The Birmingham Eccentric

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"Are our wonders at greater length along the highway of life, one is brought closer to this absolute truth: the best things in life are free, but cannot be purchased many years ago by some understanding soul; and blessed are they who discover its truth for themselves."

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Michigan State Prison at Jackson recently received behind its high walls a new chaplain, by name Albert M. Ewert. It will be part of Mr. Ewert's task to bring hope and faith, and regeneration of spirit into the lives of all inmates who are willing to respond to his leadership. Many, many of the nearly 6,000 prisoners at Jackson may have the entire purpose of their lives changed, if both they and Chaplain Ewert strike the proper chord of harmonious co-operation. May Heaven direct the strong influence for good that will otherwise erring social order sets up for the rehabilitation of those who "get caught" doing wrong.

In ever-increasing number of occasions state and local government continue to look toward Washington, D. C., for funds with which to "carry on," either by direct work or the granting of loans, public improvements, your Uncle Sam is going broke. By that we mean just this: Uncle Sam owns nothing. He gets his money to borrow from his people via taxation, when what he owes amounts to more than he can pay. Then he will do what any ordinary bankrupt does—admit that he cannot pay. That is what Europe has done with its war debts to this country. It's what delinquent counties, villages, school districts, and other insolvent units of government have already done. But that, unless it stops in time, our own Uncle Sr. will have to do. (All of which proves a fact in political science: if you cannot take at the point of the pen, take at the point of the tax collector's pen—for your Uncle Sam is rapidly heading toward the inevitable confiscation of wealth from the ones who can afford their taxes.

Dean Hoffman, editor of Plymouth Mail, Northville Record, Plymouth Observer, and assistant editor of the Plymouth Mail, which covered the whole field of apologia appeared, according to Editor Hoffman, in a newspaper which he identifies only as "a small publication, not to be named." Date and locale unspecified. The classic apology he quotes is this:

"We desire to correct a slight error which crept into our columns last week either through the stupidity or the natural cussedness of one Jim Richards, editor of the goodness of heart we had taken in, in his hour of need, and gave a job as printer on this publication. In a recent announcing the appearance of a book of poems by our esteemed townsman, Mr. Burke Crowther, we took occasion to refer to the gentleman as the lily-blushing lily of Laurel Hill. Much to our regret, as we need hardly say, the word 'lily' was added to our reporter's copy, wholly without our knowledge and distinctly against our will, speak of Mr. Crowther as the "leading literary light weight" of this city. We say this we say that we have discharged the guilty party and recommended Mr. Crowther's poetry to all lovers of genuine literature. We would also say in this connection that our highly gifted and rapidly rising poet father, Mr. G. Crowther, has just received a large supply of boots and shoes, hat caps and harness, which it would be well to examine before buying elsewhere. Mr. Crowther is also the highest market price paid for butter and eggs. See his ad on page 4. The Crowthers are able to trace their ancestry back by a direct line to the Mayflower.

We have known during the last few years how Chicago teachers have pawned their furniture, jewelry and even their clothing in order to buy food. We have read plenty of the throngs of teachers who stormed the downtown Chicago banks. There have been Chicago teachers who have acquired beards because they might enable longer to bear up under their destitute conditions.

It may be well for Michigan people to remember that this condition is due largely to the non-payment of taxes. There is no excuse for it in Chicago. There is no excuse for anything that approximates it in Michigan. Most than one thoughtful and experienced member of the Legislature and veteran observers say that Michigan is on the verge of financial breakdown in its municipalities. It is difficult to believe. Yet facts and figures bear out the assertion.

Too many people and too many well-meaning men are laboring under the obsession that government is made to support the people. This is not so. It never was so. Government cannot long support a considerable part of the people. People must support themselves.—S. L. Marshall in Clinton County Republican-News.

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PUBLIC GIVES HILLS BUDGET LIMITED OKEY

Taxpayers Commend Commission, But Urge Further Expense Reduction

FIFTY ATTEND HEARING

About 50 Bloomfield Hills taxpayers, including some of the city's wealthiest, at a public hearing at the Bloomfield Hills Country Club last night approved, with reservations, a $29,475 budget which had been proposed and tentatively adopted by the City Commission for 1933.

They adopted a motion thanking the Commission for the work it has put forth thus far on the budget, but asking it to incorporate further reductions in operating expenses, in order that the city might live within its actual cash income if possible.

Hargreaves Opposes Budget

Attendants at the hearing were plainly influenced by a printed statement sent out earlier in the week by Commissioner Robert Hargreaves, city treasurer, in which he declared he was "emphatically opposed to the budget," but advocated spreading the taxes as proposed in the budget, paying out standing debts, and operating on the remaining cash.

Mr. Hargreaves, who did not attend the meeting last night, also recommended that street lighting and other expenses be further reduced, and that the combined police and fire force be cut from eight to four men, with salaries totalling not more than $5,040 per year.

The sense of last night's meeting so far as police and fire protection was concerned, however, seemed to indicate that the city would be unfavorable to further curtailment of those services. Police Commissioner Clarence E. Otter was warmly applauded when he defended the two departments as being more urgently needed now than ever before, and pointed out that reducing the combined force to four men would mean a tax saving of not more than $1 per thousand of assessed valuation.

Booth For Cash Operation

Applause also went to George G. Booth of Cranbrook when he argued that the city should be operated on a strictly cash basis, and it was at his suggestion that the motion was adopted thanking the Commission for its services, but urging it to undertake further cuts. The motion itself was put by Clarence H. Booth of Lone Pine road.

Commissioner Frank W. Atkinson, city clerk and attorney, maintained that the Commission is not privileged under the charter to reduce police and fire and other services below the point of efficiency, and that the question to be decided was whether the taxpayers would continue to support the type of community contemplated by the

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HOPKINS TO PREACH AT CLASS SERVICE

Baldwin High Graduates Will Be Honored At Baccalaureate In Baptist Church

The annual baccalaureate service for the spring graduating class of Baldwin High School will be held at 8 P. M. Sunday in the First Baptist Church. Rev. Russell D. Hopkins, pastor of the First Methodist Church, will preach on "The Pattern in the Mount."

The service will be in charge of Rev. L. Earl Jackson, pastor of the Baptist Church. Rev. W. Clarence Wright of the First Presbyterian Church will give the prayer, and Rev. Warner L. Forsyth, rector of St. James' Episcopal Church, will read the scripture and give the benediction.

Music will be furnished by the combined choirs of the Baptist and Methodist Churches under the direction of Frederick A. Prohroese, and by A. Shanley Rasso, organist, and Miss Sibyl MacDonald, pianist. An organ recital will be given from 7:45 to 8 P. M. by Miss Mildred Green.

Seventy-four students are included in the graduating class for which the service will be held. They will receive their diplomas at commencement exercise to be held in Baldwin Auditorium next Thursday evening, May 25.

Notice To Readers

To facilitate handling and to avoid possible misunderstandings because of haste, news copy contributed by readers should be in The Eccentric office by Monday or Tuesday for publication the following Thursday. This also applies to all requests for space in the news columns.

In no case hereafter will copy be accepted after Wednesday noon.

—THE EDITOR.

Commission Admits Chain Stores To 3.2 Beer Trade

But Stands Pat On Refusal To Allow It To Be Consumed In Restaurants

The sale of 3.2 beer is open to chain stores in Birmingham today, but consumption on the premises where it is sold is still taboo.

The City Commission Monday night amended the ordinance it adopted last week to enable any corporation licensed to do business in Michigan to dispense the beverage in packages here, and granted three new licenses, but stuck by its guns in refusing to allow it to be sold for drinking in restaurants, beer gardens or other public places.

State Law Copied

The amendment, prepared by Mayor Harry Allen and moved by Commissioner Frank S. Packard, parallels the state law in allowing beer to be sold for consumption off the premises by corporations or by individuals who have been residents of the county for a year.

It further provides that independent merchants must have owned and operated their businesses in the city for at least six months before being eligible for a license to sell beer. The original resolution had placed the time of residence and ownership of business within the city at a year.

The amendment was passed in a comparatively short space of time, and with a lack of argument which was plainly disappointing to the overflow crowd which again attended the meeting. Only Commissioner Clarence Vliet voted against it.

Letters Commend Commission

Passage of the resolution followed the reading by the clerk of five letters commending the Commission for its stand in narrowly restricting the sale of beer in its resolution last week. The letters were signed by Mrs. Esther Purdy, secretary of the Birmingham Ball of the W. C. T. U.; Miss Janet O. Kerr, Sunday School worker under the Board of American Missions of the United Presbyterian Church; the Session of the First Presbyterian Church; the United Presbyterian Church and Sunday School; and Dale Harbison, 711 Forest avenue.

The new licenses were granted to Vern L. Ward for his grocery at 1056 South Woodward avenue; the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company for its store at 1190 West Maple avenue; and the Cunningham Economical Drug Company for its store at Woodward and Maple avenues.

The last two had been refused under original resolution because the businesses are not locally owned, and Mr. Ward had been refused because he had owned an independent business here for less than a year, but a state law and the Commission's resolution provide that each store desiring to sell beer must have a separate license, including each store in a chain.

Sfire's Application Denied

Sfire Brother's Market, 180 West Maple avenue, was refused a license because the market is a partnership owned by three individuals, all of them living in Wayne County. Mayor Allen advised Sam Sfire, the manager, to take his request directly to the State Liquor Control Commission.

The sale of beer in restaurants, advocated by several spectators at last week's meeting, found only one expressed champion Monday night. He was Charles H. Soderberg, 672 Puritan road.

Why does the Commission object to allowing restaurants to sell beer?" Mr. Soderberg asked.

"The objection," Mayor Allen replied, "is that most of the commissioners feel that Birmingham is almost exclusively a residential community, and that to permit restaurant owners to sell it would be objectionable to women and children. Furthermore, the commissioners believe that the restaurant owners wouldn't earn enough from the sale of beer to cover their $150 license fees."

Restriction Called "Silly"

"Isn't that something for the restaurant owners to decide?" Mr. Soderberg asked. "Such a whole thing seems rather silly to me."

"Maybe it is," the Mayor replied.

There all debate ended and a vote off the amendment was called.

Bits O' Birmingham

By THE WANDERER

H. Augustus O'Dell has been justice of the peace in Bloomfield Hills for several months, but it wasn't until last Tuesday night that he was called upon to perform his first marriage ceremony. The bride and bridegroom, a couple from Pontiac, were not much more nervous than the judge himself, witnesses asserted.

Vernon W. Griffith, faithful and conscientious chief of the Birmingham fire department, has another loyal supporter and admirer. He is William Spence, R. 9, 2, Royal Oak, who recently addressed the following self-explanatory letter to the editor of The Eccentric:

"I witnessed an incident yesterday," Spence wrote, "which may be of interest to yourself and the people of Birmingham. A hedge on two very outskirts of the city of Royal Oak caught fire Sunday afternoon, the flames centering in the attic among some old clothes.

"The Birmingham fire chief, Vern Griffith, was passing, about a block away when the smoke first appeared and was about the first person on the scene. The alarm was, in the meantime, sent in to the Royal Oak fire department, which, upon arrival, found that Vern had taken a hose up into the smoke- and flame-filled attic, where none of the spectators would venture, dressed in his fire duty clothes, and all but extinguished the flames.

"Another Royal Oak truck appeared on the scene and ran out nearly a mile before the hose before even examining the fire. They just had the job of picking it up again.

"Taken all in all, Vern did a commendable piece of work which at least cost him the cleaning and pressing of his suit and netted him nothing except thanks from the home occupants and praises from the spectators. Which all goes to show that Birmingham has a born fireman to head its fire department."

Honors for distinctive genius and achievement in the field of ceramic sculpture continue to fall to Waylande de Santis Gregory of the Cranbrook Academy of Art. The latest was first prize at the Robineau Exhibition at Syracuse, N. Y., a national exhibit held for the first time this year, for his glaze portrait

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CLUBS HEAR CYRIL PLAYER

Correspondent Says Only Change In Man Will Will Bring Peace

Members of Birmingham's three service clubs, Lions, Exchange, and Rotary, were given an intimate and close-up view of European and world affairs Wednesday noon at the Community House when Cyril Arthur Player, editorial and special writer for the Detroit News and the North American Newspaper Alliance, spoke on "The World We Live In." Mr Player, who lived in Birmingham a few years ago, was introduced by George R. Averill, publisher of The Eccentric.

"Reduce all international considerations to the elemental basis of human nature and you will perceive that, regardless of race, color or creed, the average man and woman is the same the world over; the family unit is the foundation of all society, and each mother and father seeks, above the necessities of food, clothing, and shelter, those opportunities in life that will improve his children.

"Wars are started over trivial grievances, very often by clever persons who know that the great mass of people can be emotionalized into a willingness to fight. The problems that confront the world today are the outcome of the World War, to a very large extent. History reveals that war is as much a part of our civilization as peace, with interwarring periods in common and preparation for another one, which is contrary to the delusion that war is foreign to our nature. When we change human nature, deserving qualities, the attributes of a peaceful mind, war will be cast from our civilization."

In brief, that was the theme for Mr. Player's most interesting talk, which held the attention of those present for 45 minutes. Mr. Player has been a member of the Detroit News staff since 1918, and during that time built up an enviable circle of foreign correspondents whose news and special features helped to make that journal a great newspaper. For seven months in 1927 Mr. Player toured many European countries, and also attained the distinction of being the only newspaperman ever to interview Von Hindenberg since he became President of Germany. Mr. Player has written a biography of Hindenberg, which he expects to release in the near future.

That another European war is imminent was admitted by Mr. Player, when he pointed out that the question of the Polish Corridor, formerly a part of Prussia, is a point of much friction, and the success of Adolph Hitler, Germany's present chancellor and veritable dictator, was built upon his marshalling of the Fatherland's present youth toward the common objective of a Germany to be liberated from the shackles of a Treaty of Versailes, Mr. Player declared.

"Hitler gave Germany's youth a uniform, a ritual, and an objective, and his rise to power is based upon his support from millions of

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BLANKET CUT IN VALUATION IS CONSIDERED

Board May Act On Report That Other Units Plan Slashes

SHAIN ASKS REDUCTION

A blanket cut in property valuations as they now stand on the City of Birmingham's tax rolls is under consideration by the Board of Review, it was learned yesterday.

The Board was to have completed its work Saturday, but failed to do so and will meet again this morning, according to Albert W. Noonan, city assessor. He said that the work of equalizing the roll is nearly completed, but if a blanket cut is undertaken, the Board will have to remain in session for some time.

Other Units To Cut

The horizontal cut was taken under consideration following reports that cities and townships throughout the county are planning similar moves. The State Tax Commission in 1931 assessed property in Birmingham at about $16,500,000, with the understanding that this figure, which is about $6,000,000 below the valuation used by the village before withdrawing from Bloomfield Township, would remain unaltered for three years.

The Tax Commission did not, however, re-value the entire county, and has not completed the work since. Reports are prevalent that cities and townships not valuated by the state are contemplating major reductions in assessments, and that other sections are intending to follow suit, despite the state's three-year rule.

Such a report was contained in a letter addressed to the Commission Monday night by Charles J. Shain, a member of the Board of Supervisors, in which he asked that the assessor be instructed to "act in accordance with the practice now being used in this county." The letter follows:

Cut Is Suggested

"In contact with the various supervisors, it is apparent that there is a movement on foot to reduce assessments in the various cities throughout the county, the most common figure suggested being a 15 per cent reduction. The State Tax Commission did not increase values in this county, and several units have not received their figures. It is apparent that no attempt is being made to place these figures at once more than a token passed since the rest of us were given our figures.

"In my opinion, the figures of the State Tax Commission as given to us in the light of their failure to complete their work in the county, can not be defended by them. Recent examples of deflation on the part of the Federal government, greatly decreased earnings of properties held for rental, make it evident that our

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Board Disagrees On County Salaries

The Oakland County Board of Supervisors adjourned indefinitely Wednesday afternoon without reaching a final agreement on a new salary schedule for county officials and employes.

When the Board met as a committee of the whole, it appeared ready to adopt the schedule recommended by the salaries committee, with several changes, but when it re-convened in formal session the adoption fell through after several other amendments had been suggested, and the Board adjourned.

COMMUNITY HOUSE TO CLOSE ON SATURDAYS

Beginning June 3 and continuing until Sept. 2, the Community House will be closed every Saturday, it was announced this week by Mrs. L. N. Pyle, president of the Community House Association. On all days except Saturdays and Sundays, the House will be open for its normal functions as usual.

Saturday closing during the summer months was adopted last year to give the hostess and employes opportunity to enjoy the week-ends, Mrs. Pyle pointed out.

EXCHANGITES PLAN ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

Members of the Metropolitan Council of Exchange Clubs, composed of clubs in Wayne and Oakland Counties, will hold their annual pilgrimage to Christ Church Cranbrook Sunday afternoon when they will be addressed by Rev. S. S. Marquis, the rector. About 700 men are expected to attend.

HAVE YOU MET?—

Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Hopkins and family, who moved to Birmingham Saturday from Huntington Woods, and are living at 992 Arlington road. They have three children, Philip, 14 years old; Alan, 11, and Marilyn, five.

Mr. Hopkins is affiliated with the General Motors Corporation.

Birmingham National Elects Board; Wabeek Bank To Open Monday

Early Opening Plans Speeded

Quota Filled In Stock Subscription Drive; Payment Deadline Set

Plans are under motion today for an early opening of the new Birmingham National Bank, the establishment of which was virtually assured during the past week with the successful completion of the $60,000 local stock quota drive. An additional $60,000 is to be furnished by the R. F. C.

Directors in the new institution were elected at a meeting of stockholders in the First National Bank Building Monday night. They are:

A. J. Brandt, consulting engineer and a member of the City Commission; Charles E. James, conservator of the First National; president of the Wolverine Metal Marble Company of Detroit; Fred W. Johnson, plumbing and heating contractor and engineer; John E. Martin, investment broker; Ernest W. Seaholm, chief engineer for the Cadillac Motor Car Corporation; A. C. Wermuth, building contractor, and Montgomery Whaling, banker and industrialist.

Local Residents

All seven men are residents of Birmingham. Mr. James, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Wermuth were directors in the First National.

The actual date of opening for the new bank, according to the directors, will depend upon recommendations of a U. S. Treasury Department representative who spent last Friday in Birmingham studying conditions here and the progress of the organization committee.

The stock subscription campaign went over the top last week with a subscription of $7,500 from the Oakland County Board of Supervisors, to be paid for out of the first dividend from its deposit of over $200,000 in the First National.

Subscriptions Still Open

Local citizens who still desire to buy stock in the institution will not be prevented from doing so, however, according to Harry E. Bissett, special chairman of the stock sales committee, who said that subscriptions would be left open to individuals in the community and

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DEADLINE SET FOR BANK STOCK CASH

Midnight next Monday, May 22, has been set as the deadline for the payment of money for stock subscriptions in the new Birmingham National Bank, it was announced yesterday by Harry E. Bissett, chairman of the special stock sales committee. This applies to all subscriptions which are not to be paid for out of the first dividend from the First National Bank, or about 30 per cent of the local $60,000 quota.

"The collection of money for these subscriptions is absolutely necessary before the bank can be opened," Mr. Bissett said, "Any unnecessary delay on the part of stock subscribers in this matter will delay the date of opening."

SATURDAY TO BE POPPY DAY

Sale Of Blossoms Will Aid Vets, Relieve Local Distress

Saturday will be Poppy Day in Birmingham.

For the benefit of disabled war veterans as well as for the relief of distress and suffering in Birmingham itself, the American Legion Auxiliary, assisted by members of the Charles Edwards Post of the Legion, will attempt to dispose of 2,500 of the red blossoms on the streets of the city throughout the day.

In connection with the event, Mayor Harry Allen has issued the following statement:

"Saturday, May 20th, has been officially designated as Poppy Day.

"Poppy Day has become recognized as a day on which the nation pays additional tribute to the memory of its World War veterans. The poppies sold on this day are made by disabled veterans in the hospitals throughout the country. For each blossom, the veterans are paid one cent. The balance of the proceeds from the sale goes into a fund dispensed by the local chapter of the American Legion Auxiliary to relieve suffering and distress within the community.

"By the purchase of poppies we are therefore enabled not only to pay a tribute to our departed veterans, but to those who are now suffering and those who are in distress."

Mrs. Gordon L. Bailey, 964 East Maple avenue, is general chairman of the sale, assisted by Mrs. Gill as chairman of the assisting staff from the Legion post.

In addition to members of the Auxiliary and Legion, several Scouting units have been enlisted in the sale of the Poppy Day salesmen, Mrs. Bailey said.

Members of the Auxiliary assisting her will be Mrs. A. D. Cooley, president of the Birmingham unit; Mrs. E. C. Bayes, Miss Agnes Baynes, Mrs. E. A. Burtraw, Mrs. William Green, Mrs. Percy A. Vaughan, Mrs. Robert Appell, Mrs. Harold Holden, Mrs. Reginald Robinson, Mrs. David Thompson and Mrs. Ray Bethards.

17 GIRLS ENTER TENNIS TOURNEY

Helen Grawn To Defend State Singles Title At Kingswood This Week-End

Seventeen girls, representing seven different schools, are entered in the Michigan Junior Girls Singles Tennis Championship which will open Friday on the courts of Kingswood School. The semi-finals will be played Saturday and the finals Sunday.

Among the entrants is Helen Grawn of Liggett School, Detroit, who won the state title at Kingswood last year, and now is national indoor girls' champion.

First round pairings, as announced by Miss Luella Houser, tournament committee chairman and referee, are as follows:

Helen Grawn, Liggett School, vs. Dorothea Strom, Royal Oak High School; Norma Darling,

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Two Students Will Share Johnson Memorial Award

Two names instead of one will be engraved this year on the George Johnson Memorial Plaque at Baldwin High School—the honor conferred annually upon the school's outstanding student-athlete.

The winners of the double honor this year are Victor Canever and Kenneth Hunt, whose records in scholarship, citizenship, and athletic ability during their high school careers were so nearly equal in merit and distinction that the committee in charge of conferring the award has decided to include both.

The plaque was first hung in a corridor of the school last year in memory of the beloved Baldwin football coach and athletic director who died in 1931. The name of James Brien was engraved on the plaque as the outstanding student-athlete for 1931, and that of Derwood Harris for 1932.

Coaches on Board

The board of selection for the 1933 winners was composed of Mrs. George Johnson, widow of the late coach; Miss Emily Walker, a teacher at Baldwin; Principal Melvin C. Hart, Coaches Ernest Engel and Miles Robinson, and Dale McClelland, representing the Varsity Club.

Both Canever and Hunt have won eight major letters in sports, besides maintaining high scholastic averages and athletic records during their three years of senior high school work. Canever starred in football, basketball, track and cross country, and Hunt in football, basketball and baseball. Canever is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Canever of 576 Townsend street, and Hunt is the son of Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Hunt of 439 Townsend street.

Dale McClelland will present the winners of the award at an assembly to be attended by all high school students in Baldwin Auditorium at 11 A. M. Friday, when numerous other scholastic and athletic awards will also be made. These will include the awarding of track letters, girls' athletic awards, debating pins, certificates to students whose names have ap-

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Three-Month 'Holiday' Ends

Judson Named President Of New Couzens Institution; Directors Picked.

Birmingham will have banking facilities again Monday for the first time in more than three months.

The Wabeek State Bank, with a capital and surplus of $150,000, which has been subscribed for the most part by Senator James Couzens, will open Monday in quarters specially fitted for it in the Senator's Wabeek Building, corner West Maple avenue and Bates street, fully equipped for a savings and commercial account business. It will be the first bank to operate without restrictions in Birmingham since Feb. 16, the date of Governor Comstock's famous bank holiday proclamation.

Judson Is President

Officers of the Wabeek Bank, elected Wednesday, are George B. Judson, president; Cecil R. Cummings, vice-president, and Fred C. Schoff, cashier. The directors are Senator Couzens, Mr. Judson, Mr. Cummings, Frank Couzens, Jesse Arthur J. Lacy and Chester H. Booth.

Mr. Judson, a business associate of Senator Couzens for the past 20 years, was for seven years president of the old Bank of Detroit, and for 2½ years was senior vice-president of the Guardian National Bank of Commerce, Detroit. He resigned the latter position in March of this year, and has been active in organizing the Wabeek Bank.

Mr. Cummings is Senator Couzens' secretary in Birmingham. Frank Couzens, the Senator's son, is acting mayor of Detroit. Mr. Schoff is president of Bloomfield Hills, was a director in the Guardian National and is also affiliated with the Motor Bankers Corporation.

Judge Lacy is the Senator's legal counsel. Mr. Schlorff was previously affiliated with the Bank of Detroit and the Guardian National Bank of Commerce.

Two stores directly west of the lobby in the Wabeek Building have been cleared for the new banking and the work of remodeling will be completed by Saturday night. A portion of what was formerly the office of the Wabeek Corporation on the second floor will also be used by the bank.

Although the largest portion of the stock is owned by Senator Couzens, he has offered to dispose of part of it to citizens of Birmingham. The charter for the new bank was approved last Tuesday by the State Banking Department.

CITY EXTENDS WATER BILL PAYMENT DATE

The last date for paying water bills sent out by the city in March, April and May, without penalty, was set at June 15 by the City Commission Monday night on the suggestion of City Manager James W. Parry. No further extension was granted for the payment of February bills, about 50 per cent of which have been paid, Mr. Parry said.

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