

The Birmingham Eccentric (Founded in 1878)

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1934

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are written by persons not connected with the Eccentric. The right to publish is granted, however, to the author, but the work submitted as is necessary to the style of the paper and to the convenience of the printer. Because of mechanical situations in the composing room, headlines written by any persons other than the staff cannot be used without the permission of the editor. Material which appears in the columns of the Eccentric is published without being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Vote With Your Conscience

Next Tuesday, November 6, you are asked to vote for public officials for national, state, and county offices; you also are given an opportunity to consider amendments proposed to the Michigan Constitution. Under our form of government, election day is the time when, as a sovereign free people, all of us are placed upon the throne, so to speak, from which we determine the course of our government for a definite period of time.

This newspaper, as you all know, has generally supported the Republican ticket—although occasions have arisen where we supported both Democratic candidates and Democratic principles. At next Tuesday's election we shall cast our ballot straight Republican, although we must admit, in perfect candor, that in some cases the line between Republican and Democratic candidates for certain offices is a narrow one.

But vote—that is the most urgent need of the hour! Differences of opinion are bound to arise, of course. If you are a Democrat, you are naturally a Republican, although we must admit, in perfect candor, that in some cases the line between Republican and Democratic candidates for certain offices is a narrow one.

We have seen perfectly fine and respectable citizens, who, in days gone by were active in their assertion of American independent political thought, completely hog-tied by the patronage and spoils system of the present Democratic Party.

The Republican Party does not wear immaculate and unstained robes of pure white; there are chapters in its history that make one blush with shame—but never in its long life has it resorted to the present use of the public on to directly and indirectly win the voters' support.

This is a most important election. Let your inner conscience be your guide. And in the meantime, regardless of which Party wins, may God be with us all and another election rolls around to provide another chance to correct wrongs in government.

Those State Amendments

Last week we presented the gasoline and weight tax amendments which you will be asked to vote on next Tuesday. That summary of them, as analyzed by State Senator A. L. Moore, agrees with our own. Therefore, we shall vote against both of them, known as Amendments 2 and 3.

The first Amendment to our by-law, (samples of which you may obtain free at The Eccentric office) relates to the attempt to take judges out of politics by having them elected on a plan of non-partisanship. We are for that—and pray that human nature will be able to get some good from its application.

Amendment 4 is an opportunity to change your county form of government. Its adoption simply means that, at some future date, people within each county may create a more economical and efficient form of county rule, and, at an election, adopt it.

Amendment 6 relates to the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace, changing the type of cases to be heard by them, and bringing to the Circuit Courts of the State greater expense of administering justice.

seeks to change Michigan's traditional 'uniform rule of taxation.' It is the author's chief anxiety whom Senator Moore, hold that it is in keeping with the times of our present emergency. We present, therefore, Mr. Moore's argument for your careful consideration. It is as follows:

AMENDING SECTIONS 7 AND 7 OF ARTICLE X OF THE CONSTITUTION

Section 7. The legislature may provide by law the assessment of property for taxation, and may provide for the classification of property for taxation purposes and for the levy and collection of taxes thereon, except that the legislature shall provide by law for the taxation of such property as shall be determined by the average rate levied upon such property shall be uniform throughout the state. Provided, that the total amount of assessed valuations for all persons shall be limited as provided in Section twenty-one of this Article. The legislature may provide by law for the taxation of such property as shall be determined by the average rate levied upon such property shall be uniform throughout the state. Provided, that the total amount of assessed valuations for all persons shall be limited as provided in Section twenty-one of this Article. The legislature may provide by law for the taxation of such property as shall be determined by the average rate levied upon such property shall be uniform throughout the state. Provided, that the total amount of assessed valuations for all persons shall be limited as provided in Section twenty-one of this Article.

The amendment proposes changes in Sections 7 and 7 of Article 10 of the Constitution. The primary objects of the Amendment may be stated as follows:

- A. Abolition of the Uniform Rule of Taxation.
B. Give the Legislature power to classify property for taxation purposes.
C. Empower the Legislature to pass an income tax, providing the total proceeds therefrom are used for the support of education.
D. Adding the words: "As determined by law" to Section 7 of the Constitution.
E. Defining "Cash Value" as value based upon income or ability to pay.

The Uniform Rule of Taxation is not in force in the large majority of the States. It should be abolished in order that all kinds of property, real, personal, tangible and intangible regardless of character, use or production purposes, may be required to pay a just and reasonable tax. Every form of property and income should pay for the support of government and the maintenance of education.

By classification of property is meant: "The segregation of property into groups or types and the application to each various classes of different rates of taxation." The classification of property will make possible the establishment of a fair and equitable system of taxation to all classes and types of property.

The income tax provision is not mandatory but permissive. It gives the Legislature power to pass an income tax but provides that all of the proceeds from such tax derived be devoted to the support of education. If real estate is to be relieved of the support of education the money must come from some other source. Schools and the means of education must be maintained. Real estate should not bear the whole burden.

Section 7 of the words: "As determined by law" is intended to confer upon the Legislature the power to determine by law what factors shall be taken into consideration in determining "cash value" of property for assessment purposes. Over a given number of years the value of property must be determined largely by its ability to produce an income. Under our present system of tax real property without any regard to its ability to pay. This is the only civilized country in the world where that system of taxation prevails.

A farmer should not be required to pay a tax on his farm in excess of what his farm will produce. The same is true of store property, factories, apartment houses and all other forms of income producing real estate. Property should not be taxed beyond its ability to produce and to pay.

A State will not long exist that confiscates the property of its citizens because of their inability to pay an excessive and unpayable tax. In no sense of the word is this an income tax amendment. While it does confer upon the Legislature power to pass an income tax subject to certain limitations, the chief purposes of the amendment are to abolish the Uniform Rule of Taxation, make possible the classification of property for assessment purposes, and enable the Legislature to say by law that "cash value" depends upon ability to pay.

The passage of this amendment will remove the shackles from the Legislature and open the way to providing Michigan with a modern, up-to-date system of taxation which is the hope and place of the people in this State. It is the first necessary step in the solution of our tax problems.

A Correction, Please

Last week's Eccentric contained a summary of Amendments 2 and 3, as presented by State Senator Paul W. Voorheis, Detroit lawyer. In justice to Senator Moore, we want to assume full responsibility for the mistake in last week's Eccentric, for he did a few days ago send us a letter correcting his original phrasing, and we failed to change the copy in our column.

Here is the incorrect caption on Amendment 2: Amendment 2—To Limit Tax on Gasoline and to Exempt the Business and Industry of the Old Telephone Industry from Any Other Form of Taxation, Except for Police License Fees.

Here is the corrected caption, which says nothing specific about "exemptions": Amendments limiting the specific taxes upon gasoline and like fuel or upon the Motor Vehicle Industry from the public roads and highways of the State, prescribing the purposes for which such taxes may be used, and providing exemptions of certain other taxes for those engaged in the manufacturing, refining, selling, importing, storing, transporting, or distributing of gasoline and like fuels.

Birmingham Business Leaders



Advertisement for William F. Blake, a funeral home. The ad features a large illustration of a man's face and a building. Text includes: 'There isn't a dull moment when Bill and his 3 daughters get together.' 'When a boy he helped his father... in 1854 the first Blake funeral home was erected on the site of the present Detroit City Hall.' 'FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS—of Long Ago'.

When, 1856, Patrick Blake, Sr. opened an undertaking establishment on what is now the site of the Pontiac Building, he probably little realized he was starting a business which would be continued without interruption by his direct descendants for more than 75 years. But on the death of the founder, his son William F. Blake, Sr., opened an undertaking establishment on what is now the site of the Pontiac Building, he probably little realized he was starting a business which would be continued without interruption by his direct descendants for more than 75 years.

Workmen are laboring day and night on the repairs of the Lincoln building which was destroyed by the newly completed Derby well, which was hurriedly pressed into service. Bloomfield Township 1929 taxes will be decreased 10 percent from the figures of last year, according to the monthly report issued by Donald C. Egbert, building inspector. A total of \$135,176 is represented in the monthly report issued by Donald C. Egbert, building inspector.

Jest For Fun

True to Life. There was once a wealthy reclusive who kept his fortune in ten thousand dollar bills, but when he married his wife he changed all that.

Perseverity. I wonder why things I hate are always those that stay intact. Why aye things are never smashed or stained or even soiled. In fact, it seems to me that destiny has planned a tribulation for us. It takes away the things we like. And leaves behind the things that bore us.

Famous Firm. Needle & Thread. Lost or Strayed. "Would you give me 10 cents to help the Old Ladies Home?" "What? Are they again?" —NAVY Log.

Not Particular. "May I call on you?" Jinks asked of the girl he met at the dance. "I'm sorry but I wouldn't think of it," she snapped. "Oh, I didn't mean tonight," he countered, "I meant one next and miserable night, when I have nothing better to do."

Good Reason. "I'm 21 this month but I can't vote." "Why?" "There's no election." —Pennsylvania Punch Bowl.

Ask Him. "I'd just like to be a farmer; to live with the blue sky overhead." "That would be all right if the sky was the farmer's only overhead."

Advertisement for AMANAC, a stationery and office supply company. The ad features a large illustration of a man in a suit. Text includes: 'I wish I had a fixed idea.' 'John Adams, the second President, born 1735.' 'China establishes its first republic, 1911.' 'Edison announces light, gas stocks fall, 1877.' 'George Washington says "God-bye" to army, 1783.' 'Austria surrenders unconditionally to Allies, 1918.' 'Will Rogers arrives at Claremont, Ok., 1929.'

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.

BYRNE ANSWERS CRITICS To the Editor: I would like to have you print the following communications recently received by me, the first published Oct. 21, and the second Oct. 25:

"Dear Sir: "Seeing that the mail box has been removed from the corner of Adams street and Adams, we wish you would have the one at Holland put in shape so we can put letters into it. The lid has been fastened so tight for the last six months no person has been able to open it.

"TAXPAYERS" "Dear Sir: "The mail box on Adams street is out of order. It has approached me for some months. No person can open the box to put in mail. When you had the one moved from Webster street, you thought you would get one placed so the taxpayers would not have to walk down to Woodward street. We would very much appreciate some person looking into this, as the box that has been removed from the corner of Adams and Webster was unserviceable by reason of its location. But providing the one on Adams is out in order, it would be okay as long as you are fully aware of this. The box is a large one, but have the lid fixed up so as not to open it."

MR. McDUGHELL, TAXPAYER AND 100 OTHERS: While I have no sympathy with people who are afraid to sign their names, or with those who use an alias—I am unable to locate anyone named Fred McDougell—I am sympathetic toward any person who has his mailing privileges curtailed, and should like to explain for the benefit of the public. I am interested that the box at the corner of Holland and Adams like the one removed from the corner of Adams and Webster was unserviceable by reason of its location. But providing the one on Adams is out in order, it would be okay as long as you are fully aware of this. The box is a large one, but have the lid fixed up so as not to open it."

THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE To the Editor: Most of the papers lately had remarks credited to Sheriff Roy Reynolds of Oakland County and Sheriff Smith of Macomb County. Reynolds is too busy protecting the ranching interests—even to the extent of bringing the state police into the picture.

I am not mistaken here (Reynolds) hinted that the state police protected Cliff Clark's place in Macomb County from Jack Mackey. Macomb County's sheriff says Reynolds has a speed trap. Well, maybe they are both right. Sheriff Reynolds may be good enough as a peace officer to criticize the state police, but—the state police are a non-political organization. The sheriff's office is a political organization. Each member of the state police is a trained police officer. He must pass an examination in his work twice a year or be demoted or discharged.

The sheriff's force, for the most part, vote- getters. Police experience is not necessary. Most of their work consists of investigating traffic accidents or chasing chicken thieves. The state police are trained in every phase of police work. Because the Democrats happen to control the prosecutor's office, the state police don't throw up their hands and quit. It is about time that we put the state police in charge of Michigan and save the money that is squandered on a sheriff's office. JUST ANOTHER REPUBLICAN

Considerate Man. Client (making will) —And if my wife marries again, I want the money to be stable. Lawyer —What's the idea? Client —I want to soften her up. Lawyer —How do you soften up your second husband with money?

MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE CO.

LONG DISTANCE RATES ARE SURPRISINGLY LOW for 50c or less, between 8:30 p. m. and 4:30 a. m., you can call the M. loving points and talk for three minutes for the rates shown. Rates to other points are proportionately low.

Table of telephone rates. From Birmingham to: Grand Rapids (45c), Kalamazoo (45c), Flint (35c), Jackson (35c), Ann Arbor (30c), Toledo (35c). Night Station-to-Station Rate. GRAND RAPIDS 45c, KALAMAZOO 45c, FLINT 35c, JACKSON 35c, ANN ARBOR 30c, TOLEDO 35c.