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The other day a famous newspaper correspondent, just back from Europe, related his amazing story of how the people of this country did not believe Hitler was up to it in Europe. He said he had reported it many times in his dispatches and that other newspaper writers had been interested. Undoubtedly the correspondent is right. Many correct reports have been published in the newspapers of the United States. Along with them have appeared contradictory utterances. What reason is there to think that the public can pick out the right report and eliminate the wrong one?

There is another reason for this failure on the part of people to comprehend the plain implication of the news that is published. The newspapers, in their desire for startling news, often play up inconsequential staff and when the real dope comes along the readers are confused. They do not know when something big is displayed and when the newspaper is just hunting material for a streamer headline.

However, the newspaper men need not take the matter to heart. Consider the case of Winston Churchill. For years he warned Great Britain that Germany was preparing for war. Specifically he warned them against the German air force, the German tank corps, and the belligerent attitude of the Nazi leaders.

Nobody in England paid much attention to what he recommended until he was the First Lord of the Admiralty during the World War, and so they nodded their heads, saying aside that he was just fighting the old struggle over again. The people of Great Britain were listening to leaders who were telling them of the dangers of peace, of a world of brotherly love, and that the way to peace was to be found in disarmament.

Forty-eight per cent of Michigan's commercial banks made more than \$100,000 loans, totaling over \$900,000,000, to business firms and individuals every year during 1939, according to statistics revealed recently by the American Bankers Association.

That is a lot of money and the number of loans suggests that many firms and individuals took advantage of the availability of business funds to aid them in ordinary affairs of business and private life.

These statistics show that 406,069 loans were new, and totalled \$456,973,081; 374,614 were renewal loans, totaling \$384,033,245; new mortgage loans numbered 21,204, amounting to \$59,183,069.

Business firms, however, are using only about one-third of their "open lines" of credit. The condition of the times, both within and outside the United States, are so uncertain that the average business borrower is not inclined to expand and adventure, in the usual American sense.

Perhaps a change in the administration at Washington will restore to American business, especially small business folks, the kind of confidence that will make our nation once again a land of fuller dinner pails and happy contentment.

Every once in a while some divine, of some church or another, comes out with a solemn warning that the United States is "spiritually bankrupt."

These declarations are easily made and sometimes received as evidence of moral degradation. As a matter of fact, they represent nothing but the half-baked conclusion of a man without much optimism and, we suspect, little faith.

'A Junior Album' Presenting young people of Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills... Business and social stars of the future...



Parents of the children shown in this "Junior Album" are as follows: 1—Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Minsel, 1369 Westwood; 2—Mr. and Mrs. J. Haverland, 937 Pilgrim; 3—Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Reid, 412 Gleggery; 4—Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Adams, 516 Kennesaw; 5—Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Thomas, 139 Pilgrim; 6—Mr. and Mrs. Douglas H. Ewen, 168 Hamilton; 7 and 8—Mr. and Mrs. Louis Thomas, 383 Pilgrim; 9 and 10—Mr. John R. Earle, 812 Waddington; 11 and 12—Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Fleming, 539 Half Moon (Moffett Postpasts).

Knocking on Wood! with JOHN H. HARWOOD

ONE of the significant facts to be drawn, I think, from last week's election is that electoral landslides are likely to become more common as the country becomes more closely knit together through press and radio. However, that rule is not likely to apply to popular vote majorities, for there is little direct connection between the two.

Mr. Roosevelt received about 54 per cent of the total, about 26,000,000 votes, while Mr. Wilkie got about 22,000,000 votes, showing that the nation was fairly evenly divided in its choice. However, when it is realized that the President "carried" all but 18 states, and received 44 electoral votes compared to Wilkie's 32, it would appear that the country went overwhelmingly Democratic, when as a matter of fact, nearly half of the voters did not vote for the President.

When a Republican wins the Presidency, the Democratic loser can usually count on the Solid South for a large block of electoral votes—140 or more; when a Democrat wins, he gets the Solid South plus many of the northern states and the result, from an electoral-vote standpoint, looks like a rout. Theoretically, the winner need get only 48 more popular votes than his opponent—a majority in each of the 48 states—and thus get ALL the electoral votes, which really would be a landslide!

And that is what is happening to a modified extent in the nation. Because of the radio and greater circulation of the printed word, people in every section of the land are beginning to split along the same lines. Sectionalism, except for the Solid South where a great segment of the population is not permitted to vote, is on the wane.

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Why will the Republics be likely to score in 1944. They held sway from 1920 to 1932, and without a doubt by the time the Democrats have been in office for 12 years, their turn will be up. The G. O. P. secured about 5,500,000 votes more last Tuesday than it did in

People's Column The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed and signatures will be kept confidential. Letters must be limited to 500 words, and must be accompanied by the return address. Publication the following Thursday.

(The letter herewith was read at the City Commission meeting Monday night.)

DEAR MR. MARTZ: I wish to express my sincere thanks for the resolution concerning our annual Red Cross Roll Call that was approved by the City Commission last Monday night. This is a very commendable act on our national living and thinking, and the Red Cross is one medium for unity, cooperation and service. The very kind words you said about me were very unexpected, and I want to tell you "Thank You!" But you know as well as I that my efforts would be fruitless if not for the faithful team of over a hundred workers in our area who do the actual face-to-face soliciting and who deserve the credit for all success in our annual and emergency drives for funds.

As a member of the executive board of the Oakland County Red Cross, I take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the countless women and men who are giving hours of time and energy, and also the unpaid volunteers in the other services of the Red Cross.

I would think we would be very liable to lose this splendid organization of Birmingham teachers unless some indication is made to them that soon compensation will be increased to at least prevailing levels. Already various industries in this country are bidding higher wages for more desirable employees. Back of it all the entire teaching staff of Birmingham has the most co-operation and obtained their degrees in order to obtain higher personal incomes. Personally, even if such increased compensation did slightly increase taxes I would be definitely in favor of it, and I believe that many in the community regard the importance of the schools likewise.

We now have a fine staff and a Board of Education of extremely high caliber. It is hoped that the Board will start any necessary movement in ample time to prevent the loss of the best teachers, because of inability to pay them as well as the other communities.

SO—SHOP EARLY! There was a young lady "Miss Slow" Who just had no get-up-and-go; To all signs she said, "Pooh! As I please, so I do." Her sad fate, you will presently know: Christmas Eve she awoke with a start; To the stores she flew like a dart. She ignored and left light— What a horrible sight! Now she shops in a heavenly mart. Oh, heed well this tale of much woe: Don't start when the red light says "Go!" If you Christmas shop early, Sales folks won't be early, And you'll live to a hundred or so.

Winters average 10 to 20 degrees colder on the Wisconsin side of Lake Michigan, opposite this state's so-called "fruit belt."

room. It sure will be a beauty when finished. Miss Stella Hasley spent Sunday with Spilanti friends.

Five Years Ago Nov. 14, 1935 Oakland County Supervisors, satisfied that the erection of a new county building, costing \$235,000 is highly desirable, are now engaged in trying to prove to the electorate that it should support the project at a special election to be held Monday, Nov. 25.

Dr. J. K. Ormond, Henry Ford Hospital physician and Birmingham resident, was the speaker at a meeting of the Oakland County Trench club in the Community House Monday evening. Lt. William Dammie, of the Dearborn Police department, and Charles Bell, his companion, were killed instantly when the Ford sedan in which they were driving collided with a Packard coupe driven by A. J. Butler, 56 of West Main avenue, Birmingham, yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock on U. S. 10, 15 miles north of Pontiac.

NOVEMBER DAY Their golden mass and fling it on the wind. Dry myriads of leaves recede. Their claim on tree And hastening down they flee Along the ground.

At autumn's door Chrysanthemum's bright robe Entreats to stay. And learn in just the way She gained that dash. That crashes air in a vivid dash of color rare. LAWRENCE W. KILEY, 2303 14th Mile Road, Birmingham.

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Petrograd, via London—Absence from the fortress of Kovno during the fighting there and an adequate preparation of the defense were charged against General Gregoroff, who was commander of the fortress when it fell in the court martial proceedings at Dvinsk, which resulted in his receiving a sentence of 15 years at hard labor and the loss of all his rights.

At the First National Bank is going on rapidly. Terraza floor, marble counters, plate glass and hard wood paneling, finish gives quite a city aspect to this banking

Twenty-five Years Ago Nov. 12, 1915 Petrograd, via London—Absence from the fortress of Kovno during the fighting there and an adequate preparation of the defense were charged against General Gregoroff, who was commander of the fortress when it fell in the court martial proceedings at Dvinsk, which resulted in his receiving a sentence of 15 years at hard labor and the loss of all his rights.

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Auto Loans New or Used Low Rates

Wabek State Bank of Detroit BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BLDG. FERNDALE OFFICE—141 WEST NINE MILE RD. MAIN OFFICE—FISHER BLDG, DETROIT DOWNTOWN OFFICE—FORD BLDG.