

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC (Founded in 1878) Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 126-128 North Woodward Avenue. GEORGE KOCKER AVARILL Editor and Publisher

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LET US HAVE FACTS

Certain interests in Birmingham, perhaps moved by some sort of a civic desire to help local matters, have repeatedly made statements that if Birmingham should become a city it would lose a vast proportion of township valuation, resulting in an overwhelmingly high burden of taxes upon Birmingham property under a city form of government. It is about time that these assertions furnished some real figures upon which to base their arguments, else their propaganda can make very little impression upon local voters.

In the consideration of the change of Birmingham's government from village to city, The Eccentric is not "grinding an axe" for anybody; it has enlisted its support on this subject solely because, after investigation, the change appears to favor very greatly the local citizen's pocketbook.

When the coming winter tax is collected, approximately \$64,000.00 will have been collected from property owners WITHIN BIRMINGHAM that would not have been collected, if Birmingham were a village; this information has been obtained from the office of Supervisor Moore by Village President H. T. Ellerby, and to date NOBODY has disputed the accuracy of this statement. Every dollar of this \$64,000.00, according to Supervisor Moore, it spends on OUTSIDE OF Birmingham in Bloomfield Township, and a good deal more will be collected next year, if Birmingham is still a village.

The Eccentric is eager to learn where the change from Village to City form of government will cost local taxpayers more than the present Village form; it will publish a statement by any citizen, authenticated by signature and facts, that shows why we will be better off, financially, as a Village than as a City.

We believe that the Birmingham of today (regrettable as it may be that our smaller and quieter Village has vanished into the past) has approached a period in its municipal history when the City form of government is better and more economical for us needs; as a result of this belief we have dedicated our columns to a presentation of the arguments for and against the change. The actual decision is in the hands of the voters. We believe, too, that they are guided more by a statement of facts than they are by unauthenticated street corner propaganda.

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

Birmingham prides itself upon its ability to accomplish worthwhile things, and, properly so, it is composed of fine people, with fine ideals; it is sprinkled with beautiful homes, and it is filled with bright, happy children. Birmingham justifies its pride in getting for everything it has, and holds most precious the lives of its people—men, women and children, especially children. Birmingham, we know, is more intensely interested in its children than anything within its confines; its children look to us, the grown-ups, to safeguard and plan its future. In many respects we have kept faith with our children; in other we have been very lax. One of our laxities consists too tolerant an attitude toward the speed with which many automobiles drive over our streets.

Birmingham, you may have noticed, has placed signs at its boundary lines, setting forth to the world that "20 miles per hour" is the speed limit. Of course, this warning (as in most other communities) has come to be recognized as a modern fairy tale, with the result that scarcely any motorist complies with its mandate. This has resulted in a very natural acceleration of speed on the part of the average motorist, until most any street in Birmingham today offers daily evidence of a motor car's ability to run from nothing to fifty or even sixty miles per hour.

We hold no brief for the person who argues for perpetual low speed; for automobiles; we agree, that under proper conditions, an automobile may be driven rapidly and with safety. But we also feel that, under certain conditions, low speed rate is not only possible, but it is NECESSARY! And this latter condition, we hold, exists in the residence section of a community—especially a community of homes and children such as we have in Birmingham.

It is not at all the time that our local police department recommended a proper speed regulation for most of Birmingham's streets; isn't it time that a low speed rate ordinance be enacted and enforced upon the streets where children may be found? Aren't isn't it time that such streets be placarded with enough signs to arrest the uninterrupted attention of motorists who, we honestly believe, will do anything (even to slowing a motor car in order to avoid a fine) to avoid the most precious asset, namely: it's children.

As a starter, we suggest a 15-mile speed limit on every residence street in Birmingham. What is your suggestion, Chief Anderson?

Benjamin Purnell, self-styled King of the House of David at Benton Harbor, has at last been ousted from his colony. It required many years for society to "find out" King Ben. Divine Providence knew all the time, and would not be deflected.

Governor Fred W. Green is a staunch supporter of women in politics. He believes that they are to the credit of citizenship more than most men. In this we believe he is right; most of the decency that creeps into the affairs of mankind gets there because of women.

There has been, within the past decade or two, a marked tendency for the Federal Government to enter into or absorb business that should be conducted on private initiative. Unless this is stopped, the Government of the United States will become owned by the government (which means that it will actually be nobody's business) and then we will lose our form of government—which means industrial and social chaos.

The Other Chap Says Something

GET THE CASH

Three lines of business are not only successful and profitable, but the manufacture of automobiles, mail order houses and chain stores. There are probably a dozen reasons for their success but the single fact that they do business on a cash basis would account for it. Every one in business will tell you that the credit business is the curse of his life yet he keeps right on doing it. It recently came to the attention of the Independent that a local merchant who has been in business but a short time already has five hundred dollars more on his books than his entire inventory of stock and fixtures. Of course it is easy to say that even if these accounts were collectible, (which we'll warrant a large part of them are not) that man is not in the mercantile business but in the trust business. He is only one step removed from a plain thief and that is in the wrong direction as you can take precautions against the thief which will not apply against the deadbeat. Mr. Merchant keep your goods or get the money. The man who owes you at least once a month and pay in full probably never will. You will lose your goods, lose the goodwill of the customer and encourage him to play his same dishonest trick upon your neighbor. He has beaten you out of all he can. Clip this out and hang it on your wall. If it does not frighten him, it will tell you where your money has gone.—Grand Lodge (Mich.) Independent.

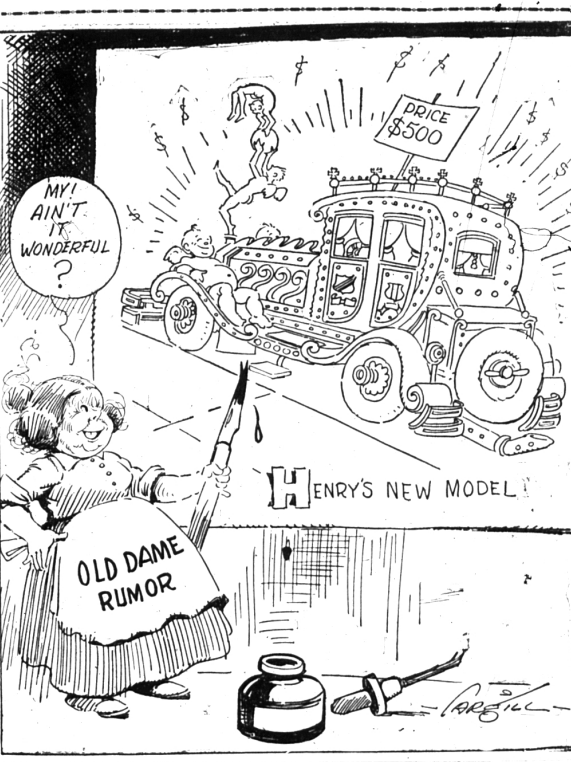
JOHN-BULLING

Chicago is getting into the funny papers through the coroner, Mayor, Big Bill Thompson. Thompson and his gang want to get control of the school system and patronage. To do that, they have to get Superintendent of Schools McAndrew, who refuses to give up his political tool. To get McAndrew they have set out to prove that he is using pro-British history books in the schools and to discover pro-British propaganda in the public library. Read Mr. Howland's account of their performance on another page of this issue, and laugh.

IT WAS OVERLAPPED

A Horton Banker who has a \$40 net at the price of one share is disgusted. He says Dempsey spent 2 minutes and 50 seconds of every round crouching and waiting for while Tunney spent the time shadow boxing and skipping. He said the men didn't really fight more than 10 seconds each round. Also he said the radio reporter MacNamee, put a hole through the battle than there really was, that at the time when MacNamee said Dempsey was blind from blood running down his face, there was but the merest trickle show-

WHEN RUMOR GETS THROUGH WITH IT



ing, while there was none at all on Tunney except a trace he collected from Dempsey's camp.

This Horton man said the preliminary boys were far more interesting than the big go for the reasons that the boys really fought. So that's that.—Iola Daily Register.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

The Detroit Automobile club posed as the champion of the people, and the mouthpiece for the articulate masses, in getting referendum signatures on the gas tax. One might surmise that the down-trodden car owners rushed to affix their names. But it wasn't that way. The Detroit Motor News naively gives us the truth in boasting how it finally managed to complete what it calls a "tremendous job" which "has kept a very large staff at the club busy for a period of several months."

That is about what we thought and said at the time. It was indeed a "tremendous job" and the club got the 70,000 names by the skin of its teeth. They sent up an army of canvassers, working at first time during last month set a high record for activity at a given time. Miss Stoddard said she has taken care of it. The police first aid department is open to the child by a fall down and wets as well as to the person whose arm is broken in an automobile smash-up.

WHEN CORN IS KING

It is only a few weeks since Kansas reported the corn crop growing so fast that farmers could not get it all away from the fields. Now from Iowa, through a professor from the Iowa State College, comes an enthusiastic statement about the success of experimental work in utilizing cornstalks for all manner of by-products. The city dweller, whose knowledge of corn is that it is the king of vegetables, is surprised to learn that it has any other uses. Prior to prohibition, to be sure, he had heard of a drink usually spoken of as "corn" which was said to be delectably potent. In the days when laborers were paid \$1.25 for eight hours of work he was also familiar with the so-called cornob pipe. Today, according to Professor Sweeney of the Iowa State College, cornstalks are being used for everything from lumber to embalming fluid. He estimates the value of the 90 per cent or more of the nation's cornstalks which now go to waste at about one billion dollars. If this can be reclaimed on a paying basis, it will be an immense gain for the farmers and for the nation at large.—New York Times.

POLICE STATION'S HOSPITAL UNIT GROWS DURING FIRST YEAR

A miniature first aid hospital has grown up in Birmingham during the past year, almost without anyone's realizing it. Today expert first aid service is available to the residents of the village, and within the past month ambulance service has been added. A little more than a year ago, no such facilities existed.

It was just a year ago that the police department started its first aid station, engaging Miss Carrie Stoddard as nurse. One room of the police station was equipped with a chair-bed stretcher, sheets and pillows and general first aid equipment, and here Miss Stoddard was installed.

Since that time, hundreds of cures all the way from fractured skulls to cat scratches have been treated there. Practically every doctor in the village has been called into the little hospital to render service, at one time or another.

Records have been kept only of the automobile accident injuries which have been treated, but Miss Stoddard remembers many other cases, great and small which she has taken care of. The police first aid department is open to the child by a fall down and wets as well as to the person whose arm is broken in an automobile smash-up.

Outdoor Movies Shown At School

The Cranbrook students listened Saturday night to James McGillivray, of the State Conservation Commission. McGillivray gave a talk, illustrated with three films of his own taking, on conservation of water. He dealt with waterfalls and rivers of Michigan. The second, some of the most wonderful and famous nature pictures in existence at the present time, present the life of the beaver as exemplified by three male, female and young, caught and kept captive in a pond near Mr. McGillivray's home at Oscoda. Their construction of dams, felling trees, and securing food is all portrayed graphically.

COUNTY FARMERS GET BORER FUND

\$44,719 Paid by Federal Government To Oakland County Citizens. Oakland County farmers received \$44,719 from the federal government as its part of the \$1,493,044.83 which Michigan corn growers were paid as the result of this year's work on the corn borer.

This money was paid on an acreage basis for the farmers who worked under the federal plan of fighting the European pest.

The corn borer act passed by the last Congress provided payment to farmers in five states in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 for their extra work in riding their premises of corn stalks and stubble. The result of the cleanup was a retarding of the increase and spread of the cornborer, surveys have shown.

Ohio having the most corn acreage under quarantine, was first with \$2,274,569.01 in the total amount received; Michigan, second; followed by Pennsylvania with \$246,897.01; Indiana with \$126,035.89; and New York with \$42,652.51.

CHIEF EXPLAINS SPEED CONFUSION

Anderson Says Speed Limit Discrepancy Depends Upon City-Village Change Settlement. The discrepancy arising between the village limits signs setting a speed limit of 20 miles an hour and the announcement that the driver can hit all green lights on Woodward avenue after the first sign, if he drives 25 miles an hour will continue to puzzle the motorist traveling through Birmingham until the village-city question has been settled one way or another, according to James Anderson, chief of police.

BOOSTS STATE'S TOURIST TRADE

Izaak Walton Head Says Michigan's Recreational Resources Rich

By E. M. T. SERVICE. H. A. Savage, Saginaw, state president of the Izaak Walton League, who knows his outdoor Michigan as well as anyone, on the occasion of a recent address, told his auditors some interesting things. He said:

"Michigan has more cover than we had 25 years ago. Michigan's resources are more valuable than ever before. Wastelands are more valuable now so far as monetary considerations are concerned. I have read in the Detroit News that the tourist business of Michigan in 1927 was worth \$250,000,000. In ten years this would amount to \$2,500,000,000, more money than all the timber of Michigan sold for. Timber money went to a few. Tourist and resort money today goes to many. There is not a single individual in the state of Michigan—the worker in the store, the professional man, the wholesale and retail merchant—who does not benefit directly or indirectly through this \$250,000,000 of tourist business.

"I believe Nature endows and cents view we have in Michigan a greater asset than when Columbus discovered America.

"In Michigan there are more lakes and streams than in any other five states in the union combined, excluding Minnesota and Wisconsin.

"Why do people come to Michigan? Because Nature endows and cents view we have in Michigan a greater asset than when Columbus discovered America.

Mary and Margaret Gibbs, 14-year old twins of Holyoke, Mass., joined together since birth, have recovered from attacks of pneumonia, which had either died would have been fatal to the other.

Wright's Drapery Shop (Opening Evenings This Week) Extends a Cordial Invitation to visit their workshop and become acquainted with the "home industry" offering: Curtains, Draperies, Window Shades, Carpets, Upholstering, Slip Covers. ESTIMATES GLADLY GIVEN. 217 North Woodward Phone 1235

Tell Your Merchant You Saw His Advertisement in THE ECCENTRIC

Birmingham The Model Community Birmingham is receiving more and more recognition as a model community. Emphasis here is placed on good living conditions rather than on numerous factories and consequently smoke and congestion. We have found each year that Birmingham residents are showing increased interest in the beauty of their homes and home grounds. To newcomers as well as our present customers we are glad to lend our advice and assistance in arranging suitable plantings around the home.

The CORYELL NURSERY NURSERIES AT Birmingham, Southfield and Utica HEADQUARTERS AT West Maple Avenue Birmingham

Burglary Insurance [WE ADJUST YOUR LOSSES AS CHEERFULLY AS WE SOLICIT YOUR INSURANCE.] Bingham, Sparks & Bingham Real Estate Insurance PHONE 985

Now-for a Greater Happier Birmingham! The most Beautiful Suburban Theatre in Michigan Opens Soon! Come-Attend Gala Opening! KUNSK BIRMINGHAM