

The Birmingham Eccentric

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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 of this paper...

Baldwin high school students who really want to become ladies and gentlemen when they grow up will lament the inter-

Playing Football Without Garbage. Used last week between some of themselves and some of the students of Royal Oak's fine high school.

Both before and after the annual Thanksgiving Day football game (resulting in a defeat for Birmingham this year) some of the enthusiastic students from both schools littered the field in certain sections of both cities as, in their unbounded notions of fun and school loyalty, they resorted to this exchange of indecent stuff.

What a lot of good, clean fun it must have been! Imagine fine youngsters engaged in seeing who could throw a rotten egg, a tomato, a decayed piece of fruit or vegetable, or some other thing of that nature.

It probably won't do any good to scold the youngsters about it, for in the quiet thinking of their later career selves, they must wonder why they got into garbage can behind stores and did what they did. It may be excused on the basis that youngsters, in gangs, tingling with the warmth of competitive school spirit, are to be granted the right to vent their feelings unconventionally.

Competition in everything seems to be a rule of life, but even competition has its rules, its ethics. It seems to be so on the football field, in the gymnasium, on the track field, in adult life ethical competition pays greater dividends than the kind that throws dirty garbage.

Citizens for whom the proper pronunciation of words is a serious matter are under the heavy deluge of gratitude to an elderly deity composed of leading educators for its authoritative and commendable decision in a controversial issue which has been pending for centuries.

This jury has decided, after exhaustive study and mature thought, that the word either should be pronounced "eether" and not "eyether," also that "neether" is preferable to "nyether."

There have long been two schools of thought concerning this question, to wit: late years persons of culture quite generally, at least in the United States, have come to consider "eyether" as an English affectation which has no proper place in the language as it is spoken on this side of the Atlantic.

When a jury of cultural distinction which includes among its members Presidents Hutchings, of the University of Chicago; Scott, of Northwestern; Wilson, of Loyola, and O'Connell, of De Paul, hands down the dictum that the word either is "eether" and not "eyether," we of less massive intellects will accept the judgment as cathedra and will govern ourselves accordingly.

Can Democracy Succeed? The success of democracy is possibly only so long as the welfare of the people, as a whole, is more important than the welfare of any part of the population.

If the government of the United States is to represent the people, the laborers, the veterans or the job-holders and take care of their needs, without much regard to the balance of the taxpayers, the end of the republic of the United States is underway.

The history of the world will show, we believe, that democratic institutions are best for the peaceful development of nations.

A Threat To Democracy. While democratic forms of government encourage individual initiative and individual progress, these factors in themselves tend to militate against efficiency on the part of the government.

The Eccentric has no quarrel with the people of any country when they prefer a dictatorial type of government. Recognizing the handicaps that a democracy imposes upon efficiency in government itself, there is no particular reason to bemoan the existence of dictator-type governments in the countries that prefer them.

In the present world situation finds Germany, Italy, and Japan organized on a war basis, and dissatisfied with the old status. The rules of these countries constantly exert pressure upon other nations and, apparently, are ready to wage war if necessary to attain their ends.

Aggressive dictators look upon weaker democracies as the legitimate prey for their imperialistic appetites. The only obstacle that they recognize is the ability on the part of the other nation to protect itself by force of arms.

The United States, for example, prefers to develop along democratic lines and to live in peace. If possible, it would be organized for war on a competitive basis with possible aggressors, but it will be necessary for this country to meet the war threat.

Unless the nation is prepared to meet possible foes, it is better to invite attack. If, in this democratic nation, it arms itself, then it has to sacrifice some of the democratic traditions and ideals.

The family is the source of life to modern society and thus it becomes important to Birmingham and its environs to hold and strengthen the ties that lead to a happy family life.

That serious discords exist in this modern era cannot be denied by any student of social problems. That the family is an outmoded institution is not to be believed, but that it can be modernized, in the light of present conditions, is certain.

Dr. Arthur J. Todd, of Northwestern University, touches the trouble spot, we think, when he says it is necessary for the out-look of the old superstition or the ignorant belief that successful family life happens automatically.

A sensible point, made by Dr. Todd, is that an essential sound family life is "an income sufficient to provide not only for the bare necessities of life, but a means of making life more worth while living."

Even in these so-called enlightened days a man must have a funeral before he really is appreciated. That's the case of Ramsey McDonald, prime minister, who rose to that honor from being the son of a poor Scotch farmer, and who recently passed on while on a visit to South America.

Does Death Alone Revere A Man? Minister, who rose to that honor from being the son of a poor Scotch farmer, and who recently passed on while on a visit to South America.

ATTENDANCE IN MICHIGAN'S 56 State parks during 1937 amounted to 9,528,578, an increase of 617,219 over a year ago. That again presents evidence that Michigan is an out-door lure for millions of people, both inside and outside of Michigan.

FUEL FOR THE BEACON. ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS LEAGUE. CHRISTMAS SOCIALS. TUBERCULOSIS.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN. The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential unless requested. Letters must be limited to 500 words, and must be in the office by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

increasing their business turnover. In a nut shell, it has to do with giving to the community the great profits at present given to Wall Street bankers by having the community issue and use their own credit in contrast to the present method of using Wall Street credit.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24, 1937. Letter to Editor George R. Averill, Birmingham Eccentric, Mayor and City Clerk of Birmingham.

Mr. Averill is familiar with the Single Tax method of increasing prosperity by giving to the community that which the community has produced and giving to the individual the fruits of the production.

WASHINGTON LETTER BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT. Financing New Farm Bill Adds to Worries of Special Session.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—The fight in Congress over the farm bill is on. But agriculture officials here do not expect any final action on the legislation until the regular session which will follow the current or special session. They believe Congress is willing to give the country a new farm law, but that there will be debate and delay before the bill is ready to be used.

SECRETARY of Agriculture Henry Wallace and agriculture officials believe a processing tax is the way out. With the additional tax on the consumer, 000,000 to spend on the farm program and the fore-knowledge that it will cost from \$250,000,000 more to complete the program, they reason that a processing tax would raise the necessary funds by building up the consumer-price of commodities for which the market price is low.

objections that this is unfair to the consumer their answer is that any price increase is a tax on the consumer. In the end to be required to pay a cent more for a loaf of bread for every loaf that is produced on wheat had been imposed, than to pay a sales tax of 1 cent more for every loaf of bread produced on wheat.

Whatever is finally agreed upon as a part of the cost of the new farm legislation, there will be much difference of opinion over whether it should be paid for by processing taxes or a general sales tax.

Chairman Marvin Jones of the House Agriculture Committee is in favor of a processing tax, while Chairman Ellison D. Smith of the Senate Agriculture Committee is opposed to this method. It is fairly representative of con-

'My Country, 'Tis of Thee'... By T. H. MILLINGTON. In the previous three issues of this column, we have seen that when the minds were turned from government, church, guild and superstitious control, men began to invent devices for saving man from man.

By these three plus natural resources, via a 40 year life span, have been created and the use of the inventions have changed the world from a world largely of manual labor to one of mechanization and a great deal of leisure.

Amusement and recreational facilities and equipments on a scale that would have bankrupted any man 40 years ago, are now a part of the business and theaters, restaurants, dance halls, clubs and bars line our most thoroughgoing cities.

What is Modern Civilization? How shall one define it? Is education more widespread? Of course it is. But technical education has become so important and necessary in order to live intelligently with the mechanized world that merely to keep up with technological advances is a task.

Consider for example, the absence from your home of the following items: Furnace, electric light, gas, refrigeration, electric washing machine, electric range, gas or electric stove, radio, vacuum cleaner, running hot and cold water, oil burner, and even air conditioning, and of course complete bathroom and automobile. People earning less than \$2000 per year buy 40% of the automobiles and 40% of all the refrigerators sold.

Is it not strange that with all the millions of dollars labor is contributing to their cause, they do not start a business of their own and how they would be paying?

Random Remarks. John J. Pershing, U. S. General. "I hope there will never be another war."

Albert W. Stevens, Army stratosphere explorer. "The United States leads today in aviation in most, though not all, details."

James Graham Rogers, professor, Yale. "Today we see about us everywhere a world in which democracy seems in retreat."

Mrs. Karen Michaels, Danish authoress. "Many couples are involved in unhappy marriages because of economic conditions today."

J. Donald Adams, critic. "Most of the world's great novels were written by men and women who had reached at least forty years of age."

WABECK STATE BANK BIRMINGHAM, MICH.

lots in best. ONE of the principal objections to another war is the flood of patriotic songs that would immediately deluge the country.

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

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