The Birmingham Eccentric

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THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1935

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 Wednesdays. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the work submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper and as 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.

Another 20 Per Cent Pay-Off

Welcome news to depositors in the local First National Bank came last week with the announcement by receiver Harry Cooley that a 20 per cent dividend will be paid in the near future. The Eccentric congratulates Mr. Cooley on his ability to make the dividend, and also reminds the depositors that their collective action in forming a special committee last fall undoubtedly aided in this pay-off. The moral to this is, as we have often pointed out, simply this: *when people get together and pool their resources and energy to achieve a definite goal, they generally get what they go after.*

When Shall Evil Vanish?

Various forces are at work out in this land, some of them good, some of them evil; both kinds are abundantly manifested in human relationships; yet it is in cases of evil that we witness the greatest public emphasis given. Because people, intentionally or not, get into trouble or make trouble for others, society pays a huge amount of money to maintain a semblance of law and order.

America's annual crime bill is estimated at twelve billions of dollars. America's public schools annually cost only two billion dollars. This alone proves that society is still in the jungle stage of civilization. As the money is spent in greater volume for education, undoubtedly the crime bill will decrease. And it is the task of the best leaders of the time to bring the public thought to an acceptance of spending more on education, if jails are ever to contain fewer people in them.

It is said that 75 cents of every dollar collected by the United States government goes to pay for past and future wars, and for the maintenance of the contemporary miliary defense.

What a commentary! Three-quarters of every dollar going to pay for destruction!

There is but one way to combat the forces of evil; that one way is for people to learn how to express good! And the best way to make a start in that direction is by teaching children to "love thy neighbor as thyself." Sounds trite, doesn't it? But it is just as true today as when the Nazarene uttered it nearly two thousand years ago.

Suicidal Seeds

To save the American farmer the task of "plowing under" every third row, we suggest that the Department of Agriculture produce a type of seed that will perform thusly: when the seed has sprouted, and begins to show signs of performing its mission on earth, every third one of them automatically commits suicide. This will save the farmer from hard work, will prevent the wearing out of plows, and will continue the program of scarcity. (We shall not copyright this idea at all—because that would require some extra work in Washington.)

Small Loan Companies

For a number of years, each time the Michigan Legislature meets, efforts are made to reduce the interest rate charged by loan companies. Those who favor the reduction generally fall short of proving their case by failing to produce evidence that the present three per cent per month charge is usurious. From various evidence offered, it appears that these loan companies must charge three per cent, if they are to remain in business and serve the annual needs of several hundred thousand people. That these so-called "small loan companies" are necessary in our financial system seems to be a universally accepted fact. That they should be regulated by the State, in the mutual interests of both lender and borrower, is only common sense. It is to be hoped that Governor Fitzgerald's administration will insist that fair play be given both sides of the case if and when the matter comes to his desk during this session of the Legislature.

Practical Education Needed

Because they cannot find employment when they leave high school, millions of American boys and girls today are discouraged, and present a serious problem to the nation. It seems to us that, with all the money in this country, an additional program of local education could be set up to bring out talents and abilities of these youth, and thus better fit them for making the world a better place to live in. Some sort of practical post-high school system should be set up, entirely independent of the requirements of colleges and universities. This plan ought to be so practical that it will eventually force colleges and universities to become more practical themselves.

MICHIGAN'S LEGISLATURE has passed a law requiring that all public school teachers renew their oath of allegiance to State and Nation. If lip service is what the legislators want, their law ought to get it. But, if they really want true patriotism evidenced, why should not they, themselves, set better examples for the public?

AS YET, WE HAVEN'T READ any claims on the part of the Democrats that the Hoover administration is responsible for the dust storms in the central western portions of the United States.

Senator Moore's Tax Plan Should Be Defeated

Exposure of the weakness of Senator A. L. Moore's tax cancellation program during the past week by The Eccentric and The Detroit News has resulted in a public reaction that, we hope, spells defeat to his measure. Facts and figures presented by responsible public officials in several sections of Michigan point out that, contrary to the Senator's own arguments, his measure will largely benefit land speculators and owners of business properties who are delinquent in their taxes; very little real benefit will accrue to the small home owner.

For the first time, too, it has been revealed that Senator Moore has more than a kindly, objective interest in the matter. He, himself, if his tax cancellation plan carries, would benefit to the extent of approximately $6,300 of delinquent taxes, for the years 1932 and 1933. The Eccentric sympathizes with all people who cannot pay their taxes; we extend that same charity to Senator Moore who, even though he is delinquent in some of his own taxes, stands to profit by his own Legislative activities. The fact that the Senator is delinquent is no complete argument against his plan; the real argument against it is the fact that *TAX CANCELLATION UNDER HIS PLAN WILL WRECK THE VERY FOUNDATION OF GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT!*

As George Lord, former State Tax Commissioner, pointed out in his recent article in The Detroit News, "equity and fairness are the very foundation stones of taxation." People go on a strike when they are discriminated against; they rebel against injustice; they resent unfairness in tax assessments. That is why, we hold with others, that the Moore tax cancellation plan should not go through at Lansing.

About two years ago Senator Moore himself acted as attorney for several Oakland County townships in their fight against the State Tax Commission's unequal assessment levied by the Oakland County Board of Supervisors. In his private capacity as a lawyer he has defended many clients against what he believed was injustice.

Last Monday the Oakland County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution, 38 to 11, in which they opposed Senator Moore's tax cancellation program. Birmingham's City Commission that same night also went on record against Moore's plan. Officials connected with other municipal governments, members of school boards, and many private citizens have voiced their disapproval of the Moore plan.

Senator Moore's own District is opposed to his measure. It is to be hoped that he will by this time become convinced that fairness and equity must be incorporated in any relief legislation set up in Lansing. It is to be trusted that he will bend his talents to the framing of legislation that will *encourage* the payment of taxes without wrecking the financial security of every taxing unit of government in Michigan!

When he does perfect such fair and equitable legislation, The Eccentric pledges him its sympathetic support, as will public officials and all thinking citizens.

The Broken Promise

(From the New York Sun)

CHICAGO, July 2, 1932.—Franklin D. Roosevelt said today: "As an immediate program of action we must abolish useless offices. We must eliminate actual prefunctions of government. . . . By our example at Washington itself we shall have the opportunity of pointing the way to economy to local government."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28, 1933.—As President Hoover goes out of office the number of employes on the Federal pay roll is 563,489.

WASHINGTON, April 1, 1935.—The number of Federal employes today is 680,546, the highest since July 31, 1920.

As a good sample of federal growth of bureaus and commissions, just observe how Detroit's new postoffice, only a year old, is too small to house all the people in the Fourth City who are on the government's paproll. And yet it was President Roosevelt, while campaigning against Hoover, who promised to cut down the number of federal bureaus and commissions.

WE NOTICE THAT ALL PICTURES showing the leading statesmen of Europe together reveal that they carry canes. While this may be in keeping with fashion, why not ask them to discard the canes and, instead, carry guns? (Please take this suggestion seriously, folks, for its application would do much to postpone war.)

"U. S. OWNERSHIP OF RAILS URGED"—headline. "Blest be the tie that binds"—old hymn.

DR. PRICE'S Practical Paragraphs

By John Edwin Price

YOU HAVE IT IN YOU

So many times we overhear conversations on busses or street corners to the effect, "O, I guess it isn't in me to make good." A young man said the other day, "Yes, times are picking up. Most of my friends who were out of work are going back. But there is nothing doing for me."

Some of the readers of The Eccentric may have felt that same way. While we do not believe in goading anyone for the simple reason that we cannot conceive of ourselves being bullied into being better, still there is food for thought in something which was said recently by a young man who is making himself very definitely "wanted" by those for whom he is working. He said, "I find that when the sales pickings are few and far between, that there are so many people who say, 'What's the use' and sit down pining for better times, that the fact of their dropping out makes the picking pretty good for those willing to keep going with their eyes open.

This young man knew that the person needing to be convinced that there are better possibilities ahead is the one who needs those possibilities. It is our firm conviction that there is nearly always half a loaf for the man who isn't more than half a loafer. And half is better than none. You have it in you to do something. Possibly you may have to invent a job while the world is going through this transition period. Someone has to invent new jobs. Why wait for another to do it and then have to work for him?

We are all endowed with many unused abilities and ideas. You have it in you to do something. Sing this thought to yourself. Hum it to yourself until you come to believe it. You know that when hunting for a job working for someone else you should first convince yourself that you are worth hiring.

You have it in you to be and do something better. Growth is the order of life—unless one uses his power of will to determine otherwise.

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 300 words, and must be in the office by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday

(Editor's Note: Following is a copy of a letter which has been sent to Governor Fitzgerald by the Rev. R. M. Atkins, pastor of the Central Methodist Church of Pontiac, formerly pastor of the First Methodist Church of Birmingham. Mr. Atkins has asked The Eccentric to publish the letter in full.)

April 16, 1935

The Honorable Frank A. Fitzgerald
Governor of Michigan
Lansing, Michigan

Dear and Honorable Sir:

An associated press article of April 15th makes the following statement, "Gov. Fitzgerald said today that he, favors closing the doors of state supported institutions to students refusing to promise to bear arms for their country."

I am hopeful that you have no intention or questioning the right of Christian pacifists to admission to state educational institutions, for there are thousands of Christians in Michigan who refuse to bear arms because of their loyalty to Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace.

Many of the great Christian communions, represented by loyal citizens of this state, have in their national and state official bodies made such declarations as, "We are determined to outlaw the whole war system" and the Methodist Episcopal Church—in its General Conference of 1932 under the world peace resolution went on record: "we believe it to be the duty of the churches to give moral support to those individuals who hold conscientious scruples against participation in military training or military service."

Since the recent anti-war demonstrations at Michigan University and Michigan State College are the reason for your utterances, may I implore you not to allow these demonstrations to cause you to use your influence to slam the doors of our educational institutions on our young Christian pacifists.

In 1932 the Methodist Episcopal Church also declared "we petition all educational institutions which require military training to excuse from such training any student of the Methodist Episcopal Church who has conscientious scruples against it."

"We earnestly petition the government of the United States to cease supporting all military training in civilian educational institutions."

At the Detroit Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church held in Saginaw in 1934 the following resolution was passed: "We call upon members of our church to refuse to take military drill in college or high school R. O. T. C. and to refrain from attending Citizen's Military Training Camps."

In this land of religious liberty, it has long been recognized that loyalty to Christ never implies disloyalty to the state. Therefore may I urge upon you, on behalf of the Methodist Episcopal Church, that you use your influence to abolish military training in the colleges of the State of Michigan.

The resolutions of other great religious bodies are public and available and I earnestly implore you as the Governor of this State to give your influence to the cause of religious and conscientious freedom in respect to war.

I am making this a public letter because of the widespread publicity given to your statement.

Yours respectfully,
R. M. ATKINS.
Minister, Central Methodist Episcopal Church, Pontiac, Mich.

WANTS EXPLANATION

If no new law is passed at Lansing, adjusting tax levies at the past five or six years, I would like an explanation from Manager J. W. Parry and Treasurer Harold Corson through the columns of The Eccentric, as to what will be done with tax balances standing against lot 37 of assessor's plat 21 in the City of Birmingham.

State and county taxes for the years mentioned have largely been paid, but balances remaining due the city for widening and paving Hamilton avenue and making the Alley in the rear amount to two or three times the entire value of the parcel described, which is otherwise free and clear.

MRS. BELLE S. WARD
467 Park street.

(Another letter to the People's Column is on Page 7, Part 1)

Much Obliged

I'm very grateful to my friends
(The ones who aren't go-getters)
Who like to be a little swank,
And always leave the last page blank
When they are writing letters.
It's handy for the grocery list,
For marking scores of Bridge or Whist
And so forth. I can spend my cash
On spuds or rubber boots or hash
Or some prevailing fad.
I need no scribbling pad.
And though it makes me hopping mad
To find "sincerely yours" so soon,
I certainly would be a prune
Not to appreciate the grace
Of friends who kindly leave some space.

—BEATRICE McDONALD

A shipment of Oregon Angora rabbit wool brought $6 a pound this season on the London market. The rabbits are sheared every two or three months.

Birmingham Business Leaders

No. 64

One day, some 26 years ago, Roy R. Hawthorne got the notion he'd like to be a policeman, so he set out for Detroit to put in his application. On his way, he met a friend in Royal Oak who prevailed upon him to go to work for an electrical contractor instead. Consequently, Roy has been in the electrical business ever since.

After two years in Royal Oak, he worked for a year in the electrical department of the Ford Motor Company, and then came to Birmingham to enter business for himself 23 years ago. For the past several years his shop has been at 112 West Maple avenue, where he has specialized in electric washing machines.

Roy was born on a farm at the corner of John R and East Maple roads, and attended the County Line District school. After leaving school, he worked at various jobs, one of which was waiting on table at the old Michigan Military Academy at Orchard Lake. His ambition to be a policeman was easily sidetracked in favor of the job with the Royal Oak electrical contractor, since he had been mechanically and electrically inclined since boyhood.

Roy is a member of the Masonic, I. O. O. F. and Knights of Pythias Lodges. He likes to hunt small game and spear fish through the ice, but is perfectly contented to work around his yard and garden if no more exciting diversion offers itself.

The Other Chap Says Something—

A GOOD START

Governor Frank D. Fitzgerald deserves the applause of every Michigan citizen interested in good government for the emphatic manner in which he "booted" John Gillespie out of any influence in the present administration. The former Detroit political boss was attempting to muscle in on the State Liquor Control Commission by representing himself as a spokesman for the executive when Mr. Fitzgerald very quickly put an end to the bluff. Not that there is anything personal against John Gillespie, but he does represent a viewpoint in politics which has no place in a properly run administration of public affairs. Gov. Fitzgerald has made a fine start at "cleaning house." In the long run the Republican Party, or any other party, will be ahead to rid itself of such leaders. May the house-cleaning activity which Governor Fitzgerald has started extend itself to include another individual who resides in the nearby city of Grand Rapids; an individual who is a past master at grabbing lucrative state contracts.—Dick Cook in Hastings Banner.

IT'S EVERYBODY'S FIVE BILLION

The five billion dollars to be spent by the federal government to again prime the business pump is not government money; we must understand that. The federal government has no money of its own. The only money the government has is the money taken away from its citizens. Neither is there anything to the theory that it is only the rich who contribute federal taxes. The rich pass the tax along to the poor. Every man, every woman, every child who spends money for any purpose is contributing a portion of the five billion by relief. It's our money that is being spent.

All of us, the rich, the poor, the old and the young, our children, our grandchildren and our great grandchildren will help pay back the five billion to be spent within the next few months. It may be necessary to spend the five billions, we are not arguing that point, but we should thoroughly understand that the five billions of dollars is not government money. The five billions is the money of the people.—Vern J. Brown in Ingham County News.

JUST THINKS

American ship loaded with soap was sent to France recently. Is that a hint for France to clean up her war debts?

According to a London press dispatch, Jimmie Walker admits he is broke and unable to pay his debts. Jimmie can come on home. He won't be lonesome over here.

With the Towsend and Long plans being aired, won't somebody come along with a plan that will give us more money than either of those birds.

Detroit judge says beer can make no one drunk. Maybe not, but it will make a fellow go out and hunt up something that will make him drunk.

The year 1935 will go down in history as producing the largest number of rainbow chasers the world ever knew.

Here's hoping there will be no crying about those baby bonds.

In Detroit the other day a man was removed to the hospital for trying to beat his wife.

Wonder some radio broadcasting company hasn't hired Dr. Townsend to give bedtime stories.

A lot of people who turned over a new leaf Jan. 1 have found that it was a loose leaf.—George Shaw in Pigeon Progress.

STATE GOES REPUBLICAN

How much national significance there was in the magnificent Republican victory in Michigan is a matter of opinion, but it did very clearly demonstrate that the voters of this state would no longer be waved and domineered by the lash. "Stand behind the President." The state administration can feel very gratified with the results as it was to quite an extent a vote of confidence in the program of the Governor. Michigan and Wayne County can now be classed as "Republican" and that party to win only needs to name candidates in whom the Republicans have confidence.—Milt Carmichael in Detroit Courier.

AN HONOR CODE

Many interesting stories are told of the honor code at Washington and Lee University, where it was established by General Robert E. Lee when he became president of the school in 1867.

No supervision of students is exercised during examinations, yet cheating is virtually unknown. Nothing is locked up about the institution; books, articles of clothing and all sorts of property are left anywhere with the assurance that they will not be disturbed.

Several students help to pay their expenses by selling sandwiches, candy, apples and the like, but the sales are made without the presence of clerks. The articles for sale are displayed with price cards, and customers help themselves, placing their money in the cash box. During football games more than $125 worth of lapel buttons were thus bought and paid for without the supervision of anyone, except that when the box was filled with bills a passing professor placed a weight on them to keep them from blowing away.

New students are thoroughly instructed in the requirements of the honor code and impressed with the importance of rigidly observing it, because, it is explained, this school is built around tradition. And the essence of that tradition is that "it's a pleasure to be a gentleman."—Citizen, Key West, Florida.

HAPPINESS—A BY-PRODUCT

There is a whole sermon in a remark that Henry Ford's secretary made the other day. In Mr. Ford's business creed, he said, if one goes out primarily for profit he misses it, profit, like happiness, being a by-product.

Happiness as a by-product will strike many as a new idea; but that is precisely what it comes to. Happiness is not something that can be captured by pursuing it. It is only attained by pursuing something else.

The road to happiness is the road of self-respecting duty, of loyalty to obligations, of unselfish goodwill toward others. It may not be—seldom is—the road to riches or to power. The time comes in everybody's life when the decision has to be made between the pursuit of pleasure or the pursuit of duty.

Exactly the same is true of business. Business that does not put service and quality, fair dealing and honesty first, never in the long run makes a real profit. If profit is the sole motive of a business, that business lacks the solid basis that will enable it to weather depressions and meet competition.—Harry Myers in Lapeer County Press.

From THE ECCENTRIC Columns of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Band dance.

Oxford groans loudly for a new hotel.

Shall we have a baseball club this season?

The voice of the bull frog is heard in our land.

"Will spring ever come?" is the universal cry.

The new skating rink near the corner of Fremont and Pierce streets, looks as if it were rapidly becoming an assured fact.

We were lately allowed to look through the studio of Mrs. E. Leonard, and saw many rare and artistic paintings, all the work of this lady's own hands.

House moving has begun; Joe Beltz moved into Levi Allen's house, Levi will occupy John Howland's, and this makes Amos Howland, the late occupant, move to Four Towns. F. Millspaugh goes into Hood's house, Manly Leach takes possession of the Wooster house, lately occupied by Mr. Millspaugh, etc., etc., ad lib.

Married at the residence of the bride's parents on Wednesday, April 8, 1885, Mr. Clinton Dewey of Detroit to Miss Lottie Toms of this place, the Rev. G. W. Lowe officiating. Lottie has long been a resident of this place, and her many friends unite in wishing her a pleasant trip o'er the billows of the matrimonial sea.

—o—

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From the loud mouthings of vulgar, profane and dirty yells from three or four young men on our Main street Sunday night last, one would think the saloons were running full blast. Our marshal could have found business awaiting him had he been in the vicinity.

The marriage of Miss Alta Winston Poppleton, daughter of Mrs. Mary Barclay Poppleton, to Charles T. Wingar of Iron Mountain, will be solemnized Wednesday evening, April 27, at 8:30 at the home of the bride, 1189 Woodward avenue, Detroit, by Rev. John Brittain Clark. Merrill Wingar will act as best man.

The next day after election, James P. Wooster began long delayed operations on the old National Hotel—work began right where it left off two years just now. When Mr. Wooster gets all his repairs and overhauls completed the old National will be a source of pride to the average Birminghamer and a matter of congratulation to all traveling men and especially "der drummer." Mr. Wooster has already contracted to house, bed and board 200 of the Elks during their national meet the coming summer.

Through A. B. D. Van Zandt, publicity agent for the Detroit United Lines, there has been given to the public a dandy calendar just for the baseball season beginning with April and ending with October next. It shows every day where the Tigers play, and you can get there no better way than the Interurban railway, which runs to the games fast and frequent.

—o—

FIVE YEARS AGO

Several changes have been made in the school teaching staffs and four new teachers have already been hired to fill vacancies. F. Morse Cooke declined the offer of a position in Battle Creek to remain in Birmingham as principal of the Adams School. Isabel Forman will remain as principal of Barnum School, while Howard D. Crull will be principal of Barnum Junior High School.

Village Manager James W. Parry is looking for a second-hand but serviceable traffic light, preferably one of the flasher type. Members of the Village Commission, agreeing that a traffic light and a stop street sign at the intersection of Lincoln avenue and Southfield road were necessary, requested Mr. Parry to obtain a flasher.

Accepting the theory that art is based on nature, the trustees of Cranbrook Foundation, with the active co-operation of W. Bryant Tyrrell, have undertaken to establish a Museum of Natural History in the Cranbrook Academy of Art Building.

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