

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Success To You, Governor, In Getting That Grand Trunk Cash!

If you were running a business and somebody owed you \$6,139,289, you would try to collect it, of course. You wouldn't let six or seven years slip along without making some attempt to settle the account. You would be interested in the delayed payment of the debt would bring you no interest charge to help you in financing the account.

Well, for that many years, and for that large sum of money, the matter of getting the Grand Trunk Railroad to pay its share of the cost of the new right-of-way through the State of Michigan, without expense to the State, is a matter that is "up in the air," while State politicians and fancy railroad attorneys make the gesture of coming to an agreement over costs, etc.

During all these years the Grand Trunk has been using property that was furnished them by the State of Michigan, without expense to the State. The State administrators under former Governors Fred W. Green, Wilbur M. Brucker, William A. Crompton, and Frank D. Fitzgerald have functioned; and this matter has often been pointed out by The Eccentric as a sample of inefficiency in public office.

Now comes the word that the new Governor, Frank Murphy, intends to finish the job, and restore to the taxpayers some of the vast sums they have expended on this railroad project. If Governor Murphy is able, with the aid of State's Attorney-General Raymond W. Starr, in consummating this deal, it will be to the credit of the State of Michigan.

It's about time that the business of the State of Michigan was handled in every detail in the interests of the taxpayer.

We shall watch this procedure with a great deal of interest, Governor. Your success in this project will win you more of a grateful public.

"Smart Boys" Hard To Outwit

The difficulty of eliminating the abuses in business is illustrated by recent testimony before the Securities Commission, telling how David M. Milton, son-in-law of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., through an original investment of \$13,000 and 1,300 shares of an inactive insurance company stock, secured control of a \$218,000,000 investment trust corporation.

While not attempting to explain the complicated details of the transaction, we point out that it occurred after the New Deal had been in existence nearly three years and Securities Exchange Commission functioning under recent legislation.

The moral of this is that it is difficult to devise laws to restrain the grasping instinct of man. Probably no law will ever be written which some smart manipulator cannot evade. This does not mean that the Government should abandon efforts to regulate business and finance. It simply points out the fact that it is necessary for the Government to maintain constant vigilance upon the operations of the so-called miracle men in business and finance.

College Students Increase

A sharp increase in enrollment in 193 approved universities and colleges is reported in a survey published in School and Society, an educational journal. Dr. Raymond Walters, of the University of Cincinnati, who made the survey, points out that there is a trend toward engineering and commerce and a return to popularity of courses in agriculture. The liberal arts attract the same number of students but the proportion is declining.

Of 177,019 full-time students who entered college for the first time this fall, 122,605 were interested in the liberal arts, 24,016 in engineering, 20,840 in commerce or business administration and 9,779 in agriculture. The University of California, with 22,122 full-time students, was at the top in this respect and New York University, with 33,678 resident students, had the largest number enrolled in any institution.

Chickens Coming Home

These industrial strikes now sweeping the country are merely the echoes of political utterances heard during the past four years. You can hardly expect the rank and file of people to let this opportunity for "getting their" to pass, can you?—even though you may disagree with the tactics being used by labor leaders. Personally, we believe that President Roosevelt's "chickens are coming home to roost." May be guided wisely in the part he plays for the settlement of the differences between capital and labor!

CAREERS AFTER FORTY—The chance of a good career or even a job after 40 is now better than ever. Change makes the chance. The greater the change, the greater the chance, as a rule. Today's vaster changes depend than ever before in all man's history. Many of them favor older people. But how few older people see them? They are beset by the mists of memory.—Walter B. Pitkin in the Rotarian Magazine.

NOW THAT 1937 has advanced, can you remember all the New Year resolutions you made? Aw!—let's make some more ones next year, then.

Intelligent Merchandising Guarantees "Home-Buying"

Millions of words have been printed and uttered in the interests of trading at home and every community of any size stages periodic drives that keep the home town dollar revolving in the circle of its business enterprises.

Much ridicule has been heaped at small towns and cities as they try to develop into trading centers and the same ambitious move the boosters of the larger metropolitan areas and their rivalries are on the same plane. It is laudable for any municipality to desire growth and, because so many cultural activities depend upon the prosperity of a business, entirely commendable to encourage the growth of home town enterprises, which provide employment for local citizens.

There was a time in many cities when a man or woman who bought out of town was considered something of a misfit. There was a general realization of the desirability of keeping money at home but not quite so clear a conception of the way to turn the trick. It was generally assumed, in many quarters, that what was necessary was a series of articles on trading at home in the local newspaper at the editor's expense and that was that.

Today, more than ever before, it is being generally recognized that the job of keeping money at home is primarily that which belongs to the merchants and business men and that it is not to be undertaken in the same way that colleges work up pep for football games. There is no use to assail a fellow-townsmen for trading somewhere else when there is a distinct advantage to the family pocketbook in so doing. In other words, trading being what it is, buyers are naturally going to take the best bargains they can obtain and it is the function of merchants to provide them with the best buys.

No town can successfully institute buying-at-home and keep it going unless it possesses alert, intelligent, and capable merchants, who are able to merchandise along modern lines, giving customers the same advantages that can be obtained in other markets. Buying at home will not work if all that it means is the snaring of dollars from unwary and unintelligent buyers.

Birmingham merchants have the ability, they have the means and many of them are now exhibiting the belief that encourages the belief that buyers will find it worth their time and money to shop here. The same observation applies to many merchants in nearby towns and cities. The local merchants, everywhere, have the advantage of proximity to their trade which nobody can take from them. It is worth having and should be the means of securing for him the trade support of the buyers in his natural field of operations.

Use Gas Tax For Highways

The tax on gasoline, annually levied in the United States, collects an immense sum, most of which it expended for highway purposes. In some states, however, some of the money is diverted to other purposes.

In view of the increasing traffic on our highways and the possibility of eliminating accidents by further improvements, it seems to us that the various governments should seriously consider a policy of applying to the highways all of the money secured from the gasoline tax.

One of the FINE BITS of sportsmanship revealed in this country is the willingness of a losing political party to join with the victors after election day is over. Certainly, President Roosevelt has already received many fine compliments from the victors, before election, fought against his re-election.

Practical Paragraphs

By John Edwin Price

SUCCESS ACCORDING TO YOU
You are not a success if you are not a success with your own. On the other hand there is success without reach of your time, your powers, your circumstances and your fortunes.

A horse owner, his utmost at the Kentucky Derby will never attain the speed of the winner of the race. And yet, he may win his race and be a proud success. A horse owner who has a tadpole is comparatively an insignificant fellow. But a frog may become a great success if he is a frog.

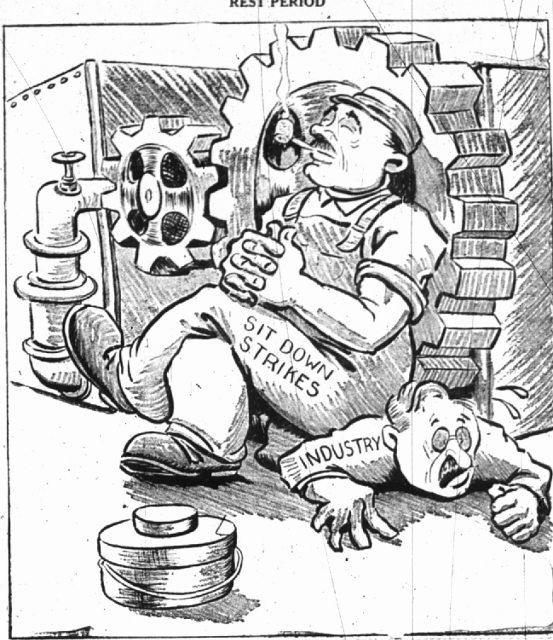
Dr. a doctor in (Birmingham) who can successfully remove an appendix and save a human life may grumble against himself because he cannot perform an operation on the heart as did so and so of such a hospital. Nevertheless he thinks and is where he is a success. And besides—under emergency conditions he may be thought of as someone as renowned as the Country Doctor of Quintuple fame.

He that cannot be able to forge a huge chain to string across a stream in time of strife to impede the progress of enemy warships. But if when he has one such chain straining and able to break he had had ingenuity enough to cable an anchor to hold the chain ends together he could prove that his success qualities were needed the right occasion to bring their greatest out.

Many obscure workers are genuinely successful. Every man who does his job to the best of his ability on a job for which they are best qualified should occasionally review the lines of Van Dyke. "This is my business, my blessing, my home, of all who live, I am the one by whom this work can best be done in the right way."

Derives from this: to have a certain aim. Amid the peril of uncertain ways. "My People, when we miss the goal, our search is crowned. With courage, and we find along our path the goal of our unexpecting things. Press towards the aim; take fortune as it fares."

By this we are not counselling not to be disappointed. No man should be disappointed by himself because he has built the world's best mousetrap when he is capable of producing a labor saving safety device. No man should be disappointed because he has built the world's best dog-house builder goider over such a success when he knows in his heart that his undevoted efforts that he was making for another Empire State building St. Johns cathedral or Golden Gate Bridge.



'My Country, 'Tis of Thee'...

By T. H. MILLINGTON

(Continued from Page 1, Part 2) state, was not new. The desire to be relieved from subjecting, oppression and overlordship has been the major cause throughout all ages of man's migration to new environments which promised that freedom for his person which unconsciously his soul craved. This desire for freedom, latent in the human soul, is the emotion through which rulers have always appealed to their people for support in the wars for supremacy between rulers. The folk songs of every nation are replete with appeals to "assist the foreign oppressor." Yet history reveals that, despite the rivers of blood and the uncounted wealth sacrificed by the common people in the cause of freedom, the subjects of a conquering ruler never attain it. Never, until the "thirteen colonies" of North America won their independence from England, did they actually attain freedom for themselves.

Yes, history does record concessions of freedom forced from rulers at various times, but these grants, in the long run, compromises forced from the overlords only to be repudiated at the first opportunity.

And so the progress of freedom advanced but slowly and blindly, as if not knowing its destination, as indeed it did not. For did not our thirteen colonies for thirteen long years under the government of the Continental Congress struggle without success to establish an orderly government? The individual colonies and the individual citizens were unwilling to yield any of their hard-won freedom to the first grants of the independence until at last the Constitutional Convention became necessary.

The leaders of this Convention were not ignorant backwoodsmen, they were scholars, familiar with the classics, with history, and especially conscious of the age-old struggle between the forces of freedom and initiative without government or church impediment. For the first time in the history of the world a group of free men put down in writing a contract between the people and their proposed government defining in writing, so there should be no mistake, the terms and limitations of that government over the several states and their people, withholding all powers not specifically therein delegated. For the first time in history representative government was born in America, the blessing of the sovereign—a theory so new that the ruling aristocracies of the Old World laughed in derision while, upon bended knees, their oppressed subjects prayed to God for success in their new venture. The world of the free—a prayer abundantly answered. Others prayed for strength to overthrow their overlords, and Europe began a new chapter in its bloody and fratricidal history. A president may say "My Friends," but regardless of what he may infer, he does not say "My People."

The Constitution The Free Man's Beacon
For nearly 150 years under this Constitution the United States of America has been a nation of free men and free women, and free imagination. It has been and still is the main source and force of modern civilization. Freedom is the period other peoples of the world have, so far as they have understood the meaning of freedom, and been able to secure it, made very great gains until the last 50 years.

When retrogression has set in. In the European countries such retrogression was obtained was a concession from the rulers and the ruling classes, but especially since the days of Bonaparte, it has been losing ground gradually, until to three-fourths of the Europeans it is today an empty word. England, France, Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries are the exceptions.

"New Deal" only a Mask
Therefore, when the President confesses that he dares not go before the people with a plain, written, proposed amendment to the Constitution for the people to discuss and consider, but demands an "interpretation" of it which does not now exist and which will now have it is not a new deal; it is the old scheme of a ruler trying by handouts and a sophisticated slip over an unsuspecting and trusting people a star-chamber performance robbing them of their freedom without their consent and without their knowledge until too late to be resisted without gains.

Social Welfare
The social welfare of the poor and hungry which he rightly pleads is not a proper function of our central government; but the plea of the poverty-stricken and the President has a sentimental and authoritative appeal which comes to the judgment of some people and a pleasant relief to others who are willing to "let George do it," pass the buck to others and are not greatly relieved of personal responsibility for the unfortunate of their own state and community.

But the responsibility for the unfortunate remains the responsibility of the community as a whole, because in any event the community has to pay for it in the end, for Federal government has no money for that or any other purpose except as it first collects it from the community. If, therefore, there is no way for a community to do its own responsibility for the unfortunate it leads only to disillusionment.

It would, however, be entirely proper for the President to use the influence of his high office to arouse communities to a realization of their own responsibility for the unfortunate. But, on the contrary, to make it a political issue as he does, and to use that as a plea for increasing the Federal powers to the limitation of the individual, and make representatives seem to Washington for favors for their local needs, is political demagoguery, and merely painting a picture of the future.

Rocking Foundation of Liberty
He is rocking the very foundation upon which has been built the most influential, the happiest, and, for strength to the most progressive civilization in history.

Indeed, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." The authorities have always resisted advances in the arts and sciences, but it has been the free men who have broken down all barriers and conquered, not only governmental repression, but has discovered the laws of nature and made them the servants of humanity. The Constitution of the United States is the mother and guardian angel of that freedom.

President may come and a President may go—soon to be forgotten, but the Constitution and our ancient heritage of freedom will forever be preserved for all future generations of all the world.

WASHINGTON LETTER

New Congress Faces Problems Involving Long-View Legislation

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ONCE it completes parliamentary reorganization and gets a new neutrality law out of the way, the 75th Congress is expected to settle down to a diet of important long-view legislation. It is generally conceded that Congress can be induced to give President Roosevelt the legislation he wants.

In his Madison Square Garden speech, at the conclusion of the campaign, the president said "we have only just begun to fight" for shorter hours and higher wages for labor; abolition of child labor and sweatshops."

In a recent press conference, the president insisted "something must be done" about this Congress. And undoubtedly Congress will find a way to do it.

Senate Leader Joe Robinson of Arkansas favors a constitutional amendment which would give the federal government or the states the right to fix minimum wages and maximum hours for labor.

Congress will be asked to make a law which will relieve appropriation to cover the period from Feb. 10 to June 30. The Conference of Mayors urged the president to ask for \$37,500,000.

This figure, based on a relief fund state hit by drought with the \$750,000,000 which "liberal" advisers to the president have estimated as necessary to carry WPA to July on the basis of its present size.

A bloc of congressmen from farm states hit by drought will under the leadership of Senator Elmer Thomas in the Senate, and Representative Zach Nichols in the House, fight any reduction in the work relief budget.

CHORES
In the dark of night when most families kept a cow in at least a few chickens, and lived in mud huts, the children of the poor, the same children who were required to do their chores.

A horse man's cooperation with the child's work was contributed by his assistance willingly. It depended on size and age whether the chore was milking the cow, carding, dressing, yoking children, feeding the chickens, yoking water, mending stockings, cleaning lanes, feeding the chickens, yoking water or any other such task. No one was paid for doing chores, but they were distinct duties and not pay tasks.

People with a heritage of chores give thanks today that they learn of the lessons of cooperation and unselfishness in the movies. As well as acquiring numerous by-products of such training.

"Nations must be selfish and it is necessary to prove to them that it is in their interest to be pacifistic."

GOING TO THE MOVIES
Most of us are aware that the double-feature, three-hour show begun with the depression to draw bigger audiences to the movie houses at that time. To meet this situation of two pictures on one bill, the producers began to make a new type of motion picture, deliberately inferior product. These are often labelled "B" pictures, and as little money as possible is spent on them.

Samuel Goldwyn in the New York Times Magazine says: "The intelligent man or woman in the audience today no longer is willing to sit through the double bill. They call up the theatres and find out what time the 'man feature' comes on. They carefully avoid the 'B' picture. If they do happen to sit thru it and find it ruins the

WABECK STATE BANK
BIRMINGHAM, MICH.
DIRECTORS: W. M. CORNELIUS, HENRY T. EWALD, FRANK COUZENS, G. H. JUDSON, LEONARD L. HEARY, W. R. YAW

Help Wanted
It required the services of police and firemen to get the little Evelyn Stravinsky, 2, which she had jammed into the elbow of a garden drain pipe. They freed the child by cutting the shoelace and gently working the foot out.

"Your Bank's Birmingham"
COMPLETE BANKING FACILITIES