The Birmingham Eccentric

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THURSDAY, MAY 19, 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 Mondays. 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 law or the 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.

NLRB—An Inquisition

From now on you will read and hear much criticism of the NLRB and its illegitimate parentage, the Wagner Labor Act. If there ever was a current resurrection of the Spanish Inquisition, of every un-democratic method against which the early Colonists of this country rebelled, it is the National Labor Relations Board. When this newspaper makes this statement, it does so from a brief personal experience with the NLRB. The NLRB is as one-sided (solely in apparent favor with unionism, especially the CIO) as a one-sided prejudice can be. The NLRB, as now operated, can never solve economic problems between capital and labor any more than you can make two plus two equal five.

Look Ahead

On an ancient Egyptian tablet unearthed by archeologists was inscribed a lament declaring that the world is degenerate, youth is despair and the world coming to an end.

That was more than 2,000 years ago—and we are still here! Since that time we have evolved from the chariot to the airplane. When we can see nothing but progress behind us, why is it that prophets of gloom see nothing but disaster ahead?

Today the world is going right on revolving at the rate of sixteen miles a second, and scientists tell us that it will continue to do so for another five hundred million years or so.

As we go into another New Year let us practice the philosophy of a very wise man, the late President Eliot of Harvard, who believed that each man should have "a calm attitude expectant of good." Let us take courage from H. G. Wells' observation: "Existence impresses me as a perpetual dawn."

We will have our problems. We may be delayed. But let us bravely work for the best and expect the best. "Hats off to the past—coats off to the future." This should be the American credo!—The Silver Lining.

Germany's New Foreign Policy

The German government has apparently decided that the protection given its citizens in foreign countries shall likewise extend to all those of the German race, regardless of their citizenship.

Of course, this is talk, so far as the United States is concerned, but it might mean something to the smaller nations of central Europe, which have German people within their borders and among their citizens.

Dr. Wilhelm Frick declares that "the world must know that Germany does not intend to tolerate the mistreatment of her racial comrades outside the Reich borders" and that "Germany must demand that her brothers outside her borders be safeguarded in cultural and racial respects." That, he concludes, "is not exclusively a domestic matter for the ruling nations but an international question deeply touching Germany."

By thus injecting such a claim into international affairs the German government is apparently laying the way for intervention in other countries in favor of German minorities. While the doctrine undoubtedly is aimed at Czechoslovakia and other European nations it would also have an application in South American countries where there are German citizens. Thus it could provide a pretext for armed intervention in the affairs of any nation in the world in which a few German people live.

Just how much trouble it can cause in Europe is seen by the fact that the German doctrine conflicts with the claims of all countries having German minorities, including Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Rumania. It even conflicts with the policy of Germany herself in dealing with minority groups within her own borders.

When Taxation Is Pillaging

Ever since one man has had more of this world's goods than another, there has been a human urge for more equal distribution of such wealth. In the olden days feudal lords and monarchs used to tax their subjects, in order to obtain what they wanted; their ability to levy and collect such taxes depended upon their armed strength. The same situation exists today. Most of the taxes levied are mere devices for a re-distribution of the nation's wealth. Up to certain limits, this device is sound; but after these limits are reached, then taxation becomes pillaging. And if pillaging ever gets into the hands of petty politicians, then it is akin to robbery armed.

And some unkind New Deal critic suggests that the five billion dollar spending program is not designed to prime the pump so much as to pump the coming primary.

It was hardly to be expected that Mussolini would remain the steadfast "pal" of Hitler. Italy suffered too much in the World War at the hands of Germany and her allies. European rulers, like checker players, merely make one move, then another. Besides, Mussolini is more intelligent, fundamentally, than Hitler can ever hope to be.

One's Real Growth Is Much Neglected

About the only time that the average citizen pays any attention to his or her physical well-being is when illness or accident puts him or her in bed.

This is, unfortunately, the truth regarding most persons. It is a reflection upon the intelligence that men and women are supposed to have.

The neglect of the body is only comparable to our negligence regarding mental powers. Every individual has abundant opportunity to improve intellectually, but few of us bother ourselves to do so. This, too, is a reflection upon the intelligence that we are generally so glad to boast about.

When it comes to the realm of spiritual improvement the average individual goes into complete eclipse, except in extremely rare and trying moments. Those of us who believe in the possession of a soul know full well that our spiritual growth is possible and many of us believe that it is the great function of human existence.

In spite of this belief and the faith that moves us along life's highway, we carelessly drift along, without bothering very much about principles, or the lack of them. Few of us attempt to guide our daily life by the eternal verities that we accept. It is a little bit foolish when one begins to reflect upon it.

The encouraging thing about individual growth is that it requires no committee meetings, no mass purpose, and little or no assistance from other people. It is one job that the individual man, or woman can plan and complete upon personal initiative. The only question is, "when will we begin."

Finding 10,000 Stars

The effort of man to discover the physical facts of the universe is an interesting story. It is little short of amazing how astronomers have been able to find, out so many facts about stars through the use of photographic plates. At the same time, it is astonishing how much remains to be discovered in the great stellar space.

To illustrate this last statement, we call your attention to the reports of Harvard astronomers that they have discovered in the Southern sky a gigantic cluster of stars, located in the Southern constellation, Sculptor. Light from the star island is so faint that the individual star members can be detected only through very powerful telescopes. Discovery of the cluster was due to the use of an abnormally sensitive photographic plate on a very clear night.

Astronomers report that the cluster displays many characteristics of three entirely different types of stellar systems, and therefore cannot be classified at this time. So far, they have been unable to measure the group's distance, and size, but they think this cluster is about 250,000 light years from the earth and about 6,500 light years in diameter. They estimate that it contains about ten thousand stars.

One good thing about fishing is that you don't have to drop a line to the fish that you are coming until you get there.

"Just Thinks"

None but the brave deserve the fare at some boarding houses.

It is too early to tell who is winning the war in China and Spain. We don't even know who won the World War.

Crying need of the day is a self-folding road-map.

Charity kisses have the impression of emptiness.

Kansas City butter manufacturer has named his twin girl babies Oleo and Margarine.

If we are to have so much auto horn blowing, for goodness sakes fix them so they can play a tune.

"The increase in progamity is not due entirely to the fact that people are getting more wicked," says Aunt Samanthy, "but because there is more to swear at these days."

A fountain pen deflected a bullet the other day and saved a man's life. That's one time a fountain pen worked.

There is about as much fussing and jealously in an average village as there is at a peace conference.

Some men are regular human dynamos. Everything they get is charged.

The quickest thing formed is a bad habit.

Kansas woman proposes to live on onions alone—Kansas City Star. "Alone. Boy you said it!"—George Shaw in Pigeon (Mich.) Progress.

Centralized Government

Says Harry S. Toy, Republican candidate for Governor of Michigan: "Decentralization of government in Michigan is necessary if we are to curtail excessive expenditures and if the government is to get back into the hands of the people. Governor Murphy has so centralized government control in Lansing that few people realize what is going on. Only such information as he and his associates choose to make public is now reaching the public about the affairs of State government. This is not enough. We must permit the individual counties to have more voice in the expenditure of money they raise through taxation."

The tragic end of Isaiah Leebove, who was killed last Saturday in Clare, again proves the axiom that "He who lives by the sword shall die by the sword." Poor Leebove, said to be a product of New York's sinister underworld, was shot to death by Jack Livingstone, former partner, who says "Leebove took everything I had—it was either him or me." The end of Leebove ought to remind many that "easy money" demands a severe balancing of the personal budget; that frequently the only payment is with life itself.

In too many cases, alas! too many good Americans have undergone the dangerous "political operation" of having their own spinal chords supplanted with the slim and slender handle of a WPA shovel. Most of these WPA workers really want to stand upon their own legs—and would be long before this, had not a federal bureaucracy kept the nation from really regaining its own right to work.

Congressional Comment by Representative George A. Dondero 17th Michigan District

The drive to put the Federal government into further competition with private enterprise in the public utility field continues unabated under the present administration. Evidence of this is furnished in the recent reconsideration of Gilbertsville Dam. On March 22 the U. S. House of Representatives voted down the proposal to appropriate funds to begin construction of the Gilbertsville project, the vote (Roll No. 45) being 187 to 157. On April 25 the House reversed its position by a vote of 159 to 152 (Roll No. 62). Thus, by a margin of only 7 votes, the Federal government will undertake the construction of a project estimated to cost at least $112,000,000 at a time when billions are being added to our public debt.

This was the fourth time that the question had been submitted to the House of Representatives or one of its committees. Three times the House voted against it; but the fourth time, on a roll call vote, we voted to recede and concur with a Senate amendment carrying the appropriation.

If the TVA had originated under the jurisdiction of the Army Engineers the Gilbertsville Dam never would have been heard of in the House or the Senate. And all might really know what a gigantic project Gilbertsville Dam will be, I took occasion to discuss it in some detail when recently addressing the House. I said:

"When that dam is built it will be 9,000 feet long. It will create a lake 184 miles long with a coast line of 2,000 miles, or longer than the entire American Pacific coast and 300 miles longer than the entire coast line of Michigan on the Great Lakes. It will have an average width of 2½ miles and in places 7 miles. It will submerge 166 miles of hard-surfaced highways, paid for by the taxpayers, together with three major highway bridges. It will destroy 300 miles of railroad and three major railroad bridges.

"Five cities or towns will have to be removed from their present sites and will require the relocation of 3,500 families, aggregating a population of 25,000 people.

"Five hundred thousand acres of the finest and most fertile land in the Tennessee Valley will be covered with water and taken off the tax rolls in 40 different counties. Two thousand five hundred bodies will have to be removed from their graves and then removed to some other place. It will displace 4,000 miners and railroad workers. This dam is to be constructed for five purposes, namely: flood control, navigation, and power development.

"Obviously," the Gilbertsville Dam project will no flood control benefit to the Tennessee Valley itself, since it is located at the mouth of the river. Actually it will result in the flooding of an enormous area of lands on the lower Tennessee. Any flood control benefit must therefore be charged against the reduction of flood heights at the mouth of the Ohio River and in the alluvial valley of the Mississippi.

"The value of Gilbert-ville Dam for navigation can reasonably be determined by the cost of alternative low-head dams proposed by the Army Engineers. That report estimates that four low navigation dams, conveniently spaced stretch of river that the Gilbertsville pool would cover, and provided with locks 110 by 600 feet, would cost $10,865,000.

"The value of Gilbertsville Dam for power development can be determined approximately by comparing it with the value of privately owned hydroelectric plants located in the same general territory and by comparing it with the cost of an equivalent steam plant. According to Mr. Carl A. Bock, assistant chief engineer of the TVA, Gilbertsville Dam is to have an ultimate installation of 192,000 kilowatts of generating capacity. As measured by the reported capital cost of privately owned hydroelectric plants located in the same general territory east of the Mississippi River and built under license from the Federal Power Commission, the value of this proposed ultimate power installation at Gilbertsville Dam would be less than $25,000,000."

In view of the fact that an investigation of TVA had been voted prior to the Gilbertsville vote on April 25, in my judgment, it was a mistake to appropriate any funds for the dam until the findings of that investigation are available to the Congress and the people of this country.

PARAGRAPHS

The Immoral Mussolini

The idea of treating with Mussolini is preposterous. He is not a moral being at all. He wants to get right across our interest.—London Times.

Hollywood's Dictators

In Europe, a man in riding pants surrounded by yes-men is called a dictator. Over here he is called a movie director. — Dayton (Ohio) Journal.

Still, The Scotch Look Chilly

Approximately equal are the average temperatures of northern Scotland and the Chesapeake Bay. England, in the latitude of Labrador, has the temperature of New Jersey.—Fact Digest.

BEGINNING TO GET HOMESICK AGAIN

Happenings of Long Ago

Fifty Years Ago

Miss Lulu Darkee will summer in the western wilds of Minnesota with her brother, Jim Irish, for pleasure and her health.

That new steam whistle of the Birmingham Tack Company's engine gives the place a decided cry air. It blows right out loud at 7 o'clock a. m., noon and 6 o'clock p.m. Long may she whistle.

We congratulate Billy Truesdale on having secured his petition. We hope he will get a buster, and that his back pay will amount to a big sum.

Several of our giddy young men were awfully nervous over a little occurrence which took place not a thousand miles from the village, one day last week, but as yet they are all on the anxious seat and nothing about now locations.

Nate Fall, the irrepressible and undauntable inhabitant of Fremont street has built a stone wall under his house, with a cellar attachment; a blessing he has been threatening for some time.

Our "Sluggers" nine got sweet revenge out of the Farmington nine on Saturday, defeating them 21 to 10. The Sluggers will play a picked team on the home grounds tomorrow.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

In just one hour last Sunday 247 automobiles passed a given point on Woodward avenue. Three horses were also seen.

Now what do you know about that? Tom Hanna and Lester Purdy are now showing Birmingham people how they hustle up in the Klondyke by building a fine, up-to-now residence for George Purdy. Lester is too young to get married though and Tom is—oh well, maybe they will want to sell it.

Charles Stinchfield of Stonycroft has again demonstrated that he is different from the majority of people. You will see signs posted at nearly all trotting spots bearing the inscription "keep out," but at Mr. Stinchfield's grove, adjoining his beautiful little abode you will see the invitation "drive in." And the invitation will be thankfully accepted by many.

Albert Nash, seven years old son of Mr. and Mrs. Woodward avenue, was run down by a passing automobile Saturday. The little victim of human carelessness or speeding sustained a broken left thigh bone. Those in the machine, man, woman and child, stopped while the injured child was carried in, but didn't offer further assistance. The mother bore no license number.

Five Years Ago

National Bank named A. E. Lee, appraisal; Wabeek, opening; Huntington Bank, reduction; would impose schools; officials here believe. Defend present toll.

Teachers assert vacancy to "Broke" before it starts. Ford verdict; Ruth says will help, but dreary summer is in prospect.

700 want beer to be sold in restaurants. Commission gets petition demanding that ban be lifted. Early vote expected.

Baldwin track team breaks records to win Class B regional championship; Cuccia-berg cops hop's share of honors with three firsts and two records.

Memorial Day rites are planned. Legion units preparation for big parade. Mayor Harry Allen will speak briefly at Greenwood.

Jots 'n Jest

THAT guy who was complaining about the flies in the dining room last autumn wants to eat in the yard now.

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Mr. Farmer will be satisfied during June's vacation if he can keep him pitching hay instead of "hey."

• • •

Why are so many people concerned about lake water getting warm enough for swimming? Many of them live at the beach anyhow.

WASHINGTON LETTER

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Possible Low Wheat and Corn Prices Worry Government's Farm Officials

WASHINGTON.—AAA officials are much more concerned over the threat of a "farmers' revolt" next fall because of possible low prices for wheat and corn than they are about the current dissatisfaction with this year's farm program.

It would be embarrassing to the administration if such a demonstration were to coincide with the fall elections.

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AGRICULTURE officials minimize the importance of farmer objections raised at this time. For one thing, they are not widespread. Most of them are raised against individual drastic cuts in acreage allotments which the administration explains were necessary if the farm program were to succeed.

Cotton farmers are disgruntled because a bad price situation has resulted from last year's oversize crop. Some farmers have complained of difficulty in understanding the intricacies of the new program.

Corn farmers, who because of the 1934 and 1936 droughts were not required to reduce acreage and might do so now for the first time, are, in many cases, resentful of the innovation.

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TOBACCO and rice planters join the chorus of voices raised against individual allotments. AAA officials admit these are bound to be obstacles and instances of favoritism or discrimination in a program so big as to be unwieldy.

County committees usually keep a small reserve of unallotted acreage with which to rectify mistakes and keep harmony in camp.

Farm officials feel confident that the farmer generally can be "educated" to a happier acceptance of the part he is asked to play in the picture of future balanced farming. They depend on most farmers to become reconciled to their allotments in time, but they are aware that trouble is likely if the program doesn't keep prices up.

From the People

BY RAYMOND PITCAIRN

National Chairman Sentinels of the Republic

Washington, it seems, has been hearing again from varied groups of our population.

A large number of housewives have made formal protest against the rising costs of homemaking, threatened by reckless expenditures of public funds.

A famous automobile manufacturer has discussed current problems at a White House luncheon.

Groups of men prominent in business and financial affairs have urged constructive action and co-operation in steps leading toward recovery.

A number of notable liberals have insisted on the right of every man to earn a living.

And from countless homes and offices throughout the nation have gone letters demanding that Congress think in terms of increased production and employment, rather than political objectives.

Washington should heed such suggestions. They come largely from the people themselves—whom the men that wrote our Constitution recognized as the source of all authority.

They reflect a growing national concern over a record of drooping indices of production, mounting lists of unemployed, increasing burdens of taxation and debt, and the continued substitution of a thin relief for the steady jobs which millions seek and only constructive recovery can supply.

Edicts, theories and experiments, however hopefully submitted, have not supplied the answer. But the spirit and the enterprise of the people themselves have solved similar problems in the past. And there is every reason to believe that, given free scope, they will again.

Certainly the people have a right to demand that opportunity.

Her Ladyship Relaxes

From Canadian Press Dispatch

To those who seek escape through reading, detective stories are suggested by Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of the governor-General of Canada.

"There is nothing like a good murder to take one's mind off one's troubles," she told a woman's club.

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 600 words, and must be in the office by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

Detroit, Mich.
May 7, 1938

Mr. George R. Averill,
Publisher, Eccentric,
Birmingham, Michigan.
Dear Mr. Averill:

A newspaper which has lived sixty years must have been honest, fair, progressive, alert and wisely managed. If it had not been, it would have lost the confidence of its readers and therefore would have given way to a competitor sometime during the sixty years.

That The Eccentric has now reached its sixtieth birthday is proof that it has lived up to these requirements of a good newspaper. You deserve the congratulations which you are receiving, and I offer my heartiest felicitations.

Sincerely yours,
Detroit Westward,
Harry A. Carpenter,
Vice-president.

Grandville, Mich.
May 7, 1938

Mr. George Averill,
Birmingham Eccentric,
Birmingham, Mich.
Dear George:

Congratulations — Old Chap — on the sixtieth anniversary of The Eccentric.

I hardly thought you were that old. But, laying all jokes aside, permit me to express my thoughts about The Eccentric. I have read The Eccentric regularly for the past ten years and I want to say that this is one of the very finest papers which comes to my desk. For typographical neatness and news content, I say it is an outstanding weekly newspaper. Well may Birmingham be proud of its newspaper.

Best wishes for continued success.

Very cordially yours,
The Star and Alliance,
John Pegg,
Business Manager.

1475 Lake Shore Drive,
Chicago, Ill.
May 12, 1938.

The Birmingham Eccentric,
Birmingham, Michigan.
Gentlemen:

I have just received the issue of Thursday, May 5th, and I want to congratulate you on your Sixtieth Anniversary. Birmingham was my home up to the time of my 16th birthday, and I have always had a soft spot in my heart for the beautiful old town, and not the least of this community affection of mine was the local news which The Birmingham Eccentric always brought us.

Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely yours,
Rachel von Manhattan, Inc.,
John H. Merrell,
Vice-President.

Random Remarks

Lindsay Clegg, British citizen: "The great need of England today is God, not guns; the Bible not bombs."

Franklin D. Roosevelt: "Private enterprise is seeking to be free enterprise and is becoming a cluster of private collectivisms."

Reuben T. Wood, Member of Congress, from Missouri: "I am against wage differentials. I believe the Southern worker has as much right to happiness as other workers."

James A. Farley, Postmaster-General: "Hungry and bewildered citizens are not sane enough to value freedom at its true worth."

Phil LaFollette, outlining new Farm program: "Those who honestly, but mistakenly, seek the 'good old days' with the cry of 'restore confidence,' make a fatal mistake."

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