

The Birmingham Eccentric

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1933

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 Wednesday. The right to use the material is reserved. If the writer desires to have his work published as a regular feature, the staff must be notified in advance. The Eccentric is not responsible for the return of copy. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person or corporation, which may appear in the columns of the Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

J. John Pope is editor and publisher of The Grandville Star, situated near Grand Rapids. For years he has been an ardent Republican; in 1932 he was one of a number of Michigan editors who, in 1932, paid a personal visit to the White House where former President and Mrs. Hoover played hosts one evening in the famous Lincoln study. For some reason, editor Pope has now joined forces with the Murphy administration, and his equipment, showing his conversion, is interesting. Here it is:

"There is one thing about Governor Murphy: If the voters are fair-minded and listen to him, he will be re-elected. No stronger, more likeable figure ever reigned over the Michigan capital. He has a personality and a driving force far beyond the ordinary, and with that goes a degree of sincerity and appeal that leaves an impression on all fair-minded thinking citizens. He is able to match argument against argument and if necessary meets fire with fire. He is a match for any opposition individual who might dare to tangle with him. So, I just feel that another grave mistake would be made by the democratic state committee if they made an effort to get President Roosevelt here to fight for the re-election of Governor Murphy. Despite the president's glamorous personality, despite his great humanitarian ideals I feel that Michigan does not need him here and does not want him to mix into the state's political picture. Roosevelt would follow his visit and what little strength he might add to the Democrats would be offset by those who believe that Michigan is fully capable of running its own political affairs. A good clean-cut campaign by the present administration backed by direct personal appeals from the governor will, if anything can mean the re-election of the present state executive—if this is not done then the Democratic cause is hopeless."

Why do you read?
 Here, we think, we have you. You can't say you don't read because you have read this. Consequently, you might stop long enough in your reading to ask yourself why you persist in such a habit.

As a reader of newspaper articles and other printed materials, you know that, at times, you run across some unpleasant facts. Moreover, very often, you find some very uninteresting articles. It is a fact which you will admit, that it is a rare event to discover anything printed that you endorse completely and without reservations. You also know, even if you do not admit it except to yourself, that you know more than the writer and that the process should be reversed. You should be telling him instead of allowing him to tell you.

But, here we are, getting off the question. We asked you, "Why do you read?" Is it mere evil habit, acquired in the days of your inexperience? Are you foolish enough to expect to learn something from some one else? Do you seek nothing but emotional stimuli? Do you answer to these questions, in your case, can only be made by you yourself. We wonder if you can explain it to yourself.

If You Are A Gentleman

You will respect old age.
 You will be considerate of the feelings of others.
 You will not gossip, nor will you criticize your friends.
 You will not make yourself conspicuous by uncouth actions or loud, flashy dress.
 You will not speak disrespectfully to or of your father and mother, no matter how ignorant or uncultured they may be.
 You will not boast of your questionable escapades or dissipation.
 You will not walk with a lady, on the street, with a pipe, cigar or cigarette in your mouth.
 You will not push or jostle in crowds.
 You will not neglect to write a letter of appreciation for hospitality extended you.
 You will not bear ill-will toward anyone.
 You will not mistle or hum in public, or in any way disturb people with unnecessary noise.
 You will not be cross, moody, unresponsive or mean to your family or servants.
 You will not allow your courtesy to depart when your visitors leave.

THE VERY BEST WAY to save a portion of your earnings is not to spend it. Like keeping your figure—just push yourself away from the place where tempting things beckon.

The monetary gold stocks of the United States passed the thirteen billion dollar mark last week.

Gold Overwhelms America

Years ago, when the nation was practically paperized, we had only about four billion dollars worth of monetary gold, but this, even with devaluations, barely touched the seven billion mark.

There was a time when everybody had the idea that the more gold a nation possessed the more prosperous its people would be. That, it seems, was a quaint notion!

We recall, when the United States revealed its gold for monetary purposes, there was much talk of a "baloney dollar." For some reasons that few economists explain, the rest of the world has taken a liking to the dollar and gold has been poured into the United States at an unprecedented rate since 1934.

Experts tell us that the world, as a whole, has about twenty-six and a half billion dollars worth of gold, which means that this country holds more than half the total. Great Britain gets along on about four billion dollars worth and France on much less. In pre-war days, we managed to do fairly well with only a billion and a half dollars worth of monetary gold.

What does it prove. You can look into your crystal ball, so far as we are concerned, for the answer. The economists are not in agreement. Most of them say it will inevitably lead to inflation although the more prudent among them hedge a bit and talk about monetary control, now exercised by most nations, as a doubtful factor in the situation.

We admit that we don't know anything about gold but for thousands of years it has been a mighty factor in human affairs. Our guess is that the experience of the past is a good guide for the future. The possession of much gold is comforting, even if you have to build a big navy to be sure that you can keep it.

We think that there will be very general agreement that if the Federal Government is accorded the right to tax the salaries of federal officials, that the State Governments should have the right to tax the salaries of their officials. This, of course, is in line with the recommendation of President Roosevelt, who in April proposed such taxation on salaries of officials.

Naturally it would be wise to provide that neither the States nor the Federal Government could levy a tax against officials of the other units except upon the same basis of the tax upon its own officials. In other words, if the Federal Government levied an income tax against the salaries of state officials, they should not pay salaries that Federal officials pay to the Federal Government on their own salaries. The same rule should apply to State income taxes against salaries of Federal officials.

The agreement between the United States and Great Britain that each nation should have the right to tax the salaries of its officials is an illustration of the best way to solve international disputes.

Neither nation gives up its claim to the sovereignty of the islands involved, but both agreed to discuss a formula for the use of the islands before trying to determine which nation had the superior title. Canton and Enderbury Islands are in the Pacific, somewhat north of Samoa, and southeast of Howland and Baker Islands, to which the United States holds title. They are important as potential air bases.

The example set by the English-speaking nations in disposing of a problem which, in former years, might have caused hard-feelings if not friction, ought to be a lesson to the rest of the world. Certainly, it would seem that two nations, if sincerely desirous of living in peace, could get wise and solve almost any problem on the basis of recognizing mutual interests.

Members of the medical profession in Michigan, and throughout the United States, are alarmed over the trend toward socialized medicine. They feel, and to a great extent, rightly, that any attempt on the part of government to regiment medicine will eventually result in a lower standard of practice; besides, they have a right to feel that it will infringe on their own right to earn a living. The doctors, however, cannot stem the tide of this drift. The basic cause of this trend is the too-much existence of poverty; the doctors can best protect themselves, and the practice they are custodians of, by paying more attention to the causes of poverty, and trying to eliminate them. So we suggested that they read Henry George's "Progress and Poverty."

HOMER MARTIN, president of the U. A. W., not so long ago ousted four of his official family; he called some of them communists. Now, through the efforts of John L. Lewis, these four have been reinstated. How can Martin remain with them? We suggest that he transplant his mind and endeavor to be a F. A. of L. At least they will allow him to crusade along American lines.

"LET'S KEEP OUR HANDS OFF Europe's complex problems" says George A. Dondero, Congressman from this District. In the long run, of course, we in the U. S. A. cannot overlook the fact that we are a part of the world, which includes Europe. On the other hand, we are like good neighbors who may observe others in the neighborhood engaged in a scrap; perhaps, so long as they want to scrap, we should stand aside and "let 'em get it out of their system." Then, when they've cooled down, perhaps they may let us discuss their troubles with them.



Congressional Comment
 by
 Representative
 GEORGE A. DONDERO
 17th Congressional District

To the Editor:
 In the Congressional Record, May 26, 1933, page 19,009, is a table which gives some interesting figures which afford a basis for the comparison of expenditures for relief.

Federal grants, for the period July 1, 1932, to June 30, 1933, in Nevada for all relief (amounted to \$637,822 per capita; Montana, \$433,095; Wyoming, \$320,641; South Dakota, \$318,300; North Dakota, \$300,229; and Arizona, \$305,538. Michigan, for the same purpose, received about \$80 per capita. This it will be seen that Nevada received seven times as much in Federal relief funds per capita as Michigan.

Another interesting point, that of fluctuation of relief rolls, is illustrated in a table in the House Hearings on Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1933, pages 73 and 74.

In July 1934 there were 21,352,000 recipients of public assistance at 75¢; in November of that year there was an increase of 1,406,000 on relief rolls although the production index had dropped but one point.

In July 1935 the rolls had been reduced to 13,265,000 with the production index remaining at 114; in November, the same year, still further reduced to 12,604,000.

In July 1936 there were 17,900,000 receiving public aid when the production index stood at 103; but in November, with the production index at 114, six points higher, 1,215,000 were added to the rolls.

In July 1937 the rolls were reduced to 13,265,000 with the production index remaining at 114; in November, 1937, the rolls were again reduced by 609,000, though the production index had drastically dropped 25 points.

An examination of this fluctuation reveals that variations in relief rolls do not follow the up and down of the production index, a barometer which indicates the extent of man's industrial production and employment. There appears to be another factor which exerts a greater influence upon this fluctuation. It is apparent that changes are necessary if we are to bring public assistance and production indexes into alignment.

More important, of course, is the necessity of providing more employment. In the period November 1936 to July 1937 our production index stood at 114. The index I refer to is the Industrial Production Index of the Federal Reserve Board which uses 1924-1925 as a base. Private business was then on the climb and indications pointed to a continuation but tax legislation and various political events stepped in to throw business into reverse. Between July 1937 and July 1938 the index fell within 12 points of July 1934.

Random Remarks

Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of F. D. Roosevelt, said in a recent interview: "There is no safety anywhere in a modern war."

George W. Norris, U. S. Senator from Nebraska, said: "It's too bad that a couple of blood-thirsty dictators can hold the fate of the whole world in their hands."

Franklin D. Roosevelt: "Every civilized nation in the world voluntarily assumed the solemn obligations of the Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928 to solve controversies only by pacific methods."

J. D. Alfred, Governor of Texas: "Although the states are forbidden to place tariffs on imports from sister states, they are actually and legally building up other barriers equally as restrictive."

J. Edgar Hoover, Head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation: "The greatest of all crimes is the toleration of crime."

James Roosevelt, Secretary to the President: "My trouble seems to be a mixture of being the son of the President and not failing in business."

W. M. Cornelius, Frank Couzens, Henry T. Ewald, Leonard L. Healy, Geo. B. Judson, Clarence E. Wilcox, William R. Yaw

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RESOURCES	
Cash on Hand and Due from Other Banks	\$1,463,047.47
United States Government Obligations, Direct and/or Fully Guaranteed	4,472,500.00
Other Securities	\$5,935,547.47
Loans and Discounts	1,019,000.00
Real Estate Mortgages	1,037,334.42
Overdrafts	169,269.16
	75.93
Banking House and Site	20,000.00
Furniture and Fixtures	43,402.93
Prepaid Expense	17,740.58
Income Accrued Receivable	40,019.68
Other Resources	42,541.94
TOTAL RESOURCES	\$8,324,932.11

LIABILITIES	
Capital	\$1,200,000.00
Surplus	300,000.00
Undivided Profits	66,645.86
Interest and Expenses Accrued Payable	9,973.80
Other Liabilities	24,053.96
Deposits—Commercial, Bank and Savings	\$5,567,449.98
Public Funds	1,119,426.29
Cashier's and Certified Checks Outstanding	37,882.22
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$8,324,932.11

United States Government Obligations carried at \$21,000,000 in the above statement are pledged to secure Public Funds on deposit.

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 Eccentric:
 Dear Editor:
 The National Recreation Association Convention at Pittsburgh, Oct. 3-8, which I was invited to attend, proved one of the most enjoyable and stimulating experiences a layman interested in Community Recreation planning could have.

There were 1281 delegates from over 300 cities in our country. About 25 percent were WPA Recreation workers, including neophytes as well as veterans. The entire body was composed of not only trained workers but volunteers and laymen like myself. Searching for "the Good Life" in their home communities.

The importance and value of a well coordinated, cooperative, adequately supervised Leisure Time program, under the trained leadership of an enthusiastic, sympathetic, socially-minded, outgoing individual, were repeatedly stressed.

Many communities—that are financially unable to set up necessary recreation plans—are availing themselves of the possibilities of WPA Recreation Leadership. These communities appoint committees to survey the entire recreational needs for young and old, and make recommendations. The survey embraces not only athletic and physical phases of programs, but creative, social, aesthetic, and intellectual needs in a community.

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