Southern Oakland County municipalities in an attempt to draw up a uniform liquor control ordinance for the entire county.

More Than Mere Playthings

Sheriff Charles S. Clark has ruled on the case of Santa Claus that toys should be more than gay baubles to be adored and, in a short time, broken. For toys this year, though just as gay as last year, are being made of more numerous challenges to the juvenile mind.

Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe C. Rider

have moved to Birmingham recently from Louisville, Ky. They have two children, a son, age III, three years old, and Ann, two.

Mr. Rider is associated with

the Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company.

A Practical Gift For Christmas

The Birmingham News is a practical gift for Christmas. It is a gift that will be appreciated by all.

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