

### LAW RESPECT URGED BY TOMS

Judge-Elect Asks More Individual Responsibility

"Let me predict that unless we in the United States can develop a national consciousness and a feeling of individual responsibility to our country and its laws, and respect for its institutions and a faith in its future—unless these things shall come to pass, the theory of government of for and by the people, upon which this nation is founded, will pass into the realm of things forgotten, and this tremendous experiment in self-government will have proved a tragic, ghastly, and eternal failure."

This is what Robert M. Toms, former Wayne County prosecutor and now a circuit judge-elect, told members of the Birmingham Exchange club Tuesday noon at Lone Pine Inn. Mr. Toms, incidentally was born in Pontiac, and his grandfather, Alvin Toms, once ran an inn at Troy Corners in 1873, and is buried in Crooks cemetery, Troy Township.

Mr. Toms traced the history of the United States, from the time the democratic form of government was conceived in the days of Washington, Jefferson, and Hamilton. The great idea upon which the founders of the United States based their Constitution was in resting the responsibility of government in the hands of the governed, although some difference existed between Hamilton and Jefferson over who should vote.

Hamilton holding that property should be considered as a requisite to the ballot. Old World monarchies proved to the founders of this country the terrible tragedy of despotism and monarchy, and influenced the new country with a firm determination to try the democratic form of government.

"I do not believe that our present condition of government reaches the expectations of those who founded it," observed Mr. Toms. "But, so that I may not be considered too pessimistic, I remember that we are only 150 years old, and may yet attain higher abilities to become the practical kind of government that was intended."

The United States has the handicaps of bigness and cosmopolitanism, resulting in diversification of interests and lack of unity of purpose, believes Mr. Toms. He attacked the present primary system in Michigan, declaring that it resulted in too non-intelligent balloting on the part of the electorate; he also suggested that some of the lesser public offices, such as county drain commissioner, county clerk, county surveyor, and others, be taken from the elective class and made appointive so that the public will have fewer names to consider on the ballot itself.

His "Wise-crackers" "The United States Supreme Court is the only federal institution we have that still holds the universal respect of the country," concluded Mr. Toms. "The Senate of the United States has become the butt of ridicule of every newspaper paragrapher and wise-cracker in the United States. The House of Representatives at Washington is the target of every smart aleck who makes his living writing funny pieces for the paper. This and

### WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

Charles L. Rockwell, mayor of Pontiac: "The new electric lights on Woodward avenue in Birmingham make the street as light, I think, as Washington Boulevard in Detroit. I will remember Birmingham for many years, and have marveled at its recent rapid growth. We used to call Birmingham Pious Hill, because so many pious people lived there; I suppose, too, that the village is quite pious yet."

George R. Averill, publisher of the Eccentric, answering Mayor Rockwell, of Pontiac: "Yes, Mayor, Birmingham is still a bit pious—you see, Sir, it wouldn't be fair to Oakland County unless some portion of it maintained the piety and highest morals of modern civilization."

results in a lack of respect for public offices, and is reflected by the attention to public issues and public men, acceptance of the very real responsibility that accompanies citizenship under free government—these are the means through which and by which Mr. Toms believes the United States will continue in existence, and come nearer realizing the goal of its founders.

Restoration of party responsibility, greater willingness to pay attention to public issues and public men, acceptance of the very real responsibility that accompanies citizenship under free government—these are the means through which and by which Mr. Toms believes the United States will continue in existence, and come nearer realizing the goal of its founders.

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### LIBRARY ASKS LANDSCAPING

Board Petitions Commission For Completion Of Block

The village manager today is obtaining estimates on the cost of landscaping the south half of the Library block in keeping with the municipal block, following a petition presented to the commission by the library board.

Accompanying the petition was a statement from J. B. Howarth, secretary of the board, explaining the reasons for the request. It follows: "In connection with the above motion I was instructed to explain that the Village owns the Library Building and grounds. The appropriation for erecting and furnishing the building has been exhausted. The income derived from taxation is for books and running expenses. We have no money for landscaping. "The south half was left in the rough when the building was

erected for the reason that Merritt street was to be regraded and paved. Because of the lowering of the grade of that street that part of the grounds is sadly out of keeping with the remainder. Four steps at each crossing are used to reach the sidewalk. They are dangerous in winter and inconvenient at all times. We realize that it will be necessary to remove several old trees in relandscaping these grounds, but most of them are soft Maples not in good condition and, while we would like to see them preserved, we can conceive of no means of doing so without having an unsightly and inconvenient landscape there."

### VILLAGE BOYS PLAN CAMP

Ten Birmingham boys will attend Camp Charlevoix, the character Camp for Boys, directed by Lewis C. Reimann, a former football star of the University of Michigan, on Lake Charlevoix, northern Michigan, July 2 to August 26.

The following boys are already enrolled and a number of others are planning to go, it is announced: Tim Neal, Robert Uiter, Morris Winborn, Gahn Kinnison, William Van Every, Clark Matthews,

### WILLIAM PRATT, MARTIN OWENS, EDWARD OWENS AND JOHN BAGBY.

Among the men who will be there as counselors are Merrill Hamberg, the model airplane editor of the American Boy Magazine, "Al" Heldman, an eight letter athlete of Oberlin College, Prof. J. Raleigh Nelson of the University of Michigan, counselors and native Indians in the Hiawatha Pageant.

"How about that jury in that prohibition case?" "They've been out six hours and they just sent word to the court to send in some more evidence." Judge.

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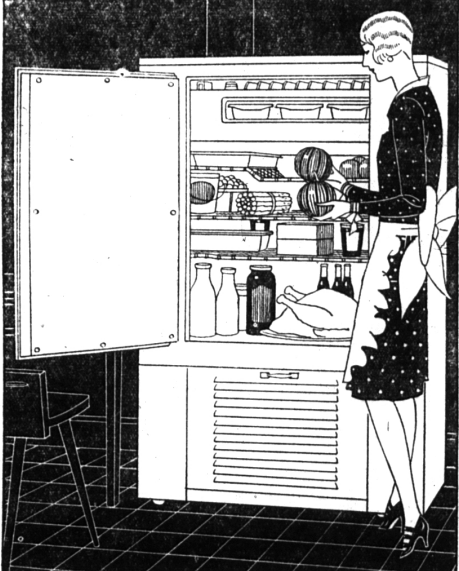
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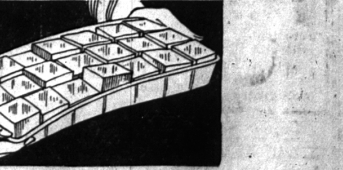
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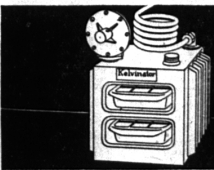
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