

Put on That Easter Bonnet

American Capitalism Includes Average People

In Russia, no one is a shareowner. Except for personal belongings and a few one-man businesses, as a shoe cobbler on a garden plot, the government owns everything, and the people—nothing.

The Bolshevik picture capitalism as a collection of fat industrialists, who wear dollar-sign suits and smoke huge cigars as their "wage slaves" toil for them.

If that were a true picture of American capitalism, we'd be agin it.

But it isn't. The finest revolution the world has ever known is taking place right here in the U.S.A. It is the rapidly growing number of capitalists. You can't cross a street anywhere without meeting one, either big or little.

Wealth is more widely spread among

our people than it has ever been anywhere, any time.

The President of the New York Stock Exchange says that the number of shareowners of American businesses has grown by one-third in the past four years.

They now total 8,630,000 in 4,600 publicly-owned companies, worth 350,000,000 \$'s. That's billions, and bigger than the national debt.

This, however, represents those who hold shares in their own names. But 100,000,000 Americans are indirect owners through life insurance, savings banks, pension funds, etc.

This spread of the ownership of American business is bound to grow, if protected from Socialism, which is de-odorized Communism.



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

How Important Is Conservation?

Every nature enthusiast worth his salt is also a conservationist. This term in its widest meaning includes not only one's personal point of view, toward the out-of-doors nor yet one's particular delight in it.

It must also stand for concerted and constructive action directed toward the wise use and re-evaluation of all our natural resources with an eye toward future needs.

OUR CONSERVATION department carries the major responsibility for preserving and using our natural wealth and for replacing lost resources when possible. Its program includes wild life management, a long term plan for the wise use of forests, waters, soils and minerals, provision for parks and recreation areas, and an active educational program operating through individuals, clubs and schools.

However, any concerted public effort is only as good as its support by the individual. The way in which we manage all facets of the various vehicles of governmental control will determine not only our enjoyment, but also our pride in our country.

It will also determine the status of our 600 million dollar tourist industry which directly or indirectly affects the life check of every Michigan resident.

Way back in 1919, when department of parks and recreation was created, the tourist was little more than a casual visitor. A trip from Detroit to the north woods country was an arduous journey involving sand roads, fat tires and an approximate speed of twenty-five miles per hour. Today, when the tourist converges on us from every part of our second largest industry, his very numbers threaten both the industry which he has created and the future of our park system.

In 1921, about 250,000 persons visited our state parks. The year's budget was \$20,774, the attendance in 1935 reached a peak of 18,000,000 with a corresponding budget of \$3,000,000.

Where will we get the necessary funds for this increase? The capital outlay bill which will be introduced in the near future will ask for six million dollars, three for major improvements and maintenance of our present 58 state parks and recreation areas and three for the acquisition of new lands.

A pending bill which proposes a seasonal park fee of \$2.00, plus a 50 cent admission charge for the daily visitor, has been well supported and would be part of the answer. It is estimated that the revenue from this bill would cover from half a million to two million dollars of the above total.

THIS legislation needs your continued support. If it fails, such practical aspects as public health, a less attractive state in which to live and the corresponding loss in monetary returns will result.

A final question is not only will we have any parks tomorrow, but will there be any natural beauty and wild life left in the parks? To this end the Michigan natural areas council has been organized for the preservation of special areas for scenic sites, nature study areas, natural area preserves and nature reservations.

Each of these sites is selected because it fulfills a special requirement which its name suggests.

Man can hasten or slow nature's processes. When he works and plans with nature he is a conservationist.

Senator Borah Failed To See Income Tax Impact

Back in the early 1900's, it seems clear, the advocates of the federal income tax had no conception of the extent to which it would grow—and the tremendous portion it would take from the earnings of the people.

In defending this tax, the late Senator Borah once said: "The great and honored lawyer, Joseph Choate, denounced such a tax as socialist. He said that if you can levy a tax of two per cent, you may lay a tax of fifty per cent or a hundred per cent."

"Who will lay the tax of fifty per cent or a hundred per cent?"

"Whose equity, sense of fairness, of justice, of patriotism, does he question?"

"Why the representatives of the American people—not only that, but the intelligence, the fairness, the justice of the people themselves, to whom their representatives are always answerable."

Senator Borah was a famous and able man, but in this case he could hardly have been more wrong. An income tax of 50 per cent now applies at levels which are far from great wealth. And in the top bracket the tax is 91 per cent—only nine per cent short of the total expropriation that Joseph Choate feared.

Moreover, even in relatively modest brackets, the tax collector hits very hard. Taxes direct and indirect, account for about one-third of a \$7,500 annual income. And a man earning \$85 a week works more hours to pay his taxes than to pay for his food and clothing combined.

Christianity Opposes The Welfare State

Thurman Sensing, of the Southern States Industrial Council, makes this important observation: "The mingling of many people seems to have been misled in recent years by the fallacious belief that the philosophies of Christianity and the welfare state are one and the same. The fact is that they are just the opposite."

"Under Christianity, a man must work out his own salvation, the individual is supreme. Under the welfare state, a man's needs are taken care of through the plan-

ned economy of a bureaucratic government, the state is supreme."

It should be added that when the supreme state reaches its extreme and logical development—as under communism—Christianity is always one of the objects of oppression and destruction, and the care the individual gets is at the subsistence level only. Under the welfare state the bureaucrats are the only ones who get the gravy.

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

Statisticians have reported that an average worker in Oakland county requires only 24 minutes of labor to earn enough money to buy a pound of coffee. . . and then takes the next eight minutes of company time to drink a cup of it", grained the production boss to his employees.

Again much of the unincorporated areas of Oakland county are going through their "mud baths", as spring rains churn soil

and gravel roads into soupy messes. What is the answer to such problems? "Pay more money in taxes or special assessments" is the only solution. Good road surfaces and proper drainage cost money . . . plenty of it.

In the recorded history of the world there have always been ten years of war to one year of peace. "Blessed are the peace-makers"!

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GEORGE R. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL, Business Manager
GEORGE WM. AVERILL, Managing Editor
GERALD E. JEHL, Advertising Manager

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Suburban Sidelights by Neil

Hot Rod



Happenings of Long Ago

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

50 YEARS AGO
April 19, 1907
"What about the Birmingham Booster Club? If some one will take the initiative to start a Business Men's club for promoting the welfare of our little city, we promise to furnish free all the necessary printer's ink to bring it to a successful formation."

"A local photographer advertised for people to bring their babies in to have pictures taken, to look after in after years . . . and "loudly weather makes no difference."

"The Miller boys are grading in front of their house, where they will set up a croquet set this coming summer, and thus mix pleasure with work."

30 YEARS AGO
April 14, 1907
"Wrote under way today on the new Troy township hall at Watties road and Main street."

"Because of the demands made upon their Royal OK flower store by local residents, J. W. Farmer and his son, Walter, proprietors of Farmer Greenhouses, have opened up a Birmingham flower shop at 129 West Maple avenue."

"When the constitution and by-laws were read and adopted by the Birmingham Rotary Ann at their meeting last week, they became, to their knowledge, the only organized club of the kind in the world."

"Metal has having its era of popularity in the modern home and copper seems to be gaining in the race. It is easy to see that copper has moved from the kitchen to the dining room, in its revival."

15 YEARS AGO
April 18, 1912
"A new experiment in recreation will go on trial here for two weeks. Monday night, the City Commission hesitatingly OK'd experiment with the closing of Pleasant avenue for two hours nightly so that people in that area can bicycle unhindered by usual traffic."

"The Kruger Grocers & Baking Company's new super-market at North Woodward and Willets opened its doors today."

"Blackout curtains in the White House; streets seething with soldiers and taxicabs; army barracks around Arlington and being turned up to a broader understanding of America's war efforts for everyone in the 1912 high school Washington group. Nothing in Detroit could compare with the bustle and activity that goes to make up Washington in war-time."

Water supply now ranks with labor and transportation as a key factor in determining plant location. One-third of the nation's total plant spending for new construction in the past five years has been concentrated in the Great Lakes area.

The Old Timer
"The time that you enjoy wasting—really isn't wasted!"

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

At a recent Birmingham city commission meeting, a citizen from the city's southeast section voiced the suggestion that the school district and the municipalities it is in could save money by holding simultaneous school and city township - village elections.

From a money-saving standpoint, it would seem desirable.

On the other hand, you would get school voters out on the school portion of the election who normally care little or nothing about city or township affairs. The same would apply to city or township election voters who have little interest in school matters.

Birmingham's recent city commission race lacked its usual color because there was a "no contest" vote for the three full terms.

But it was not without some excitement, at least for city election workers and particularly the two candidates vying for the single one-year commission vacancy.

First precinct reporting was No. 4 with 51 votes for (successful) candidate Charles Delbridge, Jr., and 50 votes for his opponent, Arthur Land.

YET WHILE THEY ARE in the voting booth, they would reason, "Aw, while I'm here I might just as well vote in the city (school) election." And right here would be cast some uninformed votes.

This might be termed undesirable aspect of the combination vote method.

Whenever a special school bond vote or city charter proposition happened to be tied in with one of these combination votes, the blind cross balloting would be most unpredictable, perhaps most dangerous.

NEXT PRECINCT WAS NO. 7, with 127 more for Delbridge, 122 for Land. Now the total: Delbridge 178, Land 172. Precinct No. 10 had 75 for Delbridge, 78 for Land. Total now: Delbridge 253, Land 250.

Precinct No. 11, also was not much help in determining the winner. Voters here gave Delbridge 84, and Land 80. Running total: Delbridge 337, Land 330.

Come to think of it, this old world just teems with rock and roll dreamers—do the rockin', while the doers do the rollin'.

The "break" came with the fifth precinct to report, No. 5. It gave Delbridge 132, Land only 79. The other six also gave considerable majorities to Delbridge, with the final vote Delbridge 1693, Land 1053.

None of the regular circle of election followers could recall when it ever took more than the first two reporting precincts to definitely establish the final commission victors.

What kind of a simmering summer will we have this year?

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