The Birmingham Eccentric

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1933

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 Wednesday. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes to the copy as may be necessary to the style of the paper and such 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 publisher.

State Tax Sale Decision

The newspaper, together with several hundred other Michigan newspapers, is watching with interest the action of John K. Stack, Jr., Auditor-General of Michigan, who to date has refused to carry out the state law with regard to the publication of delinquent tax notices in connection with the annual sale.

While we have great respect for the apparent intent of economy that Mr. Stack asserts is his chief reason for what we are informed is a violation of the law in this matter, we differ with Mr. Stack's methods of putting into effect his frugality. (And right here we record the fact that this practice of publishing delinquent tax sale notices is the cheapest and most practical method of substituted service" yet devised for acquainting people with the fact that their property is to be sold; and that this practice was instituted by governmental agencies wholly OUTSIDE the realm of the newspapers themselves.)

While it is perfectly true that Michigan newspapers have a pecuniary interest in this matter, this phase of the problem is transcended by the fact that such public notice is intended for the PROTECTION of the public, and Michigan newspapers today are seeking to determine the constitutionality of this fundamental public protective law. They are making this effort through a mandamus proceedings filed Tuesday in the State Supreme Court. If the Court sustains Mr. Stack's interpretation of the statutes, then there is less danger of court proceedings later on to set aside the whole 1933 tax sale proceedings, and by this mandamus action Michigan newspapers will be performing a real service to the State; on the other hand, if Mr. Stack is not sustained by the Supreme Court, then he will be able to protect, by proper action, the interests of the whole people.

The Eccentric has no fault to find with economy moves at Lansing. Together with other newspapers last Spring we published many articles touching upon extravagances in State government. The publisher of this newspaper has told both Auditor-General Stack and Governor Comstock that he hopes the present Democratic State administration will be so successful during the next two years that it will rally to its ranks, permanently, enough public support so that both major parties will be a constant balance to each other.

But there are ways—and ways—of accomplishing reform in any unit of government, and the American way has always been the legal way, the orderly way. And that way, in the light of history, is the only SAFE way!

So we await the result of the State Supreme Court's action in the matter. In the meantime, let us praise Mr. Stack for his desire for economy, and the Michigan newspapers for their desire to protect the public from being deprived of what we are informed is an inherent constitutional right of being legally notified of impending loss of life or property by a governmental agency.

NORMAN THOMAS, Socialist candidate for President, received 881,951 votes last November, more than three times what he received in 1928. Would it be inaccurate to say that a greater ratio of votes for Thomas were more intelligently directed, more sincerely decided upon, than a similar ratio of those cast for Roosevelt or Hoover?

"Work For These Hands . . ."

In a recent issue of the Salvation Army's "War Cry" there appeared a powerful poem by Raymond Kresensky, titled "Prayer of the Unemployed." Mr. Kresensky reveals a deep sympathy and understanding of his subject. He pleads eloquently for millions of our people; that his prayer may be answered is the hope of every loyal American. Here are his brief lines:

Lord, I do not ask for houses of steel,
Nor houses built of stone;
But for the exaltation to feel
The tug on muscle and bone.
Not for wealth or men at my commands,
Nor peace when I am through—
I only ask for work for these hands,
Work for these hands to do.

New York vs. Middle West

Tirelessly wageth the Congressional battle over the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Waterway project. The folks down New York City way, who have manipulated the nation so that incoming and outgoing goods pass through their hands, do not want ocean-going steamers to be able to come right up to Great Lakes ports and load foreign-bound cargoes. You can't blame the people in our First City for feeling as they do about it; neither can you blame the folks in this great Middle West from trying to increase their own opportunities to sell home-grown and home-made goods to the whole world. And, of course, the railroad boys do not want their freight business disturbed. Alas! and ahoy! 'tis a predatory world in which we live.

Michigan's Republican Party

As things now stand, Michigan's Republicans need to face the future of their party in this State with more complete honesty and frankness as to the reasons why any political party should exist. There are many logical reasons why the Grand Old Party will not make as quick a "come back" as its members wish; chief reason, perhaps, will be the fact that it has yet to develop and hold a strong, characterful leadership that will weld together its various "factions." This leadership ought to be of the kind that, although mindful of the practicalities of partisanship, will ever be mindful that no party can hope to last unless it be built upon the firm foundation of genuine public service.

If Kipling Had Written It Like This

"If you can see what some folks call 'depression'
As nothing but a spin of Fortune's wheel;
If you can keep your poise and self-possession
No matter what you think or how you feel;
If you can view a stupid situation
All cluttered up with 'ifs' and 'ans' and 'buts'
And take it at its proper valuation—
A challenge to your common sense and 'guts';
If you can rise above the mess and muddle,
If you can glimpse a rainbow thru the clouds
When Doubt and Dread and Fear are in a huddle—
And hope is being measured for a shroud;
If you can keep a saving sense of humor
For stories that are slightly inexact;
If you can disregard Report and Rumor
And not accept a statement as a fact;
If you can spread the gospel of success,
If you can stir the spirit that instills
The latent lift in ladies and looms and presses
And lift the steam above a thousand mills;
If, briefly you can spend an extra dollar;
If you can pry the sacred Roll apart
And buy another shirt or shoe or collar
And act as if it didn't break your heart;
If you have faith in those with whom you labor,
And trust in those with whom you make a trade;
If you believe in friend and next door neighbor
And heed examples pioneers have made;
If you expect the sun to shine tomorrow;
If you are sure that somewhere skies are blue—
Wake up and pack away the futile sorrow
For better days are largely up to YOU!"

—Author Unknown.

INSTEAD OF DEMANDING the payment of a bonus that isn't due them until 1945, patriotic members of the American Legion can assist their nation by revolting against those of their organization who intend to lobby the next Congress. We have every decent sympathy for the men who donned the khaki in 1917, and we feel that their loyalty to America is just as necessary in 1932.

THE OTHER CHAP SAYS SOMETHING—

IS THE NATION MORALLY BANKRUPT?

Mr. Durant, the man who transferred his discussion of philosophy from the drawing room to the street curb, gave a most illuminating radio talk Sunday evening on somebody's cigar hour. He said many profound things about world conditions, but dismissed our own distress as transience. According to the distinguished savant our financial bankruptcy must eventually improve but he is with our national moral bankruptcy that he is concerned. That there is occasion for meditation, if not actual alarm, over the subject, one has but to observe the quality of the movies that draw the largest crowds, notice the number of our future brothers who have taken to cigarette holders, when overlook the vogue, in many of our so-called best homes where hard liquor in some cases is now accepted as standard social equipment. Up to now there is no substitute for moral decency and as things are moving it is not at all surprising that Professor Durant is concerned with the trend of our financial distress but the apparent hopeless steady decline in the standard of our mental code.—Murl H. Shook in Charlotte Republican-Tribune.

WORRY

At a recent meeting of the American College of Surgeons the average span of life, which has now reached fifty-eight years, was shown to be choked off by hate, worry and jealousy, as well as bad diet.

Dr. George W. Crile of Cleveland Clinic, told of the "ravages of emotion" on civilization. Dr. Charles H. Mayo of the Mayo Rochester Clinic went so far as to prescribe the newspaper as a remedy for ill health—"the greatest educating, thought-molding enterprise in the world."

Adult diseases are the products of infections and emotions, said one. Worry, fear, hate and jealousy disturb every cell in the body, was the dictum of more than one doctor.

Fear affects circulation. Worry produces congestion and congestion results in disease. "Bad collections and inability to meet a note will give cold feet," literally. A cold in the head follows. Other complications set in. Squabbles induce tonsilitis. "A threat will give granulated eyelids." Fear, jealousy, hate bring on Bright's disease.

Worry, robs the stomach of blood and sends it to the head. Indigestion follows. "Worry—that is the evil of life," exclaimed Thomas à Kempis. Jealousy "is the green-eyed monster which doth mock the meat it feeds on," wrote Shakespere.

Life is too short to hate. A dollar is not worth dying for. And probably political plank is not worth going to the hospital over. One of the greatest grave diggers is fear. You can't be happy and unhappy simultaneously. And emotions appear to mow down a larger crop than contagions for the undertaker.

Fear is the emotion of a weakling. Americanitis is leaving us nervous wrecks. Meeting trouble on the chin keeps the pulses bounding. It becomes a game. Sunshine is death to bugs and shuns under the board. Worry even kills worship.—Elton R. Eaton in Plymouth Mail.

COMSTOCK AGAINST DOLE

Governor William A. Comstock has stated that the issuance of bonds by the state to provide financial aid to its political units for welfare relief will be the last resort of his administration. The Governor seems to be confident that methods can be arranged so that funds can be returned to the several communities to assist in the aid measures without increasing the bonded indebtedness. The Governor realizes that it is much easier to put bonds in circulation than it is to get them out of circulation. And he feels pledged to the proposition of cutting state expenses and the tax on realty. Just how far he will be able to go in the face of the rapidly growing demands for additional state aid from hundreds of communities is a matter of conjecture but all departments are working along the line of getting something for money expended and endeavoring to keep as far away from the "dole" method as possible.—Rex Royal in The Oceana Herald.

WRONGDOERS CAUGHT

Every day in the capture and imprisonment of wrongdoers the law of compensation cries out "crime doesn't pay." No matter how smart the robber may be there are brains of peace officers who can match every turn of the culprit's supposed cuteness, thus verifying over and over again the injunction of the wise man "Fret not thyself in anywise to do evil, for evil doers shall come to naught." Would that this statement could be burned into the heart and mind of every boy and girl throughout the nation.—J. E. McMullen in Linden Leader.

FREEDOM—WITH STRINGS!

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS —of Long Ago

Bits 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

All the way from 14 to 20 degrees below zero last Monday morning.

Masquerade last night; full report next week. Look out for a blizzard.

A. Bub Burns' chickens were all stolen last week Tuesday night and not a trace of the fowl preceding has been discovered.

See W. H. Ching's business card in another column. This old veteran is on hand for the spring auctions, his jaw greased, his tongue oily and everything in apple pie order for the campaign.

The Hon. James Bayley and wife went to Detroit last Saturday to celebrate the 53th anniversary of their wedding day. We are glad to note that the good old people are usually well and active for people of their ages.

Estrayed last Friday night, a black horse colt, one and a half years old, white spot in forehead. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of said colt, by sending word to Geo. Sly, Franklin, Mich., will be paid for their trouble and receive thanks.

How will your name look on your paper with a big X on it? Your friends and neighbors will know as soon as they see it that you are "back on" your paper. Better cash up with the poor deserving editor this week and the blue pencil will pass you by on the other side.

A 3-column unexcelled nondescript thing dated Rochester, Mich., Jan., 1883, and flying the breezy old title "The Cyclone" appeared upon the table this week with a couple of long patent cuts, and any amount of slang and smutty embellishments. The sheet bears the hoof prints of McCoy, or we are deceived greatly. We will "X" of course.

John and Patrick Burns, a couple ash gatherers who live in Detroit and make frequent visits to this locality were arrested by D. Hoxsie on Tuesday of last week for stealing about 17 bushels of ashes from him on that day. They pleaded guilty before Squire Bole, fined and were fined $5 and $1 respectively, which amount being paid they went on their way.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Garden seeds are coming the season.

Mr. J. Donahue and Miss Bessie Carter attended the dance at Franklin Friday evening.

Spring electing will be no end. Aside from the township ticket the result of the con-con, also constitutional amendments, and probably primary elections will be voted on; four ballots in all.

They don't play school in Pontiac. It's "again" the law. But it's a "cinch" that one business man in the county seat considers it easy to get rid of poor suppers when taking a hand with professionals. Rumor has it that it cost said business man $900 at one sitting recently.

The Woman's Literary club met with Mrs. Hemenway last Tuesday. Mrs. Wilson read a paper on "British Niagara" and Mrs. Clizbe gave an account of Henry M. Stanley in Africa. Miss Chapman gave an account of "The Present State of Affairs in Morocco." The death of Miss Mabel Case, one of the most faithful members of the club, cast a gloom over the meeting. A committee was appointed to prepare suitable resolutions.

T. B. Smith is out of his store and under the weather. Hurry up, Theron, get well and get back in the store; it's lonesome.

"Taxpayer" writes a communication to the Rochester Era, seeking information as to "who has the power to enforce the ordinances pertaining to the removal of snow from the sidewalks of the village." Well, in this corner of God's footstool "Old Sol" has been doing a very good job, all things considered, for the past week.

FIVE YEARS AGO

Henry Brooks, chief Ford test pilot, is expected to return to his home in Southfield Township today after his attempt at a new world's record for a non-stop flight in a flivver plane was thwarted late Tuesday when snow and ice forced him to land at Elmira, N. C., after he had travelled more than 700 miles and had come within 500 miles of Miama, Fla., his goal.

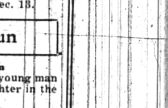
With a large steam shovel and a crew of 15 men at work on the excavation for the new Municipal Building in the first block of the civic center, progress is being made today on the new project which was approved by the Village Commission at a meeting two weeks ago.

J. B. Minton, for several years connected with the Grand Trunk Railway here, is appointed agent for Birmingham according to announcement today. He succeeds C. C. Osborne, who died Dec. 18.

Jest For Fun

Sure Indication

Mrs. Brown: I saw a young man trying to kiss your daughter in the parlor last night.



Mrs. Green: Did he succeed?
Mrs. Brown: No.
Mrs. Green: Then it wasn't my daughter.

In a Mausoleum Built for Two

We don't have a pent-house way up in the clouds;
We just have a bungalow tucked among shrouds,
Where we are quiet, away from the crowds—
When we are gone.

We have no bridge parties, with contract and such;
We see no more glad hands extended to "touch";
Our debts and our worries won't ever be much—
When we are gone.

We live in a box with nice pew handles,
Surrounded by marble and unlighted candles;
We don't miss the speakies or even the Scandals—
When we are gone.

And there, in our lay-away, wither to dust,
In our mausoleum, we hopefully trust,
We don't be annoyed by some medium's bus—
When we are gone.

—ed. graham in "Judge"

Good Aim, Too

"The evidence shows that you threw a brick at the policeman," "Because me, sir. It shows more than that. It shows I hit him!"

The "Big Shots" Say:—

Richard Boleslavsky, moving picture director:

"Many of the stories one reads in newspapers and magazines about the peculiarities of ideas, methods and people in Hollywood are greatly exaggerated."

William Faulkner, author, who disappeared from Hollywood:

"The truth is that I was scared by the hullabaloo over my arrival and, when they took me into a projection room to see a picture and kept assuring me that it was all going to be very easy, I got flustered."

Karl Taylor Compton, president, Mass. Institute of Technology:

"I do not know whether or not civilization will be destroyed but if it is destroyed, the blame will rest on man's stupidity and cussedness and not upon the machines which he has created."

Henry Carretson Hester, 87, retired cotton statistician:

"Half the people I know spend their lives trying to make two and two equal three and three-quarters or four and one-quarter and sometimes they manage to do it. When they do, I know they are wrong."

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be limited to 500 words, and must be in the office by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

(Continued from Page 1, Part 2)

without the dangerous elements of inflation.

It has been stated that in New York City the total bank deposits showed a turnover of about 120 times in 1929 and about 40 times in 1931, representing an extreme variation of volume of business in boom and depression periods, supported by practically the same amount of deposits.

If this country can develop a strong single national banking system with greater factors of safety for both the depositors and the banks than exist under our present system, a stronger credit foundation will have been erected.

Credit is a compound of capital and confidence. The able management of many of our banks and private companies through a most difficult period merits the praise and confidence of the public. With a renewed confidence, born of closely cooperative effort, the American people would soon start the reconstruction of business now far overdue and attain a steady volume of turnover based on fair prices and business practices.

United we stand, divided we fall.

RALPH I. CORYELL.
932 Arlington road.

MUTUAL SAVINGS BANKS

To the Editor:

Senator Couzens says in a letter of Jan. 21: "I quite agree that there is no reason why the State of Michigan should not establish mutual savings banks such as are established in New York."

In spite of all the get-rich-quick air castles that have tumbled down, there is one type of institution that has kept an even keel through a long period of time. Not a mutual savings bank has been closed in New York State in 20 years.

They have this peculiarity. There are no stockholders other than the depositors themselves. An officer says: "Whatever money we make after expenses have been met and generous surpluses have been set aside, is paid out to the depositors as interest on their deposits." This has ranged from 3 to 5 percent.

Whereas the mutual savings bank is organized entirely for the protection of the depositors, the combined savings and commercial bank such as we have largely in Michigan, has, at least in the background, an objective of rolling up profits for the stockholders. Whereas occasionally bank officials have forgotten that Solomon said: "He that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent," the trustees of these mutual organizations forfeit their office if they borrow any of the bank's funds, or become surety for any other borrower.

Should enough of the First State Savings Bank depositors decide to organize a depositors mutual association, they could make provisions that the operations should have this end: to gradually clear out such mortgages, loans, bonds, and other real estate, as are not secured by exceptionally large margins of safety; and to convert such funds into a type of security approved for savings institutions by states which have up very strong safeguards of protection.

Some of the extreme limitations should probably be omitted. On the whole, the association would be an agency by which the combined funds of the different participants (now tied up and useless to them) are placed in the safest type of securities and mortgages. It would be nearer a real savings bank than almost any in this state today.

Within three months after organization, it is very probable that the bank window would be open to purchase the association's certificates of ownership at current appraised value, or to make loans on same. Of course, these original certificates would be issued for the amount of deposit claims. At the same time, the association would be ready to sell new certificates at the same current appraised value, this taking the place of anything like new deposits.

The appraisal of assets would of necessity be very conservative, due to the limited and uncertain markets at present. The values might seem low to the seller of a certificate, but they offer a hope more than he could possibly get otherwise—and he is free to bore on his certificates if he has some definite plan of repayment. This feature comes from the credit unions," which have proven themselves, in groups like telephone employes and postoffice employes, as both safe and workable.

The above is in answer to several requests for more detail. Much of this was worked out a year ago. The main factor is to get back to the fundamental ownership of savings funds and not let the wolves of exploitation dress up in the sheep's clothing of a savings institution.

E. W. SHATTUCK,
324 Park street.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

To the Editor:

This is a time of good tidings of good things:

A time to press onward and upward to fight;
A time to grow bigger and better in right;
A time to do planting and pruning is here;
A time to plant gardens that gladden and cheer;
A time to face the sunshine, for sunshine is love;
A time to know our brother's welfare is our own;
A time to know we are all one in good;
A time to build upon the foundation rock of love;
A time for truth to speak as never before;
A time to remember how this nation was born;
A time for the sturdy descendants to stand;
A time for each individual to work out his plan;
A time to grow rich in experiences of right;
A time to know God the father of all;
A time of refining the gold in our soul;
A time to be thankful for the great lessons here;
A time when God's presence is never to near.

SIBYL STEVENS,
512 Martin place.

Your Savings Account with us is YOUR OWN endorsement of thrift. It is always worth 100 cents on the dollar.

4% ON SAVINGS

The FIRST NATIONAL BANK

BIRMINGHAM

Strong Enough To Protect All . . .