

Devoted to Our Own Locality—We Labor for Its Interests

FORTIETH YEAR. NO. 35. BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1917. WHOLE NUMBER, 20621

REVENUE SERVICE A STUDENT CRITIC

Government Going to Send out Men to Instruct Taxpayers in Preparing Income Returns.

The Government is going to send out men to instruct taxpayers in preparing income tax returns. It will be up to the taxpayers to hunt up these men, who will be sent into every county seat, town and some other towns besides, to meet the people. Postmasters, bankers and newspaper men will be told when the government's income tax man will be around, and where to find him. He will answer questions, swear you to the return, take your money, and remove the wrinkle from your brow. Returns for 1917 must be made between January 1 and March 1, 1918.

"The Government recognizes," Collector of Internal Revenue, Brady said today "that many persons experience a good deal of difficulty in filling out income tax returns. It recognizes too, that taxpayers resident at points where collectors' offices are not easily accessible, find it hard to get proper instruction in the law. Next year, when every married person living with wife or husband and having a net income of \$2,000, and every unmarried person not the head of a family and having a net income of \$1,000 for the year 1917 must make return of income on the prescribed form, there will be hundreds in every community seeking light on the law, and help in executing their returns. This and every other collection district in the nation will be divided into districts, with the county as the unit, and a government officer informed in the income tax assigned to each district. He will spend from 1 to 5 days in each county, very likely in the court house at the county seat town. In cities where there are collector's branch offices, he will be there, and in other cities possibly at the city hall. My office will be in due time, to advise postmasters and bankers and send notices to newspapers stating when the officers will be in each county. It will be necessary for prospective taxpayers to ask my office for forms on which to make returns. The officer who visits their county will have a supply and will leave some with the postmaster and probably with local bankers.

It may be stated, that "net income" is the remainder after subtracting from gross income the following: Personal, family or living expenses; the expense in meaning of the law, the exemption covering such expenses. The new exemptions of \$1,000 and \$2,000 will add tens of thousands of taxpayers in this district, as practically every farmer, merchant, tradesman, professional man and salary worker will be required to make return and pay tax. The law requires the taxpayer to seek out the collector. The taxpayer has to go to the government, and if he doesn't within the prescribed time, the government will go to him, with its penalties.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

CORNER BROWN AND WOODWARD.
DAVID H. CURRY, PASTOR.

Sabbath School at 2 p. m. We have a class and a cheerful greeting for you and yours.
Preaching by the Pastor at 3 and 7:30 p. m. Messages that will aid you in the fight against sin.
Young Peoples Meeting at 6:30 p. m. Forty-five minutes of song, prayer and the discussion of a timely topic. All welcome.
Congregational Prayer-meeting every Wednesday at 7:45 p. m. Come in and spend an hour apart from the cares of the daily tasks.
The Church where you may enter as a stranger but will leave as a friend, and where you will be helped, helpful, and happy.

ADVERTISED LETTERS.

List of letters remaining unclaimed for at Birmingham-Michigan Postoffice on December 22:
Adams, Mrs. Olive
Adams, Olive
Baldwin, Miss Hazel
Chambers, Wm. (2)
McClary, Charles
Nelson, Hans
Olney, Miss Daisy
Oskerman, Mrs. M. J.
Smith, Mrs. Elsie
Seward, Samuel
Williams, Charley
Wakeman, W.

POST CARDS

Baldwin, Miss Barbara
Baldwin, Miss Sarah
Chambers, Lowell
Chambers, Mrs. Lowell
Douglas, Mrs. Charles
Fiebelkorn, Mrs. August
Persons calling for any of the above letters will please say "advertised."
George H. Mitchell, P. M.

Mrs. Robert Fletcher and daughters Ida and Bernice have returned to their home at Trinidad, California after visiting Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Cliff on Bates Street.

NOTICE TO PARENTS

Have you a son overseas? Have you a son in the U. S. service? We would be pleased to print their letters—leaving out the personal and home matters. Such letters would prove very interesting to our readers. Bring them in and we will do our part.

THE ECCENTRIC.

FROM VILLAGE PRESIDENT.

A village government is created for the purpose of giving to its inhabitants comforts and pleasures not otherwise obtainable except by such government. The State does not require any number of citizens anywhere to form villages. Counties and townships are the only necessary divisions of the state. The State gives a certain number of its inhabitants the privilege of forming villages that they may have for their enjoyment many things not readily obtained through the village government, and that they may economically obtain necessities, such as good water, sidewalks, gutters and drains and things they may have protection from fire, floods, epidemics, etc. and from diseases and nuisances by sanitary sewers, disposal systems, garbage gathering, killing ugly weeds and cleaning up places on private ground and public places, and that they may curb those who would destroy the advantages of village community interests by such means as allowing domestic animals to run wild, or conducting a business or pastime, such as gambling rooms etc. and that they may pave streets, maintain libraries and public parks.

Creating and maintaining a village is a costly voluntary matter and it becomes just what the villagers make it. A village has no money except that collected by tax upon the citizens and as villages exist only to serve advantage and welfare of each inhabitant, he is entitled to private property and to turn the individual must contribute gladly and promptly of his thoughts, service and money. The village should pay for nothing that can be done by the citizens in their turn.

On Wednesday evening January 2, at sharp 7:30, I shall be glad to meet all who wish to review the question of annexation from the standpoint of fairness to those of "no man's land" and benefits to all classes involved. This is the biggest problem in recent years and must be faced, we must examine it carefully.

W. D. CLIZBE,
President.

OBITUARY.

Zenas Harvey VanNorman was born at Nelson, Ontario January 1, 1822, died at the home of his daughters at 6 o'clock a. m. December 30, 1917 aged 95 years, most of his life in Michigan.

He was married to Mary Ann France at Farmington, N. Y., August 30, 1847. To this union was born one son and three daughters. The wife and son Louis and grandsons Charles and Erv Caroline and grand daughter Eva Norman passed away several years previous. He leaves to mourn his loss two daughters, Margaret V. Halsey and Bessie V. Crane, two grand-daughters and a son, Mrs. M. E. France of Los Angeles, California, one great grand-daughter Marjorie VanNorman of Detroit, one great grand-son Howard Williams of Los Angeles, California, an aged sister Mrs. Task of Tilsontown, Ontario, together with many other relatives and friends. He was converted at the age of 10 years and soon after united with the M. E. Church, of which he was a faithful worker until weakness of age made him unable to participate in the active work of the church. He was Sunday School Superintendent for over 35 years and held many other responsible offices. He was a man of genuine, sterling honesty and sweetness of character, giving his whole life to loving service to others so patient, thinking only of how little he could give and so fully appreciating the loving care given by his daughter during his months of helplessness.

He came from New York State to Michigan in 1856, lived at Barilred until 1881, when he moved his family to Waterford where he resided until Nov. 1, 1916 he came with his daughter to Birmingham. He would be greatly missed by a large circle of friends, but leaves a beautiful memory in his home. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. E. R. Rice and Rev. J. H. Houghton of Birmingham, at the home December 21, and the remains were buried beside his wife and daughter at Fairfield.

Mrs. Herbert Lawson of Pontiac has been a recent visitor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lake on Forest Street.

FROM OVER THERE

Dr. George P. Raynote Writes a Very Interesting Letter to His Folks From Over the Sea.

Through the courtesy of Dr. and Mrs. C. M. Raynote, we are permitted to use the following letter from their son who is with the U. S. Base Hospital No. 36, "Somebody in France," December 2.

Dearest Folks:
Have quite a lot of interesting information for you this time. I was out in command of a little detachment consisting of four other lieutenants and twelve nurses for temporary detached services with another hospital, about forty odd miles from our old location. We made the trip part way by truck and part way by rail. In making arrangements for our ticket and transportation of baggage we missed our train and had to wait over a town from 9 a. m. until 11 p. m.

We were sitting around the little hotel having just finished our dinner, when I walked Major McLean, Capt. John Dodds and Lieut. Bennesser. It certainly seemed good to see them and they were mighty glad to see us too. We did not have long to wait though by a short while we were on our way to our new location. Major McLean was in the hospital when the Germans made their drive and he watched them come up, they left one town as the Boche were entering it.

His hospital is taking care of a few cases but not so very many as yet.

I was introduced to Will Lewis, you know the man who writes such wonderful accounts of this war in the Saturday Evening Post. Then in the afternoon we went to a military funeral of a private by the name of Charles Call who died in the hospital of pneumonia. He was the only son of very wealthy parents in Springfield, Mass., a member of machine gun company of the 102nd regiment formerly the 2nd Massachusetts. It impressed me as much as anything I ever saw, and as he had a hand played a dirge and the salute was fired and then taps was sounded on a bugle in the distance, I could not keep back the tears, and I saw many a man looking sidling wipe his eyes.

It seemed very pathetic to me to see a splendid American boy buried away over here in a gloomy little French cemetery. His comrades had purchased all the flowers they could in town and although they were not much and very poor, they represented more to them than anything I ever saw at home.

We expect to go to work in the morning at our new location, have a lot of mumps, influenza, pneumonia etc., to look after, will have some surgical cases very soon we expect. It will seem good to get busy but I have not practiced medicine for so long that I guess I will have to learn all over again.

The officers are billeted out in homes about town and at present I am in my room writing this by lamplight. These old French homes are not the most inviting places in the world. The houses although clean have a musty, close and frequently mildewed smell of cabbage and garlic. The beds however are very comfortable and a tiny wood stove takes the chill off, when one can get wood to burn, at present we have no wood. We only use the wood in warm weather, one can easily keep warm between the army blankets which we put on instead of the cold sheets with which the beds are always equipped in France.

I will be mighty glad when old 36 gets started and we can get back with our own outfit.
I have told you in a former letter that I heard from Jay Paddock through an officer in his regiment. He told me he was doing well, was a sergeant now and probably would soon be made a lieutenant.
This place is full of soldiers both French and American. Nearly any time one can see large automobile trains of soldiers and equipment going to and fro. I am picking up a little French but it rather difficult but I'm living right with French people all the time I hope to soon learn enough of the language so that I can hold ordinary conversation.

You need have no worry about me, so far as I can see I am just as safe as though I were at home. It would seem good to be back in old Birmingham again and how I would like to see you, but I am glad I came and glad I can do something to help. It is just what I need to be a wonderful, wonderful experience for us. Love to all the folks, and love to you both dear folks, from
Your Son,
GEORGE P. RAYNOTE.

Hard at First.
Mrs. Washburn—Want your first dollar the hardest to get? Mrs. Dearborn—Why, yes. After the first time it comes easier to take 'em out of my husband's pockets when he was asleep.—Yonkers Statesman.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

REV. F. M. MACKAY, PASTOR.

At 10:30 Divine Worship. Sermon subject, "Something to Remember."
At 11:45 Bible School, with a class suited for every member of the family.
At 6:30 Young People's meeting.
At 7:30 A Patriotic service in charge of the Baracas class. This class has sent four of its members into the service of the country.
Wednesday is always prayer meeting night.
The Home-like Church with a welcome for all.

OAKLAND REALTY CO.

Is offering a Modern House, all furnished—also some HOUSES without furnishings—for rent. Improved and vacant in Birmingham—Farms and Lake Lots in Oakland county, for sale.
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it must be a mighty fine machine.

It is. It is the best we ever saw. It's so good we want to send one out to your house on 30 DAYS' FREE TRIAL. Then will take it back if you don't like it. Isn't that fair?

Is there anything more we can do to convince you what we think of the MAYTAG?

Green & Heacock

Old Soldier's Recommendation:
Gustav Wangelin, Commander of G. A. R., Piquetteville, Illinois, writes: "I highly recommend Foley Kidney Pills, which I prefer to all others I have used. Foley Kidney Pills give relief, rid me of backache, rheumatic pain, stiff, swollen joints, languidness, kidney trouble, and sleep-disturbing bladder ailments. S. Od everywhere—Ady."

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English, 11:30 a. m.
English Sunday School, 12:00 m.
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