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FINAL REPORT OF COMMITTEE OPPOSES CITY

Recommends Village Form Of Government Be Retained At Present

TO VOTE ON MARCH 12

At its final meeting early Monday evening the city-village committee formally signed its report, consisting of recommendations that, for the present, it will be more advantageous for Birmingham to remain a village than to adopt the city form of government, which is to be voted upon by the electors March 12. H. T. Ellerby, village president, and James V. Bayley, township clerk, qualified their signatures to the report by stating that they agree in the conclusions drawn, but not the detailed method of arriving at them.

Others who signed the report include Thomas J. Parker, chairman; John J. Gallen, Laurence Hulbert, Clarence Vliet, Lee A. White, Charles E. Lewis, Hope F. Halgren, Scott A. Hersey, and J. H. McBride. Louis C. Hascall and Robert Y. Moore, the two remaining members of the committee, did not sign the report because they are in Florida.

The report, the result of several weeks of effort on the part of the Committee, is the second investigation made into the subject, the first one a year ago arriving at the same conclusion. Lack of any praise of the city government, in spite of the fact that thousands of villages have become cities in the past, is seen in the present report, and has strengthened the convictions of many citizens that the subject was not treated impartially by certain members of Mr. Parker's committee.

In disbanding the committee Monday night, however, chairman Parker thanked all of them for their hearty co-operation and thoroughness of investigation. Following is a complete transcript of the final report:

TO: THE VILLAGE COMMISSION and THE CITIZENS OF BIRMINGHAM.

Your committee formed under the direction of the Village Commission to study and report upon the relative merits of city and village form of government for Birmingham has given the subject anxious and careful study.

Advice of legal counsel has been obtained and detailed reports from sub-committees have been submitted to and adopted by the general committee, and have been published in the newspapers. A public hearing has been held for the purpose of obtaining from and giving full consideration to the views of all persons interested.

As a result of our work we submit the following findings:

1. If Birmingham should become a city it might result either in the boundary lines of the school district being automatically fixed coextensive with the boundary lines of the city, or the several townships bordering would have authority, in their discretion, to detach from the school district, whenever it becomes a district of the third class, the territory outside of the city limits.

2. Such a detachment of territory from the present school district might result in placing upon the citizens of Birmingham a large increase in the annual school tax. For instance: If the territory in Bloomfield Township now outside the village limits were detached from the school district approximately $57,000.00 a year in school taxes would be added to Birmingham without any reduction in the school budget. Detachment of the properties in all four townships outside the village would cause an annual loss in school taxes of approximately $100,000.00. It would also probably result in Birmingham having to assume and pay also one half of the outstanding bonded indebtedness of the school district, which now amounts to $1,274,100.00.

3. In regard to assessed property valuation for state, county and township taxes, we find that while considerable has been done during the last three years to equalize values, the major portion of increases during the past three years

(Concluded on Page 2)

ARE YOU REGISTERED?

Citizens of Birmingham and Bloomfield Township who desire to vote at both elections, one March 7 and the other March 12, should be certain that they are registered on the books of both governments. Registration on the village roll only does not permit a vote at the township election, and vice versa. To register on the village roll go to the village clerk's office any week day up to and including Saturday, March 3; for the township, any time up to and including Saturday afternoon at 5 o'clock, of this week. The requirement for registration are that you be a citizen of the United States, a resident of Michigan for at least six months, and a resident of the precinct in which you vote at least 20 days prior to the date of election.

SPECIALIST JOINS FRANK COUZENS, INC.

JOHN STEARNS

Mr. Stearns, for many years connected with real estate activity and building construction work, has joined with Frank Couzens, Inc., according to an announcement today by Frank Couzens, president. Mr. Stearns will be assistant to the president. For 12 years Mr. Stearns was a construction specialist in New York City, and for the past few years has been manager of the brokerage division of the Hannan Real Estate Exchange, of Detroit. He brings with him a vast knowledge of construction affairs, and promises a great era of new construction work for Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, and vicinity.

TOWNSHIP MAY LOSE BIG TAX

Annexation Of 2,200 Acres To Pontiac To Be Voted On April 2

Bloomfield Township, as the result of action taken by the Oakland County Board of Supervisors Tuesday at Pontiac, when they approved the legality of annexation petitions, will probably lose 2200 acres of valuable territory when the general elections are held April 2. The land in question, which is up for annexation to Pontiac, includes the $8,000,000.00 property of the Yellow Truck & Coach Manufacturing Co.

Petitions for the annexations of the territory were circulated some time ago. At that time it was declared that the manner of circulating the petitions was illegal, and the matter was referred to Clyde D. Underwood, Oakland County Prosecutor. Mr. Underwood, at the special Tuesday session, held that the petitions were legal, and the Supervisors unanimously set April 2 as the date of election.

John A. Miller, owner of a home in the affected territory, contested the legality of the petitions.

Bloomfield Township is interested in the annexation proposition, not from the standpoint of losing valuable assessable territory, but because the payment of approximately $22,000.00 which is due it for street improvements made during 1927.

Paul Seiler, president of the Yellow Truck and Coach Manufacturing Co., has stated that his company is desirous of being annexed to Pontiac.

Inasmuch as Bloomfield Township's vote is counted with that of Pontiac, there is very little chance of the annexation propositions being defeated, in the opinion of township officials.

600 CITIZENS AT FATHER AND SON BANQUETS

Relationship Of "Man And Boy" Stressed During Church Ceremonies

HARRY BROOKS SPOKE

More than 600 people were present at the Father and Son banquets sponsored by the village churches last Thursday evening in celebration of Father and Son week.

Harry Brooks, Birmingham aviator spoke at the banquet of the First and United Presbyterian churches united for this occasion. Personal experiences while touring in his flivver plane were recounted by the intrepid flyer. He predicted the time when people will buy aeroplanes as they now buy automobiles. He also brought out the fact that young people intending to make flying their career should first finish all the general schooling possible and then specialize in aviation.

Charles Kinsman of Maple home road was toastmaster of the occasion. Clarence Cummings of Park street entertained the boys with sleight-of-hand tricks.

At Methodist Church

At the First Methodist Episcopal church banquet, H. T. Ellerby, village president, acted as toastmaster, introducing Parker Jordan, general secretary of Highland Park Y. M. C. A. as the principal speaker of the evening. Robert Peek of Birmingham talked in behalf of the fathers, Wilbur Dalley, of Floyd street, in behalf of the sons.

Mr. Jordan's talk, "Father and Son, Chums," dealt with the relationship of fathers and sons. He stressed the idea of father and son being good pals or chums and in this own way interpreted the word "chums." "C" stood for comradeship, "H" for home, "U" for unity, "M" for mother and "S" for son.

A duet was sung by Frank Smith and Robert Richards, of De-

(Concluded on Page 3)

MANY SEEKING TWP. OFFICES

Moore Opposed By Lowman, Allen By Campbell, In March 7 Election

What promises to be one of the most warmly contested Bloomfield Township primary elections in many years is the race for supervisor over the past week, during which time numerous petitions for various candidates were filed with township clerk James V. Bayley. With the exceptions of the office of highway commissioner and one justice of the peace, all the other offices are filled by two or more candidates. The primary election will be held Wednesday, March 7, and the general election Monday, April 2.

Heading the list for the office of supervisor are Robert Y. Moore, present supervisor, who will be opposed by Maurice Lowman, at present time village manager of Birmingham.

Three candidates have filed for the office of clerk. They are James V. Bayley, present clerk; Mrs. Blanche Z. White, of Vinewood avenue, and Gordon L. Bailey.

A similar number of contestants are seeking the nomination for the office of township treasurer. They include Mrs. Harriet C. Mudge, for the past four years a clerk in township officials.

(Concluded on Page 2)

Village Pastors Discuss Remarks Of President Little On Church And Youth

That Dr. Clarence Cook Little's recent address censuring the churches of the present day for their failure to get the touch of the nation heart and soul into the work of the organized religion was at least partially correct is the opinion today of three Birmingham ministers, the Rev. Floyd Emerson Logee, of the First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. David Leon Woodward, of the First Baptist Church, and the Rev. Robert Marenus Atkins, of the First Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dr. Little, who is president of the University of Michigan, scored the churches for not taking a more active part in the big problems and questions of the day, declaring that because of the church's failure to do this, young people were losing interest in religion. Dr. Little was speaking before a conference of college presidents in Princeton, N. J., Sunday.

"Youth, I believe," said President Little "recognizes the need of getting back to the sort of direct and fearless method used by Christ. What we need is frankness in present day church discussions. People today recognize that the church should take an active and constructive part, using scientific knowledge and a fearless desire to face the truth, in the questions of death, birth, recreation, politics, marriage and intelligent intolerance." A summary of Dr. Little's talk appeared in various daily papers Monday.

The reactions of Mr. Logee, Mr. Woodward and Mr. Atkins, their agreements and their disagreements with Dr. Little follow:

Mr. Logee

Mr. Logee: "Let me say first that from such a brief and disconnected hashing as the report I read of an orderly and purposeful address, which Dr. Little must have presented to college presidents, it is impossible to extract the essential gist of his remarks. Certainly it was not, as the headlines would have us believe, a gratuitous attack upon the church. College presidents do not confer to attack. They confer that they may build constructively in the life of their generation. This is the purpose of the church, also, and should determine its attitude toward the pressing questions of the day. This, all true leaders of the church will admit, and is, I take it, what Dr. Little really was pointing out.

"All forward-looking men, whether in the university or the church, or in neither, welcome the

(Concluded on Page 3)

'Smiling Billy' Still Drives, Despite Illness

The above picture shows Chief of Police James Anderson handcuffing Smiling Billy Burton to the wheel of his car just before the start of his endurance driving contest Monday noon. The contest will last until 4 p. m. Saturday, 124 hours. Billy started the test against the advices of his doctor, who had committed him to bed two days previously because of an attack of grippe. Billy insisted upon starting, however, and by noon today will have been at the wheel for 72 hours. The test is being sponsored by the merchants of Birmingham.

In spite of an attack of grippe which threatened to keep him from making the drive and from which he is still suffering, indications are today, after almost three days of steady driving, that Smiling Billy Burton, well known endurance driver, will carry his 124-hour drive through until 4 p. m. Saturday, when he plans to stop. Billy, handcuffed to the wheel, is driving a Whippet sedan in an endurance contest here sponsored by the merchants of Birmingham, which will, if successful, break all the other records which have been made all over the country. He is driving steadily, day and night, with only liquid food, which he takes "on the wing." By noon today he will have been driving for 72 hours.

Billy arose from the sick bed to which he had been sent two days before by his doctors, Monday morning, and, against medical advice, started upon the trip which he had been planning at noon that day. His brother, Eddie Burton, accompanies him most of the time. Yesterday a village doctor stepped into Billy's car as it slowed up and rode with him long enough to prescribe medicine for the severe cold and sore throat from which he is suffering, getting out as Billy slowed up again having the prescription filled for him, and, on another slow-up, passing it to the driver.

(Concluded on Page 2)

The non-stop drive which Burton is making in and about Birmingham is a test both of the endurance of the car and of man. Billy has always been interested in human endurance tests and believes that a person can live on liquid food, with no sleep for 124 hours without damaging his constitution. He is 27 years old.

Billy is driving at a moderate rate of speed. He is accompanied at all times, and, true to his nickname, he seems always to be smiling, even though he is ill.

Guesses at the distance he will have covered by stopping time Saturday are pouring into The Eccentric office daily. Six prizes are

(Concluded on Page 2)

BROOKS MAKES WORLD RECORD

Local Aviator Pilots Flivver Plane 1,000 Miles To Florida

Harry Brooks, of Birmingham and Southfield, chief test pilot for the Ford Motor company of Detroit, broke the world's record for non-stop flights in a plane of less than 40 horse power when he flew from the Ford Airport to Titusville, Fla., a distance of approximately 1,000 miles, Tuesday. He was forced down there, on his attempted 1,270 mile hop to Miami, only because of lack of fuel, having used 52 gallons of gasoline on the trip. He damaged one of the propellor blades in landing, but the remainder of the plane and Brooks himself were uninjured. He made the trip in 13½ hours taking off from the Ford airport at 6:20 a. m. and arriving shortly before 8 p. m.

Will Try Again

In spite of setting a new record, the old one, held for several years by a Frenchman, Max Knipping, being 871 miles, Brooks, upon arrival in Titusville declared he would try again to make the Detroit to Miami hop. Brooks returned shortly after his arrival there. He declared the hardest part of the trip was going over the mountains through the high altitude.

Brooks left his home in Southfield at 5 a .m. Tuesday, one of the coldest days this winter. When he took off from his home he

(Concluded on Page 2)

Father Of Country Honored Yesterday

Flag-lined streets, appropriate school exercises and the closing of the banks and village and township offices and the post office marked the one hundred and ninety-sixth anniversary of George Washington's birthday yesterday. A number of private celebration parties on or before the date marked the social life of the village.

Special exercises were held yesterday afternoon in both the junior and senior session rooms at the Baldwin High School, W. S. Toothacker speaking to the seniors and the Rev. F. E. Logee to the juniors, both on telling of the man who became the father of his country. There was also singing of patriotic songs in both rooms. The Adams School also held exercises.

WANTED—Information of two Pointer dogs strayed from my home Saturday, February 18th. Please send word to John R. Nye, Birmingham. —adv.15

Taxpaying Made Easy In Village

Change Effected In Quarters of Village Treasurer And Clerk

Taxpaying, at its best, is not the most agreeable job in the world. If a man is subject to lumbago or fallen arches, his ailments will annoy him the most on the day he has to pay these obnoxious fees. If his car has troubles, it usually proceeds to blow up right while it is carrying him to the treasurer's office. If he has just had his suit pressed, it rains.

In addition to the natural inconveniences which become intensified on taxpaying day, the villagers of Birmingham have for some years been required to find their way through a miniature labyrinth of doors and short halls, and clamber in, about or over a desk or two before they could lay their allotted amount of the coin of the realm before Treasurer Charles Plumstead.

In order to eliminate this last annoyance, the village offices stand remodeled today, so that the taxpayer next summer can, with the least amount of bother, be

(Concluded on Page 2)

"WHAT PRICE GLORY" WILL BE SHOWN HERE

Local Legion Post To Benefit By Performance At Birmingham Theater.

The Birmingham American Legion sponsors the picture, "What Price Glory," to be shown at the Birmingham theater next Wednesday. The show which includes several acts of vaudeville, is planned to benefit the village Legion, in an attempt to place the organization on a firm financial basis.

Two shows are to be presented at the Kinsley theater. The first commences at 6:30 p. m., the second, at 9:00. With the added features the program is reported as one enjoyable for both old and young. Tickets are on sale at Leon Mix's jewelry store or may be obtained from Legion members.

Lloyd L. Stanley is now commander of the village American Legion. The group, of which any man who has seen service in the World War is able to be a member, now has a constitution and by-laws which were ratified by the State Legion, Jan. 15. Meetings are held every third Wednesday in the month and every ex-service man is requested to attend.

REALTY DEAL TOPS $100,000

Tuggey & Son Report Sale Of Pierce Street Business Frontage

Sale of property on Pierce street, valued at more than $100,000, to several Detroit firms is announced today by Arthur J. Tuggey and Son, realtors, of West Maple avenue. Although the names of the buyers will not be made known for another fortnight, the completion of negotiations now under way is a certainty today, Tuggey said.

The property sold is on the east side of Pierce street between Maple avenue west and Brown street, and includes, among other sections, the W. N. Berger home and a lot north of the Oddfellows' Temple which is owned by the lodge.

The property is being sold in several sections, the largest plat going to one Detroit company for $25,000. The remainder of the land is being sold in four parts,

(Concluded on Page 2)

'What Are You Worth?' Asks Rev. Woodward; 'More Than 98 Cents?'

"The real value of a man is not his chemical worth, which, as for everybody knows, is a bargain at 98 cents not what he earns, not what he owns, but rather it is the happiness which he leaves behind him."

This was the text of a sermon on "What Are You Worth?" given by the Rev. David L. Woodward, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Sunday evening, as the fourth of his series of lectures on intimate personal questions.

"No man is a gentleman unless he produces more than he consumes of the world's goods. And by 'goods' we mean happiness. No man has a right to feel comfortable about the balance sheet of his life unless he can say to himself 'Well, I never made much money, and I never traveled very far, and the four hundred never noticed me, but, God be praised, there will be a boy come along some day who will have a better chance at life because I have lived'," Mr. Woodward said.

Three examples of worth-while living, all of them taken from the baseball world, were brought out by the minister. Ray Chapman, known as the "greatest sacrifice hitter in baseball," who was killed by a swift ball from Carl Mays several years ago, was cited for his willingness to sacrifice his own glory for the sake of the team. "One of the greatest needs of today is to stifle the gnawing for personal fame and to work for the sake of your team, your friends, your shop, your lodge, your church, your association. This is the finest of the arts, the finest sacrifice this," Mr. Woodward told the congregation.

The philosophy of Tris Speaker, another baseball philosopher, was cited by Mr. Woodward. Upon a remark of Grantland Rice, the sports writer, who said, "If a man were to let me choose the easiest job in baseball, I'd like to play right or left field while Tris Speaker plays in center."

"Speaker did more than his own duty," Mr. Woodward continued. "He takes his chances on an error without fear. He is 'a good fellow to play next to.' I should like to have that thought about me when I die."

The third illustration was Wilbert Robinson, once the greatest catch in the game, who now, on

(Concluded on Page 2)

REMOVAL!
Our offices are now located in First National Bank Building, Suite No. 2, formerly used by Drs. Raynale & Gordon, where we continue our INSURANCE and REAL ESTATE business.
J. B. HOWARTH & SON
Formerly Whitehead & Standard Co.
Telephone 321 Adv. 35tf

Buy your life insurance from L. W. Porter, P. O. Box 74, phone 1282. adv.26tf

Many Enter Race For Village Offices

Vacancies On Commission Bring Out Nine Candidates; Bond Issues, City Plan, To Be Voted On March 12

BOND ISSUES

Bond issues totalling $223,000.00 constitute the majority of the ballots that Birmingham electors will fill out when they enter the voting booths at the annual village election Monday, March 12. These figures have all been gone over by manager Parry and the village commission, and at their meeting Monday night they unanimously approved the submission of the issues at the general election.

To provide sufficient funds with which to complete the municipal building, as well as to acquire the remainder of the land in the block which will be used to erect the building upon, and to complete the landscaping and buy the equipment for the new building, the commission is asking the electors to support a bond issue amounting to $66,000.00. This money, together with $125,000.00 realized from the sale of the old library building, $40,000.00 voted two years ago for a fire hall, and part of the $200,000.00 voted to acquire the civic center lands comprising three blocks, will entirely complete all expense in connection with this project, according to the commission.

Second Block of Land

A bond issue amounting to $50,000.00, to be used in purchasing four pieces of property in the second block of the civic center is also up for decision by the voters. The passage of this bond issue, together with the $66,000.00 bond issue, will provide the village with all the necessary funds to obtain title to every piece of property in the civic center. These two blocks, together with the third block upon which is now erected the new library, constitute Birmingham's civic center project. When the $200,000.00 bond issue was approved two years ago by local citizens, it was thought by a former village commission that that amount would cover all the costs of acquiring the civic center property.

Water Extensions

Extension of Birmingham's present water system is included in a third bond issue amounting to $67,000.00. This covers the purchase of necessary land for drilling purposes, a new well and 350 gallon-per-minute electrically driven pump, a pump house, and all necessary connections to existing water mains. For some time manager Parry has been investigating new water sources for Birmingham, and this bond issue is for the cost of locating an additional well for this rapidly growing community, declare commissioners.

Improvement Work

To care for the extension or addition to the actual distributing system of the water mains from time to time, without the necessity of paying for such projects from current funds, the commission is also asking the citizens to approve a $20,000.00 bond issue March 12.

In order to make it possible for the village to take advantage of the State's widening work on Woodward avenue this spring, village manager Parry has estimated the cost of laying new sewers, water mains, etc., at $20,000.00. Favorable action of the voters on this issue now would enable the village to save considerable money by taking advantage of the State's work on this important thoroughfare.

CANDIDATES

Birmingham, when it goes to the polls on this occasion of its annual village election March 12, will have an opportunity to pick from a variety of candidates to fill vacancies on its municipalboard of officials. Before last Saturday afternoon, at five o'clock, the latest time for filing petitions, 11 candidates were nominated in the petitions turned over to Hazel Lawler, village clerk. As the situation stands today, which can only be altered by the refusal of candidates to qualify before Saturday of this week, the following names have been filed for the several offices:

Who They Are

For village president: H. T. Ellerby, present incumbent, and Harry Allen.

For commissioners: Lee A. White, Scott A. Hersey, Hope F. Halgren, William G. McBride, E. S. Pettypiece, Arthur J. Tuggey, Sr., and William Majoribanks. The three commissioners are to be elected. White, Hersey, and Halgren are present commissioners.

For village clerk: Hazel Lawler, present incumbent, and Mrs. Myrtle Carson.

For members of library board; Mrs. Alice Hartwell and Clarence Vliet, to succeed themselves.

Candidates for the Charter Commission, to serve in the event Birmingham votes to become a city, are: Frederick H. Holt, Walter T. Elliott, Louis Hascall, David H. Ladd, Charles J. Shain, Guy Jensen, John E. Martz, J. A. Wendorph, Fred V. Quarton, and Harry S. Starr. Nine are to be elected.

Faction Seen

That the contest presages a spirited election campaign is seen in the personnel of many of those aspiring to office, according to local observers, who believe that an organized movement is being staged to oust seven of the present quartet of retiring village commissioners and to supplant them with candidates more to their liking. In the movement James Campbell, local realtor and candidate for township board of review, is seen as the active leader of the faction that has consistently, for the past year, lead an anti-Ellerby, Hersey, Halgren and White group in village affairs.

With the possible exception of Harry Allen, of west Maple avenue, Detroit attorney and son-in-law of the late W. D. Clarke, the candidacies of McBride, Tuggey and Pettypiece are believed to be sponsored by the Campbell faction.

Petition Circulators

Those who circulated petitions, and the candidates for whom they circulated them, are; petition of Ellerby circulated by Ed Hassall; for Allen by Mrs. Myrtle Carson; for White by J. B. Howarth; for Hersey by J. A. Wendorph; for Tuggey by John McGregor; for McBride by E. S. Pettypiece; for Pettypiece by Malcolm Hunt; for Majoribanks by himself. Mrs. Lawler's petition was circulated by G. Gifford, and Mrs. Carson's by Burt Joyce.

City Issue On Ballot

The proposition of changing Birmingham's present village form of government to that of a city is also up for consideration by local electors at the March 12 general election. Despite the majority disapproval of the city-village committee's report on this subject, a large affirmative vote is expected on the proposition.

COUZENS TO START $250,000 BLOCK

Excavations For Two-Story Structure on West Maple Begins Next Week

Excavation for the new Couzens building, on west Maple avenue, will begin next week, following the awarding of the general contract for the work Monday or Tuesday, according to an announcement today by Frank Couzens, president of the Wabeek Realty corporation. Bids on the construction, which will cost $250,000, are already closed, and a selection is to be made early next week, Mr. Couzens said.

The new building will be two stories in height, according to present plans, and will face west

(Concluded on Page 3)

WANTED:
Proofreader

Girl, high-school graduate, or young woman, with a good mastery of spelling and grammar, may find remunerative employment on the staff of The Eccentric as a proof-reader. Experience in proof-reading not actually necessary. For further information apply at The Eccentric office.