BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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Friday, November 18, 1927

THE REALTORS HELP

Prosperity, according to Webster, is "the state of being prosperous; advance or gain in anything good or desirable; good fortune; success; attainment of the object desired." Had Webster lived to witness the Prosperity Week which Birmingham is now staging, we wonder if he would have included as a synonym for "prosperity" the noun "Birmingham." Surely, Birmingham can see within itself and of itself all the things used by Webster to define "prosperity."

Many things, of course, enter into the exemplification of the word "prosperity." Almost the entire gamut of human endeavor must be considered in affixing the word "prosperous" to describe anything. But, as we who live in Birmingham look about us, and take inventory of the qualities, both human and divine, that enter into our state of being, we have much to be thankful for.

One thing in particular, a very fundamental quality of Birmingham and vicinity, is striking, and that is the kind of subdivisions that have been platted and developed in this community, especially during the past five years. Strangers, visiting here for the first time, are heard to remark about the wide lots, the fine types of homes, and the well kept grounds that have been builded in this community. Indeed, these very things are what attracted most of our present citizens to Birmingham. As each year comes, and new properties are developed, the high type of subdivision is created, with corresponding restrictions placed on the homes that soon cover its broad acres.

The citizens of Birmingham are, indeed, grateful for the high type of real estate development that has marked the physical progress of this community. Perhaps, more than any other subdivider, the firm of Walsh, James & Wasey Co., has made a fine type of realty contribution to this community. They have never put on a subdivision here that was not a distinct addition to the character of Birmingham. They, as well as others who have developed property in this district, deserve the community's thanks for assisting to build Birmingham and vicinity into the fine type of residential area that it now is.

SCHOOLS AND PROSPERITY

Institutions of education, scattered so splendidly over the length and breadth of the United States, are majorly responsible for the progress that has transformed a "howling wilderness" into a productive land in the comparatively few generations since the Pilgrim Fathers landed upon a "bleak New England shore." Birmingham, too, owes much to its schools for its present prosperity, and the cultural regard that is held for this community.

Local taxpayers, as well as those in the remainder of the school district outside of the village, have been steadfast and true in their willingness to provide the funds with which to carry on scholastic training for our youth.

Yesterday, through the media of the various activities put on by the local schools, local citizens were afforded opportunity to become better acquainted with the educational facilities that their youth enjoys. It is entirely fitting that the schools and their influence upon our boys and girls be brought into prominence during this Prosperity Week celebration.

The schools of this district, splendidly equipped as they are, and ably directed as they are known to be, backed up by strong Parent-Teacher groups and filled with fine boys and girls, are overwhelmingly the greatest asset, with our churches, that Birmingham enjoys.

Schools are the places where most of the dreams of youth are given birth, and life is but the place where these dreams are crystallized. Birmingham may be proud of its schools, just as it finds contemporary pride in the useful lives that its scholastic graduates are living, and will continue to live.

Pontiac news Tuesday will vote on school bonds amounting to $1,961,000.00. We hope the voters approve the proposition, as they certainly need more schools in Birmingham's northern gateway.

Those Who Are Making It A Success

JOS. F. POPE

Editor's note: This is one of a series of articles concerning persons who served on the committees which arranged Prosperity Week.

"The real community spirit which has been so highly developed and evidenced through the efforts of every one to make Prosperity Week a success is ample reward for the expenditure that has been necessary to put this week across," said Joseph Pope, of the Bloomfield Realty company who is vice-chairman of the finance committee for the week. "When a community has all the material advantages that are found in Birmingham, anything and everything that will help to keep the people of that community interested in it should be done."

Mr. Pope has been in Birmingham three years, when the village was recommended to him as a place of residence by two prominent Detroit physicians. At that time the health of two of his children was being impaired by the impoverished air of the city. Upon investigation, the Popes found here the cultural atmosphere in which they wished to place their children as well as a progressive and growing community. It was at this time that Mr. Pope entered the real estate business, leaving the Continental Motors corporation, where he had been factory representative and sales engineer for eight years.

Mr. and Mrs. Pope have been happy in their decision to move here for they have found health and cultural atmosphere for their children, as well as highly favorable business conditions, Mr. Pope said.

Because of his belief in the future growth and prosperity of Birmingham, L. E. Colgrove of Buck & Tillotson, realtors, and vice-chairman of the program committee for Prosperity Week, feels that this week, in connection with the opening of the Birmingham Theater, is one of the biggest happenings in the history of the village.

Anything that will stir up real feeling among the people, who are busy with other interests, and cause them to think of their community and in terms of their community is a good thing," he said.

"Birmingham is ideally situated between two large cities, Detroit and Pontiac. These are factory cities and the executives are seeking homes outside and Birmingham is the logical place for them to go as has already proved.

"Owners of several stores are contemplating locating here, and the people already here should be vitally interested in the growth of their community."

Mr. Colgrove is well known as a realtor and has been active in civic affairs for five years. Birmingham is familiar to him as he lived near here as a boy and was graduated from the Michigan Military Academy and the University of Michigan. For many years he was connected with the automobile business in both the production and sales departments. This gave him the foundation of general experience which lead him into the real estate business.

The Other Chap Says Something

A DANGEROUS POWER

A change has certainly taken place in the moral sentiment of the world if the judgment is to stand of a British Court of Assizes in the case of a laboring man named Davies, at Chester, who had drowned his little daughter Elsie in a tub because she was a hopeless sufferer from tuberculosis, with pneumonia and gangrene poisoning. The circumstances in the case were particularly harrowing; the judge charged the jury in a manner plainly to suggest that Davies was to be exonerated, and the jury acquitted him and set him free. The words used by Mr. Justice Branson in his charge in the case are very remarkable. "I cannot avoid saying," he declares, "that this is a matter which gives food for thought, when one considers that had this poor child been an animal instead of a human being, so far from there being anything blame worthy in this man's action in putting an end to its sufferings, he would have actually been liable to punishment if he had not done so. That is the state of the law we must administer."

We may note that this opinion, with which no fault can be found on the score of humane sentiment, puts aside the essential difference between the relieving of the sufferings of an animal and the question of similar deliberate "relief" in the case of a human being. Under no hitherto accepted circumstances of modern times was it supposed that, in other situations than those of war, of the enforcement of a court's sentence of death, or of defense of one's own life, had any human being the right or privilege to "relieve" another human being of the burden of life. We have the power of life or death over the animals. We can exercise that power even when the animals are not suffering at all, for the purpose of supplying our own needs. It is true that in certain cases, as Mr. Justice Branson says, a man might be punished by law if he did not end the sufferings of an animal. It may be asked why a similar means of relief might not be employed in the case of a suffering human.

The physician softens the hours of death in a hopeless case with anaesthetics, but he does not deliberately bring the life to a close. That is a power which in no sense belongs to him, and which he could not exercise without assuming a devine right. There was a time, in ancient Rome, when a father possessed the power of life and death over a child. Christianity and the advance of civilization wiped out that power. The right of life resides in the possessor of life, and any assumption of power over it on the part of parent, or spouse or friend, or physician, is too perilous a thing to be encouraged. It is to be hoped that Mr. Justice Branson's counsel of humanity, plausible and well-meant as it is, will not be taken as a precedent.—Boston Transcript.

THE HOOCH QUESTION

This whole hooch business seems to have the effect of befuddling people's minds in its consideration, almost as much as its indulgence. Singles people's legs. Just recently a man was arrested in Michigan, prosecuted and convicted of having in his possession a pint of gin—and was sentenced to life imprisonment! At once there was a howl from coast to coast and from the lakes to the gulf, as another evidence of the deprivation of liberty under the eighteenth amendment and the Volstead act, through "barbarous application in Michigan."

But let us get down to sanity and brass tacks on this affair. First of all the law under which the man was convicted and sentenced has no connection with nor relation to the eighteenth amendment, or its enabling act, the Volstead law. It is a law of the State of Michigan, and Michigan was a dry state long before the adoption of these federal enactments and would very likely continue to be without them. Nor was the man given a life sentence merely for having a pint of gin.

During the late session of the legislature a law was passed of similar effect to the Baume's law of New York, designating a person convicted of felony four times, as "a habitual criminal" and upon the fourth conviction subject to life imprisonment. This man had been convicted of half a dozen felonies before the "pint of gin" episode, and his sentence was not on the pint of gin but the cumulative effect of his numerous previous violations, robberies and similar offenses, which marked him as a menace to society.

There may be a point raised as to whether the possession or sale of a pint of gin is a felony, rather than a misdemeanor, but here in Michigan there are teeth in the liquor laws, wherever and whenever the authorities have the determination to use them, and under our laws it was a felony. Some objection might be raised, also, to giving the law retroactive effect; that is, if a person had paid the penalties of his several offenses before the new law became effective, should he be subjected to the greatest penalty inflicted in Michigan for some one subsequent act?

Well, this new law was the reflection of public sentiment in Michigan toward "habitual criminals" of the felon type, the robbers, stick-ups, gunmen, and that sort. And they are just as much "habituals" when their crimes have been committed before the enactment of the law as when subsequent thereto. So, after all is said and done, the logic seems to be with Michigan's legislature and Michigan's courts in both the enactment and administration and enforcement of the law.—Oceana (Mich.) Herald

Running down a hill, a steam roller crashed into Mrs. Maud Schofield's home in San Francisco and nearly demolished the house.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request.

Birmingham, Mich.
November 15, 1927

My dear Mr. Editor:

Quoting from your leading editorial of November 15, "Let us have Facts."

As ordinary citizens of the Community, are you in position to tell us just when we are being furnished with FACTS? One must needs infer that only other than facts made up the now famous, but apparently discredited, report of the "Committee of Forty," dictated, sponsored and submitted by our present President, then Chairman, so short a time ago.

What has occurred in our Village within the past few months that we are now told that by changing from Village to City we will save annually upwards of $65,000.00 in one item alone? If no material change has taken place, why was this fact not discovered and made known as result of previous "investigation?" Where was Brother Moore at that time, and why did he not come forward with this startling fact then, or even "moons" ago? How long have we been sustaining this heavy loss or burden, and why?

You say our President has been given this valuable information by Brother Moore. What assurance have we that he is not being again mislead, it having been alleged that, as Chairman, he based his deductions and adverse report on information furnished him by his sub-committee Chairmen? Assuming this to be a fact, what have the parties acting as Chairmen to say for themselves? Are they, as well as the now President, prepared to openly declare to their fellow citizens that they were in error, wittingly or otherwise, when presenting facts on which the report referred to was prepared? (By the way, do not overlook the recent "Well" episode). Such an admission, even at this late date, would clarify the atmosphere to a considerable extent, as well as enabling us to place responsibility for the heavy loss we have been sustaining, since February last, at least.

By all means let us have facts, but for the love of Mike, let us be sure they are facts this time before passing them on as such.

Verily Lincoln was right.

I thank you.

Yours very truly,
F. S. Ross

PS: I wish to withdraw my previous suggestion with regard to inducing Will Rogers to locate in our midst. I am now convinced that we have plenty of local talent equal, if not superior, to "Will."
F. S. Ross

LIKES DAILY

To The Editor:

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate The Birmingham Eccentric on the energy and enthusiasm which the publication of your daily issue has brought about.

The public in Detroit realizes that the conception of the idea of properly celebrating Birmingham's prosperity week never could have reached its successful climax unless assisted and actuated by the combined co-operative efforts of progressive citizens of Birmingham. These efforts have been given proper expression and forceful attention by your conspicuously intelligent daily editions.

There are, of course, in Birmingham many Detroit business men who are proud to live in your city. I have heard any number of Union Trust officials who live in Birmingham express their delighted approval and approbation of the interesting contents of the daily editions of The Birmingham Eccentric so far printed.

Congratulations and further prosperity to you!

Cordially yours,
Homer Guck
Detroit Union Trust Company

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

(Little Editorials picked up by the Staff in and around Birmingham)

George F. Pullin, who has been acting as ticket taker at the Prosperity Week Swiss Village exhibit on East Maple avenue: "It is surprising how many people visit the Swiss Village exhibit each day. Tuesday and Wednesday of this week approximately a thousand people have come in, and Thursday I collected 1,240 tickets. Everyone, children and adults alike, is interested immensely in the intricate devices that have been constructed by the Kempf brothers."

Joseph Pope, realtor, of the Bloomfield Realty company: "One of the finest things about Birmingham is its splendid character in everything. The people who live here are nearly 100 per cent for the fine things of life. It is no wonder that so many new residents come here to live each year."

Adam Gray, retired, of Oakland avenue: "You folks at The Eccentric office are doing a fine thing for the community during Prosperity Week by publishing a daily newspaper. I never thought you could do it, and am pleasantly surprised as each issue comes to our home. Every member of our family reads it over carefully. It must be a lot of work, though."

David Ladd, chairman of the local campaign for memberships in the Oakland County chapter of the Michigan Society for Crippled Children: "We hope to close our campaign in Birmingham and vicinity the day before Thanksgiving. If everybody who promised to work will do so, we'll certainly go over the top in great shape. Hundreds of little crippled kiddies are depending upon our society to help them to normal health."

W. W. Henry, village commissioner: "Regardless of what may happen, and although I am voting with the majority of the commission to put the municipal building in the first block of the civic center, I will always think that the second block was best fitted for such an important building."

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS —of Long Ago

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

Married, at the residence of the bride's father in Farmington, Oakland County, Nov. 12, 1884, Mr. Joseph C. Pickering to Miss Effie G. Coleman by the Rev. C. W. Stephenson. The whole affair was simple, sensible and unostentatious. The happy couple will settle in the old homestead just south of Franklin. May joy be theirs.

One day last week as Asa Mudge was cutting a rope in two, the knife slipped, and, striking him in the face, cut his upper lip nearly in two and came close to his nose. If the latter appendage had been as long as some one's we could mention, it would have been a goner sure enough.

Bert Raynale and Ollie Reese have been up in the northern part of Lapeer county on a little hunt. They had beags of fun and managed to rake in considerable game; ditto George and a Maurice Toms.

M. I. James has gone to Chicago where he will make his home with his daughter, Mrs. J. W. Toms. On his way he will visit his daughter Mrs. Grinnell at Jackson. We wish him a safe and pleasant journey.

Married at the M. E. Parsonage, November 15, 1884, by the Rev. G. W. Lowe, Mr. George E. Wright to Miss Mary E. Bagley, both of Birmingham.

The Swan farm has been sold to Don Bassett.

Mr. and Mrs. John Pearce and son of Howell are visiting G. C. Gibbs and family.

Mrs. James Corson and Miss Anna Hawley returned from their visit to New York last week.

Johnnie Lawson of Clawson will do the bossin' at Clawson of an old fashioned shooting match and raffle on Thursday evening, Nov. 27, (Thanksgiving Day) at which time turkeys and chickens will be shot at and oysters raffled for. Everybody is invited to come and have a good time.

Mrs. Chas. Howard and daughter Marjorie are visiting their many relatives in town.

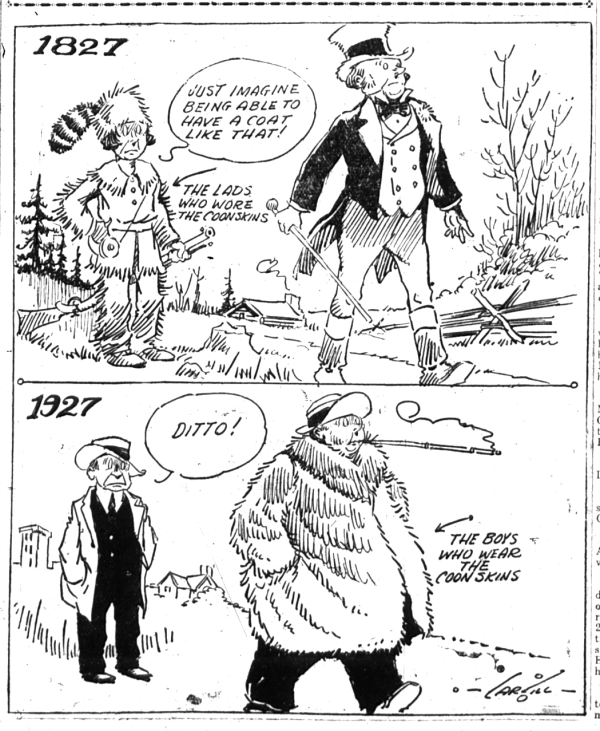
25 YEARS AGO

L. J. Phillips of Woodward avenue is enjoying a remarkable success in the poultry business on a small scale. Since March 1 he has realized from 80 hens $55 from the sale of eggs besides supplying the eggs used by the family. He also raised 45 young chickens.

Many old residents of Birmingham will learn with regret that Mrs. Martha J. Willitts was buried from her home in Detroit on Saturday afternoon, her death being due to the effects of paralysis. She was the widow of Wellington Willitts, who was for many years a teacher in the public schools of Detroit and also captain of Co. E, Seventh Michigan cavalry. She is survived by four children, Mrs. W. G. Smith, Mrs. D. O. Wiley, Rev. O. W. Willitts, and C. G. Willitts.

Farmers around Farmington are on the trail of Sunday hunters and propose to prosecute them to a fine finish.

MARCH OF CIVILIZATION



Buying at Home

IT IS LOYAL to the local merchants to buy at home, but when better values are obtainable there, it is also sensible.

Our sales have been increasing steadily for a number of years, indicating the increased satisfaction of our customers both of this and of other localities. Our stock of trees and shrubs was never larger and we invite comparison of stock and values.

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Franklin Village

For the man who wants to build his home away from crowded thoroughfares, out where there are hills and clear air—Franklin Village is an ideal spot. It is in the heart of the country club district, yet convenient to the city. Building sites range from a third of an acre to two acres in size. Careful restrictions have made certain that development will be in harmony with the character of the neighboring territory. Yet just now, the prices are surprisingly moderate.

Take Maple Road west of Birmingham past Oakland Hills Country Club. Then south a mile on historic Franklin Road.

George Wellington Smith
Franklin Properties

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