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; yet as I view it, you are all sail and no rudder."

What Macauley meant, history since has shown, is that popular self-government can contain within itself the seeds of its own destruction, just as in the case of a dictatorship.

of its own destruction, just as in the case of a dictatorship.

This is possible because our form of the sovereign State (which it should, of course). But this presumes that a majority of citizens possess the intelligence, courage and unselfishness to understand issues and to come to a satisfactory solution of problems that arise from time to time.

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 Con-stitutional premise that "our nation is a nation of laws and not of men"?

nation of laws and not of men"?

Men, and women (not all, but too many), have a price they are willing to place on what we call "civic and economic freedom." Too many of them are willing to listen to the voice of a governmental Santa Claus and "accept gifts" which, after all, they must help pay for.

When they accept this paternalism they must also become subserviert to the sys-

must also become subservient to the system that provides it. In other words, they must bow and scrape before the parthey must bow and scrape before the par-ticular political party that plays Santa Claus to them.

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 . . . and the former freedom of self-gov-

... and the former freedom of self-government implied in the Constitution becomes a lost civic inheritance.

This is what Macauley meant, when he said ... you are all sail and no rudder."

He simply meant that if a majority of the voters in a free nation become either too ignorant and too selfish in their relations with prevailing freedom, they are bound to lose it because a few evil leaders will rise my not foot been year firstle with will rise up to fool them and finally "take over the government."

In these troublous times, who can say that the Constitutional freedoms of

e citizens of the United States are not in dangerous jeopardy? Silence echoes no rebuttal!

Could Russia Defeat Us?

In a recent article in The Detroit News, Russell Barnes, its expert on foreign af-fairs and a resident of Birmingham, har much to say about the relative strengths and weaknesses of Russia and the United Mr. Barnes, admitting that, were Rus-

sia to start a war now, it would be defeat-ed, points out that a large reason why the Kremlin refrains from open warfare is that she is doing right well via her pres-

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

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 then grow united and strong overnight!

At least that has been the experience of this nation's past, and if we don't get too soft, we could repeat it again. But we must not get too soft, ... too dependent upon governmental paternalism ... too academic and too willing to listen to the siren voices of quacks and demagogues ... purveyors of phoney peace.

From Our Point of View

Every candidate for the Presidency • 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. Indeed, our world needs more than a mere revival. It needs an increasing program of educational emphasis on the value of virtue and its application to every phase of human living.

• 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. Our President certainly uses many words, even though he may not know exactly what they mean when he says them.

• 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 com-mitments are second to none."

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

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue Telephone Midwest 4-1100

GEORGE R. AVERILL
PAUL NEAL AVERILL
GEORGE WM. AVERILL
HAROLD P. BUERGE
ditor and Publisher
Business Manager
Advertising Manager
Advertising Manager

This indeed and a second of the country the solution there of a large shoping center (with plant) of the Month of the Shoping and a Population, in solution there of a large shoping center (with plant) of the Month of the Shoping and and Population, in solution there of a large shoping center (with plant) of the Month of the Shoping and and Population, in solution there of a large shoping center (with plant) of the Shoping and and Population, in solution the shoping center (with plant) of the same data week, that "the only policy center (with plant) of the shoping center (with plant) of the same data in the last content of the shoping center (with plant) of the same data in the last content of the shoping center (with plant) of the same data in the last content of the shoping center (with plant) of the same data in the last content of the same and the last content of the same data and the last content of the same and the last content of the same last content of the same and the last content of the same and th

A Tough Row to Hoe



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric— The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birminaham Of Today,

50 YEARS AGO.

May 16, 1902

Bre'r James Todd 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 Pres-byterians 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.

to respond.

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

Geo. Stewart, the old 'veteran shoemaker who has his shop where boty's m on um en t works now stand, visited town last Sunday and was greatly surprised at the changes he found. He lives at Romulus and while here inquired for many old friends.

for many 9id friends.

20 VEARS AGO
May 19, 1932
Supt. J. H. Wendorph says that
about 95,000 tulips are in full
bloom at White Chaple cemetery
right now. The many fancy beds
are the follow including many
are the follow including many
comed to view the beds.

Firemen battled a stubborn blaze for nearly an hour Tuesday morning at the home of C. Allens Valpey, 752 Randall, F. Allens spread through partitions rames spread through partition of the spread through partition of the fifth said the entire brick work had to be removed to get at the fire.

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.

of.

Jaha Kyser has vacated the Kelcher house and Oscar Morning Town of government, Birmingham is taking pre-limitary position in Clawson in the steapped out. Mr. Martin has suggestion before its voters. The steady position in Clawson in the make Birmingham has fauture home.

Birmingham has fauture home.

Birmingham's beard of review meets today to hear objections to 1932 property valuations. Al-though the group expects to han-dle a large volume of work, it ex-pects to complete the program tomorrow afternoon.

5 YEARS AGO
May 22, 1947
Dr. John E. Martin, former paster 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 regrs.

Mrs. L. B. Sappington, Mrs. Peter B. Loomis, Amos B. Gregory and Lee B. Graham, have filed pe-titions of candidacy for election the Birmingham school board.

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 slacked off.

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.

Valpey, 752. Randall, Flames spread through partitions around a fireplace. Fire Chief V. W. Grif. filth said the entire brick work of the side of the

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE BY ALICE E. MORGAN

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

Column Eccentric welcomes letters for column. All letters must be ed, but signatures will be kept idential upon request. Letters t be limited to 500 words.

Of Blood Bank Program

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

Mrs. Ferd Broock, Bloomfield
Hills, volunteer field consultant
when the series of the consultant
than the series of the consultant
than the series of the series of the series
The group discussed the relationable between the various
thanks, such as the motor service
division, nurses aides and canteen
workers.
Under Market of the service of the
Under Market Chairman Robert
W. Kelso, the group learned of the
program of the past is; months,
in which civilian hospitals met

ne the Editor:
Director Arnold Berndt and his boya and girls have done it again. The annual concert of the Birmingham high school band last fluraday evening was their custants of the Birmingham high school band last hursday evening was their custants of the Birmingham high school band last was the confine themselves solely to marches because they are a band. Their program, was war is d. Their program, was war in d. Their program, was war in d. Their program, was war in d. The Junioral band of the second of the

sudden demands on their blood banks, as well as collections made for Korean troops

ACME Window & House Cleaning Company

Phone MI 4-6920 832 BOWERS BIRMINGHAM

'Oakland County's Oldest indow Cleaning Service"

Experienced

Tool and Product Designers Needed

FOR DEFENSE WORK

Fisher Body Division

Grand Blanc Tank Plant Phone Flint 2-2101



CHECK UP-

TUNE UP-For driving pleasure

GENERAL AUTO SERVICE

WOODWARD AT FOREST

MI 4-7930

Oliver Cornwell Erich (Dutch) Kurth

WE DO GENERAL REPAIRS



eral modern numbers . . all were good.

PERHAPS ONE of the only a standing things about this high school band is the obvious enjoyment the players get out of their maste. There's no signs of boremaste. There's no signs of boremaste, There's no signs of boremaste, they flash all Director Berndt constitute pretty strong evidence of the regard they have for him.

In passing, it always seems a shame to us that no few attend about the strong of the st

WE HEARD IT SAID BY-

THIEVES ARE AT WORK

home were next, would you be able to stand a heavy, financial loss?

TO BE SAFE be sure your possessions are insured against fire, theft, and other hazards that spell dis-

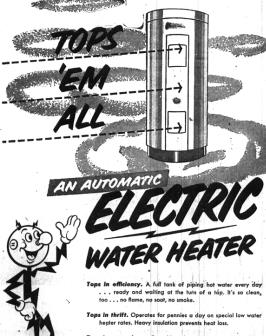
LET US DESIGN AN INSURANCE PROGRAM TO FIT YOUR NEEDS AND YOUR POCKET-

Hugh C. White

217 Pierce St. Birmingham, Mich. HUGH C. WHITE

MULTIPLE LINE INSURANCE AGENCY





Tops in convenience. Everything about it is automatic. Just have it installed and forget it. You can be sure of a full tank of really hot water every day of the year.

COMPARISONS PROVE ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS FINEST

SEE YOUR DEALER or Detroit Edison