

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Governor Dickinson has officially proclaimed the period, June 1 to 10, "Michigan Days for Michigan Prosperity." During these ten days, twenty-six of the state's chain stores, joined by many independent retailers, will conduct an unprecedented statewide drive to increase consumption of the quality products of Michigan's farms and factories.

All residents of the Wolverine state will approve of the threefold objective set by the chain store committee sponsoring the campaign:

Jobs for Michigan Workers! Markets for Michigan Products! Savings for Michigan Consumers!

Michigan is in a strategic position to benefit from this converted drive toward prosperity. Current indices for virtually every industry indicate a brightening of the state's business horizon. More men are at work than in 1938, their earnings are greater, and their dollars buy more of the necessities and luxuries of life. As one of the nation's key industrial states, Michigan is thus in a position to make a lasting contribution to national recovery.

All elements in the state's economic life have indicated their awareness of the opportunity offered by the state's chain stores. "Michigan Days" has been endorsed by congressmen, state officials, consumers, farmers and businessmen. Like Governor Dickinson, they have hailed the drive as a "public spirited movement."

We agree with Governor Dickinson that the state should seize upon this opportunity to stimulate economic recovery; that all Michigan citizens should "go their wholehearted support to this drive that is in its purpose of creating prosperity in our state."

And we further believe that "Michigan Days" should be made an annual event, to keep the ball of Michigan prosperity rolling.

President Roosevelt last week told a convention of "small businessmen" in Washington that "I shall not retreat from my attacks upon Big Business." Well, Mister President, if portions of Big Business deserve such attacks, keep on throwing your javelins at them; but why not use a sense of direction and not cause these javelins to enter the tender and tormented bodies of every line of business.

So much of the President's attacks against "the predatory interests" remind us of the story of the colored army sergeant whose squad was firing shells at a great rate—but too many of them landing behind their own lines, and menacing the safety of their own men.

The Captain arrived at the scene and asked: "Sergeant, your squad is certainly letting loose a lot of ammunition, but do you know where the shells are landing?"

To which the Sergeant replied with true African humor: "Not exactly, Captain, but I do say make a helluva lot of noise when they leave home."

With the United States spending millions of dollars to build warships, the people of this country should remember that the United States scrapped some 928,000 tons of ships built and building as a result of the Washington and London Naval Treaties.

When it is borne in mind that today we are building, or about to build, eight battleships that none of those in the Navy were built after 1922, it is apparent that the so-called disarmament treaties were a flop which cost the United States hundreds of millions of dollars.

In fact, we are inclined to agree with Rear Admiral Clark Howell Woodward, commander of the Third Naval District, who recently declared that our idea of disarmament was "an unshared idealism on the border of idiocy."

Why don't the voters of Michigan adopt a Constitutional Amendment that will cause the following statement to be recorded on the walls and desks of every office and legislative room in every building operated by the State—a statement that reads: "We, the people of Michigan, belonging to those who earned them, are dollars that belong to them; and beyond a certain legitimate amount, taxation is a refined form of thievery—therefore, as servants of the people, we shall keep within the limits of good morals, and operate government honestly, efficiently, and thus economically."

By A. Hoyt Levy in Heavy Stuff

The Romance of Sam Seller's Socks

Old Bill Slouch, the proprietor, like the store owner looked as rusty as an old rack. With an effort, he raised himself from a rickety chair and shuffled behind the counter. Sam asked for a pair of hosiery.

Old Bill knelt behind the counter. After 10 minutes of digging, he brought up a dusty box. "I ain't got them kind you ask fer," he mewed, "but socks is socks an' thes eis just as good."

"I suppose I'll have to take 'em," said Sam, "and wear them until I get to a live town where they sell live goods."

In his room at the hotel, Sam shoved his left foot into a sock. Something inside stuck against his big toe. He yanked off the sock, stuck his hand down into the toe and drew out a photograph of a beautiful girl.

"But I know they grew such peaches in this orchard," commented Sam with unforgotten admiration. For some minutes he drank in the beauty of the face before him, then turned the picture about. On the back, written in a girlish hand, he read this exquisite bit of poetry:

"If I forget you of these socks
Single be,
Drop a line to Fanny Frocks.
She is me."

It was a temptation not easy for a bright and breezy bachelor salesman to resist. The more Sam looked at the picture, the deeper he fell in love with her. He looked at it each morning at breakfast and each evening before bed, so that by the end of the week, he was in pretty deep. Finally Sam reached New York. On Waldorf stationery, he wrote to Fanny Frocks. He dwelt upon her surpassing beauty and passionately pleaded for a prompt reply.

Sam waited a week. It was a long week. A second week of anxiety passed. Then when hope was nearly lost, he received this letter:

My grandmother, whose maiden name was Fanny Frocks, died 10 years ago at the age 82. Yours truly,
Clara Cox

When Sam came out of his swoon, his first act was to take the topmost drawer of his dresser, take out a sock, and wrapping it about a picture of a beautiful girl, toss it far out into Park Avenue.

"That's what I get," muttered Sam as he heard the dial ticking thru when the sock alighted on top of a passing Rolls Royce. "That's what I get for buying things not advertised."

The subject of a third term for President Roosevelt continues to loom up in public discussions. It is a phenomena that arises regularly in American politics whenever the President is re-elected.

House happens to be a man of energy and accomplishment. There can be little doubt, we think, that the sentiment of the people of the United States, as a general thing, is against a third term for a President. The record of public opinion by the American Institute of Public Opinion shows that sixty-nine per cent of those questioned were against a third term for President Roosevelt. This is about what one would expect such a poll to show.

In the 17th century the population of the world, according to best estimates, was around 450,000,000 people. Since that time, for reasons that are unknown, humanity has multiplied and the present population is estimated to include not less than 2,100,000,000 people. Moreover, the race continues to multiply, although at a lessened pace.

These figures come from Dr. Raymond Pearl's book on the "Natural History of Population," which reveals that very little is known about the rise and fall of population.

The City of Boston, Mass., apparently deserves congratulations. Citizens there subscribed \$4,000 to the community fund. The largest amount ever raised by any community fund in the United States.

It is somewhat surprising, perhaps, in view of the large expenditures for relief by governmental agencies, or going to the movies, that is considered necessary for welfare work in Boston and surrounding communities. Nevertheless, the people of that city have apparently established a record in a good cause.

HEARY S. BOOTH, of Bloomfield Hills, last week was re-elected president of the Oakland Citizens League, an organization seeking to get citizens to take an active interest in the problems and solutions of government. If enough voters in Oakland County were members of this group, and worked at it as much as they do golf, bridge, or going to the movies, they could transform the quality of government into economy and efficiency.

In the current European battle of diplomatic words Hitler seems to be quite a number of adjectives. He is called a "bald eagle" and a "junctive mood," while England goes in for plenty of exclamation points; Russia appears in a state of comma; Poland dashes to protect its Corridor; and the United States has use for its usual quota of question marks.

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.

May 30, 1889
Miss Lena Faint had a most painful accident happen to her one eye last week, a window falling down caught her finger and held it fast. Her little sister, Myrtle, climbing up onto a chair and attempting to relieve her suffering sister, but was unable to succeed. Lena then, with extra effort, and managed to pull her finger from under the sash, leaving the nail and a portion of her flesh. The pain was intense but she bore it like the little heroine that she is.

It would be more than fill The Eccentric should the members of the May Fair held last week attempt to thank all who helped make it a success, but know to one that they are unmindful of their obligations to all, and especially to the children who have had so much fun. Let no one say after this that Birmingham children are ever on the street, for they have shown that they can be well behaved and hard at work.

John Allen discovered about Friday of last week that his entire clip of wall had been stolen. 39 fleeces were worth over \$200. Constable Beattie was notified on Sunday and Monday morning he went to Detroit for the wool and before noon he had found it. He arrested two men charged with the theft. Verily, when Beattie goes hunting for anything has got to come from him.

The seniors of the high school will give a single social on Friday at the Library Hall. Every one is invited to attend. It is something new and surprising.

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THERE'S A ROYAL REASON



representative companies, employing more than 3,000,000 persons. According to this survey, conducted by the American Federation of Investors, Inc., the taxes paid by these companies in 1937 amounted to three times the amount for 1932 and in several instances the taxes represented as much as \$2,000,000 for every person employed.

When business leaders under such a load there is little or no incentive to expand and employ more labor.

est road builders in Michigan. Cull out some of the "minor" items and have space and time for these. Perhaps people will no longer refer to your paper as the "Maroon and White."

Near this school election issue, Tom Navin was right—the conduct of voters to the School Board was a disgraceful display. He knows what has started it too. You caught all this and graciously directed a note of PEACE at the end.

"The meat of this coming election centers not in the candidates. I am concerned with two phases and hope you will arrange to print all the facts as another of your public services."

1. Is this proposed change to Third Class district going to cost us money in taxes or State Aid?

2. Will we lose any rights to determine a fair distribution of the debt in case of the expected withdrawal of the Bloomfield Hills section of our district? Pelton and McGee, attorneys for the Board, state that we will.

I shall work for and support the candidates for re-election, Mr. Jordan and Mr. Daley. They were good men when we elected them; they are still good men and have done a good job—they deserve the support of all good citizens. Their opponents are all good men but they are not the test in this case. In the face of this abuse, actuated by malice and thriving on misrepresentation, let us support the "cliques." I am a citizen interested in supporting good government, can do no other than stand behind our complete officers.

K. B. OLSON
540 Hawthorne Rd.

People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. Letters should be sent to the editor, not to the publisher. Letters will be limited to five words and must be signed by the author. The editor reserves the right to publish or not publish the following Thursday.

To the Editor:
Perhaps you would like me to hold up a mirror so the Birmingham Eccentric can see itself as some of its readers do. Mr. French of the Detroit Daily Sentinel once said it was the best read and best paying weekly in Michigan.

My remark: Will the papers print it? It was directed more to the Pontiac and Detroit press than yours, never thinking but what your live page would do so—and you did. So many Birmingham people fail to read your edition from cover to cover that I thought it might be missed.

But let us look at the record and give a few illustrations where it has failed to print the news. A year ago we voted bonds for a sewage disposal plant. Beyond a short statement of the award of the contract, I have heard nothing more of this work. Give us some stories of the progress being made, what difficulties have been encountered and overcome, how the plant will operate and when it will be ready.

In the last month, workmen have been digging the Stearns-Fisher home on East Maple Ave. It was an old landmark. What a shock to late developers. But the Standard of the Ludington Daily News, could have made of that and his readers liked it too. Why don't you try it?

The paving of Water Woodward has just been let to R. D. Baker of Birmingham. Let a story from him when he expects to start the work is planned and when it is under way, taking in terms which will be interesting to the public.

What R. D. Baker, one of our old-time residents, has done for the city is a fine thing. Let a story from him when he expects to start the work is planned and when it is under way, taking in terms which will be interesting to the public.

Practically
"One's neighbor in Australia," says a writer, often lives 20 miles away. In that country, when a man buys a lawn mower, it practically becomes his own property—Springfield Union.

Evidently
That Berlin author who said American women are so beautiful that they can wear any old thing, evidently never married one of them.—Newark News.

To Further
Serve Our
Community

WE NOW MAKE

AUTOMOBILE LOANS
PERSONAL LOANS
MODERNIZATION LOANS
F.H.A. MORTGAGE LOANS

Reasonable Interest Rates—Favorable Repayment Terms
YOU NEED NOT BE A DEPOSITOR
all or write any of our offices for complete information

WABECK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

MAIN OFFICE IN THE FISHER BUILDING
DETROIT OFFICE IN THE FORD BUILDING
BRANCHES IN BIRMINGHAM - FERRAIDE

With our own national debt fast approaching the \$1 billion and foreign nations owing the United States more than \$1 billion, we can people 11 billions since the world war and immediate post-war years it would seem that it is about time to give some official attention to the liquidation of debts which are taking in terms which can only mean added billions in debts.

The decision to recommend that Congress vote to retain the social policy tax for three years is an encouraging sign. However, we should not lose sight of the fact that this merely means that our business tax burden will not be increased. The tax burden on account of this legislation will remain at its present level.

There can be no substantial recovery until the energies of business are released from the burden of taxation now being imposed. The extent of this tax load was revealed in a survey of 150 repre-

sentative companies, employing more than 3,000,000 persons. According to this survey, conducted by the American Federation of Investors, Inc., the taxes paid by these companies in 1937 amounted to three times the amount for 1932 and in several instances the taxes represented as much as \$2,000,000 for every person employed.

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