

pendable funds Mean prosperity increase in the tax exemptions of low-income groups, declared:

"There are many people in both the Republican and Democratic parties, in fact, I believe they constitute a majority of both parties, who believe that if you will only give tax relief to the man on top, the benefits will trickle or percolate down to the little fellow below. This is based upon the theory that by creating new investment capital, the workers will obtain jobs."

Mr. Engel says that he cannot "agree fully with this theory of government." He says, "The depression of 1929-1940 should satisfy the most skeptical that those benefits do not adequately trickle or percolate down to the little fellow below."

He then states his theory, that to have permanent prosperity, the purchasing power of the great mass of people must be increased.

Mr. Engel, who urged that tax exemptions of low-income groups be increased in 1945 and in 1946, says that figures from the Treasury Department show, in 1944, \$3,230,000 individuals with incomes of \$2,500 or under. Since 32,630,000 of these persons were heads of families, the proportion is that at least \$3,260,000 people, or sixty-one per cent of the population, depend on individual or family incomes of \$2,500 a year or under.

The Michigan legislator points out that if the spending money of this group is increased, the man above is bound to obtain his share of the profit. Certainly, the low-income group is anxious to increase its standard of living and, usually, it does so whenever expendable funds become available.

We thoroughly agree with Mr. Engel in his contention that a reduction in income taxes, extended equally to all income groups, would not result in increasing the purchasing power of the people as much as if the reduction applied to those in the low-income group. Along this line, we call attention to his statement, in 1946, on the floor of the House:

"Taking money we call taxes from the low-income groups, which should be spent for bread, for butter, milk and food to fill the stomachs of hungry children, will not avert suffering, crime, immorality and poor citizenship. No policy of making everyone pay a tax to make people tax-conscious can be justified when the tax dollar collected forces the living standard of the taxpayer below a decent level."

There is nothing like experience to teach the principles of civics, and the Baldwin senior class will find this out when next April they will work alongside various elected and appointed city officials for a whole day to see municipal government in action. It is to be hoped that these seniors will carry with them through the rest of their lives the experience they will have that day, toward the end that they will maintain a great sense of civic responsibility in whatever community they eventually select for their residence. Only through constant association and interest in civic affairs will they learn the benefits of a democratic type of government.

Man May Control Weather
Human beings have made many attempts in the past to secure the kind of weather they want. In time of drought and under the pressure of economic necessity, rain-makers have been employed in the hope of producing copious showers, but up to the present time, the business of weathermaking has not been a pronounced success.

Everybody is familiar with the smudge-pots which are used to protect frost-threatened trees. In the war, fuel was burned to dissipate fog from air-fields. There are other examples of ameliorating the inconveniences of the weather, but they are infinitesimal in connection with the vast extent of the atmosphere and the enormous powers that the elements sometimes hurl at mankind.

It is possible, in the future, when scientists had sufficient facts to study and when the world develops an accurate, comprehensive system of weather-recording, that man may be able to prevent the great catastrophes that will and destroy Dr. W. K. Zwarg's accumulated energy which bursts its bounds. He points out that a pin-prick will deflate a balloon and maintains that artificial pressure, at the right places, might easily deflect weather experts to divert great storms from the path of populous areas.

It is a pleasant prospect for men and workers to contemplate. Scoffers will immediately declare the idea far-fetched, but this is no reason for intelligent persons to disregard it as an impossibility. Practically every great development, either in the way of invention or of human cooperation, has been denounced in its infancy as contrary to nature and impossible of attainment.

THE REASON THAT THE BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT seeks additional taxes over and above the 15-mil limit, is simply because that limitation is set too low to provide sufficient revenues to operate a good school system. Thus do we observe the restrictive conditions of living under a Constitutional amendment insofar as needed school revenues is concerned.

U. S. SENATOR ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG continues to be one of this nation's great leaders. His place in world affairs reveals a stature that previous senatorial activities in purely domestic problems did not bring forth.

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Cupid's Masterpiece

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
March 11, 1897
Did you attend the shooting match? Some fine scores were made. So near and yet so far. Conductor on Thursday's afternoon missed interviewing a friend and brother as he jumped his fare from Pontiac, and a long jump it was, 14 feet by actual measurement. Our delectable friend was no doubt a go-p. Able to get to Washington O. and is, but important business called for a stop over at Birmingham.

Any person who is a new subscriber to The Birmingham Eccentric will receive along with their paper one dozen fine, hardy flowering bulbs the same costing at the seedman's 50c. So send in your order and receive by return mail your bulbs.

Some 35 or 40 couple tripped the life of a fanatic as Mr. Joe Travlin's on Wednesday of last week. This and a fine supper helped to celebrate Mr. Frank Gray's wedding. The bride's presence made the occasion doubly interesting. Good music kept them all until the wee of day.

20 YEARS AGO
March 10, 1927
Fred V. Quarion, member of the Birmingham school board, defeated James Campbell, real estate man, in a heated contest Saturday in the election for Township primaries. Malcolm Hunt defeated Virgil Lockwood for the office of Justice of the Peace.

Serving the village as clerk for six years, Mrs. Hazel E. Lawler in the Birmingham school board elections Monday. Many friends have rallied to the support of Mrs. Lawler, saying that because of the change in commissions she is a necessity to the office.

Birmingham police yesterday dumped 42 gallons of moonshine into the river. The moonshine was confiscated during the past month. The dumping was done by the Birmingham Police Department, according to Police Chief James Anderson.

5 YEARS AGO
Thursday, March 12
This column was a little premature when it stated that week-end stunt, Shilber had scored a home run in presenting the new junior high school proposal. There seemed to be no little opposition to your Wanderer was misled. But there is disapproval on the part of some folks.

Two of our local men who read Gene Tunney's action in keeping fit, in Reader's Digest, swore off smoking, gained weight, and tell their friends they never felt better in their lives.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. In re: Estate of John A. Moore, deceased. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

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People's Column

Feb. 28, 1947
I note that the Board of Education is again asking for increased millage and it occasions little surprise, for once an inroad has been made for increased revenue, some justification will be found to continue it. The crowded conditions of our schools, necessitating expansion of buildings, is given as the most pressing need for this additional money.

To substantiate this claim, I think the Board should publish the average enrollment, by buildings, for the past five years so that we might know just how general these crowded conditions are and to what extent this situation has been aggravated during that period.

And, of course, the inevitable question of teachers' salaries enters the discussion. People talk glibly on this point but the average Birmingham taxpayer hasn't the haziest notion of what our teachers are actually receiving. This information should be no secret and a frank statement should be made covering the minimum, maximum and average salaries.

I am a warm admirer of Dwight D. Eisenhower, for the sake of our school system, that he remains here for many years. Probably we

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner



Unusual lighting, plus a well-chosen point of view, provides a dramatic effect in the winter skiing shot.

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