

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Both Party Platforms Will Need To Be Changed

It will be interesting to the American public to learn the detailed natures of both Democratic and Republican platforms that will be adopted when the two great parties hold their convention this month. Just how the Democrats will be able to reconcile their traditional party policies with the New Deal program estimate in many. By the same token, the Republicans will have to change some of their out-moded ideas, if they expect to win the November election. One thing is sure, namely, that both platforms will have to be different than they were four years ago. Perhaps the Democrats can effect their program by adopting most of the Socialist ideas advocated by Norman Thomas in 1932. Then the Republicans can take over the forgotten 1932 Democratic promises, and then, through the vicissitudes of the economic emergency, bring American political platforms to the broader level of the great Americanism that will be the basis of the new era, "entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

War Danger Exists When People Need Food, Clothing, Shelter

While it may be true that man is, by superficial and physical nature, a predatory, fighting animal, it is equally true that his deeper spiritual nature yearns for peace. For, ever since man first glimpsed a higher Utopia, he has struggled forward toward a day when he could "lay down the sword" and live in harmony with his neighbors. Most of the world's wars have been fought for territorial conquest. Continued and limited, a nation will seek for more of the earth, hoping to use for the purposes of gaining greater physical security for its people. It is true that nations have fought over religious matters, or for the extension of power. But in most cases it was food, clothing, shelter, and some luxury that have turned the peaceful people into alien combatants upon the field of battle. The conquest of the American Indian was largely a desire on the part of English and European peoples to participate in producing the wealth of what has since come to be the United States. The World War was a religious and political war, because of economic competition among certain nations, Japan invading China for the same reasons, Italy in now reposing over Ethiopia victory because it needed more of the earth from which to wrest a living.

Doesn't this, then, bring us to the pondering of economic questions? If we would invent the world without a war, we would have to have peace-loving people who are wholly disarmed, whether they be a League of Nations, a World Court, or the recent Peace Emergency Campaign staged in this country, yet the problem of war will never be solved until greater economic security is guaranteed man, both within his own nation and among the nations of the world.

You have been reading, during these days, of the great Emergency Peace Campaign being staged in this country, and of the speech made by the Right Honorable George Lansbury, Member of the British Parliament, which was broadcast over the entire nation. Mr. Lansbury has written, in a few weeks ago, a book which includes world peace. Discussing the economic philosophy of Henry George's (about which we have written from time to time in this newspaper), Mr. Lansbury said:

"The economic and his great book 'Progress and Poverty' both made a great impression on me. I heard Henry George speak several times. His clear thinking and writing, when setting forth his diagnosis of the economic and social distress which has accompanied civilization all down the ages, alone makes it hard to read. I have read it a few weeks ago. Although 'Progress and Poverty' was written over 50 years ago, it is as true a description now as then of the evils of monopoly—poverty and destitution, war and rumours of war, and universal slaughter. . . . If those who ruled in the world 50 years ago had listened to this economic and philosopher, the course of human history would have been different."

"We know now that with the development of aviation new values are daily being created in areas formerly of no value. It is the existence of population and the needs of populations which are now giving value to parts of some deserts, and the bases of mountains formerly of no value. The development of our own country demonstrate much more clearly than all the books and theories in the world, how social values are created through expenditure of public money. Derelict land and land of no value silently grew into value when we put our hands to it. . . . It will wash about Henry George by asking all who at times feel dependent to take a turn with that great philosopher and if you have no time to read it all, be sure to read his chapter on population and the closing chapter written all those years ago. You will find them full of hope and full of warning. . . . Henry George as others before and since has said a great truth, not a mere individual or national one, but a truth which covers all life. I think it is a truth which covers all from all religions, all philosophies. Just this simple truth: Love your neighbor. Give up the pursuit of selfish interests. Love your life and find it in the service of each other."

Norman Thomas, Socialist. We are glad that Norman Thomas was nominated again to head the Socialist Party as its candidate for President. Mr. Thomas is a high-class, scholarly gentleman who, though you may disagree with him in principle, must win your admiration for his mental integrity. While he now knows he cannot win, his cause is not altogether a lost one. For it tends to make many human beings conscious of the need for more humanitarianism in government. Personally, The Eccentric believes that Socialism, for an indefinite time to come, will never work satisfactorily in human affairs; in fact, a study of true economics points out the fact that it is not even necessary in order to give "more abundance to all" while and able to work. What we really need in the world is a co-operative capitalism based upon economic law, and Socialism isn't that at all. Socialism assumes that all men and women can be made to get honest, and that the State can operate all the tools of production and distribution equitably. That's no Utopia, isn't it?

DETROIT'S LEAST NOISY spot is in the vicinity of the Museum of Art and the Main Library, which suggests that where the greatest amount of intelligence is located, there you will find the least shouting.

ROBES SEEM TO BE THEIR FAVORITE COSTUMES



WASHINGTON LETTER

Supreme Court Seems Certain to Be Big Factor in Campaign

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON—Whether the administration wants it or not, the supreme court and the Constitution are likely to present a big underlying issue in the presidential campaign. Few observers now expect Roosevelt to bring the question into the open and battle it out during the campaign. Fear of dragging the constitutionality issue into a political battle, and hope that voluntary re-appointments or other events will enable him to fill vacancies on the court in a way that will change its attitude, will probably combine to make him more cautious.

But inside gossip since the court's decision against the Gutley coal control act, with its implied threat to the Wagner labor relations and the New Security acts, is that, if Roosevelt is re-elected, his attitude toward the court will be considerably changed. If a sharp fight develops between the court and the New Deal, the court's position is generally thought to be considerably weakened. Opposition to its re-appointments has been shown by organized labor, both houses of Congress, the president, and the seven states which filed briefs in support of the Gutley act, concluding their inability to deal with the problem, as well as by the three liberal justices themselves.

Previous indications have been that the people of the country were largely inclined to support the re-appointment of the court. But it is increasingly obvious that the opposition to the New Deal may be able to put up a stronger fight this time.

IF MR. CONSUMER ONLY knew, he is not difficult to imagine the mighty wail that would go up from the throats of American consumers if the proposed re-appointment of Cal. Frank Knox of Chicago could be placed in effect. He proposes that all wares sold in retail stores be taxed in such a way as to inform the purchaser of the amount of tax charges entering into the price he pays. That would, for the first time in history, give the average citizen a right to know the amount of the average smoker pays 10 or 15 cents for a package of cigarettes without being told that the package that 6 cents of his money goes to the government in tax, even though the consumer is constantly reminded of it by the revenue stamp which he must break to obtain the cigarette.

The Other Chap Says ---

Elmer Thomas, United States Senator from Oklahoma: "The extent of prosperity and the level of prices depend upon the amount of money in circulation." Takayoshi Matsumuro, Japanese Major General in North China: "I have come to China in a spirit of friendliness." Alfred P. Sloan, President, General Motors: "It may be conservatively said today, broadly speaking, that America's production plant is obsolete." Emile Vanderveelde, Belgian Socialist: "Belgium is not yet ripe to become a second Austria." Norman Thomas, Socialist candidate for President: "We have more prosperity and a greater fear of war than ever before." Arthur Vandenberg, United States Senator from Michigan: "I favor an extension of the income tax theory as basis for additional revenues." Seldom Happens: "One hardly ever hears of a woman cashier running away with her employer's money, but when she does she generally takes the bus along with her—Florida Times-Union.

'My Country, 'Tis of Thee'

By T. H. MILLINGTON

The New Deal and the Pennant of the ten teams between the New Deal team and the People's team were the Supreme Court was the umpire. The New Deal has only won two out of the 10 games played.

Game 1.—New Deal won, the umpire ruled the New Deal had a right to sell electric utility of the V. A. because the Mussel Shoals power plant was developed by the T. V. A. Act was O. K. Score, 8 to 1.

Game 2.—New Deal won, the umpire ruled the New Deal had a right to lose by marketing of oil produced in violation of state laws. Score, 8 to 1.

Game 3.—The famous N. P. A. game. The New Dealers lost because they tried to establish a scheme by which products still in a factory, though they might be shipped out on a retail basis, could be controlled by the unions in transit but the umpire ruled that a better rule would be not even then. So the umpire was shut out. Score, 0 to 1.

Game 4.—The Mortgage Game. The New Deal lost because it was decided that New Deal team had no right to force a mortgage holder to accept a compromise from the debtor if he did not want to accept. Score, 9 to 1.

Game 5.—The Processing game. Here the New Deal team lost because they insisted on regulating the pay of the players on the People's team by taking away from the umpire's power to give and giving to the poorer-paid players what they didn't want to keep for themselves. I suppose in that way they figured that the poorer-paid player might return the favor and throw a game (over in a while) so they could keep the sport open. The say to the different players on the People's team is a matter between the People and their deficient payers, and none of the New Deal's business. Score, a complete tie.

Game 6.—The Security game. Here the New Deal would not allow an applicant who had applied to play on the New Deal team to withdraw his application after he became a member of the team and get a raw deal. It was decided he had the right to withdraw. No man has the right to say "I heard there was no position." Lost a 9 to 6 game.

Game 7.—The Coal game. The points of argument were the same as in the N. R. A. game, and the umpire's decision was in favor of the People, 2 to 4 in favor of the People.

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