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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 of the paper. All copy must be received before noon on Tuesdays. 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 laws of the state. Because of a 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.

The World Needs Law

The conscience of the civilized world has been shocked by the bombings of civilians in Ethiopia, Spain and China. The use of the airplane to inflict death and horrible suffering upon helpless men, women and children has horrified a modern world.

The threat of aerial bombing, facilitated by fast and far-flying airplanes, has electrified the war preparations of practically every power. Untold human suffering and uncounted property loss is certain to follow widespread aerial attacks. No adequate defense appears available and the only resort is to the power to inflict greater losses upon the enemy.

Sooner or later, the people of the world will understand the necessity of having some power, or group of powers, strong enough to enforce peace. The future progress of the world demands some combination in restraint of warfare. Intelligence insists that there must be law and order in the world and a penalty that will deter evildoers.

Political Relief

We are convinced the American electorate cannot be permanently bribed. We believe the American people are awakening to the dangers of the present system of huge federal grants. However good the intent, however necessary relief on a national scale may be, however great the effort to keep the handling of the money honest, the system is a menace to true representative government. It is wide open to abuses that destroy democracy.

There is too much opportunity to use relief money as a campaign fund for the party or faction in power, and millions of people believe it is so used. There is too much temptation to use the Allotment of federal funds to influence votes in congress, and millions are convinced that it is so used. And they do not like it. Such incidents as the charges of WPA abuse in Kentucky and Administrator Hopkins' interference in the Iowa primary are arousing the people as they have not been aroused. And those now aroused include multitudes who have been friendly to the general program of the Roosevelt administration. The moral sense which seeks social reform rebels at politics in relief.

As the fundamental dangers of this system become better known we believe there will be a revolt against it which will either radically reduce federal grants or set up some non-partisan, non-executive control of them. Christian Science Monitor.

Democracy In Full Swing

The functioning of a democracy is always an interesting spectacle, but during the political season its antics become somewhat bewildering.

The paternalistic pomposities of the candidates, the blatant absurdities of many demagogues, the deliberate deceit of propagandists, and the subtle machinations of selfish individuals make primaries and election months a circus of the first magnitude.

Theoretically, the selection of candidates and the election of officials is of the gravest importance to the voters. The supposition is that the electorate, conscious of the need of a representative form of government, will carefully weigh the issues and consider the candidates in an effort to secure the services of the man best fitted to serve the interests of the political unit affected.

The decision of the people is not always perfect. They sometimes make ludicrous selections, but it should be remembered that they sometimes choose capable, efficient, and honest servants. All in all, the candidate elected to office is the individual who best represents the popular mind of his constituents. This, as it often happens, is deplorable.

That freaks, monstrosities and crooks sometimes gain public office does not condemn the democratic process. The same thing happens under other forms of governments. Moreover, the popular vote removes such misfits from power just about as rapidly as any other scheme of election.

The eventual remedy for the mistakes of democracies must be provided by the individual. Each voter, as he or she goes to the polls, must cast a ballot that reflects loyalty and faith in the democratic process. It must be marked with an understanding of the workings of a representative form of government. It must not reflect the selfishness of an individual, an organization or a political machine. It must assert loyalty and faith in our governmental system and represent the voter's active responsibility toward the obligations of self-government.

WE DON'T BELIEVE that when a mosquito stings you, he loses his stinger and then dies. We've tried to sleep in a tent with 12,000 mosquitoes and, after killing 13,000 of them, there remained another five thousand to keep us awake.

The late George Horace Lorimer, for many years editor of The Saturday Evening Post, once wrote these words:

The Things Money Can't Buy

"It is a good thing to have money and the things that money can buy, but it is good, too, to check up once in a while and make sure you haven't lost the things that money can't buy."

The things that money can't buy would make a long list—here are some of them:

Money can't buy real friendship—friendship must be earned.

Money can't buy a clear conscience—square dealing is the price tag.

Money can't buy the glow of good health—right living is the secret.

Money can't buy happiness—happiness is a mental attitude and one may be as happy in a cottage as in a mansion.

Money can't buy sunsets, singing birds and the music of the wind in the trees—these are as free as the air we breathe.

Money can't buy inward peace—peace is the result of a constructive philosophy of life.

Money can't buy character—character is what we are when we are alone with ourselves in the dark.

Continue the list yourself. You'll agree that among the things money can't buy are some of the most valuable treasures life has to offer. It is a good thing to check up now and then to be sure we are not missing these things.

U. S. Sympathies In Times Of War

Public opinion, meaning the conclusions reached by a majority of the citizens of this country, may not be right but it can, at least, point the probable direction of national action.

That public opinion in the United States is almost solid against the ideas represented by Germany and Italy in international affairs has always been our opinion, but, apparently, if we are to judge by the results of a survey made by the Institute of Public Opinion, the verdict of the people of the United States is more unanimous than we thought.

In a recent poll of public opinion, the Institute asked in the event of a war between England and France on one side and Germany and Italy on the other, where the sympathies of its listeners would be. It is somewhat surprising to find that 65 per cent of those questioned said their sympathies would be with England and France while only three per cent indicated sympathy for Germany and Italy. The other thirty-two per cent of those questioned declared their sympathy would not be with either side.

If this poll indicates a true expression of American sentiment, it ought to mean a great deal to dictators Hitler and Mussolini. It should warn them that in the event of a struggle, the people of the United States would find some way to render assistance to England and France. Whether this aid would go to the extent of military or naval contributions is doubtful, but that money and materials would be made available to the democracies is hardly to be questioned.

Alfred Nobel, Swedish inventor, made a huge fortune out of the invention and development of explosives and left a fund to provide five annual prizes to persons who, in different fields of activity, make the greatest contribution toward the progress of the world and the welfare of humanity.

U. S. Fourth in Nobel Prizes

The Nobel prizes began in 1901 and, including the last awards, 160 prizes have been given. These awards are made for distinguished work in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, idealistic literature and in the promotion of world peace.

Men and women of many nations have shared in the prizes. Germany, however, tops all nations in the number won by her citizens, with thirty-seven. England is second, with twenty-three and one-half; France is third with twenty and one-half; and the United States is fourth, with fifteen.

In the first twelve years of the awards, Germany and France with eighteen and sixteen, respectively, easily topped the English and the United States, with eight and four. The last ten years, however, the English-speaking people have done better, with England and the United States each securing ten awards, while Germany got 9.5 and France only four.

While it is not accurate to measure the contribution of the nationals of the various countries by their standing in the Nobel Prize awards, the number of these prizes won by the people of any country indicates, to some extent, the relative worth of their contribution in the five fields covered by the awards. The fact that American citizens have won ten awards in the last ten years indicates that this country, is, at least, holding its own.

The other day, in a Northeastern State, a nine-year-old boy was fatally injured by a train, while trying to get his pet dog off the tracks.

Human Beings And Dogs

A few days later, in a Southeastern State, an old man was saved from drowning by his pet dog, which caught him by the collar and swam towards the shore.

Such incidents emphasize the attachment that exists between human beings and dogs. It is hard to explain it to a person who does not like animals.

MICHIGAN HAS BEEN ASKED to join a movement to build a Dixie Highway from Florida to Mackinac City. The movement was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Williamstown, Kentucky. The editor of The Eccentric has been requested to serve on the Michigan committee to "put it over." Well, we hereby accept, and hope when it is completed we'll manage to save enough money to ride over it some winter.

Congressional Comment

by Representative George A. Dondero 17th Michigan District

To the Editor:

Are we on our way? In 1913, just before the outbreak of the World War, the seven great powers of the world expended more than two billion dollars for armaments. This year the United States alone will spend nearly half that amount and the combined total for the seven major powers will be nearly 7½ times that amount, or $15,023,000,000.

This race began five years ago when Hitler announced the withdrawal of Germany from the Disarmament Conference and the League of Nations. Since that time the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and Japan have led the way in the race to increase armies, navies, and air forces. Until two years ago Italy invested huge sums in armament.

Data compiled by the Foreign Policy Association quoted in the United States News, reveal that the bill for armaments to the 60 major countries of the world is now four times that of five years ago. For purposes of comparison, I cite armament appropriations for the seven great powers at the outbreak of the World War, at the start of the present armament race, and today:

1913	$ 2,154,000,000
1933	2,813,000,000
1938	7,240,000,000

Six of these powers now devote from 20% to 50% of their national budgets to armaments. The United States spends about 12% of its budget for national defense. This increase in spending for the materials of war goes on simultaneously with an international inability to balance a budget.

The heaviest spender in the armament race is Russia, with Germany, Japan, Great Britain, France, and the United States following in the order named. This year Russia will spend 16 times as much as was spent in 1933. Its standing army of one and a half million men and its reserve force of 17 million men constitute the largest army the world ever has known.

Germany is not far behind Russia in armament expenditures. This year that country will spend 13 times as much as was spent in 1933. Extensive border fortifications have been erected and Hitler's air force is now said to be the equal of any other in the world. Although no official figures are available, the German army is estimated to have a strength of one million men.

Armament expenditures in the United States are now at a record peace-time high. Appropriations have been stepped up gradually and this year our expenditures for the army and navy will total nearly billion dollars. Congress also passed a special billion dollar naval bill in the last session.

The following table of armament spending for 1933 and 1938 gives a comprehensive picture of what is going on in this costly race:

	1933	1938
Russia	$[illegible]	$5,076,000,000
Germany	300,000,000	3,900,000,000
Japan	253,000,000	1,755,000,000
Great Britain	756,000,000	1,567,000,000
France	679,000,000	1,507,000,000
U. S.	540,000,000	1,064,000,000

All bars are down in disarmament race. Land forces have never been restricted by international agreement and all previous by existing restrictive naval agreement have disappeared with the expiration of the Washington and London Naval Treaties.

Sincerely Yours,
GEORGE A. DONDERO, M. C.

PARAGRAPHS

New Words For Old

Whodunit: A mystery film.—From American Speech.

Including The Editor

Farmers are talking about the weather, and so is everyone else.—From the Martha's Vineyard (Mass.) Gazette.

So We Hear

It takes hard work to make easy living.—Hubbard (Ore.) Enterprise.

Probably

Probably there would be fewer of those gigantic war bills of folks had to do the footing before the armings!!—Boston Herald.

Perhaps

An Indiana professor gives football only 10 more years as a major sport. Perhaps his college will do better next season.—Life.

It Has To Be

The depression is like a postage stamp to be sent away.—Louisville Times.

Perhaps

Perhaps the old adage, "Two can live as cheaply as one," means that father and mother can live as cheaply as daughter.—Christian Science Monitor.

The Difficulty

Our politicians are perfectly familiar with all the questions of the day. The difficulty is that they don't know the answers.—Dublin Opinion.

THERE AIN'T NO SUCH ANIMULE

Random Remarks

Daniel C. Roper, Secretary of Commerce, home from Great Britain:

"The English believe their rearmament program is far enough along to command respect and peace."

Herbert Lehman, Governor of New York:

"The challenge of the present both in agriculture and in industry, is distribution."

Nicholas Murray Butler, president, Columbia University:

"In Europe it has been estimated that twelve hundred men in positions of influence in their governments hold the fate of the world in their hands."

Douglas Corrigan, taking a job as copilot:

"I guess it'll be a long time before I'm a big shot."

Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior and head of the PWA:

"I have never stimulated a municipality to take over a power plant."

Lazaro Cardenas, President of Mexico:

"We have stipulated in our contracts that no oil go to Japan, since that might be considered a disservice to the people of America."

Joseph C. O'Mahoney, U. S. Senator from Wyoming:

"A slight increase of wages among the low-paid members of society would increase the purchasing power of the masses out of all proportion to the cost."

Paul Bellamy, Cleveland editor, to Governor Davey:

"Of public thinks you take a month to do a job which could be finished with reasonable diligence in a day."

Helen Wills Moody, tennis champion:

"I must say something nice about Ireland. It is the most attractive, friendly and hospitable country I have ever visited."

Millard Tydings, U. S. Senator from Maryland:

"I voted for the bone and sinew of what is popularly called the Roosevelt program."

William J. Wallin, of Yonkers, N. Y.:

"I want to be able to discriminate when a Japanese enters my sales China."

New York Times, in an editorial:

"The absolute segregation of church and State is more essential to the churches than to the State."

Cordell Hull, Secretary of State:

"Economic stability, financial stability, social stability and international stability and political stability are all parts of an arch resting upon the foundation of trade."

James W. Hook, President, New England Council:

"You can't have substantial recovery with a third of our population depending on Government for jobs and income."

Virgil Jordan, President National Industrial Conference Board:

"No sound recovery in income

Alwine Dollfuss, wife of murdered Austrian Chancellor:

"Life for me holds two things—bitter recollections and duty."

John J. Pershing, Commander, American Armies in France:

"Nothing can prevent me from visiting the American graves in France annually as long as I live."

Manuel Quezon, Filipino President:

"We are Orientals."

Franklin D. Roosevelt:

"We, in the Americas, have become a consideration to every propaganda office and to every general staff beyond the seas."

Walter F. George, U. S. Senator, from Georgia:

"The threat to free men in America today is bureaucracy."

Alben W. Barkley, U. S. Senator, from Kentucky:

"As long as there is public faith in the government there is no cause to worry."

Leon Henderson, economist, who predicted the present depression:

"My guess is that we are headed not for a boom, but for recovery."

Jots 'n Jest

THERE'S no ragweed pollen at 10,000 feet, a Chicago expert reveals. Altogether, you hay-fever sufferers "So what?"

* * *

Week's neatest trick "—his eyes jumped back and forth from Mr Dewey's lips to Weinberg."—From an account of the Hines trial in New York

* * *

A zoologist comparing the flight of birds to the achievements of aviators, observes that his homing pigeon ever would mistake east for west. Take that and that, Mr. Corrigan.

* * *

News item "Charlie McCarthy is preparing to write his life story." In block letters, we take it

WASHINGTON LETTER

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Congressional Action on Farm Exports to Be Sought as Boost to Agriculture

WASHINGTON.—Pressure will be brought to bear on Congress next session to do something to help the farmer regain his place in the export markets, or to provide compensation in a domestic allotment plan. Many groups feel this is the major problem confronting the American farmer and that we should not count the cost of any solution that can be found.

The gist of a report issued by the agricultural committee of one of these groups, the National Association of Manufacturers, is that a shrinkage in exports of grains, meat and cotton is due to low prices prevailing in 1936-37 for all goods, and to other "special conditions."

* * *

SPECIAL condition in the case of cotton, according to the committee, is "our domestic policy of curtailing production and pricing our cotton out of line with world levels." In the case of grain exports the report attributes the decrease to "the series of drought years" and adds, "recovery of the market depends on production, marketing, loan and price features of the new Agricultural Adjustment Act."

Thirdly, in the opinion of the committee, meat exports declined because population increase and drought created a meat and meat products shortage which cannot be balanced "unless substantial domestic expansion takes place."

Department of Agriculture officials believe that higher tariffs not higher prices have closed foreign markets. They say also that increased foreign production has largely offset losses, and are convinced it has not been much affected by the size of United States crops. Statistics they have compiled on cotton show that in China, Russia, Brazil and Uganda production increased continuously from 1921-27 and in this period the world price of American cotton was reduced by more than 50 per cent, which should have made it attractive to foreign buyers.

* * *

IN the case of beef, they point out, that when Argentine cut into our lucrative export trade to the United Kingdom, Swift & Company, Wilson & Company, Armour & Company invested in the Argentine, and our exclusion from the export meat markets was largely due to American participation in the Argentine meat packing business.

They have no faith in a domestic allotment plan which would dump United States surpluses on the world market at the world price, and return to the producer more than the price at which those crops sold abroad.

Nevertheless, it is anticipated that the government's next move to adjust the drop in export will be a wheat export subsidy, with extension of credit to foreign buyers through some such agency as the existing Export Import Bank. It is considered likely that next in line may be a subsidy which would help dispose of the over-weight cotton crop.

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 Editor:

There are a lot of Tiger fans in Birmingham and a lot of Mickey Cochrane fans, too. I think most of these fans would agree that Mike is worthy of an honor. Well, why not get together, then, and give him the key to the city? Yes, I know the usual custom is to give it to visiting celebrities but the idea is to pay a tribute, isn't it? And surely, here is a man that deserves it.

Lots of so-called fans "knocked him while he was down" by cracking about his mistakes and faults. Now, I ask you, is that the way to treat a grand guy like Mike, who has done a world of good for baseball in Detroit? (I mean Birmingham too). So lets get together, admirers of the Cochrane, and prove to Black Mike that we appreciate the All that he has done and that we are still The City of True Sportsmanship. And lets prove to him that we are worthy of the honor paid us by Mickey, himself, when a photographer, trying to cheer him up, said, "Oh, well, Mike, there are other baseball towns," and Mike answered quickly, "But not like this one, buddy."

And because his urge to play and be in things, not on the sidelines, made him a poor bench-manager, should we hold this against his record?

I have never talked with him; I have only seen and heard him. I know he was far from perfect as an individual but he was one of the game's greatest catchers and as a playing manager he was tops. His name deserves not to be trodden upon and so instead let's wish him and capable Del Baker, the best of luck. Think it over, fans, and think fairly of the man with the fighting spirit!

Girl O'Fourteen.

Still An American Opportunity

By RAYMOND PITCAIRN

Since the earliest days of the Republic, Americans have regarded our country as a model and an example for all nations of what free government can achieve.

This pride in our ideals and progress involves more than a sense of self-satisfaction. It demands a sense of responsibility as well.

Responsibility for what? Responsibility for continued demonstration of the fact that political freedom assures not only great material advantages, but internal peace and happiness as well.

For a century and a half the first of these benefits has been evident to all the world. Under no other government has the standard of living soared that of the American people.

But of the second benefit, the evidence has been less apparent. Warring ambitions and political exigencies have, on frequent occasion, interrupted not only our national progress but our happiness as a people. Efforts to create and exploit class hatreds; to arouse sectional differences; to fan, for factional purposes, the embers of dying hatreds and prejudices, have marred the shining model which America can represent.

In Europe—old, tired and haunted by its ancient fears, its limited resources and its long spells of despotism—such strife is perhaps unavoidable.

But in America—still young, still vigorous, still rich in the wealth of her natural resources and the energy of her people—it is difficult to understand.

If America is to remain what her founders hoped—a model and a beacon for all mankind—then hatreds, and the attempt to arouse hatreds, must cease, while all groups work together for the benefit of the people as a whole.

Today, with war-clouds hovering over many frontiers, the world needs such an example.

And America, if she wills, can offer it.

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