

## BOOKS ARRIVE FOR SCHOOLS

Twenty-two Thousand Free Texts Being Arranged Here

Twenty-two thousand new text books are being catalogued in the Baldwin High School today, preparatory to the institution of the free text book system throughout Birmingham schools when the fall semester begins, Sept. 6. The books are for all 12 grades and for all subjects, including special reference books for English classes. They are being numbered and a list of rules for their care is being pasted in each one by Mrs. Nellie Williams, who will be in charge of them at Baldwin High School, and Mrs. W. R. Haldane. The rules for their care forbid marking them and defacing them. They also require the student to pay for any deliberate damage he does to them and for any lost book.

Baldwin text books will be received by the students directly from the text book office, which is a part of the regular business of the city. The other schools will be supplied through the principals. Books for the individual schools will be in their respective schools by Sept. 1, according to Clarence Vliet, superintendent. Books for each school are marked with a special number, so that they may be the more easily identified. Special paper covers will be supplied with each book, and students will be requested to put them on. When a book is turned in, the paper cover will be thrown away, and another one given out when the book is borrowed again. This makes for cleanliness as well as for the protection of the books, Mrs. Williams said.

The free text book question passed at the July school elections, the first time it had ever reached the ballot. The system followed here will be as much as possible like that in Highland Park, where free text books have been used in the grades for several years.

## SAFER CROSSING IS CONSIDERED

The village commission and the village planning board today have under consideration the advisability of cutting the south side of Maple avenue at Southfield, where the park now stands, to make the corner safer. This crossing is said to be the most dangerous in Birmingham and while no definite action is suggested, the matter will be discussed at commission meetings from time to time with the hope of finding a solution.

## BUILDING CODE UP FOR CONSIDERATION

Village Attorney Frank Doty has under consideration today the right of a property owner to build two houses on lots less than 40 feet wide, following the confusion meeting Monday night when the question was brought up. According to a report of Manager James W. Parry, the building code is not inclusive enough in this particular.

## NEED FOR INFORMATION BUREAU SEEN AS STRANGERS ASK ANOTHER

Information is the quest of the Country.

At least it would appear so from the reports from three points in Birmingham, where questions of information are popped by hundreds of visitors every day.

## Curwood Death

Recalls Author's Early Struggles

(Continued From Page 1)

Anneley Burrows, the editor, asked me if I knew of a capable young man to assist him in his editorial work. I told him I did and immediately broached the matter to Curwood. I told him that the salary was small but that the new position would give him an excellent chance to get his hand in. He called on Burrows and got the job. I believe that it was here that the old Shelly street office of the Detroit News—that he learned the art of rapid composition and the typewriter and that to Burrows rightfully belongs at least part of the credit of Curwood's training as a writer.

Referring to Constance Woolson as the only American writer who had chosen the great lakes as a sphere for her literary activity, I suggested this rather extensive territory as a subject for some of his stories and had the gratification to see some of his adventurous tales of the inland sea appear in the Saturday Evening Post and other periodicals.

## His Studio

Shortly after he jubilantly told me that he had made an arrangement with the Canadian government, in the form of a subsidy, and that henceforth he was going to devote, all of his time to fiction. The next thing I heard of him was that he was back in Owosso and wrote that he had decided to return to Detroit. He wanted me to look up some place for him to live but I urged him strongly to remain where he was, pointing out that he would find greater quiet there and less distraction to interfere with his writing. As time went on, he gradually realized that this was good advice.

And indeed, after seeing his studio, Tuesday, on the placid Shawassee river, where the trees that line its banks are reflected in the water and his writing room in one of the towers that afforded a view of the house in which he was born, I feel that there must have been both happy and content. Miss Cora Curwood, his sister, showed me through the author's birthplace on John street, an humble cottage, at the side of the studio, where his parents lived before him. Saying "and over again, 'O, I miss my brother so,'" she showed me the small bedroom upstairs where he wrote his early novels and then gave me an opportunity to inspect the writing room on the main floor with the elimination oak desk at which he wrote some of his later works. And what a room! Nearly 30 years ago I recall that I saw it and it was a journey into Canada and to Europe and his activities as a conservation commissioner. His industry was certainly prodigious.

Curwood's studio is the last word in luxuriousness. It is a two-story stucco and cobblestone castle-like structure with two towers in front and one at the back. The secretary's room in the basement also contained the library which consisted of all the American, British and Canadian editions of the author's works and their translations into the languages of the civilized world. At the end of the large room, with the exposed beams, upstairs, was a beautiful marble fireplace with a moonhead above it and two large paintings on either side and before it lay a large bearskin, one of his hunting trophies. The studio was erected in 1923. It is too early, much too early, to determine the particular niche that Curwood will occupy in our literature. But it is significant that William McFee, that sophisticated writer of the sea, not long ago referred to Curwood in the pages of "The Atlantic," as an outdoor specialist.

## Faded From View

In later years our paths diverged to such an extent that I did not see Curwood again until Tuesday when I visited his new home, a colonial brick, at the corner of Williams and Shawassee streets in Owosso. The body in the parlor lay in a beautiful coffin, literally embowered in flowers, which showed that he had many friends. The eyes that I had seen blaze in anger and flash with mirth were closed forever, the lips silent, and the clean-cut features stern though somewhat softened by the dignity of death.

The Rev. Dr. J. T. Jones, who conducted the services, spoke of the deceased as a distinguished author and brilliant citizen of Owosso who had three hobbies, writing, conservation, and social and civic betterment. He explained that the Masons were in charge of the funeral because Mr. Curwood had only taken the first two degrees but expected to take the third shortly. Moreover that he had made a generous contribution to the new Owosso Masonic Temple and added that the local Masonic lodge was represented.

As I came away, before the cortege started for the cemetery, I noted crowds of Owossoans in front of the house and in the adjoining streets, silently waiting to pay their last respects.

Shortly before his death, Mr. Curwood announced that he had written his autobiography and a second historical novel, which would appear in 1928.

Two articles on fish and game conservation written by Mr. Curwood on a subject close to his heart, have appeared in recent issues of The Eccentric. He was preparing a series of six articles on the subject when death intervened.

## AGED RESIDENT TAKEN BY DEATH

Samuel Henning, 67, Succumbs In Hospital to Second Stroke. Born in Ohio

Samuel Henning, 67 years old, who, for the past 11 years, had been a resident of Birmingham, died in St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, Saturday afternoon, as the result of a paralytic stroke suffered in June. Mr. Henning made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gillespie at 227 north Bates street, and was employed by the Miller Plumbing and Heating company.

Mr. Henning originally came from Ohio. During the first part of his sojourn in Birmingham, he made his home with Mrs. Gillespie's mother, Mrs. Ada Mason, who kept a rooming house on north Woodward avenue. In May, 1926, he suffered his first stroke of paralysis, and since that time had been unable to work. He was taken to the hospital immediately after his second stroke, in June of this year, where he remained until his death, eight weeks later.

Burial was in Bowling Green, O., where his brother, Charles Henning lives. He also leaves another brother, Joseph Henning, in White Cloud. Mr. Henning was unmarried.

## MERCHANT OBTAINS NEW LINE OF GOODS

A new line of French Pastry is announced by the Hammel confectionery store on Woodward avenue. The pastry is baked by the pastry cook of the former Ponchartraine Hotel in Detroit and it comes from the Stevens Pastry shop at Pontiac.

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## TAX INCREASE PROTEST MADE

(Continued From Page 1)  
The Oakland County board of supervisors.

Wayne County representatives also offered strong opposition to the proposed increase. Several out-state counties expressed satisfaction at Linton's figures.

## STOP LIGHTS ARE ORDERED

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Maple and Woodward streets but are to have separate controls.

All will be suspended overhead and the timing will be in unison. It is planned to give north and south bound traffic 60 seconds between red lights and 40 seconds west bound traffic 40 seconds. This rate is used at Maple and Woodward avenues today.

The lights are expected to be in operation within three weeks. Contracts have been awarded to the Leonard Electric company.

## MAN SEEKS DIVORCE ON CRUELTY GROUNDS

Alleging that she was cruel to him and that she left him with all the household furniture with her, Harvey Welfare, 143 Smith avenue, has filed a complaint for divorce from his wife, Helen, in Circuit Court. They were married Sept. 22, 1920, in Almont. There are no children.

52 Issues of The Eccentric \$1.50



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