

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have a bearing on the life of the city... All copy must be submitted before noon on the day before publication...

Can Religion Be An Effective Force?

force able to compose the differences of mankind and God is the only leader able to save the peoples of the world from the catastrophes that threaten them... No sane and sensible man will dispute these conclusions. At the same time, they are general in their nature, and unless the peoples of the world are intelligent enough to devise methods and machinery to apply religion to current problems, the prospect of help for the human race is distant.

To begin with, the people of the world do not agree in their religious views. They differ in their worship, in their interpretation of eternal principles, and in their ideal of life.

Let us consider, for example, an effort to apply the principles of religions in the Far East. In the first place, should these principles be those of Japan, those of China, or those of the Christian nations?

Here we have two nations, each entitled to equal rights, involved in a bloody war, undoubtedly provoked by the aggression of Japan. Do Christian principles require that the people of the United States adopt the same attitude toward the Japanese?

Let us consider the case of Germany. Here we have a people, fundamentally great, being progressively led along paths of aggression that eventually will involve the world in a great war.

The disclosures made concerning the borrowings of Martin T. Manton, senior judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, for the Second Circuit, reveal a glaring lack of taste and an impropriety that is to be condemned in a judge.

Without attempting to impute criminality to the Federal jurist, it should be apparent to every citizen that it is not conducive to justice for a judge on the circuit to borrow as much as \$256,000 through arrangements made by officers of a corporation which has a suit pending before the judge.

The resignation of Judge Manton should not close this matter. Further investigation should be made, and, if possible, not only the judge but the parties lending him the money should be punished. They are as reprehensible as the jurist.

The University of Michigan, since its first class was graduated in 1845, until July 1, 1937, has conferred 78,372 degrees upon 66,388 persons. With so many degrees sent into the world, here is proof that the State's institution of higher learning has made its contribution toward keeping the world a hot place to live in.

Those of us who have been under the impression that the surface of the globe has been so thoroughly explored in the Bigger And past that nothing new Better Rats - mains to be discovered will experience something of a shock to hear about rats that are three foot long over all lengths, wander freely around camps, eat almost anything, make no noise, and generally mind their own business. They climb trees by copying the technique of the New Guinea natives; that is, reaching up with their front paws first, then hoisting themselves as the rear paws follow.

Here is what passes as patriotism in the United States! Patriotic Patriotism In the Federal Building at Newark, New Jersey, there were aluminum reproductions of the Great Seal of the United States on the floor at the principal entrance.

As a result of the protests, the reproductions of the Great Seal were removed from the floor and replaced with other inlays. We thought that there was in existence, an organization for every purpose in the United States. However, the heroic stand of Brother Walker convinces us that the Great Seal of the United States needs an association of devoted and patriotic citizens to protect it from future desecration.

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In order not to disappoint other professional patriots, and to facilitate the organization of patriotic organizations throughout the land, we hereby propose that the United States also officially adopt forty-eight Little Seals, one for each state, so that in each state of the Union, Walker will give them the details in order that they may protect it in the future.

The Plymouth Mail has frequently expressed its views as to the viciousness and unfairness of the Wagner labor law. In the court of decency, of REAL JUSTICE and of AMERICANISM, such an unfair measure makes it a crime for any group of citizens to express their views and extends to another group the right denied the others, then that law is NOT A LAW. It is a piece of legislative machinery set up to RUIN AMERICA.

The new congress can weave our country in the same patriotic way as did the soldiers of the Revolution if they will write into this measure at least a few paragraphs that provide ALL AMERICANS the EQUAL RIGHTS provided under the constitution. If congress fails to do this within the next few months, it is failing to serve the nation as it should.

Only through fairness, with a recognition of the rights and responsibilities of all, with sane, deliberate and a friendly, cooperative spirit can there be a restoration of industrial peace. The man who produces is just as much entitled to be heard by the man who initiates, manages and sells the products of industry. But the man who conducts industry is just as much entitled to be heard as the man who aids in the production.

That New York U. S. Circuit Judge whom Attorney Dewey claims received more than \$400,000 in "loans" from litigants who had cases before him is probably in a serious predicament. In our opinion, no judge on any bench should be under a financial obligation to any person or company that has business before him.

THE BASIC REASON that a dollar doesn't go so far today is that it has too many hidden taxes to hurdle before it begins to pay for the thing you are buying.

"STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT" is an old and trusty axiom. Former Governor Frank Murphy can add this to it: "...but don't let 'em sit down while they're striking."

A FAIR TUG-OF-WAR



People's Column. The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column... The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column.

Congressional Comment

by Representative George A. Dondero. The cut of 150 million dollars in the WPA deficiency appropriation, approved in the U. S. House of Representatives by an overwhelming majority and in the U. S. Senate by one vote, is our first indication of sentiment among our national legislators.

One of the worst features of the government policy of spending was its effect upon the states, cities, counties, and other governmental units. Federal funds were offered upon the condition that these recipients provide a portion of the amount necessary for projects, with the result that they were induced to go further into debt.

These years of spending must eventually result in higher taxes, not only Federal, but state, city, and county taxes.

Fiorella La Guardia, mayor of New York. "Somebody sometime will have to test the power of arrogance and the power of the judicial branch of the government can be broken down by the administrative and executive branches of the government."

WASHINGTON LETTER

Fund for U. S.-South America Trade Development in Budget. WASHINGTON—An item of \$250,000 in the 1939-40 budget for the Agriculture Department is designed to produce an innovation in commerce between the Americas.

Part of the fund requested by the Department of Agriculture to finance its co-operation with the tariff program would be spent for a survey of hardwood forest products of tropical America.

SOME of the money would undoubtedly be used to promote completion of the highway to Panama for which \$56,000 was authorized by the 73rd Congress. About \$100,000 would be used to print Department of Agriculture publications in translations.

THE largest single appropriation out of the \$250,000 proposed would be for four new agricultural attaches in Mexico City, Habana, Rio de Janeiro and Panama City.

These offices would be devoted to investigating agricultural and economic resources both for competitive and non-competitive products. They would serve as regional headquarters for technical investigations. They would probably be used as channels for the loan of civilian officials and government technical experts, a

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric - The Editor of The Eccentric of Today. Fifty Years Ago Feb. 21, 1889. Whitehead has purchased a \$45 cent... Board decides to take bonds on payment of 1938-39 school taxes...

Local Boy Scouts set March 4 date to participate in national "Good Will" Troop carry out President's plea and heady rally... Mrs. E. Wilgotski celebrated her 75th birthday...

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Random Remarks

Joseph P. Kennedy, U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain. "We are making things worse for ourselves by adopting a defeatist attitude."

Ernest R. Greaves, professor, Univ. of North Carolina. "In some children are as far from comradeship with parents as those living in wholesale orphanages."

Robert A. Taft, U. S. Senator-elect from Ohio. "I don't believe in the theory that you can spend your way to prosperity."

Cordell Hull, Secretary of State. "My conviction grows ever stronger, that economic disarmament is one of the essentials of political stability."

Neville Chamberlain, Prime Minister of Great Britain. "This country must be made so strong that the world may know that any efforts we may make to promote peace are influenced not by fear of war but by hatred of it."

Alfred Zimmera, Professor of International Relations, Oxford University. "Until civilized people in the world realize that violence is a crime, elaborate peace movements cannot succeed."

Herbert Hoover, visiting Washington. "I came here to talk pure science."

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