THE ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1923.

THE TOWNSHIP CAUCUS

Last Saturday afternoon about eight hundred residents of Bloomfield Township assembled in the Baldwin High School Auditorium to hold the annual Republican Township caucus. This shows that the people of the Township are a little more inclined to take an interest in their public affairs.

The attendance, however, was more of a credit to the peope who live outside of Birmingham than it was locally, for about two-thirds of the eight hundred were outside residents.

Regardless of any of the political issues at stake, the fact that only one-third of those at the caucus were from Birmingham is real proof of the apathy that local people show in matters of public importance. Caucuses, primaries and elections are instituted "by the people for the people, etc.," and allow the citizens a free and uninterrupted hand in choosing their officials. When a person does not attend a public meeting or ballotting where officials are selected, it shows that he or she is not interested in self-government.

And people not interested in self-government are un-American in principle. They should not object to the kind of laws or rules enacted for their carrying out. They have no decent right to kick about their tax assessments. As far as really advancing the interests of their country or their immediate community, they might just as well be residing in a graveyard.

Saturday's caucus proved this: that about eight hundred people in Bloomfield Township are interested in Township government; that a great majority of them are supporters of Luther D. Allen, Supervisor; that nearly three thousand qualified electors in Bloomfield Township did not show any interest in Township affairs.

Were you one of the eight hundred or of the three thousand?

SHORT AND MAYBE SNAPPY

By S. L. S.

"Goes to sleep smoking, hotel guest is dead," says a headline in a Detroit paper. The report that when he woke up he was smoking has not been verified.

Some people would starve if they had to mind their own business—lawyers for instance.

A Detroit couple who wanted to keep their marriage secret, were married at a city police station at midnight. It is thought they were registered on the police blotter, each charged with petty larceny.

According to a newspaper report, Eugene V. Debs called John D. Rockefeller an abject pauper. If that means he's got all the money he wants, a lot of us would like to be "an abject pauper."

Too many cooks may spoil the broth, but one can do it just as easily.

Let's hope they keep their promise—"If I am elected I will give a thorough business-like, etc., etc.".

"Can Henry Ford play golf well enough to be president," asks the Pontiac Press. We might mention that he owns an alleged newspaper.

The worm may turn, but as yet we haven't heard of any pedestrian breaking an automobile wheel.

Some young men give up smoking of their own accord, others get a girl.

It is said men in the British navy must enlist for a period of 12 years. Almost as bad as getting married.

Be careful where you lay your overshoes—you will probably need them again.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS

Forty-Four Years Ago

Married at the residence of the bride's uncle, at Farmington, on Tuesday last, Mr. Fred D. Smith of this place, to Miss Minnie Lapham of Farmington, Elder Sowles officiating. We wish the happy couple all the happiness possible for them to enjoy.

Public examination all this week, closes today. Too much credit cannot be given to Prof. A. M. Webster and his efficient helpers for their success in keeping our school up to its present high grade. W. Ed. Bodine graduates this day and delivers his address this evening. Ed is the first graduate from this school who has completde a four-year course.

Franklin Patrick met with a very serious accident on Monday last while returning from Toledo. He got off the train at the Grand Trunk Junction and fell, breaking his leg above the knee. He was brought to Edwin Baldwin's and Dr. Raynale set the fracture. Mr. Patrick is a brother of Mrs. Baldwin and, of course, will receive the best of care from willing hands.

Joe Phillips is visiting his brother in Genesee county. Elmer will engineer the draying business to the satisfaction of all.

Miss Sarah Brooks closed her third term of school in District No. 2 on Friday, March 12th. The afternoon passed of pleasantly with dialogues, declamations, etc. After the exercises were over, the scholars presented their teacher with a handsome photograph album.

From the large quantity of corn and oats Mr. Erity is turning into feed, we should say that his feed mill is a success.

Arthur Groves has rented Mrs. S. Parks' place for one year.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

An effort is being made to have Village Improvement Societies in every Village and small town in Oakland county with the idea of improving not the villages alone, but of reaching out into the country as well. If that can be done, and it can be if we can secure the help of a few energetic women in each town, and if the highway commissioners and pathmasters of each town will give their assistance, Old Oakland may be made the most beautiful county in the state.

While services were being conducted at the Franklin church a few evenings since, some fiend in human garb took the opportunity to show his vile nature and cut thirteen harness on horses hitched at the rear of the church. A reward of $25 is offered for the party.

W. F. Zimmerman has the vested choir of St. James' church in charge for the Easter music.

Fred Shadbolt of Grand Rapids, is visiting in town. He was called here by the illness of his father, A. D. Shadbolt.

Village election was tame. Thirty-four votes only were cast; four thrown out as no good, no marks thereon. Harvey C. Wilson ran one behind his ticket and James Frost received one vote against Bert Campbell for Clerk.

The M. E. Sunday school are jubilant over the success of their sugar social, Tuesday evening. As a result of their efforts they cleared $14.00.

PRESS PICKINGS

According to reports in the Oxford Leader, some residents of that village do not favor free mail delivery service. The Leader says: "Some cannot think of giving up the idea of going to the post office after their mail, meeting their neighbors and passing the time of day. This will not interfere (meaning mail delivery service) with any of these privileges and if you feel that you need the exercise and can't get out of the habit of making the postoffice your hangout place you are at liberty to do so."

Bible study has been taken up in connection with the high school work in Clarkston.

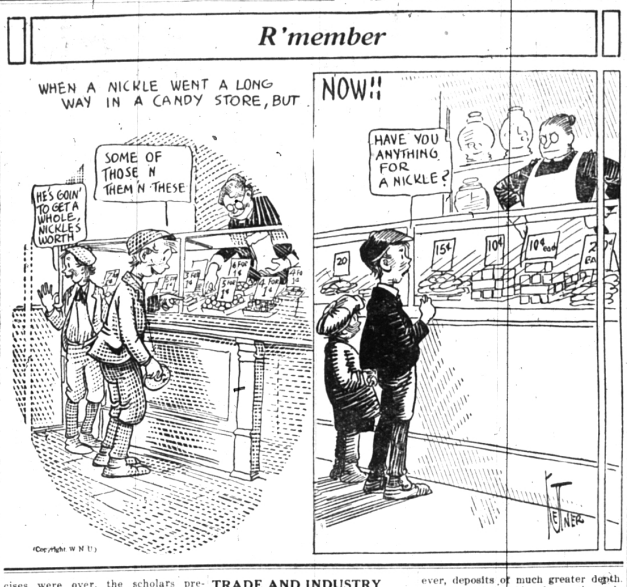
Plans have been completed for a community banquet to be held this evening at the Holly high school auditorium. Captain Gorby of Waukegan, Ill., will be the principal speaker.

A Detroit ice company have completed their work of cutting and storing ice at Long Lake, Orion, according to reports. It is said 20,000 tons have been stored in the company's eight ice houses.

The 1,800-pound bronze name plate from the battleship Michigan, which went out of commission a few months ago, is not going to decorate the city of Lapeer after all, despite the efforts of Rep. Louis C. Cramton in having two bills passed by Congress to that end. The bronze plate is missing, and county authorities have about come to the conclusion that it has been melted up by junk dealers. When the war broke out and heavier armor plate was placed on the battleship Michigan, the bronze name plate was removed, and Rep. Cramton immediately began using his influence in Congress to have the plate awarded to his home. It disappeared from a garage where it was temporarily stored.

Tuesday evening, Mr. and Mrs. George Patterson and Carleton Patterson of West Maple avenue, entertain at dinner and cards. Their guests were the Misses Lucy Saunders of West Virginia, Marion Patterson of Pontiac, and Raymond Smith of Detroit.

Margaret Strouse, who underwent an operation on her hip at the Children's Hospital, Detroit, several weeks ago, recovered sufficiently that she was able to return to her home Sunday. Miss Strouse, who is now convalescing, is at her home on South Woodward avenue.



TRADE AND INDUSTRY ARE MOVING FORWARD

Commodity Prices Continue On Upward Trend; Farmer Now In Buying Frame Of Mind

Courtesy First State Bank

Country-wide reports indicate a quickening in the pace of general improvement. Bank clearings, postal receipts, loan expansion and record January car loadings all reflect the strength of the forward movement in trade and industry. Steel continues to work higher, and a distinct tendency is apparent to set up two scales of prices, one for immediate delivery and one for routine delivery. Copper touched the highest figure since 1920. Sterling exchange advanced to a new high figure since March, 1919. The month of January saw a record automobile output, gain in employment and increased cotton consumption.

The advance in the stock market suggests a wider public participation and recalls to mind the speculative excesses of 1919. To the experienced observer, however, there is in evidence too much good news and too great a blare of trumpets to accept implicitly the thought that the market is immediately destined to make notable advances. The function of the stock market is to anticipate prices, and the market of today is not made by the business and financial conditions of this week or next month, but rather by the situation six to twelve months ahead, or perhaps still farther in the future. While the forecast for conditions during the latter half of 1923 may justify higher stock prices, the advanced stage of busines expansion suggests that the utmost discrimination be used when purchasing securities.

The upward trend in commodity prices continues, and is healthful just so long as speculative purchases and buying for remote needs do not create an unsound market position by centering advances in only a few commodities. Such a tendency is already exhibited in the inclination to talk shortages for cotton, sugar, wool, leather, steel and lead. Foresight will probably keep commodity prices well within reasonable bounds in order that advances may not run beyond the inclination and ability of the consumer to buy and at the same time may not lead inevitably to another era of labor troubles, on account of the higher cost of living.

Potential buying power is good, and the outlook favors an aggressive drive for Spring business. Labor is more fully employed and business profits are on the increase. The farmer is now in the buying frame of mind and will be a good, though not a careless buyer this Spring. It is reported that the leading harvester interest shipped between 200 and 300 more carloads of farm machinery in January than in the corresponding month of last year.

PEAT VS. COAL

The Raw Material Lies at Our Door For Making Fuel and Fertilizer. Shall We Use It?

A Fuel Committee of three members appointed by the Canadian Government in 1915 to investigate the possibilities of utilizing their peat deposits for making FUEL from PEAT in competition with coal, made their report in December, last, after seven years of thorough investigation an experimental work in the manufacture and burning this fuel for domestic use. The Committee's report shows a high grade fuel can be produced, not to exceed $3.50 per ton, operating 100 days of 20 hours each in the dry season, producing 20,000 tons. They state a good market has been developed at $10.00 per ton with demand increasing.

Peat is divided into four classes: Turfy, Fibrous, Earthy, and Pitchy peat, the latter being very dense black, thoroughly decomposed, hard to break, when dry, weighs 45 to 65 lbs. per cubic foot. This makes the best fuel, gives out a hot, blue flame, no popping or crackling, smokeless after the first ignition, absolutely sootless, clean to handle, no slag or clinkers, in fact, free from waste, excepting small percentage of fine ash (5% to 12%) which makes a splendid fertilizer for lawn, garden and shrubbery, superior to wood ash as it contains more body and fertilizing properties. It will burn in any stove, grate, furnace or boiler—will not injure the grates or firepot—burns entirely up—requires little, if any, draft after fire is going. Pitchy peat contains carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen. The latter with the humas, gives the peat its fertilizer value.

Michigan peat deposits are similar to the deposits of Minnesota and Wisconsin. The deposits run from 2 feet to 20 feet in depth. There are, however, deposits of much greater depth. The following table shows the substances, percentages and weights produced from one ton of dried peat:

Substances	Percentages	Lbs.
Charcoal	33.34	700.8
Tar Water	40.00	800.
Light Petroleum	1.76	35.2
Heavy Petroleum	2.56	51.2
Lubricating Oil	1.77	35.4
Parafin Wax	.30	6.
Asphalt	1.56	31.2
Creosote	1.08	21.6
Gas and Loss	15.63	312.6

NOTE:—Peat (Pitchy) contains from 7,000 to 9,000 cubic feet of excellent quality gas for generating heat and power. The Gas Producer & Engineering Corporation equipment for gasifying peat, claim they can produce peat gas for 50 cents per 1,000 cubic feet.

The question is often asked the writer as to the heat efficiency of peat compared with coal. The answer is this: Dollar for dollar, peat fuel will give the consumer more value than coal (soft) as shown by the following:

Coal (Pochahontas	
Ton	2,000 lbs.
Waste—minimum 20%	400 lbs.
Net amount	1,600 lbs.
Cost	$14.00
hauling out waste	1.00
Cost per ton	$15.00
Peat Fuel—	**$10.00**
Ton and half	3,000 lbs.
Waste—maximum 10%	300 lbs.
Net amount	2,700 lbs.
Cost	$15.00

The 1,600 pounds of coal figured on basis of 13,000 heat units per pound gives 20,800,000 heat units. Peat, 2,700 pounds, figured on basis of only 8,000 heat units per pound, gives 21,600,000 heat units, or 800,000 more heat units than coal.

Note—Pocahontas contains 11,000 to 14,000 heat units or average of 13,000. Peat contains from 7,000 to 9,000 or average 8,000 per ton. Peat fuel can be manufactured and delivered to the consumer at $10.00 per ton and make the manufacturer all the profit he is entitled to.

Europe consumes annually from 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 tons of fuel, Germany and Sweden use it in powdered form for generating steam. They also make paper, cloth, wood fabric, surgical dressing, stable and poultry litter, etc.

Mr. Ewer has been connected with the peat industry a number of years. He believes it one of the big coming industries and is interested in utilizing the peat in Oakland County and has interested Mr. Hawkes, a nationally known Mechanical Engineer, who has been connected with the peat industry for the past fifteen years. He recently returned from Florida where he erected a plant for making peat fertilizer filler. Mr. Hawkes has perfected a machine known as the Hawkes Peat Harvester, capable of cutting and curing from 50,000 to 60,000 tons of peat during a season at a cost of $2.00 per ton, ready to briquet for fuel, at an additional cost of $1.50 per ton, or total of $3.50 a ton. By building up a reserve pile during the dry season makes it possible for continuous operation, same as the New Jersey and Illinois plants are doing. Peat in a dried, ground state can be piled out doors as it is impervious to moisture, due to the chemical action going on in the peat.

The large consuming markets within trucking distance (Pontiac, Birmingham, Royal Oak, Detroit and the farming community) assures a market for all the fuel and fertilizer filler several plants could produce, in fact, the demand would always be in excess of the supply. Utilizing Oakland County peat would give employment to Oakland County Labor, and keep the money at home, an item well worth considering.

Note—An acre of peat bog one foot in depth contains 2000 tons of peat on a dry basis; 10 feet deep, produce 2,000 tons per acre.

Anyone having a peat bog of fifty or more acres, or interested in having a peat industry in Oakland County, address M. G. Ewer, Maywood Road, Birmingham, Mich.

The Ladies' Bible Class of the Methodist church had a social meeting at the church parlors Tuesday afternoon.

HORSE BEING DISPLACED ON FARMS BY TRACTOR IN U. S.

That the horse is being displaced by the automobile and farm tractor is further evidenced by the annual statement of the Department of Agriculture as to the number of animals on farms in the United States on Jan. 1, 1923.

Horses again show a fall both in numbers and aggregate value when the figures of this year are compared with those of January 1, 1922. The number of horses on farms Jan. 1, 1923, shows a fall of 203,000 as compared with one year earlier, while cows show an increase of 347,000. The value of horses on farms falls off $29,000,000 while that of other farm animals increased considerably during 1922. These figures show that the horse is slowly yielding to the activities of the automobile and tractor on the farm while other animals are increasing in numbers and value.

We Do Good Printing.

"This evening," said Daddy, "I am going to tell you about some of the birds we see in the winter and of their ways.

"In the first place, of course, there are the Evening Grosbeaks. Mr. Grosbeak wears a fine suit of golden brown with touches of white and golden and black.

"Mrs. Grosbeak wears much the same kind of a costume, but her colors are a little paler.

"They whistle and shout and chatter and travel about looking for food.

"Then there are the Pine Grosbeaks. Mr. Pine Grosbeak wears a gorgeous rose-red suit, while Mrs. Pine Grosbeak dresses simply in a gray and yellow frock.

"They dearly love seeds and they come around every winter, looking for seeds in the pine woods. This has given them the name of Pine Grosbeaks.

"They're brave and they're cheery and they warble and call and sing ever so prettily.

"They love to be fed and will become very tame. They are particularly fond of the seeds of fruits such as sumach and of grain.

"The Pine Grosbeaks are more usual than the others, but they both have ways that are much alike.

"You can't mistake Mr. Pine Grosbeak by his gay suit which isn't at all like a dull winter garment such as some of the creatures wear.

"Then there are the Blue Jays who come around, too. They are rather naughty birds, and chase squirrels and bully younger birds, but they are not even afraid of the eagle, and of course the eagle is a much bigger bird.

"They love acorns and nuts and will put some away for a hard time, for they believe in saving for a rainy day.

"Not that the Blue Jays mind rainy days. They don't mind any kind of weather.

"They never grumble about the weather. But you know there is an expression about laying something aside for a rainy day.

"It means that one is saving something for the time when good things will be scarce. Blue Jays do it. Those who put some of their money in savings banks do it, too.

"Then there are the nice Snowflake birds. They can easily be told by the amount of white feathers they wear.

"They come along, too, with the snowflakes and eat seeds which they say they always find have fallen from weed stalks in the late fall.

"They travel in large numbers. Their nests are of soft grass and moss—truly lovely nests, but they are only with us during the winter months.

"There are the Pine Finches, too, sometimes known as the Siskin family.

"They are very much like the Goldfinch family in their ways and in their song and in their call. And they look like the Goldfinch family, too, for in the winter time Mr. Goldfinch doesn't wear his bright gay suit which he wears when the summer is here.

"They love to eat seeds and buds.

"The Redpolls are something like the Goldfinches, too, in their ways, and the Redpolls are winter birds.

"They love to eat seeds which they, too, gather from old weeds.

"Mr. Redpoll wears a handsome rose-colored waistcoat and a beautiful greenish coat. Mrs. Redpoll doesn't have the rose-colored waistcoat part of the costume.

"And I'm telling you what the different winter birds like to eat. I think it is nice to have seeds and crumbs and suet about in the winter time. The suet can be put out of reach of cats and so fixed that the snow won't easily cover it up though, of course, the snow can be taken off when it has done that."

"Yes, Daddy, we'll take the hint," said Nick. "We're going to have food for the birds this winter and hope that many will come to visit us," added Nancy.

All Sorts of Corpses.

Donald had been reading a book which continued many war terms. He supposed the word "corps" was pronounced phonetically. He had made a number of paper airplanes, which he displayed proudly to his mother and said: "This is to be the flying corpse of the army. Then I'm going to have reserve corpses and land corpses besides. You know an army has to have all sorts of corpses!"

MICKIE SAYS—

Use Our Classified Ads.

THIS OFFICE is the place to have your printing done, no matter what kind it may be.

John Gratzinger of the Clover Ridge subdivision, has recovered from a short illness of the "flu."

Mrs. Chancey Nixon of Merrill street, is improving after a week's illness caused by an infection on her finger.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 19th day of February, A. D. 1923.

Present: Hon. Ross Stockwell, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Mary A. McDonald, Deceased.

Lillian Maude Seager, having filed a petition praying that an instrument filed in said Court be admitted to Probate as the last will and testament of said deceased, and that administration of said estate be granted to The First National Bank of Birmingham, Michigan, or to some other suitable person.

It is Ordered, That the 19th day of March, A. D. 1923, at eight A. M. at said Probate Office, is hereby appointed for hearing said petition;

It is Further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy hereof, for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric, a Newspaper printed and circulated in said County.

ROSS STOCKWELL,
Judge of Probate.

A true copy:
DAN A. McGAFFEY,
Register of Probate. 44-45-46

DETROIT UNITED LINES
BIRMINGHAM TIME TABLE
In Effect June 5, 1922
(Eastern Standard Time)

Southbound Limited—(except Sunday), 6:48 a.m.

Southbound Locals—4:50 a.m., 5:20 a.m., 5:31 a.m., 5:46 a.m.; 5:56 a.m., 6:16 a.m., 6:46 a.m., 7:06 a.m., 7:26 a.m., 7:46 a.m., and every 15 minutes to 6:01 p.m., and every 20 minutes to 10:41 p.m., 11:11 p.m., 11:31 p.m.

Pontiac to Birmingham only—11:20 p.m., 11:50 p.m., 12:10 a.m., 12:40 a.m. and 12:56 a.m.

Northbound Locals—6:39, a.m., 6:23 a.m., 6:50 a.m., 7:07 a.m. and every twenty minutes to 9:07 a.m., then every 15 minutes to 5:52 p.m., (6:05 p.m. Limited), 6:22 p.m., 6:37 p.m., 6:52 p.m., 7:07 p.m. and every 20 minutes to 12:29 a.m., also 12:49 a.m.

FLINT DIVISION

Change at Royal Oak for Rochester, Oxford, Flint, Romeo and Imlay City. Through limited cars for Flint, Saginaw, Bay City at 7:10 a.m. and every two hours to 9:10 p.m.

Send It To The Laundry

Everything back but the Dirt

OUR WAGONS ARE IN BIRMINGHAM
TUESDAY, THURSDAY and SATURDAY
The Pontiac Laundry Co.
The Soft Water Laundry
30-32-34 Patterson Street
PHONE PONTIAC 347 or 1200

Serviceable Friends

¶ Household furnishings and equipment may be divided into two groups of friends, ornamental and serviceable.

¶ It is difficult to find an electrical appliance that is not ornamental; it is impossible to find one that is not serviceable.

¶ Washing, ironing, cleaning, cooking, toasting—all intimate household tasks performed with speed, economy and thoroughness.

¶ We shall appreciate an opportunity to tell you more about the low cost of these household friends and the wonderful service they can render.

The Detroit Edison Co.

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COBB'S, "BILLY'S PALACE OF SWEETS," BAILEY'S, GRAY SWEET SHOP, TEMPLE GROCERY, AND UPPER'S
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