

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 well known to the editorial staff of the paper...

In discussing the problems that confront local parents regarding the education of their children in Birmingham's public schools...

That Was A Splendid Meeting!

One evening last week, as you all know, 213 men and women got together in the Community House and listened to a very interesting presentation of viewpoints on the question: "What are Birmingham's future Junior high school needs?"

There is no question about Birmingham's future growth. This city is destined to increase its population nearly half within the next ten years...

Right now parents are pondering the advisability of allowing their young children of Junior high school age, ages between 11 and 13, to attend school with older and more sophisticated children...

Besides, Birmingham's schools right now can house 3270 boys and girls, yet only 2711 are enrolled. It seems to us that parents can do a great deal to help the local school authorities if they will cooperate in any practical plan of re-arranging each school's area of student supply...

The whole matter comes back to the individual parent. If we can't afford new school buildings, then why not adjust ourselves to the resources at hand?

What do you, Mr. and Mrs. Good Citizen, think about it, anyway?

Statements interested in upholding the sanctity of treaties can learn a little from the affair, not by proceeding in the Far East.

They Might Discover A War

It seems that some nine powers, including Japan, entered into a treaty, commonly called the Nine-Power Treaty, guaranteeing the "integrity" of China, and calling for "consultation" in the event of aggression.

There seems to be little dispute over the aggression now underway but, so far, the eight powers behind the treaty have not even held a "consultation."

Both Parties Are In Error

It seems to us that capital and labor, in trying to find the correct answer, are both working with wrong principles: capital tries to preserve itself, of course; labor wants more of what it produces, and rightly so.

There is a story going the rounds about a WPA worker who died of heart failure. The examining physician had to examine 17 workers before finding the victim.

File Was A Great Merchant

Mr. File, Boston merchant and financial philosopher, who died recently in Paris, France, while on a visit to Europe.

Long before the crash in 1929 he maintained that the only permanent security against panic and depression was the maintenance of mass buying power, and he insisted strenuously that a more efficient distribution of the nation's products would benefit both consumer and capitalist.

He established the Twentieth Century Fund, giving it a million dollars, for the purpose of surveying all fields of social work. Later he gave generously his treasury to permit extensive studies of the economic questions. He founded and helped direct the organization of cooperative credit unions throughout the United States and Canada.

Mr. File, one of the founders of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, resigned from the organization several years ago and in 1936 organized the Consumer Distribution Corporation, with \$1,000,000 capital to serve as a buying agent for cooperative department stores and other types of retail business.

Mr. File's views were not popular with the men of his class and business connections, but he espoused them with a lucidity that was unexcelled and backed them with his fortune. He was "for capitalism," but not for "capitalism of the present order," which he thought contained many evils.

Space does not permit an attempt to explain in full the many activities in which this progressive man participated, or to quote extensively from his addresses. However, we will pass this thought to our readers:

"It has been good men, not bad, who have led us into our present predicament. It was good men, not bad men, who exploited labor most abominably. It was good men, not bad men, who recently wrecked our financial system and brought millions to the verge of starvation."

The above paragraph may be interesting to many "good men" scattered throughout the United States.

A true story of how one man made his success by laying a deep foundation of preparation came to us the other day from a lawyer friend.

Young Man, Lay The Foundation

When around the age of 21 this man was serving his apprenticeship in a law office at two dollars a week.

One night the employer's attorney went home discouraged, tired, and ready to quit the law ambitions on account of his slow progress.

"What for?" asked the father, in his blunt way. "I'm not getting anywhere," was the reply. "I might, Father, I couldn't even buy my girl a soda, not to mention taking her to a show. Here I am getting two dollars a week while Jim gets thirty dollars every week. I'm getting sick of it."

The discouraged boy climbed the stairs wearily to bed, thinking as he had never thought before. "My father has always told me the truth. He wouldn't fool me now, I know. Thirty dollars a day? Suppose he were right!"

He pulled off his clothes and tumbled into bed, firmly resolved to carry on in his law career. Peace stole over him as he fell asleep. Today he is an outstanding lawyer, honored in his profession and, best of all, his father lived to see the day when his profession came true.

Horses Faster Than Autos

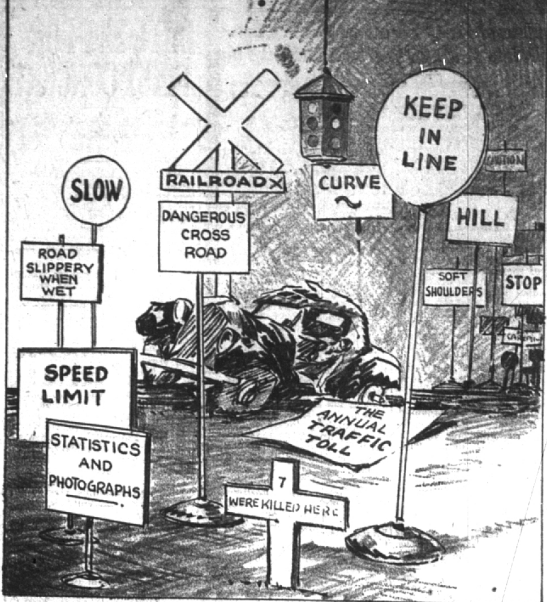
Automobiles capable of travelling eighty miles an hour are unable to make faster time than the old horse drawn vehicle in the traffic-packed streets of many modern cities, according to Clyde G. Conley, of Mount Vernon, Ohio.

Crossing traffic so slowly up the speed of automobiles that high-speed vehicles have frequently had their speed cut to less than a mile an hour and any that often has travelled in congested areas knows that often ten or fifteen minutes are required to cover a single block.

The remedy according to many city-planners is to be found in elevated vehicular highways, so that all traffic moving crossways will be eliminated. This will cost a lot of money but the day will come when all great cities will have them.

At least one fact may be chalked up in favor of the Roosevelt farm program: the United States was blessed with the silence of millions of potential squeals and grunts from little pigs slaughtered—not to mention the present availability of high meat prices to the consumers.

IN SPITE OF ALL



WASHINGTON LETTER BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CEA Investigating Corn Market, "Controlled Account" Transactions

WASHINGTON.—Two major investigations are occupying the year-old, little-publicized Commodity Exchange Administration. One is the case of the market in September corn, which was "cornered" to the extent that prices fluctuated from 90 cents to \$1.16 and the supply of corn actually available represented only 40 per cent of the volume traded in futures.

The other important investigation is that of "controlled" accounts, operated by one or a few persons who are agents in grain market transactions for a large number of speculators and who control enough money to manipulate market prices.

Compared with Securities Exchange Commission, the job of the CEA is simple because it supervises markets in which only 13 commodities are traded as against an exchange dealing in thousands of different securities. Also 95 per cent of the business in commodity trading is concentrated in wheat, cotton and corn, a fact which makes it fairly easy to detect manipulations of market prices.

There are some 900 registered futures commission merchants in 46 states whose records of trading operations are open to CEA auditors. They must report to the administration every day on all their accounts which exceed a fixed limit.

Clearing members of the grain exchanges are required to report each day on every transaction handled. And CEA has direct control over each individual trader in the grain markets.

Max Frass, commander of the ill-fated Hindenburg, "If you can spend a perfectly useless dollar in a perfectly useless manner, you have learned how to live."

James A. Farley, Democratic National Chairman: "Talk of a party split is all moonshine; we've got harmony in the bag."

Myra Loy, movie star: "A wife cannot escape the competition of other women; but she shares the same privileges at the beauty parlor."

Joseph P. Kennedy, chairman, Maritime Commission: "The nation has a stake in our maritime industry that transcends the aims of either labor or capitalist."

Henry Hallam Tweedy, preacher: "Change often will do more than the best of medicines."

Manuel Azana, Spanish President: "In the future Spain, there must be room for all shades of opinion under a liberal regime."

Halle Selassie, exiled Emperor of Ethiopia: "The greatest menace to the world today is not the poisoned gas, but poisoned ideas."

Dorothy Thompson, columnist: "The greatest menace to the world today is not the poisoned gas, but poisoned ideas."

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

By T. H. MILLINGTON

Variety Show: Have you noticed how the war clouds have replaced the Black-Stocks? Court agitation in the newspaper headlines?

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