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GEORGE R. AVERILL — Editor and Publisher
EDWIN G. WHITNEY — Managing Editor
PAUL NEAL ANSHILL — Business Manager
ARTHUR N. WINGERDEN — Advertising Manager
CLAUDE E. WALKER — Production Manager

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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 Wednesdays. 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.

Though nearly a year away, political dopesters throughout Michigan are already beginning to write about the Republican Party's possible candidates for Governor. Two most prominently mentioned are Harry S. Toy, former Attorney-General and then State Supreme Court Justice, and Frank D. Fitzgerald, who was defeated for re-election by Governor Murphy in the Democratic landslide a year ago.

G. O. P. Needs Strong Leader

Personally, it is our belief that only a STRONG, able campaigner, known fairly well over the State, can win on the Republican ticket. For that reason we, with many others, feel that Frank D. Fitzgerald should not seek election, but should get behind another—even Mr. Toy, who is already "feeling out sentiment" in Michigan.

Republicanism in Michigan needs strong leadership, if it is to win further direction of the State's business. While Mr. Fitzgerald is a fine chap, well liked and equally well known, he is not recorded in history as being a strong man—the type of militant leader that our people need in these trying days.

If the Republican Party is to win next year in Michigan, it will have to cut out personalities and petty bickerings, arrange itself around an open table and ask: "Who is our best and ablest candidate for the job?" And then get behind him in the campaign. Otherwise, we really believe, even a weak Democrat on the opposition ticket can be elected Governor.

The terrible strife between Japan and China is appalling to all who assume that we live in a state of intelligent solution of human affairs. While at this distance we do not claim to have personal knowledge of all conditions leading up to the conflict, we are of the opinion that Japan is the aggressor nation; that Japan is doing what she is doing merely to gain more territory of the earth for her crowded population.

War Continues—U. S. Needs Arms

Unable, or unwilling to enter into negotiations with China to purchase needed portions of the earth, Japan is resorting to the ancient weapon of Brute force; she is proving, too, by her success thus far, that an organized minority can overcome a disorganized majority. She is proving that modern so-called civilization is willing to witness the continued use of human slaughter in the conquest of one nation by another.

So long as that condition lasts, national armament is absolutely necessary. Although this newspaper strongly favors peaceful settlement of international problems, and will always argue for universal reduction of armaments, we are equally strong for maintaining America's military strength on a par, at least, with other powers.

In other words, if your neighbor at any time may pick a strap with you, then you owe it to yourself to keep in trim for a fight, and to have something on your hands besides a pair of delicate kid gloves.

President Roosevelt's appointment of radically minded Senator Hugo L. Black, of Alabama, to the U. S. Supreme Court, proves this one point: Mr. Roosevelt is determined to leaven the Court with thinking that is quite willing to interpret the Constitution in favor of the masses against the classes. There are many times when such interpretation is necessary and right, too. But we have always belived that the United States, and the potential wealth it contains, should be the reward for those willing to work honestly and intelligently. That is to say: the world really doesn't owe anybody a living just because he or she was born; a living is the reward of work, or should be in a democracy. Too often modern legislation is interpreted in terms of "how many votes will it get me?" That is bad for the permanence of any democracy, isn't it?

Black And The Supreme Court

A favorite motion picture actor recently sailed for Europe. Police held back hundreds of feminine admirers, but two managed to slip through the lines and had to be hauled from under the bed of the romantic-type star.

An Actor And Foolish Women

So, what's the world coming to? Nothing new, it seems, because the world has always been peopled with men and women who have done the same under the influence of romance. Besides, the girls who slipped under his bed are quite likely to have been as nice as you want them to be just determined to see their favorite actor.

"A NEW NOTE in the American public school system" might be the caption for a story regarding the fact that more than 2,000,000 boys and girls are now playing musical instruments in 35,000 school bands in this country. At least that is a practical way of making wind really count for something beside empty utterings of youth.

When people are organized by dictators the liberties of citizens are surrendered and the nation is geared to military precision.

How To Handle Dictators

The people willingly give up their liberties, after a minority is ruthlessly battered, because of the condition into which the people find themselves and because they are easily deluded into believing that Mr. Dictator can accomplish miracles.

The only man who knows what a dictator-led people will attempt is the boss himself, and he is the only man who has to decide when a gamble in warmaking is possible and profitable.

When such a man enters the list against a democratic government he is amused by several things, but chiefly by the talk and discussion and division of the citizens, which easily leads him to believe that his organized, goose-stepping citizens can take the measure of the democracy before its citizens wake up and fight.

History has shown that sometimes the dictators are right and that when they are wrong it has been because freedom-loving people have voluntarily and for a limited period surrendered freedom for efficiency in order to maintain their independence.

There is one way, however, for democratic nations to avoid the surrender of their freedom, even to meet the threat of dictator-led nations. All that they have to do is to make common cause of their freedom and to defend it against all encroachments from the dictators.

It is doubtful whether the people of the democratic countries will have sense enough to understand this until it is too late. The people of each democracy will continue to believe that it can take care of its own future without help from anybody anywhere, and the lesson will be learned at a much higher cost, and with much greater danger, a little later on.

Individuals, to obtain the maximum results in life, should seek temperance in all activities and attempt to develop personality that is not bowed-down with unnecessary rigidity in living.

Expressing Yourself

Vacations are generally approved for working people and amusements should have a similar place in the routine existence of serious minded persons. We have known long-faced individuals who carried the weight of the world on their backs until their deaths, but they didn't accomplish anything much to lighten the burden of others who followed them.

The tendency to believe that all human beings should follow the same pattern is obviously foolish, yet there are strong-minded leaders who would make the human race goose-step toward the same goal. Dispositions vary and human needs are not the same. What will make one life full and rich will make another soul curse the humdrum fate of living. The soul that only imitates others is in for a disappointing life and should seek to stimulate self-expression.

Constantine Brown is a writer on foreign affairs for one of the newspapers published in Washington and, like others who write much, says some good things and, occasionally, some silly things.

A Little Too Unanimous

For instance, writing about the 2,000,000 Germans and 4,000,000 Italians living in Brazil, Mr. Brown develops a Fascist-Nazi complex, asserting that all these residents of Brazil "follow the dictates of their respective governments as scrupulously as if they lived in Germany or in Italy."

He surely knows better. They may follow the pattern of their native lands in the new places where they live, but that 2,000,000 or 4,000,000 people take orders from any homeland is absurd.

The danger that confronts Brazil, it seems, is that this large group may be expected to support an effort to establish Fascist or Nazist regimes. Perhaps, if such an attempt is made it will be discovered that, like the German-Americans in the United States, most of them will be loyal to the new land of their adoption.

This is the story of two little boys, whose parents loved them, and wondered why they fussed, quarrelled and fought each other so much.

Boys Who Act Like Men

Always, it seemed, the boys were at each other; never agreeing, they sought to settle things by fighting and, as they were approximately evenly matched, the battles were to the limit.

Time and again the father, or the mother, talked to the sons about getting along and how they should stick to each other and take life together in a stride of brotherly affection and mutual helpfulness.

Then one day the boys faced tragedy together; they were both in peril but each tired to save the other and, at last, both died with their arms around each other.

And the saddened parents came to realize, for the first time, that their boys were only growing and that underneath their fussing and fighting was a burning brotherly love, which only showed in the midst of death itself.

What was true of these boys is also true of many older persons, whose hearts are stirred with intense love for their fellowmen but who never show it because, like the little boys, they are too busy fussing and fighting over things that really do not matter.

IT IS ESTIMATED that in Michigan last year 3,500,000 rabbits were bagged by licensed hunters; if all these rabbits were laid end to end they would reach from Lansing to the Gulf of Mexico. Their feet ought to bring a lot of luck to those who like to carry 'em for that purpose, too.

ADVICE TO MERCHANTS: Though you may have the best stock of goods possible, and your prices very fair, your business success in these United States is definitely limited unless you advertise. This is not mere propaganda for this newspaper; it is sound business truth!

IT TAKES ALL TYPES of people to make up this world—which should solve your question as to why some people eat spinach, and others play bridge, and still others go fishin'.

WE HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY, from "The Man About Town," too, that all the lovely and beautiful women of this area read The Eccentric.

MERELY A DIFFERENCE IN VIEWPOINT

WASHINGTON LETTER

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Housing Experts Criticize Congress for 'Fumbling' Wagner-Steagall Bill

WASHINGTON. — Last-minute endorsement of a conference report on housing was admittedly one of the major accomplishments of the first session of the 75th Congress, but housing experts here are accusing Congress of having fumbled the Wagner-Steagall bill in passing it back and forth between the House and Senate.

The bill was booted about because the Senate wanted to make it possible for the Government Housing Authority to make 95% loans to local authorities, and the House wanted the loans cut to 85%. The Senate wanted employes of the Authority to be engaged under civil service regulations, and the House didn't. Originally the Senate voted for an administrator and two Authority members, but the House wanted the administrator to have a board of nine advisors.

The bill as passed provides that the federal Authority may lend 90% of the cost of a low-cost housing project, the remaining 10% to be contributed by the local Authority. These loans may be amortized over a period of 60 years.

The community is to borrow from the government for its projects at the going rate of interest plus half of 1%. To help the community keep down rents for low-cost housing projects, the government is authorized to contribute up to 3½% of the total cost of the project in the form of annual subsidies.

THE Authority may lend up to $100,000,000 the first year, not more than 10% of this amount to any one state. The limit on total loans is $200,000,000 the second, and $200,000,000 the third years. The limit on total subsidies is $5,000,000 the first year, $10,000,000 the second, and $10,000,000 the third years.

The bill also provides that the government cannot lend money to a local Authority if the housing project it sponsors costs more than $4000 per family unit. The accepted average is 3½ rooms per family unit in low-cost dwellings, while the accepted average monthly rental for these houses is somewhere near $5.50 per room. So the community must appeal to the federal Authority for any annual subsidy which will bridge the difference between the cost of each room and the proper rental.

The bill further specifies that the subsidy payment to a local Authority cannot be more than the going rate of interest plus 1% of the original loan.

Local Authority borrowers are allowed under this measure to offset the return of subsidy payments they have received, with tax exemptions. There is criticism because local Authorities are not to be allowed to reduce their capital debt by the same method.

Probably the best feature of the bill is that it compels the borrower community to clear as many undesirable family units as it builds with government help.

PARAGRAPHS

Note Holders

Borrowers would be a great deal happier if bankers were as anxious as signers to hold on to notes.—Louisville Times.

Wife Helps

If he is rich enough to score a second-hand car, his wife probably has a passion for second-hand furniture. — The Rochester Times-Union.

Against Fowl Play

The woman who sued for ten thousand dollars because a goose attacked her evidently takes fowl play eriously.—The Omaha World-Herald.

Yesterday's Farm Belief

An idea of farm relief that flourished in the days of the melodrama was to have a black sheep come home and raise the mortgage.—Toledo Blade.

Women Trainers

In Mexican campaigns the women always accompany their husband in the army, so the soldiers are always kept in fighting trim. —Arizona Record.

Some Have Halitosos

Some laws have teeth and some have tonsils.—Boston Herald.

Motor Left Fatherless

Detroit officials are looking for the father of the fueless motor. He is said to have issued a moneyless check.—Minneapolis Journal.

Hard

Famous writer says that few stout people are criminals. Probably it's hard for them to stoop to anything low. — The Ottawa Journal.

"Watch Me Suffer"

Many people suffer in silence, having first made certain that everbody knows about it and is watching. — The Santa Barbara Daily News.

The American Family

We have heard of a family that owns one car outright, another on mortgage, a third on installment payments, and a fourth as experimental specimen for a lacquermaker.—Boston Herald.

It's Never Happened

One of the sights your neighbor's wife tells us she has never seen is that of a man violating the speed law with a lawn mower. —Springfield Union.

Crying and Making Up

Those British Physicians who say that crying is good for the complexion of course never had to put one on after a hard cry.—Louisville Times.

The Lesser Benefit

The disheartening thing about the average diet is that it does so much for the will power and so little for the waistline.—Detroit News.

Socking Stockings.

The bare-legged fad has knocked the socks out of the silk stocking business.—The Nashville Banner.

Who Pays The National Debt?

By RAYMOND PITCAIRN

National Chairman Sentinels of the Republic

Out of the welter of political news emanating from Washington during recent weeks has come a cheering statement.

It is that the administration has renewed its promise to work toward a balanced budget.

With a national debt hovering around the $37,000,000,000 mark—highest in our history—and a growing deficit, the American people will hope that that promise is fulfilled.

It means so much to them! Why?

Because, as all economists point out, public debt means merely postponed taxes, and taxes mean a slash out of every worker's income.

This is obviously true when the worker pays his taxes directly. And it is just as true when he pays them indirectly—for our so-called "painless taxes" hit both the man who produces the goods on which they are levied and the consumer who ultimately purchases them in the form of food, or clothes, or shelter, or the necessary tools and equipment of his vocation.

Moreover, as economists point out further, heavy debts and their ominous threat of increased taxes curtail production, and, with it, employment. **And it is primarily to increased employment, with its spread of earnings among all citizens, that every producer, whether on the farm or in the many fields of business activity, must look for restoration of the purchasing power on which depends his livelihood.**

For progress toward a balanced budget, dispatches point out, certain brakes on Federal spending are required. They include an effort on the part of the heads of the many departments, bureaus and commissions at Washington to keep within their budget estimates.

Those brakes should be applied. Certainly that is not too much to ask of our office-holders, when it influences so deeply the income and living standards of the American people.

Politicians create the Public Debt. But the workers—and their families—pay it.

Jest For Fun

Fatal Vanity

Bill the Burglar—I wonder why these girl bandits ain't more of a success?

Pete the Forger—They're too stuck up to wear masks.

The Worst Out About It

"I suppose you and your husband are out a good deal now you've got a car."

"Oh, yes, — hundreds of dollars."

"What is the capital of England?"

"America."

"I said what is the capital, not where is the capital."

Timed

Cook—Yes, ma'am, I'm leaving in exactly three minutes.

Mrs. West—Then put the eggs on to boil and we'll have them right for once.

He (singing)—When the sun has gone to rest, that's the time that I love best.

She (disgusted)—The sun set an hour ago.

Author—Yes, I am doing very well. I make jokes and my wife makes pictures for them.

Painter—With me it's the opposite. I make pictures and my wife makes jokes about them!

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

By T. H. MILLINGTON

Promises or Jobs?

The platform makers are now busy with figuring out plans and arguments that will catch the votes for whatever party each may favor.

T. H. MILLINGTON

Inasmuch as the New Dealers have fully explored the field of promises to voters of sharing the wealth and have championed the idea that the Government is a sort of Dutch Uncle who must help anybody who asks, there does not seem to be much left that any other party can promise and expect to be believed.

On the other hand, many of the promises made have failed of fulfillment and often the help extended has not helped. Even though John L. Lewis was practically handed Federal and State immunity for violence and destruction, caused by his C.I.O. strikes, he still complains that the New Dealers have not kept their promises to him.

So what is it possible to promise next that again will fool the voters?

This writer thinks that the frightened and piled up idle money in the banks, owned by men of vast industrial experience, holds the answer. Without doubt, the majority of the working class is sick and tired of being wept over by over-idealistic theorists and would much prefer good jobs at good pay, to any Government paternalism.

Why is all that money idling in the banks?

It is idle because its owners have been intimidated by the Administration so that they are unable to survey the future and, if capital cannot look ahead, it will not invest.

The question naturally arises: Is that idle capital safer in the banks than it could be in aggressive enterprise giving employment? I believe that ultimately it is less safe.

To continue to invest money in Government, to furnish money for more Federal experimentation and public charities, is not doing any good. To continue that is as bad as leaving it idle and can only end in National disaster.

The constant increasing of the National debt will increase taxes and skyrocket the cost of living and housing to unpayable figures. Already the housing shortage, due to Government interference in the building industries, has inflated rents all out of proportion to the average income. Willing investors, more production makes enjoyment. That is the only cure.

This writer believes that, the party which can induce capital to cut loose and increase employment, now, before the '38 election, will get credit from all thinking people and is sure to be swept into power.

Americans do not want charity. They want work. They don't want to be herded around like dumb cattle but want to build what houses they like; educate their children as they like and plan their own lives.

We have had four years of preaching that it is wicked to be rich and that wealthy men are planning to ruin the country by exploiting the workers. And we have learned how false that is.

The only reason for housing shortage, for high cost of meats, groceries, clothes and shoes is that the Government keeps borrowing money to be spent on unnecessary things. The things done may be fine but, if we can't afford them, we should wait until we can.

The thing is to get everybody working at good wages with a little to spare and this country will see a Boom in all kinds of business and unemployment will vanish.

But this Administration has got itself up a blind alley. If business booms, money will be in demand at good interest and that will cause a drop in the price of Government bonds and stop its borrowing any more money at low rates. Who wants to buy Government bonds at 2¼%, when good business loans pay 6% unless they can be bought at a discount?

Neither workers nor capital want to be wet-nursed by a lot of New Deal theorists, nor fooled by any more promises.

The party that will capitalize on the natural feeling of independence of the average American will empty the meeting halls of both labor agitators and political racketeers. Until that is done, we shall continue in this madhouse of re-formers.

RANDOM REMARKS

Franklin D. Roosevelt, President:

"I seek no change in the form of American government. Majority rule must be preserved as a safeguard of both liberty and civilization."

A. A. Milne, author:

"Whatever its nationality, a defensive bayonet has the same unpleasant appearance as an aggressive one."

Chas. Coburn, theatrical director:

"The theatre must have youth . . . It must have trained people, if it is to last."

Nancy Astor, American-born member British Parliament:

"I can't understand all this talk about the horrors in Germany while nothing is said about Russia."

Finley Petrie, department store clerk, winner "Best Country Correspondence" test:

"News is anything that comes into the store."

Bernard M. Baruch, Industrialist:

"Wars are never won; but they can be lost."

Dr. Harold Lynn Hough, preacher:

"Only twice in history has there been such general bankruptcy as there is today."

Clarence Darrow, Chicago lawyer:

"I am a pessimist with hope."

Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture:

"I sincerely hope that agriculture and labor will, in the future, present a united front."

James A. Farley, Chairman, Democratic National Committee:

"Today, prosperity is general."

Mrs. Dixie Graves, newly appointed Senator from Alabama:

"I think it takes women as well as men—this business of life."

Benito Mussolini, Italian dictator:

"I am not a man but an event."

Jots 'n Jest

IT was at the lawyer's club banquet that an attorney told of his wife feeding him canned beans for five straight days before he gave up and demanded a change of venue.

* * *

Hollywood, it is now revealed, showed little interest in the recent comet. Hollywood wanted it for a world premiere.

* * *

The sociologist insisted marriage was an institution, but the voice in the back of the lecture hall put in the same claim for an insane asylum.

* * *

The California thief who strips his victims of their clothes is providing a swell excuse for the husband who loses all in a poker game.

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