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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 Tuesdays. 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.

Equal Pay For Ministers

The Rev. Oscar F. Green, of Palo Alto, Calif., raised a nice point before the triennial convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church recently meeting at Cincinnati,

Calling attention to a survey of salaries of 300 ministers in four States, showing a range from $7,500 to $720, Mr. Green declared that this disparity of income is "jeopardizing our missionary program. He could think of nothing that would make a "greater impression on the world and bring more persons to the fact of Christ than an effort on our part to show that as Christian ministers we are a brotherhood willing to share and share alike."

There is much to what this California minister says. He adds, "We do not stay on the job where we are most useful, but we strive to find a place of higher pay . . . we have envied those with large salaries and worshipped at the altar of Mammon."

The effect of a "share and share alike" example upon the thought of the public would be amazing and, no doubt, work to the advancement of what the ministers refer to as "the Kingdom." Of this we are sure but, at the same time, there are difficulties to be solved and details to be ironed out in the event that any great church undertakes to carry out Mr. Green's suggestion.

That there are ministers in all denominations who work nobly upon pittances, doled out to them by their communities, is a fact. That there are, unfortunately, in all denominations, ministers who keep their eyes on the main chance, is also a fact. However, the vast majority of the ministers in the nation deserve the praise and the sympathy of the people everywhere.

This does not dispose of the suggested "share and share alike" compensation for ministers. In fact, the suggestion should be carried out. In the military and naval services of the United States compensation is based upon length of service, very largely, rather than upon positions held or services rendered. The churches could base their pay scale along somewhat similar lines.

Radio Is Part Of Publicity Media

We have no idea that the radio will ever supplant newspapers, but that the ether waves serve a public purpose cannot be denied.

Examples of the utility of broadcasting, which enables a speaker to contact millions at the same time, include the President's fireside chats, political addresses, and such events as the message of Justice Black some weeks ago.

That the radio gives to speaker and listeners a sense of personal contact unavailable in the printed words of a speech is not to be denied. That newspapers, however, afford opportunity to digest the utterances of public men, when their speeches are printed, is an advantage for the press.

In addition, the newspapers have developed the interpretative feature to a marked degree, wherein lies their strength, perhaps, but also their possible weakness. While the average reader of a newspaper depends upon the journal for guidance in assessing the news, including events and utterances, it is quite apparent that some of them question the impartial attitude that is needed to make critical judgment valuable.

When Justice Black informed newspaper men at the Virginia pier that he would speak when what he had to say would reach the public, or words to that effect, he gave expression to what many public men think. They do not want their utterances abbreviated, garbled, or unsuspiciously presented and, particularly, they are wary of the headlines that unduly play-up excerpts in sensational form. They do not impute dishonesty in the news so much as they fear partisan editing of biased journalists.

The really worth-while newspaper in any community, whether in a metropolitan area or in a country town, attempts to give all public men fair play in its news columns. Whether the reader believes it or not, most of them do not intentionally, in headlines or otherwise, take advantage of their readers or their adversaries. However, journalists, like other people, have the usual frailties of human beings and sometimes, even with highest ideals, they make mistakes.

Business Should Serve First

There are many business men who have lost sight of the basic reason for the existence of business and so we quote, with approval, the recent utterance of William M. Jeffers, president of the Union Pacific Railroad, on the subject.

"Money making should be the result, a justifiable result and a necessary one, if business is to live," says Mr. Jeffers, "but it is not the reason for its existence. The basic reason . . . is to serve humanity, to supply the needs of the people, to aid in their well-being and their comfort."

When business fails to take into consideration this basic reason, regardless of what profits may occur, business has no excuse for existence. Profits should develop out of service, not out of manipulations, speculations and unfair competitive positions.

Forty out of every hundred persons killed in this country, every day, in motor vehicle accidents are pedestrians and, according to a survey in five States, reported by the National Safety Council, in more than half the cases the pedestrian is "chargeable principally" with being responsible for the fatality.

Some Pedestrians Kill Themselves

Pedestrian deaths have been cut seven per cent in urban districts since 1930, but in rural districts the death rate for foot-users of the highways has gone up 64 per cent. This gives a general idea of where some effective safety work can be undertaken.

Other interesting facts brought out are that 60 per cent of all highway accident deaths occur at night, although only 30 per cent of the traffic is at night. Partly explaining this is the fact that more people fall asleep at the wheel while driving at night and four times as many people drink intoxicating liquor before driving at night, as compared with the daytime.

True Americans Are Not Hateful

The decision of the Grand Army of the Republic to hold a reunion with the Confederate veterans at Gettysburg next summer moves the San Francisco Chronicle to point out that it will give the world final notice that our people "can fight, and bitterly, to the limit of their strength, and, accepting the result, come together again in a united front."

When the surviving veterans meet as friends, says this newspaper, on their bloodiest battlefield, the spectacle should convince all of us that there never should be "a lesser quarrel that cannot be composed by Americans."

There are issues today, it is true, that deeply move our citizens, but all of them, together, can hardly equal the bitterness of the last century when the men of this country shed their blood in battle against one another. However, it is incumbent upon our leaders to avoid the development of hatred between groups or sections because foolish leadership can plunge any nation into great woes.

While some sectional differences of opinion exist, they can be settled so long as there is confidence in good faith and fair play. Their adjustment will never be helped by a failure to understand the problems of other sections, or by criticism of other Americans as a class.

Here Comes The Duke!

The announcement that the Duke and Duchess of Windsor will soon visit the United States for a prolonged stay creates new problems for officials who must decide exactly the status of the former British king and his bride.

Socially ambitious dowagers all over the country will also be aflutter as they plan to demonstrate that they do not believe very strongly in the doctrines of democracy. The Duke will find, no doubt, that there are people here ready to fawn upon the erstwhile royal person and, more than likely, he will be disgusted at the some of the spectacles presented before him.

That the former monarch plans to study American labor problems indicates a continued interest in the welfare of working people and may be a tip-off to his ambitions to carve a political career for himself as a citizen of the world.

Listen To This Judge

There may be lawlessnessin small cities and in the rural areas of the United States, but we doubt if many judges have ever given an acquitted defendant the same advice that Magistrate Charles Solomon handed to a 22-year-old man in New York.

The judge told Alphonse Orlando, accused of taking another man on a fatal "ride." "Pick yourself a good undertaker and a good burial spot, because you're next."

Gang killings in metropolitan areas are well-established institutions and except in rare occasions the police are unable to convict anybody for the crimes. It has about gotten to the point that the criminals have their own execution squad and there is no appeal from their sentences.

New Cause For A Strike

Publicity is not always desirable and, as we have often admitted, sometimes newspaper reporters and photographers go too far in their zeal to get the news and pictures of the people that make it.

However, a new angle bobbed up in St. Louis the other day when a labor leader told a newspaper photographer that if he took a picture the labor leader would "stop your presses and close your radio station." The photographer snapped the picture of the union leader, who immediately dispatched an assistant to the newspaper office to call a strike.

Electricians connected with the radio station left their posts, but newspaper workers refused to obey the orders unless given in person by the union leader. He did not do so and a little later the strike was "called off."

This is a new development in censorship, we believe, and the taking of a news photograph of a labor leader a new cause for ordering a strike. The world, however, might as well make up its mind to many new things.

Average Weight Of Heavy Rainfall

The average person does not realize the tremendous weight which falls to the earth everytime there is a heavy rainfall.

If one stood on an acre of ground and was told that matter weighing 113 tons was about to fall on that acre, he would lose no time in getting out of the way. But the weight of the water in one-inch rainfall, over an acre.

How many people walking along realize in rainy weather that thousands of tons of water are floating about in the atmosphere over their heads? Of course, we know that all will not fall at once, and, as it gradually descends, no great harm is done.

SOCIALISTIC AND COMMUNISTIC trends in the United States suggest that, after all, human beings are much the same—whether they live in Russia or some other country. For socialism and communism argue that human nature can be made to fit the mould of cold abstract thinking; they argue that a majority of the people in a nation can always agree equally on all things. It is like trying to make a huge pile of uncut stones fit into a geometrical monument.

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

By T. H. Millington

THE STOCK CRASH

T. H. MILLINGTON

About all anyone, so far, has been able to do about the stock market crash is to philosophize. Nobody in authority seems to know the cause of it on its trend, up or down. But it has demonstrated one thing: the fair promises of the New Dealers of no more violent ups or downs in the market are just so much wind.

No Reason

With none of the 1929 causes for a break in prices existing, such as over speculations, over-extension of credits and low bank reserves, a break happened nevertheless.

Losses Enormous

The crash caused a shrinkage of about 29 billion dollars in the value of the investments of a lot of people, an amount equal to about one third of the national income for 1937. This loss is so serious that the effects of it will be wide spread.

On the other hand, those who bought these stocks at the low, if prices go up, will have gained great wealth. But the trouble is that nobody knows and the result is that business is left in a sort of "zero hour" of anxiety.

The last year also has demonstrated that the President's oft repeated promise of a dollar that shall have an even purchasing power, in commodities as well as in stocks, is another idle dream. The Roosevelt dollar is now worth about fifty cents in rents, sixty-five in groceries, and eighty cents in clothing.

A drop in prices of anything comes about when the buying public has decided that it would rather have the cash than the stocks or commodities which it happens to hold. In such cases there are more sellers than buyers, with the sellers progressively cutting the prices, in order to get the cash, thereby ruining the market.

To attempt to restrict an owner is selling, at whatever price he wants to sell, is hardly practical. No doubt the seller's individual needs or plans determine his actions and these must be respected, or great injustice will be done. An attempt to regulate prices is an attempt to regulate human nature and legitimate human desires. To employ government to regulate business as a primitive measure against some groups and for the benefit of other groups is placing a kind of power in the hands of government which has such grave potentialities that it should be avoided as a pest. Inevitably it restricts legitimate individual initiative and breeds class hatred.

Now there can be no dispute about the necessity for fighting evil doers in business but, in so doing, much greater harm may be done to innocent parties. Excess regulation must be avoided. One is reminded of the Biblical parable of the Wheat and the Tares.

Jesus did not question the evil of the tares in the wheat, but to remove them would damage a lot of good wheat. So He advised to let removal go until harvest.

In other words, reform and regulation is not a matter of theory but is a purely practical affair and must vary with times and conditions. What and how far to regulate is the question. A practical world, human nature being what it is, will not respond to the establishment of a millenium established by law.

Those who in blind faith in the good intentions of the President's Security and Exchange Commission, and accordingly bought stocks, believing listed securities were now safe against crash, have paid a high price for the gullibility, but perhaps they have learned that "if you want a job well done, do it yourself," is as good a rule under the New Deal as under any other administration. Prices will fluctuate as do human emotions and fancies, regulations notwithstanding.

PARAGRAPHS

American Place Names
Introducing: Joe, N. C.

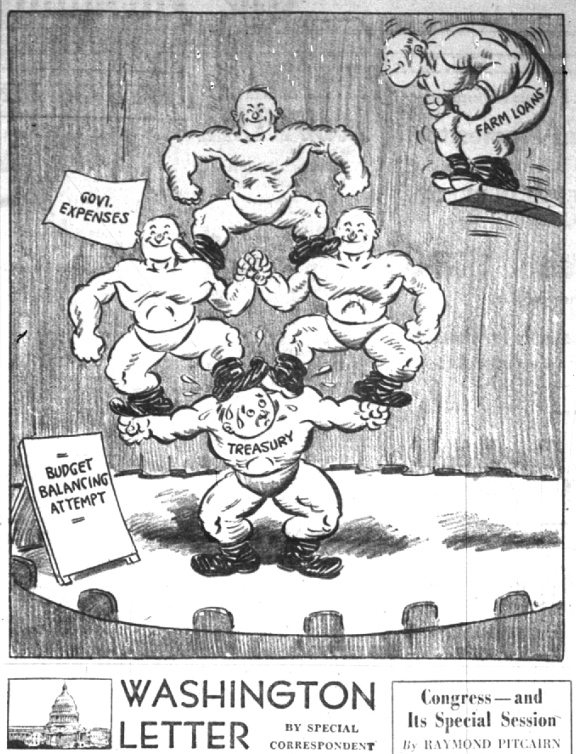
Our Name For It
France has a Minister of Leisure. But in the United States we call such a man a Vice-President. —Greensboro (Ga.) Herald-Journal.

Encouragement
No one seems to know why the eight Russian generals were stood against the wall, but as Voltaire once said, it may have been to encourage the others. —Stockton (Cal.) Independent.

Too Many
A local owner of a farm 40 miles out reports 11 known relatives among callers at the dinner hour Sunday and three he wasn't sure of.—Detroit News.

Apparently Not
Vandenberg claims that the Democrats have reduced the number of unemployed to less than 3,000,000, but the Administration indignantly denies it. A Republican can't even say it's a nice day.—The New Yorker.

"WHO'S THAT NEW GUY IN THE ACT?"



WASHINGTON LETTER

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

James Roosevelt Into Major Role in the President's 'Little Cabinet'

WASHINGTON.—Much of the comment that has been excited by the appointment of Jimmy Roosevelt as White House "co-ordinator" would seem to be superfluous if it is conceded that it is proper for him to be on the federal payroll as one of his father's secretaries.

There are many reasons for enrolling such a job, and also there are reasons for the selection of Jimmy to handle it.

There has been up to now no filter to keep the President's time free for big problems. Trivialities have reached his desk and often in meetings with his cabinet matters of less than major importance were brought to him directly.

A need existed to end the bickering of those who complained "That fellow got in and I didn't" and "The President doesn't understand our problems." The plan now is for Jimmy to consult for half an hour each week with heads of each agency. His job will be to decide what should be carried to the inner office, and to return from the inner office advice and instructions to the administrators.

He will not be given the responsibility of finding answers for any of the big problems. He may be able to settle some of the minor disputes, but such big shots as Governor Eccles of Federal Reserve, Harry Hopkins of WPA, Chairman Bill Douglas of SEC, will not tarry long at Jimmy's desk.

* * *

JIMMY'S talents have not been proved, and it may be that someone else could do a better job in the same position. But there are several advantages already apparent in the appointment. For one thing, there will be no official jealousy because of the close father and son relationship, and there will be no attempt by any sensible person to undermine Jimmy. On the other hand, if he makes mistakes they will be spotlighted just as his appointment had been.

Talk of Jimmy as "Crown Prince" is not taken seriously here. It is known that Roosevelt wanted his eldest son with him at the White House, because he was lonely after the death of Louis Howe and later the death of his bodyguard, Gus Gennerich. And the President has political ambitions for Jimmy, possibly would like to see him in the White House some day.

But Jimmy has a long fight for lesser political conquests before that ambition can be realized. He hasn't even been elected a town councilman yet. If he does have a successful political career, the contacts he will make in his job in the White House will be helpful later on.

* * *

IT is likely that when the President names the six new administrative assistants whose jobs will soon be created by Congress, Jimmy will be one of them. Mentioned for the other five jobs are William H. McReynolds, now administrative assistant to the secretary of the treasury; Ebert K. Burlew, now administrative assistant to the secretary of the interior; Luther Gulick or Louis Brownlow.

It is fairly certain that among the six there will be one lawyer, and Thomas G. Corcoran may be the President's selection. Corcoran serves now as an unofficial presidential secretary and liaison man, though he is attached to the RFC as assistant general counsel. Undersecretary of the Interior Charles West, who is Roosevelt's chief liaison man on Capitol Hill, is another possible choice.

The President actually hasn't decided on any individual yet.

Congress—and Its Special Session

By RAYMOND PITCAIRN

National Chairman Sentinels of the Republic

Congress, as this is written, is preparing to convene at Washington in special session.

Meanwhile America wonders what that session will bring forth.

Many things have been promised. But, as most Americans remember, many things were also promised before the preceding session — and failed to materialize. Out of it came principally a long and bitter battle to preserve our Constitutional concept of a balanced form of government.

In this period of nation-wide tribute to the Constitution on its 150th anniversary, citizens will hope that the need for such a conflict will not reappear.

They will hope that Washington will give its full time, instead, to legislation devoted to the equal well-being of all citizens.

Relief from the rising costs of living, which affect every segment of our 128,000,000 people, expanded opportunities for employment, continued progress in our national development, elimination of unnecessary waste, renewed confidence in our agencies of government—these are some of the things that the people seek from Washington.

It is a familiar and a traditionally American demand. It was what Thomas Jefferson had in mind when, in discussing the ideals of our early Republic, he wrote:

"A wise and frugal government which shall restrain men from injuring one another, which shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government."

With that precept as its guide, Congress could make the special session well worth while.

Final Payment

"I've been told that yer man's teeth ain't really his own, Mrs. Smithers."

"Sure they are. Ain't we just paid the last installment?"

Happenings of Long Ago

Fifty Years Ago

Rochester has a broom brigade, consisting of 19 fine-looking young ladies. Why can't Birmingham have a broom brigade, do you suppose?

The neighbors living near Mrs. Jennie Sloan, in Troy, are puzzling themselves to find out just what it is that she has built over her door.

Love is an incentive to do great deeds. But when it causes a man to walk eighteen miles to see his best girl, we begin to think it's the real thing—or else the poor boy is crazy.

The soap-bubble social at Mrs. Cromwell's last week was largely attended and a jolly evening was spent by all the guests, while the treasury of the society was amply replenished.

On Monday last, Mel Buell was caught in the shaft at the flour mill. The manner in which his coat, vest and shirt were removed savored more of haste than grace but he was unhurt.

Twenty-five Years Ago

After this Christmas, and then taxes. Why we haven't recovered yet from our last summer's taxes.

Early closing is the proper thing nowadays. Very few towns keep the stores open later than six. Our dealers have agreed on seven, but hope to bring it down to six in the near future. We ought to keep up with our sister village, and the stores there all close at six.

A man was seen late Thursday night, trying to gain entrance to Miss Martha Baldwin's home, by a second story window. Some boys out pranking for Hallowe'en saw him, watched until he raised the window a few inches and then turned their flashlights on him. The rascal jumped to the ground and made good his escape.

Five Years Ago

First State Bank to pay off 5 per cent dividend. Plans for reorganization abandoned by depositors' committee; Cobb is still hopeful.

County drops fraud case. Miss Fowley's acquittal ends charges, the prosecutor says.

Thieves loot totals $13,000; Clues still lacking. Police baffled in vain attempt to solve three burglaries. Cash and jewelry stolen.

Legion canvasses to give poor aid. Thousands of garments are collected in house-to-house relief campaign.

Disregard for dry law told. Committee Worthington says the people do not want prohibition enforcement.

Public Hangings

Piracy, of which we are hearing a good deal just lately, at one time supplied Londoners with the favorite amusement of a public hanging. As late as 1864 the hanging of the seven pirates provided a spectacle attended, according to contemporary newspapers, by 200,000 persons.

For the wealthier "sportsmen" accomodation was provided at prices exceeding those now paid for ring seats at prize fights, and windows overlooking the scaffold in front of Newgate were in demand at prices ranging from 20 guineas to 50 guineas.

Those who intended to see the hanging had to be early on the site, and in order to take advantage of the window seats the "swells" had to spend the night in them. Heavy timber barricades were erected near the prison to hold back the crowds, and pickpockets and more violent thieves were everywhere busy and everywhere apparently, well paid for their exertions.

It was difficult to believe one was in the center of a civilized capital that vaunted its religion and yet meted out justice in such a form.

—Manchester Guardian

RANDOM REMARKS

M. A. Dawber, churchman:
"While I have no use for most of Communism outside of Russia, I believe it has been good and is good for Russia."

Phillip H. DuBois, professor, University of New Mexico:
"There are undoubtedly some apes that can learn more than some men."

Waldemar B. Kaempffert, science editor, The New York Times:
"Nowhere else on earth is social change under the influence of science and the machine so apparent as in the United States."

Rollo G. Reynolds, New York educator:
"The schools of America have fallen short."

Wang Chung-Lui, Chinese Foreign Minister:
"Peace in the Far East is now shattered because Japan is bent on destroying China's freedom as the first step toward her domination of Asia and mastery of the Pacific."

John Abbot, wealthy Osage Indian:
"Money do good, but money poison, too. Money ruin our boys and girls."

Alber W. Barkley, U. S. Senator from Kentucky:
"There is no place . . . for a dictatorship in the United States so long as the Government remains efficient and responsive to the wills and needs of the American people."

William M. Jeffers, railroad executive:
"The basic reason for the existence of business is to serve humanity."

H. H. Kung, Chinese Finance Minister:
"Japan's 'Asia for Asiatics' really means 'Asia for the Japanese'."

J. C. Nobler, Secretary, Kansas Board of Agriculture:
"With a toll of about 109,000 accidents annually, agriculture is the nation's most hazardous, albeit its oldest, industry."

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