

Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

A free, responsible and aggressive Press is democracy's first line of defense

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARMON

IN some ways, war isn't what it used to be. Little good has ever resulted from the machinations of Mars; never has it been just, honorable business. Nevertheless, certain rules have been drawn up as men in their stupidity have fought each other down through the centuries, just as there are rules to govern the rough, bloody sport of pugilism. But this latest war is the roughest of all. Whatever rules there are have gone by the board.

New Suffering

Women and children, non-combatants have always suffered from war, but antagonism in a more chivalrous age spared the helpless ones what they could. Now they suffer more than the soldiers as bombing planes drop explosives at random in the big cities.

People's losses and honored land were once treated, with some semblance of humanity, but world wars, Poland, etc., indicate that the Nazis are handling the Poles like cattle.

Some of this new—or shall we call it found within the tenets of Nazi-Fascism, is simply an extension of Communism to a large extent. Hitler, reared with the traditional Germanic authoritarian concepts in his mind and imbued afresh by reading the philosophy of Nietzsche, believes with his followers that only the strong are fit to rule and that the state is supreme—nothing. The Communists, professing to be "progressive" in their fight against the profit motive in production, have erected certain rules in the name of violence and in their theory that a goal if important justifies any means to attain it.

Thickly, deceit, bribery, bluff, and in general, the law of the jungle are the counterparts of the reactionary systems. And as these methods of "doing business" are enmeshed, we must be on guard against them here in this country.

English Frankness

If the English are making an effort to capitalize on the fact that people throughout the world can be fooled only so much, and that Hitler, Chamberlain, and the trickery of Hitler and Mussolini were themselves out eventually, the English have avoided making sweeping claims as to why they are making their war.

When Spring returns for Spring is on her way. All faded down with violets, and the sun is shining brightly. Glad spring's coming winds that shall bring us a new year. The sun of new things, I shall be gay. And, oh, so busy doing happy things, I shall plant flowers and secure my love. And make myself a little green silk blouse. Befuddled and spruced past all imaginings. I shall have bits of feather and light and brown. And calls like yellow gold and blue eyes. And never shall I scout nor wear a frown. Only the blithe smiles will light my eyes. Winter, your rough head winds I'll bravely sport. When I remember Spring will soon return.

What sophistry! Why not face the facts as did Edward Lindeman in his recent talk in Birmingham? In substance, he remarked, "Of course I favor aid to Britain but common sense tells me that the further we go the greater becomes the likelihood that we will be involved." Anyone with an ounce of brains knows that Dr. Lindeman is right. Everyone in Washington knows that the President has never even thought of conveying ships in the transatlantic trade.

Facing the Facts

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The Bosses Bow Out

Michigan Republican's met in convention at Grand Rapids last week and made news. Yes, their behavior evoked comment because the delegates were themselves. There were no larger than the look of stooges on hand to dance while Edward Bernard or Frank McKay pulled the strings, for the bosses, for the present at least, have bowed out of Michigan Republicanism. With Caesar on the shelf, none other would forward to grade the logs, and that, too, is worthy of contempt, for here indeed is the political party in which there are not many ambitious men.

The duty of the convention was to nominate candidates for the spring election, April 7, but the direct primary does not provide for nomination of all our elected officials. The Republican list is as follows:

Leroy C. Smith, Detroit, for State Highway Commissioner.

Dr. Eugene B. Elliott, Lansing, for superintendent of Public Instruction.

John M. Dunbar, Grand Rapids, and George A. Gram, Pontiac, for justices of the State Supreme Court.

Sen. Earl L. Burbanck, Paw Paw, and Alfred T. Connally, Ann Arbor, for senators of the University of Michigan.

Ward B. Hollard, for a member of the State Board of Education.

Clark L. Brody, East Lansing, and William H. Berkey, Cassopolis, for members of the State Board of Agriculture.

Energy from Prayer

Too many people regard prayer as a formalized routine of words, but to Dr. Alexis Carroll, who concluded 33 years of brilliant biological research at the Rockefeller Institute in 1939, and has been honored with the Nordhoff Prize for success in sutured blood vessels, writing about the power of prayer in the current Reader's Digest, it is a force as real as terrestrial gravity.

As a physician, Dr. Carroll says in his article entitled "Prayer is Power": "I have seen men, after all other therapy had failed, lifted out of disease and melancholy by the serene effort of prayer. It is the only power in the world that seems to overcome the so-called 'laws of nature'." Dr. Carroll believes that this power comes to those who pray, because they seek to augment their finite energy by addressing themselves to the infinite source of all energy.

And that is why this scientist, who has long been impressed by the fact that the many-layered phenomena cannot be scientifically explained, feels that prayer is the most powerful form of energy that one can generate. The influence of prayer on the human mind and body is as demonstrable as that of secret glands, he says, and it results in increased physical buoyancy, greater intellectual vigor, moral stamina, and a deeper understanding of the realities underlying human relationships.

"True prayer is a way of life; the truest life is literally a way of prayer."

Early American Culture

The ancient Mayans in Yucatan and Guatemala, we are advised, were 1,250 years ahead of European colonists in their knowledge of the movements of planets, celestial mechanics and astronomy in general.

Dr. H. J. Spinden, of the Brooklyn Museum, says the earliest Maya date is 752 B.C. although other evidence points to the arrival of man in America from Asia about 40,000 years ago. In the early American created his own civilization, declares Dr. Spinden, from the ground up, developing his agriculture with new plants and crops and fashioning his tools through his own genius.

Earlier than the Mayans were the prehistoric Olmecs, whose sculptures have been unearthed in the Province of Tabasco, Mexico, by Dr. Matthew W. Stirling, of the Smithsonian Institution. He regards his findings as "among the most significant in the history of American archaeology."

Turned toward the east of a sand island Dr. Stirling found sculptured of "word warriors in stone-pipe hats," a life-size stone statue of a woman in a great stone coffin and an altar whereon is depicted the living sacrifice to strange gods of beings with bodies of infants and faces of monkeys on loaves.

The Olmecs, according to Dr. Alfonso Caso, of the Mexican National Museum, flourished 2,500 years ago and passed on their culture to the Toltecs who were conquered by the Aztecs from the north some 200 years ago.

Modern Americans to learn more about these original Americans and to ponder upon the reasons for the disappearance of their civilization.

Armchair Philosopher

LIMBER PINE

According to statistics, with whom we talked in Bryce Canyon, Utah, these gallant pine trees, which we so frequently see pictured in the magazines, are not so common as they are. It is because of their resiliency and flexibility that these trees withstand the winds and snow while other trees break up.

Knudson on Labor Troubles

William S. Knudson, director-general of the Office of Production Management, opposes any attempt to legislate against strikes in essential defense industries, warning that "legislation to correct admittedly bad situations" might create "unpleasantly bad situations" in the future.

Mr. Knudson, production chief of the national defense program, says that the decline in French military production, which consumed 40 percent of the total of France, could be traced to similar attempts by the Government of Premier Lecomte to legislate labor difficulties out of existence.

Mr. Knudson says that there is growing cooperation between labor and industry and that there is less demand on the part of either labor or industry to exploit the present national emergency.

"During the last six or seven months," he continues, "nothing very serious has happened in the way of labor-industry disputes, and we are raising our hope for the future on this basis in addition. There is no bad trouble brewing as far as I know."

Germany's U-Boat Campaign

The intention of Germany plans to emphasize the U-Boat campaign against shipping with the hope that the British has been severely restricting 600 small U-boats, it is interesting in knowing that the Nazis are taking to heart the lessons of the World War.

During the earlier struggle the Germans almost managed to break the flow to the Allied forces by building up the development of the submarine system, together with participation of the United States navy, helped the menace but not before it had shown itself a dangerous asset if it was.

The answer to the U-Boat today remains what it was when the World War ended, the Allied coast guard boats, and the development of the submarine system, together with participation of the United States navy, helped the menace but not before it had shown itself a dangerous asset if it was.

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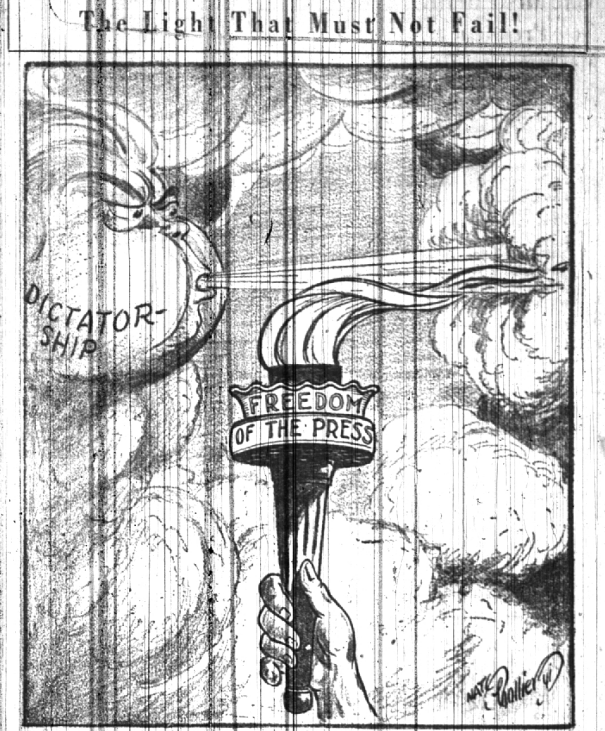
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Happenings of Long Ago

Forty Years Ago

March 5, 1891

The latest thing in the party line of the "good party," that has been the motto of the party since the late 1800s, is to get the party out of the party line.

What is the answer to the present-day situation? The answer is to get the party out of the party line.

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People's Column

Five Years Ago

March 5, 1936

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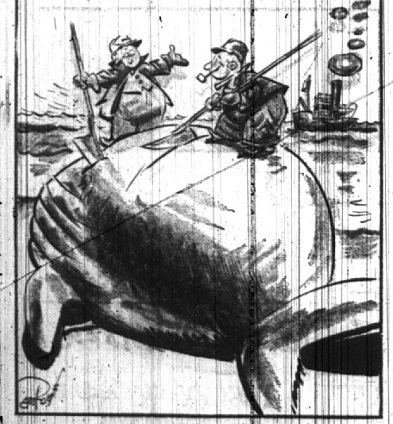
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The Great American Home



"This is the second whale we've cut up this week—and to think I left medical college because I couldn't stand operations!"

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Published by THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, Inc., 120 North Third Street, Birmingham, Alabama. Telephone: 2-1111.

Editor: JOHN H. HARMON. Business Manager: JOHN H. HARMON. Advertising Manager: JOHN H. HARMON.

Subscription Price: \$1.00 per year in advance. Single Copies: 10 cents.

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Printed at the Birmingham Eccentric Press, 120 North Third Street, Birmingham, Alabama.

Strictly Fresh

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Wabek State Bank of Detroit

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