

**The Birmingham Eccentric**  
 (Founded in 1878)  
 Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The  
 National Building, 100 North Woodward, Telephone 11, 12 and 13.  
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 Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Postoffice at Birmingham, Michigan.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

(In Oakland County)	(Outside Oakland County)
One Year \$2.00	One Year \$2.50
Six Months \$1.00	Six Months \$1.25
Three Months .50	Three Months .60

Advance payment and advertising rates on application. Office by Tuesday noon to obtain insertion for that week.

The Eccentric is a member of:  
 National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, University Press Club, and Oakland County Weekly Press Association

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1938

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 Tuesday. The right is reserved, however, to accept such material in the event of an emergency. Mechanical situations in the composing room, headlines written in the office and advertising copy, and other matters, are not subject to any special consideration. The Eccentric will be glad to accept copy on being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Next Monday, April 4, as good citizens of the City of Birmingham, you will be given your American opportunity of going to the election booth and in the secret of your own presence, alone, cast your ballot for local officers for the year 1938. Library Board, Constable, and for the \$140,000 bond issue for extensions to the sewer system.

In new columns of The Eccentric this week you will find details of the various candidates up for office; you will also find information touching on the bond issue. You ought to read this news, so that you can have complete knowledge of the matters involved.

This proposition of a \$140,000 bond issue, the proceeds to be used for very necessary additions and extensions to existing sewer mains, has been discussed at City Commission meetings for many weeks; much about it has been printed in this newspaper—certainly every interested citizen should, by this time, know something about it.

Birmingham has grown tremendously in the past 18 years, from 3,600 in 1920 to between 11,000 and 12,000 today; this growth requires larger and more efficient public services, one of them being sewage disposal facilities. For a number of years the State of Michigan has told Birmingham that no longer can it pollute the River Rouge by dumping improper sewage into it; the depression made it impossible for the City to finance the project; already one damage suit has cost the City \$4,200, and other damage suits may be started if Birmingham does not eliminate this pollution.

"True, no one wants to increase the City's debt; that fact has been stressed by every member of the present City Commission. But there seems to be no alternative, hence the bond issue.

That's why, folks, we suggest that you go to the polls next Monday and vote "Yes" on the \$140,000 bond issue. If the City gets federal aid, our officials have pledged themselves to use no more of the \$140,000 than is necessary.

The game of bridge, which has swept over the nation like a prairie fire, is now complicated by the introduction of a fifth suit.

**Husbands Might Learn To Cook**

Here, for the first time, a pack of thirteen cards (in case you don't know) made up the deck for a bridge game. The complications seem to be numerous in view of various and sundry discussions that we have heard as to the manner of bidding and playing certain hands. What will happen, now that a fifth suit adds thirteen additional cards to the deck, we fear to prophesy, but if the new innovation takes a firm hold on the devotees of contract bridge, millions of husbands might as well begin to study the art of cooking.

Reporting for the first ten months of this year, the National Safety Council says that 31,950 persons lost their lives in motor vehicle accidents, compared with 29,840 in the corresponding period of 1936. But the eight per cent increase in fatalities was more than offset by a nine per cent increase in travel, so that the mileage death rate was one per cent lower than in the previous year.

What this death rate means per mile traveled per automobile is explained by George W. Barton, chief engineer of Chicago Motor Clubs. Mr. Barton has figured it out that one person was killed for every 5,952,389 miles traveled by motor vehicles.

No man can be certain of the intentions of another man; all that the individual can do is to be sure of his own intentions.

**You Can't Be Sure of Another's Intentions**

The same rule applies to nations. The United States may be ever so peaceful in intention, but it cannot be certain of the peaceful intentions of other powers. In fact, in the light of recent events, it can be reasonably certain that there are nations in the world today which would not hesitate to attack this country if such an attack promised profitable results.

As the richest nation in the world, this country offers the greatest spoils to a successful freebooter. It could give up much wealth and pay an indemnity sufficient to cover all war costs to an attacker. It is the ideal prey for attack.

There are only two factors that will deter other powers from making war on the United States. The first is the knowledge that such an attack will be met by an overwhelming counter-attack, launched by overwhelming military strength in the United States. The second is the knowledge that, while the United States is unable to defend herself, there are other nations that will.

The same observation applies to Mexico, Brazil, Great Britain and France, as well as Australia, the Philippines and China.

Beyond any reasonable question of doubt, the one building in Birmingham that is used more by local and nearby people than any other is the Community House. This building, whose place is revealed by its slogan, "The Heart of Birmingham," is owned by the people-at-large; it was built by their years ago from funds raised through popular subscription; it represents an investment of more than \$125,000.

The main sessions, April 2 and April 11, inclusive, friends of the Community House will be given a chance to express their appreciation of it when they are asked to make annual contributions to its support. During this period several hundred citizens will make a canvass of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, and adjacent areas, in the worthwhile endeavor to raise \$11,000.

This issue of The Eccentric brings you a special Community House supplement, containing a variety of information about the Community House's many activities; by reading it you will become mindful—if already you aren't—of the House's importance to the adults and the youth of this area.

Your appreciation in words is, of course, highly desired; your participation in money, be it much or little, is equally desired.

Mazzini declared that every political question is, in the last analysis, a religious question. This truth is further

**A Great Christian Political Economist**

who, fifty years ago, was to transform the science of political economy from an academic lament divorced from Christian ideals, into a science of irresistible logic based upon Christ's teaching of the inherent value of every human soul.

First, and foremost, Henry George stands head and shoulders above all economists for his rare insight into spiritual values. In a desert of pessimists like Malthus, George is "as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

Says Professor Albert Einstein: "One cannot imagine a more beautiful combination of intellectual keenness, artistic form and fervent love of justice; whilst Professor John Dewey of Columbia University says that "it would require less than the fingers of the two hands to enumerate those who, from Plato down, rank with George among the world's greatest social philosophers."

It is the thorough fusion of insight into actual facts and forces, with recognition of their bearing upon what makes human life worth living, that constitutes him as one of the world's greatest social philosophers.

But meanwhile we of this generation seem to have utterly lost our sense of values. Any quack with a few scraps of oratorical nostrum can get a huge following, provided he has the forceful, logical, and noble character which no body can possibly understand it; (b) it promises something for nothing; and (c) it demands nothing from its adherents except the supreme sacrifice of their respect. At least to some of us this is the supreme sacrifice, although the modern fashion is to value respect lightly.

George, with the same tune with Christ, calls upon our self-respect, which, of course, is the exact opposite of selfishness. As Shakespeare has said for us: "To thine own self be true, and it will follow as the night the day; thou canst not then be false to any man."

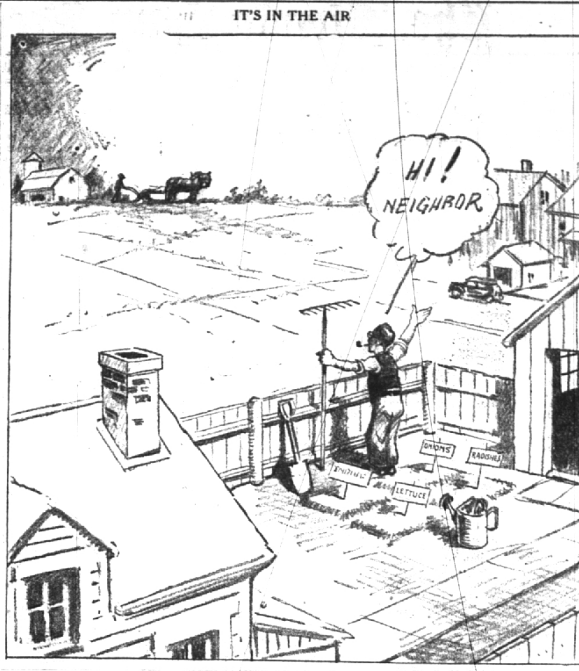
George expounds no get-rich-quick doctrine, no soft snaps for the office or luxuries for the laity, but just plain justice for all. In other words, his teachings enunciate no principles which come into conflict with the mind of Christ. But our real difficulty is to get people to understand these first principles, from the establishment of which all else flows. It is a terrible, terrible follows. Said Leo Tolstoy: "People do not understand the teaching of George; they simply do not know it."

The feeling grows that all our efforts as Churchmen for the establishment of His Kingdom upon earth are almost entirely without intelligent control. Anxious to do something about chaotic world conditions, we rush around like a bull in a china shop, with about the same effect in both spheres. We make confusion worse confounded." We expend so much energy on alleviating the ill-effects and so little on correcting root causes, chiefly because of our failure to clearly distinguish between them. Obviously it is both more Christian and more practical to build a railing around the top of a cliff than to maintain an ambulance clinic at its base.

Professor Boyce Gibson, delivering the Livingston Lectures in Sydney recently on "Science and Conduct," said that there could be no control without knowledge, and that, therefore, understanding was the beginning of control. On this basis, we who comprise the Christian Church, must ultimately accept the teachings of the social economic problems, or be entirely overwhelmed by their consequences. The event has already taken place in at least three European countries, and our turn may not be as far off as some would imagine.

All would agree, I think, that the world revival of Christianity must be accomplished quickly, and must come from inside the Church itself, starting with the individual and expanding itself outwards. Whether we like the idea or not, our very existence depends upon our control of social and economic conditions, for it is certain that without a world based upon God's Justice, no Church or prayers or pledges can be of any avail. The holocaust exists hereafter, attractive as that may be, but a programme for a sinner, happier, better-balanced, more abundant life right here and now.

Great is Truth and it prevails. In the long run, as Paul says, "we can do nothing against the truth," and George was quite sure in his conviction of this, when he wrote that "the truth that I have tried to bring to you is attractive as that may be, but it will find friends—those who will not suffer for truth; if need be, die for it. This is the power of truth." (Maynard Davies in the *Australian Christian World*.)



**Congressional Comment**  
 by Representative George A. Donner

Remarks of Rep. George A. Donner on Federal taxation, as reported in the Congressional Record.

The present revenue law brought in a new feature of taxation in the United States, in the form of the undistributed profits tax. The present bill, H. R. 8082, before us seeks to modify it and to eliminate the application of that law to corporations making 22,000 net profit or less. That amount of exemption will apply to 40 per cent of the corporations which are exempted into law, but that 90 per cent does only about 10 per cent of the nation's business, and employs laboring men in almost the same proportion, while the remaining 10 per cent of the corporations of the country, which do 90 per cent of the nation's business, will still be subject to the tax. More than a century ago this tax has penalized and burdened business in this nation is best exemplified by what has happened to one corporation in my district. In a little town of about 25,000 people exists a small corporation and it employs about 40 people. In 1936 that corporation made a profit. It used that profit to pay capital obligations. When the end of the year came they had no money on hand to pay the dividends and the Federal tax on its profit if it did not distribute its profit. It either had to declare a dividend or else pay it out in undistributed profits

taxes, and the corporation chose to borrow the money to pay the dividend. It borrowed 95 per cent of the amount it paid out. This year the corporation also made a profit and it wanted to pay the dividend, in order to keep a roof over its head, so to speak, in other words, to pay off its mortgage and hand contract, or be set out in the street. But it had no money left after it had made this payment with which to pay dividends, or with which to pay taxes to the Federal government.

"Therefore it devised a plan to meet the emergency in which it found itself, issued what is known as a delinquent warrant, and sent these certificates or warrants out to the stockholders instead of a check in order to continue its business, because it could no longer borrow upon its security, having borrowed 95 per cent of the dividends in 1936. These delinquent warrants are nothing more than IOU's. That is what has happened to the corporation which has happened to this little corporation probably has happened to thousands of corporations in the United States. The proof of the damage done by this tax is in the evidence that can be submitted, and that is an example of the damage done by the undistributed profits tax principle.

"If the ever-normal granary philosophy of which we have heard here is correct, it is correct to say that the number of men employed in normal times, instead of having only 20,000 on the pay roll as at present, I do not know what there is about a closely held corporation that should make it the object of special burdens in the form of taxation. It is right to exempt the small corporation from this form of taxation if it is right to exempt everything perhaps that is done in his factory—had the work in the payment of high wages to the laboring man, beginning more than 20 years ago. The particular section related to the small corporations ought to be eliminated from this proposed legislation.

"I have received a great many letters from different corporations in my State on this bill. I have yet to receive the first one asking me to support the principle of the undistributed profits tax. These letters come from little business as well as from big business. Little business, to a large extent, is dependent upon big business, and the Ford Motor Co. is dependent upon little business because that corporation in itself is dependent upon nearly 7,000 other small corporations for materials and supplies. Little business men are all affected by this tax. Many of them do not know that a provision has been put in this bill to exempt corporations that make 22,000 or less.

ADMINISTRATORS of the plan in the Department of Agriculture are making preliminary limitations as an experiment and both the White House and Congress appear to reflect the nation that the experiment believing that if they get five or ten million less than was authorized by the act it won't matter, it is possible for them.

The machinery of the program is best illustrated by example. In the most publicized case of Wiley Langley, who received the first loan of \$3800, it was possible for the farmer to buy for \$1000 a 180-acre farm previously owned by a local land company. The government holds first mortgage on the property and Langley will pay off his loan at the rate of 4 1/2 per cent of the total annually, which will amortize both interest and principal.

Another loan made to a Texas farmer makes it possible for him to buy from the government at the rate of 4 1/2 per cent of his loan, or \$2000 a year, a farm for which he has been paying \$600 a year later.

**PEOPLES COLUMN**

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

To the Editor:  
 Well, Buck Fencer, when I left home last fall, you said to me that I had better get out of our town before we were going. So here are the boys one I could find.

Today I got the good game between our boys and the Cards. I had a good seat just 15 feet from Tiger dugout, so they warwante all the pitchers up along our side the fence, so I had a good talk with Jake Wade, V. Kennedy, Pet, Saterline. I asked them what they had up their sleeves for '38. They said a good fight for a '38 pennant.

I asked how everybody else was back at Lakeland. They said "O. K." but that they couldn't say what River looked like could. So I know, I am quite a Greenberg fan also for our own Charlie G. and I believe that they are the only one on either side who got a homer. I took Hank's picture and he promised me the pennant for '38, so that's already in the bag so don't worry over it, folks. The Rookies look great in a Tiger uniform, and perform like a regular Tiger. I don't believe in the beginning the Tigers won 5 to 3, and didn't work hard.

Oh by the way, old Ducky M. struck out 4 times. We kind of rattled him, he yelled at us, "What do you want for 10 cents? So I answered, "Just 50 cents worth." Someone behind me yelled, "He's away from our fence."

They really looked punk today. I pitched a 4000 ball, and got Guy Bush. Mickey is as an all-out slugger. Most of the boys are real dark brown. Mickey said in about six weeks, they would be home. I asked him how he was feeling, and he said he was feeling better.

To finish, I saw dear old Chom Mack. He went in dugout, shook hands with Mickey and walked away. Looks good, says he is all set for the next 10 years. I had a very good time, sitting in a boxing ring. Never knew it was hot, but enjoyed it so much, I'll soon be hot, but I'll be hot. I'll "Who-Who" for the Tigers. I'm a Tiger Fan.

MRS. EMMY BLINNE  
 1280 Buckingham Road  
 St. Petersburg, Fla.

To the Editor:  
 The published list of Oakland County lands to be sold for taxes early in May, contains my residence property, Lot No. 11, Greenwood subdivision, City of Greenwood, to be sold for 1935 taxes of \$125.35.

There are no unpaid taxes on my home for 1935 or any other year. I understand there are large numbers of such errors on the list and I suggest that all property owners check same for protection against tax liens.

There is no excuse for such a blunder in my case, as all back taxes were cleared up many months ago.

Yours sincerely,  
 George H. Van Buren,  
 755 Hazelwood Ave.

To the Editor:  
 Sometime in February one of your editorials seemed to propose a discussion of teaching methods, curricula and results of the primary, grammar and high schools.

In the above, I have made no effort to advance current nomenclature of the various divisions of the first to the twelfth grades.

Along this line I endorse an editorial from the Detroit Free Press of Sunday, March 13, 1938, from which it would appear that the "group of schoolmen who got together at Atlantic City" evidently had more to say and better means to say it than I have about the utterly absurd and fantastic teaching methods prevailing in a good many schools around the country.

Unfortunately I missed a good many through the public press, but I am gratified that your editorial meeting referred to in the Detroit Free Press editorial, and since you

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A MAGICIAN gave a demonstration of pocket-picking in an English prison. This must rank top in educational programs for inmates.

Youngsters whose mothers give the best home for their children will envy the Chicago girl who had one seven feet long.

There are almost 400,000 Americans living in foreign countries, and many are citizens of foreign countries who would like to be Americans.

Missolini received the Ethiopian crown and just, Victor Emmanuel may select, as well as for membership in the Society of Ex-Kings.