

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

"We do not have a democracy in America." A Republic declares John C. Vivien, former Governor of Colorado...

Mr. Vivien points out that a democracy and a republic are entirely different and that in a republic, the people are governed by elected representatives...

Down the time of Woodrow Wilson, declares Mr. Vivien, the United States was "self-described as anything but a republic" and the word "democracy" occurred rarely in state papers...

There is another respect in which the United States is a republic in contrast to a democracy, it points out the former Governor, "This is in the division of powers in the legislative, executive and judicial..."

The former Governor of Colorado suggests that the Constitutional Convention, by working out the principle of the separation of powers "gave us the freedom on which we built our country"...

Don't expect, folks, too much from the average politician; he or she wants, above all things, to be re-elected—and the best way to be re-elected (on the average) is to "go along with the people"...

In certain respects, then, the politician must, like a successful merchant, keep the members of the public in good terms with his customers. However, if the people demanded good merchandise at fair prices from politicians, as they do from merchants, the people might get better government.

Typical Subject of Gov't Booklet Is 'Food Habits of Bang-Tailed Pigeon'

WASHINGTON—One morning the members of the House of Representatives committee set out to discover the size of Uncle Sam's printing business. That wasn't easy. Some faint idea of the gigantic scope of the government printing operations was gleaned from the GPO (Government Printing Office)...

That isn't all. In addition to the work done by the Printing Office, on which records are kept, the extent of the printed output of various agencies which do their own work. Could Only Guess. Congressman could only guess as to the means of printed paper ground out by federal departments...

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Have You Met? The newcomers from East Lansing? They're Mr. and Mrs. Carl F. Fischer and their children, Carl Corinne and Nancy who are living at 732 Piquette. Mr. Fischer has the Oldsmobile Agency in Birmingham.

The Ever-Lengthening Shadow

Here is something to cut out and read of. It is a re-print of an article published first by the National Bank of Boston, and appeared in Reader's Digest. It tells you how rapidly the tax-hungry federal government has become. Here it is: "In 1929 federal spending amounted to less than two-thirds of the personal income of the inhabitants of California. By 1947, federal expenditures were approximately equal to the total personal income of all the inhabitants of California, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and about four-fifths of Texas."

"Remember that these figures represent the spending of the federal government only. When state and local government spending is added, the total amounts to some 80 per cent of our national income. In other words, the American people devote nearly one-third of their working time and effort to supporting their various governments."

Better System

Michigan's primary election system may have its drawbacks, but we believe it is better than the convention form of nomination by political parties. The primary system allows anybody to run; the convention system tends to retain nominations in the hands of politicians and political bosses. "Some day Michigan will adopt the 'short ballot', allowing a Governor to select his 'cabinet', the only non-appointive State official to be the Auditor-General who, because of the nature of his job, should be held responsible directly to the people."

An Illinois man sued his wife for divorce because she threw hot noodle soup at him. Perhaps he should have used his own noodle and retorted with a bowl of alphabet soup—arranging the letters in words befitting the occasion.

Perhaps one trouble with mankind is that it is over-organized.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Internationally Speaking

By Eugene Hess, International Market Analyst. Colombia, that friendly republic in northern South America, had some political trouble one year ago, and a few weeks ago the election were somewhat stormy. All this should not misdirect our attention from the economic possibilities of this rich country. Today it is economically inferior to its great oil-producing neighbor, Venezuela. But this might change very rapidly, and Colombia might, one day, outpace Venezuela in importance. One more factor will assist Colombia in its economic future: a good part of the population is hard working and has adapted it in Colombia. An American manufacturer will find future markets for part of his production.

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Old Things. There is a loveless about old things, Old shabby things that have grown dim, With being kept and used for long. There clings Something beloved and dear and beautiful To gilt-rimmed china saucers, flimsy scraps Of colorless lace, embroidered ribbons, bits Of fragile bric-a-brac, silk baby caps. And thin gold signs and little show and mints. Old books and playthings clutter up my shelves And tarnished spoons and sugars, scented dials and elves. All sorts of things. How hard it is to part With treasurers that have lain against the heart. BEATRICE McDONALD

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO April 21, 1899

The constant stream of people seen going in and out of the Exchange bank last week did not mean a run on the bank. It simply indicated that the long-awaited day had finally arrived. Since last fall had finally arrived, and everyone in town was curious.

There is a package at the post-office without any name, which was sent by one Beale John of Colorado Springs, Colo. Anyone here having a friend of that city living there may call at the office and collect the package.

The finest collection of photos from Cuba we have seen yet is that of Fred, is connected with the hospital corps there. With we could share a friend of that city living there may call at the office and collect the package.

A Big Bear young man advertised for a wife under an assumed name. He is now being held under an assumed name. An exchange of pictures brought blushes from the mother who said, "It's pretty hard to have two girls in the same family."

Miss Beale Bigelow is the happy possessor of a new and handsome "Imperial" bicycle which she manipulates far above the level of the ordinary rider. Congratulations, Miss Beale!

40 YEARS AGO April 25, 1909. The first outdoor motor show held in Birmingham was given by the local dealers who displayed the several models of their cars on the main street. The show was for the purpose between Maple and Martins streets. There will also be a parade through the downtown section to open the event.

An appropriation of \$125 was set aside at the village commission meeting Monday night to defray the expenses of a Memorial Day celebration here. Details of the parade are being handled by officials of the American Legion post and members of the police department.

Parents of pupils of Birmingham schools will be invited to visit the schools May 8, 9 and 10 to view the exhibit of school work done during the past year. The annual event has brought about a closer understanding between parents and the students during past years.

Katherine Lintz, 24, was struck by a car Saturday afternoon as she attempted to cross Woodward avenue. Clifford Harper, driver of the car, told police he was making a left-hand turn from West Maple to Woodward at the time of the accident.

Consecration ceremonies of the new Birmingham Community House will be held next Sunday afternoon at 10 o'clock. The principal address will be given by the Rev. S. H. Baker, pastor of Christ Church Cranbrook.

5 YEARS AGO April 27, 1944. Howard R. Estes, member of the Birmingham City Commission and owner and operator of the Indian Craft and Gift shop here, has announced that he is a candidate for the office of state representative in the Third District of Oakland county.

The question of bee keeping in Birmingham has been settled in the affirmative by the city commission. An amendment was made to city regulations to permit the keeping of these industrious little fellows. In view of this it is reported that several residents are planning to start small colonies in various sections of the city.

Jackson F. Moore, 1180 Willow street, has been elected to the board of directors of Sears, Roebuck & Co. according to a recent press release. He has been manager of six of the company's stores in Detroit since 1936 and is widely known in the mercantile field.

Mrs. Charles J. Shain was guest speaker at the Big Two event today. Her topic, "What Position Should the United States Occupy in the Post-war World?" brought forth many ways in which this country can become a recognized world leader in world affairs after hostilities cease.

Camp Mahan-go-tah-se, YMCA camp, will open for the current season on June 28. The camping season will be from June 28 to September 1.

But, How About the Pacific?



Count Sforza Is Becoming Efficient Goodwill Ambassador for Italians

(Special Story) From Our Washington Bureau. By Esther Van Wagener Tufty.

WASHINGTON—Easily a favorite if not THE favorite, of the 12 foreign ministers who came to sign the North Atlantic Pact was the first man to arrive. Count Sforza, of Italy. His success was not a natural for he represented the only country which was an enemy during the last war. But even during that time, the 75-year old diplomat, with a mellow philosophy and sharp wit, was not an enemy. In fact, he went in exile in 1927 after his defeat as the leader of the democratic opposition to Mussolini.

He's on his way to being as effective a goodwill ambassador for Italy as Churchill is for Great Britain. With engaging frankness, he answered questions. "What about the danger of communism in Italy?"

Count Sforza said there had been "some exaggeration," and he told a story of giving a warning to the Italian communists that Premier Stalin might make overtures to Washington after the Atlantic Pact was signed. They responded with "ferocious looks" because "they are terrorized by thoughts of the future" and do not want to be without a leader. "Where will the capital of the period will be for eight weeks, today, may be made on Sunday for four, six or eight week periods. Camping facilities will provide for about 100 campers for weeks from 8 to 16 years."

Former Detroiters, Dr. and Mrs. Cecil D. Conrad and their daughter, Judy who are now residing at 174 South Bates? Dr. Conrad is a specialist in obstetrics and gynecology and is associated with the Merrill-Wood Medical Center.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner. BIRMINGHAM MOVERS. MOVING • STORAGE • CRATING. 277 PIERCE ST. PHONE 1343.

Fox and Hounds Inn. John Ingleson, proprietor. Woodward at Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. SERVING DINNERS. Sundays from 1:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. Week days from 5:30 until 11:00 p.m. except Mondays when the dining room is closed. COCKTAILS SELECTED FOODS. Phone Bl'ham 3290 for Reservations.

Picture on Rainy Days. ALTHOUGH most of us still refer to sunny days as "picture-taking weather," the fact is that fine, striking pictures may be made on rainy days. This is particularly true if your camera's lens has a speed of 1/60 or faster, and if you use a wide-angle lens and exposure must be increased accordingly. But even a box camera, loaded with a very fast film, will produce good negatives of rainy-day scenes when a short time exposure is used.

FINANCE YOUR CAR THE FRIENDLY WAY. The purchase of a motor car today is a major financial transaction. But the problem is eased by spreading small payments over a long period—especially when you deal with a friendly bank whose chief aim is to help you through to the final payment. We are eager to serve you by assisting your way with low interest charges and moderate payments. So, come to your friendly bank—a good place to seek aid in any financial need. WABEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT. BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEK BUILDING.

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Michigan Horror. INTERESTING THE NEWS. By Gene Allman.

The issue of higher taxes vs. economy is headed for a showdown in the state legislature. The corporation profits tax is being pushed by Governor G. Mennen Williams as a palliative method to avert a growing deficit. Seventy-eight per cent of the state sales tax is earmarked by constitutional amendment to be returned to local governments.

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Atlantic countries be... in England, France, or Italy? Reports written in Russia. The Italian Count Sforza gave up his title when Italy became a republic... favors a small rather than a large power to have this distinction, preferably close to Germany so that she might later plan.

Confidence and Hope. He made a hit at the signing ceremony. Exuding optimism, he said that "Italy looks with confidence and hope to this treaty."

At present, the centennial celebration of the state of Michigan is in a state of suspension. The governor opposed reappointment of Hazzard as the fair's general manager.

Consolidation and elimination of several state agencies are advocated by some state legislators as alternative to higher taxes. Senate bill 11 would abolish the tax commission and create a new board of taxation; senate bill 12 would create a labor department, merging other agencies; senate bill 13 would transfer collection of gasoline tax, diesel fuel tax, vesicular fluid tax and aviation tax to the revenue department.

Senate bill 14 would abolish the hospital survey and construction office, transferring duties to the department of administration. Senate bill 15 would eliminate the state safety commission with its 25,000 budget. Senate bill 16 would create a professional and vocational education, state tenure commission to investigate and advise on the state board of education. The crippled children's commission would be abolished and its duties transferred to the department of health by Senate bill 20.

Senate bill 21 would abolish the tuberculosis sanatorium commission and transfer its duties to the department of health. The board of tax appeals would be abolished by senate bill 22. Since functions of most of the above agencies will be transferred to other departments, services would be continued and hence not so costly.

The proposed public health and public taxes was neatly presented by representatives of Michigan municipalities who appeared at a legislative hearing recently. They urged the legislature to authorize municipal excise taxes, but opposed any public referendum on them. "Apparatus won't pay themselves to pay for things they want," city officials complained.

This attitude of trying to get something for nothing is not new. Local governments always favor more state aid and more federal aid, so long as the money appears to be free. The very minute the benefits are linked to taxes, then the spending fever begins to subside.

The legislature has a most difficult task to perform. Regardless of what is done, the decision will be unpopular. Higher taxes or special interests really hurt—what will it be!

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