

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

(Founded in 1878 by Whitehead & Mitchell)
Published every Friday at Birmingham, Michigan, in The Eccentric Building,
126-128 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone 11 and 12.
GEORGE RODGERS AVERILL, Editor and Publisher
Entered as Second-Class matter in the U. S. Postoffice at Birmingham, Mich.
Subscription Rates: One Year \$1.50, Six Months \$1.00, Three Months .75
All newspaper and advertising copy must be in The Eccentric Office by Wednesday noon of each week.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1933

OPINIONS VARY AT THE POLLS

It is generally known that the lines which mark the thumbs of the millions of earth inhabitants differ from one another, so that no two are alike. How much like our thumbprints are our minds, and who can prophesy just what a collective group of mentalities will decide upon?

This is evidenced in the results of Monday's annual village election, when certain propositions were defeated at the polls. Exclusive of the bond issues, (one of which, however, did carry), it seems to us there should have been no great effort made to prevent the acceptance of the three Charter amendments.

One of them, that pertaining to the Library Board, did receive the approval of the voters; but the other two, which would not have been a burden on any improved pieces of property in Birmingham, were defeated. Who can tell just why?

What harm would be done, for instance, by making our present special obligation bonds into general obligation bonds? If this had been done, such bonds could be sold easier, and they would carry with them a smaller interest charge; this is a distinct saving to the taxpayers whose property is assessed for any localized improvement. Perhaps the voters will approve the proposition at another election.

The amendment to allow the amount to be levied against any piece of property to be raised from 25 to 50 per cent should have carried; although it did receive a favorable majority vote, it did not get the required two-thirds. If this amendment is passed it will not work a hardship or increase taxation against improved property, but it will take a little more money from the pockets of people who now hold vacant land for speculation.

However, the annual election is passed; members of the commission will try to do the best they can with what they have, and they hope that the citizens of our village will bear with them toward the making of a "bigger and better Birmingham." We are all a sort of big family; of course we shall differ in our opinions at times. But we ought never to deny this right to an opinion—rather should we respect every voice in our midst.

"BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN"

A few minutes ago we were sitting in our "sanctum" here at home, putting various bits of thought for this week's Eccentric. Our wife was in the next room, getting Billy and John ready for bed. Then came the time for them to gather about her knee and we heard their childish voices start off with:

"Now I lay me down to sleep,
We noiselessly crept into the room and watched their faces as they repeated, word for word, the prayer which taught them by their best earthly friend. Something inside of us responded to the glow in our sons' countenances. Although we are unable to pass it on to you, we think we understand a little better what Jesus said when He asked us to become as little children. We hope to understand more—and that is part of Billy's and John's mission in our life.

BIG THINGS ARE EXPECTED

In no uncertain terms the electors of Bloomfield Township placed their stamp of approval upon Robert Y. Moore for the office of Supervisor. Last Saturday's township primary, the second of its kind in Bloomfield township, brought out a total of 917 votes; of this number 680 were cast for Moore, while but 216 were for Fred Y. Quorton.

Mr. Moore was appointed to the office of township Supervisor on January 1 of this year, to fill out the unexpired term of Luther D. Allen. He had occupied the office of township Clerk previous to his appointment. The voters are evidently of the opinion that Mr. Moore should be given a chance to show his mettle for a complete term of office.

A good deal of business must necessarily be transacted in the offices of Bloomfield township during this and future years; never before in the history of this township have there been so many varied, public problems to settle. New subdivisions are being platted, bringing with them problems of taxation that are bound to bring out the best judgment of the Supervisor and the Board of Review.

Backed up with the knowledge that a great majority of the residents of Bloomfield township are behind him, Mr. Moore must certainly feel a sense of pride in his election victory. Big things are expected of him and his office—that he will succeed in the fond hope of every resident of Bloomfield township.

GROESBECK AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

"Politics in practice too often mean all for party, nothing for the people; all for poldy, nothing for principle; all for office, nothing for honor; all for power, nothing for progress."

Just a few months ago there was staged in Michigan a primary election to choose a Republican nominee for Governor. It so happened that we were on the victorious side, for our choice was Alex J. Groesbeck, present Chief Executive of the State of Michigan. When Mr. Groesbeck was swept into office by an overwhelming majority vote, the hopes, aspirations, and the faith of many thousands of Michigan citizens were pinned on his personality.

Has Mr. Groesbeck proved true to his trust? If you were to go about Michigan today you would find that Governor Groesbeck has lost many former warm supporters. You would find that he is, to speak politically, "on the toboggan." For Mr. Groesbeck has, since he

went into office this last time, done things which he had promised, by implication, not to do when he was running at the primary.

What is the actual worth of a man, anyway? Because a man is vested with the powers of a Governor does that elevate him above the rank and file of American life? Because a Governor may evade the intent of an automobile license law, and then crowd an extra tax on the people, does that prove him a supreme being?

Folks, we people in Michigan could do without paved roads; we could do without expensive state institutions; we could teach our children in log cabins; we could walk instead of ride in automobiles; we could do these and many other things, and still progress in life. Our Pilgrim fathers did this very thing.

But there is one thing that we cannot get along without, and that is an unbounding FAITH and TRUST in constitutional government—in the right of the many over the few. The United States and the State of Michigan CANNOT get along without a firm and steadfast faith and trust in its fundamental government.

It is our conviction that the greatest job any public office holder ever has is to PRESERVE, through his every act, this FAITH and TRUST in the minds of the American people.

Governor Groesbeck, it seems, deals solely in material things. He would talk in terms of concrete roads and increasing taxation. Through his Administrative Board he will evade the intent of a State law with as little compunction as he would order a sandwich. At a State Republican convention he would turn down his friends as easily as he would drive an automobile over a crawling caterpillar.

We believe that Governor Groesbeck has actually violated the tenets of the Republican party. When Abraham Lincoln was notified of his nomination to the Presidency on the Republican ticket, he got down on his knees and PRAYED for guidance. He actually leaned on a greater POWER than his own. And Lincoln, whose party Groesbeck represents, is "a man for the ages."

The Chief Executive of a State or nation is expected to exemplify the fundamentals of good government. If he allows his personal desires for political glory to blind his vision, and by so doing violates the simple FAITH and TRUST placed in him by the people, then he has misused his office.

We believe that Alex J. Groesbeck is not a great success as far as the development of FAITH and TRUST in the thought of the citizens of Michigan are concerned.

And the Republicans of this State, if they are to PRESERVE the ideals of representative government, had better look for another leader.

It is not our desire to make any attack, on the personal conduct of Alex J. Groesbeck. We do, however, deprecate his political department, and recommend that he soon step down into the ranks of ordinary citizenship for the good of his soul.

THE SUNNY DAYS

"The cold, and how the wind does blow,
And little drifting flakes of snow,
Are flying past my window pane!
But yesterday I watched the rain
Come teeming down, a perfect flood,
And everything was slush and mud!
And yet, the season's thins and wags
Bring many bright and sunny days."

I've scoured this little house of mine,
For friends are coming here to dine.
We'll pass the hours with merry jest,
And chat of what we each like best.
Not one of us will ever know
If there be rain or wind or snow
Outside; for love's fire burning bright,
Will cheer us with its warmth and light.

If I go pleasuring today
To drive all thought of care away,
Or other pleasant task I find,
What sort of day, I shall not mind.
For, after all, it is the heart
In life that plays the biggest part,
And happy smiles and loving ways
Will bring us bright and sunny days.

—Beatrice McDonald, R. F. D. 4, Birmingham.

SPRING LONGING

With heavy limbs and passive feet
I wind along this narrow street,
Its shabby houses black with rains;
Its dimmed and vacant window panes,
And bricked-in yards and flapping clothes
Smute with soot the chimney blows.

This but a death that lives,
This toil and dirt the city gives.
Here are faces strained and taut,
And yellow taxis rushing out
Into the moil and crush and fume,
As though it were the day of doom!
By God I'll take a neck and go
Where one may live, and one may know!
I'll find my feet that vagrant road
That's rutted with the creaking load.
Where beauty slips bare boughs between,
And shimmers in the gold and green;
And all but takes your breath away
In the still twilight of the day.
Where even the brown loam has sprung
To wonders greater than the sun;
And each chance twig and blade of grass
Is but the road that mysteries pass
Into your eyes.
—J. W. W., Ann Arbor, Mich.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS of Long Ago

Just Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up the Historical Background of the Birmingham of Today

43 Years Ago, who attended...
Now for local meeting...
Miss Libbie Neill, of Southfield, is at in the place, Sunday, March 12, by work painting a large picture of Col. the Rev. R. Barrett, Mr. Maurice S. Matthews, of Pontiac. Frank C. Lawson, to Miss Nellie Allen. May all their reunion be little ones.

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