

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



Unless the Michigan legislature acts next month to acquire possession for the public, the heart of the nation's largest single tract of virgin hardwood-hemlock timber—the scenic Porcupine Moun-

tain area of the Upper Peninsula will be razed soon by the woodsman's axe.

A big firm from Wisconsin—the Connors Lumber Company—is interested in the prospect of war-time timber profits.

Heretofore, the inaccessibility of the tract and prevalent lumber prices were the only reasons why the Connors company failed to build a road line into the Porcupine area, to construct special roads, and hire lumberjacks to cut and trim extra trimmings thrown in for good measure.

With fat profits at stake, the Connors company recently sent a lobbyist to Lansing. The threatened acquisition by the state of their 6,000-acre holdings is being opposed vigorously by the Wisconsin outfit.

The lobbyist, it talks with state officials at Lansing, indicated in plain words that Mr. Connors was more interested in Mr. Connors than in the welfare of the people of Michigan. Appeals for cooperation in the name of "public interest" have fallen, so far, on unresponsive ears.

Here's how the situation stands, at present: The Porcupine Moun-

tain tract, which is now privately owned, is approved by the following: Governor Harry F. Kelly, Michigan Planning Commission, Upper Peninsula Development Bureau, State Conservation Commission.

What would the state do with the land? Create a virgin forest museum for future generations, provide the scenic Porcupine Mountains. In fact, the National Park Service has offered to provide the hotel or lodge for overnight accommodations, if the tract becomes a federal park.

It is the location of the famed Lake of the Clouds and the picnic grounds.

Such an introduction to the beauties of Michigan's great outdoors would result, Mr. Hoffmaster believes, in the travel of many families to the Northern Michigan vacation-land, just as radio broadcasting of baseball has actually stimulated attendance of the public at games.

It's a long-range plan, looking ahead to the post-war period of short work-week and a long weekend for leisure use.

Benefit to the masses is more important than profit to a few individuals. The spirit of Michigan conservation.

"The public be served" is the motto of the Michigan Conservation Commission. With adoption of the two recreational programs, Michigan's greatest outdoor program—already nationally famous—will move forward in public service.

WILL SELL DEER HIDES Four hundred deer hides, majority of them doeskins, confiscated from illegally killed during the deer season were offered for sale by the conservation department, last January.

PECK'S Cash and Carry Suits, Topcoats, Plain Dresses \$1.09 CLEANED AND PRESSED Phone 230 WOODWARD—NEAR MAPLE

WABEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEK BUILDING

Time Needed

Last December the Birmingham Board of Education presented the election day was less than a week. It is about this element of time that we wish to comment.

Which brings us to this conclusion, insofar as the future is concerned: If any local civic body, either the Board of Education, the City Commission, or any other official unit of government, ever presents a proposition to the voters for balloting, and does not provide sufficient time for public discussion, we shall oppose the issue, or, issues, involved.

We are taking this stand solely in the public interest—and the reason should be obvious. The Eccentric is the only newspaper published in Birmingham; it is, therefore, the only available media for open discussion of public questions.

Realistic Optimism

In high and low places you hear this statement: "Unless we perfect the means of maintaining a permanent peace after this war is completed, then the cost in life and property of winning the war is in vain."

Peace Plans

Here's preparedness for peace: Big Chief Many Treaties, scribbled as the hereditary chief of the Blackfoot Indians, has sent a peace pipe to President Roosevelt.

Who SHOULD BE SPANKED FOR THE EXISTENCE of youth problems today? It can't be the adults—for they sit too much that leave the "rising generation," who alone, then, expose areas for spanking.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO Jan. 25, 1894

"There has been a terrible slump in the chicken clock market since Congressman Tracy's stop 'up' the man who said cuckoo again."

"By special request Dr. Covey will be at the National Hotel next week Tuesday, Jan. 30th for the purpose of extracting teeth, without pain or sleep. This will be the doctor's last visit. Satisfaction guaranteed."

"What is a pleasant surprise? Well, I should say so. What was it and who was it? Why it was on Miss Manie Tabor last Saturday afternoon and evening and was in honor of her 15th birthday. About 25 of her young girl friends were present and they had as good a time as only the young people can. Games and amusements of various kinds helped to pass away the time and her young schoolmates left at a reasonable hour, all wishing her many returns of the happy day. We heartily join them in this wish."

"At their meeting Tuesday night the Village Commission refused temporarily at least, an offer from the Birmingham Estates Co. owners of the subdivision adjoining Birmingham on the west, for the payment of \$100 annually for assurance of village fire protection."

"An interesting and informative talk on India, revealing its historic past and its progressive present, was given Birmingham Rotary on Monday evening, Jan. 23, at the Community House when Mrs. John E. Martin, wife of the local Methodist minister, appeared on the program."

"Applications are now being received for undergraduate scholarships to the University of Michigan. Both boys and girls are eligible for competition."

"Mr. and Mrs. Stanley A. Brandenberg, residing at 625 N. Adams road, The Brandenbergs have come to Birmingham from West Hartford, Conn. They have one daughter, Barbara B. Brandenberg, 7, who is in attendance at the Adams school. Another member of their family, Mrs. Brandenberg, is district manager of Monarch Machine Tool Company."

Smuts On Post-War World

Jan Christian Smuts, Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa and member of the British War Cabinet, discussed "the great trinity of powers" early this month and expressed himself frankly as to the post-war world.

General Smuts pointed out that three of the great powers in Europe will disappear, meaning France, Italy and Germany. He pointed out that Russia will be "mistress of the continent" and that the destruction of the Japanese Empire will greatly enhance the prestige and power of Russia in the Far East.

The South African leader suggested that it might be to the interest of Great Britain to work together with the small democracies in Western Europe, "which by themselves may be lost." He thinks that their place is tied up with the worldwide British system.

Col. Baxter Asks For More Persons To Donate Pint of Blood

Birmingham folk are being asked to give of their blood, at the coming Blood Bank, to make sure some wounded American soldier has a chance to recover.

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief notices of material providing it has news value and suggestions freely so that they conform to general newspaper standards.

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The Victory Parade



Legion Membership Now Past 100 Mark

At a recent meeting of Charles Edwards Post, No. 14, American Legion, the membership report showed the total passed the 100 mark for the year which began in August.

Legion officials announced that returning service men are invited to contact the Post for any assistance needed. The Post is completing plans to assist in the WAC recruiting campaign and candidates are invited to seek information from any official.

Closely Watched Thinker: "I do wish I could find some way to make the members of the congregation pay attention to me when I'm preaching."

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THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

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