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FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1926

ADAMS SCHOOL PLAYGROUND NEEDED

In formulating plans for any of the things in which mankind may be engaged it often follows that some part or parts of the plan may have to be discarded or improved upon as the expediency at the time may demand. Especially is this true when unanticipated demands are made upon the thing under consideration.

Take the case of Birmingham and vicinity. Our public officials lay out plans for future development and, in a few months or a few years, find that parts of such plans are inadequate to meet the demands made upon them. It is to be remembered, too, that Birmingham is having an unprecedented growth—almost unbelievable.

Now, all of this is preparatory to what we believe to be a necessary consideration on the part of local citizens for the provision of a decent playground and athletic field for the Adams grade school. When the site of the Adams school was purchased about six years ago, one city block of land was purchased by the voters; at that time few people believed that our village would grow so rapidly with the result that, now, the new addition to the Adams school covers the entire block.

It is true that last fall the voters bought a half block of land across the street, from the school house for a playground, but this has proved an unsatisfactory arrangement and is not large enough for the kind of athletic field that the Adams school ought to have.)

The Eccentric believes that property near the school, across Adams avenue, ought to be acquired for an athletic field and playground for the thousands of children that soon will require a place in which to play. We believe that the people would stand behind the school board in the purchase of such a site. It is worth trying this Summer.

"SMOOTH TALKING STRANGERS"

That Birmingham and vicinity is gaining the reputation for having a large purchasing pocketbook is manifested in the number of itinerant peddlers who infest the community each week. With the advent of Spring, this community may expect to see dozens of new faces in our midst, selling everything from needles to button-holes—with the possible exception, however, of lightning rods.

Last week a smooth talking male person made the rounds of the business district, bent on "unloading" about \$57.00 worth of "magic ironing papers." He succeeded in extracting the money from a local business woman; his talk was so smooth that the woman believed the stranger completely.

Every day "smooth talking" individuals go about Birmingham's business places and homes, each seeking to sell something to the business man or woman, or to the housewife. These solicitors are, in nearly every case, entire strangers.

The only solution for this problem is to do business with a concern directly, or with its authorized representatives; then you will have redress in case the thing you receive is not as it is represented.

If a peddler comes to your door, Mrs. Housewife, the first thing you should do is to demand his village license; if he has no license then you ought to telephone the local police department. The number is Birmingham 1000.

WHY AMERICA EXCELS

Americans are often criticised for their love of pleasure and lack of thrift with time and money. It is often charged that we spend too much time in the theater, the dance hall, the motor car, the stadium and other resorts of pastime. The pleasure-loving Frenchmen believe we are coming around to their way of taking life. The sober-sides at home remember the decline and fall of the Roman empire, but most of us know that none of them sees us a right.

The word "pastime" was derived from the phrase "pass the time." A usual definition of the contraction is some expedient to keep time from lagging. This is not, however, the definition which can be applied to the pastimes of the mass of Americans.

It is never more obvious than in the Spring that Americans love sports and pleasures for something more than a desire to play and to be spendthrift with time. That something is the recognition of the need of a stock of fresh air, recreation and exercise to restore us to perfect health after the rigors of winter and to prepare our bodies and minds for the tasks of the next winter. The average American plays not for surcease from work, but for strength for work. There are no peoples on the globe who work as industriously and vigorously as Americans and there are none requiring as much recreation.

The two weeks' vacation is a national trait and also tells the story of a nation which works 50 weeks out of the year and plays two. During the 50 weeks of labor the more mature play golf for exercise, not pleasure; the middle-aged motor, swim, ride and hunt, not for pleasure alone, but, to store up new energy for more work; the young swim, play tennis, hike, dance and motor, perhaps with pleasure as the lone objective, but nevertheless assimilating the sturdiness and health of the out-of-doors. That the American is as systematic and regular in his recreation as he is in his work explains in great part his seeming inexhaustible capacity for work.

Americans do not place pleasure before business, but to the contrary make business of their pleasure.

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The difference between a pull and a drag is that one is the way a politician sometimes goes into office and the other a manner in which he is sometimes removed.

THE SUNSET

The sun is setting in the west.
Its beauty fills the waning day,
Lights up the traveler's homeward way
And brings a full of silent rest.
Ere night and darkness find their quest.

It sets the evening sky ablaze.
The floating clouds are framed in gold,
The trees and hills. What artist bold
Could paint its last departing rays?
That leave the earth in shrouded haze?

The quiet peace of eventide
Will soon close in, while silver stars
Replace its gold and crimson bars.
Then over the earth shall rest abide,
And weariness be cast aside.

A swiftly fleeting day is done,
And I can never more recall
Its deeds. God knows and judges all,
The motive sees behind each one.
God rules beyond the setting sun.

—Beatrice McDonald.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS—
of Long Ago

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

43 YEARS AGO

Truman Patch is home from New York.

Sam Heribson is putting up a new barn for himself.

Arthur Blakeslee is clerking for H. Irving & Son.

We are indebted to Alex Parkes for many facts received.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ford returned from their southern trip last week with Miss Ford's health greatly improved. Miss Alita's cheeks are red as roses, and Frank is as spry as a badger.

A heavy gale came from all over Michigan over the death of fruit buds by the heavy frosts of May 1st and 2nd.

The ex-Empress Eugenie, who has been staying at Lyons on her way back from herself, was honored at her hotel for the railway company.

Over 10,000 immigrants arrived at the port in New York in April, 40 per cent of them Germans. The rest were Scandinavians, Hollanders, and Irish.

The German immigrants have come from 600,000 each year.

George H. Mitchell is away this week at New York City where he is a witness for the United States in a suit of which he was a coparticipant when he postponed his trial.

After attending to the legal business he expects to view the different points of interest in Gotham and his summer home in Connecticut.

Stephen Baldwin of Detroit was the guest of his brother, John, and his wife one day last week.

Miss Annie Adams returned home Monday from an extended visit with her aunt, Mrs. Foss, of Crete, Neb.

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