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MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1940

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events  
which have taken place in the past. All copy must be  
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When President Roosevelt vetoed the Walter-  
Logan Bill, he said that he did so because he  
did not want the rule  
**President's Veto**  
Abridges Law

ings of federal com-  
missioned and boards to  
undergo the slow de-  
cisions of court review. Because of the present  
need for defense materials, the President be-  
lieves that ordinary legal procedure ought to  
be eliminated. We can appreciate and sympa-  
thize with the chief Executive in his sincere  
desire to speed up American defense produc-  
tion; but we cannot overlook the fact that by  
vetoing this Bill, he has placed his stamp of  
approval upon dictatorial methods.

Our Constitution is supposed to be based  
upon "a government of law, and not of men."  
The Walter-Logan Bill, however, provided for  
court review of rulings and decisions of the  
many New Deal agencies now functioning, the  
same as other activities of all branches of gov-  
ernment have been subjected to.

It is admitted, of course, that the courts move  
slowly; but even that can be corrected, either  
by having more courts, or by requiring expedient  
action to function with more efficiency. Speed  
of action is, in our opinion, a poor excuse for  
abridging the constitutional processes of a  
democracy.

However, unless Congress overrides the Presi-  
dent's veto, we are witnessing, in the name of  
defense emergency, the use of precedent es-  
tablished that duplicates the methods of dic-  
tatorship.

If the President's veto is sustained by Con-  
gress, then all we can hope for is the passing of  
this emergency, and then a restoration to the  
courts of the right of review of all situations  
between the people and those who govern them.

There are individuals in every community, in-  
cluding Birmingham who take pride in their  
aloofness from organized religion, al-  
though fully con-  
scious of some very  
definite beliefs.

We have no criticism of this attitude if it  
represents real independence and the inability  
to give acquiescence to the tenets of any avail-  
able church. When it is based on a conviction  
that the individual is not good enough to belong  
to any church, we think the man or woman is  
making a mistake, even though we recognize the  
provocation that comes from the church mem-  
bers who are always ready to tell everybody  
else what to do and how and when to do it.

If all of us would frankly admit our own im-  
perfect nature and realize that organized religion  
is, at best, only a human instrument to  
serve human beings, and if all church members,  
however sanctified they may consider them-  
selves, would exhibit greater tolerance to others,  
church membership would be open to greater growth  
of individuals.

Truth of the matter, the failure of some in-  
dividuals to go to, and belong to, some church  
where distinct personal and social gains can  
be secured, is not to be blamed entirely on the  
absent individual. This thought might sound  
like treason to some devout readers, but a little  
thinking on the subject by responsible church  
leaders might bring results.

Michigan's Department of Conservation will  
never get much beyond the conversation stage  
until it decides to make effec-  
tive the hunting and fishing  
laws against the natives who  
destroy this life. What is the  
use of raising trout, for instance, and at the  
same time allowing people who live near trout  
streams to dynamite them, or use seines? Ask  
sportsmen who live up north who ruins our  
trout streams; they'll tell you too often that  
local game wardens are so lax that native law-  
breakers have no fear of the law's enforcement,  
and hence destroy more fish life in a week or  
two than a hundred sportsmen do all season.

A REAL TEST of their devotion to America awaits  
those foreign-born citizens whose fathersland  
are now engaged in bitter European fighting.  
We do not see why citizens of this country  
should become angry with one another, simply  
because over the ocean their countries are at  
war. Of course, "blood is thicker than water,"  
and we know that emotion plays a large part in  
one's personal attitudes, but if foreign-born  
Americans are to remain true to American ideals  
of democracy, when they do differ about Europe  
it ought to be only in good-natured, sportsman-  
like rivalry.

FOR THE PAST 50 YEARS, the number of persons  
in the average American family has been on  
the decline. In 1880 it was 3.9 persons to the  
family. In 1940 it is only 3.3. Our population, it  
is apparent, is not only becoming demographi-  
cally apathetic, it is also revealing a patriotic  
decline.

After the last World War was fought and won,  
there was a general feeling in this country  
against such conflicts.  
**Other Times,**  
**Other Toys**  
This feeling was largely reflected in the  
Christmas that followed. Toys for children  
were designed to lead the child mind to think  
of something other than soldiers and fighting.  
Toy rifles and little leather soldiers, once so  
largely imported from Nuremberg and other  
Bavarian toy towns, disappeared from the Ameri-  
can market. Little boys now got toy trains and  
building sets and steamboats. The whole note  
was on pacifism and peaceful progress.

But the wheel has come full cycle once more.  
Again the world is torn by conflicts. Again  
America is arming for defense against possible  
aggression by dictators. And once again the toy  
shops for this Christmas season reflect the mood  
of the government and people.

"Defense toys" is the way many an advertise-  
ment reads. The toys are described as im-  
mature versions of the mechanical marvels upon  
which our national defense is being built. They  
are the things that fire the imagination of the  
young, today. Land forts, airplane carriers, sub-  
marines, army trucks — all the brilliant para-  
phernalia of the defense program.

The toy makers say these things are as im-  
portant to today's children as were yesterday's  
toy railway engines to their grandfathers.

Maybe so.

But just the same it is a sad and grim shadow  
over a season in which children are told the heral-  
d angels proclaimed the coming of the Prince of  
Peace.

The solution of the problem that beset agricul-  
ture, is, despite other matters, the most pressing  
responsibility of the nation.

The fact that considerable  
**Science and**  
**The Farmer**  
improvement has been made  
in recent years should not  
blind us to the fact that the people who live on  
the farms of the nation have not received from  
the nation as a whole, a square deal.

There is no question of the immense toll that  
the protective tariff system takes from agricul-  
turalists. The fact is now readily admitted by  
both political parties and serves as the justification  
of governmental benefits to American farmers.

Quite recently there has been a revival of the  
idea that the development of new uses for farm  
products will solve the farm problem. Under  
the name of eugenics, the miracles of the sci-  
entist are hailed as the hope of the farmer. This,  
in time, may be quite true, but let nobody be-  
lieve that the average farmer can wait upon new  
discoveries for the solution of his problems.

We do not mean to disparage the progress  
that has been made along this line. The example  
of cotton seed is well known. Years ago the dis-  
ease, now, may be quite true, but let nobody be-  
lieve that the average farmer can wait upon new  
discoveries for the solution of his problems.

Godfrey Haggard, British consular official in  
this country, believes that the peoples of the  
countries occupied by Ger-  
many are building up their  
strength and will, some day, emerge an  
armed alliance that will "astonish the world, in-  
cluding Hitler."

We trust the gentleman is correct. Certainly,  
under the reasonable peoples of the con-  
quered nations should be the strength and will  
under their German masters. The will to strike  
a blow for their own liberation undoubtedly  
exists but just how and where and when is a  
mystery to us.

Frankly, we would not advise the people of  
the British empire to count too heavily upon  
any armed uprising in the conquered lands.  
A rebellion against a German army of occupation,  
just now, would have little chance of success in  
any nation. If the British are able to inflict a  
blow upon Germany, the rebellion  
will flare up, rapidly enough, on the heels of  
the retreating Teutons, whose position will be  
precarious.

It is interesting to report that the Navy has  
just commissioned 264 new ensigns, the first non-  
commissioned ensigns since the  
such commissions since the  
World War.

It seems that the Navy  
is using the old battleship Illinois as a training  
school for young college men. The men recently  
commissioned comprised the first graduating  
class after completing a four-month course.  
They were advised, at their commencement,  
that no distinction would be made be-  
tween them and Annapolis men who spend four  
years studying for a similar commission.

Rear Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, chief of  
the Bureau of Navigation, told the young of-  
ficers, "You are joining a fast-moving, hard-  
hitting team," and added, "You will make the  
grade upon your efforts and not because you  
come from any certain school."

OUR SUGGESTION TO ITALY, in this move to defeat  
the valiant Greeks, is: Move Mt. Vesuvius  
over to Greece and make it erupt sufficiently to  
burn hot lava all over the ancient country.  
That's about the only way Italy will be able to  
win.

A FEW DAYS AGO most of New England was  
shaken by what is said to have been an earth-  
quake. But it probably was only the heavy  
signs of Republicans that reviewed the recent  
victory of Roosevelt along that rockbound coast.

## SEASON'S GREETINGS!



## How To Raise Wages

By DR. V. O. WAITS

The prospect of a wave of wage  
demands in the defense industries  
raises the question as to how best  
the cause of labor may be ad-  
vanced.

Never in recorded history has  
any nation made such progress in  
living standards as the United  
States during the past 100 years.  
Employment during that period  
expanded by 400 per cent on aver-  
age. Meanwhile the amount of neces-  
sary and comforts of life which the  
average worker could buy has  
doubled, tripled and quadrupled.

**The Question.**  
This is as we want it. The ques-  
tion is, "How can that expansion  
of the greatest possible part of  
the greatest proportion of our  
people?"

To answer that question we  
must first know what has been the  
cause of our past progress.  
Has it been minimum wage laws,  
or government wage fixing, or  
unemployment or unemployment  
of our history and during the  
years of most rapid increase in  
labor income we had no govern-  
ment machinery of any sort for  
determining wage rates.

Were labor union responsible  
for the wage increases? Did labor  
winning them from reluctant em-  
ployers by strikes and mass pick-  
ets?

Some of the best gains came  
when unions were weak and when  
strikes were rare. The in-  
creases occurred in non-union  
trades as well as unionized in-  
dustries. Furthermore, labor unions over  
various foreign nations than in  
the United States without produc-  
ing anything like our wage in-  
creases.

**Only One Explanation.**  
The one and only possible ex-  
planation for the increase in United  
States wage levels has been in-  
creasing competition among em-  
ployers.

## Happenings of Long Ago

Fifty Years Ago

Dec. 25, 1890

A new teacher near Franklin  
not long ago went to see his  
girl and a week later, practical  
ly, he had his shoes and the aspir-  
ing pedagogue had to stay all  
night. It never happened, though  
when we were young.

Ed Parks with a few compan-  
ions were trying their muscles in  
the great market last Monday  
by drawing themselves up on  
the large front hook used to hang  
beef on. Ed jumped up to catch  
the hook, missed his aim and was  
caught in the fleshy part of his  
right back, tearing it badly in  
three directions, the point of the  
hook bearing clear to the end of  
his little finger, making a painful  
wound and requiring 20 stitches to  
be taken by Dr. C. M. Raynolds.

**Hope.**  
Hope arises, however, in the  
news that the Michigan Constitu-  
tional Revision Association for  
1942 has filed its incorporation  
papers. Modernization of govern-  
ment is the only solution to the  
big argument always being made  
by one side demanding smaller taxes,  
the other side demanding more  
services by government. If things  
need to be done, most of us don't  
mind paying taxes for them; but  
they not get the money's worth.  
For example, the way the State  
has been making its purchases,  
handing out orders to political  
favorites, is simply disgusting.

**Liquor Profits.**  
Sale of liquor in Michigan is  
booming. Sales for the first 11  
months totaled \$28,252,777, more  
than \$200,000 ahead of the entire  
year of 1939. In December, sales  
are expected to total \$7,000,000.  
The Liquor Control Commis-  
sion proud of this record? Has it  
ever occurred to them that the  
1941? Does it think the Michigan  
system is perfect? Hasn't Govern-  
ment Dickinson had a single pro-  
gressive idea on the subject of

**Twenty-five Years Ago**  
Dec. 24, 1915  
Samuel Hawthorne died at his  
home of a lingering disease of  
dysentery in Birmingham Dec. 14,  
1915.

R. J. Bell, of South Woodward  
avenue, and Manley Bailey, of  
Hamilton avenue, are on the sick  
list.

Mrs. Helen Corson was a recent  
guest of Ann Arbor friends.

President Woodrow Wilson and  
Mrs. Edith Bolling Galt were mar-  
ried at 11 P. M. on their wedding  
day, Saturday night, Sept. 12, 1889,  
at the home of the bride in DuPont Cir-  
cle, Washington, D. C.

Among the Christmas hares  
arriving last week we never said  
that the simple and elegant  
suits of the ground early Satur-  
day morning and with it were de-  
stroyed many valuable pieces of  
furniture, almost all of the  
family's clothing and Christmas  
presents for the entire Merrill  
family.

**Five Years Ago**  
Dec. 23, 1935  
Hoards of parading effort ex-  
pended by Bureau Sprague, 17  
years old, 588 Stanley avenue,  
have resulted in victory for the  
Bureau School in the inter-school  
debate which was held at the  
proposed among the local institu-  
tions by the Fisher Body Crafts-  
men's Union.

Mrs. Wilson W. Mills, of Bloom-  
field Hills and Grosse Pointe was  
guest of a small dinner at the  
club last night. She was accom-  
panied by her daughter, Valerie De-  
Witt, of Washington, D. C., and  
New York and Washington.

An explosion which threw one  
man out of the sky for 100 feet  
and scattered several others oc-  
curred in a gas main beneath the  
newly built Michigan State High-  
way, near the intersection of  
avenue Sunday afternoon. Re-  
sultant flames made it necessary  
to close the highway for several  
hours, that stood by while  
employees of the Consumers Pow-  
er and Light Co. were in the street  
walk in several spots, seeking the  
cause of the explosion.

"Wild-Goose" the century old  
home of Dr. William O. Merrill,  
Long Lake and Telegraph roads,  
burned to the ground early Sat-  
urday morning and with it were de-  
stroyed many valuable pieces of  
furniture, almost all of the  
family's clothing and Christmas  
presents for the entire Merrill  
family.

Annual growth in Michigan's  
state (figure, now is believed to  
exceed the annual cut.

## Knocking on Wood!

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

**HITLER BREWING SOMETHING.**  
RUMORS can never be trusted, of course, but the word  
from Europe is that Hitler is preparing to attempt  
really terrific invasion of England. Winston Churchill last  
week warned that another attempt would be made, and  
Big Boss Knudsen spoke of a terrible emergency. How-  
ever, this observer is willing to go out on the limb again  
and predict that Hitler's  
attempt will fail.

We are willing to risk our reputa-  
tion as a seer, soothsayer and  
prophet on the fact that Hitler is  
on the same grounds that it was  
first made last fall when France  
fell. At that time, this column said  
that Hitler could not swing it, and  
in two reported attempts he failed.  
The same conditions which pre-  
cluded his first attempt exist now.

Hitler is still weak on the sea,  
and an invasion of England is es-  
sentially a naval operation. That  
is, to land an army and keep it  
supplied depends on control of the  
sea lanes. Until Hitler can bottle  
up the British fleet, his invasion  
will die in the attempt.

Furthermore, believe the  
Axis is definitely slipping, de-  
spite Hitler's brave assurances  
that the conquest of Italy are more  
by a side issue. The Italian navy  
has feared to come out and fight  
the British, perhaps that is part of  
the strategy. Keeping the British  
ships in the Mediterranean so  
that they cannot be used around  
the British Isles. At any rate,  
Mussolini is taking a licking and  
soon is likely to have Hitler's  
soldiers or emissaries in chains  
at Rome.

However, we are still pessimis-  
tic about a clear-cut decisive  
victory by England over Hitler.  
Neither side can now strike a de-  
cisive blow, neither side has  
enough men engaged in battle.  
This thing may go on for years  
until the cities of both sides are  
reduced to rubble. It's a terrible  
prospect. Let's hope the Christ-  
mas of 1941 will be more hopeful!

**A SINGLE SILVER TAPER**  
**BURNED**  
I passed a shining window in the  
dark.  
And there a single, silver taper  
burned;  
It glowed out in the darkness as a  
star.

Of tender love in a great heart  
that yearned.  
A single, shining taper—silvery,  
bright,  
Majestic—burning forth the story  
of another, burning  
light in a darkened manger, to its  
told.

The beauty of the Christ Child, I  
recalled.  
The blessed Virgin—and the wise  
men too—had come to adore him.  
And in the darkness there, I was  
appalled.

The story seemed so strangely  
sweet and new.  
A softness in the darkness there I  
found.  
The music from my spirit reached  
my ear.

It held a hopeful, joyful, peaceful  
sound.  
My soul blazed forth and knew no  
bond of fear.  
And then it was as if the single  
star  
Of Bethlehem had once more come  
to light  
My pathway to that baby born  
so far.

A single silver taper in the night.  
(Mrs.) Myrtle Russell Young,  
Box 90, Birmingham, Mich.

Michigan's elk herd, scattered  
through several counties near the  
tip of the lower peninsula, has  
apparently suffered more heavily  
during the present deer season  
than in previous years.

An estimated 300 to 400 elk in  
Cheboygan, Otsego, Presque Isle  
and Montmorency counties are  
offspring of a herd of 30 animals  
released in the Pigeon River area  
in 1918. The original herd was  
made up of animals secured at  
Jackson, Hole, Wyoming, and  
from various parks and zoos. Na-  
tive Michigan elk apparently dis-  
appeared about 60 years ago.

**Definition.**  
A married man is one who has  
two hands and the ear.

## THE GREAT AMERICAN HOME



"Smoke signal say, no fire on reservation; it's say Chief  
Spotted Goose, him smoking Christmas cigars."

**Wabek State Bank**  
of Detroit  
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