

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Mr. Eaton, militant publisher of the nearby Plymouth Mail, has declined to oppose the nomination of Arthur H. Vandenberg for reelection on the Republican ticket; instead Mr. Eaton, now concluding his second term as State representative in Lansing, has entered the contest for Governor.

Thompson's difficulty lies in the fact that, while for months he criticized "political bosses" and the "weakness of Governor Dickinson," upon announcing his candidacy he "came out" for the aged Governor. Thus did kindly Jim put on his other face.

One of the unfortunate episodes of the Republican Convention in Philadelphia is the reported existence of a two-hour battle in the Philadelphia Hotel by Howard Lawrence, Grand Rapids Sunday school superintendent, who managed the campaign of Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg.

Soft-peddling our lack of national defense won't help us at home or abroad. Every foreign nation knows, from federal government documents available at 50 cents per copy from the Library of Congress, exactly how weak or how strong the United States is in military equipment.

This newspaper believes firmly in the value of every type of practical insurance. But when 15 of its communities comparable to Birmingham refuse to buy public liability insurance, we claim it unnecessary, we do not see why Birmingham needs to spend \$571.89 for such policy. This sum of money, on the basis of the present \$19 per thousand city tax rate, means that local property assessed at approximately \$30,000,000 pays for this policy; it means that no less than six breadwinners, with homes assessed at \$5,000.00 each, pay annual city taxes merely for an insurance policy considered valuable by 15 out of 10 comparable communities.

Democrats Like Dumb Followers Franklin D. Roosevelt has continued his silence. He will accept, or won't he? That is the question. The delegates by a large majority are said to favor his return to the White House. But, honestly, what fun can delegates have when they come from far and wide to the time of nomination, but fail to take any action? With all the talk we can muster, we can't help but suggest that such blind following is, in a kind of benevolent and trustful sense, like what one might expect under a dictator. Is Roosevelt a god, or a mere American?

"DAD" ROBERT T. STANTON, of Molegan avenue, in The Eccentric last week opined that Governor Dickinson, 81 years of age, is too old to run for reelection. "Dad" is only 91 himself, and thus qualified to tell the younger generation some of the wisdom he has acquired from nearly a century of living.

WE ARE VERY GLAD that Birmingham, after weeks of drilling, has found another source of underground water supply. Depending upon water drawn from within the bosom of Mother Earth, this growing community will always be grateful for additional subterranean water supply sources. To pump water from Detroit's supply (so tasteless of chlorine), would cost several hundreds of thousands of dollars to local taxpayers.

NEARBY OAKLAND HILLS COUNTRY Club this week is the scene of the Red Cross national golf match, when teams led by Gene Sarazen and Walter Hagen vie for victory; the proceeds to go to the Red Cross. Selection of Oakland Hills for this match, together with its some years ago for the National Open Championship, plus the fine course of the Birmingham Golf Club, only proves that golfers the nation-round have come to acknowledge this area as an excellent place to play the ancient Scott's game.

Can We Rely Upon Battleships?

The United States has embarked upon a naval construction program that will give this nation a two-ocean navy within the next five or six years.

There are some Americans who wonder whether air power has not rendered battleships obsolete. Their question a reliance upon sea power for future defense, believing that airplanes will dominate all type of warfare.

The safety of the British islands depends upon the navy and the only chance of victory over Germany rests upon the continued ability of the British navy to blockade Germany and Italy, and the rest of Europe, if necessary.

The role of the airplane in warfare has been greatly enlarged but there is little evidence available, at this time, upon which to doubt the dominance of sea power which has sustained the great nations throughout the centuries of the past.

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Unfortunate Episode

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THE BIRMINGHAM'S SUMMER recreation program is proceeding well. As we have said before this activity is worth every cent it costs.

FROM ADULT A NUMBER of reliable Republican sources we have heard this oft-repeated statement: "If Governor Dickinson is nominated by the Republicans in September, I'll have to vote for Democrat Van Wagoner in November."

REPUBLICAN'S SUMMER recreation program is proceeding well. As we have said before this activity is worth every cent it costs.

ABOUT THE ONLY practical place for one to stop is when seeking to warn another on the highway. (This does not include, of course, that brief second before the traffic light turns green.)

VACATION TIME



Michigan Mirror NON-PARTISAN STATE NEWS LETTER

WAR are fought from Washington, not from Lansing. Then where does the "barrel" lie? The argument goes like this: The Wilkie delegate for state losses an "indefinite" as being dis-satisfied with Michigan voters, want leaders who are "top" and "independent" from influences and commitments.

Phenomenon

IN THESE fast-moving blitzkrieg days, the nomination of Wilkie has been widely proclaimed to be a phenomenon of first magnitude.

TO JUMP to the conclusion that Wilkie's nomination is proof of new trend in Michigan politics and hence that Michigan voters are going to meet the proverbial apparition at the September primary are comforting thoughts.

HOWEVER, despite what prophets may say, what analysis may deduce on paper, the real answer will come from the primary and convention in September. We do not venture here a surmise as to the outcome.

Random Remarks Fifth Column

IT IS revealed that the earth was once much smaller than it is now, and at another time was much larger. The world may have reached a medium, but still is not happy.

Knocking on Wood!

With JOHN H. HARWOOD

ONE thing which, perhaps, qualifies Mr. Roosevelt for the present preparedness program is that he is not afraid of big figures.

ONE Unusual Detail There, in any small detail, there, however, can not easily be overlooked. Where is the money coming from? That question seems to be bothering a number of people in the United States, perhaps even the President. Says the Baltimore Sun:

Our present situation is a little short of frankness. We have a national debt of \$45,000,000,000. We have been adding to that at the rate of three billions annually. We have not had a balanced budget since 1919, and there is no prospect now that we shall have one in the near future.

THE shadow of a Dream! W. D. Howells, is the latest book in the ladies' library.

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