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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1939

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events
which have great 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 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
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by those other than members of the staff without charge.
Erroneous selection upon the character, standing or
reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may
appear in the Eccentric, will be strictly corrected upon
correction being brought to the attention of the publisher.

(From the New York Sun)

He is an American.
He hears an airplane overhead, and if he
looks up at all does so in curiosity,
neither in fear nor in the
hope of seeing a protector.

His wife goes marketing and her
purchases are limited by her needs, her
tastes, her budget, but not by decree.

He comes home of an evening through streets
which are well lighted, not dimly in blue.

He reads his newspaper and knows that what
it says is not concocted by a bureau, but an honest,
untrammeled effort to present the truth.

He has never had a gas mask on.

He has never been in a bombproof shelter.

His military training, an R. O. T. C. course in
the gym, took because it excited him from
the gym course, and it was not compulsory.

He belongs to such fraternal organizations
and clubs as he wishes.

He adheres to a political party to the extent
that he desires—the dominant one, if that be
his choice, but with the distinct reservation
that he may criticize any of its policies with all
the vigor which to him seems proper—any
other as his convictions dictate, even, if it be
his decision, one which holds that the theory
of governments of the country is wrong and
should be scrapped.

He does not believe, if his party is out of
power, that the only way in which it can
come to power is through a bloody revolution.

He converses with friends, even with chance
acquaintances, expressing freely his opinion on
any subject, without fear.

He does not expect his mail to be opened
between posting and receipt, nor his telephone to
be tapped.

He changes his place of dwelling, and does
not report so doing to the police.

He is not registered with the police.

He carries an identification card only in case
he should be the victim of a traffic accident.

He thinks of his neighbors across international
borders—those to the north as though they
were across a State line, rather than as foreigners—
of those to the south more as strangers since
they speak a language different from his, and
with the knowledge that there are now matters
of difference between his country and theirs,
but of neither with an expectancy of war.

He worships GOD in the fashion of his choice,
without let.

His children are with him in his home,
neither removed to a place of greater safety, if
young, nor, if older, ordered to serve the
State with sacrifice of limb or life.

He has his problems, his troubles, his uncer-
tainties, but all others are not overshadowed by the
imminence of battle and sudden death.

He should struggle to preserve his American-
ism with its priceless privileges.

He is a fortunate man.

He is an American.

What men call for lack of a better word is
strikingly illustrated by the accidental killing
of a six-year-old schoolboy in Great
Britain.

When the outbreak of war seemed
to threaten the life of thousands of school chil-
dren in London, the government took elaborate
precautions, moved most of the young boys and
girls out of the danger zone, billeting them with
families in the safer areas.

Well, just afterwards, a Royal Air Force plane,
making a routine flight, accidentally dropped a
dummy bomb which crashed through the roof of
a country home, killing one of the six-year-
old children, recently moved from the "danger"
zone in London, where no bombs have fallen
so far. A younger brother, sleeping in the same
bed, was not hurt.

The American method of disposing of other
"isms" is to permit free speech, free debate,
ample discussion and to provide, through American
methods, every opportunity for advocates of various
"isms" to state their cases.

The comparison between what we have in the
United States and what exists in other lands is
the best argument against so-called "subversive
activities." It is not Americanism to combat
these "menaces" by the use of repressive mea-
sures, copied from totalitarian states.

The American who is fearful that a few talk-
ers will be able to persuade the people of this
country to adopt alien ideals has very little con-
fidence in American institutions and even less in
the sense, stability and character of the average
American.

HARRY MYERS REPORTS in his Lapeer County
Press that a certain citizen there refuses to give
up his dogs, because he wants to be sure of a
welcome every time he gets home.

The "muddle" in which so much of today's
world finds itself is largely the fault of our edu-
cational system, believes
A Definition of Education
Dr. George Washington
Carver, the noted Negro
scientist, and president of
the Tuskegee College, while in Detroit a few
weeks ago, the noted educator, a close personal
friend of Henry Ford, allowed himself to be
interviewed upon the subject of education. What
he said ought to be of inestimable value and
guidance to every forward-looking educator in
this nation—in fact, of the entire world.

"There is too much extent and not enough
intensity in our educational system," he says in
explanation. "We take a small child, and along-
side that child we place a stack of books almost
as tall as he is. In time the child reads all the
books and gets a degree; but all he has is a hazy
idea of a great number of things. Too much
extent.

"Now, supposing I look out the window as I
am doing now, and I say to you 'I see a tree,'
How much do you know? Nothing. When I say
'I see tree' your mind immediately gets a picture
of trees—a great many trees—and you haven't
the slightest idea of what I am talking about.

"But if I say to you, 'I see an oak tree,' then
all the other trees fade out of your mind except
oak trees, and I have increased your knowledge
by decreasing the extent and increasing the in-
tensity.

"But there are many kinds of oak trees. So I
say to you, 'I see a white oak tree.' Then all the
other oak trees fade out of your mind and you
see only white oak trees. Again, by limiting the
extent, I have increased your knowledge.

"But there are two kinds of white oak trees—the
swamp oak and the upland oak. I say to you,
'I see a swamp oak tree,' and then you ask me
the difference between the swamp oak and the
upland oak.

"I tell you the upland oak is hard, and that
it is good for making buggies and houses and
things like that, and that the swamp oak can
be split almost to ribbons, and is used for
making shingles.

"By decreasing the extent and increasing the
intensity I have added to your knowledge.

"The only way I can really understand that
vase on the table is to make one. I can read
about it; but that, after all, is merely gathering
in a lot of words.

"This limiting the extent and increasing the
intensity is what Mr. Ford is doing. He un-
doubtedly holds the key to the education problem,
but the chances are it will be a century or more
before people will realize just what he has accom-
plished.

Many critics of modern educational methods
argue that the public schools attempt to teach
too little about too many things; that is what
Dr. Carver means when he states 'by decreasing
the extent and increasing the intensity I have
added to your knowledge.'

Educated educators will do well to ponder
Dr. Carver's definition of education.

Michigan's Governor Dickinson, past eight-
yone of age, laments the passing of "the good
old days," when people grew up amid greater
personal struggle.

Okey, Governor!
The Governor sees—and we think properly so—
that today's lack of struggle among so much
of today's makes them less self-reliant, less ap-
preciative of what they do have. In the realm of
his topic, Governor Dickinson is on solid
ground; we only wish that he had the ability
and the vigor to apply his Puritanical philo-
sophy right smack into the realm of his Executive
duties; then Michigan would really go back to
"first principles of efficiency and economy" in
its present extravagant governmental administration.

Declaring that the concentration of 75,000 regular
Army troops in the South this winter will
be a "practical war,"

An Army Learning To Fight
George C. Marshall, new Chief-
of-Staff of the Army, compares it with a foot-
ball team that had never played a game.

The maneuvers this winter will mark the
"first time that the Army has gone through all
of the steps and operations essential to modern
warfare." Excepting a few soldiers who partici-
pated in the World War, the nation has prac-
tically no seasoned fighters in the Army.

Continuing to compare the Army with a foot-
ball team, Marshall says that because
of a lack of funds, "we have been forced to
throw passes in a chicken coop."

One feature of the extensive maneuvers in
the next few months will be the participation
of the National Guard who will train with the
regular units. Recent exercises have developed
weaknesses that can be corrected, in the opinion
of experts, only through maneuvers on a large
scale.

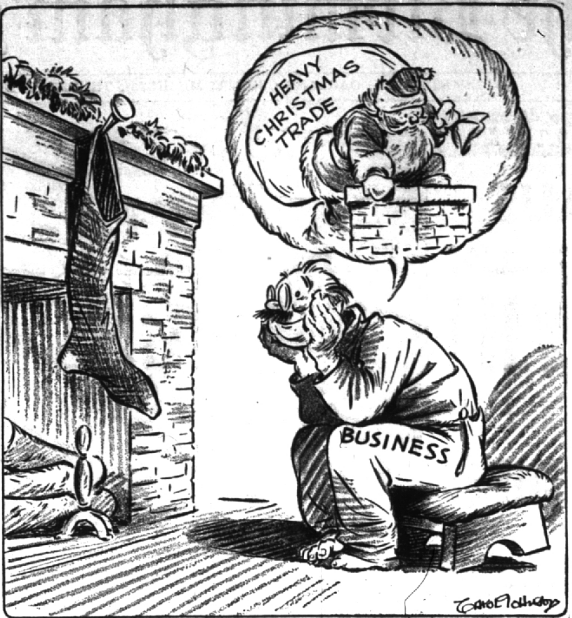
A GOOD CITIZEN is one who has the courage to
ask his public officials to refuse the extension
of extravagant services. That is the best way to
reduce taxes. How many good citizens or citi-
zens who think themselves good—have ever ap-
peared before their taxing units of government
and requested more economy in government?

THERE ARE MANY EVILS about us that need cor-
rection. Like weeds that grow in one's yard,
these evils need up-rooting. The best way to
clean up a town that is over-run with weeds is
NOT to call a town meeting for that purpose,
but for every householders to go out into his
own and do a little pulling. Then the town is
free from weeds, and at the least expense, too.

THE DIES COMMITTEE, investigating un-Ameri-
can activities in the United States, declares that
no less than 563 federal employees are members
of the Communist Party. Well, why not send 'em
over to Russia?

NOW THAT THE EMBARGO ACT is passed at Wash-
ington, the thoughts of politicians again turn
to the question: "Will President Roosevelt seek
a third term?" The politicians also wonder if
summer will come again.

HANGING HIS STOCKING UP EARLY



Congressional Comment
by
Representative
Dondero
1700 Michigan Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Emergency Executive Powers.
Some weeks ago Senator Arthur
I. Vandenberg asked Attorney
General Frank Murphy to report
to the U. S. Senate what executive
powers were available to the
President under his proclamation
of national emergency and what
other extraordinary powers, if
any, would be made available to
the executive under existing sta-
tutes in an emergency or state of
war.

Attorney General Murphy re-
sponded to the Vandenberg re-
solutions (S. R. 185) with an exten-
sive list of such powers and pre-
sented his report with these words,
among others:

"I have prepared and am trans-
mitting herewith a list of statutes
which, by their terms, grant to the
executive branch of the govern-
ment powers which may be exer-
cised in emergency or state of
war." It is not claimed that this
list is complete—indeed, accuracy
of the list is not claimed. It is
careful and painstaking search
of the entire body of the Federal
statutes has revealed that this
class having been enacted from
time to time since the beginning
of the government.

It is certainly startling to note
that the list referred to by the
Attorney General included 98 dif-
ferent listings of executive
powers, one dating as far back
as 1793. This incomplete list re-
fers to executive powers covering
agriculture, banking, commerce
and trade, communications, money, navigation, pa-
tents, public health, transportation,
communications, shipping,
military and naval affairs, and
other subjects affecting our citi-
zens. In fact, existing legislation
vests dictatorial powers in the
chief executive.

All of these powers were not
voted during the period from
March 4, 1933, but many date
back many years. The dangerous
situation has been reached because
of the failure of Congress to re-
peal any of them after the emer-
gency which brought them about
has passed. The information which
has become public relative to the
industrial mobilization plan pre-
pared by the Army and Navy has
served to arouse public antagonism
to vest grants to the executive,
regardless of who that executive
may be in time of an emergency or
state of war.

Far Reaching
Space does not permit outlining,
even briefly, all of the various
powers vested in the executive,
but some are so far-reaching in
their effect that they demand
public attention. For instance,
power is vested in the President
to control production and the
prices of all farm commodities. He
may also fix wages and hours in
Federal contracts to such an extent
that the procedure would in-
fluence wage levels and prices in
private industry. He may also, by
proclamation, close the banks and
stock and commodity markets. Under
these powers manufacturing may
be controlled and subjected to the
business except under regulation
prescribed by the Secretary of the
Treasury with the approval of the
President during an emergency or
period as the President by pro-
clamation may prescribe. 16 U. S.

Code 809 provides that the United
States may take over certain
power houses, dams, conduits, and
reservoirs "when in the opinion of
the President... the safety of
the United States demands it." 31
U. S. Code 821 authorizes the
President to take certain action in
respect of credit expansion when
he finds "an economic emergency
requires an expansion of credit."
U. S. Code 21, originally enacted
July 6, 1793, and subsequently
amended, provides that "when-
ever there is a declared war be-
tween the United States and any
foreign nation or government, or
any invasion or predatory incu-
sion is perpetrated, attempted, or
threatened against the territory of
the United States by any foreign
nation or government, or the hos-
tile nation of the age of 14
years and upward, within the United
States and not naturalized, shall
be liable to be apprehended, re-
stricted, secured, and removed
as alien enemies.

**Charles B. Andrews, U. S. Senator
from Florida:**
"The shorter the war the less
likely the United States may be
completely involved."

**Leslie Howe-Belisha, British War
Secretary:**
"An offensive against prepared
positions is unprofitable."

C. Razer, Texas veterinarian:
"The goat is fastidious and very
particular as to his diet."

**Arthur Capper, U. S. Senator from
Nebraska:**
"The war issue in Europe is
boundary lines, spoils of the re-
sulting spoils won in the World
War—and power politics."

**James M. Mead, U. S. Senator
from New York:**
"A member of Congress can no
more be neutral in thought in the
face of injustice or godlessness
than any other citizen."

**George N. Norris, U. S. Senator
from Nebraska:**
"I would not take his (Hitler's)
word for anything on earth."

Kyotoi Kailio, President of Finland:
"Peaceful Finland is trusting
that God and justice will defend
her independence."

Herbert Hoover, former President:
"The most difficult job we have
in these months before us is to
remain at home."

**Kichisaburo Nomura, Japanese
Foreign Minister:**
"The determination of the en-
tire Japanese nation to bring
about a new order in Asia is too
strong to be changed or affected
by the interference of a third power."

**R. H. Patchin, official of American
shipping company:**
"No country can expand its im-
ports without increasing its im-
ports."

**Louis Ludlow, member of Con-
gress from Indiana:**
"A vote to repeal the embargo
would be a half vote for war."

**Philip Gibbs, British correspond-
ent:**
"Germany has opened her gate
to the Russian Bear who one day
will bite her throat."

**December 7—McClain,
American general, born,
1920.**
4—Henry Ford's "peace
aided for Europe,
1915.
5—The spring gun was pat-
ented, 1861.
6—Lafayette entered the
Nogues River, 1878.
7—United States declared
war on Austria, 1917.
8—The first written message
was given to Congress,
1801.
9—St. Louis was incorpo-
rated as a city, 1820.

Clyde C. Bennett
Human Ostrich
Lady—"But didn't I give you
a cake last week?"
Benny—"Yes, ma'am."
Lady—"And you are here
again?"
Benny—"Yes, ma'am, your
cake was nothing to me, I used
to be a sword swallower."

Knocking on Wood!

with JOHN H. HARWOOD
"One of the tragedies of a con-
trolled press is that even those
who have the say as to the ma-
terial which is printed eventually
find themselves in a position
to be taken in by their own
propaganda. Adolf Hitler is in the
fortunate position of having
heard every single speech by De
Fuehrer and having been carried
away by the man's eloquence
and every occasion of Hey-
wood Brown.

Revising a Slogan
"Lafayette, here we are and
here we mean to stay." Signed,
Your Uncle Samuel—American
Guardian.
Time
"Patrick Henry fearing his
fears, thought the Constitution a
document devised to enslave the
people. The results of its adoption,
he said, would nullify liberty!"
"Even John Marshall, our great
Chief Justice, said: 'Should Jack-
son be elected, I should look upon
the government as virtually dis-
solved. What a terrible threat for
a wise man to make."
"Time makes ancient good
uncouth," said Lowell; "it also
makes present wisdom foolish."—
Joseph Fort Newton.

Waste
A newspaper editor receives
publicity stuff and propaganda
the bushel. Sometimes this ob-
server, for the life of him, can not
figure out why postage is paid
by certain groups on the material
they send out.
For example, there comes regu-
larly to this desk the "Distiller's
Bulletin" put out by the Distilled
Spirits Institute, Inc., of Wash-
ington, D. C. A recent article
this week is headed, "Alcoholic
Ils Due to Lack of Proper Vita-
lization of the Liver." Alcohol is
More Beneficial than Harmful to
Average Person. Patients Drink
Three Times Daily With Good
Results." Then the article goes on
to say that "Hard liquor does not
cause delirium tremens, nor cir-
rhosis of the liver, nor Bright's
disease, nor high blood pressure
or many of the other diseases of
the body which have been blamed
on alcohol." The piece continues,
quoting a couple of professors
who assert that lack of Vitamin B
caused the trouble, and so on.
Even if this were true, what
newspaper would ever use baloney
from so biased a source?
In the same category are leaf-
lets received regularly from the
German Library of Information
giving the complete speeches of
Adolf Hitler; and also there comes
a Japanese paper justifying the
"defensive war with China."
Well, anyway, it keeps Ameri-
can printers busy!

Something to Think About
In Birmingham, a business man
must now get a license and pay a
fee in order to start business.
There are strict regulations cov-
ering buildings, how they are
built, and how they are built;
there are regulations on signs,
fences, dogs, milk, peddling, and
so on. In other words, there are
restrictions galore in Birmingham,
inhabited pretty much by people
of conservative frame of mind.

The thought occurs: Are not
these restrictions the same in
theory as those supplied by New
Deal Washington, but on a small-
scale? Do not they circumscribe
the freedom just as much?
However, this is the one redeem-
ing feature: The restrictions in
Birmingham are pretty much
own doing. We either wanted them
very much, or at least had the op-
portunity to kick like steers if we
didn't want them. In Royal Oak
Pontiac did not impose them on
us. And finally, if the times come
when a restriction is unwarrant-
ably, it is a fairly simple matter
to get rid of it.—That can't be
done at Washington.

There is a Circuit Judge in a
thoroughly orthodox way had the
most soul-satisfying name of any
man we have ever met in public
life. He is Judge Xenophon A.
Boomerhove of Bad Axe.

Well, Browder Speaks
Browder has finally been able to speak. Af-
ter engagements in Harvard,
Princeton and other centers,
learning and strongholds of Ameri-
can liberty, he has been suddenly
canceled. Communist Browder
was able to say his piece at good
old Yale.

It is highly doubtful whether
Browder's talk was anything bet-
ter than the usual buncombe that
politicians of his stripe put out. It
is highly doubtful whether any
political group has ever been so
thoroughly discredited in so short
a time as the Communist Party, so
the net result of his speech was
probably zero. Yet, it was a good
thing that what was allowed to
speak. That privilege was the sort
of thing those radical fellows were
basting for in 1978.

Happenings of Long Ago
Fifty Years Ago
Dec. 12, 1889
Our Troy friend, Stephen S.
Cooper, had a stroke of paralysis
not long ago, was found in the
field, taken care of and is now al-
most as good as new. At any rate
he will captivate the Troy taxes just
the same.

Mr. James Beatty has disposed
of the old Morris mill property to
Mr. Henry Reynolds of Pontiac,
who has taken possession of his
property and will run the mill to
its fullest capacity.

Married at the M. E. parsonage,
Birmingham, by Rev. E. P. Pierce,
Mr. William West and Miss
Minnie R. Jones of Troy, on the
evening of Dec. 5.

Mr. Samuel Jarvis is away on a
visit to his daughter, Mrs. Mas-
grave, at Kankakee, Ill. Samuel
will make a nice long visit and no
doubt will enjoy every moment of
his absence.

The new and beautiful Catholic
church at Royal Oak, "St. Mary's"
will be dedicated Dec. 15 at 10 a.
m. His Worship Bishop Foley will
be present at the ceremony. No
doubt that what a large crowd will
be in attendance.

Twenty-five Years Ago
Dec. 11, 1914
We heard a citizen of our town,
and he is one of our finest, take a
drop if he wishes to, but he said
he'd vote dry next spring and that
he knew 200 men like himself, and
many of them greater boogie fight-
ers than himself, who had all de-
clared that they themselves would
vote dry next spring.

Arrangements will be made in
the near future by which the dry
side of the liquor question will
made plain to all our readers so
they may vote on this great ques-
tion.

Fashions of twenty-five years
ago: In an authoritative display
of what hat is in vogue, the
that the instant demand for fan-
cy ostrich, instead of ostrich
plumes, dominates the minds of
designers.

Mrs. Jeanette Rainey celebrated
her 88th birthday anniversary at
the home of her son, Dr. J. M.
Rainey, last Friday.

Five Years Ago
Dec. 13, 1934
Clifford "Red" McBride, half-
back of the Baldwin School
grid team was unanimously elected
captain of the 1935 squad by his
teammates Wednesday afternoon.

Birmingham will have a com-
munity Christmas tree with lights.
This was assured Monday night
when the city commission ac-
cepted an offer of Mrs. William B.
Yaw, daughter of Senator and
Mrs. James Yaw, to contribute
whatever funds are needed to pur-
chase the lighting system and the
electricity. The tree will be
erected and will be furnished by
the Detroit Edison company.

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PERSONAL LOANS
MODERNIZATION LOANS
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