

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 not connected with the editorial staff...

What the National Safety Council calls the "gruesome jamboree of carelessness" cost the United States 106,000 dead, 375,000 permanently injured and 9,400,000 temporarily injured during 1937...

How did these 106,000 persons lose their lives in the past year? The answer includes 39,700 traffic deaths, 26,000 fatalities from falls of various types, 8,000 burned to death, 4,000 victims of railroad accidents, 3,800 from firearms, 2,000 from gas poison...

Encouraging is the reduction in the number of children under the age of fifteen years of age who met death accidentally, but the total of 15,000 shows that there is need for more child safety education...

In the home, where people are supposed to be safe, 32,000 persons met accidental death in 1937. The reduction under 1936 figures, but explained largely by fewer casualties from excessive heat...

Those who manage American business and finance should consider themselves trustees for the benefit of the entire nation. The welfare of our high society should be given due consideration in determining the policies of business and finance...

Cooperation and Patriotism: "Civilization can be maintained and exhausted, or cultivated and harvested. There can be no stable society, no stable government, no stable civilization, except as we see other factors than income, or prestige or power as controls of our actions..."

One Book To Study: "The impulse is good and worth following, but very often in our research for the new we have a tendency to overlook the value of the old..."

Ho, Hum! Several farmers have asked us to explain the new agricultural law. Well, aside from being sure that it has about 23,000 words in it, and a lot of this and that, we are not stiff far as to its workings...

Mass Of Mankind Improves: "The human race has reached new levels of degradation, that men and women are becoming worse as the years roll by and that the future is a dark and fearsome prospect..."

A RISING SUN ALWAYS SHORTENS THE SHADOW

We have no quarrel with those who hold to this position, but to far as we are concerned, it may be briefly described as a lot of hooey. In our opinion, the men and women of today, taken the world over, are, on the average, baser, more intelligent and better than at any other time in the history of the world...

Government Murphy, "D.D.": hold a Dream and Deficits

This newspaper has, since Governor Frank Murphy came to Lansing over a year ago, sought desperately to hold on to his public job, also sought by precept and example to prove that absolute honesty and sincerity, and a modicum of ability, are the foundation stones of governmental decency...

But there come times in the life of every observing newspaper editor, of every voter and taxpayer, when what he sees compels him to a frank expression of his opinion—opinions created by the actions of the one under observation. And right here is where this newspaper is, at the intersection of fiction and fact...

We have no personal quarrel with Governor Murphy, neither do we declare that everything he has done in public office is wrong, but we do believe right now that he is more the artful politician than he is the smartful executive; that he is sanctimoniously walking about the campus of The College of Politics, his soft hands clasped across his trembling breast, on Sundays; and that during much of the remainder of his week he is wrestling with his dis-turbed conscience, as witnessed by the Class, that his "dew and sunshine" utterances and attitudes have assisted in creating...

It seems to us, then, that it's about time the garments of a politically compromising and weak Constitutional character are stripped from Mr. Murphy, and thus reveal him for what he is: an excellent prospect for academic activity, a poor person for executive activities...

It is about time—for the good of his own soul—that the public gives him an opportunity to make and meet a payroll of his own, at his own expense and upon his own equipment!

It is about time that Governor Murphy, dreamer of dreams, be allowed to roll up his unsoiled sleeves, and begin a series of practical patterns upon the loom of realistic fact!

It is about time that this pattern of paternalism be afforded the opportunity of taking a needed vacation so that, either from his own Party or from some other, Michigan capital and Michigan labor be given the chance to live upon the fat of their own abilities, and begin to carry their own God-given right to earn an American living!

This newspaper some time ago reached a place in its political wisdom where it penetrated the thin veneer of partisan politics, and recognized that efficiency or inefficiency, sincerity or insincerity, were not the natural and sole rights of any political party...

But, so far as Mr. Murphy is concerned, we have watched him for more than a year, have listened to what he has spoken thought—and then we've balanced them against what has happened to Michigan's economic and governmental affairs, and we've not liked the difference.

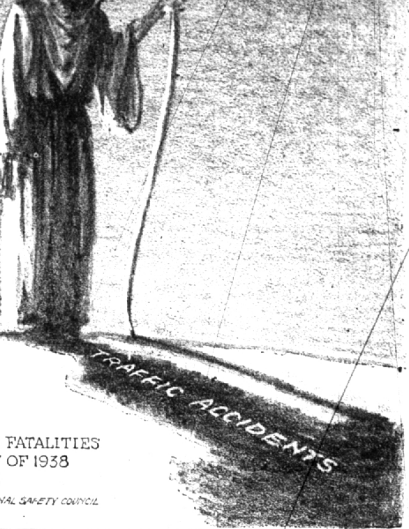
First he encourages and allows "sit-down strikes," then months later tries to appease both sides by a fence-straddling statement; he preaches about the unfortunate plight of the unemployed, then does nothing to stimulate the backbones and give fundamental assurance of better times to either capital or labor; he pleads for more efficient and economical management of business, then sits by as Michigan's payroll reaches its greatest peak, with some of his closest political allies drawing more than one salary from the State's unbalanced budget; he laments the drain upon the State's treasury by the cost of unemployment, then imports "experts" to advise how to increase the tax load; and he does a host of other things that tend to disintegrate the basic citizen-character of most of the people he has sworn to serve.

The editor of this newspaper, wants it distinctly understood that these statements are not made on any partisan political basis. We have criticized Republican Governors in the past, and expect to do so again in the future, if their actions merit such criticism. But we are tired and we are weary—and so are hundreds of thousands of others in this State—of the babbings of bureaucrats, of the patter (which is only two-dollar words) of sycophants (this is the only two-dollar word we've used, please remember), of the preaching of pedagogues, and of the deficits of dreamers.

The major back trouble with Governor Murphy is that his eyes are not on Lansing so much as they are on Washington; he views his job with all the deflection and evasion that we too many "jokers" in the deck—and Michigan doesn't want its Governors to be so sleepy to the causes and the cures of its problems.

The editor of this newspaper, then, has come to the final conclusion that unless some miracle takes place he can't give his vote this Fall to Mr. Murphy. We believe, however, it can be done. We have a right to demand that one can't be "told" what to do, you have and give it to the poor—but we would like the Lord included in that category the poor politician.

For "faith without works" is much like hunger without food, capital without labor, labor without capital, political promises without personal performance. The way to do it is to create candidates without party. And that goes for incompetent candidates in any Party. For the people are greater than the politician; and, "the truth is ever on a scaffold," it eventually triumphs.



NATION'S TRAFFIC FATALITIES FOR FIRST PART OF 1938 DOWN 17%

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

Congressional Comment by Representative George A. Dondero

Recently the little business men from 45 States were in conference in Washington to the number of about 1,000. They were here from all parts of the country to discuss their common and mutual problems, to consider questions that vex them, to come to some conclusion, and offer suggestions to the President and to the Congress of what might be done in order to solve the problems which confront them...

When the special session of this Congress came to an end I went back home to my district, as did many other members of the House, and I made it my business to talk with big business men and little business men, among men, women and children of all walks of life, for the purpose of obtaining from them, if I could, what their problems were, what their opinions were, and what they thought ought to be done in order to help them...

WASHINGTON LETTER BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Roosevelt Convinced He Must Reward Friends, Punish Enemies

WASHINGTON—The 4938 elections are now in progress of the New Deal as may give it a new lease on life. If Mr. Roosevelt is to assume leadership in the legislative situation again and to name the Democratic party's candidate in the presidential elections two years hence, the weight of his influence must be felt when his political scales are adjusted next November.

Roosevelt will have to use all his influence to see that those "New Dealers" in Congress are returned to office, and unadmitted efforts are being made to secure that certain conservative Democrats who have steadily opposed his policies are defeated.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

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...

To the Editor: Referring to the following letter which was published in the Peoples Column of the Eccentric of March 10...

To the Editor: While I like you I would put this letter in your letter box. To the Editor: The renters of Birmingham (Commissioner Packard introduced this ordinance. Commissioner Halbert is a coward and a snuff) that the renters pay the Water Tax and the Sewage Tax, which would amount to \$30 per year...

No on the Bond Issue: A Reply: A reply is made for the benefit of those who may not be conversant with the facts and therefore might be influenced by the letter's misleading statements if they were allowed to pass unchallenged.

The facts are these: An ordinance was introduced as Reader states—changing the sewer ordinance so as to provide for the administration of sewage disposal by the water department and fixing rates for sewage disposal services in accordance with the plans which have been publicly discussed for some weeks. Further than that Reader is wrong; there is no water tax, no sewage tax, no illegal tax, and the renter pays only for the service he receives.

By water tax, Reader undoubtedly means the payments which householders are required to make for water and for the ability to obtain it as will be merely opening faucets. This is evidently not a tax because water is a commodity just like gas or electricity and paid for in the same manner, that is, according to quantity used, plus a service charge for availability whether used or not. Even the service charge can be avoided, if the service is disconnected. It is no evidence that the consumer should and does pay, whether renter or owner. Granted that the landlord is sometimes delinquent with water or gas or electricity of all three, included, it is not reasonable to presume that the renter pays, as a fixed and concealed part of the rent, for whatever of these commodities he receives from the landlord, any less than he would pay directly, unless it be assumed that the landlord is philanthropic or angelic.

By sewage tax Reader must mean the payments which the new water ordinance requires water consumers to make for the disposal of sewage. Since sewage is only water carrying waste and is of almost exactly the same quantity as the water used in-doors, the charge for its disposal can be justly, equitably and conveniently based on metered water consumption during the winter months. It amounts to a charge for cleaning the water used, and returned to the sewer thru, the sewers, in proportion to consumption.

It is true that there will be a tax, he is as wrong as he was in the case of water supply, and his objection to the payment of such charges by renters is no better founded than his objection to renters paying water bills. The average winter water bill is \$25 quarterly; which means the average sewage disposal charge per house will be \$8.50 per year. For the average house the new water ordinance will increase the total cost per year about \$10.50 of which \$2.00 is tax (sewer net sewage), \$4.00 is for operation, and \$4.50 is for interest and retirement of revenue bonds. The figures are average as estimated for the life of the bonds.

Only taxpayers—and their wives or husbands can vote on the sewer bond issue. If you are qualified to be sure and go to the voting booth and vote if you are in any doubt as to how to vote, get the facts before you make a decision. Lawrence Hubert Frank S. Packard

Jests in Jest: WITH three Albania princesses in the United States looking for husbands, Americans may soon have new foreign relations. House of Representatives passes a bill providing \$28,000,000 for "unexpected" expenses. The unexpected that everyone expects. Gen. Main, Craig, U. S. chief of staff, designs his own natty, new uniform. An army man who snaps to attention in right dress. Joseph Kennedy, U. S. Ambassador to England, says he's just a babe in a strange country. But then there are a lot more babes in the European woods.

Random Remarks

Brook Pemberton, theatrical producer: "The movies can't train actors. All they can do is to take them and pass them before the camera."

Cordell Hull, Secretary of State: "There is no greater fallacy than the belief that a nation can exist within its own bounds without international contact."

Kiyoshi Noda, Japanese Rear Admiral: "If Admiral Leahy says the Japanese fleet would have fourteen battleships when its present construction program is completed, he must be building them in his imagination."

It is not surprising that we can do much in this Congress to alleviate business and bring back better days by repealing some of the laws which we have passed and which we now find are not working to the advantage of our people. But as for their disadvantage, so far as my State and my district are concerned, in my judgment the industrial warfare will have to cease before happier days will come again, and that is true whether we have passed laws to regulate, strangle, and strangle in the name of interests of the country.

Another thing we could do to help to quieten the industrial warfare would be to take off the shackles that have so long fettered the small and the middle class business man. It is not fair to burden him with the burden of burdensome regulations, and governmental regulations, and to restrict his freedom and to deprive him of the right to compete with private business. The sooner we do that, whether we are Republicans or Democrats, in my judgment, the sooner will come a better day for the American nation.

WABEEK STATE BANK Statement of Condition at the close of business MARCH 7, 1938 RESOURCES: Cash on hand and due from other Banks \$ 545,726.16 U. S. Gov't Securities, direct and fully guaranteed 2,736,500.00 U. S. Gov't Securities, direct and fully guaranteed pledged to secure Public Funds on deposit 215,000.00 \$3,497,226.16