

G. T. PROJECT TO BE FINISHED BY JUNE 1

Officials Report 60 Per Cent Of Tracks Completed; Depot Construction Advances

Walls are about half completed for the new Grand Trunk railway terminal in Birmingham and work which was started in November on the building will probably be completed by June 1. Face brick is being used, with a limestone trim, the entrance being built up with "random ashlar," railway officials say.

Track crews are laying track at various points along the route. Filling in gaps, and 40 per cent of the track work may be said to be completed. Ballasting, can be started as soon as the gravel pits open in the spring, and all track work probably will be completed in June, workmen say.

Kit F. Clardy, assistant attorney-general who has handled much of the state's litigation in connection with the completion of the Woodward Avenue and permanent tracks for the Grand Trunk between Detroit and Pontiac, through Birmingham, also estimates that the Woodward Avenue work will be completed early in the summer. The cost of the Woodward Avenue work, \$5,000,000, which eventually is to be paid by the railroad, the first installment of \$200,000 being due from the Grand Trunk to the state of Michigan this month.

As soon as officials reach an agreement as to grade separations, work will commence on the elevated speedway over the Grand Trunk right-of-way between Detroit and Pontiac, according to promoters. Nothing vital seems to be at stake, they say, to create conflicts. The roadway will be 40 feet wide and give two lines of traffic ample accommodation. Hamtramck officials must give

their sanction on the elevated highway, however, before construction can start. The city of Detroit sanctioned it at the Nov. 4 election. Operation of the road as a toll highway for a number of years is the plan, also, which the City of Detroit may take it over. Plans for the electrification of the Grand Trunk lines between Detroit and Pontiac were announced simultaneously with the plan for the elevated highway. The project, as outlined by C. G. Bowker, general manager, provides for facilities which will include a four-track line between Detroit and Pontiac, with stops at all principal points. Multiple unit electric cars are to be used, similar to those now being used in the Illinois system on suburban service out of Chicago.

No New Smallpox Cases Reported

No new cases of smallpox have been reported to the village Health Department during the past week, according to Dr. W. Lloyd Kemp, residents of the village, however, who desire vaccination by the village health officer, may apply to the health department between the hours of 9 and 10 a. m. General vaccination, either by the family doctor, or at the village health office, of all persons who have not been successfully vaccinated within the past five years, is urged by Dr. Kemp.

"This is the only means of prevention," says Dr. Kemp. "It is absolutely safe, when properly done, and it would seem folly to neglect this protection when smallpox is as prevalent as it is in surrounding communities."

"It is not generally understood," he added, "that when a case of smallpox has attended a school, all the teachers, students and employees are considered as having been exposed to the disease. The law and public health regulations provide that any and all such who have not been successfully vaccinated within five years or do not show an immunity reaction, shall be quarantined at once. Refusing vaccination, they shall be quarantined for the prescribed period. These regulations will be rigidly enforced."

Upatriotic Those dear, kind-hearted people who want to forgive the European nations all their war debts will, of course, not expect payment on the Liberty bonds they hold.—Detroit Free Press.

Fire Insurance Rate Is Cut 15 Per Cent In Birmingham

Fire insurance rates for residential property in the village have been reduced approximately 15 per cent and rates for business buildings have been reduced approximately five per cent, it is announced by the Michigan Inspection Bureau, which recently completed its triennial investigation of the village's fire protection facilities.

The reason for the rate reduction is attributed to the improved water power, installation of more water mains and hydrants and the improvement in the fire department itself. The rate change now places Birmingham in Class 6 and it formerly was in Class 7. The rates are not much different from class 1 and but slightly higher than Detroit.

Water Supply Improved J. B. Howarth, local realtor and insurance agent, Monday explained that the insurance rate for downtown property was fairly low before the change and that the present reduction is in keeping with the Dean Scheffle, a copy-right schedule of fire insurance rates adopted for Michigan. The inspection bureau acts with the state insurance commission in adopting these rates.

Harold H. Carson, village engineer, reports that since the inspection of the village fire fighting facilities in 1927 by the inspection bureau, approximately 9,500 feet of 12-inch water main has been laid and that in 1928, six and four-tenths miles of water main were laid. This included a small part of the 12-inch main previously mentioned and another part of the 12-inch main is included in the report of two and seven-tenths miles of water main laid in 1929. The figures for 1930 are not yet available but they will be considerably lower than in the other two years, Mr. Carson said.

New Law Aided Cut "While the addition of all this water main reduced the pressure and afforded better distribution," Mr. Carson said, "the Michigan inspection bureau also was influenced to reduce the rates because the village passed an ordinance prohibiting the fire equipment from leaving the village to answer alarms in the township outside of the village. They said in effect, 'If you send your fire equipment outside of the village and into your own community unprotected, you'll have to purchase additional equipment.'" Mr. Carson said.

The rates now established are: frame dwelling with, single roof \$2.50 per \$1,000 valuation, formerly \$3.00; frame dwelling with approved roof (slate, tile, copper, etc.) \$4, formerly \$4.50; brick building with single roof \$4.50, formerly \$5.50; brick building with approved roof \$3, formerly \$3.50. For two family dwellings the rates are 50 cents higher per \$1,000 valuation.

Township Rates Higher These rates are not retroactive and James W. Parry, village manager, estimates that fire companies will save to property owners in the village because of the reduction will be \$7,500.

The Birmingham Fire Department now has a force of 10 paid firemen in addition to the volunteer department. Dwellings in order to come under the new rate reduction must be within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant and be within two miles of the fire station.

Rates for dwellings outside of the village in the unprotected area are: frame dwelling with single roof, \$2.50 per \$1,000 valuation and \$7.50 for frame dwellings with approved roof.

The ratings are established on the following points given in the order of their importance: water supply, fire department, structural conditions (including the width of street, accessibility to fire department, etc.), fire alarm system, hazards (congested districts, etc.), building code, and police department.

CHIEF WM. THORNTON REPORTS FIRE LOSS Birmingham's fire department, according to approximately 24 alarms a month during 1930 was unable to prevent a loss of only \$110,928.58 in damage through fire, \$28,092 of which was on property not covered by insurance. According to the annual report submitted by Chief William G. Thornton, this includes loss of property valued at \$74,800 in Bloomfield, Troy and Southfield Townships outside of the village, of which \$21,800 was not covered by insurance.

The months of July, August and September were the busiest for the fire department, 131 alarms being answered during those three months. Of these, 95 were in the village. During the year 37 fire alarms were answered in Bloomfield Township, 16 in Southfield Township and 12 in Troy Township. Property valued at \$1,386,770 was endangered by fire and of this property valued at \$182,920 was in the three townships.

Of the 218 alarms in the village, 12 were false alarms and 20 were of unknown origin. In the townships there was only one false alarm and 20 of fires of unknown origin. In addition to these Chief Thornton classifies over-looked, fire set by children, backfiring automobiles, short circuits, explosions in oil stoves, defective oil burners, lightning, wind blowing sparks from other fires, the burning of other rubbish and other causes of fire.

The budgetary expenses for the year were overdrawn \$2,601.60 of which \$2,413.64 was for salaries of officers rendered to townships, netting the department \$7,484.25 and the total expenditures of the department were \$33,648.87, making the actual expense of the department \$26,065.62.

Chief Thornton's report also includes materials used, inspections made, the average water pressure every 15 minutes, 1,645 1/2 miles travelled and other miscellaneous information.

January Clearance Sale combined with MONTH-END SALE offer Further Reductions and Irresistible Savings

Advertisement for L. E. Davidson's Birmingham Department Store. Features a list of clothing items such as coats, suits, dresses, and shoes with prices and discounts. Includes a 'Your Money Back' guarantee and a 'Smart Shoes' illustration.

Advertisement for The Bloomfield Forge, featuring ornamental iron works, fireplace screens, and floor lamps. Contact: H. J. Busch, Jr., Phone 997.

Advertisement for Leonard Electrical Co., featuring lighting fixtures and electric appliances. Contact: Leonard Electrical Co., Phone 223-875.

Advertisement for Grinnell Bros. Pianos, featuring pianos for rent for home use. Contact: Grinnell Bros., Phone 2175.

Advertisement for Grinnell Bros. Pianos, featuring piano models and prices. Contact: Grinnell Bros., Phone 2175.

Advertisement for Village Won't Sue On Royal Pk. Bond, featuring a legal notice regarding a bond for the village.

Advertisement for Dr. M'Conkie Wins Lions Club Prize, featuring a notice about a prize won by Dr. M'Conkie from the Lions Club.