

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Handling The Liquor Problem

We were discussing the liquor problem of today with a man high in the merchandising world, whose contacts throughout the nation bring him fairly accurate pictures of social and economic conditions. He bluntly declared that "unless those in charge of the sale and manufacture of liquor, including government officials, improve their methods, we'll probably have prohibition back within ten years."

This man himself is a liberal, and therefore his remarks cannot be interpreted as being his own personal prejudices.

Adults of today who remember the old saloon, are quite willing to admit that John Barleycorn's ability to mix up in human affairs in this country is greater than ever before. Perhaps some of it may be attributed to the more open facing of life by both sexes; but the fact also stands out that both the people and their elected officials have shown a decided looseness with regard to liquor control—a sort of acting as though they were just downright tired out from trying to make Mr. Barleycorn a good citizen.

In our opinion, the only way to control any habit or vice in human affairs is to outlaw it through practical means. Liquor cannot be outlawed by mere law; prohibition proved that. But it can be controlled much better through EDUCATION. If we had our way we would like to see every individual in this country brief in substance, but revealing the effects of its use upon human beings. We would also divert a portion of the liquor tax revenue to the definite education of each coming generation, pointing out to them the disaster that an immoderate use of Mr. Barleycorn has caused in every generation. We would seek to regulate certain classes of people in their use of intoxicants, in accordance with their financial and moral ability to handle the problem.

In fact, we'd invent plenty of devices to bring about temperance—but we'd never again suggest the passing of a universal law that would seek to remove an ir-removable substance from human appetites.

Bible In Great Demand

Every year new millions of human beings, spurred by some intangible, yet very real, desire, are flocking to their Maker. In 1933 eleven million Bibles were sold! These inspired writings have a greater hold on people than any other book ever gotten together. Thus do we see how the printed word benefiteth the family of mankind.

Few Forest Fires In 1934

Michigan wild lands suffered less from fires during 1934 than for many years, Department of Conservation figures just released show. Only 1,000 fires were burned off as against 202,090 in 1933. Much of the credit for this belongs both to the Conservation Department and to the general public; to the Department for its forest fire ranger service and its educational campaign to "Save Michigan's Wild Life," and to the more co-operative public who have undoubtedly been more careful with their matches, smokes, and campfires. With Michigan depending more and more upon its out-of-doors as a tourist attraction, continued decrease in forest fires will restore a natural asset that is of great value to our people.

Giving Really Is Getting!

When you really ponder the problem of continuous prosperity, you realize that only by the constant interchange of commodities and services can business keep going; this means, then, that money—a medium of exchange—passes from one hand to another, as also does bank credit. Therefore, the Spirit of Giving, while generally considered a philanthropic act, is in reality in keeping with Economic Law! When people cease exchanging, either by sale or outright gifts, business stagnates. And then we have a depression. So, you see, Giving is, after all, one sure way of Getting!

Brucker vs. Couzens

From numerous sources we have been informed that former Governor Wilbur M. Brucker may contest the U. S. Senatorship with James Couzens two years hence. Our information suggests that Brucker moved from Saginaw to Detroit so that he may claim the Fourth City as his own, geographically. Mr. Brucker will find, if he competes with Senator Couzens, that there are some political defects that he encountered two years ago when he ran for re-election.

The simple truth about Mr. Brucker and his standing with the Republican Party in Michigan is this: He prematurely promoted himself for Governor four years ago, and then failed to measure up to the gubernatorial responsibilities of his time. He has oratorical ability, but no political acumen; but he has failed to enact the true role of humility that has so far wrapped himself in when portraying the dramatic character he wrote for himself.

He has a natural sincerity of purpose which, alas! he threw overboard in his frenzied efforts to perpetuate himself in office when he was Governor. The best way to regain popularity is to forget his own political ambitions, and serve the people. The former Governor ought to reveal to his fellow-citizens. He can do it—and here's hoping he sees the way to its accomplishment.

The Relativity Of Time

"It's no trick to grow old," says Edgar A. Guest, popular American poet. "Anyone can do it—if he has the time."

Behind the humor is an implication which Mr. Guest inventively hatters to make clear . . . Time, of itself, is nothing. It's what men fill it with that counts.

Possibly the loneliest men on earth are those who have lived many years, selecting for the target of their efforts not others, but themselves. They are the men who have regarded their vocations as merely means for profit, not as a trust for serving society. They are the men who have had no time, in the words of wise old Dr. Johnson, to keep their friendships in constant view. They are the men who have not learned the delights of a hobby nor the thrill of a majestic sunset.

They are grown short, the men who can not say, as did Robert Louis Stevenson shortly before tuberculosis ended his days: "During my life I have not been bored. All experience has been to me interesting."—The Rotarian Magazine.

Selecting Judicial Candidates

Next spring Oakland County voters will elect three Circuit Judges. Among those who will aspire to that office are the three incumbents, Glenn C. Gillespie, Frank L. Doory, and Frank L. Covert. These three men have held their present judicial positions for many years. Unless they are men of caliber—and we do not understand that they will not be—they will probably be opposed by many others, among whom we list the following:

George B. Hartrick and Harry Merritt, of Royal Oak, and Calvin C. Smith, of Ferndale, all Republicans. Arthur P. Boger, present County Prosecutor, Samuel J. Paterson, Robert D. Heitsch, and Charles P. Webster, all Democrats, and of Pontiac. Others undoubtedly will reveal their intentions later.

Some of these candidates are unknown to all the voters. In the interests of the best possible Circuit Bench in Oakland County, we wonder whether or not the Oakland County Bar Association will enlighten the voters as to the qualifications of the candidates. Not necessarily a detailed statement of the Bar's position; but at least an "approved list" for the guidance of the electorate.

Here is an opportunity for a County Bar Association to perform its ethical obligation to a society that gives its members a veritable monopoly on the legal business. It is no secret to re-state the fact that the public is becoming more and more critical of the legal profession and the brand of justice meted out in American courts. It is no secret to re-state the fact that most of the odium attached to this problem comes from a small minority of the practicing members of the various Bar Associations in this and other States.

Many Bar Associations do take a hand in creating "approved lists" of judicial aspirants at election time. Cannot Oakland County do the same?

Speaking for the average citizen and taxpayer, and also for the best interests of the legal profession itself, we seriously suggest that the Oakland County Bar Association declare itself in this matter before the date of next spring's judicial election arrives.

If every candidate is "of an ancestry" qualified, let the Bar Association act as the custodian. American Justice, say so, and thus measure up to its social and political responsibility to the whole people.

"Papa And Mama Gossip"

Most of the world operates on mis-information. Some is intended, but not if it is not malicious in origin—it just grows into large families from the common illegitimate parent, "Papa and Mama Gossip." If only the exact, or even near-truth, of human relationships were passed from one to another, this old world would be improved a thousand per cent in human happiness.

MICHIGAN'S U. OF M. football team is not piling up its usual record of victories this fall. Well, perhaps it will continue to function as an educational institution in spite of its tragic grid score.

EVERY BUREAU has its drawers. So a governmental bureau, with its many human "drawers", is rapidly sprawling its immensity over the taxpayers' landscape, and ere long individual freedom will be regulated in those countries where bureaucracy has fastened itself.

All of Us

—By Marshall Maslin

YOU CAN'T WIN AN ARGUMENT IN ALL MY LIFE I've never won an argument. I've tried. Certainly I've tried. Thousands of times. Trying to win them, never once. I've been a victor in any argument with cat, puppy, child, man or woman. I've won other things. Once I won a footrace. Once I won a pair of shoes in a raffle. I won \$20 once for a funny poem. I won a pool on the score of a world series game. I've matched coins to see who'd pay the street car fare and won. . . . But never any arguments.

I've argued about education. About child training. About freedom. About independence, evolution, the nature of man and woman, man, socialism, communism, anarchism, politics. About books. About economics. About religion. About anything and everything. I've had my own way. When I was a youngster I probably wore my mother out until she let me do what I wanted. Or, later, some opponent had to catch a train and stopped arguing because of that. But I have never had what you would call an intellectual conquest, and I am firmly convinced that nobody else ever won an argument of mine.

I should admit, I suppose, that neither have I ever LOST any arguments. Of course, you understand, I would never admit that. I've had my own way. When I was a youngster I probably wore my mother out until she let me do what I wanted. Or, later, some opponent had to catch a train and stopped arguing because of that. But I have never had what you would call an intellectual conquest, and I am firmly convinced that nobody else ever won an argument of mine.

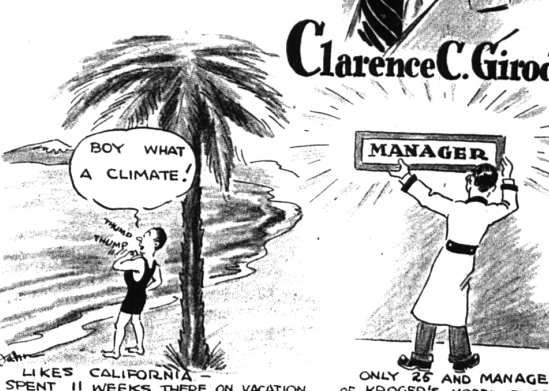
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Birmingham Business Leaders

No. 46



FIRST EXPERIENCE AS A GROCER - SACKING POTATOES



LIKE CALIFORNIA - SPENT 11 WEEKS THERE ON VACATION

ONLY 25 AND MANAGER OF KROGER'S MODEL STORE

One afternoon when Clarence Girodat was returning home from school, the manager of his neighborhood Kroger store called him in to tell him he was short of help, and put him to work sacking potatoes. Clarence, or "Jerry" as his school chums called him, was 14 years old then, and he has been a Kroger employe ever since. He finished his schooling, graduating from Woodstock High in Detroit, and worked in eight different Kroger stores there before being transferred to Birmingham as manager of the company's model store on West Maple avenue here last June.

"Jerry" is 25 years old and single, likes to hunt small game, and is a director in the Birmingham Retail Merchants Association. Having spent practically all of his life in the Detroit area, he cherishes particularly vivid memories of 11 weeks' vacation he spent in California in 1929.

Like most of us, he spends his spare time reading and attending the movies.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS

—of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO
 Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Reynolds of Armada took turkey with their daughter, Mrs. Charles Castle on Thanksgiving Day.

Whether village residents will be permitted to park their cars on Woodward avenue, in areas restricted to half-hour parking, for an hour or longer during the Christmas shopping period, rests with the village manager, James W. Parise.

Despite the icy condition of the roads during November, accidents in the village, the number of the preceding month, according to a report made public today by Chief Ora J. Tuttle.

Although the cold weather has brought an increase in illness in the village, the number of contagious cases still remain low, according to a report made public today by Village Manager James W. Parise.

Robert R. Allen, member of the Village Commission and for a number of years identified prominently with real estate developments in and near Birmingham, Tuesday night was elected president of the Birmingham Real Estate Board for the ensuing year effective Jan. 1. Mr. Allen succeeds E. H. Fillion as president.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
 What a beautiful day Sunday was!

The barn owl whose body you wear on your hat, rid the barn of mice. The goldfinch, whose feathers you wear, lives on noxious thistles.

All our hunter boys are back again and all well, happy and satisfied with their trip. The Schland boys' party of 12 brought home 10 deer. The Purdy Bros. game only landed seven of these feather-footed animals, but in weight passed the 10 of the former party.

At this writing John H. Bortle is still out and unreported. Preston Gray will have an exhibition in Charles J. Shain's window next week, a fine display of burnt wood. Now is the time to get a beautiful Christmas present very reasonable. Don't fail to see them.

You don't have to go to war to be patriotic. Improve your locality, uphold your town, enlarge its interests, and lend a hand to progress, and you are a patriot—a lover of your country—as truly as the soldier who shoulders his musket.

DECEMBER
 3—Illinois, 21st state, admitted to Union, 1818.
 4—Henry Ford's Peace Mission Ship sails.
 5—California declares independence of Mexico, 1826.
 6—The Irish Free State is established, 1921.
 7—Delaware is first state to sign Constitution, 1787.
 8—Washington retreats across Delaware river, 1776.
 9—Jerusalem surrenders to British allies, 1917.
 10—No Need To Worry Nervous Woman (in hotel)—Dear me, porter, this bedroom is a tremendous height from the street. I do hope you take precautions against fire.
 Porter—Oh yes, mum, we take every precaution. The proprietor's Christmas joy for poor kiddies of the village. The club will co-operate with it's worth—The Bits.

The Other Chap Says Something—

YOU AND YOUR SOUL
 Dr. William E. Hocking, Alford professor of philosophy at Harvard College, the 10th speaker on annual Ayres Foundation lecture at Lansing, maintained the high cultural quality of the distinguished line of predecessors.

Dr. Hocking, one of the outstanding scholars of the country, says the soul is the totality of the genius, intelligence and abilities of the individual. While we have no physical soul in the sense that we have a heart, it is recorded early in Genesis, "God . . . breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

And yet, as Dr. Hocking pointed out, the term "soul" is largely confined to philosophy, poetry and religion. In those days of prophets rather than morals, one is reminded of what Mary Roberts Rhinehart wrote a few years ago:

"We seem to think we are getting better when we are only getting better off. In a thought-compelling essay entitled "Can Science Save the World?" Roy L. Smith puts the spiritual law, for the satisfaction of the average man.

Whatever degrades, debases, impoverishes, ravages or destroys my soul, destroys me.

All my motives, ideals, hopes, consciousness, will, emotions, dreams, visions, affections and purposes come to constitute my soul—my personality—my individuality. Any degradation of any of these faculties or qualities is an attack upon my soul—upon me.

The real test of creation can live if it has food, clothing and shelter, but men must have inspiration, hopes, dreams, aspirations and great affections. These are all spiritual products—the result of the operation of spiritual laws, as dyes, chemicals, actions, leaven, fermentation and crystallization are the results of chemical or physical laws. No scientist can succeed as a scientist and ignore or defy spiritual laws, for he is a spiritual being, and they worship Him in spirit and in truth."

—andhuri H. Foe in Character—The Republican-Tribune.

EXCLUSION OF WOMEN
 The complaint was made before the National Association of Women Lawyers, that there is a world wide movement to force women back into home life. The pressure for jobs was said to be so great, that there is said to be a disposition to discriminate against women. It was claimed that the NRA codes usually make such discriminations.

It used to be the ideal for a married woman to attend to her home duties, and spend her spare time in social and club life. But many women feel that they must go out and earn money, to obtain the things they want for their homes and children.

Many families have found that they can not give the children the education they desire, unless the wives are able to earn some money. So we have had more and more married women go into the educational or business world. Many single women complain of this competition, and say the husband of a married woman should support her. But many husbands are unable to do that, and give their families the advantage they should have.

It has been a more or less hard fight for women to make their way. A woman is frequently turned down just because she is a woman, even when she is fully competent. Some employers may feel that her sex is a handicap. But in many employments it would be an asset, and the gracious manners which so many women display are always helpful.

Some people think home cares should take up all the time of a married woman. Such cares may do so when children are young. But there are millions of women who could find time to render the world some service. Our economic life will not be right, until they have their chance.—Floyd J. Miller in Royal Oak Daily Tribune.

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