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GEORGE R. AYERLLI, Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AYERLLI, Managing Editor
W. F. WALKER, Business Manager
CLAUDE R. WALKER, Advertising Manager
W. F. WALKER, Production Manager

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Just as surely as he who spends more than he makes is headed for bankruptcy, so is the federal government in its extravagant spending during the past six years. Evidence of this is contained in an authoritative statement made in the United States Congress the other day when Michigan's senior senator, Arthur H. Vandenberg, spoke thus:

"In 1913 the cost of all government in the United States was \$34 per family. Now it is \$540 per family. The cost of all government is more than the year's yield from soil and earth—crops, livestock, metals, coal, oil, and lumber. It is more than we spend for food, clothing, and rent. And Washington sets the pace. If we were to confiscate every dollar of every American income in excess of \$3,000, as shown by the income-tax returns, it would not pay the bill for the Federal Government this year alone."

"Now, let me quote Mr. Roosevelt again in what shall, I say?—his horse-and-buggy days. It is what Governor Roosevelt said in 1932:—

"I know something of taxes. For 3 long years I have been going up and down the country preaching that government—Federal, State, and local—costs too much. I shall not stop preaching, I propose to you, my friends, and throughout you, that government of all kinds, big and little, be made solvent and that the example be set by the President of the United States and his cabinet. This, I pledge to you, and nothing in this campaign transcends in importance this covenant with the taxpayers of this country."

"I do not quote this to chide him for a broken promise. I quote it as the key to his Presidential tour—for perhaps 4 months after his inauguration 4 months which saw him courageously pursuing these economies—4 months which gave a well-nigh united Congress and country behind him in these efforts, and what is more important and of greater significance, 4 months which probably registered the greatest economic recovery in the United States ever known to any people in any like period in the history of the world."

"Solvency and confidence. Those were the keys to recovery then. They are still the keys to recovery today. They will be deliberately thrown away. The necessity is to find and use them once again."

"We hope that Governor Fitzgerald and his Republican advisors will turn the offer to buy Michigan purchase into the Ambassador Windsor tunnel at the prices asked. Neither project has paid its stockholders, and we see no reason why the State should come to their rescue. Of course, if these projects, which do have a relation to the public interest, are offered at a price in keeping with what may justly consider their purchase. But for private interests to raid the State treasury by trying to sell a "white elephant" in the name of the public interest is most unwise. We trust that Governor Fitzgerald and Highway Commissioner Van Wagener will be very cautious in buying bridges and tunnels for Michigan."

Marian Anderson is a great and wonderful colored singer, a contralto whose voice speaks of the universal language of the sweet harmony. She has appeared in every great city in this and many foreign countries. Last week the leaders of the American Revolution, with headquarters in Washington, D. C., were instrumental in having Miss Anderson refused permission to use certain public auditoriums in that city for her concert. Presumably, on the basis that she is colored. Of course, the world still has as many problems, we know, but when the D. A. R., which is supposed to be the defender of human liberty, manifests its intolerance of a world-wide celebrity, then intolerance is still in high places in the United States.

Wonder what the youth of today think when it reads that the President of the United States is launching a "peace-time military expenditure war" in the entire history of this country. Of course, youth doesn't know much about all the problems of an adult world; but youth today is well-shaping its mind, and the regard for national problems, and undoubtedly youth is willing to believe that the President really is on the right road. Youth will never know the folly of great armaments until it has to pay the price of supporting them, either in life or increased taxes. Youth must be approaching a confused world with youthful bewilderment.

Now THAT MAINE'S GOVERNOR, aided by other public men in that State, have proved that clam chowder without tomatoes is really the only kind of clam chowder that is clam chowder, we hope Maine will get back to its civic responsibilities and plan again to remain in the Republican column.

"FAIR—COME AND SEE IT" will be the weather forecast for the eastern and western seaboard of the United States this summer. For, you know, San Francisco and New York both are holding "World's Fairs"—so you can take your pick and dig up enough money to attend one or both.

GERMAN-AMERICAN BOND activities in New York are beginning to alarm the nation. Freedom of speech and the right to assemble are guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution, and we assume that Bund leaders will be given every right thus guaranteed. But when they try to overthrow our government, or do anything else that menaces democracy, they should be stopped.

THAT 35-YEAR-OLD Colorado dishwasher who is washing up backwash instead of in the usual way, must be one of those New Deal Democrats who doesn't want to face things as they really are.



PARAGRAPHS

American Place Names
Presenting: Dulie, Va.; Filbert, S. C.; Squit, Ky.

Man's Limitation
A man is like a tack. He can only go as far as his head will let him.—Bradson Sun (Canada).

Definition
Helpmate: A wife, or better half.—Ambrose Bierce, "The Devil's Dictionary."

Product of the Age
A squab with two heads was hatched of late in Indiana. These are perilous times, and the smart dove of peace will look both ways.—Chattanooga News.

Don't Shoot
Ventura Boulevard hashery warns deer hunters with sign on wall: "Don't shoot till you move. If you're a WPA worker, variety."

Note On Blondes
Brunettes, if a psychologist is to be believed, inspire deeper friendships than blondes. All the same, when a blonde gets into court she can usually introduce some quite friendly letters.—Toronto Star.

Cynical Note
Because a set of WPA false teeth failed to fit, a relief client in the West put on a scene that brought the police. It's bad when it can't bite the hand that feeds you.—Chicago Daily News.

Source Note
In New York the S. P. C. A. brought a woman into court for choking a cat and a man for leaving an elephant out in the rain. The man pleaded that the rain is good for elephants, and moaned, "I don't see nothing as rich in intellectual content as the output of the speakers' bureau."—New York Times.

Source Note
Dark horse, the "grooming" of candidates, winning in a walk, kicking the police, the great kickers, horse-trading, long is the horse logo of politics. (Gymnasts have been heard to say that a horse is something as rich in intellectual content as the output of the speakers' bureau.)—New York Times.

A Western Banker
Years ago it was said that a man arrived in a small town in the West of the United States, where there was no bank. So he put up a sign. The first day a fellow came along and deposited a hundred dollars; the next day a man came along and deposited three hundred dollars. And then, so runs the success story of a great bank, another fellow came along with a million dollars in his pocket. "I put in fifty dollars of my own money."—Hollywood Reporter.

Source Note
"They have a wonderful new invention," said a Massachusetts Tech, which will be a help in aviation problems. It could be used by the army or navy, and whose their project turned to some useful purpose.—The Salem (Mass.) News.

Bontimal Nuisance
The following notice appeared recently in a small town paper in Mississippi:
"Positively no more baptizing in my pasture. Twice here in the last two months my gate has been left open by Christian people, and before I chase my heifers all over it, I get so much confidence in my bank that I put in fifty dollars of my own money."—Hollywood Reporter.

Traffic Problem
It is proposed to round the corners of sidewalks to make right turns easier for the motorist. We doubt if this would improve things unless provision is also made for rounding off pedestrians' toes.—Toronto Star.

Discourteous Friends

Walter Pitkin shocked us in a recent talk of his by telling us that what we really need are a few discourteous friends.

He's absolutely right! The friend who tells us our new necktie is beautiful when he thinks it's terrible; who says our speech was "marvelous," when he actually slept through most of it, and who in every way is so kind that he never tells us the truth, may win our love, but he never helps us any.

If a man is going to grow he needs someone to coach him on the sidelines; someone to act as a mirror in which he can see himself as others see him. Without someone to tell him the truth about his mannerisms, habits, mistakes, he may go marching straight to disaster with the cheers of his courteous friends ringing in his ears.

Just so there won't be any hard feelings you check him in return. This will eliminate the bunk and hokum and really and constructively help each other.

Kindness puts us to sleep with the ether of self-satisfaction. Criticism may be hard medicine to take, but it achieves the opposite result. It wakes a man up!

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.

Fifty Years Ago
March 7, 1889
Birmingham will have a good Star bicycle club next spring. Frank Brooks has a bike coming which cost \$125.

E. H. Wooster's auction sale comes off next Tuesday. Free lunch and a big time at this big affair for sure.

And still more gaudy. Another of those elegant dances at the National tomorrow night. Friday. Same music and 50 cents pays the bill.

To see the old ladies who tall and stout at the M. E. Church will cost you ten cents. And to cut this good old style grab will cost you 15 cents more.

Carrie Parks, after having been to Colorado for his health last summer, has returned with more benefit by one per cent from Dr. C. M. Reynolds than from all her traveling in the mountains.

On Friday evening, the gifted and eloquent temperance orator, John B. Clark, will and favorably known to the success of Birmingham, will deliver an address on "John B. Gough," the temperance champion in the Methodist Church.

Arthur Campbell, who solicited the Royal Oak columns of the Eccentric, is rapidly mounting the ladder of fame for being an earnest writer and worker.

Twenty-Five Years Ago
March 6, 1914
Look on all the pages of this paper for good live local this week, it is overflowing with news.



Random Remarks

Lazardo Cardenas, President of Mexico: "Diplomacy has been converted into a pretense of unfeeling investors and a threat to the free existence of weak peoples."

Morris Sheppard, U. S. Senator from Texas: "Prohibition will return, because alcohol as a beverage cannot justify itself."

Franklin D. Roosevelt: "It is difficult for almost all citizens to understand why a constitutional provision permitting taxes on 'incomes from whatever source derived' does not mean 'from whatever source derived.'"

Wm. E. Borah, U. S. Senator from Idaho: "I am for economy, but there are plenty of places to cut. Federal appropriations without taking it out of the hide of the poor, helplessness on relief."

Harry F. Byrd, U. S. Senator from Virginia: "A public debt created to continue to gamble with the discredit of theory of pump-priming is an evil."

Elmer F. Andrews, Administrator of Wages and Hours Law: "I am no sootherer. I cannot predict the future."

Wm. R. Enaynt, secretary, National Aeronautics Association: "Romantic interest in aviation doesn't mean a thing."

Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady: "You need not fear communism or fascism if you can make the whole people feel the Government is answering their needs."

Robert Reynolds, U. S. Senator from North Carolina: "What the hell is the use of spending millions for a national defense program to safeguard our country against a foreign invader whose terms are boring from within."

Frank M. Andrews, Major-General (Chief of the Air Force): "Aerial mechanical development will make of the Atlantic an English Channel."

David Saranoff, President, Radio Corporation of America: "A free press and a free radio are pillars of American democracy."

Carl Byoir, Public Relations counsel: "Let no one be misled. In this country and throughout the world, social reform is on the march."

Dorothy Dix, newspaper advisor to women: "Women soon would tire of perfect husbands."

Frank Murphy, Attorney-General of the United States: "It is not safe that sit-down strike has now been thoroughly discredited and I believe we have seen the end of it."

Henry H. Arnold, Major-General (Chief of Air Corps): "The definite trend for the fighter is for a smaller and lighter airplane."

Herbert Hoover, former President: "Those who think in terms of economic sanctions should also think in terms of war."

WASHINGTON LETTER
BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
Congress Views Many Remedies Designed for Cotton Farmers

WASHINGTON—Approximately 30 cotton bills have been introduced in the first session of the 76th Congress. Senator "Cotton" Ed Smith, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, has introduced a bill to amend the present farm act. So have Senator John Lee of Oklahoma, Senator Bankhead of Alabama, and Representative Richard M. Kleberg of Texas.

Senator Smith's plan would make price adjustment payments to cotton farmers whenever the price is below 75 per cent of parity. He specifies that these payments should not exceed five cents per pound on the average production of the individual farm's acreage allotment. His bill provides for additional payments sufficient to give the cotton farmer a return on his crop as nearly equal to parity as wheat, cotton, rice, and tobacco farmers receive.

If this bill were passed, the Commodity Credit Corporation would be authorized to acquire title to cotton held as collateral for government loans, and transfer it to the Federal Reserve Commodities Corporation for disposition.

Specifically, 500,000 bales of cotton taken over by the FSCC in this fashion would be distributed to the needy. Some of the cotton would be used for payments in kind to producers who made additional acreage reductions.

Senator Lee's bill would guarantee a domestic price of \$1.25 a bushel for wheat and 50 cents per pound for cotton. The producer would get the domestic price for whatever amount he was allowed to sell in the domestic market.

After that he would have to take what he could get on the world market. The bill would provide compensating taxes and

In addition to these plans there is the so-called Agricultural Equality Act, introduced by Senators Frazier, Wheeler, Thomas (Oklahoma), Capper, Shipstead, LaFollette, Nye, Russell, McCarran, Bone, Donahay (Ohio), Burke, Johnson (Colorado), Lundeen, Schwartz, Gurnea and Holman.

This bill would guarantee the cost of production to producers. Cost of production prices would be determined, and dealers would be required to pay that price for cotton going into domestic markets.

All dealers would be licensed. The government would sell the surplus commodities above domestic consumption on the world market.

And before the problem of cotton surpluses is solved there will be many more proposals. They are still coming in.

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