

The resources of goodness are as well stocked today as they ever were, and can never be impoverished. To obtain good, is the selfish communication with the author of good, which is God.

# The Birmingham Eclectic

PART TWO

FIFTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 33

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## BLAST VICTIM IS RECOVERING

Dorothy Thomas, Seriously Hurt, Will Survive, Hospital Attaches Say

Dorothy Thomas, eleven year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Major Thomas, of 608 Brown street, is recovering today, hospital authorities state, from serious injuries received last week when a stove in her home exploded. Doctors hope to save Dorothy's leg which was badly mangled by flying bits of a cast iron stove.

Her eight year old brother, Duncan, who received an injured eye, is also reported recovering. The children were playing in the kitchen of their home when the accident occurred. They were rushed to St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, Pontiac.

Deputy Fire Marshall Peter Karmes declared that the plugging of water jacket holes in the stove caused it to burst when a fire was lighted in it for the first time this season.

## JURY PLACES DEATH BLAME

A coroner's jury today has exonerated the Eastern Michigan Railways in the death of Mrs. Elmer E. Hooper, of Royal Oak Township, who was killed by an interurban street car Nov. 17. The inquest was called by Coroner O. C. Farmer.

Six bands played the funeral music for Karl Solheim of Hull Eng., as he directed in his will.

## Glimpses

at and about BIRMINGHAM

By RAYMOND GIRARDIN

I WAS SLUMBERING AT MY desk in the manner of the justly tired when the telephone rang. "Id diti da edidior ob Glepzes?" Habit has me say "yes" to many things. There came over the wire a series of wheezes and croppings. "Hab you a bab ob Franklin?" "Have I what?" "A bab ob Franklin. I hab a code. Hab you a bab ob Franklin?"

I reasoned carefully, patiently and somewhat astutely and after my caller had repeated the question several times, I understood I was being asked whether I had a map of Franklin.

I had.

"Id dere a Drate treat dere?" "What street?"

"D'r a t e. Et-tee-r-ide-de-ate-tee?"

"Straight street?"

"Yet, Draught?"

"Yet, Et kide idn Tate?"

I referred the inquirer to the police department, and knew very well, after the conversation ended, it should have been to the health department. I peel torry por peepul wid codes.

MAN AND BOY THESE ninety years I have tried to understand attraction of motion pictures. Sunday night in various parts of Detroit the lines outside cinema houses were of inconceivable lengths. It was bitterly cold, yet they bought their tickets and

assumed an alternating posture, first on one leg and then the other. Therein is sufficient proof that we-Americans are the world's most sublime optimists.

One poor old woman was a tragic sight. She still had an hour or so to wait before her turn to enter. She was dressed inconspicuously in flapper attire. It is easy to arrive at the answer. When she started to wait she was merely a child.

A man tottered up to the window and proffered his money. The ticket seller shook her head. Obviously, he was too old to take a chance with. The management can't be responsible for deaths in the waiting line and it must have at least a superficial assurance of endurance.

A befuddled person in uniform held a rope which was tied around the customers in line to keep them from falling down. He was groggy from the effort.

A couple asked him how long their health have to wait. He was ready to give up his job. He growled at them, "Two hours and a half." He wanted to get fired.

They took the last step over the threshold into the lobby like persons finishing a 25 mile run.

Seats in these new movie theaters should be traded off for hospital beds.

The idea of the Vitaphone probably is to arouse the marathon waiters from their death sleep.

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## CITIZENS TAX CASE CLOSES

Revenue Collector Instructed To Abate \$30,000,000 Income Assessment

The final step in the greatest tax collecting case in the history of the country is taken today with the sending of instructions to the collector of internal revenue at Detroit to abate the additional \$30,000,000 income tax assessment against Senator James Couzens and minority tax stock holders of the Ford Motor company.

David H. Blair, commissioner of internal revenue, has dropped the case after the Treasury's defeat both in the Federal Court and before the Board of Tax Appeals. Notice of the "jeopardy assessment" was served on Senator Couzens by Mr. Blair, March 7, 1925, and subsequently on the other former minority stockholders. At the time Senator Couzens was involved in a political duel with Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, over the investigation Senator Couzens was conducting into the affairs of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The senator charged at the time that the tax assessment was an attempt to "discipline" him for not being "regular."

Claim Is Lowered

Mr. Couzens was asked to pay \$19,909,588.98 additional taxes and the other proprietors amounts, based on a new valuation of the March 1, 1913, value of the Ford stock, but the claim of the Government was a subsequently lowered, with the result that the tax bill handed Mr. Couzens by the Government called for \$9,455,303.10 additional profit taxes growing out of the sale of his Ford stock. He owned 2,180 shares of Ford Motor Co. stock which he sold to the Fords in 1919 for \$29,308,857.90.

Horace H. Rackham, who sold 1,000 shares, was asked to pay \$4,337,295.20 additional tax. The same amount was demanded from the estate of John E. Dodge and Horace E. Dodge, each of whom had sold 1,000 shares to the Fords in 1919.

John W. Anderson sold 325 shares at \$12,500 a share and the Government sought to collect \$1,498,825.25 additional taxes from him.

Mrs. Rosetta V. Haus, sister of Senator Couzens, sold 20 shares at \$13,000 a share. The Government asked \$81,404.83 additional tax from her.

Gray Family Suit

David Gray, Paul R. Gray and Philip H. Gray each sold 525 shares. From David and Paul R. Gray and the Philip H. Gray Estate the Government demanded \$277,988 more tax each. The Grays were all sons of John S. Gray, one of the original stockholders in the Ford Motor Co. Another block of 25 shares, with a tax of \$2,277,079.88, was involved in the suit against the Commissioner of Internal Revenue brought by Mrs. Alice Gray Kaies, a daughter of John S. Gray. Mrs. Kaies said the tax assessed by the Bureau and then brought suit for a refund.

The Detroiters sold their stock after Daniel C. Roper, then commissioner of internal revenue, had set a value on the stock of March 1, 1913, of \$9,489.34 a share. The difference between the value as of that date and the price at which their stock was sold was the taxable profit. Mr. Couzens paid a tax of 10 per cent on his profit. The taxes he paid for the year 1919 totaled \$7,281,897.25.

In reopening the case, Commissioner Blair first asserted that the March 1, 1913, value was really \$2,014 a share, but later increased this to \$3,647.84 a share. This of course, greatly increased the taxable profit of the Detroiters if the new valuation should stand. The Detroiters, except Mrs. Kaies, appealed.

Complete Vindication

The decision of the United States Board of Tax Appeals was a complete vindication for Senator Couzens and a sweeping defeat for the Treasury. The decision, handed down last May, not only declared that the Roper valuation of \$9,489.34 was correct, but it fixed the value even higher, at \$10,000.

Theoretically, at least, the effect of this decision was to hold that Senator Couzens already had paid \$806,000 more than properly should have been assessed against him, and if the other taxpayers were proportionately over-assessed. Because the statute of limitations is invoked, it is doubtful if all of this over assessment can now be recovered from the Treasury, although attorneys believe part of it will be collected.

Mrs. Kaies won her suit in the Federal Court. The tax, plus interest, thus had to be returned to her by the Government.

Events have taught this country one thing—never put all your scientific in one airship—Indianapolis News.

Frances Burdette, 65 years old, of Wayne, N. J., totally blind for 15 years, has built an eight room house for himself.

## Christmas

has swept into every corner of our store. The hustle and bustle of gift-buying is on and you haven't a moment to spare.

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## HISTORICAL THANKSGIVING SKETCH GIVEN ROTARIANS BY HIGH TEACHER

Tracing the motives behind the departure of the early Pilgrims from England to the soil of land dominated by the American Indian, and leading up to the first official recognition of Thanksgiving Day as a national institution when President Abraham Lincoln issued a Proclamation in 1863, Miss Evangeline Purcell, history teacher at the Baldwin High School, Monday noon gave an interesting and illuminating narrative of events that preceded this country's annual observance of Thanksgiving.

The section of England whence came the band of Pilgrims to Plymouth Rock in 1620, was located about 150 miles north of London, said Miss Purcell. It was not, and is not today, very thickly populated, because of the barrenness of its soil. However, despite its rocky formation, its inhabitants grew in the realm of morals and spiritual products and here, under the leadership of a Brewster, Smythe, Robinson, and Clifton, they developed a crop of yearning that revolted against the attempt of Henry the Eighth to make the church and state bow under the weight of his baronial principles.

Flies To Holland This little band of people, desiring to free themselves from a despotic sovereign, and wishing to enlarge the scope of their activities, fled to friendly Holland and there, for a time, they flourished; because of the fact that Holland contained a free press, and the Pilgrims, under the leadership of Brewster, who was England's assistant envoy in that country, were driven to the sea in an effort to find a land where they might establish the institutions of their mind, many of which were already in existence in Holland. It people and the Continental Army

observed an annual Thanksgiving again issued a Proclamation. Day, by a Proclamation of the Continental Congress. After the pointed the fourth Thursday of peace of 1783 it was discontinued November, with a view of having until 1789, when Washington

In 1864 President Lincoln appointed the fourth Thursday of November, with a view of having until 1789, when Washington

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