The Birmingham Eccentric

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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.

Loose Use of Thought Behind "Social Security"

The term "social security" is being used loosely by many American citizens. This has come about as a result of the passage by Congress of what is called the Social Security Act. It provides for a great increase in the social service to be rendered the people of America, through Federal cooperation with the various states, but does not include every essential of social security.

The Federal-State proposed program embraces nine different objects, each of which stands aside and apart from the others. Only one phase goes into operation automatically as a result of the Federal legislation. All others included require state assent and cooperation, although not all of them necessitate appropriations by the state government.

Unemployment compensation acts have already been passed by a number of states, to act in cooperation with the United States. The Federal Act provides for contributions from employers in proportion to their payrolls, and to encourage states to set up their own acts. Employers in any state may pay ninety per cent of their Federal contribution to their state administrations and receive credit against the Federal tax. All administrative costs are paid by the Federal Government. This plan has been devised to protect workers from the insecurity of unemployment, and after a few years it is expected to take care of the normal periods of unemployment.

Aid for the aged is another important item in the program. It is of two forms. A Federal Old Age Benefit plan is effective without state cooperation, whereby beginning next year payroll assessments against employer and employee will gradually furnish a sufficient sum to pay monthly amounts to workers when they reach the age of sixty-five. For the present, before the foregoing plan can be set up, and for the benefit of those not covered by it, the Federal Government offers to pay one-half of whatever total sum the individual states pay as assistance to their needy aged. All administrative features and most of the legislative details are left individually to the respective states.

Children will be helped very greatly by the program. Four different plans are included for their benefit. The states are offered Federal grants for the following purposes: to aid mothers in caring for dependent children; to improve maternal and child health services and prevent infant and mother's mortality; to extend and improve child welfare services; and, to treat and cure children who are crippled as far as is humanly possible. The individual states are encouraged to set up their own programs by receiving liberal Federal grants if they do.

This leaves three other portions of the Federal Social Security program. Aid to the needy blind is similar in its scope as the Old Age Assistance. Public health services in the various states will be extended by grants of money from the Federal Government. Then, the amounts available for vocational rehabilitation have been increased, requiring states to match them, so that men and women injured in industrial or other accidents, can be made whole and self-supporting.

The entire program is well worth the enthusiastic support of the American people. It will reduce human suffering and misery. It will provide for many who can not adequately respond to the misfortunes of life which have overtaken them. It is the application of the Christian doctrines of love and service in the relationship of government and citizen.

Your Investments In You

Time was when without question, men thought it a sin to buy books, to play, to waste money on unnecessary travel, or to pay for music. Moreover, their one-track, short-sighted-selfishness wouldn't consider giving much time to movements for general human betterment. Musical instruments were at one time banned from churches.

Men who already had enough farms or stocks or cash in savings accounts to provide for their old age, would rather add to those stores than invest in themselves.

Today a large proportion of people who are not wealthy in the old sense, broaden their viewpoints and enlarge their experience by travel. Thousands of adults have learned that play and fun in moderation make for better work.

Millions are spent on music because of its pleasure-giving and uplifting power.

And never in the history of the world, have people so wanted to know what the other fellow has thought and learned as is evidenced by the present number of publishing houses and the millions of dollars worth of newspapers, magazines and books sold annually.

And never before have people been so giving of themselves to advance good causes, thus developing their better natures through making these investments in themselves as they go along, while they are creating their own physical estates.

Your investments in *you* cannot be stolen or burned or melted away in a stock crash or depression. When you invest in yourself through books, music, play, travel, and helpful human service, you are increasing values which are eternal.

When Riley Sent In His Poem, "The Ole Swimmin' Hole"

When James Whitcomb Riley sent his first draft of "The Ole Swimmin' Hole" to the Indianapolis Daily Journal, he wrote under the name of Benjamin F. Johnson. In commenting on it the editor said:

"Mr. Johnson thoughtfully informs us that he is 'no educated man,' but that he has, 'from childhood up tel old enugh to vote, allus wrote mor er less poetry, as many an album in the neighborhood can testify.' Again he says that he writes 'from the hart out'; and there is a touch of genuine pathos in the frank avowal, 'There is times when I write the tears rolls down my cheeks.'

"In all sincerity, Mr. Johnson, we are glad to publish the poem you send, and just as you have written it. That is itt greatest charm. Its very defects compose its excellence. You need no better education than the one from which emanates 'The Ole Swimmin' Hole.' It is real poetry, and all the more tender and lovable for the unquestionable evidence it bears of having been written 'from the hart out'."

Then followed the well-loved poem which begins:

"Oh! the old swimmin'-hole! whare the crick so still and deep
Looked like a baby-river that was laying half asleep,
And the gurgle of the worter round the drift jest below
Sounded like the laugh of something we onc't used to know
Before we could remember anything but the eves
Of the angels lookin' out as we left Paradise;
But the merry days of youth is beyond our controle,
And it's hard to part ferever with the old swimmin'-hole."

A Courageous Utterance

One of the most courageous of modern official utterances affecting the evils of war came from the lips of President Roosevelt when he addressed the nation at Chautauqua, New York, in our humble opinion. Speaking as one who knows intimately the problems before, during, and after a war, the President pointed out the foolishness of trying to "get rich" from the manufacture and sale of war materials, as the United States did prior to its entrance in the World War. What he said ought to be imbedded in the growing consciousness of every boy and girl, as proven and costly advice to each generation of adults.

"Industrial and agricultural production for a war market may give immense fortunes to a few men; for the nation as a whole it produces disaster," declared the President. "It was the prospect of war profits that made our farmers plow up prairie land that should never have been plowed, but should have been left for grazing cattle. Today we are reaping the harvest of those war profits in the dust storms that have devastated those war plowed areas.

"It was the prospect of war profits that caused the extension of monopoly and unjustified expansion of industry and a price level so high that the normal relationship between debtor and creditor was destroyed.

"Nevertheless, if war should break out again in another continent let us not blink the fact that we would find in this country thousands of Americans who, seeking immediate riches—fool's gold—would attempt to break down or evade our neutrality . . . It would be hard to resist that clamor; it would be hard for many Americans, I fear, to look beyond—to realize the inevitable penalties, the inevitable day of reckoning that comes from a false prosperity. To resist the clamor of that greed, if war should come, would require the unswerving support of all Americans who love peace. If we face the choice of profits or peace, the nation will answer—must answer—'we choose peace.' It is the duty of all of us to encourage such a body of public opinion in this country that the answer will be clear and for all practical purposes unanimous."

Those are courageous, but tremendously true, words. They strike at the very root of modern warfare—the desire for greedy profits. Thank you, Mr. President, for daring to speak them.

A Battleship at Work

There are those, including Brother Arthur Brisbane, the distinguished editor, who believe that the day of the warship is past and that aerial squadrons will henceforth decide battles on the sea.

This may be right but the recent engagement off the shores of Africa indicate no such development up to the year 1936. It seems that the rebels succeeded in landing Morrocan troops on the coast of Spain and that the next day the battleship Jaime, a cruiser and two destroyers, after fighting off air attacks, proceeded to Morocco, raked the rebel strongholds, destroying ships and raking land batteries and barracks.

Newspaper dispatches say the smaller ships acted as a rear guard while the battleship did the heavy work. The incident focuses attention on the function of heavy ships and indicates that the naval heads of the great powers know what they are doing when they put their trust in battleships, able to take punishment and pass it out.

Practical Paragraphs

By John Edwin Price

CARRY THE LOAD AND SMILE

A woman was just in the store. She is ordinarily quite jolly, at times vivacious. She was asked how she liked her vacation. "Good," she said, "only it wasn't half long enough. I hadn't been gone a week when Will (her husband) wrote, 'It seems we just can't get along without you.'"

And then, after a pause, "Why can't they feel that way about you when you are home? Sometimes I think I'll blow up."

A man is so harrassed at times with various problems that when the wife speaks to him or he to her he forgets to throw off the angry or disgusted mental mood he was holding toward his problems. He isn't angry at her but she is hurt by his voice tones just the same. That's one reason why praise is such a good thing. It is such cooling balm for the burning tones we never meant to use. If we could shift moods as easily as we shift gears the ride of life would be much smoother.

Or we might take a tip from the Japanese and smile when we are hurt. Their women folk are said to stand around when a mother is bearing a child. With every pain the young mother is taught to smile.

Do you suppose we will ever have such sturdiness of character that we can bear our burdens and smile? We would avert many heartaches and misunderstandings if we tried it more.

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

By T. H. Millington
Sound Money. Greenbacks. Inflation

This is the third installment answering the following question: **"Why not make all U. S. Government bonds, notes, bills, etc. payable on demand, Treasury notes and greenbacks?"** The writer also says he cannot see that it would be inflation.

T. H. MILLINGTON

In the issue of Sept. 3rd, we pointed out that to **know inflation,** one must first know **the normal.** In the issue of Sept. 10th we showed what constitutes U. S. normal money, and that very little of the gold belongs to the Government.

Unit Inflation of Money

Unit inflation of money is what we will try to show this week. In the last issue it was stated that "U. S. Government bonds and other eligible securities may be exchanged for currency." This statement referred, of course, to the re-discounting process. It must be noted, however, that this temporary use of U. S. Government bonds as a base for Federal Reserve currency expires by law March 3rd, 1937.

The foregoing provisions for issuing currency and for coining and issuing money have been enacted by Congress, or proclaimed by the President and subsequently approved by Congress. These regulations, Father Coughlin notwithstanding, are not made by anybody but Congress.

But they relate **only to the unit value of our money in relation to gold, and not to its purchasing value in goods and commodities.** To regulate the purchasing value of money, (which is equivalent to price-fixing,) in goods, commodities and wages is a power which the Constitution of the United States does not grant to the Congress.

The two weaknesses or causes of uncertainty in the **gold value** of the present U. S. money lie in the power vested in the President by Congress further to devalue the unit value of the dollar in relation to the old $20.67 per ounce to a point in excess of the present $35.00. This power expires June 30 1937. If Roosevelt should be reelected he would no doubt favor its extension.

On the other hand, the impetus which the increased dollar price of gold has given to mining, and the consequent increase of production, may glut the market with gold and cause a reduction toward the old value.

Promise to Pay

It must be plain from the foregoing that paper money, (currency) if it is to be sound, is only a **promise to pay,** issued by the authority of Congress against precious metal at a fixed price per ounce. In itself paper money has no value. Government bonds and notes or other securities issued by Congress are not money, but are payable in lawful sound money.

The present legend printed on the face of our new Federal Reserve currency, "redeemable in other lawful money," is a meaningless statement. It is equivalent to paying an old note by issuing a new one, but it is not payment or redemption. However, as previously stated, it can buy gold by permits from the Treasury. While it is not quite good enough it does make private hoarding of and speculation in gold impossible.

Inflation Money

Any currency which is **not a promise to pay is not sound.** Any currency which on its face does say what money is and in what it is payable, is not sound money, because, not being a claim upon something of universal value legally placed behind it, it can have no universal value. **It is in fact a fraud,** because the confidence and faith which a people naturally places in its Government **has thereby been betrayed.**

Greenbacks Unnecessary

As shown in the Sept. 10th issue of THE ECCENTRIC the provision for issuing money is such that vastly more sound money can be issued than the country has any need of.

Quantity Inflation

If more money is needed, there are over eight billions of gold certificates now deprived of circulation privilege but which privilege Congress can restore. So why issue bogus money? It is inconceivable that a holder of an interest-bearing bond when in his right mind would exchange it for greenbacks. Also greenbacks would force the Federal Reserve more out of circulation, because it would not be exchanged for greenbacks.

To make it a felony to refuse to accept greenbacks at par, which governments usually do when issuing such money, would be an attempt to create wealth by law instead of by labor, capital and natural resources, which cannot be done.

Lastly, to print greenbacks to meet government expenditures would soon flood the country with them, and prices of commodities would go sky-high.

It took 500 Colonial paper dollars to equal one Spanish silver dollar. Too great a quantity of even sound money drives commodity prices up faster than wages and ruins the wage-earner.

Inflation will be discussed and concluded Sept. 24th.

SOMETHING NECESSITY MIGHT MOTHER

The Other Chap Says-

THE PROPERTY TAX

George Lord, tax expert and secretary of the National Tax Survey, says the adoption of the proposed amendment to the Michigan constitution abolishing real property taxes, might leave Michigan schools and governments without revenue for as much as a year.

That, of course, is only one reason why we should think about this proposition very seriously.

Mr. Lord's opinion, like that of most authorities on the subject, is that the proposition "is loaded with inherent danger."

The amendment contemplates an income tax as the chief source of revenue in the state for government, of all sorts.

An increasing public opinion sees a chief danger right there.

For, obviously, cities, counties and school districts cannot collect income taxes; which would leave them all dependent upon the state; and that could not fail to bring about a greater centralization of authority than anybody except Communists and Fascists have contemplated, except it may be our own New Dealers.

There may be more equitable methods of taxation than the so-called property tax.

But until we have something worked out it is certainly going to be risky business to abolish off hand the one form of general taxation which has worked well and to which we have long been accustomed. Cadillac News.

IN LOVE WITH LIFE

It is a wonderful thing to love life, but there are millions of people who do not. They are perpetrators of wars, they advocate crime, they ignore the social order, they disseminate gossip, they are greedy, and they are selfish. All of them are confident in planning tomorrow's gains that they skip by the pleasures of today.

If some people who have been dead a century or two could come back to live their lives today, it is safe to say they would have no time nor interest in the practice of crime, of war, selfishness and greed. They would be too busy filling out all of the wonderful things this age. They would probably feel that if the voices from all the continents can be brought into a cottage at night, then even to the poor is to be blessed.—Paw-Paw Courier—Northener.

The Guest—Is this hotel American or European?

Proprietor of the Tall Timber Tavern—Well, it was run by a foreigner when I bought it, but it's been naturalized since then.

WASHINGTON LETTER

Everybody Is Very Confident! But Politicians Are Like That

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON. — Optimistic forecasts now being made by both Democratic and Republican national committees are not necessarily related to what the big men at headquarters actually think about the coming election. Few in either party believe that 1936 will go on record as a landslide year."

The leaders are watching closely such polls as those of the Literary Digest and the American Institute of Public Opinion. But they are not willing to rely on these forecasts. They make careful private polls of their own.

Emil Hurja, assistant to Democratic Chairman James A. Farley, is making one such poll. Detailed reports from state leaders are coming into headquarters regularly and these are weighed along with data obtained in canvasses of voters.

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IT is admitted in both Republican and Democratic camps that the old axioms and traditions can't be depended on in 1936. Experienced politicians believe, however, in accordance with tradition, that whichever candidate wins New York will win the election. Then someone steps up and says, "Yes, but remember Hughes."

In 1916 Charles Evans Hughes carried New York, but lost the election by a small margin. He is the sole exception.

New York has 47 electoral votes and both parties are spending a lot of time and money on the campaign in that state. In 1932 Roosevelt carried New York by 600,000 votes, but even ultra-confident Democrats, such as Mr. Farley, expect no such plurality this time.

Upstate New York probably will go to the Republicans, as the latter predict. The farmers up there haven't benefited much from AAA and are generally anti-Roosevelt.

The Democrats think that disadvantage will be more than balanced by the metropolitan vote. Landon needs New York's 47 electoral votes to win. Roosevelt possibly could win without them.

Democratic leaders haven't much to say when Republicans boast of having New England "sewed up." But they won't admit that Massachusetts is definitely lost to Roosevelt. Republicans' claim to New Jersey has some merit. But the two parties are about equally confident when they claim the 36 votes of traditionally Republican Pennsylvania.

Democrats feel sure John L. Lewis and the Guffey-Earle patronage machine will deliver a big vote. Pennsylvania today seems more doubtful than ever before.

• • •

DEMOCRATS think they can count on Indiana to give Roosevelt a majority. Republicans are equally confident in claiming Illinois. In each case the claim is disputed.

Republicans fear most border states will go Democratic, but feel they may come out ahead in West Virginia and Maryland. The south is virtually conceded to the Democrats, as usual.

Insiders in both camps say it looks as if the Pacific coast is Roosevelt's territory, but Republicans will not concede this without reservations. Kansas presumably will vote for Landon, and Republican leaders expect the governor to carry Nebraska and the corn-wheat area, although this is distinctly fighting ground.

Drouth and drouth relief are unpredictable elements in the farm vote. Experienced politicians are none too sure at present about the farm region.

Many campaign tricks will be pulled out of the bag in the next few weeks. Money and effort will be spent lavishly in doubtful states. Just how it's anybody's guess as to how things will shape up Nov. 3d.

Random Remarks

Susan Frawley Eisele, champion rural correspondent:

"I think that a journalist's function is to present life as he sees it."

Earl Browder, Communist candidate for President:

"Roosevelt is a convinced adherent of capitalism. There isn't an ounce of socialism in his philosophy or policy."

Charles E. Coughlin, Radio Priest:

"The chief causes of Communism are the private coinage and regulation of money and pay-as-you-work-tax."

Mordecai Ezekial, agricultural economist:

"We could produce all of the farm products we need with 60 per cent of our present farmers."

Jeff Davis, King of the Hoboes:

"A hobo will work. Not so, a bum."

Donald Richberg, former head NRA:

"The difficulties of regulating competition did not begin or end with the NRA."

Arthur Eddington, British scientist:

"I have my personal idea of what religion is, although every other man's concept may differ from mine."

Alfred M. Landon, Republican Presidential Nominee:

"The government must not get in the habit of spending more than it receives."

James Couzens, U. S. Senator from Michigan:

"The most important matter confronting the nation is the re-election of President Roosevelt."

Paulino Uzcudun, Spanish boxer:

"I've had enough fighting to last me for the rest of my life—both in the ring and in the civil war."

Admiral Horthy, Hungary's Regent:

"Hitler saved Germany and Europe from the Red danger. No Europeans can ever forget that."

Happenings of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Lincoln Hyde of Franklin, Sundayed with his brother Dave of this place.

It is said that the celebrated and notorious Ed McManus was in this country lately. Where's Beattie?

It is said that a savings bank is about to be started in our village. Well, it is a thing to be desired, and we hope it will materialize.

All the new dwellings are now being rapidly pushed to completion, and every one of them will be a great credit to our pleasant village.

The big crowd and very hot weather helped to make the Masonic concert rather unpleasant, but all those in hearing distance, voted that the affair was a grand success in every particular. Some of the arrangements did not suit two or three of the bronchos, and of course, they naturally grumbled.

Next Saturday evening, at the Big Beaver reform hall will be held a very important science, to which the parties interested in starting a saloon, are cordially invited to be present and discuss the question and listen to the law regarding such institutions.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Most of our people are trying to help our village authorities in making our side-walks safe for oldern people by keeping carts, velocipedes, express wagons, etc., off. Only a few are encouraging their children to violate the law. Five Taft will soon be among us. Join the boosters and wear a lapel button, a life reproduction photograph in sepia for 12 cents prepaid or hand colored 15 cents. A lasting souvenir of the president's visit to the heart of Michigan. H. Beaton, 105 Medbury, Detroit.

The service at St James' church on Sunday morning will be of special interest. Bishop Charles David Williams will make his annual visitation to the Parish. The Bishop will administer the Rite of Confirmation and celebrate the Holy Eucharist. There will be some special music, and all who would like to hear the good Bishop deliver one of his good sermons will be most welcome.

The J. Harvey Carter family had a great celebration last week. One in which the whole family partook and luckily there were no serious results, such as happened after other celebrations. J. Harvey took a notion he would clean his overalls and man-like thought he would do it as he thought it should be done. So he poured a teacupfull of gasoline into an open tea kettle and set it on the stove. In a second or two, J. Harvey and his wife and daughter, Stella were wrapped in flames. Stella played the cool-headed heroine, and in a minute had torn off her father's coat and stripped it about him. No further damage, except one awful scare, was done.

FIVE YEARS AGO

A new city building for Birmingham is one of the projects provided for in the 1937-32 budget appropriation of more than $1,000,000 adopted by the Detroit Edison Company last Friday.

A township fire department to be financed by a special assessment and operated independently of any village fire fighting force will be recommended at a meeting of township residents to be held tonight in the Wing Lake School House and Wing Lake and West Maple roads.

Mrs. L. N. Pyle, 185 Euclid avenue, was recommended Tuesday night to the vacation on the Baldwin Public Library board caused by the recent resignation of Mrs. Rhetta M. Barr.

Village officials are awaiting today the final approval by the state highway department of a plan, which, after more than two months of investigation, which had apparently resulted in failure, is believed will be successful in financing the proposed deep sewer along Wm. Woodward avenue from Lincoln to Clawson roads.

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