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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.

You Can't Help Being Happy, — If

Nothing new has been said about the right way to be happy for at least nineteen hundred years. But some ideas have been set in type which deserve tune, ink and good paper to again bring to public attention.

Marcus Antonius, grandfather of Mark Antony, was a Roman lawyer and orator. As an orator he was said to be the equal of the great speakers of Greece. He wrote the following recipe for happiness:

"If thou worked at that which is before thee, without allowing anything else to distract thee, but keeping *thy divine part* pure as if thou shouldst be bound to give it back immediately,—if thou holdest to this, expecting nothing, fearing nothing, but satisfied with thy present activity according to nature, and with heroic truth in every word and sound which thou utterest, thou wilt live happy. And there is no man who is able to prevent this."

The Soviet Recognizes Love

Some years ago, when the Soviet Union flashed into the political sky, its advent was taken as a sign of evil days ahead for the rest of the world. Reports of violent attacks upon religion, the home, and all institutions in any way associated with normal existence in capitalist countries, convinced many outside observers that the Bolsheviks were wild and running amuck.

While The Eccentric did not, and does not, defend the excesses connected with the initiation of the Soviet program, such attacks were to be expected at the beginning of the new order in Russia.

Particularly incensed were the fathers and mothers of the world who read that the Soviet Union had disavowed marriage and assumed control of all children as pawns of the new State. Divorce was made easy, and, in general, the standards and safeguards which society, through many centuries, had erected to protect family life were ruthlessly disregarded.

The latest news from the Soviet indicates that there has been a change in attitude toward the family. This is evidenced by an official report based on a study of alimony cases. Strange to say, the document stresses the concept of love in marriage, and emphasizes the seriousness with which Soviet couples now enter upon that relationship.

F. Urina, woman prosecutor and author of the report, declares that "love is the basis upon which Soviet marriage is built" and insists that "the new phase in family life will set in only when there will come a generation of men who have never bought woman's love on material basis, and a new generation of women who have never sold their love on material grounds."

How The Wheels Go Round

You may study civics until you are sad in the face and you won't get the inside "dope" on what makes a political party tick. At least so says Edward J. Flynn, Bronx democratic boss.

Because he feels that popular education for effective citizenship needs supplementing by a practical politician he recently consented to tell part of what he knows to the students of Columbia University.

Sir Wilber Rides Again

That strange, clanking sound that salutes the spring breeze is not, as you might suspect, a boiler factory on the move. It is the glad, promising sound incident to the stately progress of the Knight in Shining Armor, Wilbur M. Brucker, panoplied in full array and riding to battle once again, with his visor down (Wilber can talk through his visor as well as through his hat, or better), his cuirass polished, his greaves gleaming and his lance bearing the heartening device, "A bas Jim Couzens!"

It's collossal, in a small way.

Of course, if you get up real close you can see that the armor has been subjected to intensive repairing. The region just north of the pistol pocket, so dented in by the kicks of ungrateful voters in the massacre of 1932, has been bumped back into place with loving care by an expert fender repairer—good armorers are scarce nowadays—and then simonized until you can see your face in it, if that's your idea of fun. Wilber has a new lance; the old one was shattered beyond repair when it got caught in a voting machine in the Year of the Big Wind. And who is Wilber going to assail with his lance? You'll die laughing; Wilber is going to unseat Jim Couzens with it.

Well, it's going to be more darn fun. Hitch up early and drive in to the county seat the day of the primary. The court house square will be full of reporters, city slickers who ride on steam trains and eat boughten meat every day of their lives, all there to hear the golden, if somewhat adenoidal, voice of Wilber giving Jim hail Columbia. If it's a bright, sunshiny day, Wilber's armor will glitter like the mouth of Hades as he waves his arms and his tongue in fervent speech.

There's only one thing that mars our joy in the prospect. Will Jim find out that Wilber is running against him? He will never learn it, we venture to predict, from reading the voting returns.—Grand Rapids Chronicle.

Blessed Collar Buttons!

A Boston man used one collar button for 20 years, lost it, advertised a reward for its recovery, has the button again, and is very happy. Only men can really appreciate that chap's satisfaction over having recovered the article that, undoubtedly, caused him to walk and crawl many miles as, from time to time, he searched for it beneath bureau or bedstead when it would slip from his fingers while inserting it in a shirt. Here, fellows, is one sort of masculine joy that the fair sex never will be able to inherit.

Henry George's Single Tax

We notice some discussion of the Henry George Single Tax idea. Back in 1931 and 1932, when everyone seemed to be groping for something to stop the appalling effects of the deflation period, the writer indulged a few spare hours in the reading of the George writings on the subject. It wasn't hard to understand how his book, "Progress and Poverty" had attracted world-wide attention.

Likewise it wasn't difficult to understand why his theory met with the concerted opposition of those already entrenched in the established economic order then set up in the early 90's. His declaration,

"Everywhere, in all times, among all peoples, the possession of land is the base of aristocracy, the foundation of fortunes, the source of power," discloses the objective of the tax idea he sought to establish. Natural resources, land, water power, mineral and oil rights, all were to remain the possession of all the people, who would then reap the fruits.

Unlike some of the present day contenders for a new order, Henry George did not seek to establish government in competition with private business. Private initiative was to have full sway, but capital would have to pay for the use of the natural resources it used and consumed. This payment, in the form of a land tax, the single tax, would be used to support all the functions of government. There was to be no other tax.

That sounds far-fetched, in this day when so many new taxes have been devised, yet Henry George endeavored to disclose in his book how it could be done. And he enlisted the following of millions of supporters all over the world.

All private fortunes have been built from the soil. Everything, as a matter of fact comes from the soil. Yet the government originally gave away the land, in the expectation that the taxes paid on the improvements on the land would be used to support the government. George contends that this form of tax is really a tax on labor because every time a building is erected, it is taxed. He would not have taxed the improvements, but only the use of the land itself.

Those extracting oil from the earth would pay a royalty; likewise those who took lumber or minerals; or those who use water power rights to develop electricity, would pay in proportion to what they used.

We have strayed a long ways from the path he advocated; much of the natural resources have been exhausted and the land, worthless, has been returned, tax delinquent. Our troubles started when the government had no more cheap land to sell or give away.

George believed, with De Tocqueville, that "A new and fair division of the goods of this world should be the main objective of those who conduct human affairs."

Go back over all history and you find that trouble always started when the possession of the land was concentrated in the hands of the few. The poor and oppressed suffered through generations, but always there came a time when they massed their forces to strike back at the oppressors. That meant revolution and its attendant flood shed, the price of a new start.

Land was redistributed on a new basis. And then the process started all over again—some lost what they had while others acquired more and more and this continued until the possession was again concentrated in the hands of the few.

Here in the United States we have not reached that point. There is still plenty of land for those who want it. The concentration has been of the population in the manufacturing centers, where, when the depression set in, the unemployed had no land to turn to to eke out a living.

It takes time to bring a change. The depression did cause a turning back to the land, and it also was the means of warning the industrialists of the danger of centralizing their manufacturing activities in a single area. This gives rise to the hope that the new order will bring about an improvement, through a better distribution of the earning power.—Joseph E. Sturgeon in Delta Reporter.

DON'T FRET BECAUSE you can't say something new. A cook has a limited number of food substances to combine in different ways. An artist has a very limited number of colors to mix and adapt in different proportions. The music writer hasn't a million notes to try out. Besides there's nothing new under the sun—not even this viewpoint.

Practical Paragraphs

By John Edwin Price

THE VALUE OF CHEERFULNESS

When the glum days come along it doesn't matter so much whether or not you have a large bank account as it does whether or not you have a reserve of cheerfulness on which you can draw.

A rich man might not loan you money but a cheerful person just gives you good cheer as easily and readily as though it were the measles. Moreover you are better off and he's no poorer.

Not only does cheerfulness make a poor man rich it also makes a dumb man joyously wise and enables him to eat his doughnut while others are weeping in the hole.

Moreover the cheerful person is good mannered. He may not know which fork to pick up first at a banquet, but he soon puts those near him at ease and makes them feel glad they came.

Then too the cheerful person is a good traveler. He isn't in a hurry just to catch up with a goal. He goes up little side roads for scenes others miss and if the day's journey has shown no lakes or mountains, he hasn't missed the wayside flowers nor the insects disporting on pretty wings in the sunlight. And too, he is not too tired to take in the glories of the sunset wherever he may have arrived at nightfall.

Louisa M. Alcott used to say, "It is a part of my religion to look well after the cheerfulnesses of life and let the dismals shift for themselves."

Not bad!

Nor is this, from Charles Kingsley, who laughed a great deal, loved a lot and lived well.

"The men who I have seen succeed in life have always been cheerful and hopeful men, who went about their business with a smile on their faces and took the changes and chances of the mortal life like men, facing rough and smooth alike as it came.

Happenings of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Nice corn rather at present.

Dr. C. M. Raynale's new house is well under way and when completed, will be a dandy.

Rochester village taxes are about all collected. What ails our marshall that he is not around with that everlasting book of his?

Oxford petitions the M. C. R. R. not to run any more cheap excursions to Detroit, as it has a paralyzing effect on home trade.

Commencement exercises for the Orchard Lake Military Academy will be held this year on June 16. Gov. Alger will present the diplomas.

There will be a strawberry festival for the benefit of the Franklin band, at the residence of R. C. Haskins, June 15. Supper will be served in the grove from 5 to 9 p. m.

From the great preparations being made it is safe to say Commencement Day will be enlivened by vocal and instrumental music of a very high degree of excellence.

Any one wanting fancy whittling, wood-carving or anything in that line, done in a way-up style, should consult Mons. Herr Munson, Euclid avenue, Birmingham, Mich.

Gospel meetings, house building and poker playing all take place Sunday within a block of the P. O. & P. A. depot at Pontiac. Surely all tastes should be catered to and satisfied.

Hear ye! hear ye! There will be a meeting of the citizens of Birmingham held at National Hotel this Thursday evening to make arrangements for a 4th of July celebration. Turn out at 8 o'clock.

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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

The Seniors are busy preparing for the Commencement exercises. Class night will be June 21st and Commencement June 23.

Wanted to rent—By the Birmingham School Board. Two rooms large enough to seat 50 scholars, each must be ready by Sept. 1, 1911. By order of the School Board.

During the electrical storm of Monday, Purdy's house

While making the trip from Detroit to Pontiac last Sunday during the heavy storm, a large pleasure-trip auto was ditched. The steering gear broke and while most of the 12 passengers were badly shaken up, none were killed. Mrs. Dave McClelland and son, Verno, were quite badly injured.

Last Sunday night we had a big rain and wind storm. Big damage was done throughout the state, but no great damage done hereabouts. Heavy peals of thunder with vivid flashes of lurid lightning scared the timid, nervous and wicked ones almost to death. Electric lights went out all over the village, and in the churches the consternation was great but with no serious consequences.

Judson Bradway, who will be remembered as a graduate of our high school, has moved his real estate offices from 511 Union Trust building, Detroit, to 320 and 321 Ford building. The change being necessitated by the demand for space to provide for his rapidly growing business.

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FIVE YEARS AGO

Exactly 74 Baldwin High School seniors are on the accepted list of the Birmingham Board of Education to be graduated at commencement ceremonies to be held Thursday of next week.

Final arrangements were being completed this morning by the Birmingham post of the American Legion and its auxiliary for the entertainment here this afternoon and evening of close to 500 World War veterans and their wives at the annual sixth district Legion convention.

Birmingham police arrested six persons for felonies and 226 for misdemeanors during May, according to the department's monthly report issued Monday by Miss Carrie Stoddard, police clerk.

Cranbrook School for Boys, which first opened its doors to students in the fall of 1927, reached the first definite milestone in its history last Saturday, when graduation exercises were held in Christ Church Cranbrook, for the first senior class. The class numbered 19 boys.

Unless a group of women who have been using Barnum School Swimming pool for private swimming classes is successful in raising $2000 within the next two weeks, the pool will be closed during July and August to save School Board expenditures.

PLENTY

A bit of fire on a chilly day,
A couch in a cozy nook,
Three fat pillows against my back
And a glamorous story book;
Two apples, some buns and a celery stalk
And a steaming pot of tea
And my little dog asleep on the hearth.
That's quite enough for me.

What would I do with a string of pearls
Or a hat with a beaded crown?
Where would I travel in buckled shoes
And a trailing velvet gown?
Trinkets and rings would be burdensome
And a bracelet carved in jade.
A bed with a silken canopy.
Six lamps and a serving maid.

Just give me a bit of fire and a couch
And a book of poetry,
Some sugared buns and a celery stalk
And a steaming pot of tea.
—Beatrice McDonald

OH, WELL, THERE'S STILL JULY 4 AND LABOR DAY

WASHINGTON LETTER

Democrats Grab Early Lead With 'Oh-For-a-Button' Boys

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON—The peculiar election year attempt of both parties to snare voters into supporting their candidates by getting them to join some local club for this or that is going full blast in both camps.

Organizations set up by the national committees to bag the pious vote, the labor vote, the independent or the progressive vote, are preparing to send out their bales of literature, buttons, and medals.

The volume and variety of such appeals to the great American instinct to join something and wear its insignia can be expected to rise steadily as the campaign gets hotter.

The Democrats apparently are leading in formation of such organizations thus far, chiefly because they have known all along who their candidate would be. Three "non-partisan" affiliates to lend efforts to re-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt have already been organized, and a fourth is contemplated.

The labor vote, which many observers feel will be largely for Roosevelt anyway, will be saved up by the Labor Non-Partisan League, sponsored by Major George Berry, of the late NRA and president of the Printing Pressmen's Union; President John L. Lewis, of the United Mine Workers Union; and Sidney Hillman, head of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

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THE organization will make an active campaign in every state, but will concentrate on such pivotal states as Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois, and Ohio, where the labor movement is strong. It has been hinted that this organization might be continued after the election and lead to the formation of an independent labor party in 1940.

A bid for the church vote is being made through the "Good Neighbor League," actively headed by Stanley High, former city editor and editor of various religious publications, and supported by a group of social workers, educators, church leaders, and philanthropists.

Co-chairmen with Mr. High are George Foster Peabody, retired banker and trustee of the Warm Springs, Ga., Foundation, and Lillian Wald, founder of the famous Henry Street Settlement in New York and a pioneer in public health nursing and social work.

• • •

THE third organization to promote Mr. Roosevelt's candidacy is the recently created "Committee of One"—the name taken from a phrase in the president's Jackson Day speech. It has a rather surprising list of organizers. One is Senator Bennett Champ Clark of Missouri, who time and again, has opposed New Deal measures in the Senate.

Another is Herbert Bayard Swope, former New York newspaperman, a frequent Al Smith supporter, and an intimate friend of Bernard M. Baruch. Swope formerly was regarded as a bitter anti-Roosevelt man.

Mrs. Caspar Whitney, wealthy social leader in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, is another of its organizers. A million members are to be asked to join —no dues or contributions. They will constitute themselves "committees of one" to defend the Roosevelt policies and doubtless to wear the club's button.

The Republicans have not yet organized any such fancy leagues, but soon you may expect to be asked to join an Independent Democrats Club for the Republican candidate, a League for Economy in Government, a Support the Constitution Society, or whatever else the candidate's managers can think up to attract voters.

The Other Chap Says - - -

JUST ABOUT THE GOVERNOR

In condemning Governor Fitzgerald in an address at a Democratic rally in Marquette recently, the speaker of the state house of representatives, Mr. Schroeder, left little unsaid. And perhaps said too much.

But there is not much room for debate over the proposition that the present occupant of the gubernatorial chair holds an office much too big for him and his main achievement thus far has been in proving just that point. The governor may have right intentions but his execution is poor. He may not go "out on his ear" as Mr. Schroeder predicts, but it is certainly too bad that the Republican party in Michigan cannot call on a Grosebeck to handle the state's badly befuddled affairs.

The governor's only boast is that he has balanced the budget. He admits that he did it with the sales tax and credits former Governor Comstock with the courage of enacting that levy. Yet in his campaign for election the governor undertook to criticize the tax and blaring placards announced that he would take it off food. However, when he assumed the oath of office he quickly learned the tax was something of a necessity and not to be lightly trifled with and he therefore let it alone.

That is about all that can be said of the governor. He has distinguished himself in no other manner. Even the speeches he is making in various parts of the country have earned him nothing but space in the newspapers and it is space of doubtful value in view of the realization that the laurels he claims for himself are actually due to his predecessor.

The state still needs a Moses.—Frank Russell in Iron Mountain News.

Bargain Rate

A farmer arrived very late at a county doctor's house and requested him to come instantly to a distant farm. The doctor hitched up and drove furiously.

Upon arrival the farmer inquired: "What fee?"

"Three dollars," replied the doctor, surprised. The country man paid.

"There ye are, Doc; that durned liveryman wanted five."

His Choice

"Sam, hates a bad loser."

"Yeah, Ike, dat's so. But I'd rather play wid a bad loser any day dan wid any kind of winner?"

Jots 'n Jest

MERCAPTAN is said to be the vilest smelling compound that man has ever invented, being even worse than political cigars.

• • •

Headline: "WPA Jobs in Pennsylvania Viewed as Whip." It must be a poor political whip, judging from the "action" on most WPA projects.

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Nine of the 48 states have civil service, but it's difficult to tell which they are by talking to police officers.

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The North Pole is said to be moving south at the rate of about six inches a year. We don't like cold weather, either.

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Since the representative from Seattle has received so much publicity as an alleged furniture wrecker, apartment owners may give prospective renters the check and Zioncheck

He Was Right

The clerk informed the boss that a lady wished to see him.

"Is she good looking?" asked the boss.

"Yes, sir—very."

"Then show her in."

After the woman had gone the boss sent for the clerk.

"You're a nice judge of beauty," he remarked scornfully.

"Well, sir, I thought she might be your wife," the clerk explained.

"She was," snapped the boss.

Confession

"Papa, Richard and I are truly two souls with but a single thought."

"Well, my child, don't be discouraged; that's one more than your mother and I had when we were married."

Takes His Time

Ruth—I wonder when Arthur is going to propose. He's been going with me for nearly six months.

Elsie—You'll have to wait six months more. He didn't propose to me for nearly a year.

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

By THEODORE H. MILLINGTON

Better or Worse?

During the Roosevelt administration Congress has appropriated for all government expenditures, up to July 1, 1937, **the sum of 32 billions.**

From George Washington, in 1789, down through all the administrations, including all but those through the World War, congressional appropriations totalled only **24 billions.**

For every man, woman and child since March 4, 1933, the total appropriations have been **$260 per capita or $1,118 per family.**

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In 1932 the public federal debt was $19,487,009,766. On May 31, 1936, the federal debt grossed $31,636,443,115. The net figure was $29,278,020,874. Unexpected appropriations amounted to $7,922,543,741. Therefore, the total debt by July 1, 1937 will be $37,210,964,445. To this naturally will be added more appropriations which will be made before this congress adjourns and by the next congress.

That is then a total federal debt for every man, woman and child as follows: $295.24 per capita or $1,269.32 per family and $739.78 per worker. And it will be more.

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The problem of how to pay this debt confronts every person in this country. The annual income for 1935 was: per capita, $337, per worker, $946, and per family $1,249. The government annual expense is: per capita, $51.50, per worker, $129.79, and per family, $221.79. The national wealth is only about $2,200 per capita.

The above debt figures do not include any state, county, city, school or other local tax. **If Roosevelt is reelected will he, or can he, stop this growing debt?**

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Senator Couzens Fights

Senator Couzens' broadcast May 25 was a clear and honest statement of the facts in connection with the pending tax bill. His opinion of the bill is embodied in the following quotation from his speech: "I believe that a committee of Congress, in cooperation with the Treasury, should study the question for at least a year or two and then present its facts and conclusions to the congress. The Treasury Department, no matter what its good intentions, came before the Senate finance committee in support of a proposal which seemed to me to have had the least study and to be less defensible than any proposal for taxes since I have been a member of congress."

—o—

It is reported that the Senator will filibuster to kill it if any attemp is made by the administration to force the passage of the bill. Anyone that is interested, can obtain a copy of the Senator's address from his Washington office. It is reprinted in the congressional Record for May 27, on Page 1936.

The Senator takes the position that it not only is unfair to the small corporation, but is likely to reduce government income, because it will function to reduce taxes on large corporations. As usual the Senator is the friend of the small man and the small corporation and contrary to gossip he does not favor tax-free bonds.

This writer will lend his copy of Couzens' speech to anyone interested.

Her Handicap

"Did you ever win an argument with your wife?"

"Yes, once. It was years ago."

"What was it about?"

"I cannot remember exactly. But I do remember very distinctly that we were doing carpets and her mouth was full of tacks at the time."

No Modern Gadgets

A few days after a farmer had placed his two children in a school a book agent called on him and said: "Now that your children go to school you ought to buy them an encyclopedia."

"Buy them an encyclopedia? Hanged if I do," was the reply. "Let them walk, like I did."

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