

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1923

TELL THE PEOPLE ABOUT IT.

For some months past, the citizens of Birmingham have been told that they may, next spring, be asked to vote on the proposition of changing from a Village to a City form of government. Just what advantages would accrue to them by this new form of government have not been definitely outlined. What has been said about the matter is not fully official.

Certainly, if changing into a city would materially add to the comfort and well-being of residents of this community, then such a change ought to be effected when the annual election takes place next March. And if the advantages of such a change are made manifest to the electors of Birmingham, they would undoubtedly place their O. K. upon it.

The matter rests entirely with Village Commission. To this body does the electorate of Birmingham look for new ideas of community betterment to be made into material things. The time is drawing near to spring; President McBride and Commissioners Bell and Bingham ought to lose no time in making a thorough investigation of the proposition of changing Birmingham from the class of Village to that of City.

They ought to place their findings before the people. If the idea is good, it will be accepted; if it isn't, it will be turned down. Let's have a little action in the matter.

A PLEA FOR YOUR MINISTER.

This is a plea for the ministers of Birmingham—for the ministers of all small communities; its appeal reaches out for the betterment of spiritual shepherds in every village and hamlet in the world. And the plea is for money for the furtherance of Christianity and the maintenance of church edifices and church personnel.

There probably isn't a man or woman church-member in Birmingham who doesn't want to hear his or her minister preach a rattling good sermon every Sunday in the year. But, under the present method of church organization, it can't be done. And there is a good reason.

For a minister to climb into his pulpit on Sunday morning or evening and deliver an address that takes less than an hour to make, is thought of by most people as a simple matter. They probably think that the preparation for such an address requires but a few hours during the week, and that a man who graduates from an ecclesiastical college ought to find little difficulty in the formation of less than one hour's talk each week. But they are wrong—and it generally occurs that the minister who has but a few hours' time each week to prepare for his Sunday sermon experiences the sad tragedy of a yawning congregation, and later no congregation at all.

The fault is not entirely with the ministers—it lies more with the congregation. Most of the smaller churches expect their spiritual interpreter to act as minister, preacher, sexton, nurse, chairman of half a dozen societies in the church, and, worst of all, the one responsible for the raising of money to carry on the Lord's work. A minister so handicapped cannot devote the necessary time to preparation for the real spiritual needs of his flock.

Ministers ought to have their loads lightened. By giving them more leisure time for study and introspection, any congregation will be materially bettered.

Ministers of the gospel are dealing in the world's most cherished possession, that of Christianity. Christianity will do much for the world if the world allows it to be properly presented. The officers of any church can generally find that their minister has more to give than he is now able to give, if they will lighten his load of the minor details of church life and give him freer rein to preach the word of God.

Try it folks; you'll be surprised how much happier you'll make both yourselves and your preachers—and God.

SOUND MINDS IN SOUND BODIES

This was the ideal of the ancient Romans and Greeks. They discovered that it was only partially attainable. Their most intelligent men were inclined to be sickly, and their most athletic men were inclined to be dull. Nevertheless the idea is a good one.

Health of body, it must be admitted, is only foundational. We say "only" because life without supplementary mental attainments is merely existence and is valueless in itself. But, though it is possible for an individual to be physically a weakling and mentally a giant, society en masse must preserve its physique. The stones that uphold the cathedral mean nothing in themselves, but remove them and the great spires will totter and fall.

In the matter of mental and physical exercise for the majority of people, a middle course is undoubtedly the wisest. Shakespeare's dictum that "There was never yet a philosopher who could endure the toothache patiently" is too true to be ignored. Except in rare instances the mind reacts to any serious disability of the body. But good health will not arrive on the American plan of exhaustive exercise one day in the week, and sedentary inactivity on the other six days.

Permit us to quote the actual words of Eugen Sandow, at one time a world-famous "strong man" and one of the foremost authorities on health: "It is purely an ideal, and is never actually attained; for an examination of the bodies of the healthiest persons have revealed lesions of some kind. I would impress upon the young reader that excessive exercise is injurious. The usual idea seems to be that it is valuable in the ratio of its severity. Quite the contrary is the truth. The most valuable results in the complete muscular development of the body are reached by the simplest and lightest exercise. It is not the mere acquisition of strength, or even skill in the performance of

Twenty-Four Days To Christmas. MOTHER, CAN I GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL WITH THE KIDS? SHORTY, N SQUIRT, N BEANY, N BOO, N RED, ARE ALL GOING, CAN I GO TOO - CAN I? CHURCHES: Saint James' Church, Sunday, December 16, Third in Advent, 8 a. m. Holy Communion; 10:30 a. m. Morning Prayer; 7:30 p. m. Church School, address by Mr. A. D. Jandrus, Scout Commissioner of Detroit; 5 p. m. Evening Prayer; Friday, December 21, Christmas Eve, 8 p. m. Holy Communion; 7:30 p. m. The Christmas Festival.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS FORTY-THREE YEARS AGO The usual New Year's dance comes off at National Hall Friday evening, December 31st. George E. Daines, proprietor and this is a guarantee of a good time and a full turn out. There will be a public lyeum on Monday evening, next, the proceeds of which will go to defray the expenses of the society. Admission free. The full house is expected. Dr. C. M. Raynold and George McShall went fishing on last Monday. They had all the enthusiasm knocked out of them before they had set the second hook. They had got one bite—a frost bite.

HENRY FORD IS "POLITICALLY WISE." Democrats of Michigan declare that they will not endorse Henry Ford until the motor king comes out flat-footed for the Democratic party. It appears that most of the politicians of this country—and abroad, too—are worked up to a frenzy about the possibility of Ford running for president. Before Henry Ford dies (rest assured of this, dear reader) he will announce himself as a candidate for the office of Chief Executive of this nation. If he does not do it this next fall, he probably will four years from now. The only reason we can see why, (if he intends running next year,) he hasn't officially announced himself agreeable, is that he will wait as long as possible—just so he can get in under the wire before a national convention. This, will, you see, minimize the period of criticism that nearly always accompanies any candidate's campaign for public office.

Hamtramck—the beer, beg pardon, we mean the city that made Detroit famous—is about to be cleaned up by State police, according to Governor Groesbeck's statements in the press. "Still" (we use this word advisedly) the Mayor of that noted city informs the Governor that there is nothing "brewing" in his community that requires that assistance of the State police to prevent from "popping." This is evidently a "case" of "use no hooks." Well, Governor, you have our permission to "likker" anyway.

It is reported that former Governor Albert E. Sleeper will be a candidate for U. S. Senator from Michigan next fall. Just what percentage of votes he would get is conjectural—although a number of Birmingham citizens have ventured that he would receive more than Couzens' "five per cent."

LIVIN' ROOM LYRICS IN SPITE OF FAULTS. By CHARLES S. KINNISSON of Birmingham. Our search is one that ne'er will end, If we are searching for a friend Who has no faults—he can't be found Though we may look the world around. Of all the friends that we might claim, There is not one whom we can name Who's just as we would have him be, Who satisfies us perfectly. They have their faults we can't deny— They're much the same as you and I. So we are wrong to ask, I say, That they be right in every way. I ask no more of any friend Than on his friendship to depend. Whatever wrong that friend may do, I'll overlook—if he be true. He may be wrong, but even so, My friendship still to him I owe; And if he shows that he is frail In certain ways, I should not fail To offer him a helpful hand. To let him know I understand— To let him know what'er he feel, To let him know what'er he feel, He's still my friend, in spite of all. And then for this, I ask in turn, When I am weak that he not spurn Me in my weakness, in my wrong; But stand me by in faith that's strong. Imperfect? Yes—but friends in spite Of all our faults, if wrong or right, Whatever else my friend may do, I'll overlook, if he be true.

DIRECTORY If they are run down at the heel and sore it's almost worn out—Let us Repair them. Brown's Shoe Hospital, 421 WEST MAPLE AVENUE (A rear of Williams' Boot Shop) HELP AND EMPLOYMENT FURNISHED. Royal Oak Employment Bureau NEXT TO O. U. R. STATION ROYAL OAK, MICH. PHONE 306. J. J. SCOTANUS FIRE COMPENSATION BURGLARY AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE and BONDS Oakland Realty Co. T. D. LYNCH - Manager LEVINSON BLDG. Phone 143-W. Dr. Geo. Burt F. Clarke OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN 8206 Woodward Ave. - Detroit COLONEL MARSTON Laboratory and Clinical Diagnosis ARABIAN REACTIONS. Hours by Appointment. TELEPHONES: Office, Empire 5321; Office, Royal Oak, 1547

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MA JONG MA JONG Learn the fascinating indoor game which has taken this country by storm. The all records obtained in this city were made by our expert players. Complete in every detail. 60 Washington Street, New York, N. Y. BIRMINGHAM TIMETABLE Eastern Standard Time (Effective Oct. 18, 1923) Southbound Limited—(Except Sunday), 8:41 a. m. Southbound Local—8:51 a. m., 9:15 a. m., 9:37 a. m., 10:07 a. m., 10:31 a. m., 11:01 a. m., 11:26 a. m., 11:51 a. m., 12:26 a. m. Northbound Limited—(Except Sunday), 8:41 a. m. Northbound Local—8:57 a. m., 9:21 a. m., 9:45 a. m., 10:15 a. m., 10:39 a. m., 11:09 a. m., 11:33 a. m., 12:03 a. m., 12:28 a. m.

FLAME DIVISION Changes at Royal Oak for Rochester, Detroit, Oakland, Flint, Romeo and Lake City. Through Limited and Flat. Service and Day City leave Royal Oak at 7:05 a. m. and every 15 minutes to 8:55 a. m. Detroit Limited

VILLAGE GROWTH DEPENDS UPON TRANSPORTATION Dr. R. M. Olin Declares Most Juvenile Ailments Are Fault Of Parents MEASLES CASES CITED Just how much of Detroit's expected 2,000,000 population in 1930 will be located in Birmingham or other communities adjacent to the Fourth City depends upon transportation development in the immediate future, in the opinion of Harry F. Menard, president of the Detroit Real Estate Board. Dr. Menard's implicit disapproval of intense residential congestion will be reflected in the rapid up-building of outlying areas during the next few years, said Mr. Menard this morning in commenting on the present trend of development in and around the city. He predicted that the movement will become even more pronounced during the years immediately ahead.

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