The Birmingham Eccentric

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1933

NOTICE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are written by persons not on the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be received before noon on Wednesday. The right is reserved to make such superficial changes in the copy as are necessary to the style of the paper and required by laws of the state. Because of a shortage in the composing room, headlines written by persons other than members of the staff cannot be used. No exception upon the character, standing or operation 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 publisher.

State Police Interference

A detachment of State Police, under direction of Inspt. Donald S. Leonard, burst in upon a big meeting in the Troy Township Hall one evening last week, armed with night sticks and tear gas bombs; their purpose was to lend their support to the suppression of any violence that might take place between several hundred irate citizens and some of the Township officials over the question of poor relief.

Oakland County's new sheriff, Roy Reynolds, however, met the State Police group and, in plain and authoritative terms, said: "Preservation of order in the County is my responsibility and when I fail it will be time enough for the State Police to come in."

Continued Sheriff Reynolds: "They (the State police) acted in a manner calculated to cause trouble, following the same tactics they have used in Detroit for years, so they could work up a fight, slug a few people, and get their names in the newspapers. Here after I want no State Police interference. When we need you we will call you and, if you do come, you will work under my orders."

Somehow or other we like Reynolds' attitude in this specific case. We feel that Oakland County taxpayers are paying him to handle such matters, and we see no reason why State Police should "play to the grandstand" as Reynolds points out that they do. There is, of course, justification for the existence of State Police officers, but they ought to conduct themselves with some degree of co-operation and co-ordination with local enforcing officers.

There is plenty of problems that State Police can apply themselves to outside the realm of interfering with the ordinary and plain duties of a sheriff's department—exclusive, also, of acting as livery boys to the administration that may happen to be in control in Lansing.

Tax Delinquency

As the various tax reducing suggestions come out of Lansing, we are moved to this ponderous reflection: is there any lasting and patriotic virtue in meeting your assessments on time, or do the advantages accrue in the long run, to those who intentionally and by sheer tax delinquency? (We do not criticise those who cannot pay their taxes on time, but rather the sort who can, but won't, as they wait until government finds some way to relieve such delinquent obligations).

GOVERNOR COMSTOCK has been alluded by Bill Sayers of Wagon Tracks, as "a mighty side hope-ful for the depression ending, cuz how kin a sales tax fetch in money who they ain't but little money bein' used for sher purposes?"

HIGHLAND PARK, Detroit's bosom suburb, now admits that it has a single blind pig in it. Imagine that! This declaration was made by its policemen. Or would you say that the policemen, though they may not be pigs, may be blind?

Help The Salvation Army To Help

Wherever human hearts are tired and weary, stomachs hungry for food, minds are distraught with fear of the battle of life, if such conditions be within the ken of the Salvation Army, there you will find good being done; there you will find blue-dressed men and women, red and gold bands around their hats, following in the simple precepts of the Master, "who went about doing good."

It seems hardly necessary to resort to argument to impress the American people with the wonderful work that is being done every minute of every day by the loving organization the world has come to respect and revere. So we shall not dwell longer upon virtues that you already know.

But you won't forget, during this and next week to contribute in the local appeal for funds that is being staged under the direction of Ralph W. Bricker and Wesley Gibbons, plus many helping local hands and hearts—will you?

It was John Hall who wisely said: "Serving God with our little, is the way to make it more; and we must never think that wanted with which God is honored, or men are blest . . . Give according to your means, so God will make your means according to your giving."

Avon's Welfare Problem

Over in Avon Township, Oakland County, where nestles the lovely little community of Rochester, (Adv.) the people who pay their taxes are faced with a constantly growing problem of feeding those who have become welfare cases. Rochester has, for many months, seethed with factionalism upon the subject of welfare administration; one group fought for the retention of the centralized county plan of relief, while the other battled for welfare handed out by its own Supervisor. So that today Avon Township, with 408 families upon its welfare relief tax roll, has the third largest indigent problem in Oakland County, Royal Oak Township being first, and Waterford Township second.

In discussing Avon Township's present status of welfare last week with Charles S. Seed, editor of The Rochester Clarion, he shrugged his shoulders, smiled wryly and said: "Since the welfare relief has been returned to our own Township for administration, the cost has increased, and this means, of course, that the number of families has grown larger, too. Our Supervisor believes in lending the big, helping hand, too. He hands out the welfare supplies in abundant lots, and appears quite willing to provide anything the people want."

Thus "Old Man Depression" confronteth a nice little town with its problems. Thus seepeth into capital the needs of labor. No community escapeth in the cry of men and women, boys and girls, for "food, raiment, and shelter."

A State Sales Tax

Persons who are sincerely interested in the very preservation of State and local government in Michigan admit that tax relief must be extended to real estate, both in the city and on the farm. This relief, promised so loudly by Governor Comstock and his Democratic colleagues, can come about in two ways: first, by lowering the cost of government, thereby reducing the demands for revenue to support government and, second, by devising sources of taxes other than real estate.

As we all know now, the present State administration has very largely confined its efforts to reduce property taxes by its suggested sales tax plan, presented last week to the Legislature by Governor Comstock. This plan is now in the lap of the political gods; it may pass, and again it may not—even if it does pass it may not be recognized by its original creators, should amendments of a dozen varieties be attached to it on its way through the Legislature.

There is no question but what something of a radical nature must be contained in new tax measures, and perhaps many will find in the present sales tax plan features that are both strange and repulsive. But about all that can be done is to wait further developments in Lansing, from various members of the Legislature as well as from interested citizens who journey there to learn more of its background, and to determine the justice and equity of its restrictions upon all the people.

THE OTHER CHAP SAYS SOMETHING

STACK ACTS IN HIS OWN BEHALF

According to a news report from Deputy Auditor General John K. Stack, Jr., who recently attempted to save tax sale publications, is the son of the officials of the Stack Co. of Escanaba, which is interested in thousands of acres of timber land. In fact our informant says some of his firm's property is for sale offered at $1 per acre. This entirely changes the picture and confirms a suspicion held by many publishers that the sale of tax lands would be of benefit to him personally. With this information before the public, it should move promptly to prevent in the present sale of tax lands to him a chance to acquire and if any lumber company other firm removes timber or other natural resources from the land, the state and counties must collect the tax on such stumpage. It is clear that the land cannot be stripped and then handed back in a worthless condition and the load of taxes and relief thus overburdened by reason of large. If this postponement is relief, let us make it real relief, not a benefit to a few.—Midland Republican.

COMSTOCK'S NEW MUG

The substitute of the beer mug for the bronze elephant which has presented the desk of the governor of Michigan for the past few years has decreased a lot of folks' enthusiasm for our new governor, and when in addition to that little slight he appointed a new commission of seventeen people to study his new liquor law, instead of putting it according to his own statements upon which he was elected, confidence in him must have suffered another shock.—W. F. Beckley in Cassopolis Vigilant."

IT IS SICKENING

It surely is sickening to know that a man can get elected to be a judge in the city of Detroit—a man to supervise over right and wrong and to issue verdicts on infractions of right—and find that his sense of right and wrong do not seem to apply to himself. He is accused of collecting an insurance policy of over two thousand dollars for a scrub woman and of appropriating all but fifty dollars of this own affairs. With the frequent cases which make it appear as if some of the judges were actually in co-operation with the crooks, it becomes quite evident that our system of electing the judiciary is all wrong!—Frank Bryce in Grand Ledge Independent.

FULL DUTY OF TAXPAYERS

By H. W. DODDS,
Of New Jersey's Commission on Finances, Before American Bankers Association.

Viewed from present conditions, the last decade was a period of riotous governmental living. But the blame is too frequently cast at politicians and officials, as if they alone had been possessed by grandiose schemes and unwarranted ambitions. The fact is, of course, that many of the important interests and organizations which are now calling loudly for retrenchment were in years past the very leaders in promoting public expenditures.

Everywhere throughout the United States the taxpayers are in an angry mood. * * * But the full duty of the taxpayers is not fulfilled merely by getting angry. It is incumbent upon them to go further—sit down with their officials and work out concrete plans for adjustment to depression conditions.

STRAITS BRIDGE A PIPE DREAM

The proposal was made in the state legislature a few days ago that Michigan negotiate a loan from the Reconstruction Finance corporation to construct a bridge across the Straits of Mackinac under the provision that it would be self-liquidating and would provide jobs for the unemployed. Numerous proposals have been made in recent years for a bridge across the Straits. . . .

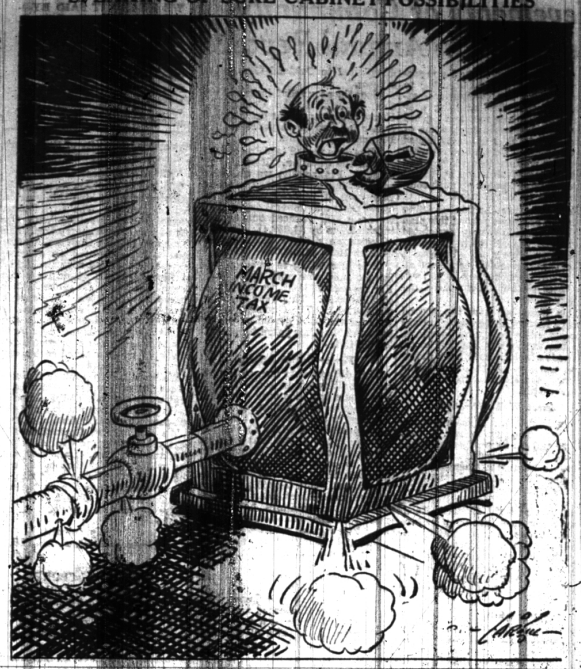
The report on the last proposal given by Grover C. Dillman, state highway commissioner, in which it was estimated that the cost would be $30,000,000 and tolls would exceed 10 times the present ferry rates and 20 times those proposed, seems sufficient reason to cause the lawmakers to forget about the bridge at present. The state recently completed a magnificent new ferry dock at Mackinaw City and the ferry boats offer reasonably satisfactory transportation across the straits.

More practical and beneficial is the bill sponsored by Harry A. Osborne, representative from Sault Ste. Marie, which provides that the ferry rates not include depreciation and interest on the state's investments in its boats and dock. Passage of this bill would reduce present schedules one-half it is estimated. This bill offers tangible aid to the Upper Peninsula.—Emmett County Graphic.

A GOOD GUESS

And now comes no less than Henry Ford with the announcement that the world is just entering the brightest era in its history. And may we remark that in this case Henry's guess is just as good as anybody's.—George English in Huron County Tribune.

SPEAKING OF SURE CABINET POSSIBILITIES



FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS —of Long Ago

Little Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

The slipperiest day Birmingham ever saw, was last Sunday.

A general inclination to go on all fours was observable in pedestrians on Sunday last.

Three weeks from today will usher in the glassome springs. Think of it ye shivering mortals.

If you want a bargain in an elegant marble top bed room set, call at Whitehead & Mitchell's furniture rooms.

Mrs. Betsy Shain with her son Mac and daughters Miss Millie have removed from their farm near Gilbert Lake and now occupy the place near the M. E. church on Mill street, formerly owned by Mr. Beebe.

Ansley Sowersby has accepted a situation in the hotel at Armada recently purchased by Mr. Reynolds, and will officiate as clerk.

Verily people from this vicinity journey to feel at home when they get light down at the National in Armada.

Scene: In Front of ECCENTRIC office. Dramatis personæ: Act. I. Will Parks of Troy comes along and in cutter with fiery steed. Act II. Scene II: Cutter upset. Will, boots dragged on the front part of his vest and nose by almost running, like mad. Rescued by strange. Curtain falls to slow music and red lights.

The following pupils of the high room of our Union school did not whisper during the week ending Feb. 2: Minnie Salisbury, Mamie Young, Emma Young, Elbert Buel, Flora Wilber, Mary Frankie Fredericks, Hallock Wilbur, Nellie Beardsley, May Allen, Theron Evarts, Frank Soules, May Eldred, Martha Allen, Maxie Hubbard, Jeannie Means, Lillie Bell, Dora Beatty, Charles Bullhelp, Lizzie White, Ella Drake, John Means, S. E. Broughton, Eva Crouch, Myra Covert, May Parks and Ida Brayman.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Two of Chas. J. Shain's clerks out to a party, and got a sleigh ride, one night not long ago had their cutter tip over and a narrow escape from serious injury. One of them, the best looker, solemnly avers, that in their mad and wild flight, they sailed over two boys, a kuh, rail fence and a hay-stack, not to mention a cutter to earth.

The dancing class of Miss Georgia Hoyt now numbers nearly 40. This accomplished teacher can care for 60 pupils and up to that number she will receive new pupils. All the popular dances are taught especially the latest—the Barn Dance. Those who care to take, are invited to call on Monday at the Johnston & Shaw hall next Tuesday night.

And now some of the women in Oakland Co. are wondering how a man can vote against Woman's Suffrage" and yet be a consistent temperance worker.

Last Friday was for sure a blizzard day. Out of the five rural route mail carriers from Birmingham post office, only one, W. H. Wood, made the complete round—and he was very late and about all of when he returned.

Wednesday was nearly as bad; heavy snow fell all day, and at night turning into sleet, with a driving wind made a day long to be remembered, and effectually killed all business.

Did you notice the fine condition of the road between here and Pontiac all last season? Many thought that after the toll gate was abandoned the good road would soon be a thing of the past. Not so. Charles A. Brush was appointed overseer of highways for the township, and his good judgment made and keep the road perfect in every respect. If it is a possible thing the services of Mr. Brush should be retained, as he is talented for this work.

The total number of books drawn from the public library during the months of January, '08 was 461. Many books on history and travel are read.

Everyone in Michigan has words of praise for Roosevelt's brave speeches every one, except some of our representatives at Washington. One of our leading papers says that they haven't got word from the machine yet.

FIVE YEARS AGO

A step toward the construction of the new First Baptist Church on Willits street was taken Monday night when members of the church accepted the building committee's plans, contracts to the lowest bidder. This sanction was given at a meeting of the church members in a body Monday at the church.

Action to establish a special assessment district for the widening of Woodward avenue from the Detroit river to Royal Oak and the paving of the street, however, and the village council has been authorized to proceed with tax assessments.

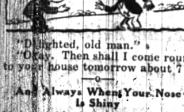
Suburban transportation to and from Detroit was discussed by the Commission Monday night at the meeting following receipt of a letter from Royal Oak officials asking the board here to help obtain D. S. R. action on the letter.

G. Jessen Olson of Forest avenue will offer his latest play, "Samuel Wood," as part of the February performance of the Village Players Saturday evening at the Playhouse.

Jest For Fun

Self Inviting

"What about us having dinner together some evening?"



"Delighted, old man." "Okay. Then shall I come round to your house tomorrow about 7?"

An Always Wheezy Nose Is Shiny

If, by accident, you meet a former lover on the street
Or at a show or Louie's bar
It never fails but what you are
Accosted by a man who looks
As though he were the worst of crooks.
Who sees as if you were a bit
Of furniture and lets you sit
Unnoticed . . . while he gives the
Once
Up to every girl who happens by!

And so I've never known it fail,
If I were with some charming male
Every whisper, every action
Proved to all the deep attraction
I possess . . . but what I'd see
My old love staring anxiously
At some one by his side, so fair
His heart knew that I was there!
—E. L. in "Life"

Famous Firms

Louder & Funnier

The "Big Shots" Say:—

Albert Einstein, scientist, referring to governments:
"My political ideal is Democracy."

James E. Watson, U. S. Senator from Indiana:
"The conduct of France is wholly unjustified. If it were not for American men and money, there would be no France."

Nancy Astor, American-born member of Parliament:
"There is nothing more dangerous to the capitalistic system than a bad employer."

Richard Whitney, president, N. Y. Stock Exchange:
"High pressure salesmanship is very much in the discard now."

Marvin Jones, chairman, House Committee on Agriculture:
"The time has come when the thinking men of America must get down to brass tacks and do something for the farm."

Thomas Stockham Banker, president, Carnegie Institute of Technology:
"It is an article of his (the American's) creed, never to do anything which can be relegated to someone else."

ALL OF US

By Marshall Maslin

Marshall Maslin

IT'S DARK. It's cold. If you get up now, two seconds after the alarm goes off, you'll not need to hurry. You will have plenty of time for anything—time to shave, time for two cups of coffee, time to feel virtuous about your strong will and stern adherence to duty. You might even have time for one of those mythical cold showers that some people say they take.

But the question is: Do you wish to feel virtuous, or would you rather be comfortable?

You went to bed early. Well, rather early. Eleven o'clock, or so. You opened the windows and pulled the covers up above your nose. All night you slept easily. If you dreamed you do not remember. They were not visionary dreams. No bulls chased you in pastures. You fell from no 20-story buildings. No wild and woolly aviator took you for a ride. Sweet peace wrapped your soul, as in cotton, all the night through.

Now it's up to you to get up.

But how?

Well, I've been in the business a long time. When I was a kid, I used to get up at 5 o'clock in the morning to peddle papers. When I was in the army, stern sergeants roused me in the dim, dark hours, ordering me to "rise and shine." I slept lightly then, too. The tinkle of a field telephone in a dugout would rouse me from slumber. The faint swish of a zooming plane, with its motor cut off, would get me out of bed instanter.

So I know about getting up. I've done it 13,000 times.

And my advice, which is very, very good about such matters, is the only way to get out of bed on a cold morning is to stay there half awake, half dreamingly half defiant of the exigencies of life, at least half an hour after you should be shivering around the house. They say that one hour before midnight is worth two after that, but I—and perhaps you'll agree—that half an hour after the alarm goes off is worth two before midnight.

That's the sweet time, that's the fair time, that's the precious interval of life.

Only a "lazy bum" would do such a thing—stay in bed when he ought to be up.

Very well, then, only a "lazy bum" would do it. . . . But "lazy bums" certainly do know how to get out of bed on a cold morning. Who says they don't?

Our Scrap Book

HOW TO READ PLUTARCH

Judged by whatever standard the first master of biography was Plutarch, a Greek, who flourished in the latter half of the first century of the Christian era. His "Lives" of the Scholarly Greeks and Romans of antiquity are a splendid monument to his instinct for penetrating to the heart of individuals. Not only events interest him, but also the way in which statesmen or soldiers shape events. In his Parallels he uses the comparative method, and tries to discover wherein Solon differed from Numa or Pompey from Marcus Brutus.

Plutarch . . . brings with him an entire civilization. His random allusions, his quotations from ancient poets and prose-writers, his use of popular sayings current in his time, his familiarity with traditions, and with the gossip about great men, which often exceeds in trustworthiness the formal written statement, cannot be matched by any modern biographer. For the modern necessarily embraces only a fragment of his civilization. Plutarch, on the contrary, saw the record of Greece as closed and complete, and the record of Rome also—of Republican and characteristic Rome—as already made up. In this respect no modern can hope to compete with Plutarch. . . .

It was Plutarch's good fortune, of course, to inherit, as it were, "the glory that was Greece," and to be encircled by "the grandeur that was Rome." But it is to his everlasting personal credit that by his knowledge and quick sympathy, coupled with genius, he embodied so much of the classical civilization in his works. . . . What Plutarch added to the art of biography was, therefore, most important. He reached the point of defining each individual very clearly. He was most catholic interest in many types of persons, and in the case of public men he showed how far their individual qualities affected their public actions. As you start the long series of his "Lives" you have an impression and unlike that which comes to you when you first walk through the Hall of Busts at the Naples Museum, but when you stop to examine and to compare, you discover that each differs from the others, that each face has its own features.

Coming so many and divers specimens, I find it hard to choose special models: "Read until you are satisfied," would be the best advice, but if you wish to see Plutarch's methods and scope fairly illustrated, read, say, the "Alcibiades" and the "Julius Caesar." What modern biographer could add much that is essential to our knowledge gained from Plutarch of the fundamental character of these two men?—William Roscoe Thayer, in "The Art of Biography."

ParaLaffs

Needed

Another change bridge needs is a cross-bar under the table to prevent kicking.—Stockton Independent.

Won't?

According to the beer-for-revenue bark, the government's ship will come in until the schooner be encircled by "the grandeur that was Rome." But it is to his everlasting personal credit that by his knowledge and quick sympathy, coupled with genius, he embodied so much of the classical civilization in his works. . . . What Plutarch added to the art of biography was, therefore, most important. He reached the point of defining each individual very clearly. He was most catholic interest in many types of persons, and in the case of public men he showed how far their individual qualities affected their public actions. As you start the long series of his "Lives" you have an impression and unlike that which comes to you when you first walk through the Hall of Busts at the Naples Museum, but when you stop to examine and to compare, you discover that each differs from the others, that each face has its own features.

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They Wouldn't

If Europe's governments would forget war they would not have to ask anybody to forget their debts.—Buffalo Courier Express.

GRATITUDE, deep and sincere, colors our thoughts of LINCOLN. Gratitude for the example of a faith and courage that never wavered, however dark the hour or difficult the road ahead. We count him proudly, among our great and revere his memory—that grows more hallowed with each passing year.

Monday, February 13
A LEGAL HOLIDAY
This Bank Will Not Be Open For Business

The FIRST NATIONAL BANK
BIRMINGHAM
Strong Enough To Protect All . . .