

THE ECCENTRIC

Birmingham, Michigan
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EVENTUALLY—WHY NOT NOW?

The above phrase does not apply only to a well known brand of flour—it can be made applicable to most any phase of life. It was probably inspired by that old axiom: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." But it is a good idea to get off till tomorrow what you can do today." Birmingham is about to demonstrate the truth of the adage.

If there is anyone within our midst who does not feel that, ere long, Birmingham will have adequate water supply, all such doubts would have been dispelled at a meeting of the "Citizens' Water Commission," held last Friday night in the Johnson Shaw Hall.

Therein were gathered about 100 local citizens who, somewhat discouraged at the small way in which the Village Commission is seeking relief from our annual water shortage, discussed in a free and earnest manner a permanent solution to this problem.

At this meeting was some of the best engineering advice to be found in the district. It goes without saying that each and every man who is engaged in this solution has the best interests of Birmingham at heart.

Various ways and means offered to bring to us sufficient water for all purposes should be gravely considered and then, if consented to by the majority, no stone should be left unturned by the citizens-at-large to make the suggestions a reality.

The time has come (in fact, arrived years ago) when Birmingham—no longer the little crossroads corner—should do things on a bigger scale. The present water works system has been outgrown for years, yet each year the Commission or Council has improved methods to tide over the summer and, as it has generally proved, we were without sufficient water for our lawns and gardens.

There is no reason for the continuance of this method! We are of the opinion, gathered from conversation with the majority of local citizens, that Birmingham is willing to pay any reasonable cost for the erection and maintenance of an adequate water works system.

The consensus of opinion, as heard at the meeting last Friday night, would lead us to believe that Birmingham is willing to spend as high as three hundred thousand dollars to obtain a permanent relief from the annual water shortage. Not that it will cost us so much, but the figures are given as evidence of the sincerity of purpose that is shown when a question is sought to be solved.

The 300,000 gallon tank to be erected soon at the present water works station is a good thing—while we believe the present Commission is right in causing its installation, it is later to be utilized for any future additions to the water works plant of extension.

It is to be hoped that the Village Commission will entertain in a favorable light the suggestions herein made by the five men who will serve as an executive committee for the Citizens' Water Commission. It is to be hoped that this water commission will quietly and quickly arrive at a practical solution of our water problem. There is no doubt of the outcome of its suggestions—entire Birmingham will stand behind them.

Members of this Committee, I. C. R. Hewitt, W. J. Reineke, L. P. Smith, Thomas Farmer and James Cobb; members of the Village Commission, I. C. W. D. Clize, W. B. Brown and Philip Schlaack—the people of Birmingham look for your sincere co-operation in giving them water—plenty of water—more water than we ever dreamed of having—water enough to care for a city of twenty thousand souls.

It is up to you, gentlemen, to prove to your constituency the truth of "Eventually—why not now?"

SCHOOL BOARD PROCEEDINGS

The adoption of the resolution presented by Mr. A. D. B. Van Zandt at the annual school board meeting requiring the regular and official printing of the minutes of all meetings of the board will undoubtedly meet with the warm endorsement of the people.

give due credit in the conduct of our vast and growing school district. We congratulate Mr. Van Zandt upon his thoughtfulness in preparing the resolution and we congratulate the school board and the people upon its practically unanimous adoption.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS

Forty-Four Years Ago

Frank Durkee says his old mare could trot a mile in 2:10 if it wasn't for two things—the mare's too short and the mile's too long.

The store owned by J. R. Corson was entered by a daring burglar Tuesday night and James A. Jay, upon entering the establishment early in the morning captured the culprit who was in the act of leaving. Mr. Jay covered the burglar with shiny double jointed door key. Later Mr. Corson made Mr. Jay a reward of a real revolver for doing his duty. The burglar, who gave his name as Charles Ramon of Ohio, was turned over to the sheriff. Tomiak and will be given a trial before the Circuit Judge. This is but one of the stories that Mr. Corson's store has been burglarized.

Burglary at Corson's—but lots of goods left and being sold cheap.

Got a good Havana cigar at Blakelee's for five cents. We also sell 12 good cigars for 25 cents.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

The Emperor of Germany gave away to himself, and got more satisfaction out of it than he ever got by going on a bust. (Probably he got by his latest "bust" and if he'd busted himself twenty-five years ago he wouldn't be in Holland today, for old Salas would give him an extra large shovel to handle.)

Politics are now beginning to ripen up and in a few weeks we'll hear of the reds and the silver, but let us remember that "Speech is silver but silence is golden."

Seventeen sticks candy (latest style) for a nickel at Whitehead & Mitchell's.

OUR CORRESPONDENT'S LETTER

On board S. S. Spokane, en route to Alaska.

Sunday, June 19, 1921.

Birmingham Eccentric: In my last letter I said I might have something more to say about the Rose Carnival in Portland. I find that I am rather limited, rather than there is one thing that I did not mention that was really worth while, and that is the flower show. This was the finest exhibition in the way of flowers that I have ever seen, or, in fact, ever heard of. The Rose Carnival in Pasadena was a "model" this was the "real thing". The parade was two hours in passing the "Grand Stand" where I was seated on a soap box, and it is utterly impossible to describe the scene. The idea of the beauty of it. It had threatened to rain, and did rain for a short while, but not enough to spoil the show—just enough to spoil eleven out of twelve snapshots that I took of the finer flowers. The people in the immense but good-natured, even after waiting several hours for the parade to move. The people in the buildings as well as those in the crowd on the curb amused themselves by throwing pennies into the streets for the boys and girls to scramble for, and it was a great wonder that none were injured. Football has nothing on this kind of sport. There were hundreds of floats decorated with the most beautiful roses in all the world—of every kind, size, and color, and thousands of fine blossoms were thrown from the floats into the crowd lining the way. Splendid music was rendered by many bands. They are of this kind of thing in a very liberal and enthusiastic way in this country, and no expense is spared to make a success of anything they undertake—even Los Angeles and Pasadena, a thousand miles away, were represented in the parade.

The Moss Agate of Oregon is exploited in every city and town in Oregon, I should think. Some of the specimens are very fine, and they make attractive jewelry out of the better stones. I was tempted, but did not fall.

I left Albany, Wednesday, June 15th, at 6:35 p.m. for Seattle. The travel is remarkably heavy for this time of the year, and I was obliged to be satisfied with an upper berth, although I had ordered my transportation five days before. We reached Seattle at 7:30 the next morning, one hour late. The town has not changed anything to speak of since I was here two years ago. The Totem Pole near the Hotel Seattle. There is, or is not, quite a scandal connected with this particular Totem Pole. The story claimed that it was stolen from the Indians in Alaska and brought here by the then city officials of Seattle. The poor Indians lost out, as they have a habit of doing, and the pole stands here as an indictment of human greed and injustice.

I had my trunk bent directly to the boat dock and set the time of my ticket for the trip, as well as a ticket by boat from Seattle to San Francisco, on my return on July 18th. These few details attended to, I was ready to visit the familiar places, and any other of interest that I could find. I visited the municipal market, and found it as interesting as it is when I visit it before.

Large eggs, strictly fresh, were 29c a dozen; cantaloupes, 3 for 25c; strawberries, 3 for 25c; head lettuce, 5c each; all the radishes you could carry away. I should think, for 10c. The Lincoln Hotel at which I stopped when I was here two years ago, was entirely destroyed by fire about a year ago. The story is connected with my experience at this hotel which might interest my brother Mason in Birmingham or elsewhere. On leaving the Y. M. C. A. I saw what appeared to be a family hotel on the opposite shore and resolved to try that as a last resort. I found a place to sleep in the office where he had a room, but met with no success. However, he had received so many times before. I stopped to talk with him a few minutes, telling him my hard luck story. He saw my Ma-

sonic ring, and, at once, there was a marked change in his demeanor to me. He said, "Brother, there is a room in the hotel, though it is not a rickety good one but if you will wait you may have it, provided you can vacate it by seven in the morning." I was a guest, and him if it was the room where he slept in the daytime, and upon his replying in the affirmative, I told him that if he could sleep there, I thought that I could, and that I would get up whenever he called me. It was a much better room than he had led me to expect, and I slept very good. In the morning when I awoke for my bill, he told me that it was one dollar, and that he would not take a cent if he could help it. It seems that the law requires that every guest must register, and that having my register made it necessary for him to show that I had paid for my lodging. I told him that I would gladly have paid five dollars. Now, his haven of rest for me is one dollar, and that he would not take a cent if he could help it. It seems that the law requires that every guest must register, and that having my register made it necessary for him to show that I had paid for my lodging. I told him that I would gladly have paid five dollars. Now, his haven of rest for me is one dollar, and that he would not take a cent if he could help it.

The boat for Skagway was to have left at ten o'clock the morning of June 18th, but did not get away until 10 that night—twelve hours late. Part of the crew from the last trip left the boat to join the strikers on returning to Seattle; but before leaving the ship they broke part of the machinery in the engine room, and injured the cold storage apparatus. The damage was not discovered until a short time before we were to have sailed, and this caused the delay. I would volunteer to assist on the rope for such men as I could get, and bag to one of the boys at the hotel to care for until I was ready to leave for the boat, but they did not where they usually put the outgoing baggage. A little later I discovered that the bag was missing, and started a hunt for it, but it could not be found anywhere around the place. The manager sent for a detective and notified all the taxi companies in the city, but nothing turned up. In the meantime, it was getting near to leaving time, and I needed to replace some of the indispensable articles that I had in my bag. The manager told me to do so, and he would settle for the whole thing. At 8:30 p.m. I started out to the boat, and needed, but just as I reached the other side of the street, they called me back, and said that they had located the bag. I asked where it was, and was informed that it was in Tacoma. Now Tacoma is thirty miles from Seattle, and I thought that I was "in for it." It appears that a traveling man had left the hotel early that morning, had taken two bags instead of one, and had not discovered his mistake until he was near his destination. He at once telephoned the hotel, and they instructed him to hire a taxi to bring it back at once, as the owner was to leave for Alaska at ten o'clock. The manager assured me that the bag was in Tacoma, as they could easily make the thirty-mile drive in an hour. I was doubtful, but waited until 9:30, and then left for the boat without the bag or things I needed, resolved to make the trip at any cost. I instructed the man to forward the bag to San Francisco if it came too late to reach the boat. While I was waiting to board the boat, one of the hotel boys brought the bag, and all was lovely again. My chief concern was that many of the personal things in the bag had been given to me and could not be replaced. Now that I have got this story out of my system, I may have something more interesting to write about in my next and following letters.

So good-bye for the present.

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