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THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 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 editorial staff. The right to publish is granted before noon on Wednesday. The right to be submitted as necessary to the style of the paper and an agreement to publish in the Eccentric is assumed.

A Law To Chase People Back To Caves and Cliffs

President Roosevelt's efforts to tax corporation surpluses and undivided profits out of existence is bringing to application the biblical suggestion of "take heed for the morrow, what ye shall eat, what ye shall drink, or where-withal ye shall be clothed."

"This Is A Good Country"

Sometimes the malcontents make so much noise we forget about the people who are the thinking, frugal, well-to-do of the country. There something happens to wake us up, like this letter from a Utah farmer:

"We are living in a very interesting time. I have never seen so much unrest. Anything goes at this time just to a certain extent that get something for nothing."

Bewitching Sounds

Oliver Wendell Holmes was a great lover of beautiful sounds, and his imagination led him to write the following paragraph about the enunciation of individual letters. Notice the appropriateness of the adjectives he uses.

There is a fascination in the mere sound of articulated breath; of consonants that resist with the firmness of a maid of honor, or half or wholly yield to the wooing lips; of vowels that flow and murmur, each after its kind; the preeminent b and p, the brittle t, the vibrating r, the insinuating l, the feathery f, the velvety v, the bell-tongued m, the tranquil broad a, the penetrating e, the cooing s, the emotional o, and the beautiful combinations of alternate rock and stream.

The Passing Of The Township Highway Commissioner

Five years ago, under the terms of the McNitt Act, county road commissions began taking over the township highway road work in Michigan, using funds obtained from a portion of the gasoline tax.

Each succeeding year one-fifth more was absorbed, so that this Spring the various counties have taken over the entire job; thus passes an ancient task from purely local control to that of the larger unit of government.

Here one observes the actual transfer of work once controlled by each township, and supported by a special township highway tax, to more centralized authority. With the draft may be accepted with regret by many, it does suggest that county road commissions, with their more improved road equipment, are better fitted to keep the smaller roads of each area in better shape than ever before.

Perhaps the next step will be the elimination of all township officers, on the theory that, with the modern motor car, the entire public business of each township can be carried on at the county seat.

Centralized authority seems to be the theme of trend in government today—some of which may be a saving in taxes, but much of it will never fit into the scheme of American individualism.

In general, this drift is being impetus by the average citizen's apathy and disinterest in affairs of self-government. The astounding progress made by federal officials in centralizing so much of the authority heretofore handled by each State reveals more of this drift.

In the final analysis, the only barrier to dictatorship is self-government; self-government is only possible when people are willing to assume and intelligently discharge the duties of free citizens.

My Country, 'Tis of Thee...

By T. H. MILLINGTON

Speculation vs. Home Building: It is true that speculation is a part of human nature ever ready to substitute itself for productive effort.

Elsewhere in this issue on page 2, part 2, in my article on "The Winner Loses" I have pointed out that speculation is a part of human nature ever ready to substitute itself for productive effort.

What I would like to show in this article is that even if a speculator wins he still loses.

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People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. Contributors should send their material to the Editor, The Birmingham Eccentric, 212 North Second Street, Birmingham, Mich.

March 23, 1936 Editor—Birmingham Eccentric, Birmingham, Michigan.

Dear Sir: You might publish the attached copy of letter to Mr. Stone which will close the file as far as I am concerned.

It is lucky The Eccentric does not assume responsibility for sentiments expressed. By the way, you would drop that caption and run it again. It must be tough to be a newspaper man.

Yours truly, I. W. PARRY City Manager

March 23, 1936 Mr. Harry A. Stone 34 Rivenock Avenue Birmingham, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Stone: Acknowledging your letter of March 17, 1936, I apologize for my misleading impression in my letter of March 17.

I am glad to see that your interest in government is reviving as the voting record of the Eccentric has voted only twice in the last eight elections.

The collection effort was apparently successful in your case as the delinquent tax on your property was collected although not from your 1936 tax.

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The Other Chap Says...

THE FALSE AND THE TRUE The Christian Science Monitor quite pertinently remarks that "those countries in which the democratic ideal has had such brief flowering were those in which it has not had time to root."

Quite true; only it remains to be added that their type of democracy was false in conception and hence a failure in practice.

Right here in America are many well-meaning folk who have little or no appreciation of the meaning of democracy in its true significance.

The finest and best statement of American democracy is to be found in what is practically the initial statement of the Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson.

First, all men are created equal—equal before the law. Second, all men are not free but all are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights—rights which government has no business to meddle with, and which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Third, to secure these rights—these God-given rights—Governments are instituted among men—not, please, that the men consent before the government; it is his creature; and subject to his will.

Fourth, that whenever any form of its just powers—well on their way to "just"—from the consent—a violation of meaning in the words of the governed of the people as a whole.

The purpose of the Constitution is to hold the government temporarily in control of the government, within the bounds described in the foregoing statements.

Failure to grasp and act on the self-evident truths of the American Declaration of Independence is what brought a dictatorship to Germany and a King to Greece—The Houston (Texas) Post.

RANDOM REMARKS

Rede Vallan, orchestra leader: "No man can write good songs on an empty stomach."

Columbia Broadcasting System, which gave a Communist the air: "The best way to make martyrs out of Communists is to get them."

Cordeil Hull, Secretary of State: "What has been accomplished in this country has been accomplished wholly by methods of free discussion, by the normal ways of legislation and by popular representation."

Thomas R. Brown, doctor: "Building up bugaboos and fads on medicine in this country meets with most astonishing success."

Benoite Mussolini, Italian Dictator: "Stally today serves the cause of human civilization."

Herbert Hoover, former President: "Everyone concedes that fish will not bite in the presence of representatives of the Press."

Gene Howe, retiring editor: "For Idaho youth we have been spending a billion dollars annually in excess of any amount necessary for the efficient running of the government."

William Green, President A. F. of L.: "To allow courts to review law for the purpose of nullification is to create an all powerful judiciary and to establish government by the judiciary."

Joseph Stalin, Russian Dictator: "To attempt to export revolution is nonsense. Without desire in a country there would be no revolution."

William E. Borah, U. S. Senator for Idaho: "For twenty years we have been spending a billion dollars annually in excess of any amount necessary for the efficient running of the government."

Received the pictures of criminals. Have captured five of them and am on the trail of the sixth.—Toronto Globe.

WABEEK STATE BANK

WABEEK, BLDG. BIRMINGHAM, MICH.

Directors: W. M. CORNELIUS, FRANK COUZENS, JAMES COUZENS, HENRY T. EWALD, GEO. B. JUDSON, LEONARD L. HEALY.

"Your Bank in Birmingham"

COMPLETE BANKING FACILITIES

Eliminate Speculation: But what is the moral of all this. Moralizing is the preacher's job. Still, as a matter of sound sense,