The Birmingham Eccentric The Townsend Plan

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1935

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events remarked with the solitorial staff of the paper. All copy must be greated before soon on Wednesdays. In fight is expected before soon on Wednesdays. The fight is work sphmitted as are necessary to the style of the paper and as are regarded by laws of the state. Because of a py those start of the start of the paper of the start of the

Let's Get Michigan's Share Of Four Billion

How much will Michigan get of the new \$4,880,000,000 asked by President Roosevelt to speed re-

Should the state continue to acquire title to tax ilinquent lands that are sold at tax sales? Should the taxpayer who pays his taxes promptly ceive a discount for prompt payment? How can real property best be relieved from the less resistance now caused by the presence of delinient taxes?

Can the real property owner receive any real relief ntil his land has a market value as well as an asset

Should rear ability to pay? uld real property be taxed, having regard to its

Should new taxes be developed in order to remove portion or all of school support from real estate? If the tax is one within the ability of real property opay, should the penalties for non-payment be made

severer suld the balance of the state property tax be re-

d? sould the sale of liquor by the state liquor stores abject to the sales tax? It is not now, sould the sales tax on foodstuff be repealed? ow shall old age pensions be financed? nould unemployment insurance have any tax sup-Should How shall hould unemp

ore?
Should all descriptions of property for taxation puroses be prepared in the county treasurer's office?
Would the collection of all taxes by the county
wassurer make for efficiency, and economy?

reasurer make for efficiency, and economy?

Is it wise to set up as a tix adjustment board the arious local assessing boards or any other local agency?

Should there be a homestead exemption from all exaction for aged people? If so, in what amount and

Exaction for ages program

What relation do the mortgage and contract moraorium laws have to the delinquent tax problem?

Is it more profitable to rent than it is to own your
wan home or farm?

Can there be any substantial recovery in this state
until home ownership has became an asset?

The clearest analysis we have seen of the proposal of Dr. F. E. Townsend of Long Beach, California, to bring about a condition by which "humanity will be forever relieved from the fear of destination and want" was written last week by Walter Lippman, whose clear comments on world affairs appear as a syndicated fea-ture in many newspapers, and are eagerly read by thousands of people.

The alm as you perhaps already know, it simple in

The plan, as you perhaps already know, is simple in utline. Briefly, it proposes:

1-To have every man and woman over 60 years of age stop working for gain.

2—To have the federal government pay each man and each woman over 60 a monthly pension of \$200, provided that the pensioner is not a habitual crim-inal and that he or she will take an oath to spend the whole amount within 30 days.

-To raise the cost of the pensions by a general sales

Now, the plan to a lot of people is mighty appeal-ing. The idea that the government will pay you \$200 every month as long as you are over 60 and don't work for gain sounds great.

for gain sounds great.

But let's study the thing a little, Dr. Townsend believes that eight million persons would be eligible and would apply for the pension. At \$200 a month, or \$3.-400 a year, for each person, the cost of the pension would be 19 and one-fifth billion dollars, plus the cost of administration, or about 20 billion dollars alroghten. It should be kept in mind, that it is proposed to raise the sum by a sales tax.

Mr. Lionwas alle traces to the forest that in \$12.4.

Mr. Lippman calls attention to the fact that in 1934 retail sales have-been about 30 billion dollars. So, if the Townsend Plan had been in effect last year, it

000,000 asked by President Roosevelt to speed recovery.

It is the most vital question of the moment to this State, long distressed and long deprived of its just dues in the disbursement of previous Federal relief funds.

The answer rests with city and village councils, township and county boards and other units of government to whom the Michigan State Planning Commission the past week delivered a questionnaire. It is the beginning of an inventory of public works possibilities in this State—and this community.

The Commission, appointed by Governor Fitzgerald, is headed by A. R. Glanev, nationally known engineer and industrialist. It sak is to obtain before Feb. 11, or as near that date as possible, a complete Feb. 11, or as near that date as possible, a complete feture of potential public works in Michiganon which the State can base its demands for a fair share of the giant sum soon to be released.

When the information is in hand, the Commission's stuff of entire the content of t

Feb. 11, or as near that date a possible, a complete formed pricture of potential public works in Michigan on which the State can base its demands for a first where of the state can base its demands for a first where of the state can base its demands for a first where of the state can base its demands for a first where of the state can be set of the state can be set of the state of the state can be set of the state of the state can be set of the state of t

As a property owner, or as a renter, you want to decrease the load you now carry in supporting government.

You undoubtedly have several ideas on this most important mattee, and that is why State Senator A. L. Moore has asked this newapper to obtain for him your reaction to the following questions. Mr. Moore is chairman of the Senator A. Lambour of the Senator of the Senator A. Lambour of the Senator of the Senator Office of the Senator Office A. Lambour of the Senator Office of th

wealth, and those who think it does are trying to make gold out of sea water, and invent a makine for perpetual motion."

Somehow or other this Townsend Plan makes us think of the man who was going to get rich by a simple method, and without work. He invested a very small amount of money in some cars and some rats. Well, you know the rest—show the cars at the rats and the rats at the casts and the man sold the pelts of both and got rich.

Think it over calmly, and while, as we stid in the beginning the plan is appealing (especially to those over 60), you will see the fallacy in the plan—A. D. Gallery in Tuscola Country Advertiser.

Whither Goeth We?

Whither Goeth We?

Whither Goeth we will fish—into the öbbivion of limited human nature, which is something akin to chaos. In a day when mankind can make and grow more than he needs for confort and security, the undisciplined selfshness of human beings brings about widespread famine—want in the midst of plenty. We suggest that the government of the United States we have a considerable and the more considerable and the middle of the plant of the policy of the considerable and the plant of the plant Whither Goeth We?

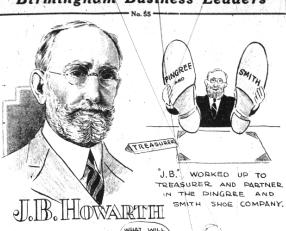
President Rosevelt's "planned economy" seems destined to go the way of all flesh—into the oblivion of limited human nature, which is something akin to haos. In a day when mankind can make and grow more than he needs for comfort and security, the undisciplined selfinhness of human beings brings about widespread famine—want in the midst of plenty. We pleus suggest that the government of the United States set up a department to be known as The National Commission for Unselfishness, and give it an appropriation large enough to do some educating of our people. No enduring progress can be made toward making people generous through cold legislative methods. That is why the desired "planned conomy" is going the way of prohibition, alast and alack!

Two Thoughts In One Word

When you have a brave man who is not gentle, you have a barbarian; noble, possibly, great and strong, but still a savage. When you have a gentle soul that is not brave, that dares not risk the higher vertices, you have no man at all, but a milkoop. But when you have a man who is profoundly fearless, and who has also learned to be gentle, then you have that finest product of God's handwork of which we have any first hand knowledge—a Gentleman.—Selected.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
The Lady Maccabees of the
World, Birmingham Lodge, No. 25,
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World, Birmingham Lodge, No. 25,
The Lady Maccabees of the
Lady Supreme Commander, and Dr.
Elizabeth Hooper of Port Huron,
Supreme Commander, and Dr.
Elizabeth Hooper of Port Huron,
Supreme Medical Examiner. The
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Lady Supreme Commander pubded their wistors in their coay Ford
block lodge rooms, after which
lady Supreme Commander pubded the Lady Supreme Commander pubdistent of the Lady Supreme Deputy, escorted
the meety installed officers to their
and Jamieson were friendly rivale
in story telling to a convulsed
andience After business was finished, dancing followed until the Let It BE KNOWN to the cockeyed world that Birmingham is making a valunt struggle to pay its civil obligations. This town, which was made the specularities are for too many "openimists," (as were numerous other sections of Michigan) wants to meet its obligations 100 per cent. This is why the present "pay your taxes now" campaign is being conducted.

Birmingham Business Leaders





FFTY YEARS AGO

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

umbent.
Interest in the Bloomfield, Troy and Southfield Township/elections has been at low ebb during the past week, only one additional andidate having entered the field.
Whether the Eastern Michigan ago call for the last car was announced, when the jolly Bees mournfully left a long faced lot of dancers. The affair was a brilliant social

Whether the Eastern Michigan Railway will accept the proposed fare reduction program offered by the Inter-Municipal Transportation ... counties program offered by the Inter-Municipal Transferrata Menicipal Transferrata Men

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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. Lettere must be limited to 500 words, and must be in the affice by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

To the Editor:

As the father of two Baldwin, studenth, I am much interested in the tax (collection campaign now going on, although I can't understand why it is necessary as I have always understood that if I failed the stand why it is necessary as I have always understood that if I failed the stand why it is necessary as I have always understood that if I failed the stand which is necessary as I have always understood that if I failed the stand which is necessary as the standard whic

The Other Chap Says Something—

WHEN DOES A 6:30 AFFAIR
Some day some hero or the continuous of the continuous days of the where the places of the places of the matters in their own hands. There are the campaign pledge of one with a saving sense of whole mess. We can assure you hands of the place of the place

TELEPHONE CO.



YOU "GO PLACES" . . . WITH A TELEPHONE

The convenient way to arrange parties and other good times today is by telephone. It's easier . . . quicket . . and more satisfactory, because answers can be had and plans completed without delay. Those who can be called easily are included in such good times more often than those who have no telephones.

who have no telephones.

A telephone offers more than social advantages, however. It enables one to order supplies and "run" errands without leaving the house. Business associates can call "after hours." And, when emergencies occur, aid can be summoned instantly by telephone.

mstanty by telephone. The cost of having a telephone in your home... only a few cents a day... probably is but little more than the amount the average family spends, in using public pay telephones. For complete information about telephone service, call, write or visit the Telephone Business Office.