When I meet you on the street, and do not beam with happiness in your presence, it is only because the world has not yet reared its people to fully enjoy life. I may be happy, yet unable to reveal it at the time.

The Birmingham Eccentric

16 PAGES, PART 1

FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR—NO. 31 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1931 $2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

THIS and THAT

By C. R. A.

Government is a contrivance of human wisdom to provide for human wants.—Burke.

There seems to be considerable interest manifest in the various governmental units these days. From Washington's federal government down through to state, county, township and village, there is coming to the surface an alarming unrest on the part of the average citizen. Swimming against the outgoing tide of compensation that has come in the wake of 10 years of certain phases of high speculation, the average man tries to keep afloat until the tide again turns. No one wants to be left "high and dry" as the waters of a former prosperity recede; yet unknown and unnumbered millions today are facing conditions that ought to call forth every ounce of sympathy and help from organized society. In the average citizen's efforts to rid himself of as much of his burdens as possible, so that, figuratively speaking, he may remain afloat, he first always has turned his attention upon his government. He observes that public officials, having set up a system of government in keeping (sometimes more than necessary) with the demands made upon them by a prosperous (and speculative) citizenry, are often tardy in re-adjusting their official houses to the shifting times. And so John Public, desirous of reducing his cost of living, inevitably directs some of his shafts of criticism against his public servants. That this is happening to the severely right now in Birmingham and Bloomfield Township, as well as in other units of our state and federal governments.

Of all governments, that of the mob is the most sanguinary; that of soldiers the most expensive; and that of civilians the most vexatious.—Colton.

Government originally instituted as a means of protecting the life and property of human beings in the most primitive ages has grown to such an extent that, under modern conditions, it not only seeks to prevent the loss of your life and your property, but in many cases seeks to tell you how to live. And in telling you how to live, it pays people from funds extracted by means of taxation. Too, your modern government, in its desire to build good roads, to create health conditions by means of proper sewers and drainage systems, to erect and maintain good schools and to perform the many other tasks imposed upon it by the people, has created enormous expenditures—all of which must be paid by the taxpayers. One of the tragic reflections upon both our modern public officials and the citizens is that they are too prone to provide every improvement foisted upon them by the small minority that stands to profit at the expense of the apathetic many. For instance, how many times have public officials felt that a certain type of improvement was impractical, or even undesirable, yet have acted favorably upon it simply because the minority wanting it had conformed to the legal requirements to obtain it by petition? In Oakland County alone, if you were to investigate the activity behind every public project, you would find that the improvement placed on the tax roll was, in many cases, not needed—yet in the face of an apathetic, inert, disorganized (and then prosperous) citizenry, it certain that it made some lasting impressions on the minds of men who lived under the terrific strain of the front line.

After 13 years, these memories are helping men in the Village Players of Birmingham reconstruct in exact detail a dugout on the stage of the playhouse. With striking reality, they have reproduced ever feature of the underground quarters in which they spent many trying days and nights during the war.

In a like manner, these men are recreating sounds and light effects which bring the dugout right up to the front line. So realistic is the effect that one can almost feel the tense atmosphere of the front and the unreliable security of the dugout. Even the dampness of the place in which the candles burn with an uncanny light can be sensed.

It is in this dugout that the action of R. C. Sheriff's "Journey's End" takes place. Tomorrow and Saturday evenings the Players will present this famous play under

(Turn to Page 2, No. 5)

HAVE YOU MET?—

Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Hayes and family who moved to Birmingham from Detroit on Oct. 15, and now reside at 486 Pilgrim road. They have two children, Peggy, five years old, who attends the kindergarten at Quarton School, and Vincent, two years old. Mr. Hayes is associated with the purchasing department of the Ford Motor Company.

One of the heaviest overheads attached to a unit of government is the total amount of all bond issues, or loans that bear interest and principal payments at certain intervals. You wish a new schoolhouse, vote for it, and sell the bonds. You seek a new drain, a broad pavement, or any other item for your safety or convenience,

(Turn to Page 4, No. 6)

FRED JOHNSON HEADS VILLAGE RELIEF GROUP

Permanent Welfare Committee Plan To Be Explained Today

ASSISTANTS ARE NAMED

Fred W. Johnson, Adams road, has been appointed general chairman of the permanent committee on welfare relief in Birmingham which will set up machinery for co-ordinating the various welfare agencies in the village this winter in an attempt to provide food, clothing and shelter to the needy on the most efficient possible plan.

The appointment was announced yesterday by Arthur J. Kane, chairman of the welfare advisory committee named by Village Manager James W. Parry several weeks ago to study the welfare problem here, and which was delegated at a meeting last Saturday afternoon to select a permanent committee and outline a definite course of action.

The new organization plan and program is to be described by the advisory committee in detail at a meeting to be held in the Municipal Building at 4 P. M. today, which everyone interested in the local welfare problem is urged to attend.

Immediate Action Wanted

"It is our hope that activity work will get under way immediately," said Mr. Kane in announcing the meeting yesterday.

Last Saturday's meeting was attended by nearly 50 representatives of practically every church, social and lodge organization in Bloomfield Township which does welfare work as a part of its program.

Besides consideration of a permanent welfare committee, the discussion centered around a possible location of relief headquarters. James Lee Oliver offered the use of the Community House of which he is president, and the use of a vacant house on the middle block in the civic center, which is owned by the village, was also suggested, but no definite decision was reached. This question is expected to be settled at today's meeting, along with other details of the exact workings of the permanent committee.

Marquis Speaks

"The need for immediate relief facilities, and the co-operation of the various organizations which are capable of furnishing aid was urged by several speakers at the meeting including Rev. S. S. Marquis rector of Christ Church Cranbrook and former welfare director for the Ford Motor Company, and Rev. R. M. Atkins, pastor of the Birmingham Methodist Church and a member of the advisory committee.

Other members of the advisory committee besides Mr. Atkins and

(Turn to Page 2, No. 2)

Players Strive For Atmosphere Of Battle Front

"Do you think this life sharpens the imagination?"

In a dug-out in the British trenches before St. Quentin in March, 1918, a young captain asked the question of his second-in-command as they sat awaiting the big German attack that was expected at any time.

Whether or not the war sharpened the imagination, it is certain that it made some lasting impressions on the minds of men who lived under the terrific strain of the front line.

After 13 years, these memories are helping men in the Village Players of Birmingham reconstruct in exact detail a dugout on the stage of the playhouse. With striking reality, they have reproduced ever feature of the underground quarters in which they spent many trying days and nights during the war.

In a like manner, these men are recreating sounds and light effects which bring the dugout right up to the front line. So realistic is the effect that one can almost feel the tense atmosphere of the front and the unreliable security of the dugout. Even the dampness of the place in which the candles burn with an uncanny light can be sensed.

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(Turn to Page 2, No. 5)

It is among the evils, and perhaps not the smallest, of democratic governments, that the people must feel before they will see. When this happens, they are ready to action. Hence it is that those kinds of government are slow.—George Washington.

Heads Relief Group

Fred W. Johnson

$3,000 SCHOOL SCRIP SOLD

Teachers To Get Half Of Friday's Payroll In Cash, Randall Says

About $3,000 worth of the $50,000 scrip issued by the Birmingham School Board had been sold up to the time the banks closed for business Tuesday afternoon, it was announced yesterday by Louis M. Randall, business manager.

With the small amount of cash already on hand, the result of the sales to date will enable the board to meet half of Friday's payroll in cash, Mr. Randall said. The other half will be paid directly in scrip.

Half of the last payroll, payment of which was deferred pending the board's attempts to sell enough scrip to meet the payment in cash, was given the teachers Tuesday in scrip, Mr. Randall said.

Meanwhile, the teachers are finding that Birmingham merchants and landlords generally have been fairly generous in their willingness to accept the scrip in payment of bills. F. Morse Cooke, principal of Adams Grade School and a member of the Birmingham Teachers' Club committee, in a statement to The Eccentric yesterday, said:

"We, the teachers, are very grateful for the splendid co-operation shown by a number of local business and professional men and women in their willingness to accept scrip money for a few weeks.

"Miss Merle Taylor, at Baldwin High School, Miss Inez McCoy at Pierce School, Miss Cross at Quarton School, Miss Cross at Bagnum School, and I comprise the committee in charge of the scrip negotiations.

"We are compiling a list of Birmingham concerns willing to accept the scrip, and will appreciate offers from every business place to accept the scrip as negotiable paper. We will publish, next week, the names of all those co-operating in this respect, and trust that, should we overlook any local concern, that its owner will feel free to let one of our committee know his or her desires in the matter."

The Ladies Aid Society of the Embury M. E. Church met Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Mahlon Stevens of Smith avenue to make plans for their part in the large bazaar which will be held Dec. 4 and 5 at the Community House.

TUGGEY TELLS VILLAGE HOW TO SAVE $29,540

Recommends Drastic Payroll Reductions; Would Fire 12 Employes

ALL DEPARTMENTS HIT

The Village Commission has before it today a report recommending that 12 village employes be dismissed, and that the salaries of remaining employes in every department with the exception of police and fire be reduced for a total estimated yearly saving of $29,540.

The recommendations were made Monday night by Justice of the Peace Arthur J. Tuggey as a climax to his arraignment of the village administration on charges of waste, mismanagement and over-stuffed payrolls.

The most drastic changes recommended included the combining of the offices of village manager and village engineer, dismissal of the lieutenant, clerk and one patrolman from the police force, the combining of the offices of building inspector, electrical inspector and maintenance inspector, reduction of treasurer's and assessor's salaries, and the dismissal of clerks and assistants in several different departments.

Would Combine Offices

The report, in full, recommended:

1. Offices of village manager and engineer be combined. Saving per year, $5,600.

2. Stenographer in manager's office be dismissed Her duties to be taken over by the village clerk. Saving, $1,600.

3. Reduce treasurer's salary to $3,600. Reduce the salary of one clerk in the treasurer's office $300 and another's, $180. Dismiss one clerk in the department now drawing $1,020, and another drawing $900. Total saving, $2,800.

4. Reduce assessor's salary from $3,600 to $3,000. Assessor to assist in treasurer's office when needed. Saving, $600.

5. Dismiss two assistants in the engineering department and reduce the salaries of two others $150 each. Total saving, $4,860.

6. Combine the office of building inspector, electrical inspec-

(Turn to Page 2 No. 3)

MAPLES TO MEET HAZEL PARK '11'

Full Strength Ready For Friday's Battle; Cranbrook Plays In Buffalo

Baldwin High will present its full strength against Hazel Park on Pierce Field Friday in a non-league gridiron encounter. Harris, Curry and Usher, three Maple stars who were kept out of the Berkley game last week by injuries, reported for practice in good shape again Monday.

Baldwin last year defeated Hazel Park by the small margin of 7 to 0, and Friday's tussle promises to be equally close, with the breaks of the game probably deciding the winner.

With the return of the regulars, the Maroon and White lineup will probably revert to its regular form as follows:

Shepherd, L. E.; McClelland, L. T.; Curry, L. G.; Usher, C.; Hilty, R. G.; Miller, R. T.; H. Brelsford, R. E.; Harris, Q.; Rocheleau, L. H.; Bunyan, R. H.; Hunt, F.

The Cranbrook eleven entrains this week-end for Buffalo where it is scheduled to lock horns with Nichols School aggregation of that city.

Mrs. Retta Barr, Former Library Board Head, Dies

Heart Disease Fatal To Community Leader At 63

Amid the tributes of the hundreds of townspeople who honored and respected her for her efforts to bring culture and beauty into the life of the community, Mrs. Retta M. Barr, for 16 years president of the village library board, was buried Saturday afternoon in Crooks Cemetery.

Mrs. Barr, who perhaps did more than any other single individual with the exception of Martha Baldwin herself in making Baldwin Public Library what it is today, died at 2:45 last Thursday afternoon from heart disease which had first attacked her nine months ago. She was 63 years old.

Her illness had forced her resignation from the library board last Aug. 18, after serving continuously since April 6, 1915. She was elected to the presidency the year after taking office, and was re-elected to the post every year thereafter.

Her term of service began when

(Turn to Page 2, No. 1)

Mrs. Barr

Addresses Lions

Malcolm W. Bingay

BINGAY URGES CO-OPERATION

Sees World Linked By New Social Consciousness Which Bars Escape

That civilization has learned within the past 75 years, through such widely divergent teachers as the World War and modern inventions, that the world is at last a unit in which the spirit of co-operation, sacrifice and brotherly love is the only salvation was the message brought to Birmingham Tuesday night in an inspiring address by Malcolm W. Bingay, editorial director of the Detroit Free Press.

Mr. Bingay was the principal speaker at the first of a series of monthly meetings sponsored by the Metropolitan Council of Lions Clubs, held in the Community House. The meeting was attended by more than 150 representatives of nine different Lions clubs in the Detroit area, with the Birmingham organization as host.

Mr. Bingay traced the death of the pioneering spirit in the development of a new social consciousness which has sprung up through the medium of the startling inventions which have facilitated travel and communication within the past three quarters of a century, and which has made it impossible any longer for troubled people to deliberately run away from their problems.

No More Pioneering

"Today there are no more great vast open spaces like those to which our puritan fathers turned in running away from undesirable neighbors in England," the speaker said. "The world has caught up with itself. There is no more pioneering except in the world of knowledge. For the first time man has got to turn around and meet his problems."

It is this condition of world unity and social consciousness which accounts for the consideration shown Germany by her fellow nations today, Mr. Bingay declared.

"Germany is being maintained on her feet because if Germany

(Turn to Page 2, No. 4)

Hughes Homicide Case Continued

The examination of George A. Hughes, 36 years old, of 156 Waddington road, on a charge of negligent homicide for being the driver of a car which killed two women and seriously injured two others at Woodward avenue and Thirteen Mile road on Oct. 2, was continued until Friday, Nov. 20, after the testimony of two witnesses had been taken when the examination opened in Justice J. E. Brondige's court in Royal Oak last Friday.

It was announced at Judge Brondige's office that the continuance was necessary because the two complaining witnesses, Miss Elise H. Yeats, 345 East Grand boulevard, Detroit, and Mrs. W. I. L. Stearns, 425 Lincoln road, Grosse Pointe, are still confined in a hospital with injuries received in the accident.

Miss Yeats' mother, Mrs. Frances P. Yeats, and Mrs. Fanny Sleeper, 8716 Beaubien street, Detroit, were killed in the crash.

MEMORIAL SERVICE IS SET FOR SUNDAY

A memorial service for the late Charles A. Bingham will be held in the Methodist Episcopal Church at 3 P. M. Sunday, sponsored by the Birmingham Exchange Club, one of the many organizations of which Mr. Bingham was a member.

The service will be marked by special rites conducted by the Hassberger Chapter of DeMolay, of which Mr. Bingham was the sponsor, several musical numbers, and a sermon by Rev. R. M. Atkins.

NEW TOWNSHIP BUDGET GIVEN TO COMMITTEE

Property Owners' Division Would Recommend Further Cuts

CONTROVERSY SUBSIDES

Bloomfield Township's new $112,876.50 budget is under the scrutiny today of a committee of three men representing the Property Owners' Division of the Birmingham Real Estate Board which last week charged the Township Board with "ill-advised" action in adopting the budget without informing taxpayers that it was ready to be approved.

The committee was appointed in answer to Supervisor Perry A. Vaughan's offer to re-open the budget for consideration, with the understanding that reductions will be made to meet the Division's suggestions wherever practicable.

The committee, composed of Eugene Walton, chairman, Luther Heacock and Robert K. McClellan, met with township officials for the first time Monday afternoon. After a brief discussion of various items on the budget, the committee was given a copy of the document for further study, and announced that any suggestions for revision would be made at a future meeting, no date for which was set.

Object To Rent

From the discussion which took place at the meeting, it was indicated that the committee intends to go over the budget piecemeal, studying each individual item with a view to recommending a reduction in the appropriations wherever possible.

Little was said about salaries of township employes, but the committee plainly indicated that it considers the $2,640 in rent exacted yearly by the Village of Birmingham from the township for rent of offices in the Municipal Building is too high, and suggested that moving to other quarters might not be impractical.

The members also questioned the wage scale paid to laborers for road repair work, and expressed belief that the rental fee for the clubhouse at Bloomfield Township Park should be raised.

Controversy Subsides

Meanwhile the controversy over whether or not the Township Board did ask definite agreement with the Property Owners' Division regarding a joint conference on the budget before it was passed, had quieted down, with the Division apparently satisfied to turn the entire matter into the hands of the budget reviewing committee.

The only further explanation for the situation was offered by James V. Bayley, township clerk, who said that a misunderstanding had apparently arisen between him and Charles A. Shain, chairman of the Property Owners' Division, owing to the fact that in their conversations Bayley had been talking about the township audit when Shain had been referring to the budget.

Lloyd B. Reid, township engineer, whose salary was cited in the Property Owners' Division's statement last week as a specific example of unnecessary township expense in 1931, declined to make any answer to the statement, declaring he preferred not to be drawn into a controversy.

Salaries Listed

"During the year 1931," the statement said, "many expenses which should have been reduced have been allowed to stand, including the salary of an engineer at $80 a week, although no engineering service was performed."

Next to the supervisor, Reid is the highest paid employe on the township payroll. The yearly salaries which will be paid in 1932 by Bloomfield Township, provide

(Turn to Page 2, No. 7)

What Would YOU Do?

Each week an Eccentric reporter asks two persons what they would do to relieve the economic depression and improve general social conditions.

Bert Hopkinson, 332 Hamilton street, laborer: "I suppose there are a number of different angles of looking at the thing, but I believe if everyone would pitch in and do his best to help the other it would do a lot of good.

"For instance, I think shorter hours in every line of industry would go a long ways toward giving everybody a chance to put himself on his feet and it would certainly help the welfare problem considerably.

"I also believe that each community should take a more active interest in caring for its own unemployed giving its work to local labor wherever possible. Right here in Birmingham, for instance, I know there are several Pontiac people employed. I suppose there are Birmingham people working in Pontiac, too, but it seems to me that if each locality considered its own residents first it would simplify matters considerably."

Walter Townsend, pharmacist: "I've often thought about what could be done by the enactment of certain specific measures—the six-hour day, a prosperity loan, or repeal of the prohibition laws, for instance—but I never came to any conclusion as to whether they would offer the relief needed. It would be impossible for me to put my finger on any definite and immediate solution to our economic and social problem. Too many different factors enter in which may just have to work themselves out slowly."

RENTALS. Furnished houses: Lovely home, 8 rooms, 2 baths, oil burner, large lot, $125 month. Another, 6 rooms, garage, $50. Both well located. Unfurnished: 8 room house on corner, 3-car garage, shade and shrubbery, $60. 6 room house, large lot, lovely trees, $45. Half double house, $30.00. House in terrace on corner, $35. Another, $25. Home furnished apt. heated, $40.
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Three Townships Plan Suit Against State Tax Board

Bloomfield, Avon, Waterford May File Complaints Today Against New Valuations

Complaints against the State Tax Commission with a view to preventing the spread of the Commission's new valuations of Oakland County on this year's tax roll will be filed in Circuit Court, probably today, by Raymond H. Berry of Detroit and A. L. Moore of Pontiac, attorneys representing Bloomfield, Avon and Waterford Townships.

Announcement that the suits were in process of being drawn up was made yesterday, a few hours following the recipt from Lansing of Bloomfield Township's tax rolls in which the state's new valuation has been written in at $48,566,235, or about 50 percent higher than the figure set by the county board of equalization.

The exact nature of the suit would not be divulged last night by either of the attorneys, although Mr. Berry said that some of the papers would be probably filed in the name of the townships as a whole, and others in the names of individual taxpayers.

Hits State Ruling

"In any case, we're not going to stand by the ruling of the state attorney-general," he declared. The attorney-general ruled last Saturday that the new valuations must be used as a basis for this year's tax collections, although two townships and three cities in the county will not be revaluated by the state until next spring.

"We are interpreting the attorney-general's ruling as the answer of Governor Brucker to our recent request that the new figures not be used this year," Mr. Berry said, "and in the absence of any further word from the Governor we are proceeding with the suits."

He could not say definitely when the papers would be filed, although both he and Perry A. Vaughan, Bloomfield Township supervisor, said they were quite certain it would be done this morning.

Bloomfield, Waterford and Avon Townships were the ones which recived the greatest percentages of increase in the state's figures. In Bloomfield Township the new valuation is $14,774,235 higher than the figure of $33,792,000 established by the county board of equalization last July, or an increase of 48.61 percent.

Calls Roll "Spotty"

The increase on property in Birmingham alone is 55.48 percent and in Bloomfield Hills Village 59.30 percent. Increases in various subdivisions in the township ranged from 39.53 to 50 percent.

Despite the increase, the figures now placed on the state's rolls are in most cases considerably lower than those revealed at the State Tax Commission's hearing here last month. Even those property owners who entered no formal protest received, in many cases, material reductions. Some others who did protest, however, were given no adjustments.

"We aren't complaining particularly about the increase in valuation," Mr. Vaughan said yesterday, explaining that the grievance against the State Tax Commission lies in the fact that the valuations do not appear to be equalized.

Mr. Vaughan characterized the roll as "spotty," and declared it does not consider it "an equalized roll."

Charles J. Shain, chairman of the Property Owners' Division of the Birmingham Real Estate Board, also said he had no quarrel with the valuation as a whole, but that he considered the figures unjust in particular cases, and that the Division would stand back of individual complaintants "to the limit."

STATE BANK ADDS TO CASH

Depositors Get Statements From Receiver And Their Committee

In a letter mailed out today by the depositors' committee of the First State Savings Bank, which closed last June 15, accompanied by a statement from the receiver, Charles W. Lee, comparative conditions of the institution are shown. On page four of the second section of this issue of The Eccentric may be found the detailed statement from Mr. Lee.

Significant showings in the Nov. 6 statement, as against that of June 15, reveal that Mr. Lee, as receiver, has decreased the bank's "notes rediscounted other banks" and "bills payable at other banks" from a total of $293,341.43 on June 15 to nothing as of Nov. 6. Cash on hand and due from banks on June 15 amounted to $8,346.27, while on Nov. 6 the amount had been raised to $54,678.53.

The letter, signed as of the committee appointed by the depositors says in part:

"The committee is working on a re-organization plan which, with the assistance and co-operation of the depositors, can be satisfied can be worked out with practically no loss to the depositors. You will note from the enclosed statement that the receiver has made definite progress toward converting the loans and mortgages due the bank into cash.

"The committee has not wished to present a plan for re-organization until it felt that the plan presented was sound and workable. A further statement will be made in a reasonable time."

Members of the depositors' committee appointed at a mass meeting last July are Harry Allen, Charles E. Lewis and Lawrence P. Smith.

Taxpayers' League Planned In Troy

Steps toward the organization of a taxpayers' association in Troy Township are to be taken at a meeting to be held at 8 P. M. today in the Troy Township building.

The meeting has been called by Herman Hendrickson, chairman of a committee appointed recently to plan the organization, and will be open to all taxpayers in the township.

Other members of the committee are Robert S. Porritt, Earl Lackie, Lyle Hawthorne, Mrs. Ed Hewson, Mrs. Frankie Smith and Morris Wattles.

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