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400 Billion Tons Of Rain Short
No man can understand the causes of periods of dry weather and it is hard to comprehend the ways of Nature in the future. For example, the Weather Bureau estimate that the nation, as a whole, is short 400 billion tons of water. One State is reported short 400 tons per acre. Which will give you some idea of how much the rain wrings when it falls upon land.

THIS FREEZING WORLD



Random Remarks
Alfred M. Landon, Republican presidential nominee in 1920. "If the President really is serious in his budget plans, you will hear howls all over the place."
Harold Stark, Admiral, U. S. Navy. "The international political situation is quite different from what we conceived it might be two years ago."
John Nance Garner, Vice-President. "The intellect is a sort of scale on which to weigh one set of facts after another, as they bear on the problems you are trying to solve."

Knocking on Wood!
with JOHN H. HARWOOD
INFORMALLY SPEAKING... Don't expect opportunity when you hear a knock at your door. It will either be the wolf back for another winter, or the U. S. census taker.
DIES COMMITTEE HASN'T... A good many people, without a doubt, are puzzled why any one should condemn the activities of the Dies Committee in investigating un-American activities.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1940
NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have new value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesday. The right to publish, however, is made only upon receipt of the copy submitted as necessary to the title of the paper to show other than the name of the author. All articles are accepted on the understanding that the author warrants that the material is original and that he holds the copyright. No return will be made for material not accepted for publication.

The idea that Nature is so adjusted as to dispense with the help of individuals and without upsetting climate and temperature in general, reveals the vastness of natural phenomena. Where is the immense tonnage of water? Somewhere in the bounds of the globe, as vapor, or ice, maybe in the earth as water, but nonetheless, being carried surplus-fashion by Nature. Man, wrapped up in his petty pursuits, can understand himself a little better, he knows more of natural processes. The contemplation of the insignificance of human beings, compared to the power of Nature, is only prevented from becoming morbid by the belief that the Power that set Nature in being also is concerned with the welfare of individuals and extends to them all the assistance that they are wise enough to accept.

ENOUGH!
This observer is declaring a personal moratorium on all information (photographs, if you don't believe it) coming from across the ocean on how terrible the Russians and Germans are committing a terrible crime against civilization. Everybody is pretty much content to hear about the war and the fact will do no good. For one, this writer wants to hear no more about the war. Hate and fear are what got us into the last war.

We Accept The Challenge, Governor!
The following editorial, reprinted from The Crowsell Advance, seems especially appropriate to pass on to our readers at this season of the year: "He was going to be all that he wanted to be."

No one should be kinder or braver than Tomorrow. A friend who was troubled and weary, he knew—would be glad of a lift—and who needed it, too—on him, he would call and see what he could do. Each morning he stacked up the letters he'd written.

I'll Leave It to You
By JOHN DENLER
You nearly always get together with Charlie when he comes to the check book. He is a Detroit, and he never fails to say, as he lights a cigar and you pay the bill, "Next time you're in the city, follow me to the store for pete's sake give me a ring. We're in the Washington bridge store. I have a phone book you know. I have a stack of them. I'd like to show you the town. I'll get you a New York and you're walking up Fifth Avenue one afternoon about 1:30 with your business all in the rest of the day in it and you'll decide you'll duck in a cigar store and call on Charlie. They're only got two telephone booths in this particular place and you've got to wait ten minutes or so and both ways is still talking. You wonder why they're talking about them and finally decide that one of them is trying to sell the George Washington bridge to the city. I'd like to see that little other bird's nest and the other bird's nest. Just as you get kind of interested in a copy of Esquire you've picked up the rack and you figured was trying to sell the bridge goes up and comes out and you go off to the office. You look up Hasty, Hardy & How in the telephone book, take the receiver off the hook and reach in your pocket and you find you haven't got one. You ask for your money back and you're told you've got to wait a quarter change. By the time you get back in the booth again you're not sure of the number. It's Whitehall 4-2635 or Whitehall 4-2536. So you drop your nickel in the slot and dial a couple of rings, then the operator comes in and asks you what number you are. She tells you there's no such number and you're not sure yourself so you hang up and look in the telephone book again. You find that the number is wrong and that the number is Whitehall 4-2635. So you try again. Once more the operator asks you for your money back and you're told you've got to wait a quarter change. By the time you get back in the booth again you're not sure of the number. It's Whitehall 4-2635 or Whitehall 4-2536. So you drop your nickel in the slot and dial a couple of rings, then the operator comes in and asks you what number you are. She tells you there's no such number and you're not sure yourself so you hang up and look in the telephone book again.

Happenings of Long Ago
Fifty Years Ago
The New York World, just to see if it could be done, has sent a lady correspondent, Miss Nellie Bly, young, smart and pretty around the world in just 72 days, 15 hours and 11 minutes. She is a stranger to many a New Yorker on a voyage named this very time to a second and even a third time. She has been in the city since Mrs. E. J. Rockwell's Friday night, Feb. 7, 1910. She has been in the city since Mrs. E. J. Rockwell's Friday night, Feb. 7, 1910. She has been in the city since Mrs. E. J. Rockwell's Friday night, Feb. 7, 1910.

Need a vacation? Certainly!
And not next month or next summer—but now! What's more, you don't need a vacation that the boss gives you, but one that you give yourself. Everyone ought to have a vacation every day, and with planning and wit he can put into short intervals all the essentials of a protracted holiday. So reasons Dr. Milton Marston, distinguished psychologist, in the current Rotarian Magazine.

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Congressional Comment
by Representative George A. Dondero
The State of the Union: Some interesting figures were included in the President's annual message to the Congress of the United States on the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1941. For instance, it was revealed that the annual interest charge on the public debt will exceed one billion dollars for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1940, and that \$5 million more dollars must be added in the ensuing fiscal year in order to pay the interest charges.

CIVIL SERVICE MESS
No less an authority than Auditor General Vernon J. Brown has declared that the civil service mess in Michigan has become nearly meaningless. Twenty-four state departments have removed every employee from the merit system classification; 53 departments, employing 9,548 persons, have more than half of their employees as unclassified; a recent report of the Civil Service Commission declared.

Vacations Daily Available to All Using Their Wits
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Don't Worry; Use Coal For Gas!
Liquid coal, we are advised, is composed of 60 per cent paraffin, a very light fuel, 10 per cent petroleum for easy starting, a secret chemical and 30 per cent pulverized coal. It can be manufactured much cheaper than gasoline. Now, that's settled and the average motorist can ride around in his tank without a tank with gasoline and take the best of the world come to a stop for lack of fuel.

Year	Expenditures	Gross Deficit	Gross Debt on July 1
1931	\$4,091,595,000	\$1,801,485,000	\$1,801,485,000
1932	5,153,645,000	2,487,010,000	4,288,495,000
1933	5,142,964,000	3,063,257,000	7,351,752,000
1934	7,015,050,000	3,989,496,000	11,341,248,000
1935	7,691,987,000	5,875,083,000	17,216,331,000
1936	8,779,798,000	4,763,842,000	33,980,173,000
1937	10,159,150,000	2,811,318,000	36,791,491,000
1938	7,691,987,000	1,542,325,000	38,333,816,000
1939	9,268,338,000	2,600,614,000	40,934,430,000
1940	11,299,258,000	4,032,813,000	43,222,346,000
1941	14,234,191,000	1,816,231,000	45,038,577,000

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WABLER STATE BANK OF DETROIT

Public Enemies
It seems that we were mistaken. The number of criminals now on the "public enemies" list is 14,317. They have been convicted 26,205 times for crimes, including 761 kidnappings, 460 homicides, 5,391 robberies, 3,628 burglaries, 2,733 burglaries, 705 forgeries, 132 blackmailings, 1,001 auto thefts and 693 embezzlements.

Who Will Doubt but that the greatest asset to the human race is a good, sound, practical idea—carried out!

The figures for 1940 and 1941 are estimates. In arriving at these totals the President deducted \$2,539,672,000 from 189 to July 1, 1937, a period of 14 years.

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