

# The Birmingham Eccentric

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THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1940

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have newsworthy value and which are written by persons not connected with editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesday. The right is reserved to make such editorial changes in the copy as may be deemed necessary by the staff of the paper. An erroneous reference to the name of the paper or the name of the author will appear in the column of the Eccentric which will gladly correct upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

## Our Governor vs. Drinking Teachers

It was inspired, we were told, by reading of Governor Dickinson's wish that all public school teachers in Michigan be required to take a "teacher's oath" against the use of alcoholic beverages, so that teachers may better inspire their charges with high morals. Here is the story:  
Governor Dickinson wants to have the teachers of this State make oath they'll never take a drink; Now, friends, ain't that just great!  
The teachers teach the young the right way, So the Gov. to make kids smart,  
Wants teachers to swear 'gainst the use of stuff that's strong or tart.  
No amount of teachers do not drink; But those who like to quaff  
A beer, or wine, or highball, can Let loose a great big laugh  
And ask the Gov. to ask an oath To wage crusades for kiddies,  
For indulgent, for each and all, Including wives and kiddies,  
To clean the State of evils that Result in kinds of losses  
That come from tolerating things Approved by politic bosses,  
Oh, yes, our Gov. most folks like Intemperate, foolish teachers;  
Perhaps the school-folks, in return, Don't like boss-ridden "preachers."

Representative George A. Dondero gave a stirring address last month in the House of Representatives in which he praised the work of Michigan's teachers. He said that the state should give them the same respect and honor that the rest of the world gives to its teachers. He said that the state should give them the same respect and honor that the rest of the world gives to its teachers.

## ... Dondero Tells 'em

Mr. Dondero pleaded for what every one in the north is waiting for these days, namely, the completion of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway. The values of such a seaway to our State are past comprehension. Once achieved, the Great Lakes region will become a seaboard area with access to all parts of the globe. Of particular interest will be some of the illustrations given in that address.  
For example, he declared that it would actually cost no more to move a ton of coal by water from Buffalo to Duluth, a distance of 1,000 miles than it would to move it from the curb in front of your home to your cellar window. Water transportation is just that inexpensive.  
The address also stressed the importance of the seaway to the farmers of Michigan. Michigan apples could be shipped to European markets which is now prohibitive because of transportation costs. One of the half-million bushels of American apples to reach European markets last fall not one came from Michigan. Nor would the seaway hurt the railroads, said Mr. Dondero because they do not now get this business and moreover, the business would come to the railroads which could carry apples to the lake ports once they became seaports.  
God never gave America in general and the Middle West in particular a better opportunity for developing its total resources than when he placed within our grasp the completion of a waterway of over one-half million miles of water, neck of only 43 miles will soon be open to release the vast resources which it is now "damping."—The Michigan Christian Advocate.

## Why Not Exchange Minorities?

It is pointed out that Greece and Turkey completed the exchange of some 2,000,000 people in eleven years, ending in 1935, thus ending a troublesome issue between them. It is easier to exchange minorities than it is to wage a war that destroys minorities and injures majorities.  
It is said that California is subject to more earthquakes than any other area of the United States. Does that account for so many of its crack-pot economic schemes, too?  
OYSTERS ARE the third most valuable product in the United States. Snappers, (fishery variety) are probably accountable for the greatest turn-over of money.

Frank McKay announces a serial for his high-order Michigan Times in which he will tell how Governor Fitzgerald was done by the Author of the powerful Michigan McKay daily newspaper.  
The daily newspaper in question is the Detroit News. If it had any part in creating the conditions that caused Fitzgerald's fall, which is doubtful, it was incident to performance by of a tremendously valuable service to the state.

When the gambling fraternity took the swearing in of Mr. Fitzgerald as governor in January of last year, as a sign that the lid was off, the News immediately undertook the job of reporting with zeal and detail just what the jig was about, a movement, in which most of the press of the state participated, that speedily drove it to cover. If this contributed to the breakdown of Mr. Fitzgerald's health, it was too bad, for the News and the newspapers merely undertook a job that had to be done.  
In the pre-primary campaign of 1938 it was common, and generally accepted, report that Fitzgerald's candidacy would have the support of the Wayne county gambling and underworld elements. Mr. Fitzgerald, then proprietor of the county, and these elements knew what to expect of him.  
It has never been charged that Mr. Fitzgerald dealt personally with them. But it has been revealed that men interested in his candidacy, who assumed to speak for him, gave these elements certain assurances. During the campaign, after the election the story was current that they made a considerable contribution to his campaign fund.  
With this confidence with which the gamblers opened up immediately after January 1, 1939, left little doubt that they had reason to believe that the administration would close its eyes to their activities. The resultant situation and the manner in which the press fixed attention on it caused Mr. Fitzgerald much unhappiness. He first declared that gambling was no concern of the state; that the state lacked the police force required to deal with it. The state police, he said, would not be employed in the work of suppressing it.  
But those who were determined that the gamblers should be driven to cover were not content with this. They kept hammering away until Mr. Fitzgerald reconsidered his first decision and announced that the state police would be used to suppress it. He then declared that gambling was no concern of the state; that the state lacked the police force required to deal with it. The state police, he said, would not be employed in the work of suppressing it.

Mr. McKay's line in his forthcoming serial is easily predictable. It will be that any bargaining was carried on with the gamblers in Fitzgerald's behalf and that no significance can properly be attached to the fact that the gamblers began to open up immediately after his accession to office.  
McKay's thesis is one that people with memories of the last two years will find difficult to accept. The sum total of his literary efforts will likely be excellent advertising for what is News and increasing appreciation for what is owed to it because of its prompt and effective action to squelch the renaissance of gambling in Michigan undertaken in January, 1939. Iron Mountain (Mich.) News.

More than in his search for a wife, is always more or less at the mercy of designing females. It is the duty of the male citizens of Michigan, but without any knowledge as to the true state of affairs, we submit the revelations of an unnamed Swiss savant who says that a man can always learn the truth about a woman by watching her peeling, cleaning and cooking potatoes.  
According to this wise man from Switzerland, "If she peels the potato, cutting thick rings, she is a fool. If she peels them in thin slices, she is greedy, and if she leaves it to burn, she is negligent."  
Youthful swains, after carefully submitting their resumes to the above test and finding them blameless, are urged to marry, whether she is rich or poor, ugly or pretty, or she will prove a good friend and wife, bringing prosperity and happiness.

## State Needs One Tax Collector

Whoever runs for Governor of Michigan this year will find popular reaction to the bookkeeping plan for the creation of a single, responsible, tax collecting agency to supervise and handle all money due the State.  
At present there are 16 separate and distinct collection agencies in use by the State to collect its various taxes; plenty of confusion, not to mention terrific unnecessary expense, is involved in maintaining these 16 agencies.  
One revolution in bookkeeping systems of the Detroit and Lansing sales tax offices, with a total of \$552,000 in 1939 assessments against independent merchants not yet traced to the satisfaction of the State's Attorney-General, furnishes proof of the need for revision of Michigan's tax collecting bureaus.  
The people are demanding centralization of Michigan's scattered departmental activities. A gubernatorial candidate will win many votes by declaring his favor for a single tax collecting agency for this State.

## DEFAT OF LITTLE FINLAND

It is inevitable, so long as Britain and France, and the Scandinavian countries of Norway and Sweden, stood by without lending every aid and their joint diploma. MIGHT again triumphed, as it has for centuries in the affairs of mankind. RIGHT, as well as TRUTH, is forever on a seafloor.  
THIS SLOGAN, or something like it, ought to be chiseled upon the threshold of every American doorway: "Good government is possible only when good citizenship is in evidence. Am I a citizen, or if I have good government, then, and then only, am I a good citizen?"

## How to Select a Wife

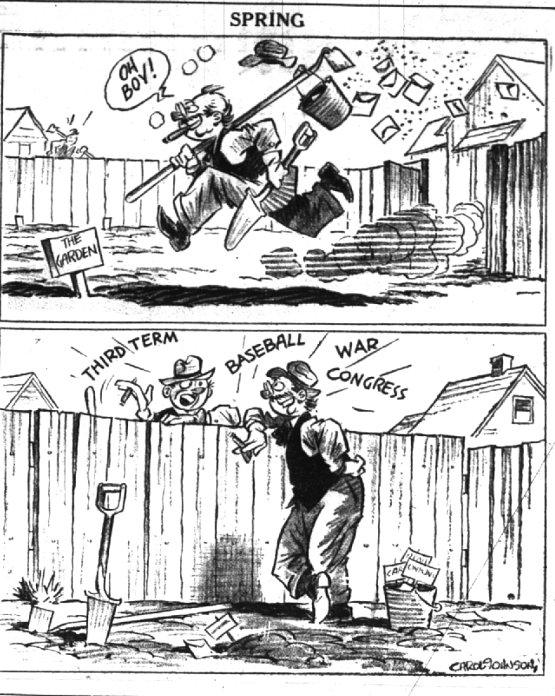
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## State Position

That, as nearly as a member, was my statement. In further clarification of my personal attitude, I should be glad to give my position if it is of interest to the inquirer.  
The real facts of our situation are these: We are bound by an unalterable treaty forged long before this war with every country, every port on earth. Our problems following 1918 were not because of this war, but because of the war. When the great bank of Austria failed, it correlated and interrupted financial systems of the world, fell like a row of dominoes. We were left from 1918 to 1933 to rebuild our own power and prestige without any outside help, and we have never been able to do so.

## Why Finland Stirred Us

Why Finland stirred us? We are stirred to our depths about Finland? It is because we have interests in that country. It is because we know a great injustice is being done there. It is because we are so involved in that country that we watch for the latest news of it. We are stirred to our depths about Finland? It is because we have interests in that country. It is because we know a great injustice is being done there. It is because we are so involved in that country that we watch for the latest news of it.



## PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communication for this column, all communications must be signed, and signatures will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be limited to 500 words and must be in the office by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

**Mr. Shain Replies**  
To the Editor:  
A writer, who signed himself "Interested," in the Eccentric of March 7, asks about a statement made by the Detroit Club on Monday preceding. What I said was: "The tragedy of the last war was that we failed to see the signs of what was to come. We should have been more alert to the signs of what was to come. We should have been more alert to the signs of what was to come. We should have been more alert to the signs of what was to come."

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## Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

**INFORMALLY SPEAKING**  
Now that spring is approaching, we can give thought to that great annual of nature, the Easter Bunny. How it is that ants and bees, the busiest of nature's creatures, have time to attend to their duties.  
Congress enumerators learning how to get the most out of the population can get a few pointers from the Little Woman that the catfish, baby coming in at 4 a. m.

Times do change. In the old days, the bathing girls dressed like Mother Hubbard; now they dress like Mother Eve's cupboard.  
**LESSONS FROM THE FINNISH WAR**  
Well, Finland has taken it on the chin again, and has come out of her scrape with Russia with half a skin, while Poland, Czechoslovakia and Austria lost nearly everything. It's a pity that the United States is so tight as to make it impossible for us to undertake any life is a gamble, but we usually lose the same when considering the odds.

**"NONE OF OUR BUSINESS"**  
At the time of the attack on Wednesday, a former foreign correspondent, Dow Bates, had this to say in regard to the Detroit News:  
"Let us assume that the Allies were badly defeated and that Germany had taken over all Europe. It is possible that Canada may rise up and try to invade the United States tomorrow, but the probability is so slight as to make it highly inadvisable to undertake any such situation should occur. These States need not run up the white flag."

**Fears Called Loos**  
Then, if Hitler should decide to send his army into Europe, it would be happening back in Europe. England, France and Russia would certainly not overlook such an opportunity to move in and grab it. Let us not let these war mongers and propagandists scare you into being afraid to sell us on getting into this war to save us from being conquered. That's all work."

**Did the Allies risk it?**  
Did the Allies risk it? The answer is no. The Allies risked it because they had to. They had to risk it because they had to. They had to risk it because they had to. They had to risk it because they had to.

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## Happenings of Long Ago

**Fifty Years Ago**  
March 27, 1890  
Our boys are dropping away by the wayside, the last to fall in appearance is Miss Mamie Young, who by mistake after blowing out the lamp, bathed her face in carbolic acid.  
Money is being raised to start a new dress factory at Farmington.

**Twenty-five Years Ago**  
March 26, 1915  
It is well known by those professing to know that our Woodward avenue water mains will all have to be replaced by new before the paving is done. If this is true, it will be a very big job. It will be a very big job. It will be a very big job.

**Five Years Ago**  
March 28, 1935  
Federal services for Stanton Clarke, 67-year old attorney who was fatally injured Saturday night as he fell from the steps of the basement of his home at 311 1/2 Avenue road were held Tuesday afternoon from the William R. Hamilton company chancel, Detroit.

**Five Years Ago**  
March 28, 1935  
While eight persons, including two women, awaited examinations at the Ford County Jail, Detroit, Michigan, Detroit and State Police today continued their investigation of the Birmingham Drug Store burglary here March 15 in which approximately \$2,600 in cash, narcotics, whiskey, tobacco and other merchandise was taken.

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