The Christian world is generally more loving at Christmas time. What is wrong in human thinking, then, that allows nations to return to pagan selfishness?

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

FIFTY-NINTH YEAR—NO. 41 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1937 | $2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

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Tell Your Merchant You Saw His Advertisement in THE ECCENTRIC

STORY OF CHANCE IN BUSINESS TOLD IN LATEST BOOK

Library Adds "Romance Of Lloyds" To Shelves This Week

Will your wife have quintuplets? Will Mussolini be assassinated? Will it rain the fourth of July?

Lloyds of London will take a chance. And why and how they came to be taking these freak chances is told in the book, "Romance of Lloyds," or from Coffee House to Palace. This book with ten others has been placed in circulation this week at the Baldwin Public Library.

Written by Commander Frank Worsley and Captain Glyn Griffith, in illustrated form, the novel tells for the first time the dramatic and colorful account of an organization that has made chance its business, creating an institution that has played a large part in the development of the British Empire. It is a story of ship wrecks and deluges, war and catastrophe, and amusing acts of God. Not the least of the book is the description of the strangest business in the world and the personalities that made the business possible.

Josephine Lawrence, author of "If I Have Four Apples," has again turned to American life and in her new work, "The Sound of Running Feet," Frances Woodward, in the Saturday Review of Literature, says that the work is somehow less vigorous than her "Four Apples," though indisputably very moving. The story is placed in a small real estate firm which has barely kept its head above water during the depression. To the employees the brothers heading the firm are the very essence of the hated Capitalism. To themselves they are two harried, middle aged men with financial burdens that become increasingly difficult to bear. It is a pleasure to see with Miss Lawrence the scene our nation presents, with a sympathetic but uncompromising vision.

"White Elephants in the Caribbean" will prove to the most discerning reader to be a magic journey through the West Indies. The work, by H. A. Phillips, interprets with fresh insight the unquestioned beauty of the West Indies in the terms of humanity and their gorgeously rich history in relation to their present, everyday life. Mr. Phillips writes in a manner that makes his material constantly vivid and attractive.

"Emperor of Evil," a new mystery by C. J. Daly, is one of the three novels of this class of fiction available to the mystery story lover. Murders and suicides instigated by a cat-loving black mailer, who is eventually stopped by the bullet of the song writing sleuth who never misses. There are enough homicides and rough stuff in this to please the most jaded thrill seeker.

Other thrillers are Jessie Carmack's "The Tell-tale Clock Mystery," and Stuart Palmers, "Omit Flowers."

"Cities of Refuge," by Philip Gibbs is a rich structure covering two continents, 20 years and many lives. There is a beautifully fitted plot with actual figures of history being used. It is a superb novel of Russian refugee, and proves to be a moving plea for peace and sanity.

Readers of Birmingham will get great delight from Sheila Kaye-Smith's novel, "Rose Deeprose," "The Spur of Pride," by P. C. Wren, and Faith Baldwin's latest novel with the possessive title, "That Man is Mine."

"Shining Scabbard," by R. C. Hutchinson has been given splendid reviews in addition to being chosen as the January selection for the Book-of-the-Month club. The theme of this book is definitely psychological. It is, however, a gallery of remarkable characters all dominated by a family scandal. The scene of the story is laid in France, where Colonel Severin is carrying on an egotistical battle for restitution of his honor lost on the battlefields of the Franco-Prussian war. He feeds his self-esteem by tyrannizing the members of his family and by the delusion that France is still talking of his disgrace. William Follett, reviewer with a New York magazine says: "Our last glimpse of him, (the colonel)—the head of a mad household which is adroitly used as the microcosm of a nation's madness in a world going out of its head.

LIBRARY REPORT SHOWS INCREASE

Circulation Gain Of 9,701 And Book Increase Of 1,122 Noted

The annual Library Report for the year 1936, submitted by Miss Adeline Cooke, librarian, to the Library Board, at their meeting on Tuesday of last week, shows a gain in circulation of 9,701 over figures of the previous year. A gain of 1,122 was shown in books available for circulation.

The total circulation for the year was 79,125, divided between the Baldwin Library and the Pierce School Library. Baldwin had a total of 76,248 volumes in use while Pierce School had 2,877 books in circulation.

Adult non-fiction books available totaled 14,316 with adult fiction stories numbering 37,288. There were 3,858 rental books taken out during the year.

In addition to the adult classification of books the library numbers among its possessions 130 pictures, 20,656 children's works, with the Pierce School collection numbering a total of 2,877 editions of all classifications.

Registration at the library for 1936 showed a gain of 1,236 over the figures presented for 1935. There were 1056 new adult registrations made with the library and 453 new juvenile readers listed in the files.

Of the books added to the shelves during the year, 948 were through purchase, 111 in the form of gifts, 291 from the rental funds, and, by reinstatement, four more were put into use.

There was a grand total of 15,758 books in Birmingham libraries in Dec. of 1936, or 1,122 more than were on hand at the same time in 1935.

Fines and dues collected at the library total $573.12, while expenditures, for upkeep and usage, totaled $127.37.

Dr. Lambie To Speak On Missionary Work

"My 30 years as a Missionary in Africa" will be the subject of an address to be given by Dr. Thomas A. Lambie, M. D., D. D., in the pulpit of the local First Presbyterian Church, Sunday at 11 a. m. Dr. Lambie, formerly connected with activities of the United Presbyterian Church in Africa, spent considerable time in Ethiopia, and served there during the Italian invasion as director of the Abyssinian Red Cross. At present he is with the Abyssinian Frontier Mission. He had numerous contacts with Haille Sclassie, deposed ruler of Ethiopia.

Dr. Lambie is a brother of Dr. John S. Lambie, of Madison avenue, with whom he is staying for a few days.

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My Country, 'Tis of Thee

President Roosevelt and the Constitution

All the welter of talk and writing about "amending the Constitution" has now been brought to a definite point by the President in his message to Congress. That point is **Re - interpretation.**

T. H. MILLINGTON

He said there has been a growing conviction that the Constitution is sufficient as it is without any amendment; **but**—and that is the rub—he says, it must be given "a more liberal interpretation." He does not outline just how that is to be done, but he says "a way must be found."

Horse and Buggy Again

It is his "horse-and-buggy" criticism of the unanimous Supreme Court decision against the NRA, and nothing less. The "new and liberal" interpretation is to be his interpretation and not that of the Supreme Court. But what is his interpretation? As usual, he does not say, but leaves it to speculation.

The point of the Supreme Court's decision that the NRA was unconstitutional was that it gave the Federal government dictatorial powers in private enterprise and further. Does the President mean, when he refers as to the preamble of the Constitution, that the Supreme Court is to interpret "general welfare" to mean **the specific** welfare of some specific group of his choice? "General" and "specific" do not mean the same thing.

If the Supreme Court can be told how to interpret, **it will no longer be supreme,** but subservient, a camouflage, its further existence a travesty.

Epochal Decision

The NRA decision was epochal in the history of world politics. We are still too near to the party interests adversely affected by the decision fully to appraise it, but for its importance, future historians will, I am sure, place that decision alongside of the Declaration of Independence and the "Bill of Right," as embodied in the first ten amendments to the Constitution.

Not a New Deal

That decision, and the others following in harmony with it, brought into stark relief that what the devotees humbugously call "New Deal" **is not a new deal at all,** but is an attempt to sneak, in through the back door of our system of government an **old deal**—as old as civilization—disguised and publicized as a "New Deal." It is definitely retrogressive. It is in fact an anachronism.

The Only New Deal

There has never in all the History of the world been any new deal in government theories, **excepting the idea embodied in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.**

To be sure, the idea of people being free of any overlord, either patriarchal, military, church or

(Continued on Page 6, Part 2)

UNSOUND

The select House committee which investigated the operations of Dr. Francis E. Townsend, founder of the Old Age Pension Plan, reports that the plan is unsound and calls attention to the income enjoyed by leaders of the movement. It alleges that ten per cent of the people would receive, under the plan, one-half of the national income from the labor of the other ninety per cent.

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SOCIAL STRUGGLE FRAYER'S TOPIC

Cranbrook Executive Will Talk Under Auspices Of Citizens League

Prof. W. A. Frayer, executive secretary of the Cranbrook Foundation, and former head of the history department at the University of Michigan, will speak on Wednesday evening, January 20th at 8 P. M. in the Old Meeting House, Brookside School, Cranbrook Road, under the auspices of the newly formed Oakland Citizens League. The subject of his talk will be "The World Struggle for Social Adjustment."

In an interview Mr. Frayer gave a brief interpretation of this subject as follows:

"Everywhere we see the emerging conflict for the control of government, and that the struggle will be ruthless is increasingly evident. To say that it will be a three-cornered fight between communism, democracy and fascism oversimplifies the problem. Conceivably, democracy and communism may eventually meet at a point of compromise which we in America firmly believe will be much more democratic than communistic. But it is difficult to see how either can come to terms with fascism except in a series of temporary expedients. Few serious students would maintain that democracy in its classic historic form is likely to go on without startling changes.

"The deep unrest that manifestly pervades the entire world is less concerned with patterns of government than with ways of living; less with laws than with remedies. This applies to all social groups from the home to world society. To attempt to prophesy the changes which lie ahead would be folly, but we can easily surmise that these changes will be, in part, social, in part, economic, in part, purely political, in part, esthetic, and, in part, spiritual.

"The point to be emphasized is the responsibility of the individual to try to lift himself above the mob—to do something constructive in his own neighborhood. If freedom and our American faith in democracy are to be preserved, individuals and small groups capable of thinking must everywhere bestir themselves."

Mr. Frayer's talk will summarize the position of the newly formed Oakland Citizens League, and it is hoped that all interested persons will attend to discuss these problems, and the means for solving them. The public is cordially invited to attend.

A Million Dollars

IF THERE is any question in your mind about the demand for the better class of properties in Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills, look at the 1936 records will give you the facts.

In the city of Birmingham, 117 permits were issued for new homes amounting to $1,198,550. This figure does not include the value of land on which these buildings were erected nor the cost of some 25 or 30 more which are not in the city limits.

As general sales managers for Quarton Lake Estates, Harrowgate, South Cranbrook, Briarbank, and other good properties, we gratefully acknowledge a volume of more than a million dollars.

You will find it interesting to note that by far the largest number of these new homes were built in Quarton Lake Estates and Harrowgate, with South Cranbrook leading in the Hills.

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