BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.

FORTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 32. BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1920. PRICE FIVE CENTS

DIPIETRO GIVEN LIGHT SENTENCE

OBITUARY

Mrs. George W. Caswell.

Mrs. Anna Poole.

Our Correspondent Goes to Honolulu

Civic Association Executives Meet

East Side Still Needs a School

Council Proceedings.

CHURCHES

METHODIST CHURCH

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

ST. JAMES CHURCH

BOND ISSUE DEFEATED

The special meeting of the qualified voters of School District No. 1 Fractional, of the Townships of Bloomfield, Avon, Oak, Troy, and Southfield, which was held in the High School on Nov. 24, to vote on a bond issue of $225,000 for the Avon School, was largely attended. E. F. Taylor presided as chairman, and Miss Alice Hartwell as secretary. The board of election inspectors consisted of E. J. Taylor, Alice Hartwell, J. McBride and A. W. Campbell, who were selected to represent the voters of the district. The polls were open from 12 noon p. m. and the result of the votes cast the ballots was found to be as follows: Total number of votes cast—616; Yes—608; No—1; ballots not voted 2; Spoiled—5. No further action was taken at the regular meeting of the Board of Education, which was held following the election.

NOW TO BUSINESS.

To the Editor:

Now that the taxpayers of Birmingham and the surrounding territory forming our school district have in a certain manner registered their united disapproval of extravagance it would seem proper for the board to proceed in a policy of good business.

It is quite clear to all that the board put the cart before the horse. When a building committee of seven of first instructing his architect to draw plans for a house and then the plans determines how much he must draw from his deposit or borrow from the bank. In order to determine how much they or we can afford to spend.

Now the construction of the proposed school it should have been determined how much can be afforded to spend before the plans were drawn and the other demands and needs of the people. Then the plans should have been based upon the amount of bonds approved.

This correct course was not followed. The result was a set of plans, which astounded everybody. One architect, after viewing the plans and specifications, stated the school built according to them "would make the finest dog kennel" he ever saw. The plans, the architect have been paid $20,000 on account of the school moneys, therefore, is retaliated. The specifications and plans of the proposed school were accepted by the school board, such as stated by people who have viewed them it would give rise to the thought that possibly the expenditure of a million dollars asked for is not only excessively high in regard to material costs, but also in the excessive amount of architectural embellishments.

The question is, if the present plans will not permit of the construction of the building within reasonable amount will it not be better for the board to start afresh, with reasonable amount and a reasonable design.

It should be no great task for the board to ascertain, through the state educational department information concerning the cost of modern grade schools for our district. What is wanted is a reasonable school for a reasonable community that has other reasonable requirements for other schools and other municipal requirements to be met by the taxpayers. Because one set of taxes is paid in July and the other in December it doesn't make the ultimate burden any less. Each taxpayer has but his own pocket to dig into.

Further consideration by the board may result in reaching the decision to accept the loss already incurred in payment for a lesson learned and avoid all over again.

Further school accommodations are needed. If we cannot get them now in the form of permanent buildings there is certainly no use in the way of temporary schools. The portable school has been suggested. The Flint board of education has still another kind. Instead of wasting money in carrying out that city's extensive program of school construction **approved by the people and before plans are drawn** the board is now using some forty twenty wooden buildings, plainly constructed, plastered, piped, heated and seated for an average of 54, on each comfortable, convenient two-room schools that will be sold and rapidly converted into small homes, when the permanent schools are constructed after prices become normal.

Our school board has now no excuse for not knowing the desire of the people. Let a program of school construction, school operation and school management be formulated. Let these different schools so constructed that Birmingham students will be proud upon attending Birmingham schools.

Yours to business,

A. D. B. VAN ZANDT.

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A 5% DISCOUNT SALE is going on at PECK'S TAILOR SHOP, West Maple avenue. Read the advertisement elsewhere in this issue.—adv.

Have you a leaky pot or pan in your kitchen? Want it fixed? Bring it to **Corey and Gibbons, "They dwell in Tinkers' Alley"** East Maple avenue, just opposite the Fire Station.—adv.

LOCALS

SCHOOL NOTES

WEDDINGS

NARROW ESCAPE

WOMEN'S LITERARY CLUB.

XMAS GIFTS.—adv.

Birmingham Dairy Milk It's Pasteurized.

BIRMINGHAM DAIRY, Phone 536. adv