

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press is Democracy's First Line of Defense

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Thursday, January 8, 1948

THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

Landon: War Going on... The Hon. Alf M. Landon, Republican nominee in 1936, thinks that there is "more or less undeclared war going on between Russia, Western civilization in general and the U.S.A. in particular," and that since we are "teetering on the abyss of another war," we should "prepare ourselves accordingly."

The former Governor of Kansas points out that there was more or less an undeclared war between Great Britain and Russia for some three hundred years following the seizure of India by the British. He points out, however, that the Czar had no fifth column in Great Britain during that trying period, whereas, today, the Soviet has an active, disloyal and traitorous fifth column composed of Americans "who are taking their orders from Moscow."

The general situation pictured by Mr. Landon is close to correct. While there is little reason to suspect that the United States wants war, or that the bulk of the Russian people want war, sensible men and women must realize that the question of war or peace depends upon the decisions reached by the ruling regime in Moscow. This being the fact, it is wise for the United States, while pursuing a policy of conciliation, to steadfastly prepare its defenses and thus be ready to take care of any emergency.

It should certainly be clear that if the rulers of Russia get the idea that the United States is composed of a population of pacifists and that, through unwillingness to spend adequate sums, without the proper means of self-defense, or very inability to fight will tend to encourage aggressive ideas in Russia.

Yule Lighting... It would be a thrill of a lifetime if one could drive along the streets of Birmingham during this Christmas season and observe the multi-colored lights that would frame doorways and windows of each of the more than 3,500 residences in the city.

Of course that is too much to expect in any one 365-day period. However, it is to be hoped that next Christmas a few more residents follow the example of their next-door neighbors and install outside lighting decorations to the end that some years from now practically every home has some sort of lighting design.

As you opened one or more of your Christmas presents, did something come from the package besides a sense of material glow and possession? Did you experience, perchance, a deeper, inner glow that tended to bridge the centuries between now and the Birthday... a sort of spiritual consciousness of the virtue and value of the quality of God's love that is the true inheritance of each of us?

Debtor Becomes Creditor... In 1914, according to statisticians who study such questions, the United States was a debtor to the world by more than three and a half billion dollars. At the end of 1947, according to authoritative estimates, the United States is a net owner to the extent of ten billion, four hundred million dollars.

Figures reveal that private individuals, or interests, in this country, own about \$16,400,000,000 worth of foreign assets and that the United States Government has live debt claims against foreign countries which total about eight billion dollars. From this total must be deducted the holdings of foreign private interests in the United States which, it is estimated, aggregate \$14,000,000,000.

The average American must understand that, prior to World War I, the United States had to pay interest on its net debt in the form of goods and services or money shipped abroad. Now, since the position has been reversed, foreign countries must pay us the interest on the net balance of their indebtedness and the only way they can pay this debt, together with its carrying charges, is through the sales of goods and services to us or by the shipment of gold into the United States.

With the United States owning most of the gold of the world, it is obviously impossible for foreigners to ship enough gold into the United States to take care of existing indebtedness. Consequently, if the United States expects to receive interest and payments on principal, it will be necessary for the people of this country to accept goods and services from the peoples of other lands.

Out-State members of the Michigan Legislature hope that Detroit's new Mayor, Eugene I. Van Antwerp, will perfect a more harmonious liaison between the Fourth City and them. Unfortunately, retiring Mayor Jeffries too often "rubbed out State Legislators the wrong way"—thus keeping wide the breach between the two groups.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO... January 7, 1898. Wiley Pierce of Detroit spent New Year's Eve with the Black-eyed boys and all had a jolly good time.

Tuesday was an ideal winter's day. Sunshiny weather, cool and bracing. Everybody happy except those who had colds.

Our village was crowded to its limit and the limit blew out Tuesday, by our farmer friends calling in to pay their insurance rates to the Monitor Insurance Co.

Watch parties on New Year's Eve were "too numerous to mention."

Several of our citizens mistook the New Year greeting posted by the Methodist Church for a fire alarm and were quite surprised to hear shouts of "Happy New Year" accompanying the alarm bell.

Marion White received a severe kick from a cow while milking it Saturday evening.

Mr. Mace has moved and is now settling. We extend every wish for his happiness.

20 YEARS AGO! January 5, 1928. Winter has hit Birmingham with deep drifts and near-zero temperatures. However, as always, the youngsters are playing in it.

The fund drive for the Oakland County Orphan Children's home has ended, with a total of \$1,833 collected. David H. Ladd, chairman, said his report that this tops the 1927 total of \$231.

A warm welcome was given the guests of George H. Hunt as they gathered at the Hunt home, 27 Aspen road, New Year's Eve, when fire broke out in the living room. Quick action resulted in only a scorched floor.

The local branch of the Michigan State Police has announced a planned expenditure of \$250,000 from their Birmingham office for the year 1948.

5 YEARS AGO January 7, 1943. Donald C. Egan, City Manager since 1935, has been commissioned a Lieutenant in the U. S. Army and is awaiting a call to active duty.

Ken Allison, Alton H. Haack and Milton L. Cross have passed their civil service examinations and are being regularly appointed substitute carriers for the Birmingham post office.

The re-equipped cafeteria at Hillview High School will be open and ready for use in about two weeks, according to an announcement by Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of schools.

Irving B. Babcock, chairman of the finance committee of St. James Church, and the Rev. Warner Forsythe announced last night that all standing debts against the church had been cleared. The mortgage will be burned in traditional ceremony at a meeting of the congregation, Jan. 13.

Postmaster A. Byrne has announced that the total war bond sales for 1947 amount to \$212,708,715, in comparison with the report for the year, 1946, which also reported that postal supplies sold totaled \$6,218 above last year's sales.

Junior Hi Institute to Be Held Jan. 15. A suki yaki dinner will open the meeting at the First Presbyterian Church on Thursday, Jan. 15.

The meeting will be in the form of an institute for all Junior Hi leaders, and is sponsored by the Detroit Council of Religious Education. All dinner reservations should be made through the Detroit office.

Clerk W. Bloman, Attorney at Law, Michigan, 632 Ann St., Birmingham, 381.

STATE OF MICHIGAN... The Probate Court of the County of Oakland... In said County, the Estate of Thomas H. Moore, deceased... The undersigned, Clerk of the Probate Court, do hereby certify that the administration of said estate is granted to the petitioner, et al., and that said will or to some other suitable party.

To Be or Not to Be a Hero



People's Column

To the Editor: To clear up any misunderstanding of the people on the rural routes of Birmingham may have concerning the recent resignation of one of the carriers and the suspension of deliveries on others, he is understood that this was prompted by unwarranted and wholly unnecessary threats by the Postmaster and supervisors to move excessive Christmas mail.

Had the Postmaster enough executive foresight to ask for additional funds earlier than two weeks before Christmas, and had received these funds earlier than the day after Christmas, and had he also tried as hard to find extra help for the rural routes as he did the rest of the post office, this situation would never have occurred.

When I and the rural carrier from Route One were called into the office on December 28 for not making a special effort and working longer nights and Sundays—although we averaged 23 hours a day from the 16th to that time—the Postmaster did not take into consideration the physical condition nor the possibility of illness caused by such long hours; but instead we were threatened with 600 demerits and a 30-day suspension unless the overflow of mail was moved immediately.

We were told to work 24 hours a day if necessary to accomplish

Maple Reserves Eke Out 32-30 Win. Playing a fast, rough game, the Birmingham reserves withstood a fast inoffensive rally to defeat a determined but uncoordinated Alumni team, 32-30, in the first reserve game of the season, Dec. 30, at Baldwin gym.

After a slow start, the reserves poured in 12 points in the second quarter to lead 20-14 at the half. In the second stanza the alumni finally found the range and the lead changed hands several times, but the Maroons came out on top.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner



Pictures in the Snow... Pictures of people in the snow, such as this, are made more pleasing by the even illumination which light reflected from the snow provides.

LAST summer, in writing one of these columns we mentioned that some of your best shots of people were made at the beach where the sand reflects sunlight, providing even lighting and softening the shadows. In a broad term, the same rules of exposure apply to snow scenes as to beach scenes. This picture includes people in the foreground are generally classified as "bright" subjects, permitting you to have the normal exposure for an average subject. Snow scenes—and similar snags which don't contain prominent objects in the foreground—are classed as "brilliant" subjects.

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