

The Birmingham Eccentric
 (Founded in 1928)
 Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The
 Building, 111 North West Street
 Telephone 11, 12 and 13

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Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Postoffice at
 Birmingham, Michigan.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 (In Oakland County) (Outside Oakland County)
 One Year \$1.00 \$1.25
 Six Months .50 .75
 Three Months .25 .35
 All newspapers and advertising rates must be in the Eccentric
 office by Tuesday noon to obtain insertion for that week.

The Eccentric is a member of:
 National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, Uni-
 versity Press Club and Oakland County Weekly Press Association

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1939

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events
 which have news value and which are written by persons not
 connected with the office of the Eccentric. The right to re-
 print is reserved. However, the Eccentric is not responsible for
 the accuracy of the information given in the stories. It is
 the responsibility of the author to see that the facts are
 correct and that the copy is in the office of the Eccentric
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 deadline.

Those who claim that Birmingham's financial
 condition is alarming enough to warrant con-
 sideration of a sale of the city are quite right,
 with those who argued against the purchase,
 last week, of 15.69 acres of land on the east side
 for park and recreational purposes. But we do
 believe, when all the facts are balanced to-
 gether, that the City Commission did a wise
 stroke of business in acquiring the area under
 discussion—and time will, we think, substantiate
 the belief.

**Reasons For
 Buying That Park**

There are a number of factors entered into the dis-
 cussion, of course. Protection of adjacent prop-
 erty against the possibility of the area being con-
 sidered as a "blighted" area, that would lower the
 neighborhood's present values (and that vital-
 ly affects tax collections); availability of that
 land for park and recreation development, thus
 benefiting scores of children and adults; con-
 trol of that area for beautification along the
 new highway will prevent it from becoming a
 poor advertisement for those who travel through
 this community; and, last but not least, the ap-
 parent cheapness of the land itself, for it is
 assessed at much more than the price the City
 will pay for it.

There is a certain amount of land in the
 city which is destined to grow. Now is the
 time to acquire whatever of public areas it is
 necessary for some years to come. If it had
 been the policy of the community many
 years ago, it would have saved countless thou-
 sands of dollars.

To a considerable extent, Birmingham, like
 "Topsy," "just grew up." It is a fine com-
 munity, and is bound to become better. We do not
 feel that the City's purchase of the park area
 at last week is a symbol of foolish extravagance
 at all; our City Commission wants to operate as
 efficiently as possible, of course, but many
 times when a modest investment saves money.

Mr. Donald Riechberg, former NRA adminis-
 trator, wants the public to make a demand that
 responsible representatives of manage-
 ment, labor, and Government lay down the
 weapons of warfare, sit down around the coun-
 cil table in peace, and thus reform the econ-
 omic set-up of the nation in order to give oppor-
 tunity to all.

**A Question
 To Be Answered**

Almost everybody will agree with the advis-
 ability of following the suggestions made. Pres-
 sumably, in such a conference the Government
 would represent the people of the United
 States, as contrasted with the special interest
 of those who represent labor and capital.

The question then arises, if such a confer-
 ence could be arranged, whether the repre-
 sentative of the Government are experts, labor
 representatives, the equals, or the superiors of those
 representing the others involved. If, for example,
 labor and capital can get together, should the
 representatives of the Government acquiesce in
 whatever decisions they make? On the other
 hand, should the representatives of the Govern-
 ment formulate a program and expect labor
 and capital to cooperate in carrying it out?

It seems to us, from what we know about the
 national economic set-up and the complicated
 questions now involved in the discussion, that
 some answer to these questions must be found
 before the nation can expect permanent re-
 covery. As long as the Government maintains
 that it is the economic boss of the country and
 meets opposition from labor or capital, there
 seems to be no way to avoid considerable con-
 fusion.

CIVIL SERVICE in Michigan's government will
 never be an accredited fact until several State
 administrations have come and gone. Such a
 desirable law goes counter to the selfish inter-
 ests of every political party, no matter how
 much lip service they give it during and after
 campaigns. But each administration is bound
 to make it more and more effective—no party
 will even suggest that Civil Service be
 removed from the law.

ALUMNI FROM 31 FOREIGN countries and Ameri-
 can possessions, and from every State in the
 Union, are listed among the 92,160 former stu-
 dents of the University of Michigan. Of the
 2,413 foreign alumni China leads with 708;
 Canada has 559; Japan, 144; India, 113; and
 England, 102. In the U. S. Michigan leads with
 33,646; New York, 7,212; Ohio, 6,773; Illinois,
 6,016; California, 4,998; and Indiana, 2,710.

In an interesting pamphlet entitled: "The Bell
 System Meets Its Greatest Test," there is re-
 vealed the story of a symbol of Ameri-
**Only in America
 Could This Happen!** is an enterprise
 in swift and ser-
 viceable action. It is the story, in word and pic-
 ture, of how this great communication system,
 when the disaster of hurricane, flooded tidal
 waves, and first struck eight New England States
 last fall, went into trained and scientific work
 of restoring to the stricken area the tremen-
 dously important physical equipment that makes the
 whole nation a telephonic neighborhood.

While the story is filled with many recitals
 of splendid activity on the part of the people
 employed by the Bell System, and should not
 be overlooked in reviewing the subject, to us
 the great fact that stands out is simply this: only
 a non-government-owned organization could
 have been so adequately prepared, in materials
 and in human morale, to have restored to a
 stricken area one of its most vital needs. Only
 a non-government-owned and operated orga-
 nization could have met and filled the challenge
 of the moment so ably!

That's the tremendously important and
 unique fact before us in this case.

That's the supreme reason why Americans, as
 devotees of a free and unfettered system of private
 ownership for profit of personal liberty,
 happiness, of equal opportunity for all who are
 willing to make the sacrifice demanded by suc-
 cess—that's why, we declare, Americans who
 cherish their freedom must be willing to accept
 and apply the formula of such freedom and
 opportunity.

Is this formula? It has many facets—
 its answer; perhaps a brief summary of it might
 be contained in the words of an American states-
 man who recently said:

"I believe in the United States of America
 as a government of the people, by the people,
 for the people, whose chief end is to secure
 from the consent of the governed; a democracy
 in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sov-
 ereign states; a perfect union, one and insepar-
 able; established upon those principles of free-
 dom, equality, justice, and humanity for which
 no man should be held in slavery, or in in-
 voluntary servitude; in which no man should
 therefore believe it is my duty to my country
 to love it; to support its constitution; to obey
 its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it
 against all enemies."

We have no sympathy with the plans and pur-
 poses of the Japanese Empire, but we have
 sympathy for the individuals who make up the
 Mikado's armies in China.

**A Japanese
 Soldier Speaks**

In condemning Japanese aggression in China,
 it is easy to accept the belief that the Japanese
 soldier is a brute, moved forward by a strange
 lust for blood and brutal war as a foreigner,
 they have been guilty of misconduct, but
 let us admit, soldiers of other nations have done
 the same.

Neutral experts express the opinion that at
 least 500,000 Japanese troops have died, either
 in battle or of disease, or have been put out of
 commission through being wounded since the
 war began. This loss, enormous as it is, is much
 less than the human sacrifice of the Chinese, but
 it is far greater than that expected by the
 Japanese generals when they began their march
 through China.

The fighting in China is unusually vicious be-
 cause neither the Japanese nor the Chinese
 take any prisoners. The Chinese, forced into
 guerrilla warfare, are unable to transport pris-
 oners, and, in most fights, it is victory or death
 for the Japanese. The fighting, proclaimed as
 a battle of honor, or have been put out of
 commission through being wounded since the
 war began. This loss, enormous as it is, is much
 less than the human sacrifice of the Chinese, but
 it is far greater than that expected by the
 Japanese generals when they began their march
 through China.

This is a picture of war as it actually is. On
 the battlefield there is little of the fervor and
 enthusiasm that accompanies the gay departure
 from home for the front. No bands play as men
 grapple with each other in the struggle to avoid
 death. No wonder civilized individuals, in their
 sane moments, denounce war and responsible
 statesmen make every effort to avoid the ordeal
 of battle for their people.

GOVERNOR FITZGERALD has declared that the
 State will intervene in gambling only when
 county law enforcement agencies fall down. In
 Oakland county, that means that sheriff
 Howarth and his posse will soon be ordered to
 do their duty in case gambling breaks out
 thereabouts. But knowing citizens, however, are
 asked to file their own complaints, too.

ACCORDING TO LIQUOR Commissioner Murl R.
 DeFoe, the Detroit Athletic Club and the Cin-
 cinnati drug stores sell more liquor in De-
 troit than any other agency. 53 per cent of the
 State's liquor is sold in Wayne County; seven
 percent in the Upper Peninsula, and the re-
 mainder out-State.



**Congressional
 Comment**
 by
 Representative
 George A.
 Dondero
 1170 Michigan Building

Driving Around The Block

WHEN wisdom deserts us now and then, and luxury thoughts take possession of us, we go tearing around hither and yon with a look of desperation upon our faces. Goodness, how busy we are! We huff and puff and struggle and strain and rack ourselves. When we go home at night the members of the family peer out timidly from the windows and if they see the cement of the sidewalks cracking under our determined stride, they bolt out of the back door and take to the mountains. As for ourselves, we go inside, and without taking of either overcoat or galoshes, we throw ourselves into an easy chair and gloom. And when it comes to doing a tall and lofty job of glooming, we acknowledge no superiors.

Random Remarks

Frank Knox, Publisher, Chicago, Vice-President nominee in 1936: "If we are sincerely intent on giving back to the farmer his just and equitable rights... we must, forthwith abandon the present system of excessively high tariffs."

Edward Heerdt, president of French Chamber of Deputies: "Law is dying and with it the acquisition of ancient humanism, the teachings of the Gospel and the conquest of philosophic reason are threatened."

Harry L. Hopkin, former head of the WPA: "I do not want to tell you there has been no relief, but we have tried to keep it out!"

Franklin D. Roosevelt: "If we Democrats lay for each other now, we can be sure that 1940 is the corner where the...

WASHINGTON LETTER
 BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Government Decorates Cotton Bales in Fight to Continue AAA Setup

WASHINGTON.—Adminis-
 trators of AAA marketing
 agreement have today begun
 making cotton surplus pack-
 ages for foreign buyers.

They plan to use a form of
 "cotton bales," made up of
 cotton surplus, and com-
 pensated by the govern-
 ment for the extra trouble, grow-
 ers and exporters will make
 bales of cotton into prettier packages.

Also these bales will be one-
 variety cotton; that is, all of
 the same quality and grown in
 the same area.

The program is an experiment.
 Reaction of spinners in those
 countries to which we export will
 be noted. The program is being
 determined whether the dressed
 up bales sell better than the
 ordinary kind.

The exporter who co-operates
 in this program will be paid \$3
 a bale by the government for cot-
 ton handled in the approved
 fashion.

To earn this money the export-
 er must mark each bale as
 they can be identified as those
 given special handling. He must
 mark each bale with a cotton
 cover. He must make the ties
 neat. The cotton that goes in
 must have been taken from the

Jobs in Jest

ADVICE to men don't smooth
 their faces, but to get a
 quart with your ear
 after Feb. 14.

Well, it's almost spring training
 time for the baseballers.
 Managers are hoping the boys
 don't get injured by the "hot
 corners" on the way to camp.

They're starting an Irish cul-
 tural year in New York City.
 They're giving the guys who suggest
 growing oranges.

Happenings of Long Ago

Fifty Years Ago
 Jan. 31, 1889

The ice crop has just begun. Pinder Worth has control of the ice crop on the pond this winter but makes the toll so light that no one will suffer.

Bro. Kelley of the Bill Poster says that progressive pedro races there in such a manner that even the week of prayer cannot shake it, and that the seductive game of Thad D. Seelye, receiver of the First National Bank, agrees to forward request of City Commission for data on inscription to controller in Washington. Lawrence Hulbert, commissioner, words rebuke to Seelye for term-
 ination of resignation "silly."

Birmingham's tribute to Roosevelt nets \$160 for paralysis fund. City joins nation in celebrating at President's Birthday. Bill, to aid cause, 400 attend affair to benefit Warm Springs Foundation.

Dr. James King, president of Olivet College, will address mid-year graduates from Baldwin Sunday tonight.

Date is set for annual Community House meetings. Conduct at school-age parties may be discussed and five new members of the board of directors will be chosen.

Paul Honore, noted Michigan artist, finishes work on mural. Painting is hung on corridor wall at high school, as clearance of his debt for daughter's tuition. Board of Education will order mural. Bandits slug Fire Chief Russell V. Moore of Bloomfield Hills. Victim recovered from bruises and burns, inflicted while thugs loot office safe, as police throughout southeastern Michigan press search for bandits.

State head tax is due on March first. Oakland residents also have until that date to register, says County Clerk Lynn D. Allen.

A Study in Contrasts

By
 RAYMOND FITZCARRIN

Within the past few weeks several significant news dispatches have cast fresh light on conditions in dictatorial nations of Europe.

One reports an edict soon to go into effect in Germany which forbids anyone under the age of twenty-five to a year's compulsory military service, as from one-fifth service before she can obtain any other form of employment.

Another report compares the wages of men workers in that and other totalitarian nations, in terms of buying power, as from one-fifth to one-twelfth those paid American workers engaged in similar employment.

These are facts that the abstracter and shouters who head those nations fail to probe in their attacks on democratic forms of government.

These are facts that admirers of the totalitarian idea, who urge that we put some of its desperate experiments into effect over here, don't mention in their arguments for change.

But they are facts of tremendous significance to all Americans. They show what our nation's people are capable of when they surrender their personal liberty and their authority in government to ambitious and self-proclaimed leaders.

The American people attained their self-government, their freedom of speech, thought and religion, and their high standard of living by their own energy, their own courage, their own persistence. They will maintain them through the exercise of those same rights and virtues.

And if anyone tries to convince us that the totalitarian way is better, we need only point to the contrast between conditions in nations grasped and ruled by dictators, and in the United States, developed and maintained by the people. We need only quote the facts.

There is the evidence—and the answer.

An auto can now be bought for a song—twelve notes.

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