

The Birmingham Eclectic

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THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1940

NOTE: The Eclectic is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be submitted before noon on Wednesday. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the work presented as are necessary to conform with the laws of the state. Because of the space limitations in the magazine room, the Eclectic cannot accept more than one article from any individual writer. The Eclectic is not responsible for the return of copy unless accompanied by return postage. The Eclectic is not responsible for the return of copy unless accompanied by return postage.

Detroit and Wayne County are informing the rest of the nation that men occupying high places in their government are incompetent and unworthy.

Wayne County's Official Mess

It is evidenced in the current indictment returned against Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea and Sheriff Thomas C. Wilcox, and many others, for their alleged collusion with gambling racketeers.

The had now also concerns the removal of such high officials, including former Supr. Fred Ebron, from office. Judge Homer Ferguson, acting as a one-man grand jury for many weeks, has listened to much evidence against these various men; it was his request that McCrea and Wilcox be removed from office.

The whole affair is sordid; it doesn't surprise us to learn that one or more high officials in government especially the law-enforcing branch of government are under indictment, because many police officers in this and past generations have been found guilty of wrongdoing; what does surprise us, though, is that so many respectable citizens in a city like Detroit can allow high officials to become so devoid of official morality as to allow widespread gambling to reach such bounds.

The fact that both Wilcox and McCrea are Democrats hardly has anything to do with the matter, for Republicans under the same circumstances of citizen disinterest, could have been similarly indicted. It will be interesting to watch the developments of the case; if huge profits have been made by officials, then Uncle Sam can be depended upon to get them on income tax evasion, at least.

For many years Lawrence E. Hulbert has been a member of the Birmingham Village and now City Commission.

Com. Hulbert Will Retire

After nearly 12 years, in fact, which means that Mr. Hulbert on at least 600 occasions, and perhaps plenty of extra, has presided himself away from the dinner table on Monday nights and went to the meetings where Birmingham transacts its own official business.

During all these years Commissioner Hulbert has served his home community with such sincerity and faithfulness, and non-political attitude, as any member of that body has ever served it. We can say this, with personal knowledge covering the past 20 years.

Commissioner Hulbert has revealed his retirement from the commission; he will not be a candidate for re-election next month. He probably wants to spend more of his leisure developing himself into the nation's greatest amateur archery expert. (Editor's Note: We merely figured this angle out, Larry, because you always talk about trout fishing.)

A number of bits of program stand to the memory of Commissioner Hulbert, of course. He has always been interested in our parks, streets and sewers, the library, and recreation for the youngsters, to mention even a few of his as a chap who wasn't afraid to speak his mind.

Birmingham owes Mr. Hulbert a debt of gratitude for his service to this enviable residential community. Birmingham hopes that he will become the modern William Tell in archery circles.

Anyone who expects President Roosevelt to declare his third-term intentions before FDR gets ready to do so, really doesn't know FDR very well. When he was campaigning against Herbert Hoover in the summer of 1932, at a press conference in Detroit, the editor of The Eclectic asked him this then important question: "Governor, what is your attitude toward the soldier's financial stability of the nation?" "When I got into this campaign I decided that I would run it to suit myself, and if and when I think your question needs answering—I will provide the answer."

Co-Governor Emerson R. Boyles is busy these days, what with problems in Lansing and Detroit to pester his colleague, Governor L. D. Dickinson. The Co-Governor, however, possesses a sense of humor that will help his return, self to weather the storms. And that's good support for any Co-Governor.

IF THERE IS ANY SINGLE Democrat who has won the respect of the country during the past seven years, it is Cordell Hull, and he is the Secretary of State. We hope that he is his Party's choice to succeed President Roosevelt; he is the very substantial essence of a gentleman-statesman.

It is time to be suspicious whenever a stranger offers to give you an opportunity to make a lot of money without working.

Don't Listen to Fancy Schemes

It is time to be suspicious whenever a stranger offers a get-rich-quick scheme that will make you a fortune almost overnight.

It is time to be suspicious when anybody pretends to give you an inside tip that is worth money and urges you to risk your bankroll for a huge fortune.

This advice, it seems to us, should be unnecessary but every once in a while somebody complains that he has been "skinned" by slick-talking strangers. Of course, it is no worse to be the victim of strangers than to be the victim of your acquaintances, and, consequently, it is just as well to use sense in all dealings that promise you unusual profits.

In Chicago the other day a man lost \$4,000 because he listened to a stranger, with a pronounced Spanish accent. The story was that his brother-in-law was killed in an accident but he did not want the "blood money." He was willing to turn it over to any honest man who would agree to distribute it to worthy charities and accept a \$2,000 fee for himself.

This, it seemed to the innocent Chicagoan, was really "easy money." The catch in it, however, was that the dispenser of the charity must put up a bond to insure that he would faithfully execute the trust. The Chicagoan had \$4,000, which the stranger assured him would be enough.

So, they go to the bank, where they get the money, thus showing that the Chicagoan would carry out the duties of the trust, and, after a brief conference, the stranger disappeared with the \$4,000.

Unprecedented industrial and commercial development of the United States, as well as the highest standard of living in the world, are attributed by many observers to the fact that the area of the forty-eight states was, at one time, the largest free-trade area in the world.

State Barriers To Trade

We say "at one time" because of the trend in recent years for states to erect barriers to trade from other states. While the constitution bars a state from levying tariffs on imports and exports and from discriminating against the commerce, shipments and citizens of other states, there is one regulation to promote the use of materials made "at home." Truckers have been seriously affected. Butter, pigfarmine, poultry, eggs, citrus fruits and numerous farm items are involved and more than a score of states give special aid to wine producers within their borders.

Those who have given the subject some study seem to think that the trend toward barriers to free trade between the states has been checked by publicity given to the subject by the National Conference on Interstate Trade Barriers last July. The Council on State Government has set up machinery to improve the situation and Secretary Hopkins proposes the formation of an inter-departmental committee of Federal agencies to study and combat state trade barriers.

And that occurred right in our own United States. Twenty-two years later when confronted with these facts, every sample of decency, leaving no smudge, was hard to come by. A civilized nation had shown such gross intolerance. And yet, have Americans left this era of intolerance behind us? I think not. As long as man is human, as long as we are subject to the frailties of flesh we will continue to be ruled by prejudices.

By KATHERINE W. GEORGE

Making bandages for wounded soldiers, the days of the World War when our mothers, veiled and uniformed, were engaged in similar service that a civilized nation should have shown. And it makes me wonder whether our daughters also will find themselves rolling bandages for the wounds garnered on some other battlefield 20 years hence.

It was to cast its shadow over the world every sample of decency, leaving no smudge, generation unscathed by it. As if the destiny of every boy to wear a soldier's kit and of every girl to don a Red Cross uniform. Or are we, perhaps, when the wars which are raging now after so brief a respite from the War to End All Wars, are fought in world dimensions, to attain a less permanent peace?

No one knows, of course, but we can always hope. Meanwhile, women of Birmingham, like other women all over the United States and in countries where their concern is of equal moment, are doing their part in making bandages to Red Cross specifications, to stop the flow of blood in the several theaters of war. There are classes at the Community House twice a week and at the East End Craft Club and there is a training class for Red Cross supervisors, also at the Community House on Wednesday mornings. Shipments are made from the Pontiac headquarters to The Hague, from where they are distributed impartially to all warring countries in need of them. Soldiers wounded and dying are not to us in this country, at least, Germans, nor English, nor Chinese, nor Japanese, but just human beings in need of succor in a topsy-turvy world.

By MYRTLE B. KNOWLTON

Astronomers have been calling out attention for the last few days of February and the first several of March, to the dark in the sky, that celestial dial of the ages, sounding by the hour and always on time. Most of us have seized the opportunity to gaze upon this phenomenon. The stars will not return until another year, but they will not have come and gone and the planets again have completed their vast cycle. Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn and Mars all have taken their proper places at the appointed time, in obedience to the law of the heavens, to form that bright and glowing pendant of diamond against the clear and starlit winter sky.

This sight of the evening reminds us that there is nothing very durable about the work of the hands of man, and that the wisdom of the great Creator is limited. As man struggles with what he thinks are the most important things, the mountains and skies and the great work of nature, that are never still but ever changing over infinite periods of labor and leisurely way, while he, in comparison, is but a flash upon the horizon.

With uncertainty in our own sphere and chaos in the world at large, while infinitesimal men foolishly struggle to overcome one another, and to obtain that to which they are not entitled, there is a calming reassurance in stepping out into the night and looking up at the stars. Each planet, whether large or small, is a lesson in submission to the natural forces that create and look on with no attempt to encroach upon the path of another, and the resulting order, harmony and beauty of it all might be accepted as a solution to the secret of the ultimate stability of the world.

The crest and crowning of all good, Life's final star is brotherhood.

QUESTIONS BEFORE THE HOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL and I should like to know what you had the best word with his wife.

The latest dispatch from Shanghai quotes Confucius' mother as saying: "Confucius talk to much."

A puritanical conscience doesn't keep some people from sinning just because of enjoying it.

Nothing should keep Summer Welles from finding peace in Europe unless inflicting of old age should set in after several years of research.

HEARD BEFORE
This observer may not be as bright as the average politician, but following the reasoning of a reserve officer whose letter he read in a periodical the other day, he has decided to "Preventedness will keep us out of war." Isn't that what the military says?

"CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY"
Confidentially, I have been uttered in the last couple of years in behalf of our "Christian Democracy" which is a very good thing. Christian angels, the disparagement of the Jews, Anti-Semitism, anti-Christianity, and anti-Asianism, anti-Asianism of any kind has no standing in this country so far as the legal status of any citizen is concerned. The following editorial from the Detroit Post and Tribune, written by Ruth Shain, Chairman for Government and Foreign Policy, is a very good thing.

"Our Federal Government is wholly secular. The eleventh amendment, which passed under the eyes of Washington, Adams, and Jefferson, has been pushing us in the direction of a freer worldwide economic system. Politics will not be allowed to interfere with these fundamental facts.

RUTH SHAIN
Chairman for Government and Foreign Policy
To the Editor:
As one who has long deplored the public's indifference when it comes to the political process, I am glad to see the connection between good government and voting in the polls with Truman, the Free Press, Tuesday.

"Speaking of the Wayne County Police, we do know that the process would be to have it abolished. But on finding that it would take an amendment to the constitution to effect the change, he decided not to run. Your thought was noble, anyway, Mickey."

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It would be simple to restrict the powers of sheriffs, if the process would be to have the job done much better by the State Police. We do know that the process would be to have the job done much better by the State Police.

LOTS OF ROBINS
(To J. B. H.)
People think of robins as being long ere spring comes on. People look for robins when the snow is gone. While the March winds bleak and chill shriek and blow across the hill, someone talk of robins.

"Someone asked of me, 'Are there any robins in your maple tree?'" My old maple tree is bare. Not a single robin there.

I shall write of robins All in plenty time. Soon as I can spy one, He'll invade my rhyme. And then the editor no doubt Will with my poem do deal.

Very sincerely,
—BEATRICE McDONALD.

Okay By Him
"So you've been fighting again, have you? Do you go to bed without any supper."

"All right, dad. I've only got two teeth left anyway."

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Knocking on Wood!

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

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From the Women's Angle

By NELLIE HURLEY MINIFIE

If the utter stupidity of this war was not at its outset readily discernible to intelligent thinking Americans, perhaps a story which appeared in this week's newspaper, succeeded in jarring the sensibilities of all those who have been inclined to discredit the European upheaval "as just another war."

It was a small story but in a few choice words, told of a most dramatic incident which had taken place in a Paris opera house when Richard Wagner's music was programmed for a concert. When the history books are written this episode will not be included within their pages. The thousands and thousands of men, women and children who will lose their lives in this war will be recorded in the annals of time but who will remember 20 years from today that a Paris auditorium, jammed to capacity with presumably intelligent people, was suddenly into a seething, noisy hubbub when the music of a German—and one of our music's giants—was played?

No, 20 years hence, very few will recall this incident. I rather imagine that not many remember similar incidents in 1917 and 1918 when the music of Richard Strauss could not be played and Beethoven was tolerated only because someone remembered that he was a Dutch ancestor.

And that occurred right in our own United States. Twenty-two years later when confronted with these facts, every sample of decency, leaving no smudge, was hard to come by. A civilized nation had shown such gross intolerance. And yet, have Americans left this era of intolerance behind us? I think not. As long as man is human, as long as we are subject to the frailties of flesh we will continue to be ruled by prejudices.

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