

The Birmingham Eccentric

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THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1936

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have new value and which are written by persons not connected with the paper... We Can Change Our Life By "Playing" A Better Role

Just how many men and women of the stage, playing parts requiring demeanor so natural to their original and normal selves, have been changed to the role of their "playing" will never be known...

It never has seemed to us that any man or woman has to remain what he or she is. One may degenerate, or be uplifted—all of one's own early life offers proof of this point...

Advice to Business Men: Bruce Barton, who, it is reported, has been employed by the Republican National Committee to direct its publicity campaign, recently made a speech to the Illinois Manufacturers' Association...

Kagawa's Christian Program: Christians in the United States will probably be interested in the plans of Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa to establish 1,000 chapels in Japan to serve as community and religious centers...

The Miracle of Melodic Law: Melody, the miracle of pleasant sound, is one of the strangest phenomena in the physical world. The simple process of striking a taut metal string...

Man Supposed to Work: The real trouble with the Townsend Plan is that it would add an unbearable burden to the backs of millions of people who are now banded too low in an effort to get a living for themselves and their families...

Are Adults To Blame? You read that some young boy, full of a love for adventure, had an unbearable burden to the backs of millions of people who are now banded too low in an effort to get a living for themselves and their families...

The Good Neighbor: What does it mean to be a "good neighbor" today? Some people think it means paying taxes as cheerfully as possible. Others feel that it means a great deal more...

Adventurer, Plunderer, Highwayman

"I am an adventurer, delving in joy and sorrow, and love and friendships and the white quarries of truth." So writes Wilson MacDonald in "Out of the Wilderness" (The Graphic Publishers, Boston)...

"I am a plunderer, taking all that the sages have left me—and adding thereto, that the children to come may have peace." My King Tut's tomb of experience could well be plundered that those "to come" might avoid the folly of personal and public wars...

A Warning To Newspaper Men

Newspaper men can afford to pay attention to the recent remarks of Sir Wilmot Lewis, Washington correspondent of the London Times, who realizes the "sweep and continuity" of the influence of the press...

Freedom of the press, in his view, is challenged chiefly from within, rather than from the outside. Says the British writer: "The freedom which makes us great and useful may make some of us too great" and individuals "may acquire a power which they cannot be prevented from harnessing in the service of personal ambition rather than of the community from which their strength flows"...

In fact, newspaper men, who honestly strive to serve their communities, have a difficult task in retaining public confidence. That the American newspaper enjoys a good reputation is a fact but it is not responsible for it to become a theory. The only thing that can prevent this amazing loss of prestige is loyalty to public service...

Long an advocate of a scientific land-use program for agriculture, Tolley, acting administrator during Davis' recent European trip, was formerly director of the Giannini Foundation for Agricultural Economics at the University of California...

During the early days of the AAA, Tolley held the special crop section, which developed the marketing agreements program for fruits and vegetables...

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Robert Cecil, British diplomat: "I believe profoundly that the great mass of people are much in advance of their rulers and of what is called the governing classes"...

Merrell R. Fenske, petroleum expert: "The next war will be won by the country with the best gasoline"...

Richard Strauss, composer: "Herbes, do not blossom in winter, nor do musical ideas come readily when Nature is bleak and cold"...

Franklin D. Roosevelt, President: "The efforts of our nation thousands of thousands of Americans are striving forth as this is written, in eager search of opportunity to prove their powers"...

Owen Scott, journalist: "The fact is that there are some powers which many employers prefer not to have any Government interference"...

Samuel Hoare, British cabinet minister: "We are an Imperial and oceanic power rather than a Continental power"...



WASHINGTON LETTER

Tolley Expected to Emphasize Conservation, Not Curtailment

WASHINGTON, June 21.—Indications that the administration's farm program for the coming year will stress conservation rather than production control or crop curtailment are increasing here...

MEANWHILE, AAA officials have been receiving protests from hundreds of farmers against the proposed graduation of farm benefits. This graduation has been reported favorably to the Senate as a result of Senator Vandenberg's revelations of huge AAA benefit payments to large corporation farms...

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James B. Conant, president, Harvard University: "The Republic, integrity, courage, unselfishness—these are the qualities we most admire in any individual"...

'My Country, 'Tis of Thee'...

By T. H. MILLINGTON

The Gold Question: With the American election of his idea on the Gold Standard into the Republican platform, the gold standard, which has been a stabilizer of our currency since the gold standard was introduced...

Does Gold Have Value? On the other hand, Frank E. Johnson of Boise, Idaho, a self-proclaimed expert on the subject, in an article on Multinationalism, speaking of gold says: "Gold... is not a money, it is a commodity. What determines its value, day by day, whether of gold or anything else? The expenditure of natural resources, labor and capital required in the production of something which ministers to man's satisfaction and has an exchange value"...

Gold Has Slight Fluctuation: In the first 40 years of the present century, the value of gold has fluctuated between \$18.92 per ounce and \$20.00. In the early 20's the French gold standard was devalued, the franc, boosted temporarily to \$25.19 per ounce, but when the gold standard was abandoned in 1936, it fell to \$27.88. The gold standard has been devalued by 10 percent, and was not because of any nefarious quality in gold but because of the character of the man who always gets the biggest piece of the cake. It is an example of the old proverb: "Everybody gets his own, and the devil take the hindmost"...

Centralization or Individualism: The battle has fallen on the individual initiative vs. centralization and the question of government over the people. The Founders Shooked: I can imagine Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, Madison, Jackson and Lincoln turning over in their graves at the idea of a man being deprived from Washington to a subsequent point, who never realize that the rap to brought, with their own money...

Finland is the only country which did not default on its war debt to the U. S., which may explain why the good old American five spot is sometimes called a "fin"...

Dr. Erik Ljungner, Swedish geologist, believes South America was once buried under an ocean cap. When political cigars are prevalent, men are said to be more restless in sleep than women, due most likely to inability to accustom themselves to wifery's crackling evening tendency...

Soothing: Tuffid Nut was on the witness stand and was proving hard to handle. Any you a drinker of hard liquor? He asked the cross-examining lawyer: "That's my business," growled Tuffid, defiantly. "I know," soothed the lawyer, "that do you have any other business?"

Supply and Demand: A dollar in gold is a convenience in foreign exchange, and a necessity in long-range investment planning. That the purchasing value of a dollar in wheat, potatoes, labor, etc., will fluctuate with supply and demand of these products, and has almost no relation to currency value in gold, that is the price of these will always fluctuate...

Danger in Unrestricted: Now, as to whether Gov. Landis' idea of convertibility, which means that a ten dollar bill would always get, at the bank, on demand ten dollars in gold—is the best arrangement of a money system, may be debatable. Such unrestricted convertibility gives dealers the opportunity to withdraw their money from the banks in gold and hoard it, to the destruction of commercial credit and industry...

At any commencement exercises real words of inspiration have been spoken. But from other sources, from the lips of the new economic and political sooth-sayers, continues to sound that philosophy of the day adopted in recent years from the leaders and the premisses of Europe. It seeks to convince young Americans that the era of opportunity is ended, that pride in one's own strength and courage and self-reliance is not only futile, but old-fashioned; that youth must learn to depend on government and the politicians to guide its life and supply its wants...

It is an anti-American doctrine. The career of Abraham Lincoln, who rose from the log cabin to the pinnacle of statehood, has proved a failure. So have other thousands of Americans who have striven for the good of their country. Wright brothers, who began as bicycle repair and gave us the airplane; Edison, the inventor of the electric light; and the countless American leaders in our public and professional and commercial life today...

Such men would have turned deaf ears to that wail-song of demagogues which now assails from so large a group of our politicians. They would have stood and said: "The Eagle Song: to be staunch and valiant, and free, and strong"...

Despite the newer pessimists, America continues to offer careers to all who hear that message. Opportunity, like freedom, has still a continent to live in.

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