

## The Birmingham Eccentric

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THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1936

**NOTE:** The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have been submitted by persons who wish to be connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be submitted before 10 o'clock, Wednesday. The Editor reserves the right to make such editorial changes in the matter as he may see fit. The name of the contributor is not required by laws of the state. Because of a mechanical situation in the composition of the staff cannot be used. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, credit or business of any person or corporation, which may appear in the columns of the Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

### Why Don't Colleges and Universities Teach Students Economic Truth?

Are there too many publicly supported schools in the United States? Is our country faced with the problem of building more schools, and of keeping its youth in school more years than in the past, due to the problems of a growing industrial society, with its greater use of machinery to do the world's work?

These two questions were discussed here last week when Dean J. B. Edmondson, of the Dept. of Education of the University of Michigan, spoke to Birmingham Rotarians. Dean Edmondson debated the questions at length, in the end holding that both of them must be answered in the affirmative.

At the conclusion of his talk, we conversed with the Dean in some detail, and agreed that he undoubtedly is correct in boosting the value of education. We finally pinned him down to agreement with us on this premise: that the American people are more than willing to pay for more schools, when they can. That is the problem facing the nation's educational system, then, is almost entirely an economic one, and that America's real solution to the question of raising money for public school support lies only in the presentation of an economic system that better guarantees continuous work for the masses.

Then we said to the Dean: "You can go to a dozen professors of economics in a dozen American Universities and obtain a dozen different systems of economics. You teach your students all about the laws of mathematics and physics, and enable them to build bridges, tunnels and skyscrapers, and even to invent mechanical devices; you make this possible because you have relied upon proven mechanical, mathematical, and other physical laws. But you fail to send young men and women forth into the world to build an economic system that, complying to known economic laws, will sustain our complex industrial and agricultural society. You exhort and advise your students to do research laboratories for truth, and for the dissemination of that truth to youthful consciousness entrusted in your care by a tax-supporting public. It seems to us, Dean, that the real problem of education is not in asking if people want schools—for they certainly do want to support free education when within their financial power to do so—but in probing into fundamental economic law to discover a system that, in itself, insures stable employment—just as your mathematical declaration that two plus two equals four, and assists in planning a bridge, a tunnel, a skyscraper, a ship, and other mechanical devices."

Dean Edmondson admitted that our argument is a sound one, but shrugged his shoulders at its slant on the fundamental economic law to discover a system that, in itself, insures stable employment—just as your mathematical declaration that two plus two equals four, and assists in planning a bridge, a tunnel, a skyscraper, a ship, and other mechanical devices.

So we suggest that colleges and universities place the following sign over the doors of their mathematical and physics classes: "Here we teach you the following about mathematical and physical law which, if followed in practice, guarantees you safety for the human race:—"

Over the doors of the various classes in economics we suggest the following signs: "Here we teach you not the truth, because we know it not; we teach you our opinions and beliefs, all of which seem to be upset with regularity in the great world outside, as depression follow prosperity while man pursues politics of varying economic philosophies taught in institutions of higher learning."

For, we are convinced, the average economics course taught in colleges and universities is merely a sort of post-mortem dissection of the body of prosperity which, in times of a depression, becomes a dead corpse. In other words, economics, as taught today, is for the dead, not for the living.

### Melodrama Appeals

The reason that the Hauptmann case was "played up" so in the daily newspapers is simple. The majority of American people like melodrama; they like to hear the baying of the bloodhounds as poor Eliza hoves over the treacherous ice-cakes. They like to thrill over tense moments of suspense—like Lindbergh flying a solo across the Atlantic; like a World Series game in progress; in the end, the bases loaded, and Goslin all set to knock a single, bringing in the winning run; like a crowd gathered around a prize-fighter wanting the affair to run on indefinitely, yet every moment hopeful that one of the contestants will be knocked out. In other words, the reading public is a curious paradox of emotional qualities, desiring to be lulled upon by mysterious forces in this great drama of life.

### Entering Our 60th Year

Time flies—we were reminded of this fact last week when, after The Eccentric was published, we noticed that it had entered "Volume 60—Issue No. 1." Which merely means that this newspaper had completed its 59th consecutive year of publication. Thus, for 3,063 continuous weeks, residents of this area have received their "home-coming" newspapers—a long record of journalistic service, to be sure. All of which means that, as a commercial enterprise, The Eccentric is the oldest in length of service in this area.

THE AVERAGE POLITICIAN'S favorite flower is a nice forget-me-not.

### The Light of Easter

(Given by W. J. Cameron over the Ford Sunday Evening Hour radio program Easter Sunday)

The earth, we think, is a beautiful planet. Not only is its Easter glory, but in its summer fragrance, in Autumn's russet gold, in Winter's silence, our Earth is always lovely, always blessed. Our Earth is always yet it is not ours. Man is not its proprietor; he did not make it, he could not dispose of it if he would; its movements, tides and seasons are not in his control. Spring returns without his aid; the tribes of beasts and birds perform their functions, nor ask his leave. Man the physical creature is not in the slightest degree necessary or even useful to the earth. Earth would exist it existed without him; in vast spaces of its surface today it flourishes luxuriantly without his presence.

Now, the common earth-worm is necessary to the earth—its tiny burrows aerate the surface soil. Fishes keep the waters clear. Bees—St. Valentine's messengers bearing the pollen to herb and tree—are indispensable to flowers and fruits. The earth would desecrate in ordinary to the whole world. Old earth would grow sour and sterile, be eaten bare by the voracity of unbalanced species, without these lowly lives. They are necessary to the natural process—man is not. His farms and cities, his roads and mines, his engines and commerce and civilization perform no service whatever for the earth. It can do without them. Even his use of nature's wealth—whether wise or foolish, makes no difference to the earth; God's economy are beyond his meddling—"while the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." There is chaos but for the national treasuries, foreign and domestic commerce, the money system; yet Earth itself regards them not at all.

It seems to be clear, therefore, that man as man is not essentially an earthly being. He seems rather to be earth's latest immigrant. Man uses the earth; it does not use him in return. He utilizes continents, seas, and endless centuries as his threshing floor. Space and time are the scaffolding of his work. He seems to cultivate a harvest against which the ruthless scythe of time is leveled. His center of gravity is not in any physical cycle we know. He is earth's first dweller whose values no scales can weigh. Call it soul, personality, character—it is all we mean when we say Man, Woman, Child—it is neither earth-born nor earth-bounded.

The soul that rises with us, our life's star,  
 Hath had elsewhere its setting,  
 And cometh from afar."

One fragment of the profound meaning of Easter is surely this: that Time is man's material and not his master. Time is strung upon his loom, not he on Time's. By grace of gifts divine bestowed on him, he weaves a timeless fabric for the earth. Simultaneously a sudden bright flash from the stars, a scintilla of time is swiftly passing—it is but the fluttering wings of life he hears—wings of life endlessly moving, and life to life: at all is forever deathless. By many paths our minds reach this conclusion: in Easter the better part of the world holds a demonstration.

Its immediate meaning for us depends on where we are at the moment. That fact of Easter light we see is directly opposite where we stand. To the bereaved, it speaks of life as one seamless robe; unrent. To the harassed and hurried people, fearful that time may snuff them from their goal, it says there is time enough left to us, when we come. Time is a friend. Time has two words in which to fulfill its promise. To those whose poignant concern it is to see society become truly social, it says: this today of yours seems more important than it is, because you see it by itself alone; but dull and sleazy as it appears to you now, it is one of the finest fibers in the fabric and shall not be utterly left to fall apart as a shining strand in the mangled pattern life is weaving.

Easter helps us to take our fearful demand and synchronize it with the steady tempo of the on-marching purpose. It is a great thing to know that even our imperfect time is an integral part of the future we seek.

It is a great thing to know that what we sincerely labor at any stage of the process shall likewise share with those who come after to build upon our work and with those still farther on who shall see the ultimate triumph of righteousness. For the work is a unity and a continuity, humanity is a unity and a continuity; so is life, and, though sometimes we doubt it and despair, seem from a hilltop of clear vision, seen in the light of Easter, it is so.

### Random Remarks

M. A. Hines, chemist, Northwestern University: "There has been but little discussion in the chemical industry."

George E. Vincent, former president, Rockefeller Foundation: "The idea of the stability of liberty and freedom in a country which we can see the orthodox side of politics."

James W. Wadsworth, congressman from New York: "I do not believe that agriculture can be based on a false and unprosperous basis by the employment of artificial devices."

Herbert Hoover, former President: "Civilization has advanced only as far as the scientific method of the natural sciences. The people have been free, alive and unoppressed."

Sam Masingale, congressman from Oklahoma: "A ship is what railroad men call a section-hand."

Colby M. Chester, president, National Association of Manufacturers: "Industry is sure that we are on the verge of prosperity and that industry can be counted upon to do the trick."

James Harvey Rogers, professor Yale University: "The future of the world will be because our budget is out of control."

Cordell Hull, Secretary of State: "The primary purpose of the American foreign policy is the maintenance and promotion of peace."

David Lawrence, political commentator: "The opposition party, the Republicans have failed hopelessly."

Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture: "The bulk of the money paid under the AAA program went to the men who need it most, the small producers."

William E. Borah, U. S. Senator: "The farm problem is national and as much as any problem that can be presented to the American people."

Harry L. Hopkins, WPA administrator: "I personally have yet to find a case of a person getting a job on relief rolls because of politics."

### Brucker vs. Couzens

Former Governor Wilbur M. Brucker's entrance into the Republican Senatorial contest will mean that the latent strength of Michigan Republicanism will be divided. Every argument that Brucker uses against Senator James Couzens will later be used by the Democratic candidate after the primary election in September, as we view the situation, Brucker can't win the nomination. Mr. Brucker will call his action "Republican loyalty"; to us, it sounds like "Brucker loyalty," for the former "Chataqua Governor" seems unable to curb his own political ambitions—even in a critical Presidential campaign.

Oh, we are aware of some of Senator Couzens' shortcomings but, so far as vote-getting ability is concerned, the elder Couzens has a greater Michigan following than Wilbur Marion Brucker. So, as we view the situation, Brucker's entrance into the Senatorial race is helpful to the cause of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Brucker is merely repeating his action of some years ago, in defiance of the advice of his friends, he announced himself as a candidate for the Michigan primary election; but lastly only one term in primary election.

We like him personally but, as a statesman who will set aside his own political fortunes and crusade; only for the "dear people," we must wait a while before casting Mr. Brucker to that far-flung political atmosphere.

In the meantime, we shall see what we shall see.

That NUDE WOMAN who entered a London church on Easter Day and stood naked before the altar probably thought she was in competition in a bathing beauty contest. Or, perhaps, she may have felt that, being in a House of God, she didn't need to hide her hide.

LET'S ALL BE THANKFUL that, each year, the American public is enthusiastic about the opening of the baseball season. As long as we "go nuts" about the great national game, perhaps we'll be semi-civilized.

ADD AMERICAN IDIOM for 1934: As easy a job as that of a bank receiver who was appointed several years ago to do what was supposed to be a short job of restoring depositors' money.



### People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications will be accepted, but signatures will be kept confidential. Contributions should be sent to the office of The Eccentric, 222 New Woodland Avenue, Birmingham, Mich., in care of the following Thursday.

The Eccentric: To whom it may concern,  
 At our April 16th meeting of W. T. U. I received a number of suggestions for the improvement of our organization. We feel that the best way to improve our organization is to have a better understanding of the needs of our members and to provide them with the best possible service. We will try to do this by having a better understanding of the needs of our members and to provide them with the best possible service. We will try to do this by having a better understanding of the needs of our members and to provide them with the best possible service.

### WASHINGTON LETTER

#### Army, Navy to Get a Billion; But Whom Will America Fight?

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON—Nobody seems to know why Congress is appropriating more than a billion dollars for the army and the navy this year. But the Senate and President Roosevelt have estimates \$200,184,000 for the navy.

The navy is more than doubling the size of the army, which is increasing by 50 per cent. It is going to fight Japan, or the Philippines, or the United States, particularly among the sea lanes. The idea is to have a navy that is going to fight Japan or the Philippines, or the United States, particularly among the sea lanes. The idea is to have a navy that is going to fight Japan or the Philippines, or the United States, particularly among the sea lanes.

### The Other Chap Says Something—

"NOTHING IS LOST OR GAINED BY THE WAR."

To some people the above sentence seems as untrue as to say "Steel is more elastic than rubber." However, both are true. You can prove the latter by considering the rest possible through their chosen suit against the electric force and Share. Final decision in the latter case is not expected until next winter.

The other two defendants, the PVA case of the electric force and Share. Final decision in the latter case is not expected until next winter.

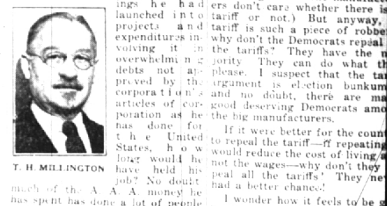
The Circuit Court of Appeals turned Baker down, too. The Supreme court probably will not decide this issue until next year.

In the normal progress of daily life a man cannot expect his devotion to any particular result justify it in forsaking the standards which it acknowledges. The constant temptation is to forsake the standards to achieve the result and thus to suppress the dissent when he becomes annoyed, to ignore the opposing argument when to answer it would be embarrassing, to distort the balance of public discussion by the shrewd manipulation of the evidence, or to ignore the prejudices of the masses, to fear to destroy the opponent, to get him by fair means or foul. These things may well be constantly resisted; men cannot fight effectively for justice with unjust weapons, they cannot fight for tolerance without hypocrisy, they cannot fight for liberty by using the weapons of tyranny. For if the argument they don't mention, they do, they may well lose the war—Walter Lippmann.

### "My Country, 'Tis of Thee"

By T. H. MILLINGTON

If President Roosevelt, instead of being President of the United States, had been the general manager of a business corporation; and if the business which he had launched had not been a business which the government had to support, he would have had to pay for the costs of his operations. He would have had to pay for the costs of his operations. He would have had to pay for the costs of his operations.



T. H. MILLINGTON  
 My country, 'tis of thee,  
 Sweet land of liberty,  
 Where the brave new worlds  
 Are still to be won.  
 Thy name I love.  
 O'er the ramparts  
 We watch and are gloried,  
 In the battlements  
 Of thy free air.

I wonder how it feels to be getting away from people's money and praising and well paid the job? High salaries are usually paid the chap who makes money for a corporation, but here the high salaries while wasting the taxpayer's money, running the national debt into the ground, and giving money to people for working? Surely it is a New Deal idea, and I would appreciate a description that cannot do anything for nothing, except about the money. The money is distributed to the distributors of course that is giving their own money to the government.

But the strangest thing is there are enough people in it to get the most of the benefit that it is good business, as well as the rest of the country. I would appreciate a description that cannot do anything for nothing, except about the money. The money is distributed to the distributors of course that is giving their own money to the government.

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Mr. Fab—Oh, I was me thinking of the far-away place would like to be right now.

Blubber—Did she hold him his promise?

Gabber—If say his did, it's 50 cents for him and 50 for her.

Miss Sharp—Why did you let a faraway look on your while I was singing?

Mr. Fab—Oh, I was me thinking of the far-away place would like to be right now.