

### A Problem That Has No Answer

Forty farm youths from the United States, who spent two or three months on European farms during the summer, give the virtually unanimous opinion that European farmers must mechanize to get on their economic feet.

The young men and women from twenty-six states visited farmers in Western Europe under the sponsorship of the Agriculture Department's extension service and the 4-H clubs. Many of them were surprised at the outmoded methods in use on European farms.

The idea that European farmers must mechanize in order to acquire economic

stability states a truth which is likewise applicable to thousands of farmers in the United States. The catch in the proposal, in Europe as in this country, is that it takes a capital to mechanize and many of our smaller farmers do not have the cash and cannot get the necessary credit.

### Proposes Spiritual Alliance

A spiritual alliance of the Moslem and Christian world is proposed by Abdul Rahman, Azzam Pasha, Secretary-General of the Arab League. He concludes that such a group would unite more than half of the men of the earth against a common enemy.

The Arab leader says the two religions "are founded upon an exquisite high spirituality" and are menaced by the same enemy, "atheistic materialism."

He thinks a spiritual alliance would present "an immense force" able to defend "the supreme moral conceptions of both religions" and the "peace of the world."

Of course, such a proposal will not get very far. To begin with, leaders of the two religions would have to agree to accept them on terms of equality and this, it is obvious, would be unsatisfactory to both groups.

While the theory is fine, it will not work out in practice, human nature still being what it is.

### Illegal 'Illness'

Just imagine the play that Pravda, the Soviet's official newspaper, could make of the switchman's strike in this country.

These switchman, dissatisfied with their wages, are presumed to be working for the United States government, which "took over" the railroads some time ago when a larger strike was going on. Legally, they cannot strike against the government.

So what do they do? Suddenly, they get "sick," so are unable to go to work. This "epidemic," of course, is an open subterfuge and is, in reality, a strike.

All of which goes to show what happens to the dignity of law and government when those in control of it sleep with labor to get votes.

Actually, the United States these days operates under a system of semi-anarchy—some of those who don't like certain laws don't obey them, and go unpunished.

### Raise For P.O. Employees

Among the federal government's vast army of employees, the men and women who keep the postoffice going are least liberally paid. They deserve, and should get, more compensation.

Plenty of others, doing less valuable work for the people, get larger pay envelopes—one reason being that "politics" enters into the picture.

We'll wager that the average post-office employee does more hard work in one week than the average of other federal employees, who owe their jobs to politicians, do in six months.

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### From Our Point of View

It is rumored that the State of Maine has rich untapped mineral resources. Why the suspicion is confined to mere rumor makes us wonder if people have forgotten that for some years the digging up of Maine potatoes, has resulted annually in its diggers getting millions and millions of dollars from the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

Proof of the stupid leadership the United States has had, internationally, for the past decade, is revealed by the facts that we gave Russia eleven billions in lend-lease aid, and loaned her 710 merchant, naval and military ships during World War II. Now, though our government has requested return of 670 of the ships, Russia replies: "Didn't we help you win the war, so why not write off the ships?" (Remember, Dear Taxpayers, both Roosevelt and Truman said: "I can get along with Uncle Joe.")

Michigan Legislators may pass two laws to get more taxes. One is a "processing" or "use" tax on heavy equipment used by industry, now exempt from the State's sales tax. The other is eliminating the present \$50,000 limit placed on corporations. These new taxes, however, will not solve the State's revenue problems, so don't be surprised if Gov. Williams finally gets his corporation profits tax. (Republicans are afraid of an increased sales tax or an income tax.)

Detroit's Recorders Court is being investigated by the State Supreme Court. Reports say that some Recorders judges refrain from doing too much real work, that some of them are too active in granting re-trials to men, they have sent to prison, etc. It is to be hoped that the mess will be renovated in the public interest. Why not put 'em on a hourly rate, the hours recorded by time cards?

Too many people in the world want to eat their cake and have it, too. They want it heavily frosted with the rewards of paternalism—forgetting that man doesn't live by cake alone... but raving by the bread that comes from laboring loyally in the fields in preparation for Nature's always available bounties.

### So They Say . . .

John B. Contrum, judge: "Any human institution can be perverted from its legal and proper purposes to become an offense to the moral standards and good taste of the community."

Edvard Kardex, Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia: "This help (food relief) from the West is the best possible proof that peaceful cooperation is possible between countries which live under different political systems."

Harry S. Truman: "No one nation can find protection in a selfish search for a safe haven from the storm."

### ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

MAKE IT COSTLY TO DISOBEY

We've always maintained that laws, once they are passed, should be enforced. If they aren't work or if they are found impractical, then they should be repealed.

Laws on the books mean nothing if not followed up by enforcement. Laxity in carrying them out only breeds contempt for the law in general.

Too, some laws or ordinances are found to be too light in their penalties to curb effectively the violation they are designed to correct.

City commissioners a few weeks ago asked Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley to study local fines regarding double-parking, obstructing traffic, etc.

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### Next On the List?



### Happenings of Long Ago

Site Of News Obtained From Old Files Of The Eclectic—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

#### 50 YEARS AGO

February 8, 1901

Will the party who found the brown mitten at the corner of Pierce and Brown streets last week please leave it at the Eclectic office and receive the heartfelt thanks of the owner of the other half of the pair which is now useless?

There was a surprise on Miss Zina Carter last Friday evening given by 15 boys and girls. The evening was spent in games. Supper was served at an early hour and the guests departed for their homes having enjoyed themselves to the fullest extent.

The Chrysanthemum Club held its regular meeting at the home of M. R. Blair, all present having a most enjoyable evening. First prize was won by L. M. Hubert; first lady's by Mrs. McDeGall. S. Mills and Mrs. Hulbert had to be content with booby prizes.

Owing to the severe storm of Sunday evening last the Endeavor Day program at the Presbyterian church was not carried out. Next Sabbath evening the same program as carried in these columns last week will be presented.

A new three-cent piece has been authorized by an act of congress to replace the one which could not be told from a dime. The new piece will be made of nickel, the size of the old bronze cent, only thicker. A hole in the middle will enable anyone to tell by feel or at a glance what coin they have.

#### 20 YEARS AGO

February 12, 1931

While scores of patrons sat about The Cave, North Woodward restaurant, bandits robbed the proprietor of \$148 Sunday morning. The pair made their escape in an automobile, narrowly averting a crash with another vehicle as they sped away.

Under the direction of Police Chief John Hackett a group of local police raided a southeast home early Wednesday, arresting the owner and his wife on the charge of illegal liquor sales. Police confiscated a quantity of beer and liquor found in the home.

An enabling act which will repeal of obsolete ordinances in Birmingham and codify new law, will be presented to the village commission upon completion of the new building code. C. H. Ogden informed commissioners of this at their Monday evening meeting.

C. Leland Gunn, former Baldwin high school debater, has been appointed to the college team at Mississippi A and M college. He is the third former Baldwin debater to gain college recognition recently.

A farewell reception was given Father William Ryan by the Holy Name church congregation Tuesday evening. Among the guests was Father J. W. Cotter who will return to Birmingham from Clawson.

#### 5 YEARS AGO

February 14, 1946

Carroll A. Munnaw, director of Birmingham Hills high school, announced the return of Kenneth Ollis to resume his duties on the Birmingham Hills high school staff. Ollis is in England where he was with the Army Airways Communications system.

A dinner will honor local Scouts and leaders in observance of the

35th anniversary of Scouting in this country. Several members of local troops will receive special honors at the dinner, which others will be awarded at courts of honor. Church services will be held in observance of the anniversary also.

Miss Faye Jazmann, Community House director, has returned from the national recreational congress in Atlantic City. She said reports given there showed recreational facilities were lacking in nearly every city and that Birmingham had a favorable rating among other communities of its size.

After a lapse of one year the Michigan Bell Telephone company is again offering its almanac to the home. The issue, just off the press, lists important historical dates and a brief history of the telephone development in the United States. Copies may be obtained at the company's office.

Birmingham Retail Merchants association members will continue their membership drive, working toward the goal of 60 active members. The present enrollment is 47. At a recent meeting further study was given to the parking problem.

### Volunteers Needed For Troy Civilian Defense Program

Residents of Troy township are being asked to volunteer to help in that area's civilian defense program.

Supervisor Charles R. Ryan, civilian defense director, stated that volunteers will be assigned, auxiliary raid wardens, auxiliary police, auxiliary firemen, nurses, clerical help and crewmen.

LETTERS AND applications forms are now being sent all township residents asking for assistance in this program.

Troy program will be modeled along the lines of the state civilian defense authority. This includes such activities as post office fire, medical, public works and public welfare divisions.

The township civilian defense board is composed of members of the township board, with the supervisor serving as temporary defense director.

### Building Inspector Vacancy on Agenda Of Southfield Board

Appointment of a new building inspector in Southfield township will be considered at the township board meeting Tuesday evening, Feb. 13 at 7:30.

Applications from 10 persons have been received and screened. Qualifications stipulate that the applicant should be a qualified graduate engineer, preferably registered.

Board members will hold a special meeting before Tuesday's session to further check the applications.

The township has been without the services of a building inspector since Jan. 9, when Frank Gidley was dismissed by the board.

It's real... until the sun rises, if it be so minded to rise, use the night. Spreading across the land to quell the night. Cloth the glad morning in symmetry. Then as the larks loope up, familiar, good. Urging the day into its wanted swing. Preparing for what the home may bring. Gone is the doubting early-morning mood.

### "India" to Be Topic Of Opening Lecture In B of E Series

John F. Muehl of the University of Michigan will present the first lecture of the 1951 Birmingham

board of education lecture series Feb. 8 at Baldwin high school at 7:30 p.m. His topic is "Focus on India." Muehl spent two years traveling through India by camel, bull cart, horse back and boat, visiting and living with people in their villages and cities. On Feb. 15, Dr. Essen M. Gale

will present the second of the series, entitled "Focus on Korea." Dr. Gale has spent much of his life in the Far East. He was decorated by the Chinese government and served World War I in the Shanghai area. He is a counselor of foreign students at the University of Michigan.

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