BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1925.

THE COST OF LOCAL SCHOOLS

Despite the fact that many rumors were circulated previous to the school bond election last week to the effect that the price per cubic foot of the proposed Adams shool addition was too large, choick disking expressed themselves in favor of more educational facilities by approving the issue. And this shows that cresidents of this school district are desirous of providing means to ENLIGHTEN THE MENTALITIES of their boys and girls—

fomogrow's men and women.

Of course, there is a natural tendency on the part of of course, there is a natural tendency on the part of all progressive people to continue the building by schools in a country that boasts and backs up compulsory, education; realizing that any kind of a public or private xchool, with democratic standards, is a spendid thing for society, most folks will rally to the support of any school band election—many of them voting in good faith, albeit samewhat blinds. what blindly.

For some time various local people, claiming to

For some time various local people, claiming to know that the cost of building schools in this district's greater than in many hearby communities, have set forth arguments in opposition to the then proposed issues at stake. Their arguments have been mere conversation, perhaps containing scattered convictions obtained from random sources of information.

We do not claim to know whether or not the amount of money paid by this school district is more or less than it should be; that kind of knowledge requires specialized training. All we know is that we have elected a school board to look after these matters for us; if we were convinced that local schools are costing too much, we would go to the school board with our information—and we believe that the board would listen to our arguments with attention, as they would to any taxpayer's complaint.

It is to be hoped, in the future, that persons who are opposed to the amount of money asked by the school bland for any project first obtain actual figures for companion-these figures should then'be submitted to the board before the date of election is set, so that the board may have the

the date of election is set, so that the board may have the benefit of the information. If, after having done this, the board does not change its figures or ats architect, then persons opposed to the expenditure may be expected to work against its approval at election time.

wors against its approval at election time.

To criticise public officials relative to bond issues without giving them a chance to get an opposing viewpoint obviously is, to play unfair. There is, indeed, a deep gulf between constructive and destructive criticism.

SCIENTIFIC GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES LIBERTY

The Honorable Martin W. Littleton, in a recent address in New York City, took no middle ground in his arraignment of radicalism which seeks to undermine the stability our government and the freedom of the American people through political control and operation of industry and business. He pointed out that the name given to revolutionary leaders or doctrines is immaterial, and

to revolutionary leaders or doctrines is immaterial, and said in part:

"It doesn't make any difference, my friends, whoever these people were and are, whether they be Socialists, Communists, Opportunists or persons of expediency, the doctrine of revolution inheres in and clings to all civilization. It may be on one-occasion the Socialist preaching his doctrine of solidarity of human activity into a static society, it may be the Communist, wanting his ruthless dynasty of power to go unchecked, it may be the sanguinary Soviet, in his true name, compounded of these elements, if you please, who by profession is a Socialist, by practice a Communist, and by occupation a gun-man. "Scientific government was created as an agency to secure liberty for the man himself and the woman. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created and endowed by their creator with certain inalienable

ated and endowed by their creator with certain inalienable (gights, amongst which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the

consent of the governed.

"The only reason for the existence of a government is to furnish sufficient authority to preserve order and amount of liberty which falls short of license.

"Government, with its agencies and its minions, and its authorities treading or your heefs wherever you go, crossing your threshold, invading your home, reaching into the pursures of your children. The pursure of your children.

crossing your threshold, invading your home, reaching into the nurseries of your children—government. And what is this thing called government?

"Government is mine and yours to do with as in our judgment, and our intelligence we think it should do, always mindful of the individual. Any government that invades, the secret domain of individuals m is a government which does not belong to a period of American liberty. This government was erected to protect life, liberty and property and when it ceases to do that, it ceases to be a government of the civilization of this age and era and belongs to another age and another era."

THE WOMEN'S CONVENTION

Birmingham—just a few years ago a rather small rural community—is on the threshold of a new kind of venture! It is about to become the center of the stage for the National Woman's Party, which will hold a convention here June 4, 5, 6, and 7, 17 of the casual reader such a convention is held in the light of a sort of social affair; most falls thick the set of the social affair. folks think that nothing much will come of the chuvention that, will change social fundamentals. Let's hope, Ladies, that the casual reader will be disillusioned—even disappointed—for history records that many changes have been effected when one or more women get together in a cause for society's uplift. We hope that the business men of Birmingham will properly observe our first National Con-

GARDENING

I'm camping back of our garage Beyond the garden gate. I haven't time to stop for lunch, And dinner's often late. A plate of sandwiches at noon, Beneath our apple tree, A little jug of foamy milk Is quite enough for me.

My hands are rough and badly stained.
My hair is straight and wid.
But in my oldest knicker wit.
I'm happy as a child.
The market basket at my side
Is filled with precious seeds.
Oh, how I hope that they will grow,
And not those tiresome weeds!

I rake and hoe and hoe and rake.

Then craw upon my threes.

Then craw upon my threes.

To plant some cabbages and beans.

Some onions and some peas.

And then some moundswift i make.

And in each little hill

Some melons or some cucumbers.

I place with gardener's skill.

Oh. I can see my flower how.

My poppies, red and all
The tuips gay and asters bright
And hollyhocks so tall!
I'm sure of all the happy times
That to my heart are dear,
There's none that ever can compare
With gardening time of year.

—Beatrice McDonald.

CONSTITUTION STUDENTS

School students to the number of 1,00.00 have participated in oratory contests during the past year. The subject debated has been the constitution of the United States. It is a remarkable thing to have nearly a million and a half young folks working over this thmous document. The result must have some effect on our national ideas.

ideas.

In some quarters there is a tendency to speak lightly of the constitution, and to think there is danger/that we shall make a retish of it." as some say. Such persons seem to feel that in our admiration of this great instrument, we may go too far, as almost to worship it, and be in the constant of the production of the series of the constant univiting to modernixe it.

Our constitution accomplished some wonderful syns, so that it represents more human usfalfin than wa-ever before compacted atto any code of government Previously democratic government had always proved a failure. The United States Sovernment was the first suc-bussful attempt to establish democracy of any donsider-able scale, and its success was due to the exacted wisdom manifested by the men who created this donstitution.

The difficulties in the way of exablishing such a government seemed insuperable at that time. The interests of the several colonies and elements of people in them were so antagonistic, they were all so suspicious of their neighbors, that it did not seem possible for them to get together. It seems as if more than human guidance must have helped frame this wonderful government.

must have helped frame this wondering core new will while necessary changes will have to be made, a system that has accomplished such amozing results is to be viewed with the most profound prespect, and modified only as theoresult of mature thought. The young people only as the result of mature thought can't spend too much time studying it

THE CURE FOR LAWLESSNESS

Widespread alarm is caused by the spread of lawless

Widespread alarm is caused by the spread of awless(ness and prevalence of crime, and drastic action of various
kinds is called for. Penaltics for many offences should be
made more severe. Yet such wylongs are not cured wholly
by penaltics. When a boy or girl doos wrong things something is missing in the training for that youngster.

The schools ought to do more in the way of moral and
religious training, yet their lime is occupied by their
extended courses, and such standards of conduct can not
be wholly created by lectures and text book instruction.

The fundamental reason for the lawless spirit is to
be found in lax family government. The average American parentsloses control of children at an early age.

People will say that, it is not easy to deal with children in these times. It is hard to pursue a policy that
is contrary to the general usend of society. If one home
attempts to be stricter than the average the children of
that home offen become rebellious and thinks they are
singled out for specially severe treatment.

What is needed is a general movement on the part
of all good homes for a more earnest attempt to bring up
their children with firm principles of honor and morality.

People must wake up to the idea that the children are
running will and need a greater degree of re-train, that
they are escaping from the restraints of family discipline
altogether too early.

The people who are influential in the community
should set the example, by carefully abiding by the law
themselves, and by firmer discipline with children. If it
can become fashionable to obey the law and bring up
children with firm principles of good conduct, it will be easier
to establish these standards for everyone.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNSof Long Ago

Just Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The E Items That Make Up the Historical Backgroun the Birmingham Of Today

Forty-three Years Ago

Darius Hoxie attempted to bat's baseball with a cod flish one day last week and missed it.—but the ball thrown by the unerring arm o' Move-up-loe," the silver voiced male siren of Bates striet, didn't miss it,—it took him square in the eye.

Only four more week and then we will have cl

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Twenty-five (ea

Mrs. N. T. Shaw and little er, Helen, were guests at the f Dr. Holcomb, in Farmingto ore part of the week.

Dated at Royal Ossk, Mighigan, Mortragge March 4, 1925. GEORGE B. HARTRICK, Attorney for Mogregues, Business Attorney, 2014. New Royal Ossk Savings Bank Blok, Royal Ossk, Michigan,

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