LIONS INSTALL NEW OFFICERS

Retiring President Honored; Annual Committee Reports Read

Installation of new officers, reading annual reports of the retiring officers and committees, and the presentation of a jeweled pin to Raymond H. Peck, retiring president, in recognition of his services during the past year, marked the meeting of the Birmingham Lions Club Wednesday noon.

Howard D. Crull, principal of Barnum School, was installed as the new president. Other officers are Dr. J. Paul McConkie, first vice-president; Arthur Wingerden, second vice-president; B. J. Mairsy, clerk; C. J. Braemse, treasurer; Emerson C. Brown, lion tamer, and Don Jordan, tail twister.

The committee and officers' reports reviewed a wide variety of charitable enterprises and other activities sponsored by the club during the past year.

A total of 28 cases of defective vision were corrected in conformance with the club's major activity of aiding children whose eyesight is poor.

In addition, the reports showed, the club purchased road signs and placed them at the entrance of all main highways leading into the village; sponsored the Village Players in a benefit performance of "Journey's End" which netted $188.50 for the club's major activities; contributed $22.50 for the maintenance of Boy Scout Troop 4; and assisted the Board of Education in getting residents of Birmingham to pay their taxes or purchase scrip.

The club also entertained 280 children of indigent parents at its second annual children's Christmas party; donated $50 to a needy family at the holiday season; contributed, $25 to the Varsity Club for the purchase of the George F. Johnson Memorial Trophy; contributed old shoes and clothing for distribution by the Community House; and took an active part in the first annual Village Yard and Garden Contest.

Nearly $350 was spent from the major activities account, the reports showed.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

Rev. David L. Woodward, president of the Birmingham Ministers' Association: The fact that the annual Baldwin High School Baccalaureate service is being held in one of the churches this year is evidence that the schools and churches of our village are working together in an increasing spirit of unity. Such unity is exceedingly desirable in any community. I hold that religion should be a unifying force in the community and not a divisible one."

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TOSS BONNETS IN FEDERATION RING

Above, Mrs. Henry C. Taylor, left; Mrs. Grace Morrison Poole; below, left to right, Mrs. Eugene B. Lawson, Mrd. Edward Hammett, Mrs. Saidie Orr Dunbar.

The twenty-first convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs will be held in Seattle, Wash., June 9-18, the president, Mrs. John F. Sippel, presiding. The high point of interest will be the election of officers. Nine candidates for the five offices are announced: Mrs. Grace Morrison Poole, Brockton, Mass., is the lone candidate for the presidency; Mrs. Eugene B. Lawson, Tulsa, Okla., and Mrs. Henry C. Taylor, Bloomfield, Ia., have their bonnets in the ring for the first vice presidency. Mrs. Saidie Orr Dunbar, Portland, Ore., is the only candidate for recording secretary; Mrs. Edward Hammett, Sheboygan, Wis., treasurer, seeks re-election.

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And the visitor, wearing a singular grin,
And the heaviest half of the fruit,
And the juice, as it ran in a stream from his chin,
Washed the mud of the pike from his boot.

Then, mopping his face on a favorite sheet
Which the scribe had laid carefully by,
The visitor lazily rose to his feet
With the dreariest kind of a sigh,
And he said as the editor sought his address
In his books to discover his use;
"I came here to pay—my respects to the press
And to borrow a dollar of you!"

—Parmenas Mix.

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ture the period of tax collections begins, pointing out that money has been borrowed against 1932 taxes and that adoption of an installment system might interfere with the village's credit arrangements.

"If you had done this six months ago," he said, "I would have been in favor of the plan. But now, 30 days before we start collections and with everything predicted on that money coming in, you come along with a scheme that impairs our whole credit system. I don't believe it's good business."

Mr. Parry disagreed that the plan would have any material effect on the credit set-up, maintaining that property owners, who are able to pay their taxes and have been in the habit of doing so in July will continue to do so in order to save the interest that would be added for deferment.

The commissioners agreed that the trend is inevitably toward an installment basis for all tax collections, and that a plan of that kind at the present time might add somewhat to the total collected, but at the same time expressed the fear that it might reduce the amount that would be collected in the first few weeks after July 1 when it is most urgently needed.

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Gray, representing the Birmingham Branch of the American Association of University Women of which Mrs. Gray is president, and Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Barden, to represent the Rotary Anns of which Mrs. Barden is president.

On the reception committee are Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Shain, to represent the board of trustees of the Community House of which Mr. Shain is a member; Mr. Shain is also general chairman in charge of arrangements for the reception. Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Bowlus will also receive the guests to represent the Women's Literary Club, of which Mrs. Bowlus is president.

From the Birmingham Schools will be Melvin C. Hart, principal of Baldwin High School, and Mrs. Hart; F. Morse Cooke, principal of the Adams School and Mrs. Cooke; Howard D. Crull, principal of Barnum School, and Mrs. Crull; Mrs. N. J. Shoman, principal of Pierce School, and Mr. Shoman; and Miss Madeline Frederick, principal of Quarton School.

From the Birmingham churches will be Rev. and Mrs. W. Clarence Wright of the First Presbyterian Church; Rev. and Mrs. R. M. Atkins of the First Methodist Episcopal Church; Rev. and Mrs. David Leon Woodward of the First Baptist Church; Rev. and Mrs. Warner L. Forsyth of St. James' Episcopal Church and the Rev. and Mrs. Henry S. Evans of the United Presbyterian Church.

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next Wednesday afternoon from 4 to 6 P. M., and the annual fraternational graduation dance will be held as usual in the dining hall of Cranbrook from 9 to 1 Friday evening, June 10.

Prize day exercises will be held at 11 A. M. Saturday, June 11, in the Greek Theater of the Cranbrook Estates, unless unfavorable weather forces the ceremonies to be held in the auditorium of the school as in the past. The Father's Day program will be held on the afternoon of the same days, beginning at about 2 o'clock.

Baccalaureate Planned

Dr. S. S. Marquis, rector of Christ Church Cranbrook, will preach the Baccalaureate sermon in the church Sunday, June 12, for the graduating classes of both Cranbrook and Kingswood.

The Cranbrook commencement ceremony is scheduled for 11 A. M. Monday, June 13, in Christ Church. The Kingswood exercises will follow in the afternoon.

Dr. Stevens will address the Cranbrook graduates, and Dr. Katharine Rogers Adams, principal, will be the speaker at the Kingswood ceremony.

whose hard earned dollars have been lost through the shortcomings of the first.

The state has two stream control commissions. There are but one set of rivers and streams in Michigan but it requires two commissions to operate to protect them against one people.

Dry Land Navy

The military establishment, including the national guard and the state naval militia, costs well toward half a million a year, and does the reader know that Grand Rapids has a naval fleet out at Reed Lake? This military outfit is so busy it still refuses to take over the job of paying the soldiers their bonus.

For the past two years and more there has been little to do except attend gatherings of veterans with expenses paid, but the chief of the soldiers' bonus division draws $3,600 with a stenographer at $1,500. Some extra help is employed, probably to make up a foursome at bridge. Quarters are rented for this hard-worked group in a downtown Lansing office building.

The commission of inquiry into taxation completed its work and filed its report more that a year ago but a secretary still continues on the payroll at $1,800.

Vocational Guidance

Another little known outfit which is rapidly assuming startling size and importance is the vocational rehabilitation group. Already on that rapidly increasing payroll we find a state supervisor at $4,250; an assistant at $4,000; another assistant at $3,600; another at $3,250; and yet another at $2,900; and one as low as $1,350. There are field agents, statisticians and, of course, the usual retinue of stenographers.

But there is yet another venture into the realms of the unexplored, known as the department of vocational education. Here we find two supervisors at $5,600 and a third at $4,000. Right now we submit it is not so much a matter of what one does but rather how can a job at anything be secured.

And so we bring this series of articles to a close. Not because the subject is by any means exhausted, but because it remains inexhaustible. The writer has attempted to lead his readers around over the heights of political extravagance, to point out some of the dark shadows in a drab picture of wasteful bureaucratic state government.

There is much that has not been written that is of equally startling significance. The purpose has been to arouse an electorate to the importance of regaining for the people of Michigan some degree of control over state expense.

Oligarchy of Spenders

Michigan is ruled by an oligarchy of spenders who have their ears attuned and their eyes focused upon certain blocs and minorities which have learned to make themselves heard and seen.

The taxpayer will never get his deserved recognition until he, too, makes his power a virile, forceful portion of election issues. Public waste will never be sweet aside by those who fatten at public feed troughs.

Killing Rats

Farmers frequently find it profitable to take a day off and kill the rats which infest their granaries. Michigan needs a rat-killer at Lansing. And by this is meant no insult to those who serve the state.

The simile is employed only to point out that the taxpayers can never hope to keep the meal barrel filled as long as bureaus, boards, institutions, commissions and agencies multiply as they have in the past and consume so much and as long as the gap between private and public payrolls remains at its present width. Economy—relentless and ruthless, unmoved by sympathy, undaunted by opposition or political expediency—must rule if Michigan is to be saved from bankruptcy.

Only the taxpayer can accomplish this end and then only by determined effort and organized force.

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cal strength, that state has set a record in the number of governors recalled and impeached.

Citizens Are Greedy

Dishonest politicians have taken advantage of a greedy citizenry. The public has come to look upon government from town hall to the national capitol as a Santa Claus. Federal aid, state aid, county aid is a pernicious influence responsible for much of our orgy of spending.

Paderewski, the Polish patriot, in comparing the conditions of his Fatherland with America said, "Poland is a nation whose citizens look upon it as an altar upon which to lay their service—not a crib from which to feed."

There are too many feeding at the cribs in Michigan as elsewhere. Too few are willing to lay honest service upon the altar of the common good.

Michigan's affairs have been discussed in previous articles. Comparison of salaries has been made with similar positions in private and corporate business; the rapid and astonishing increase in public expense over a period of years has been referred to; an attempt has been made to fix responsibility in some instances; the lengths to which the state has gone in educational fields has been discussed; the difference between economy talked and the economy practiced has been pointed out; how commissions and bureaus are created and the ratio of multiplication with which they grow has been referred to; the propensity of state officials to ride about the state in free motor cars was related; some of the larger and more expensive boards and commissions were laid open for casual observation.

Closing the Book

Before we close the book let us just take a hasty survey of some of the minor agencies of government. Michigan has become commission mad. Its people are dizzy with new boards and bureaus. They are harassed by the imposition of undreamed regulations. They are stupefied at the paternalism which has grown upon them unawares.

A course of weaning must be engaged upon, the public must be weaned from the state and the bureaucratic hordes must be weaned from the public teats.

As the searchlight travels rapidly let a few high points be sketched. Michigan history costs a considerable sum. On the payroll of the state historical commission we find a secretary and an editor at $4,000; an assistant secretary at $2,700; an archivist at $2,000; a chief clerk at $1,675 and a mere clerk over which the chief clerk is chief at $1,622. Expense of publications amount to around $5,000 annually.

Securities Commission

The securities commission deserves mention. A chairman draws $7,500 a year and has a deputy at $6,000. The chairman has been away from his office for months but his salary still goes on. Then there are accountants and investigators and directors and managers galore. One department alone, the state auditing department, costs around $100,000 annually to operate and has cost the investors of Michigan some $300,000,000 inconceivable if not worthless securities.

Suicides, wrecked banks, broken homes, devastated savings, bankruptcies and defalcations have followed in the wake of the activities but the salary list runs merrily on.

And now the State Legislature in special session on the advice and under the whip of the governor has created a new commission with a new appropriation. Another payroll has been created to give promised comfort and cheer to those

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he said that he and members of the Commission were present, not to take sides in a controversy, but to see that a free and open discussion of the question was held from all sides.

Ralph I. Cotyell, chairman of the Property Owners' Committee, described the work of the individual members of the group, and turned the meeting over to George R. Averill, publisher of The Eccentric and another member of the committee. He read the committee's major report in full, and called for questions.

Mr. Van Zandt was the first to rise, declaring that he had a legal opinion "from one of the best municipal lawyers in Detroit" that Birmingham, if it should incorporate as a city, would not share at all in township assets lying outside the new village limits.

The second question came from Mr. Ross, who hinted that danger might lurk in the fact that the four representatives to the County Board of Supervisors which would be allowed Birmingham as a city would be appointed by the City Commission.

Questions Charter Control

"Furthermore, what control are we going to have over the new charter?" he asked. "As the law stands, we vote on whether or not we want to change the form of government, and at the same election we choose a charter commission which submits its work for our adoption.

"I'd like to see the cart put before the horse and a charter submitted before we decide whether we want to adopt it and become a city or not."

After a short discussion on the intelligent use of the ballot in elections and the necessity of placing trust in other people in a complicated civilization, Edward L. Bryant, attorney and member of the Property Owner' Committee, reviewed objections to the issue as raised in previous reports and advocated the change now on the grounds it would divorce the village from the township, which he termed a useless burden of expense.

Cites Authorities

He also recited the committee's findings on the school district aspect of the question, and in reply to an inquiry from Lawrence Hulbert, member of the Village Commission, said that opinions had been secured from the attorney-general's office; Webster H. Pearce, state superintendent of public instruction; Clarence Vliet, superintendent of Birmingham schools; Pelton and McGee, Pontiac attorneys, and others, to the effect that the proposed change would not alter the boundaries of the district.

Mr. Allen called attention to the fact that the opinions had been secured to questions as to whether the change would have any effect on the boundaries.

"It may perfectly well be that the change itself will not affect the boundaries automatically," he said. "But at the same time it may be true that people living outside the village limits may be able by their own action to divorce themselves from the school district. In the event Birmingham becomes a city."

Mr. Bryant replied that he believed the only ways in which taxable property could be detached from the present school district was by concerted action of the three township units included in the district, or by action of Bloomfield Hills when, but not before, it becomes a city of 10,000 population.

Arguments that township expenses will be considerably less next year than in the past and that Birmingham could virtually control the township through elections to the Township Board were also advanced as reasons why a change is unnecessary.

More Representation

Members of the Property Owners' Committee insisted, however, that one representative on the Board of Supervisors is not sufficient in proportion to the amount of taxes the township pays.

"It's on the County Board, and especially on committees like the equalization committee, where politics are played and where we maintain that Birmingham would gain a distinct advantage through a greater representation," declared Mr. Averill.

Mr. Reid, speaking "as a private citizen with more at stake in real estate in the village than in my job with the township," pointed out that a majority of members on the Township Board have always been Birmingham residents, and also referred to the fact that the tax rate and assessed valuations are generally higher in Troy Township than in Bloomfield.

"There's no question in my mind but that extra tax in Troy would be levelled off onto Bloomfield property, and as a taxpayer in the latter township I don't care to assume the extra expense."

Challenges Estimate

He said he disagreed with the committee's estimate of a $3,800 saving from the change per year, and declared that two extra city employes would not be able to absorb the necessary part of township services now performed by six township employes, as is now believed.

Walter Connelly, another member of the committee, stated in reply that the work could be absorbed easily because duplication of such services as tax assessing and collecting would be eliminated, and Village Manager James W. Parry added that, in his opinion, "our costs would be considerably reduced if new arrangements resulting from the proposed change were built up right from the beginning."

Near the close of the meeting, Mr. Hulbert said:

"I would like to say, personally, that outside of the school district question, even if we didn't save a cent, I would be in favor of the change if I could be sure Birmingham would continue to have good government.

"We have had good government in the past, and my only fear is something I can't quite describe, but which comes to me every time I think of the term 'city politics.'"

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