

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



Inclination of Michigan legislature to accept Governor Kelly's recommendation that additional state aid for local governments be financed, in part, by a substantial hike in the state liquor profits may be regarded as a complimentary recognition of the basic merits of Michigan's liquor monopoly system.

The legislators' action is not being taken in any mood of sentiment. Consumers were complaining of a lack of supplies under the rationing system, dryware, decaying, lack of enforcement. Frank McKay, former Republican national committeeman, began a personal campaign to abolish the monopoly system.

Public criticism was growing. One year ago a two-faced "man" General L. A. Kuntz, who had been business manager of the December William F. Edmondson, former city manager of Pontiac, was replaced by John P. Anderson, the governor's personal secretary as chairman of the commission.

Nothing else that the power of information as gathered by Clarence W. Lock, state deputy revenue commissioner, and Charles A. Parrish, chief of the liquor commission enforcement division, fact-finding survey of six nearby states.

Whether the reversal is permanent or temporary remains to be seen. Michigan travelers who visit New York City and Chicago at wartime years invariably return home with glowing accounts of the abundance of liquor in those cities. But for the most part they say little, if anything, about how much consumers were paying for liquor in those cities.

Michigan bottle prices average 47 cents less than Illinois bottle prices and 70 cents less than New York prices. Michigan is a monopoly state whereby government functions as both wholesaler and retailer. Illinois and New York are open states whereby private dealers pocket the profit.

Even with the wartime 10 per cent increase in liquor prices, as proposed by the state legislature, Michigan bottle prices will average less than those in open states," reports Chairman Aron.

Basically, Michigan's system is

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WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

Obligation To The People The principle that governs, or should govern, the press, is that the public trust, declares Mr. James H. Reston, of the New York Times, who declares that a good reporter owes his first obligation, not to his paper or the government, but to the people.

We have added to our approval of the views of Mr. Reston, who goes on to point out that the duty of a reporter is to give accurate, complete, impartial and timely information about what has happened or is likely to happen.

The views of Mr. Reston are supported, in the main, by Mr. Frank S. Adams, also a New York Times reporter, who defines reporting as "the application of curiosity, directed by intelligence and disciplined by standards of accuracy and fairness, to the current happenings of the world."

Mr. Adams warns that the most insidious temptation for a reporter is to allow himself to be converted into a personal publicity agent for some influential news source with which he has frequent contacts. Pointing out that reporters are subjected to flattery and favors as well as threats and pressures, Mr. Adams explains that the best defense of a reporter is a "reputation for integrity."

We call attention to these views, expressed by one connected with what is probably the greatest newspaper in the United States because, in our humble way, we have attempted to follow the principles outlined in connection with the publication of The Eccentric.

Whether we have been fully successful or not is a matter for the public to decide, but, regardless of this phase of the matter, we have tried to present the people of this area with a newspaper that merits their confidence and support. The response of the public, which we very much appreciate, leads us to believe that we have succeeded, at least in part.

The American countries Argentina's are expected to recognize Conversion the existing treaty in Argentina as a result of the declaration of war by that South American country against Germany. In addition, if last-minute arrangements can be approved by other powers, Argentina may be invited to the San Francisco conference to organize machinery for world peace.

While some observers hail the action of Argentina as a sign of unity among the Republics of the Western Hemisphere, we fail to see where a last minute declaration of war against Germany, now reeling in defeat, signifies any change in the purpose of the movement now dominating the important South American country.

More important than a declaration of war against a falling foe would be a declaration of principles from Argentina, backed by concrete action signifying the sincere purpose of that country to work for the peaceful development of this hemisphere. For some time, there has been a suspicion that the Government of Argentina is Fascist in sympathies and intentions, and this, if correct, is not changed by any declaration of war at this stage of the world conflict.

Bits of Birmingham (Continued from Page 1, Part 2) Arbor Days will be observed in the lower peninsula April 27 and in the upper peninsula May 11 according to unofficial announcement from the governor's office.

Whistling swans that had almost disappeared from Michigan are being reintroduced in large numbers. Some have been seen on a decade ago in return to about 2,000 swans were seen near Sebewaing and in Wildfowl Bay last week. The Michigan Department of Conservation and game men operated in the area. Many young birds distinguished by their darker plumage, were seen in one flock of 225 swans, evidence that they are reproducing.

Birmingham has a lot of pipe working in the Pontiac Motor Division. One of the reasons why Birmingham residents know that the Pontiac Motor Division's "reverse assembly line" last week disassembled, crated and shipped its 80,000 military trucks. They are being driven under their own power from another division of General Motors Corporation and moved through a dis-assembly line. Approximately 34 cars a day, four trucks a car every day, are being built. And one of the reasons why Birmingham has no use for fire trucks is that five to six carloads of lumber are used each day and more than 100 tons of material are used in the plant of creating a 6x6 truck is created, stenciled and battle-bounded every five minutes.

The City of Birmingham has sent a number of employees to the armed services of their country and City Manager H. H. Carson says that many of them are very interested in the work and day-to-day activities of the city. Drumbler, son of Mrs. Edmund Drumbler, 225 East Buffum avenue, and with the parks division of the PDW from 1938 to 1940, is 28, 7942, Drumbler, member of the 13th IAF, with its advanced base in New Guinea. Sgt. Drumbler left

Their Sunday-Best In our town these Spring Sundays bring out frocks, soft wooled suits, bright new bonnets. Dress in our Sunday-best, scrubbed and clean, we go to church, visit our friends, enjoy the peace of the day.

In another town the people are in their Sunday-best, too. They wear rags, straw, newspaper. Mothers, fathers and children take turns going to church because there isn't enough ragged clothing to cover all of them. In thousands of war-racked towns like theirs, people are stripped and destitute. These are the people of liberated Europe, 125,000,000 of them. There is no dignity in their days.

And there is no dignity for us, no true peace in our Sundays until we give what little help we can. Our government and the major war relief agencies have arranged to get our used clothing to Europe, Ships and planes will take our old shoes, suits, coats, bedding, dresses into Greece, Russia, Yugoslavia, France, Holland, Belgium, wherever the need is greatest. We are asked only to rummage through our closets and attics, to give away our cast-offs.

This clothing drive, the United National Clothing Collection, is being conducted throughout the nation. Schools, churches, factories, clubs, are spearheading the campaign. Our town, along with others, must help collect the 150,000,000 pounds of clothing needed. Each family is asked to give five pounds per person.

Your contribution will demonstrate to our allies the spirit of democracy—and, naturally, you'll "feel good inside" for having done so.

SLOWLY, BUT SURELY, HUMAN SOCIETY is getting better—even though from time to time wars break out among nations. Wars, after all, are results, not causes; remove the cause—which is the real problem of human beings in intervals of peace.

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Local and Long Distance Moving STORAGE BIRMINGHAM 10240 GAUKLER Storage Co. 9 Orchard Lake Ave. PONTIAC

Patients at Percy Jones Hospital are working in their own gardens at the hospital, not that weather permits, and are badly in need of several kinds of seeds. One of the gardeners is Raymond Thompson, telephone 2500, representing the camp and hospital committee of the Birmingham County Chapter, American Red Cross. He is anxious to get these seeds for the boys. Birmingham people are asked to donate or sell these to Miss Thompson.

In order to get a complete file together on the deceased servicemen of World War II, just exactly what one of Birmingham's sons, now with the 7th Army in Germany, writes home that he did the other day. As an added comment he said, "Six, on bathing in clear water, it has to be pink or nothing." The boy judges that his outfit had come upon glove to 100,000 bottles of champagne, all intact.

In a recent letter to the Warrenton from Pfc. James Juhl, soldier at Okinawa, Jim says that most of the houses and caves on that island are infested with fleas but the Army is quickly ridding the island of vermin—including Japs and fleas.

Imagine bathing in pink champagne! That's just exactly what one of Birmingham's sons, now with the 7th Army in Germany, writes home that he did the other day. As an added comment he said, "Six, on bathing in clear water, it has to be pink or nothing." The boy judges that his outfit had come upon glove to 100,000 bottles of champagne, all intact.

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Happenings of Long Ago 50 YEARS AGO April 25, 1895 "Beef's a rarity since it's been sold On a parity. With 'Pure gold.'"

"The drinking fountain has received a coat of fresh paint." "Mr. Mel Clement has placed a row of nice shade trees around his place."

"There is only one sure way to be not allowed to hold any office in the Mormon church." "Eben L. Parker was in town last Sunday, Ditto Will Irving of R. H. Traver's of Detroit, both making the trip on their bicycles."

"A man with four's for his initials ought to be excused for being 'Jay' enough to—omit suicide." "Sam Smith, the reformer, drink, lecturer and prohibition editor, now announces his intention to collect for the 'Red Cross' counts for anything Sam ought to make a successful member of the bar."

"No more rubbish or refuse must be dumped on Mr. Wooster's premises in the ditch, and no barrels of any kind whatever." "On April 24, 1925 'July 14 is the date set by the Oklahoma County Board of Supervisors for the special election in Bloomfield township to decide the proposition of annexing certain proposed subdivisions and parcels of land to Bloomfield.'"

"Watch three road-building crews at work between the Eleven-mile road and Pontiac, it is expected that a two-way thoroughfare between Pontiac and Detroit will be completed by fall." "With the winning of second place in the sub-district contest of the National Fraternal Meet and the carrying off of first honors in the elimination and district trials of the Detroit News Contest, Margaret Howard, daughter of Grace Casey Howard, of Oakland avenue, has brought commendation to the local high school."

"Because village attorney Frank L. Dudy was unable, during the past week, to prepare the necessary legal papers, the commission Monday night did call the proposed special election relative to the purchase of a municipal site. The matter will probably be disposed of next Monday evening."

"B. J. Melrow, of Birmingham, is the new president of the Seventeenth Congressional district, Young Republican Federation. He will hold the office two years." "Jack Billingsly, with the eagle

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We're All Back of You, Mr. President



eye and steady fingers, bears the crown of Birmingham's Marble Champian." "Three dates were set last night for the 'new voters' forums of the 21st City who will be honored in Oakland County Citizenship Day at Pontiac, Sunday, May 18."

"The Vocational Club of Baldwin High School is beginning this week a survey of employment opportunities in Birmingham." "The club, which is made up of students enrolled in the vocational courses, is anxious to establish closer cooperation between the business people of Birmingham and the public schools."

"More than \$9,568 was reported collected and pledged Monday evening when workers on the Community House drive met at 8 o'clock to turn in the results of their efforts during the annual drive." "Edwin Minka, of 1211 Hendrix street, is to be installed commander of the Birmingham

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