

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Democracy Tolerates Lies

speech and press, a most difficult problem. This question was again forcibly brought to mind when, a few days ago, we received in the United States mails a pamphlet entitled: "Facts in Review," issued by the German Library of Information, 17 Battery Place, New York City.

A glance through the pamphlet reveals that every word in its 16 pages is designed to be the friend of the Hitler government. It is, therefore, nothing but propaganda printed and circulated through Uncle Sam's postal system by the German government.

Should such propaganda be stopped; should Uncle Sam refuse to accept it for distribution through the mails? That's where the vital decision, if made, affects the application of the Bill of Rights in this land.

Whenever government decides, in matters of a controversial nature, what is truth and what is mere fiction and lies, then the people under that government will find that their liberties are menaced, should government decide to clamp down on what may appear on the surface to be fiction and lies.

Democracy, under the American system, allows people to cheat and lie and steal; we say it allows them to do so, but it does not condone (generally speaking, of course) such criminal acts. It wishes to express its type of government, that what one speaks and writes depends, finally, upon one's judgment and one's inherent morals.

That is the penalty of living under a democratic rule; you must take the evil with the good. That is what really makes democracy the most difficult, their free type of government, yet devised by man; that is why good citizens in this last remaining great democracy must give more and more attention to the responsibilities of citizenship. Are you doing your added part?

A Man of Courage!

Winston Churchill, for many years, in the House of Commons, he fought for recognition by his country of Germany's great heart and mind as being solely upon the safety of his country—he is like a great star that burns above to guide the mariners whose compasses have been led astray by the magnetic interference of an unpreparedness program of the past.

Jailed For Listening

to permit his people to listen to anything except the propaganda of his public machine indicates the transitory base his government rests upon.

Hitler makes full use of the radio to tell Germans what he wants them to hear and, in order to force them to believe it, he forbids them to listen to foreign stations which might tell them some news.

2,000,000 Colors And Shades?

Every day we learn of new groups devoted to the revelation of something new or other.

Our newest discovery is that the human eye can distinguish 2,000,000 colors and shades. We might be tempted to name them but dictionaries list only 3,400 words for the 7,000,000 shades so far tabulated.

The above news is relayed to the world by M. Rea Paul, color expert, after a joint meeting of the Inter-Society Color Council, the American Physical Society and the Optical Society of America.

Whatever doubts the reader may have about the number of colors and shades must be dissolved in favor of the facts as reported by the groups named above.

Any Way Out for Many Republicans

They do not care to vote for Gov. Dickinson because of his extreme age. Besides, it is difficult for them to reconcile some of the political activities he tolerates in league with the extreme moral views he so loves to propound.

Those who really believe that Michigan is being victimized by bow rule should vote for O. L. Smith. He stands firmly against the current alliances which dominate Michigan Republicans.

Those who subscribed in spirit, as well as in letter, to the principles outlined in Dickinson's sermons likewise should vote for O. L. Smith—he is just as dry as Dickinson, he does not smoke and he is active in church work.

We expressed the opinion recently that it would be extremely difficult to defeat Dickinson, in the primary at least, although in every personal respect O. L. Smith appeared to be a stronger candidate. A friend replied heartily that defeat among people who could be constructive help ought to be held responsible if Smith loses. He said that if all the people shouting "down with the bosses" would vote for the man who is fighting them, bossism would be dealt a staggering blow.

Students of politics would agree that it would be more than a bit unusual and a crying sin to upset the smooth-running machines of practical politicians. Yet Wilkie did just that in Philadelphia. And such miracles happen every once in a while.

In any event we can say without hesitation that O. L. Smith is a high grade candidate, capable of raising the state of Michigan on a business basis and extremely ethical in all his political ventures. He has reason to be angry over his treatment by present leaders of the party. He will receive excellent support where it is known. He is the only Republican in the state today who has a real chance of slowing up the McKay-McKeighan-Barnard steamroller.

Disatisfied Republicans should keep O. L. Smith in mind.

While it is likely to take five or six years before the objective will have been obtained, Birmingham has won its fight to control the billboard nuisance.

The Billboard Case Aably Presented

This ordinance, plus our zoning regulations, should make us famous as being the City's greatest asset. It miles of beautiful streets and boulevards, unspoiled by encroaching factories and garish billboards.

The City's victory in the courts will probably cost in the neighborhood of \$2,500, but the lasting benefits should be worth it.

The case was ably handled, as even the trial judge has stated. Engaged to plead the City's case, William C. Allen, attorney, spent several months in his work and is not yet finished. Mayor John E. Martz, serving without compensation, spent several days in court as active counsel to Mr. Allen. Our City Manager and his staff helped win the case with scores of photographs taken to show the court exactly what was what. And finally, credit should go to the Commission itself for approving a reasonable ordinance which except for two exceptions was called constitutional and valid.

While a number of signs in objectionable locations cannot be ousted until vested rights in leaseholds have expired, eventually the residential and restricted business areas will be free of billboards, it is expected.

Boyles Is Humorous

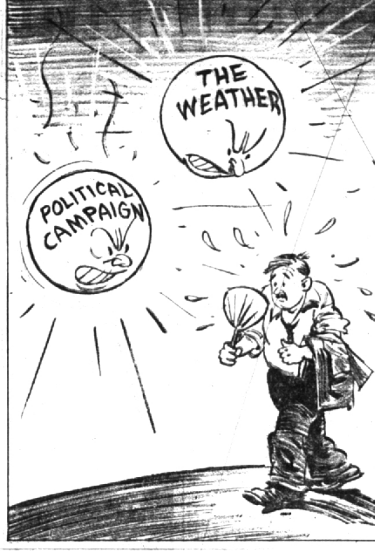
Judge Boyles was expected, Judge Boyles comes from Charlotte, the Governor's "home town." While he may lack the essential inherent talents of being a great jurist, Judge Boyles will probably do as well as any judge in the state. We're going to keep our editorial eyes upon this new Justice; he may truly represent the best of his tribe, it is our wish for him.

After all profits accruing from the sale of liquor are shared, whether the profiteer be an individual or a private enterprise or the State of Michigan. For the fiscal year ending June 30 of this year, the State made a net profit of \$17,728,869.63 on the liquor business that it controls. Even after several years of political corruption, Michigan has realized its real annual profit since prohibition was repealed. With such tremendous profits involved, it is no wonder the bootlegger flourished in prohibition days; it certainly is no wonder now why the State, sadly in need of funds, is hungry for the profits that tumble down from the raggedy pockets of John Barleycorn.

FALL POLITICAL NEWS: taking as an example the unexcelled best weather of the past two weeks, Republican Presidential candidate Wendell L. Wilkie proposes to stage a sizzling hot campaign against the New Deal this fall. Reports from all over the nation suggest that wherever he goes Mr. Wilkie will meet with a warm reception.

PERSONALLY, WE RESPECT and admire Governor Laren D. Dickinson, and wish for him a long and happy life. But we cannot conscientiously believe he has been fitted to be Michigan's Chief Executive for another two or three years. We think he is another too old to do the job that is needed to be done.

THE HEAT IS ON



People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive contributions for this column. Contributions should be sent to the office by Thursday noon for publication in the following issue.

Birds vs. Cats

I thought readers of the Eccentric would be interested in the following life story of a cat.

We are a numerous and valorous race and, true to the traditions of our ancestors, we are tireless hunters of birds. As we are considered a necessary, most farming support and generally a family member of our kind, so the birds of the wild individuals who roam the open country. It is admitted that by our cunning method of approach we are able to secure a measure of our birds above each year.

Now these birds are a murder. I had a purple martin I had for many years and I was very fond of him. I watched that scaly rascal I had for many years and during that time he ate 420 purple martin caterpillars. The rose-breasted grosbeak I caught yesterday in the potato patch was now eating the purple martin.

We should be had at home so we won't feel too strongly the urge to kill birds or feed on garbage. We should be taken to the veterinarian who sick or diseased. Since we instinctively catch birds, our covers should not be allowed to frighten the birds before we are able to spring upon them.

PARAGRAPHS

In Church Town. A pillow that prevents snoring has just been invented, says a report that our Michigan friends are popular at grand opera festivals.—The Kalamazoo Gazette.

The Difficulty

"Carrying water on both shoulders," is especially difficult if you are carrying a can of water and your foot on a brass rail.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Farm Problem

The chief agricultural problem just now is to determine how the farmer should get up on his feet and still get up before sunrise.—The Indianapolis Star.

Handy

An umbrella with a window in it has been invented. This is very handy, as it enables you to see if the owner is approaching.—London Opinion.

Way of the World

If one nation doesn't prepare for war, that is folly. If all other words, you must be a fool to keep from being a fool.—Colorado Springs Gazette.

Knocking on Wood!

with JOHN H. HAWOOD

LET'S GO PATRIOTIC!

A RECENT report from New York states that a nation's business capital is going patriotic in a way. Good! In these days, we need all the patriotism we can get, but we need more than the kind which exists every occasion. Such patriotism, while not to be belittled merely scratches the surface and doesn't mean much except as an indication of the stress of the times.

Practical Patriotism

Let's get practical about this matter of patriotism. How can you and I be more patriotic? First of all, why not take the trouble to vote in all elections, instead of only in the presidential trials in November every four years? Second, why not take an interest in local, county and state elections? Eight of ten Birmingham voters who step into the polling place this September will scarcely look at his county primary ballot and will say to himself: "Frank McKay, outstate. He's a disgrace to me!" Why not take the trouble of looking up the candidates' qualifications before we put the machine through?

CLASH OF OPINIONS

The Free Press charges "carefully manufactured" nationalism is being engineered in the country for consery military training, "which nearly every male citizen of the United States under military as soon as the registration card filed."

Professional Politicians

Now for state affairs: Here, in Michigan, is fertile ground for the professional politician. It is time, for example, for Republicans to capture control of their own party. The candidates and publish the results of the election which will be distributed in advance of the primary election. This should make it somewhat easier for the voter to get the sheen from the posts at election time. The Eccentric, in particular, would be particularly attentive to this matter and endeavor to get the citizens here to read.

Michigan Mirror

Non-Partisan News Letter

Random Remarks

WINSTON CHURCHILL, Prime Minister of Great Britain: "All I want to show that the will be long and hard."

WENDILL WILKIE, Republican candidate for President: "We are facing the most serious assault—physically, psychologically, ideologically—that we have ever faced in all our history."

A. V. ALEXANDER, First Lord of the British Admiralty: "To America, I say in the words of your Paul Jones, 'Surrender? Why—we're only beginning to fight!'"

EMIL LUDWIG, German writer, now in the United States: "Hitler will develop his own features and a revolution will throttle his progress and provide his successors."

EDWARD R. STETTINIUS, Jr., member of National Defense Advisory Commission: "In spite of the opinions of some of our columnist friends, we are getting the full support of the President."

GERHARD MATZKE, German Military Attache in Tokyo: "The battleships of which America is so proud are over twenty-one years old. Japan should not over-estimate America's strength."

HUSTLE, FRANKLIN!

A fortune maker will show Wilkie at this date already shrewd enough key states to get elected. The clock will still be there.

Wabek State Bank of Detroit

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