

A Weakness of Democracy

A great long time ago the English historian Macaulay wrote to a friend in the newly formed United States of America, something like this: "Your new form of government possesses a great document in its Constitution; and yet as I view it, you are all sail and no rudder."

AS WE ALL KNOW, this is not the case in any nation, including our own. Otherwise how could the United States drift so far away from the original Constitutional premise that "our nation is a nation of laws and not of men?"

THUS, IF SANTA makes gifts to a majority of a democracy's voting citizens, this majority most gratefully votes to keep them in office. In the wake of political longevity a political party becomes, in part, corrupt, arrogant, dictatorial—just as the New-Fair Deal group has become...

Silence echoes no rebuttal!

Could Russia Defeat Us?

In a recent article in The Detroit News, Russell Barnes, its expert on foreign affairs and a resident of Birmingham, has much to say about the relative strengths and weaknesses of Russia and the United States.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Carl Barton, who has acquired all the property on the north side of E. Maple between Hunter Boulevard and Poppleton, is reported to be ready to start construction there of a large shopping center (with plenty of off-street parking included). It is said all he is waiting for is a de-termination by city officials as to how far the street should be widened. Four large Detroit stores are reported to already have signed or agreed to lease space.

crack up eventually because of internal contradictions and selfish throat-cutting," writes Mr. Barnes.

ON THE SURFACE, looking over the domestic political squabble within the U.S.A., a foreigner might well wonder if our nation isn't so divided that a strong foe some day might overcome us.

Well, internal division always marks the atmosphere of a democracy—but let that kind of people be menaced by a foreign would-be-conqueror and watch them grow united and strong overnight!

From Our Point of View

Every candidate for the Presidency will tell you that "what this nation needs is a great moral revival!" After having made this axiomatic utterance, they return to the ancient and predatory game of playing politics.

Between now and next January, when Harry returneth to Independence, Mo., he is destined to say and do many, many sound, eccentric and foolish things. If they can be put together, they ought to make a best seller for 1953.

If you recall your American history, you will remember that the last important tax the Americans ever repealed was the Stamp Tax, imposed by England back in 1765.

So They Say . . .

Sir William Slim, Field Marshal, Chief of the British Imperial General Staff. "Compared to the size, population and wealth of our country, our military commitments are second to none."

Manly Fleischmann, U. S. Defense Production Administrator: "The free nations of the world must share to survive."

The Birmingham Eccentric

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column last week, that "the only poisonous toy (of snake in Michigan) is the massachusetts, or swamp rattler. Its bite may give a person a few bad hours, but has not been known to cause death in Michigan."

A Tough Row to Hoe



Happenings of Long Ago

Bit of News Cleared From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background—Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO. May 10, 1902. Bro. James Tode is a busy man and his trials have not been lessened by the arrival of 8,000 pounds of sugar beet seed that he has to supervise the distribution of.

The Baptists and United Presbyterians have responded to the several requests of the Village Improvement society to improve their property by planting trees. So far they are the only churches to respond.

Many friends of Dr. Geo. Patterson Raynald attended the ceremonies at the Light Guard Armory in Detroit where, with nearly 100 others, became a full member. M. D. George received his share of gifts, fruit and flowers.

20 YEARS AGO. May 19, 1932. Supt. J. H. Wendorff says that about 45,000 tallies are in full bloom at White Chapel cemetery right now. The many fancy graves are a riot of colors including many rare varieties. Visitors are welcomed to view the beds.

Police Chief John Hackett presented a list of dog owners whose pets have been complained by neighbors as Monday's commission meeting, saying his department is prepared to enforce the village dog ordinance, compelling owners to properly confine their dogs to their own properties.

The River Rouge will be cleaned between Woodward avenue and the southwesterly city limits in an effort to avoid further flooding. The project will be started in the fall when construction demands on city crews has slackened off.

A grant of 20 acres, plus \$1,000,000 has been given by the Edwin S. George foundation as the site of a new Bloomfield Hills church to be known as the Kirk-in-the-Hills. The George residence, "Codaehme" will be included in the gift.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE BY ALICE E. MORGAN

NAMES. We understand that there are a number of native New Yorkers who are now residents of this area, and are often wonder if they, as we have noticed the number of communities bearing familiar names.

BROOKLYN—well, Brooklyn, New York, and Brooklyn, Michigan, are about as far apart as the poles can get. They have only the names as a resemblance.

AT ANY RATE, for the New Yorkers who are not living here, a brief spell of homesickness can be easily cured by a drive to the old home town, or one of its neighboring communities.

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People's Column

The Eccentric volunteers letters for the column. All letters must be signed, but signatures will be omitted if requested. Letters must be limited to 400 words.

Director Arnold Berndt and his boys and girls have done it again. The annual concert of the Birmingham high school band last Thursday evening was their best yet.

PERHAPS ONE of the outstanding things about this high school band is the obvious enjoyment the players get out of their music. There is no sign of boredom in that crew!

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—MRS. WILLIAM O. MERRILL, President of the State Federation of Women's Clubs: "In our organization we accept survey; then action. The first survey we had in the state of Michigan on Youth, came from Birmingham and was sponsored by the Birmingham Community Council. This survey has served as a model for many other communities who have repeated it."

5 YEARS AGO. May 22, 1947. Dr. John E. Martin, former pastor of the Birmingham First Methodist church, and founder of the Detroit Goodwill Industries, was honored last week when his portrait was hung in the assembly room at the industries' headquarters.

Mrs. L. B. Sappington, Mrs. Peter B. Loomis, Ames B. Gregory and the Rev. J. H. Wendorff are petitions of candidacy for election to the Birmingham school board.

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Hugh C. White. 217 Pierce St. Opposite Municipal Bldg. Birmingham, Mich.

THE city-wide recreational program will start June 23 under the direction of Frank Whitney. Contact is now being made with several persons whom Whitney feels are ideally trained to handle various phases of the program.

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Red Cross Volunteers Hear 6-Month Summary Of Blood Bank Program

Blood bank programs of the American Red Cross, Oakland County branch, were reviewed Tuesday when 30 volunteers attended a special meeting at the Community House.

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