

## WHAT DID IT?

### Birmingham 50 Years Ago Had 500 Population. A Steady Growth Makes Its Second City in County

In an old State Gazetteer published in 1858 we read that "Birmingham, a thriving post village of Oakland county, in the township of Bloomfield, on the line of the Detroit & Milwaukee railroad, 15 miles north-west of Detroit, fare 90 cents. It has two churches, a Masonic lodge, seven stores, two hotels, a saw mill flour mill, iron foundry, machine shop and the usual number of professions and trades. The village is pleasantly situated in the midst of a fine farming country and bids fair to become a place of considerable importance. A daily mail is received. Population 500. Postmaster George L. Lee."

This was in 1858. In 1870 Birmingham then had 440 population and J. Allen Bigelow, a miner and a daily mail still arrived once a day from each direction. A number of groceries were then in existence—the real old fashioned grocery store with the old residents sitting around whittling, cracking jokes and enjoying life. We have some of the same old boys left yet but the old fashioned corner grocery is past. Birmingham never had a boom Birmingham has built herself up year after year, a few homes each year as needed by the owners, and never has been anything but a village of homes and never will be anything but homes for her citizens.

Up to 20 years ago the growth of our village was very abrupt always steady. At that time, with a population of 898 we were fourth in the county counting Pontiac the first. About that time 20 years ago we voted waterworks and a change came to our building became brick, finer homes were built and our retiring farmers came to town to live and enjoy their reward. Soon after the telephone being here in a small way the Detroit United railway ran their line through to Pontiac, since when our growth has developed more rapidly and today according to the 1910 census we have over 1600 population and steadily growing. We are the second city in Oakland county. Pontiac of course the first each year. For years the old Bell phone had an office in our village, J. Allen Bigelow being the first manager. He was followed by A. Whitehead, then Nixon, and Mitchell next. Up to the time G. H. Mitchell became manager the office was a nuisance to the public as well as the manager until metallic circuits were discovered. Then service was much better, but even the company paying its manager a commission of 25 cent only paid from \$10 to \$25 a month and no one really happy. Some six or seven years ago Sunday service and all night service was installed by the Michigan State Telephone Co. and free talks to Royal Oak were allowed. This is the time the subscribers of our village boomed up the list. It came during George H. Mitchell's reign and from over 300 patrons the list increased to over 300, 100 new patrons a year were added by Mitchell for three years and this astonishing growth was kept up by the new and popular manager Mr. J. M. Kelley until now Birmingham receives over 600 phone patrons, with one of the finest county offices in the state fully equipped and in office a second to none. It takes seven girls to do the work three at the switch board constantly. Under the successful management of Mr. Kelly they do their work promptly, satisfactorily and please all their patrons second to none in the state.

Take it all in all Birmingham has nothing to mourn over either in its telephone lines, its railway service or its postoffice management. We will have a severer soon, 825,000 voted for it and when that is working keep your eye on Birmingham and see us grow to 5,000 population in less than 10 years from now.

### The Sound Sleep of Good Health

Is not for those suffering from kidney ailments and irregularities. The prompt use of Foley Kidney Pills will dispel headache, rheumatism, and all other ailments, strengthen a weak and ailing kidney, restore normal action, and with health and strength. Mrs. M. F. Spatzbury, Sterling, Illinois, says: "I suffered great pain in my back and kidneys, could not sleep at night, and could not raise my hands over my head. But two bottles of Foley Kidney Pills cured me." For sale by all druggists.

### A Bad Misdeed.

"Goodness, but that singer's voice is sharp!" "Yes, and her notes are fat."

### Birmingham Liners

Come to J. Allen Bigelow with your disposition to buy a farm. He will tell you where he can buy one of 85 acres or 175 acres, 3 1/2 miles from Birmingham. Good stream of water running through both farms.

For sale—House and lot on Willis street, north side \$2,000 for quick sale. Also 8 room house and barn, two lots, for \$1,750. Inquire Exchange Bank.

## Fifty Years Ago. "OUTOSITE" BED.

Morgan W. Rundel Was His Wall Bed, the "Outosite" Patented And Will Soon Be Selling.

At a gathering recently of our very elderly ladies, for the sake of "Aunt Lang Syne," Mrs. Zilpha Simonson, aged well, less than 100 years, (you ask her, we did) sang the following in fine voice and tune. Come up close! Whisper! She will sing it for you if properly approached and sufficiently urged, in a way that pleased the pioneer 50 years ago.

It was Monday morning in eighteen hundred and forty-five. I thought myself quite lucky to find myself alive; I harnessed up my harness my business to pursue. And I went to hauling wood as I used for to do.

I only hauled one load, instead of hauling four. I stayed so long at Piety Hill, I couldn't haul no more; The Still being on and the liquor being free. When one glass was empty another was filled for me.

That night I met an old acquaintance, his name I dare not tell. He told me there was to be a ball at old Piety Hill; It was hard to persuade but at length I did agree; To go that night where the fiddle was to be.

That night I went unto the barn, I went unto The barn,—not thinking any harm; I saddled up old grey, and I rode away so still, That I scarcely drew a breath 'till I came to Piety Hill.

My father followed after, as we've heard relate He peeped in every corner wherever there was a light; Until his locks they were wet with With the dew of the night.

Full four and twenty got up on the floor to dance. The fiddler being willing, his arm it being strong. He played the "Greats of Ireland." For 12 hours long.

Now, the morning sun has risen and we've all had enough. We'll spend half an hour in gathering cash for Cuff. We'll go home to our plough, boys, we'll write and we'll sing. And we never will get caught in such a scrape again.

## BIG GATHERING A GREAT CHANCE

### Temporary Horticultural Society Was Formed to Join the Oakland County Round-Up in Pontiac, Feb. 24.

No stronger stand for progressive agriculture was ever shown than at the Farmer's Institute held at the Johnston-Shaw hall. At the morning session in the absence of Dr. Price, the topic "Care of Milk" was discussed by Dr. State of the Detroit Board of Health. This topic is of great interest to the dairyman. Ruby Jamieson and Lillian Monroe furnished pleasing entertainment at the morning session.

In the afternoon over two hundred fifty farmers and their wives attended. The session was opened by a vocal solo by Kenneth Bingham. Master Bingham possesses a talent. State Speaker I. N. Moore lectured on Clover and Alfalfa. He said, "The Michigan farmer needs more clover for the good of the land. We need more clover and less timothy." Mr. Moore stated that the selling of hay and roughage from the farm had depleted the soil until inoculation had become necessary. He believes Michigan could become the greatest alfalfa producing state in the Union. Every kind of soil in the state can produce alfalfa with proper attention and drainage. Following a heated discussion an orchestra composed of Miss Gladys Brooks, Joe Brooks, Rush Hawkins, Bateman Wood and Charles Bingham gave two selections which brought forth plaudits. T. A. Farrand, president of the State Horticultural society then spoke on the Organization of an Oakland county society. He was surprised with the response to his plan and after a thorough discussion it was decided to appoint temporary officers to represent the body at the Round-Up to be held in Pontiac this Saturday. The following officers were elected: Temporary president, John Miller, vice-president, William Flint, of Novi, secretary, Miss Addie Sly and treasurer, Charles Bingham.

Foley Kidney Pills will cure any case of kidney or bladder trouble not beyond the reach of medicine. No medicine can do more. For sale by all druggists.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Hundreds of people have lately reported themselves as entirely cured of tuberculosis and asthma by using the new treatment, known as "Nature's Cure."

A decidedly interesting booklet, explaining about this new method, may be secured without cost, by addressing Chas. A. Barnes, Dispenser, 120 Chamber of Commerce, Detroit, Mich.

### Almost Lost His Life.

"S. A. Stid, of Mason, Michigan, will never forget his terrible exposure to a merciful storm. "I gave me a dreadful cold," he writes, "that caused severe pains in my chest, so it was hard for me to breathe. A neighbor gave me several doses of Dr. King's New Discovery, which brought great relief. The doctor said I was on the verge of pneumonia, but to continue with the Discovery, I did so. Two bottles completely cured me." Use only this quick, safe, reliable medicine for colds, grippe, and any throat or eye trouble. Price 50c and \$1. Trial bottle free. Guaranteed by C. J. Shain.

### BIRMINGHAM BAPTIST CHURCH NOTES.

Sunday services, Sunday morning, "The Ideal Christian," evening, "Discipleship in the Gospel."

B. Y. F. U'grayer meeting at 6 p. m. Topic, "The Christian Work of the Converted Indian." Leader, Mrs. Jackson.

The Mission Circle meets on Friday afternoon at the home of Mr. Rogers. The topic for the afternoon is "China" with a paper by Mrs. Todd.

On Friday evening the B. Y. F. U. give a shadow and oyster supper at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Haman, three miles east of the village. Rigs will leave the postoffice between 7 and 7:30 p. m. Everybody invited.

### Shocking Sounds

In the earth sometimes heard before a terrible earthquake, that warn of the coming peril. Nature's warnings are kind. That dull pain or ache in the back warns you that the kidneys need attention if you would escape those dangerous diseases—diabetes, diabetes or Bright's disease. Take Electric Bitters at once and see backache go and all your best feelings return. "My son received great benefit from their use for kidney and bladder trouble," writes Rev. Henry of South Rockwood, Michigan. "It is certainly a great medicine." Try it. 50c at C. J. Shain's.

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## We Offer for Saturday, Feb. 17 Special

A WELL-KNOWN COFFE AT SPECIAL PRICE A SPECIAL CANDY AT A SPECIAL PRICE CALL AND SEE

FRUITS		PICKLES		CROSS & BLACKWELL	
Grape Fruit.....	20c and 15c	Sweet Gherkins, bulk, doz.	10c	White Onions.....	25c
Oranges, juicy box.....	15c, 20c, 30c, 40c, 50c	Olives, stuffed with olives, box.....	25c	White Onion Chow.....	40c and 75c
California Lemons.....	30c	Olives, with Pimento, doz.....	15c	Orange Marmalade, jar.....	25c
Bananas.....	30c	Olives Chowder, bot.....	15c, 15c, 25c	Strawberry Jam, jar.....	25c
Fancy Western Apples, doz.....	50c	Olives, plain, bottle.....	10c, 15c, 25c, 50c	Sweet Gherkins, bottle.....	10c
Cranberries.....	10c	Olives, full qt. Mason Jar.....	35c	Sour Gherkins, bottle.....	10c
Tangerines.....	30c	Silver Thread Sausage Kraut, lb.....	4c	Chow Chow.....	10c
		Cabbage, lb.....	4c	Worcestershire Sauce, bottle.....	25c
		Onions, peck.....	4c	Aunt Jemima Syrup, bottle.....	25c
		Canada Beans, lb.....	2c	Royal Mint Sauce, bottle.....	30c
		Hickory Nuts, quart.....	5c	Blue Seal Tuna—delicious for salads.....	30c
		Walnuts, peck.....	20c	Sardines, imported or domestic, in Oil, Mayonnaise or Mustard.....	15c and 20c

We have leveled on every climate to secure the choicest of foods for our customers. Canned Fruits, Vegetables, Fish, in infinite variety. Coffees, Teas and Spices—an incomparable line.

## MINER & FERGUSON

"THE HOME OF GOOD THINGS TO EAT"

### History Extract

Page 113, of San Francisco Fire

### The Hartford Fire Ins. Co.

H.B. Parks & Co. Birmingham Will Tell You All About It

Paid from 60 to 80 claims per day—nearly all settled from the Company's records, as policies had been burned, while other companies were wrangling the Hartford was paying, and paid out \$7,011,636.00.

Come to J. Allen Bigelow Agent of that grand old Company in Birmingham.

The Oldest Agency in Oakland Co. Office—First floor, front room, Telephone Building. Office phone, 11-3R. Residence phone, 75.

## For Sale!

Farm and Village Property

Our List is Large and Full of Bargains

Our insurance business nearly doubled last year. We represent two of the largest and strongest companies. Has any one a large farm to trade for a small one or cash?

### Oakland Realty Co.

Next Door to Birmingham P. O.

JNO. D. RIKER, M. D. Practice limited to EYE, EAR, NOSE, THROAT, PONTIAC, MICH.

Dr. Lillian J. Courts, Osteopathic Physician, Graduate of the American School of Osteopathy, Okla. City, Mo. Diseases of women and children. 2 to 5 p. m. 2 to 5 p. m. 1015 1/2 Davis Block, First St., Mich. Oakland phone.

### Basement Bargains

Best Grades of TEAS COFFEES SPICES TOILET AND LAUNDRY SOAPS BAKING POWDER CANNED FISH EXTRACTS CANNED VEGETABLES KARO CORN SYRUP LARD BAKING MOLASSES OAT MEAL GRAHAM FLOUR HIGH-GRADE PRUNES CORN MEAL OLEOMARGERINE FINE APPLE BUTTER SMOKED MEATS

### C. MALLEY

Phone 270 106 Daines Street

### POLEY'S HONEY AND TAR

Gives Relief Prevents Poisoning

### MIL O. PRESSEL

ELECTRICIAN Birmingham, Mich.

All kinds of Fixtures for sale. Wiring, and all work done, guaranteed. New work a specialty.

### POLEY'S HONEY AND TAR

For children's safe, sure. No opium

### F. BLAKESLEE

BIRMINGHAM

1,000 yards all-silk Taffeta Ribbon at 10c yd

1,000 yards Outing Flannel at 10c yd

1,000 yards Shirtings at 10c yd

200 pairs Men's Pants to close out at cost.

50 pairs Bed Blankets at 60c, 75c, \$1

## 1912 BARGAINS 1912