BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

(Founded in 1878) hursday at Birmingham, Mich., g. 126-128 North Woodward Telephones 11 and 12.

GEORGE RODGERS AVERILL - EDITOR AND PUBLISHER RAYMOND GIRARDIN - - - MANAGING EDITOR PAUL NEAL AVERILL - - - ADVERTISING MANAGER

ed as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Postoffice Birmingham, Michigan

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(In Oakland County)
One Year 11.56 One Year 12.50
One Year 11.56 One Year 12.50
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The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association; Michigan Press Association, and Uni-versity Press Club.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1929

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of eve which have news value and which are written by persons connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy me be presented before noon on Wednesdays. The right reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in ubmitted as are necessary to the style of the pa are required by laws of the style. Because of ical situation in the composing room, headlines writted se other than members of the staff cannot be us

Editor McMullen Agrees That "Prisons Are Prisons"

A few weeks ago, you will recall, The Eccentric was "daken to task" for criticising the editorial opinion of J. E. McMullen, editor of the Linden Leader, relative to the latter's stand on the treatment of inmates of Michigan's penal institutions. You will remember that The Eccentric, after several weeks of editorial controversy, issued an invitation to Mr. McMullen to visit Ionia and Jackson prisons, at our expense. Editor McMullen, who is 73 years of age, accepted with grace.

Well, the trip was made Friday and Saturday of

age, accepted with grace.

Well, the trip was made Friday and Saturday of
last week. Included in the party were Norman C.

Orr, Oakland County's new prosecuting attorney,
and Murl H. DeFoe, editor of the Charlotte (Mich.)

Republican-Tribune; and what follows is editor McMullen's letter to The Eccentric, received Monday
afternoon. Here it is:

Linden, Michigan, Jan. 14, 1929.

Mr. George R. Averill, Editor Birmingham Eccentric, Birmingham, Michigan.

My dear Sir:

My dear Sir:

Allow me to express my deep appreciation to you for the invitation you extended me a few weeks ago to accompany a parry of friends on a visit to two of our major state penal institutions, viz: lonia and Jackson, which took place Friday and Saturday, January 11 and 12. The reason for your kind invitation was owing to a statement which I made in my paper, The Linden Lachr, on November 23, wherein was stated, "What is the average Michigan prison today but a lying in hospital, where these bad boys pregnant with crime are sent to conceive greater crimes and more devious ways to clude the officers of the law."

This statement I made in good faith beligning it.

of the law."

This statement I made in good faith, believing it was true, and even now I believe it expresses the sertiment of thousands on the outside who accept it on hearing evidence, which in a court of law would not be considered. Ignorance, Mr. Averill, may be "bell" with the believe in the believe

of the real old orthodox variety at that.

Now, of course, after seeing what we saw with our own eyes and hearing with our lown ears you naturally want to know what I think about Michigan prisons today. I shudder to think of it, and to write you what I really think would take more time than have at command this morning and more than you would want to hope ower.

you what I really think would take more time than have at command this morning and more than you would want to pore over.

Our visit to the "reform" prison at Ionia blotted from my mind all my pre-conceived notions of prison life, especially to those state wards capable of thinking; for, wherein I pictured it to be a place where prisoners might, under proper instructions, study and earn almost any trade they might like in order to make themselves useful citizens when their terms expired, I found only a meer handful of men, to be exact, twenty, who were thus engaged, and those principally as garage workers.

Without going into detail I freely confess that I

ipally as garage workers.
Titchoux going into detail I freely confess that I
natively convinced of my erroneous ideas of prife, as it opened to my view conditions I hardly
passed, and I only wish every boy and
the passed of the prition of the passed of the p

ncerely and fraternally yours,
J. E. McMullen.

Be A Rainbow, Mr. Nimmo

Harry M. Nimmo, editor of Derroit Saturday ight, should have lived in the grand and glorious ys of Salome: he would have made a fine sympaiser of this little dancer who, in a moment of minine whim, sided by her mother, called for and circed the head of John the Baptist. For, as you yk know, Folks, our editorial contemporary from you know, Folks, our editorial contemporary from and women through the enactment of capital miniment legislation in Michigan.

As a subscriber to Mr. Nimmo's shiny sheet each of for many years, we have often wondered what suld happen to some great quantities iof his copy per should crime suddenly vanish in Michigan, every entwile law violator take up flower culti-ion, futuristic knitting, whittidig, or rug wear-ion, futuristic knitting, whittidig, or rug wear-what would Mr. Nimmo write about? Well, something, of course, for a chap of his try and energy would certainly learn that white a really int white at all, but is composed of the algamation of the solar spectrum—with just the per emphasis on the yellow. However, given time, Nimmo may ver reveal in his collection.

Rapid Transit Solved

Rapid Transit Solved

One of the most importane announcements affecting the physical growth of Bitmingham and vicinity that ever struck the ears and eyes of local people came last Friday night at the annual meeting of the Royal Oak real estate board at Oakland Hills Constry Club; it was the statement by a representative of the Grand Trunk Railmost that his company had definitely determined to inaugurate rapid transit commuters' service over its readbed when the new right of way is completed.

This announcement is, in our opinion, even of the Wider Woodward swenup repiect for it heralds the ladvent of a system of transportation for business meni and women that ought to prove less laborious than the operation of private home and onfice.

Aided by motor buses and interurban cars, the new commuter trains over the Grand Trunk Railroad will practically settle the problem of transportation, between Pontics, Birmingham, Rayal Oak, and other points in Oakland Country, and Detroit, and will trun the attention of countless thousands of tired city dwellers toward the mingham and vicinity.

To paraphrase the famous Greeley, may we soon admonish the good, home-loving folk of Detroit or admonish the good, home-loving folk of Detroit or proposed the country of the system, yards to play in for the papones, and he, streams and golf courses for the tribe's warrons.

Come on, Detroit! Come on out in God's country and live!

Responsive Citizens

Nineteen Birmingham men, answering the call of altheir village commission to assist in shaping plans and policies for this community, appeared in the Muniscipal Building last week and organized themselves into working groups; they seek to investigate six local problems, including Charter revision, ordininces, water supply, sewer and waste disposal, building code, and finances. The results of their findings, will, it is hoped by all good citizens, serve to make more secure the basic government of Birmingham, into which each year their is pouring an ever increasing amount of the taxpayers money.

Birmingham is growing rapidly today; and it is Seing met almost daily with new problems; in some ways, it may be compared to the imperuous youth who, not reckoning the serious responsibilities of martial life; takes upon himself a wife, becomes the father of a husky set of triplets, and then hustles to bring together all the things necessary to make them used to the control of the control of

fed, warmed, and sheltered, under the triming frow and must be fed, warmed, and sheltered, under the trimingham is so organized that each member of its commission is not obligated to give more time to the task; for you must remember that the five dollars paid each commissioner amounts, if figured on an hourly basis of time actually given to the public business, to less than an average of perhaps 40 cents. That's pretty cheap wages to pay for the degree of work they seek to perform.

So it is fine to have so many public-spirited citicans answer the call to aid their elected officials as was manifested here last week.

County Drain Expenses

This newspaper has always sought to be fair in its treatment of public officials as a matter of fact, when in doubt, it has generally given officialdom the benefit of the doubt, for it does have proof that the average official so feten misunderstood when he is doing his best to serve the people who elected him. But we must step out on occasion and inform our readers of certain conditions that rise with the growth of Oakland Country, and plead for a greater study of public utility improvements, to the end that the mounting tax burden may be kept at a minimum.

m. In this case we are mindful of the sewage disposal In this case we are mindful of the sewage disposal problems that condron the municipalities of Oak-land County. Millions of dollars have been assessed against properties in Oakland County for county drains; and, as time goes on, many millions more will undoubtedly be taken from the taxpayer's pocketbooks to cope with the problems of disposing of sewage.

pocketbooks to cope with the problems of disposing, it swage.

A few weeks ago it was revealed that County Drain Commissioner Arthur W. Spencer was considering a tri-county drain, to cost nine millions of dollars. The cost of this drain would be apread on Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne Counties, with the ingreatest portion on Oakland County; Birmingham, itself, would be assessed directly for \$210,000.00, and also pay a portion of the County's direct portion, with And this proposed drain would relieve but a few tholocks of Birmingham's residence section, most of it being for the southeastern section of the county, in that being for the southeastern section of the county, in that County drain projects are made and the proposed that the county in that County drain projects are made and the county in that County drain projects are made and the county in that County drain projects are made and the county in that County drain projects are made and the county in that the county drain projects are made and the county in that the county drain projects are made and the county of the county o

being for the southerstern season through without Hazel Park.

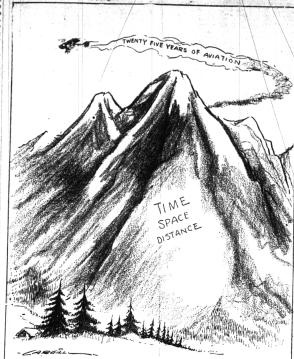
County drain projects are put through without much knowledge by the general public, or interference from them. Generally, a few subdividers know the inside workings of the project, but the public—apathetic, as usual—pays no attention to drain projects until axpaying time—too late then, of course, to do anything.

Birmingham's present officials will do well to protect this community against unfair county drain assessments that may be proposed from time to time.

A CLEVER WIT SAYS "my idea of an unsightly package is a man who is all wrapped up in himself." And the more wrapped up one is in himself, we opine, the less daylight gets in which means that in the absence of light there is only darkness.

energy would certainly learn that white init white at all, but is composed of the nof the solar spectrum—with just the not of the solar spectrum—with just the sais on the yellow-However, given time, may yet reveal in his columns that an inhow circumscriber the storm areas of here, and that the average desires, urges, of human life upon earth are not content to the colorful blue and indigo of Monor the colorful blue and indigo of Monor that the superior takes an undue advantage of him. And when the finds, as he untally does, that his suspicious are not the colorful blue and indigo of Monor that the superior that is suppicious and the superior takes the support of the suppor

We Have Met The Enemy, And He Is Hours!



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to re-ceive communications for this col-umn. All communications must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request.

KIND WORDS

was in our own Eccentric and produced the "extra."

More power to you and your up to the minute paper.

Who knows but that we may soon require a daily in our midst and trust that it may be our present enterpring weekly.

It is specifully a factorial to the control of the cont

or the minute paper.

It is the control of the paper.

It is the c

the board, re 'Multiple Listing' the board, re adultipe Listing and increase in commission charge, cannot in my estimation create volume; this, by adopting said resolutions, we are working against our supreme objective.

Yours very sincerely,

LOUIS HASCALL

The Other Chap Says Something

hazard.

They are an unfair form of competition.
They are difficult to control.
The main reasons advanced for their existence is that they are fast and convenient (if one is around.) But these reasons are far outweighed by the objections and by the fact that they tred to the fact that they did not the second of the control of the second of the fact that they did not control of the second of the fact that they did not control of the second of the fact that they did not control of the second of the seco

A REAL OPPORTUNITY

A REAL OPPORTUNITY
For years the election laws of
Michigan have been a target for
Incessant criticism, but little has
incessant criticism, but little has
about the weather, everybody conplains of it but nobody does anything. At last there is a prospect of a thorough revision for a
commission has been appointed
mew election law. The commission consists of three men— Dennie E. Alvard of Lansing, Roy E.
Brownell of Flint and Edward
make the fill-doe. They will
make the fill-doe. They will
make the fill-does. They will
on the legislature at its coming seasion.

make their recommendations to the legislature at its coming season. The minor defects will be easy enough to deal with—such matters as dates and hours, the procreustody of ballots, and the like. The real problem, and the real opportunity, will come when the desire of the proper control of the primary is taken up. It is safe primary have been deeply disappointed. The Teleschell of the primary, but we advocate of the primary, but we advocate of the primary between the confusion resulting from numerous cannot be up. It is the subject of the primary cannaigns, the confusion resulting from numerous cannaipulated by polity it can be manipulated by polity it can be for the primary cannains and thereby diminished party responsibility.

Remember This! that nowhere in the history of this country. has well chosen real estate in a growing community failed to show a profit. Colgrove, Buck & Tillotson FIRST STATE BANK BLDG.

From a public and non-partisan standpoint, it has not given us higher average grade of public officials. It has made it harder, rather than easier, for the peor-rich one, or the independent can-didate to compete with the non-who enjoys the support of a poli-tical machine.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—
Dewitt B. Lucas, not well we believe the legislature and the year of the property of a gold machine.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—
Dewitt B. Lucas, not well we believe the legislature and they country. There are the valleys, which represent the depths of moral digavity or there is the vast was the plan which typifies the average person; then come the foothills and the mountain characteristic was always alter case, and there is the vast well as the plan which typifies the average person; then come the foothills and the mountain which typifies the average person; then come the foothills and the mountain which there is the vast was a transplan which typifies the average person; then come the foothills and the mountain which there is the vast was a transplant to the problem of t

Friendly Thoughts By G. Dewey Kimball



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