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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.

A Courageous Man

It is inspiring to witness the courage of Rev. Martin Niemoeller, militant German Lutheran preacher, who is being tried in secret by the Hitler government for acts opposed to the Nazi regime. This gentleman, filled with a firm inner conviction that God is above Hitler, and that freedom of religious worship transcends loyalty to dictatorship, will probably be found guilty; he may be banished, imprisoned for life, or shot. Whatever fate does befall him, his cause will be strengthened. Even the power of a mighty army of soldiers cannot stay the onward march of TRUTH. History is filled with proof of this. "May God strengthen the Niemoellers all over the world," is the prayer of all righteous people.

Fable—1937

In the year 1937 the taxpayers of one of the counties or cities of the United States complained about taxes, which, they said, were high.

Whereupon a man on the public payroll cut his salary, another declared his job unnecessary and found other work, and their examples moved other servants of the people to do likewise.

The idea spread throughout the nation, with great saving to the so-called common people.

Nor was this all. Another office-holder, accustomed to spending the public funds to the profit of his friends, and it had been said himself, decided that each dollar of the municipality's money should, and henceforth would buy as much as one out of his own purse.

This idea likewise spread throughout the nation, with great saving to the so-called common people.

Will Television Ever Pay Its Way?

Will television pay its way? That's a question worrying American television researchers and promoters more than engineering problems, says Frank B. Elliott, experimental psychologist and author, in the current Rotarian Magazine.

Advertising has been nominated to foot television's bill—as it does radio's—but will it? "Will John Q. and Mary A. Public," asks Dr. Elliott, "give attention to television advertising—already dubbed 'teladvertising'? Will they remember—and buy—teleised products? How much advertising will they accept?"

Psychologists have begun to answer—but not too reassuringly. As one of them, one who has demonstrated the advantages of the eye-ear approach himself, Dr. Elliott asserts, "The difficulties of attention-holding in television will be realized when we compare television with newspaper, magazine, or even radio advertising.

"If the newspaper reader's attention wavers, there is the page to come back to; if the magazine reader quits the page, it is there hours, days, or even weeks later for his attention. Not so with television. Let the eye wander from the small screen—even for seconds—and that teladvertisement is gone, never to be retrieved.

"Radio makes much less claim on fixing attention than television does. Sound is non-directional. Turn your head away from the radio set; turn your back to it; look out the window; tidy up the room; knit, sew, mind the baby, glance at the newspaper headlines—you can still hear the radio.

"If the televised program is so wordy as to give the complete story via the ear, it will be so overloaded with talk as to be a repetitious bore. If there is appropriate balance between words and pictures, as there must be, then both ear and eye attention must be given simultaneously. Failure of either must mean inadequate reception."

Another source of alarm cited by the psychologist is a mechanical limitation of television itself. "Ultra-short waves of television without 'boosters' reach only about as far as the horizon, some 25 to 40 miles. 'Boosters' are necessary to televise from New York to Philadelphia. Furthermore, it is at present impractical to envisage television service without 'boosters' extending very far beyond the limits of a score of the largest cities of America.

"To the manufacturer who, through advertising, seeks national sales, that is a fact of dollars-and-sense interest. If teladvertising isn't going to reach the 100 million or so people outside the television zones, why should he advertise?"

The whole problem sums up to this, says Dr. Elliott: "The new eye-ear medium will have tremendous psychological advantages from multiple stimulation of the human sense organs. It will undoubtedly leave a deep impress upon the memory. It will have striking attention-getting advantages. But will it succeed at the extremely difficult task of simultaneously holding both eye and ear attention? Finally, will the public taste tolerate enough teladvertising to foot the heavy television bill?"—From THE ROTARIAN Magazine.

EDUCATIONAL NOTE: We'll wager right today that more Michigan people can name the University of Michigan's new football coach, "Fritz" Crisler, than can name the University's president, Alexander G. Ruthven. And Ruthven has been there for many years—Crisler for only a few weeks.

China Deserves Your Personal Aid

The appeal of President Roosevelt, asking the American people to contribute not less than one million dollars, to be expended by the American Red Cross in the aid of suffering civilians in war-torn China, should meet with a responsive outpouring by the people of this great nation.

No one can read the dispatches that come from the Far East without sympathy for Chinese civilians, particularly women and children, suffering from the ravages of war that apparently know no bounds. The behavior of the Japanese soldiers at Nanking, where raping and looting have been practically continuous for more than a month, is but a reported example of what has probably happened on a scale larger than many suspect.

The war that devastates China today is not of her seeking. It is a war waged in defiance of a pledged word and in disregard of convenants with other powers which stand idly by while Japan takes advantage of China's defenseless condition and seeks that which the Mikado's government promised not to seek in the treaties that limited naval construction.

There was a time when nations went to war over broken treaties. There was a day when strong and self-reliant powers, having given protection to weaker people, were resolute enough to force other nations to stick to their word. That day, it seems, is not to be found in 1938. The Japanese strike the Chinese countryside from the air and death-dealing bombs leave millions of people in dire distress and woeful want.

The people of this area no doubt find it hard to realize that men, women, and children are being murdered in China. Families are being destroyed. The innocent suffer with the victims and the fortunate are those killed by the bombs that drop almost unheralded from the sky. What fate is in store for those who live? God only knows, but perhaps some of them may find a brighter day through dollars contributed to their welfare by the American people.

Any reader of this newspaper, who wishes to participate in a work of mercy, may do so by making a contribution through the Red Cross. Similar societies in other nations are also seeking funds with which this experienced dispenser of relief can give aid to suffering human beings in a far off land. We hope the response will be prompt and generous, bespeaking the sympathy of America for the Chinese people.

When Money Creates Censorship

The "March of Time," as most readers know, is a novel and intelligent treatment of developments in this modern world. Among recent issues was one devoted exclusively to the "inside story" of Nazi Germany, under the regime of Fuehrer Hitler.

It so happens, however, that theatres in Washington and Chicago banned the release, declining to put it on the screen, because of possible repercussions that might affect high German functionaries in those cities.

There are, very often, militant minorities which affect the production of pictures and the treatment of news articles in the newspapers and magazines of the nation. By their aggressive resentment of anything against their particular totem pole these minorities make it costly to anybody who dares to handle the subject.

This is a form of censorship that is becoming more prevalent in the United States. It is, we think, almost as potentially a dangerous censorship as the present tendency on the part of officials to tamper with the free expression of public opinion.

Senses Spiritual Revival

Few of the political opponents of President Roosevelt deny that he seems to have a sensitive understanding of popular moods and thus it is interesting to observe that the President reports the feeling that there has been "definite and distinct progress toward a spiritual reawakening" in the last four years.

Mr. Roosevelt says he receives evidence of this "from all our Protestant churches, . . . from Catholic priests and from Jewish rabbis as well."

The President thinks we have made great progress at home and that we have had a "great influence in the other nations of the world" where things have been going on "which are not spiritual in any sense of the word—and that is putting it mildly."

A FRIEND OF A FRIEND of ours recently was returning from Rochester, Minnesota, to Chicago, on a train. In the diner he was seated across from a mild appearing man. The two engaged in conversation. The friend, a moderate business man, began to tell his dinner companion what was wrong with government, and he said a number of uncomplimentary things about the Roosevelt Administration. At the end of the journey the friend learned that the man to whom he had been talking was Harry Hopkins, head of the federal government's biggest spending bureau.

CAPTAIN DONALD S. LEONARD, of the Michigan State Police, in a recent speech made in Birmingham, declared himself in favor of capital punishment. His chief reason, we think, is based upon witnessing a number of his fellow-officers killed by gangsters. Some day we hope the able Captain will really investigate the story of capital punishment's failure to decrease crime in this, or any other country. Then, we believe, his emotions will be balanced by calm reasoning, and he may be able to formulate a sound solution to the problem of growing crime.

WE HOPE THAT the United States Senate conducts a deep investigation of the Maritime Union on the west coast, and especially the life and career of Harry Bridges, alleged Communist leader. Heaven help this country when its sea-going ships are in the hands of the sabotaging Communists! Every citizen ought to write his Senator at Washington to stamp out this growing evil.

THAT 60-FT. WHALE reported to be in San Francisco Bay should be captured and held as an attraction for that city's forthcoming World's Fair.

Congressional Comment

by Representative George A. Dondero 17th Michigan District

Recently I wrote a letter to President Roosevelt in which certain changes in government policies were suggested with a view to improving business conditions. It follows:

"With a desire to be helpful I submit a resume of public opinion as it exists at the present time in my congressional district, the Seventeenth Michigan, which includes Pontiac and a part of Detroit, both industrial centers.

"Such opinion, which I sought and obtained through conferences with laboring men, business men and industrial leaders, while in Michigan during the recess of Congress reflects the need of a restoration of confidence in government. That confidence has been shattered by legislation already enacted during this Administration and other measures now suggested.

"That opinion asks repeal of the law governing surplus taxes.

"That opinion asks for a helpful and co-operative attitude on the part of government instead of a threatening policy.

"That opinion asks for a reasonable increase in railroad rates.

"That opinion asks for a correction of the evils and unfairness of the Wagner Labor Act.

"That opinion asks for a termination of government subsidized competition with private business.

"I personally concur in these suggestions."

Shortly thereafter Mr. W. Averill Harriman, chairman of the Business Advisory Council of the Department of Commerce, presented the findings of that body to President Roosevelt. It is significant to note that this government agency also proposed in its report the following:

1. There should be substantial modification of the undistributed profits tax and the capital gains tax to encourage the flow of capital into industry. Also, investors should be told the direction reform is to take.

2. A financially sound railroad situation will aid in stabalizing business activity.

3. The sound principle that where there is privilege there must be responsibility, should be enacted into law by amendment of the Wagner Labor Relations Act.

4. The fear of destruction through government competition should be removed.

In addition to the foregoing proposals, which are directly in line with the proposals contained in my letter to President Roosevelt, the Business Advisory Council recommended:

That a further study should be made of plans for wage and hour control legislation directed to end only "starvation wages and intolerable hours;"

That the Social Security Act should be amended and

That there should be no further cheapening of the dollar and no further pump-priming, as either would seriously interfere with fundamentally sound recovery.

A careful examination of the business indexes of the past few weeks emphasizes the need for prompt action along these lines. President Roosevelt, unlike former President Hoover, has a majority of both Houses of Congress.

WASHINGTON LETTER

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Congress Must Decide if Navy Is to Protect One or Both Coasts

WASHINGTON.—Attention has been diverted from a sluggish Congress to the happenings in that extraordinary piece of architecture which houses the Department of State.

When Chairman Vinson of the House Naval Affairs Committee announced, with administration approval, plans for a bigger navy, Secretary Hull had to explain just how involved this nation might become in other people's wars if it supported a naval program that would "insure our national integrity and support our national policies."

Except that the administration is known to want the public "educated" to a more hard-boiled and less pacifistic attitude, American foreign policy is vague.

* * *

IT is definite that the policy of maintaining "a single fleet in one ocean"—the Pacific—is as much in favor now as it was in 1932 when the American fleet was massed in the Pacific to emphasize Secretary of State Stimson's rebuke to the Japanese for invading Manchuria.

The present fleet is large enough to protect the West Coast, Alaska, Hawaii, and the Panama Canal. If it is increased by the proposed expenditure of $800,000,000 it will be larger than necessary for that purpose, but, according to the testimony of Admiral Leahy, not large enough to protect both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts at the same time. It follows that if Congress acts on the recommendations of Chairman Vinson's committee, more will have to be spent on naval expansion than $800,000,000. But the jitters from which peace lovers are suffering these days may be quieted by the fact that no one up to now has proposed making our navy big enough to wage an aggressive war.

The appointment of Adolf Augustus Berle as assistant secretary of state is another reason that department is in the spotlight.

One of the top-notch brain trusters of early New Deal days, Berle is regarded by many as an energetic genius. His ability to outwit the other fellow and his sublime self-esteem have made him many enemies.

* * *

BEFORE his appointment, Berle held the No. 1 post in the private brain trust of Mayor LaGuardia of New York. It was Berle's intellect that helped solve the tremendous New York budget and transit problems.

The new assistant secretary was a child prodigy who actually made good. At 17 he was graduated from Harvard, at 21 he held his law degree from the same institution, and not long afterwards he sat in at the Versailles peace conference as Russian expert for the American delegation.

At the State Department, Berle is expected to apply his genius to the troubling problems of U. S. relations with Europe and the Far East, and to the incipient efforts for another World Peace Conference.

NO CHANCE TO LEAN ON A SHOVEL HERE

People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be limited to 500 words, and must be in the office by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

To the Editor:

For the past several months we have been hearing a great deal about the proposed disposal plant so badly needed by this village.

We have been advised as to the proper location of the plant and notified of the purchase of a suitable piece of property, a definite plan of construction and finance has been proposed to different civic groups and met with general approval. However, it would seem advisable, before a project of this size is placed on the ballots, that other proposals be suggested and considered by the people before definite action is taken.

As an example, this writer is informed that it is possible to obtain W. P. A. funds in an amount sufficient to take care of the labor on such a project, which should amount very close to one-half of the total cost of the project. We have been informed that the council has made application for P. W. A. funds, and has been turned down. We are also informed that any funds obtained on a W. P. A. project would be on outright grant by the Government.

May we hear from the Council through this newspaper if application to the W. P. A. has been made, and what effect these government funds would have upon the project in general, and the individual tax payer.

Roy C. Hansen
135 N. Woodward Ave.
Birmingham, Michigan.

PARAGRAPHS

Nothing Noncommittal

Says Broadway columnist: "Al Jolson's voice is as good as it ever was." Come, come—no beating about the bush.—Detroit News.

Query

When Bruce Barton rises from his seat in Congress will he be recognized as the man everybody knows?—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Need For Revision

"As quiet as a cemetery" goes the way of other outworn phrases now that Philadelphia claims to have unearthed an undertakers' "racket."—Syracuse Herald.

Thought For France

It turns out that La Belle France has been selling scrap metal to Nazi German. Still, if worst comes to worst in Europe, she'll be getting it back.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Apparently

"It is the go-ahead girl who wins the race for the matrimonial stakes," says a writer. In other words, the rice is to the swift.—Humorist.

Gob Humor

An American gold digger gained several pounds during her first week in London.—U. S. S. Reina Mercedes Galleon.

A Remnant

With all the new taxes there are still a few citizens rich enough to be kidnaped.—Duluth News-Tribune.

The Difference

If your service has a fixed value, it is a trade. If you can soak the customer according to his pile, it's a profession.—Buffalo News.

It Does.

No matter in what direction a tax is hurled, it always hits the ultimate consumer.—Omaha World-Herald.

Way Behind

America lags behind the world. We have school kids ten years old who don't even know how to thrust a bayonet.—Buffalo News.

Looks Like It.

Looks like the balanced budget had moved into that place just around the corner from which prosperity finally moved out.—Arkansas Gazette.

Effect and Cause.

The bigger the bank roll, the tighter the rubber band.—Los Angeles Times.

Quite A Few.

An editor says almost any convict has one good novel in him. Some, of course, are second-story men, too.—Detroit News.

Is This Necessary?

Sir Harry Lauder says the best novel a man can read is his own bank book. But we never cared for sad endings.—Kansas City Star.

Random Remarks

Thomas H. McDonald, chief Bureau of Public Roads:
"There is no single cause of traffic accidents and there can be no single panacea for accidents."

Harry Emerson Fosdick, Baptist preacher:
"Tolerance, in the realm of moral conduct, can easily become a soft mush of ethical concession."

David I. Walsh, U. S. Senator from Massachusetts:
"The Italian conquest of Ethiopia would never have been undertaken had not Ethiopia been defenseless."

Gerald P. Nye, U. S. Senator from North Dakota:
"A navy strong enough to defend this nation . . . is life insurance and everything beyond . . . is part of an adventurous gamble on a foreign war."

Charles H. Goodrich, physician:
"No cold is a 'slight' cold. Go to bed. Stay there until strong again."

Charles Morgan Webb, British economist:
"American industry treats labor as a commodity. A commodity will not hit back when its price goes down, but labor will."

Adolph Hitler, German dictator:
"The German people will prefer truly constructive peace works in the service of general progress to nation-annihilating conflict."

James F. Byrnes, U. S. Senator from South Carolina:
"Politically, the South has been an outcast."

Quincy Wright, professor, University of Chicago:
"The policy of proposed isolationist neutrality has not proven satisfactory in its application to the Ethiopian, Spanish or Far Eastern wars."

Happenings of Long Ago

Fifty Years Ago

A certain Troy farmer is a great Mason, but when he starts for the lodge and forgets to milk his cows and eat his supper, his wife thinks Quinine ought to be drawn. Or maybe some other attraction stronger than goat riding is drawing his thither.

It is asserted that no flirting is allowed on the Pontiac toboggan slide, but it is leap year with the ladies and many of them are getting in their deadly work on an unsuspecting swain.

The Pontiac Gazette editors are in trouble over two Father Jacksons of that city and a column of errors is the result.

One of our most noted citizens is so absent-minded that one day he took his cap for a pail and milked it full of jersey milk. Then he called at the store with his lantern and tried to have it filled with molasses. His wife will some day sweep him out doors and he will think it all right.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Late advices from 'Gene Brooks give us the impression that he and Mrs. Brooks are having the time of their lives. He writes, however, that Dick Lusted (whom some of our older readers may remember as the Birmingham baker) says that if it wasn't for his daughter Dollie he wouldn't stay in California 24 hours. So you see it isn't all beer and skittles even in sunny Los Angeles. And long about April you'll see 'Gene coming back home singing "They all come back to Birmingham."

One evening last week while Mrs. Web. Bray and Mrs. Austin Parks were sitting 'round the room kimonaized, someone told Web to go up town and find someone to come down and enjoy a game of 500. He went. He found the players. When he opened the door he was simply paralyzed. There were Polly and Mio in full court dress and the big house crowded to give him a surprise party. All he could say was "Well, I'll be gosh-durned." Fun had by all.

Five Years Ago

Osborne and Allen spurn reelection. They will not seek posts on new city commission. Packard and Smith will run.

5 per cent plan will be continued at First National. Governor's second proclamation has no effect on local situation, directors declare in statement. Interest centers on Washington.

City to begin poor relief job on March 1. Parry is authorized to take over welfare burden from townships. R. F. C. loan is asked. $30,699 budget is approved by Hills council. Hargreaves puts up stiff fight for further reductions. Recommends pay cut.

Racing kings will talk here. Hazlip, Chevrolet and Edenburn will appear on public Boy Scout program.

Governor frees Willis M. Brewer. Convicted embezzler is given liberty 2½ years before end of minimum sentence.

Teachers' pay slash studied. Board acts to preserve cash resources for fall and summer.

Jots 'n Jest

UNITED STATES might want to get back some of the scrap metal Japan has been buying, but not so directly as in the Panay incident.

* * *

Two Englishmen have been feuding for 71 years. That's a mark for Business and the New Deal to aim at.

* * *

Americans marvel at the Russian game of putting one shell in a revolver, spinning the cylinder and pulling the trigger. One chance in six to die. But city pedestrians still try to cross streets against lights.

* * *

The engineer who ran a train on milk should give lessons to the motorist who tries to drive on liquor.

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