

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which are of interest to the community. It is not intended to make such superficial changes in the copy as are required by laws of the state.

Michigan's primary election Monday reveals two facts: first, a great majority of those who went to the polls registered themselves as Republicans.

Monday's election which may have a distinct bearing upon Wendell L. Wilkie's chances to carry the state in the general election, the nomination of aged Governor Laren D. Dickinson for reelection proves that an overwhelming number of Republicans want him continued in office.

Approval of Governor Dickinson actually means in opposition that Michigan Republicans essentially stand for the symbol of decency that characterizes the 81-year-old Chief Executive, even though the administration of his office has not been the most efficient and economical since he sincerely believes in the general public's age and lack of executive experience, not to any lack of desire for such things on his part.

As this is being written less than two-thirds of all Michigan precincts have been heard from, we can't comment upon other phases of Monday's election. But the results of the election do reveal that between now and November 5 the voters of this State will be the spectators at a warm campaign between Republicans and Democrats, with the national ticket adding to the ardor of the development.

While this newspaper was for U. L. Smith, we now fall in behind the leadership of Governor Dickinson as the thoughts of electors fix themselves upon November 5. We wish Mr. Dickinson were at least 20 years younger, in the hope that this possibility all we can do is to hope that the Governor will surround himself with dependable and able aides, to offset the present ease with which "political bosses" have made such predatory inroads in Michigan's governmental circles.

Many Birmingham women are interested in the fact that Friday, Sept. 6, was the 30th birthday anniversary of the late Mrs. Jane Addams' 80th birth anniversary.

Mrs. Addams' Long has been the inspiration of women here and everywhere who are willing to work to make this a better world to live in. Miss Addams had the conviction that people, however unlike in habits and traditions, could live in peace and harmony and social intercourse, and her famous Hull House in Chicago was a working model of what she hoped for in a world community.

Miss Addams never ceased working to "substantiate" law and political processes for brute force. She served for many years as International President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, an organization which had developed from the Women's Congress at the Hague.

In 1931, she was one of the recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize, the only woman to whom that honor has been given. When the twentieth anniversary of the Women's International League was celebrated in Washington in 1935, she received tributes from 167 nations conveyed to her by one of the first international hookups in the history of radio. It was a notable and thrilling occasion.

During this celebration the plan for a "People's Mandate to End War" was submitted to her and she approved it as a "democratic process" and a means for the expression of public opinion which she always considered of prime importance. Two weeks later Miss Addams died in Chicago, on May 21, 1935.

Local women interested in the "People's Mandate to End War" have been Mrs. George T. Hendrie, Mrs. H. S. Burlingame, Mrs. Angus D. McLaughlin, Mrs. Charles J. Shain and Mrs. John K. Ormond.

Where democracy has been crushed, taxes are exacted from citizens, yet these citizens are not permitted to know what is done with the money.

A Safeguard For Democracy, they pay. In The Eccentric subscribers will find publication of the proceedings and reports of various public offices. With such a public accounting there can be no question regarding the integrity of public officials.

Now and then there is some discussion as to whether the proceedings of a county board of supervisors, school councils, school boards and similar organizations should be published in the local home newspaper. Some persons think that the small cost of publication of such matters should be saved to the taxpayers.

It is the integrity of this government was much younger than it is today, this matter was discussed and considered from every angle. After much careful controversy it was determined that legal advertising is the cheapest and most effective insurance the taxpayers can obtain on the ability and integrity of their elected officials.

Public printing of receipts and expenditures relieves all question in the minds of the public as to the integrity of an official. Henry Woodruff, Jr., executive secretary, State Bar of Michigan, emphasized this point recently when he declared: "Legal advertising is the cheapest and most effective insurance the taxpayers can buy on the ability and integrity of their elected officials."

It is important that you read all public notices or legal advertising carefully. In a democracy a good citizen needs to be well informed.

Almost 25 per cent of every dollar earned and spent in the United States now goes to the tax collector, reveals the Michigan Manufacturer and Financial Review.

How You Pay Taxes! In a recent article, Tax experts and statisticians estimate that nearly 70 per cent of all taxes collected in this country at present find their way into the price of things we buy.

In order to bring to light some of these so-called "hidden taxes," Monsanto Magazine, published by Monsanto Chemical Company, made a survey in a typical American town of the purchases made by middle-class citizens in their customary manner of living. This 1940 issue, published in the May (1940) issue, revealed:

- Out of every \$1 spent for new automobiles, 15c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for furniture, 13c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for rent, 25c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for wallpaper, 10c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for movie tickets, 12c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for insurance, 3c is tax.
Out of every 10c package of cigarettes, 7c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for women's clothing, 10c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for men's clothing, 12c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for shoes, 7c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for bus fare, 6c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for meat, 8c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for sugar, 18c is tax!
For matches, 3c; for soap, 5c; for beer, 34c; for vegetables, 3c; for canned goods, 8c; for cocoa, 20c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for proprietary medicine, beauty preparations, or shaving cream, 20c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for bread, 15c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for diamond rings, 15c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for railroad fare, 11c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for guns and shells, 20c is tax.
Out of every \$1 paid on telephone bills, 15c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for milk and dairy products, 10c is tax.
Out of every \$1 spent for automobile upkeep, 37c is tax.

It appears that the young gentlemen of the State Department are to enjoy an exemption from the draft. Why this should be so is not clear. The private business of the State Department, as of all diplomacy, is to keep the peace. The greater the need for conscription, the greater the failure of the State Department. The young gentlemen in spats cannot make much of a case for the indispensability of their services as diplomats if they have led us to this point.

In fact, they have been working night and day to get us into war. The latest evidence of their attitude is to be found in the knowledge that the State Department itself made all the arrangements for distributing Ambassador Bullitt's recent speech, calculated though it was to inflame American and foreign opinion.

In this connection it is pertinent to recall that in 1917 Mr. Bullitt was 20 years old and without dependents, but he found a safe berth in the State Department. Many young men at the time were enlisting in the fighting services and still other young men were being drafted, but Mr. Bullitt was otherwise engaged. The State Department was then, and evidently is to remain, a place of refuge for those who promote wars but don't fight them.—Chicago Tribune.

MONDAY'S PUBLICATION by The Detroit News of a full page of anti-boss delegates cost The News plenty of money; but it does prove that newspaper's willingness to expend its cash in the support of a good government. Detroiters ought to be grateful for such a splendid civic contribution.

LOOK WHAT DROPPED IN!



or a fast-set, if you please. It is common knowledge at state police headquarters that Communists played an important part in the 1937 sit-down strikes by organized labor.

Furthermore, these anti-American forces penetrate into churches and public schools to further a spread of their ideology. Quoting from "War Propaganda and the United States" by Harold Lavine and James Weeks: "The propaganda has also—discouraged the discontent."

In the democracies, they may be the Communists, the Leftwing Socialists, the pacifists, the Fascists, the defectors.

These groups provide a fertile soil for the seed of foreign espionage.

War Talk Rises. With the rise of war talk by interventionists who believe that a head-on collision with Fascism, Michigan is bound to experience an intensification of fifth column activity.

The centering of huge armament contracts in this State will contribute much to make Michigan a battleground for espionage in the judgment of state police officials.

Previous to the fall of France, Jay Franklin wrote in Washington Post: "Irrespective of which party wins the election it is the vital of American military experts that this country will enter the war within 180 days."

The United States News also observed: "Chance of United States staying out of Europe's war is reduced. Nothing imminent, but this year, but Hitler is adding group after group in Europe."

This substantial interest in the outcome of England's present struggle is reflected in Michigan and the residence here of many former Canadians. Outlets for this pro-British war are the Volkshaus which are numerous in our state and which hold frequent meetings—even held practice classes in their contribution to the Nazi cause.

Sabotage. Some of Michigan plants have received important orders for armament supplies from British and American governments. As long as the tempo of war reaction continues to mount, state police detectives are apprehensive that espionage agents will attempt sabotage of production.

"Thanks to the foresight of commissioner Oswald L. Olden, noted Lieut. Mulbar, the Michigan state police through the use of a special unit, is keeping a watchful eye, as much as possible, on the activities of the fifth column throughout the state."

It is emphasized that the state police are cooperating with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the G-Men unit.

CRANBROOK SONNET By FRANK ALEXANDER. Century-chains shatter, the human sun... Behold this, thy glory, thou wilt prevail.

Knocking on Wood!

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

PREPAREDNESS PROFITS The American people are on the fence, politically. One blunder by either Democrats or Republicans is likely to swing the pendulum and break the nearly 50-50 division of sentiment between Roosevelt and Wilkie which now exists. The draft might have done it; preparedness profits may have done it.

As these lines are written, the House of Representatives has tentatively voted to postpone for 60 days—until after the election—the imposition of conscription for military training. As this column pointed out a couple of weeks ago, the draft in peace time is politically a hot potato because there is a great bloc of voters who will vote solidly against any candidate who approves the bill, while proponents of the draft are likely to cast their votes for other reasons, and thus not solidly.

War profits is another such hot potato, tremendously so. The draft for a great majority of the people are definitely against making any contract with the military contractors while the boys in uniform are being taken away from their homes and families. The military contractors were created during the war and have always stuck in the mud of the American people.

Thus, if the clever politicians who stem from the New Deal can get across the notion that they and not the Republicans will safeguard youth, home and motherland from exploitation while the liberty Leaguers are getting rich from war orders, that coup will be tremendously successful. Wilkie will be through. He won't have a chance, and this observer is sure that the gentleman from Elwood will see it and boldly take a stand, before it is too late on this side of the Atlantic.

It is not an uncommon thing to see persons 85 years old, but we seldom find a pair of twins who have reached that age. Stephen and John Cummings, of Wixom, have reached that age.

These fellows provide a fertile soil for the seed of foreign espionage.

The officers of the Presbyterian Church propose to have an entertainment at Liberty Hall, Friday evening, Sept. 13. Further notice next week.

At Flint, Barnum's fattest woman came off Zion, never far from Elwood will see it and boldly take a stand, before it is too late on this side of the Atlantic.

That ought to give Americans who are worrying about saving America something to think about if you are favorable to the forward swap itself, and it appears that a majority of the American people are.

Mr. Roosevelt himself defended his action by citing the method by which the United States acquired the Louisiana territory, but he forgot to mention the fact that Congress had already voted to buy the Louisiana territory, never dreaming that the whole area still, it is doubtful that the battle would suddenly be offered for sale to the United States.

Mr. Roosevelt later merely by bombing attacks, as the war in Spain and China have shown us. Madrid was bombed almost daily, most daily, by the people lived, their spirit unbroken. It was starvation and foot soldiers who finally administered the coup de grace in Spain.

Blockade—starvation is one way of winning a siege, but there is no evidence yet that ships cannot still dock at England and that the blockade would have done the world over. The current air raids may show whether this type of attack will be decisive.

A second way of winning a battle, through Fifth Columns and sabotage, works only through surprise. The English, forewarned, are likely to make such a stratagem unworkable. This method, however, is not decisive.

The Third Decisive Way. The third way, and the one which is usually used, is by force of arms. In this day, that means plenty of guns and men at the right place.

(Continued on Next Page)

SIGNATURE LOANS TO SATISFACTORY CREDIT RATING. Wabek State Bank of Detroit. BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEK BLDG. FERRAND OFFICE—141 WEST NINE MILE RD. MAIN OFFICE—FISHER BLDG, DETROIT. DOWNTOWN OFFICE—FORD BLDG.