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THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 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 editorial staff of the paper. All copy should be submitted before noon on Wednesday. The right to publish is granted for one week. If the author desires that his work should be published for a longer period, he should so indicate in the accompanying copy. Headlines written by these authors should be clearly marked as such. The Eccentric is not responsible for the return of any copy, and it is the responsibility of the author to see that his copy is returned to the attention of the publisher.

Among the laws that the C. I. O. wants from the Michigan Legislature are two mighty important ones which, if granted, will place in the hands of that labor union additional weapons of a Fascist nature. First the C. I. O. wants a law that will regulate and control the use of the National Guard. The C. I. O. knows that, in the case of more sit-down strikes or other phases of illegal seizure of property, the Governor will use the National Guard to clear out the sit-downers. The C. I. O. high command knows that between order and disorder the military body of the State is their greatest enemy to bringing about disorder.

The second law the C. I. O. wants is one that will limit the authority of the Courts to issue property. The Governor will use the National Guard to clear out the sit-downers. The C. I. O. high command knows that between order and disorder the military body of the State is their greatest enemy to bringing about disorder. It is inconceivable that the C. I. O. will, or should, get all that it seeks from the Legislature. During its several years of activity in Michigan, this branch of organized labor has exerted more terroristic methods than its competitor, the A. F. of L. as everyone knows. So it is conceivable that the A. F. of L. organization will get greater benefits from the Michigan Legislature than its communistic C. I. O. outfit will.

Personally, this newspaper believes that the right of labor to collective bargaining should be the legal right of labor; and employers are going to respect this right. Labor also has the right to strike to secure redress from evident grievances.

The labor movement in this country, in the future, will make real and lasting progress only when the rank and file of members demand decent and able leadership from their high-ups. Every union member ought to exercise his personal right to see that labor leadership is as decent as labor expects government officials and employers to be.

There is something pathetic in the plight of Bryan Grover, 37-year old Briton, whose desperate attempt to rejoin his Russian wife resulted in his Balks Love arrest by Soviet authorities. His trial and the infliction of a penalty, including expulsion from Russia for five years.

It seems that the Englishman went to Russia in 1931 as a petroleum engineer and fell in love at Baku with an interpreter. They were married in 1933 and, in 1934, he left Russia to work in Iran and later England.

Since that time he has been unable to see his wife and, in order to reach the authorities in Moscow, he flew into Russia in his own airplane on the night of November 15 without a visa. Admitting in Court that he committed a crime, Mr. Grover said, "I love my wife so much that I ask the Court is the possibility to live with her either here or abroad." He agreed to apply for Soviet citizenship if there was no other way for him to be with his wife.

Soviet justice may require firm enforcement of its laws, but if the officials of Soviet Russia have any sense they would find some solution to the problem of this couple. Maybe, they will.

The average person thinks that wood is a temporary substance certain to decay in the course of time. Experts of the United States Forest Service, however, say that such a conclusion is not true.

Time or age, they assert, has nothing to do with the decay of wood. It is caused by the attacks of fungus and there will be no decay if the wood is kept thoroughly saturated, or too dry for the fungus to grow. In fact, the forestry experts point to a frame house, in Delham, Massachusetts, which is still intact after three hundred years. They tell of a log, seven feet in diameter, found in a tunnel under the bed of the Log River, in the State of Washington. The log was identified by experts as an extinct species of sequoia, of an age estimated at 12,000,000 years.

THE HEART OF A CERTAIN Birmingham minister must have been given new strength not so long ago when, taking off their coats and rolling up their sleeves, some of the men in his congregation went out and raised sufficient money, (and then some), to tide the church over a trying period. We have always believed that too many church-goers take their religion too cheaply. The Almighty's auditing department surely knows who among His followers are honest in a just payment for Heaven's protection.

"The Utopias are not mere dreams; they are visions of what might be if we knew the laws of nature and lived in accordance with them," wrote Bolton Hall, in The American City magazine. "If goods were produced freely and distributed widely, there would be plenty for all, and the fear of poverty would disappear; all misery and crime that is due to poverty would vanish eventually, and with them, most of our violence and war."

"The first condition for free production is easy access to the resources of nature: fields, mines, water power, building sites, oil-fields—all these sources from which raw material and goods are obtained and made. Henry George proposed a plan whereby all those sources of wealth can be opened to every one who can work. Various peoples of the world have been working toward the application of that plan. Let us see how far we have progressed in this direction.

"Outside the United States, the principal countries and states in which a measure of land-value taxation is operating are: Belgium, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba; Argentina and Brazil; Denmark; New Zealand; Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, West Australia; Spain; The Transvaal, Cape Province, Natal, Rhodesia and South Kenya, which is west of Abyssinia."

"Nowhere has land-value taxation for public purposes set absorbed the whole economic rent of land, which is the aim of George's plan. Some have begun, others have made fair progress, but the important thing is that the principle, whether to small or large extent, has been put in operation, and prolonged experience has been gained in applying a decisive answer to the question: Can it work? How does it work in practice so far as tried?"

"The principle involved is payment in proportion to the value of the land. The landholder has to contribute to the value of the land. The landholder has to contribute to the public treasury in proportion to the value of the land. The landholder has to contribute to the public treasury in proportion to the value of the land. The landholder has to contribute to the public treasury in proportion to the value of the land."

"The separate valuation of the land by the tax assessors, apart from improvements in or on the land, is the first step toward taking what the land would rent for in lieu of taxes. This is more general in the United States than in any other country. The separate valuation of the land by the tax assessors, apart from improvements in or on the land, is the first step toward taking what the land would rent for in lieu of taxes. This is more general in the United States than in any other country."

"In all cases these taxes on land value have broken up or tended to break up the great estates held for speculation and have helped to open land for the use of the people. Of course, they stimulate building and real estate transactions."

Live, listen and learn—maybe! We read that an astrologer predicts another American revolution in 1942 because the planet Uranus will complete a star-gazer Uranus completed one when the American revolution began and one in 1857, when the "Civil War" ended.

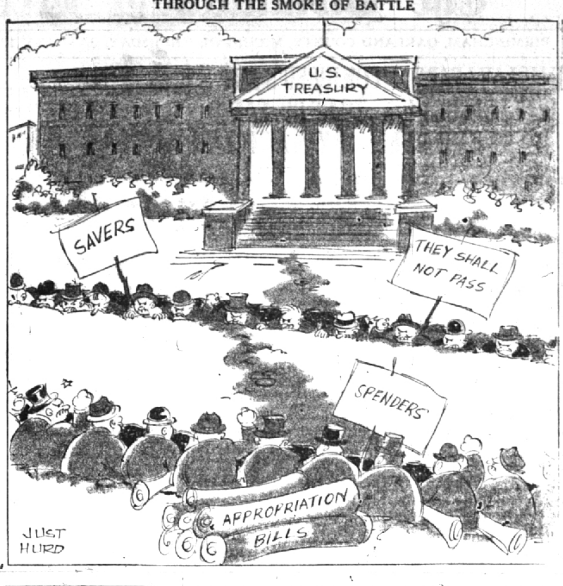
This kind of stuff interests some people, ever anxious to believe the inexplicable and to accept the unprovable. They seldom stop long enough to wonder why the star gazers are so far ahead of the crowd, and so far behind events in disclosing their prophecies.

It fascinates men and women, sometimes, to be told that they are being governed by Neptune, or some other heavenly body. They even pay for it. They wouldn't pay a cent if a wise inventor told them they were governed by their in-birth tendencies, their environment and, possibly, their own inner forces.

WE HOPE THAT HOMER MARTIN, president of the United Automobile Workers of America, succeeds in freeing his group from the C. I. O. influence of the John L. Lewis gang. Martin undoubtedly wants to cooperate with industry, to the end that capital and labor may get along better. We hope the workers in the U. A. W. back Martin, and not "Bushy-hair" John.

MICHIGAN'S NEW ATTORNEY-GENERAL, Thomas Read, of Shelby, has a multitude of duties connected with his office. Not the least of them is that of seeing that Michigan's anti-gambling laws are enforced. Any laxity in this respect, though winked at or tolerated by local county prosecutors, will have helped to strengthen our defenses but the exact form remains to be moulded in committee and in debate.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has asked Congress for nearly nine billions of dollars to operate the federal government for the next year; he admits that this will bring an added deficit of more than three billions, bringing the total national debt up to 14 billions. Since as taxpayers we have always handled high figures, they will have to be used in Washington to handle the nation's finances. (And pretty soon the ability of the average taxpayer to meet his tax bills will be as far apart as the earth from the nearest star.)



Congressional Comment by Representative George A. Dondoro, Michigan 11th Congressional District

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.

January 17, 1939

Michigan Public Utilities Commission. Again my hearty congratulations to the Members of the Michigan Public Utilities Commission.

William L. Graham, 18349 4th Hill Drive, Royal Oak, Michigan.

Random Remarks. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State: "I am absolutely convinced that every one of the American republics should be working in friendly co-operation with every other nation in the world."

Franklin D. Roosevelt: "Actually, I am an extremely middle-aged person—a capitalist, a believer in the practical system, and, for my breakfast, a devotee of 'scrambled eggs.'"

Bruce Barton, Member of Congress, from New York: "The right questions, but they give the wrong answers."

Martin Dies, chairman, House investigating anti-American activities: "I know of no committee which has been more thorough in its investigation of American citizens than we have."

WASHINGTON LETTER BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Cost of Production Basis of Farm Bill This Session

WASHINGTON—Congress will be asked to consider a cost of production bill as a substitute for the Agricultural Adjustment Act. The Messinger-Thomson and the McAdoo-Enster bill, introduced in previous sessions of Congress, have proposed the same plan and were defeated. But supporters of the cost of production program believe disinterestedly that the program is one of the most important in the farm program. It is simply that by fixing the price of farm commodities, the government can reduce the price in the domestic market and the cost of production plus a fair margin of profit. This would apply only to whatever part of the crop is needed in the domestic market.

In the export market farmers would have to shift for themselves, but to accept the world market price, if the world price were low, the theory is that acreage would be reduced automatically by the voluntary action of the individual farmer. Senator Fletcher, one of the chief backers of this plan, explains the principle involved by saying, "American farmers ought to be entitled to a margin of profit just like manufacturers." Sponsors of the cost of production plan oppose subsidies except perhaps for federal payments to farmers who practice methods of

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

Miss Jennie Peck, long married the typewriter, is now actively engaged in learning lecture and she will prepare an apt pupil and a speaker of this fascinating study.

Wes Faint has been engaged in many other jobs in the past. Mr. Taber's house and improving it somewhat, although it seemed unnecessary to any observer.

Elmer S. Monroe has just finished completing and decorating the interior of Albert Dondoro's handsome new residence. This job is a standing recommendation as a fine piece of domestic architecture.

Mr. Masquerade Jan. 18, no supper. Bill one dollar. Fine costumes, fine music, snow storm. Grand march for unmaking at eleven o'clock.

Two-Three-Five. Miss John Wilkinson and wife left on a snow storm Wednesday night and started for their home in Carleton, Florida, where they will spend the rest of their winter.

Aviator Eugene Roth will winter in Birmingham this time. He will spend the winter in Birmingham and will be back in Birmingham in a few days and solemnly declares that for health and a good time, Birmingham has 'em beaten to a frazzle.

It takes all kinds of people to buy a postage stamp. One day this week a well laid a regular firehouse, a perfect Hebe, whose home is on Belle Street, called at the office while Miss Geller was on duty.

Mr. Last week Fred Lambert took a bay hunter out to his barn and sold him a new bay at his own figure. Fred, deep in his heart, had decided to ask \$225 for all that was there. On being asked the price he wanted, Mr. Fred said, "Yankee-like, 'What will you give?'" The answer came like a shot.

Washington today has a glorious opportunity to help not only the Nation but the entire cause of democracy by the strengthening and securing those basic American principles.

That the American people retain their individuality and confidence that they value those traditional qualities above the theories borrowed from Europe and France, which have frequently been demonstrated.

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