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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1938

Perhaps you may not have read that fine editorial published in The Detroit News the other day, touching on the **Legal Red Tape** Hines case in New York. The News has presented the viewpoint of the average citizen who, having to pay for the processes of our courts, cannot understand the red tape of court technicalities. Here is what The News said:

MISTRIAL
The processes of the legal mind are ever a mystery to the laity, and are no clearer after a trial has been declared in the Hines case. By implication, defense counsel had called one state's witness after another, everything under the sun. Yet a simple question by the prosecutor, which might be construed to identify the defendant with a crime outside the indictment, meant the failure of a long and costly process.

A procedural objection put by a prosecutor might conceivably weigh with a jury of morons, but this was widely advertised as a blue ribbon panel. In some jurisdictions the court might have directed the jury to disregard the slip, and the prosecutor to proceed. The court could have done so here. Presumably it would have counted the risks of reversal on an appeal from a conviction. Instead, it courts the impatience and something like the contempt of the intelligent layman, who would gladly think of courts and the lawyers practicing in them as searchers for simple truth if he were not so regularly deluded.

It is hard to see that anyone has profited by this trial. The defendant pays a stiff fee to counsel and his name rests under the original cloud. In this connection it is probably not unfair to say that the average reader, under-estimated by judicial metaphysics, had long since learned the brilliant prosecutor, of whom so much was expected that he is honored for Governor of New York, stumbles on a rule described by the court as deeply rooted in the law, however out of place it may be in lay logic. Certainly the citizen who pays for it all has little to show for his money.

Another trial is in order, and should be held, despite the somewhat tangle which confronts the state, depending as it must almost entirely on the testimony of disreputable witnesses. The issue poised in the prosecution is socially too vital to abandon. Meanwhile it is no credit to our judicial system that it erects so many obstacles in the way of the truth, and maintains them there for no other reason than that it has been thus.

The National Association of Attorneys-General, which recently met in Cleveland, Ohio, has appointed a committee to study the encroachment of Federal authority on the sovereignty of the states, with great concern. The Eccentric is a believer in the doctrine of state's rights if that doctrine means the control of local affairs by the states. In a nation as large as the United States, it is important that the elements remain strong and able to protect the rights of their people.

Not since the days of wildcat banking in Michigan has there prevailed in the state government at Lansing such utter confusion and such a deplo-
Reaping the Whirlwind
rable condition of state affairs as at present. Every time the clock ticks the state is sinking deeper and deeper into the red. In order to keep the payroll machines in operation for the benefit of Michigan's greatest army of payroll patriots old age pensions are being reduced and thousands upon thousands of needy, aged people are being cut entirely from all state support.

Obligations of the state are going unpaid. As a result the small merchants, coal dealers and supply men are carrying the state welfare load. Many of them have not received one cent for the supplies delivered to the welfare since January first. The state government figures that it is far better to keep its big regimented force of job holders functioning because of the approaching election than it is to pay its just debts.

But this condition should not be surprising. People who are not in the habit of paying debts usually give little thought to the necessity of paying any sort of an obligation when it is due. As a result there is a very large number of small business men throughout the state who have been forced to borrow money at the banks in order to save themselves from bankruptcy.

The political plunderbunds cannot honestly say the present depression is entirely to blame for all that has happened. They were warned during the early part of the last session of the state legislature more than a year ago that the wild cock-eyed appropriations they were making would lead to just what has happened.

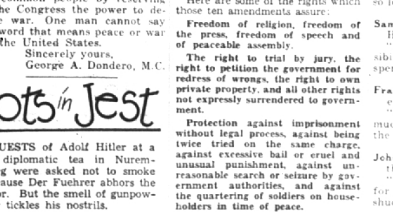
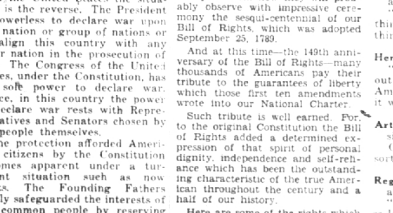
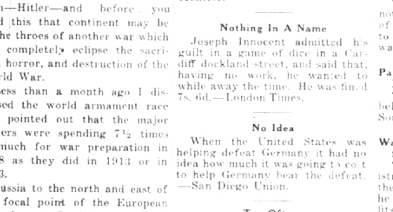
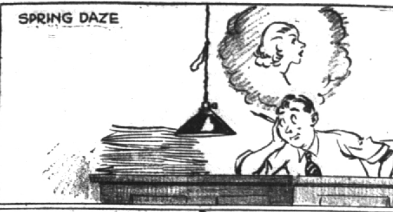
When the writer of this editorial presented a series of some 78 amendments to the appropriation bills they were voted down. Saving tax dollars was the last thought they had in mind. The one purpose seemed to be to get every penny that could be squeezed out of the taxpayers of the state and turn just as many of the dollars as they could into the pockets of the political job holders.

The present state administration had used any common sense at all that time, the most tragic condition could have been prevented. But what cared the spenders when they knew that the governor wanted the tax dollars and wanted the appropriations made so that he could use the condition thereby created for political reasons?

Do not, for one second, think that all of the Democratic members of the legislature agreed with the crazy appropriations program that was carried out. There were many of them who realized that the Murphy administration was headed off directly for the plights in which it finds itself, but because of administration politics, they were unable to do other than support his program.

If the people of Michigan could know just half the truth about all of the things taking place today within the state government, they could be amazed beyond belief. Yes, even in these days when officials in high place sell their own birthright for gain—Elton R. Eaton in Plymouth (Mich.) Mail.

BACK TO WORK MOVEMENT



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Have Entered The Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

Fifty Years Ago
The only man in Michigan who had yellow fever and lived to brag about it had from Grand Rapids, says the Evening News. Vast health there! No, he's not the only man in Michigan who's bragged about a long shot. W. B. McCoy of the Orion Review can recall vividly having the malady to his "innard's delight" in New Orleans, summer of 1847, where they reported death rate in the city was 100 per cent. He, of course, is still on dock. But for a year or so after his capotant anatomy averaged about 70 pounds, while before it had been around 125 pounds. The fever left him as void of hair as a bald-headed eagle, and with an appetite as ravenous as that of a man-eating shark. And, had he to choose either horn of the dilemma today as between the two horns of the Saginaw ague, he says he prefers the old yellow jack.

Five Years Ago
Non-commissioned charged here in N. R. A. complaints. Compliance board, under instructions from Washington before hearing cases of alleged violations of codes. Employees, however, are not among more than a score of problems presented. Commission is ready to act on "case of missing member." Mayor Harry Allen says Smith's vacancy will be filled Monday night. Legal 30 day period expires Sunday. 2,484 students registered as schools open. Early enrollment figures are 48 less than last year's for local system. Baldwin has increase of 14.

Twenty-Five Years Ago
Ellsworth Plummer, who has come again after a successful season of professional work, touring western and southern states. His starting Atlantic City from the west. Bloomfield farmer's wife. He better may be going running circles these fine mornings." Well, we can scarcely believe it—either the story or the source. An old Spanish cure, some 106 years old and in good condition, is used by Clark Harris of the place. It was recently allowed up on a farm in York and is really quite a curiosity. James McKinney of Southfield is winning fame and a great name as a pole racer. He raises polo in his own state. He is a fast, fast, safe and sensational raising.

Washington Letter
Wheat and Cotton Exports by FSCC Appear a Failure
This wealthy nation, which can afford to help its wheat farmers revive their export trade, will one day give wheat off to anyone who will truck it away the docks.

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Wheat and Cotton Exports by FSCC Appear a Failure
WASHINGTON—Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation subsidized buying of wheat for export is disappointing by moving at snail's pace. For about a week the Department of Agriculture with considerable optimism posted a bulletin showing how much wheat had been bought and how much it was chasing has not been a great success. As an experiment, FSCC bought 20,000 bales of one-vaiety cotton at the low price of 10 cents per pound. The plan was to buy 100,000,000 bushels, but to give publicity to the fine quality of American cotton anticipating that foreign buyers would compare it, appreciate it, and demand more of it. But it has worked out that way, and FSCC's purchase of 50,000 bales of cotton and 14 mill yards of cotton cloth, made recently, was for distribution to relief clients.

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Congressional Comment
by Representative George A. Dondero, D-Mich.
To the Editor:
Today the fate of Europe is solely within the mind of the one man—Hitler—and before you read this that continent may be in the throes of another war which will completely eclipse the sacrifice, horror, and destruction of the World War.

Paragraphs
Peculiar
Man is that peculiar animal who can get a good hearty laugh out of pictures in an old family album when he looks in a mirror without as much as a grin—Boston Herald.

Random Remarks
Theodore Dreiser, American poet from Georgia.
"The literary genius of America are guilty of literary inequity. The book, which is pure baloney, gets the same space the really good book gets."

Paragraphs
Mystery
The nearest we approach the horseless age the greater is our horsepower.—Christian Science Monitor.

Paragraphs
Nothing In A Name
Joseph Innocent admitted his guilt in a game of dice in a Cardiff dockland street, and said that, having no work, he wanted to while away the time. He was fined 7s. 6d.—London Times.

Paragraphs
No Idea
When the United States was helping defeat Germany it had no idea how much it was going to cost to help Germany beat the defeat.—San Diego Union.

Paragraphs
Too Often
It is often true, also, that if a man but make a letter clapper, delegations will beat a path to his door offering nominations.—Eccentric Herald.

Paragraphs
The Bill of Rights
RAYMOND PITCHER
A vent ago the American people observed with nationwide celebrations the 150th anniversary of our Constitution written during the summer of 1787.

Paragraphs
Walter Wanger, Hollywood producer:
"The main function of the screen is to cheat."

Paragraphs
The Bill of Rights
RAYMOND PITCHER
A year from now they will probably observe with impressive ceremonies the bicentennial of our Bill of Rights, which was adopted September 25, 1789.

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The Bill of Rights
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And at this time the 148th anniversary of the Bill of Rights—many thousands of Americans pay their tribute to the guaranties of liberty which those first ten amendments wrote into our National Charter.

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The protection afforded American citizens by the Constitution becomes apparent under a turbulent situation such as now exists. The Founding Fathers wisely safeguarded the interests of the common people by reserving to the Congress the power to declare war. One man cannot say for the people themselves.

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The Bill of Rights
RAYMOND PITCHER
The right to trial by jury, the right to petition the government for redress of grievances, the right to private property, and all other rights not expressly surrendered to government.

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Paragraphs
The Bill of Rights
RAYMOND PITCHER
Protection against imprisonment without legal process, against being tried on a charge of treason, against excessive bail or cruel and unusual punishment, against unreasonable searches and seizures, against government authorities, and against the quartering of soldiers on house-holders.

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Rudy Vallee takes the stump for gubernatorial candidate in Maine. Would it be out of place to observe that Rudy is trying to "swing" Maine to his man?

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