

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events
which have local value and which are written by persons not
connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must
be presented before noon on "Monday." The right is reserved
to use material as necessary to the style of the paper and the
mechanical situation in the composing room. Headlines written
by the author will be used as far as possible. No editorial
comment will be placed on the character of the material.
The Eccentric is not responsible for the return of material
which does not appear in the columns of the Eccentric will be gladly
returned upon request.

More than \$8 millions of dollars were obtained by
the State of Michigan from sales taxes levied during
1937. Created in emergency times when de-
ficits were being run, the tax failed, the State in-
sured the sales tax—and this tax certainly has done
its job in keeping the coffers filled. But the sad part
of it is that such a tax is unfair to those who can
pay it less—for every dollar of it comes from the
pocket of labor, which helps to keep the pur-
chasing power of the masses below what it should be.
The sales tax law should be repealed.

Should Repeal Sales Tax Law

Every once in a while you run across an individual
who is more intensely interested in ancestors than in
any present activity.
**You Have Millions
Of Ancestors**
There may be a few of the an-
cestry-bugs in Birmingham who delight to relate the
family names from whom they think they are
descended. Well, anyone now 40 years old has had a
possible eighteen ancestors during the American
revolution, 1784-1785 when the Magna Carta was
signed, and 8,188,608 when William the Conqueror
arrived in England, according to Dr. J. O. Hertler,
of Nebraska University.

We haven't checked up on the doctor's figures,
but we take it that he is correct and conclude that,
after a few hundred years, it becomes a small world.

Funds For Spain?

There are twenty-six organizations registered with
the State Department under the Neutrality Act for
the purpose of securing contributions for relief in Spain.
As September began they had collected \$479,915, of which
\$214,940 had been sent to Spain, \$111,514 used for
publicity and expenses and \$146,482 in cash remain-
ing in this country.
In several cases organizations had sent no money
to Spain, others had sent less than they spent in this
country and in others all funds collected had been
forwarded to Spain.
If you expect to contribute money to the cause
of Spanish relief be sure to investigate the record of
the organization through which you plan to make
your contribution.

Television Prospects

Television sets can be purchased in Great Britain,
where on Nov. 11th, a few favored Englishmen,
sitting beside televisions, saw a dim
figure in a trench coat and
through a line of guards and
officers. The King, who was
rigidly at attention before the Cenotaph in remem-
brance of fallen heroes.

Americans probably wonder why television is not
available in this country. The answer, according to
what we can learn, is that while American television
does not have the size of the English, it has not yet
reached an acceptable form for projecting the En-
glish, now working on the problem, hope to have
it ready for a dress rehearsal in a few years.

One authority says that American engineers have
eliminated the unsatisfactory greenish image, replac-
ing it with the familiar black and white, that they
have increased the size of the picture to 7 by 10
inches and provided a system of projection to stand
a screen 3 by 4 feet, about the size of home movies.

The experts report that television's range is about
thirty miles, and this would require 2,000 trans-
mitters to give adequate coverage to the entire country.
The transmitters would have to be linked with coax-
ial cable and it is do this would cost \$500,000,000.
The next problem is, where is the money coming
from?

These facts make it extremely probable that tele-
vision, when it is introduced, will be available only
in the larger cities.

A Fortune Awaits You In Good Books

The man or woman, living today, who wishes to
understand the past and the key to its events and
there are available complete stories of the lives of
men and women of other ages. All that is necessary to make
the past experience of the race your own eyes to
see and a mind to absorb what you read.
Books are valuable storehouses of information for
thinking people, but worthless unless the individual
reads and takes possession of their contents.
Printing has made possible stories of intelligence that
were not available in past ages, and there is little
excuse for the average person of this century to
wander in ignorance.

To any people the Aztecs and the Incas live in
a misty indistinctness and the whole early history of
this hemisphere is an unattractive darkness. The
same can be said for the early culture of the Egyp-
tians, the Chinese, and other ancient peoples. Even

the Dark Age, with its blighting blast upon intelli-
gence, is hardly comprehended by some of us today.
It is certainly worth to read, Good books abound. The
lives and thoughts of great men and women are
yours for a few cents. The mystery is why doesn't
the average person read more, when there is so much to
be gained.

The Institute for Propaganda Analysis, described as a non-profit corporation, has set up headquarters in New York city, under the leadership of Charles A. Beard, historian and spec- ialist in democratic gov- ernment.

In a recent monthly letter it enumerates seven
"tools" in the propagandist's kit for fooling the pub-
lic, including the name-calling device, the glittering
generalities device, the transfer device, the testi-
monial device, the plain-folks device, the card-stack-
ing device, the bandwagon device.

Advising how to detect propaganda, the institute
warns us that the propagandist "appeals to our hate
and fear by giving 'bad names' to those individuals,
groups, nations, policies, practices, beliefs, and ideals
which he would have us condemn and reject."

Briefly, the name-calling device explains itself.
The glittering generalities device is to identify a
program through the use of "virtue words," in other
words, the reverse of the name-calling device. The
transfer device is to lead us to attach former loyal-
ties to whatever is being offered. The testimonial
device explains itself, even if some of them do not
specify that they are bought. The plain-folks device
is well-known through the habit of politicians. The
card-stacking makes the unreal the real and lets
"half-truths masquerade as truth." The bandwagon
device is to convince us that everybody else is "do-
ing it."

If readers will keep their minds alert, they will
have little trouble in locating various examples of
each of these "tools."

Forty Tons In A Scoop

An idea of what the machine is doing in the way of
coal can be gathered from the operation of a giant
electric-powered shovel now be-
ing used to remove the clay top
soil from above the coal that is
found in parts of Illinois.

Strip-mining differs from shaft-mining in that
after the top soil is removed, the coal seam is exposed
and easily removed by electrically-operated coal
shovels. In the new Buckhitter Strip Mine, near
Shelbyville, Ill., what is said to be the world's largest
shovel scoops up forty tons of top soil in one swing
of its dipper. It is followed by the coal shovel which
scoops up five to seven tons of coal at a time, after
the top soil has been loosened by small blasting pellets.

It is interesting to report that one man operates
the stripping machine and one man the coal shovel.
The average output of coal per man is eighty tons,
a day, compared with from six to eight tons in the
older shaft mines. Moreover, in the strip process, all
the waste coal is recovered, whereas in strip mining,
the average recovery is estimated to be around half
of the available fuel.

At first thought, the use of such machines is re-
garded as a threat to employment but if one realizes
it, such equipment, in the long run, will reduce costs
and inevitably make the coal business cheaper. In fact,
the time may come when machinery will do more of
the work of the world and mankind will enjoy
higher standards of living than ever before.

Do We Esteem Our Heroes Correctly?

American system, listing among them: millions of
unemployed, low grade education, pictures and
catering to the lowest common denominator, the un-
derstandable tolerance of graft, and the kind of heroes the
nation worships.

This brings us to the further statement that the
"heroes of a nation are the tick of its culture" and
the list of our heroes, as compiled by Mr. Lewis. He
includes Charles McCarthy, Mickey Mouse, Clark
Gable, Tom Girdler, John L. Lewis, Dale Carnegie,
Bruce Barton, James A. Farley, Joe Maguire, Rudy
Vallee, Bernard McFadden, and Father Divine."

Air Travel Reasonably Safe

The movie actors' technique in getting their names in
print was revealed this week by Spencer Tracy, film
star.

How To Get Publicity

Lined as the "ten best ways of getting one's name in
the papers," Mr. Tracy's sug-
gestions are:

1. Be born. Almost anyone can get a couple of
lines in the "Births" column that way.
2. Step in front of a truck, and get in the
"Deaths" column. If you can't die more spec-
tacularly, it may be worth a paragraph, or even a
column.
3. Get married, but remember that the space you
rate on this depends entirely on the person you marry.
4. The same goes for divorce.
5. Get named as co-defendant in someone else's
divorce.
6. Win a sweepstakes, or come into a lot of dough
in any way.
7. If you can't get the money any other way,
abound with it. Recommended as surefire for page
one, if you can't get it.
8. If you're a girl, and good looking enough, pose
in a bathing suit alongside a prize cow, or alongside
almost anything, from an all-American quarterback
to a new gadget for selling peas.
9. Write a dedicated byline column.
10. Own a page.

Congressional Comment by George A. Dondoro

In the year 1932-1933 the
United States production of cot-
ton exceeded foreign production
by three million bales. In the ten
years immediately preceding 1932
our production exceeded the for-
eign total by an average of 3,
200,000 bales annually. Since the
year 1932-1933, however, the
foreign cotton producing coun-
tries have passed the United
States in cotton production, as
shown by the following table:

| American Foreign | Production | 1930-1931 | 1931-1932 | 1932-1933 |
|------------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1932-1933 | 13,000,000 | 10,000,000 | 1933-1934 | 13,000,000 |
| 1934-1935 | 13,000,000 | 10,000,000 | 1935-1936 | 13,000,000 |
| 1936-1937 | 13,000,000 | 10,000,000 | 1937-1938 | 13,000,000 |
| 1938-1939 | 13,000,000 | 10,000,000 | 1939-1940 | 13,000,000 |

Thus it will be seen that foreign
cotton is supplanting American
cotton in the markets of the
world. This market change has
been taking place during the last
five years and it is of the utmost
importance to the workers of the
United States since nearly ten
million live directly to cotton for
a livelihood.

In the year 1933-1934 the
American producers showed under
every fourth row. In that year
foreigners consumed 8,227,000
bales of our 13,000,000-bale crop
and consumed 13,227,000 bales of
foreign-grown cotton. In the fol-
lowing year there was sharp re-
verses in the figures. American
consumers consumed 5,965,000
bales of American cotton and
foreigners consumed 13,227,000
bales of American cotton.

Exports from India and Egypt,
the most important American
competitors, are now the largest
on record and Brazil is steadily
increasing its cotton sales. These
figures show the enormous cotton
market has been accomplished
at prices not out of line with
prices for American cotton. In the
market specialists are of the opinion
that one reason why foreign buy-
ers are shifting to American cotton
is because they do not want to be
caught in a market in which
price and production are domi-
nated by government.

Information is out to the ef-
fect that the administration is
considering a new income tax pro-
gram that will lower the tax ex-
emption for married couples. This
plan will reduce the tax exemp-
tion currently granted to as
much as \$200,000 for married
persons to \$1,500. This is
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dollars from the tax on persons
with incomes of \$5,000 or more.

Federal revenues have increas-
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in 1930 to an estimated seven bil-
lion dollars in 1937. This is a
very big increase in a few years.
Yet despite the steady increase in
taxes the gross federal debt has
increased from \$1.5 billion dollars
on Jan. 1, 1933, to more than \$10
billion dollars on July 15, 1937.

PARAGRAPHS

It might be worse. Suppose
Rod agitators got buses disas-
tured and persuaded them to quit.
—Akron Beacon Journal.

The farmer doesn't need any
time piece to tell him when it's
dinner time on Sunday. His yard
is full of city relatives' cars. —
Buffalo News.

The Cycle
Cycle of remarks by Europe:
1937: "Europe is a mess."
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MAYBE A LITTLE INSPIRATION WILL HELP



WASHINGTON LETTER BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT Wage-Hour Bill Hopes Brighten as Solons Eye Election Results

WASHINGTON.—It seems likely
that the wages and hours
bill in the House will succeed
better this session than in the
special session in getting action
on budget wage-hour bill.
In a close vote of 216 to 138 the
House Labor Committee bill was
recommitted recently. Its cham-
pions were greatly discouraged
that year foreigners consumed 5,
965,000 bales of American cotton
and 13,227,000 bales of foreign
cotton.

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billion dollars on July 15, 1937.

RANDOM REMARKS

Melvin J. Maas, Member of Con-
gress from Minnesota:
"An adequate navy will be far
less expensive than a war which
may result from a weak navy."

William H. Cameron, president,
National Safety Bureau:
"Practically all accidents are
preventable by greater interest
on the part of those involved."

William E. Borah, U. S. Senator
from Idaho:
"I can see no recovery for a
vast portion of our people so long
as private interests fix prices
thereby continuing to deplete
purchasing power."

Robert H. Jackson, Assistant At-
torney-General:
"When business goes into a
slump, workmen go home with-
out jobs."

Hugh S. Johnson, former NRA
head:
"Let's get rid of clever little
schemes and clever little men on
all sides, here and abroad. They
are the enemies that destroy citi-
zenship."

Elsworth Huntington, professor:
"For those born in July, August
and September—the most unfa-
vorable months of the year—the
average length of life was 47 years."

Don Budge, tennis champion:
"A man can't be at the top all
the time. I'm no machine."

William Van Devanter, retired jus-
tice, Supreme Court:
"We are on the Supreme Court is
a grind. Eyes give out and they
don't get the sleep they need."

Ralph R. Shaw, librarian:
"We appear to be cramming
more and more books into the
not the result. They are going
to the movies."

Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady:
"The world is full of incompet-
ent people who are great."

Arthur Fiedler, concert conduc-
tor:
"Personally, I feel that 'The
Star-Spangled Banner' is more
heroic as it stands and is a real
vocal challenge."

John T. Flynn, financial writer:
"What can anyone do for the
railroads while their credit is im-
paired by outworn capital struc-
tures?"

Joiah Stamp, British financial
expert:
"The Wall Street decline has
been greatly overdone."

Gerald Boleau, Member of House
from Wisconsin:
"I don't object to expansion of
the dairy industry but I do object
to competition when it is sub-
sidized by the Federal Government."</