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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1939

The graphic arts industry has just been observing the three hundredth anniversary of printing in America. A printing press brought to this country from England in 1639 by the Rev. Isaac Glover, who died en route, was set up in Cambridge by Stephen Daye. The first work produced on this press, just 300 years ago, was "The Freeman's Oath," printed in 1639.

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Today the printing and graphic arts industry is said to be the largest in the country, including the printing machine industry, the printing ink industry and the publishing industry generally, even without the paper industry whose billion-dollar annual production is largely for the purpose of carrying the printed word. It is ranked first in number of establishments, in value added by manufacture and in number of salaried employees. It is third in wages paid, fifth in number of wage earners and fifth in value of products.

Which giving salute to this great industry American citizens may well pause to consider also some of the reasons for this growth. Why is it that printing in America has reached these stupendous proportions? Mass education is the first reason, of course, but there are others of great importance.

The answer part, at least, is to be found in the American constitution itself, in the guarantee of freedom of speech and press. Without this freedom it is not likely that the printed page would have attained the status that it holds here. Newspapers, books, periodicals and records are contributions in this land to the feeding of the intellectual desires of every group, party, race, interest or school of thought which desires to have its say.

On the other hand the freedom that is enjoyed in America may also be traced back in part to the printing industry. The printed word made major contributions in the struggle for freedom in early colonial days. "The Freeman's Oath" and similar printed tracts contributed immeasurably to the establishment of the Union as it has existed through more than a century and a half.

Lands in which printing has progressed least are generally the poorest. Countries in which printing is restricted and held under bars have the least freedom. There is ample reason for marking this anniversary as one of the foundation stones of a free and democratic people.

—Grand Rapids Press.

Do you happen to pay taxes? 25 per cent of the American answer, "No." So says the Gallup Poll.

Every Last One Of Us Pays Taxes! This fact that perhaps not more than one out of 20 Americans are aware of is the question being asked in his pocket into the hands of the tax collector, the Gallup Poll disclosure is not startling.

This seems a good time to reprint a table first published last October, listing the traceable indirect taxes paid by the average American family living on a monthly income of \$150. The table was prepared by the research experts of the Northwestern National Life Insurance Co.

Table with 3 columns: Item, Budget, Tax. Items include Food, Shelter, Clothing, Fuel and light, Transp. (used car), Recreation, Life Insurance, Sundries, miscellaneous, Monthly total, Annual total.

It might be a good idea to remind the people of the United States that, despite all the ships that have been authorized by Congress the battleship strength of the American navy remains about what it was when we had left on our hands when the Harding disarmament conference led us to junk \$300,000,000 worth of capital ships.

OF course, the nation has eight new battleships on the way. Two are in advanced construction and, at least two others exist on paper only. It will be years before these ships can fire a shot in defense of the nation.



Knocking on Wood! with JOHN H. HARWOOD

INFORMALLY SPEAKING A man should not live without morals; it is better to have had morals than none at all.—Mark Twain

The Lord created woman but He's not responsible for her hats. —Young married couples who have been billing and cooing are learning that the billing goes on after the cooing stops.—Osborne Famer

WE FEEL UNEASY This commentator wishes he could feel more at ease under the present administration at Washington in so far as America's being involved in war is concerned.

It is widely known that he sympathizes strongly with the Allies in their fight with Germany—a fight which this writer feels is a strictly European affair and none of our business, come what may.

It is a dangerous attitude for this nation's chief executive to take. Today's thought can so easily be translated into tomorrow's act.

IS AMERICA VULNERABLE With a certain amount of apprehension is the common talk of apprehension is the common talk of apprehension is the common talk of apprehension.

THE only power which could attack us is from the north; the matter is, so far as we have been a lot of nonsense.

IF Hitler should conquer Europe, he would be so exhausted that he could not have years in which to get for an European threat, should Hitler ever be able to feel so secure as conqueror.

THE Real Danger America is in no military danger. Yet we are vulnerable.

THAT SAME OLD FUMBLE (Caption) The man carrying the sack of fuel bills is the taxpayer. The sack of school costs is the school board. The sign of rising prices is the inflation.

Happenings of Long Ago

75 Years Ago Oct. 24, 1869 Mr. G. F. Crouch, with two guns, visiting his daughter, Mrs. A. J. Simmons, out in Nebraska.

25 Years Ago Oct. 23, 1914 Fighting of the most desperate character is in progress in West Flanders and northwestern France. The Belgian army, supported by the allies, is holding stubbornly the line of the River Yser, and thus far has successfully halted determined efforts of the Germans to advance along the coast.

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Michigan Republicans Ruled By One Man

Republican Party. Every man in the room was agreed upon this point: that the Republican Party in Michigan is, and has been for years, within the grasp of one of the most astute politicians this State has produced in 20 years.

Michigan's Young Republicans, too, are almost unanimous in their opposition to "boss rule." They have witnessed, at State conventions, the nomination of men for high offices of state by Mr. McKay. He, of course, always remains in the background; in his versatile and successful ability to control State jobs and purchasing patronage.

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Congressional Comment by Representative Dondero

Some Embargo History: Files of the State Department show that in 1914, when an embargo on the shipment of munitions to belligerents was proposed in the Senate, Great Britain and the American administration contended that it would be unneutral to change the rules in this while the war was in progress.

Early in December, 1914, Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock of Nebraska, introduced a resolution to place an embargo on the exportation of munitions to all belligerents. Walter Reed, the American ambassador to Great Britain, almost immediately communicated with the State Department as follows:

"Sir Edward Grey unofficially expressed the hope to me that he will introduce by Mr. Hitchcock a bill to prohibit the exportation by private firms of munitions of war to any belligerent. He would not call attention to the fact that this would be special legislation passed while a war is in progress making a radical departure from a long-established custom of the United States. It would be an unneutral act toward the belligerents that can produce no good result."

The executive committee of the French Society of Authors and Dramatists has decided to recommend to the general meeting the expulsion of the German members of the society.

A solution to the dilemma confronting the Board of Education in adopting a budget and setting its 1934 tax rate for operating expenses was believed near at hand, following a conference yesterday covering members of the Board and M. B. McPherson, State tax commissioner.

Birmingham had swung into step with the National Housing Campaign today and a temporary committee was ready to begin work toward bringing the community into a realization of the benefits available to it under the terms of the Federal Housing Act.

Charles J. Shain, general chairman of a campaign to persuade the Rotary club, by which it hopes to raise approximately \$6,000 for the Community House, yesterday announced the appointment of a steering committee which will aid him in the drive. Members of the committee, besides Mr. Shain, are Forbes S. Haswell, Charles E. Grandstaff, Ralph L. Corryell and Joseph E. Stroup. F. Morse Cooke, a resident of the Rotary club, and J. C. Halloway, as secretary, will serve as ex-officio members of the committee.

Next Wednesday will be the last day for taxpayers whose 1933 taxes are delinquent to pay them without penalty. The tax collector, Charles A. Sparks, Oakland County Treasurer, warned, "If you don't pay your taxes now, you will have to pay them later with a penalty."

Whitehead and Mitchell have a few more empty whisky barrels, but the article for new cider. Should you want one, call early before the supply is exhausted.

Notwithstanding the small crowd that opened up the auction for the property of the late Mrs. M. E. Church, the auctioneer, worked hard and succeeded in realizing for the property a sum that actually surpassed his expectation. Everything sold well.

No preaching at the Presbyterian Church now swells the M. E. Church congregation to large numbers. The Great Britain and the American administration contended that it would be unneutral to change the rules in this while the war was in progress.

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People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column, but communications must be signed, and signed in plain, and confidentially. Letters must be in the office by Thursday noon for publication on the following Thursday.

This is not a fraternal society. This is not a fraternal society. This is not a fraternal society. This is not a fraternal society.

Not Like Russia Last night I attended a meeting of the City Commission. Little do we realize how fortunate we are in this country.

But the propagandists won't go into that. They will stir our emotions with pictures of Paris and London ruined by air raids.

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