

As an early age, it is wonderful to have something fine and inspiring... with the rare perfume of a lovely flower... behold with a rapt accentuated by the sense of awe.

FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR—No. 29

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# SOLUTION TO NEAR SCHOOL TAX RATE PROBLEM

By G. R. A.

As human beings, each of us performs upon the stage of life in various ways... we are like the progress made in the chemical and mechanical world... we are men and women eternally striving to change us from jungle instincts into civilized humans.

In every modern land we are learning to use the "secret of life" in different conditions... we have electricity, modern machinery... we are working to transform the resources of our earth into useful aids for mankind.

This is what is happening in the Roosevelt administration at Washington, too... he wishes to apply to everyday business life... he hopes there will come more improved conditions for all the people.

When some chemist in a great laboratory is working on an experiment... he is under observation... he is always at hand to prevent the assistant from fooling too much.

For the past 18 months, President Roosevelt and his "brain trust" have worked in their laboratory, trying to change human behavior...

And so, it seems to me, the time has come when the Boss, in order to keep the factory running, must call off some of the experiments going on in the laboratory...

# Board Holds Conference With McPherson On Budget Tangle

By G. R. A.

A solution to the dilemma confronting the Board of Education in adopting a budget and setting its 1934 tax rate for operating expenses was believed near today, following a conference yesterday between members of the Board and Mr. McPherson, state tax commissioner.

The Board had called in Mr. McPherson for aid and work on a problem arising from the allocation of varying school tax rates in different portions of the district under the 15 mill limitation.

Three townships—Bloomfield, Trinity and Southfield, which lie partly within the district, had been allocated lower rates than the cities of Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills, since the city taxes of those units do not fall within the limitation.

The Board had hoped to adopt a budget calling for a uniform rate of \$2.50 per \$100 valuation... the school rates assigned them and the uniform rate of \$7.50 desired by the Board.

All three of the supervisors refused, Mr. Black reported last Thursday... the Board resorted to the use of varying the spread of a higher rate in Birmingham than in other portions of the district.

Commissioner Arthur J. Brandt, who said he had an opportunity to study the budget system in its denunciation... "I have no sympathy whatever for the public school system in Birmingham," he declared.

# ECCENTRIC GIVING SAMPLE BALLOTS

Offering an opportunity for local electors to prepare themselves for voting on the municipal election Nov. 6, The Eccentric has available a limited supply of instruction ballots which may be had without charge by anyone calling for them at this office.

There are two separate ballots, one containing the list of candidates running for federal, state and county offices under the banners of 10 different political parties, and the other containing the list of the six proposed constitutional amendments.

# 7 1/2 Per Cent Saving To Be Lost After Nov. 1, Sparks Warns

Next Wednesday, Oct. 31, will be the last day for taxpayers whose 1933 taxes are delinquent to pay them without penalties and interest fees, Charles A. Sparks, Oakland County treasurer, warned yesterday.

By paying 1933 taxes before Nov. 1, property owners will be given the benefit of an act adopted by the last Legislature, waiving all penalties except a 3 per cent collection charge.

The act thus enables the taxpayer to save 7 1/2 per cent on his 1933 taxes, since a total of 10 per cent in penalties and interest fees will be applied beginning Nov. 1.

At present, the rush of taxpayers anxious to benefit by the provisions of the act are paying 1933 delinquent taxes at the rate of about \$25,000 a day, the treasurer reported yesterday.

Mr. Sparks reminded taxpayers that if their taxes are delinquent for years prior to 1923, as well as those for 1933, the latter should be paid first, inasmuch as the law provides for a 10 per cent interest charge on the latter.

Mr. Sparks said that the Citizens League for 20 years has been a leader in promoting civility, cooperation and better citizenship... the League led in the movement for a municipal registration system in Detroit in 1918, election systems reform, county home rule, unified State Districts and other governmental improvements.

# Why Not More Relief For Local Depositors?

Why can't the closed First National Bank of Birmingham pay another dividend to depositors? Why must the savings of those depositors, month after month, be lavished on an expensive receivership, while the depositors themselves are given no relief whatever?

Why can't the United States Government, which takes so much interest in the Forgotten Man, take some interest in this Forgotten Bank and its 6,000 Forgotten Depositors? Why can't the United States Government, which gives away money freely to relieve distress, loan money to this bank to replace the hard-earned savings of those depositors, many of whom are in actual want?

The first National Bank of Birmingham, like scores of other apparently sound institutions throughout the state, was not allowed to open after the banking holiday of February, 1933. At the time of closing, the bank's assets totaled approximately \$2,000,000.

A conservator was placed in charge of the bank's affairs, and acting upon definite instructions from the office of the Comptroller of the Currency, a new bank, the Birmingham National, was formed to replace the old one.

The new bank bought outright approximately \$270,000 worth of the assets of the closed institution, paying 100 cents on the dollar for them, plus accrued interest to the date of sale. This reduced the assets of the old bank to about \$1,730,000.

The receiver was appointed by the comptroller of the currency to replace the conservator in October, 1933. That was more than a year ago. What has been accomplished in that year? The R. F. C. loan made by the conservator has, through liquidations, been reduced from approximately \$250,000 to approximately \$220,000.

What stands in the way of another loan, using the unpledged assets of more than \$1,000,000 as security? Officers of the new Birmingham National Bank have assured both the receiver and the United States Government that they will not allow the contract existing between their bank and the old institution, covering the purchase of assets which the new bank was formed to receive, in any way with the payment of another depositor's dividend.

Thad D. Seelye, the receiver for the old bank, says that a "ruling" of the Comptroller of the Currency prevents the approval of another loan until the first loan is paid back. Under the circumstances, any such "ruling" as that is more chicanery than security for another loan, good and sufficient. The depositor is in need of relief. There is no good reason why they should not have it at once.

# CITY MOVES TO JOIN NATIONAL HOUSING DRIVE

Exchange Club Starts Campaign To Raise Interest In FHA

Birmingham had swung into step with the National Housing Campaign today, and a temporary committee was ready to begin work toward bringing the community into a realization of the benefits available to it under the terms of the Federal Housing Act.

The movement was initiated by the Birmingham Exchange Club at a meeting held in the Community House Tuesday night. Ralph C. Moulthrop, president of the Moulthrop Lumber Company, was named chairman of the committee, the chief duty of which, at present, will be to disseminate information regarding the FHA, its operations and the temporary committee's plans for making loans available to home owners for repairing and modernizing their property.

The committee plans to establish permanent headquarters within the next few days in a vacant store in the business district where this information will be available and where exhibits of FHA programs will be on display. A small fund was collected at the meeting Tuesday night with which to begin this work.

Oliver H. Kirk, president of the Exchange Club, is secretary of the committee. He will also serve in a temporary advisory capacity only. The other members are E. E. Grant, county prosecutor; Douglas, heating and plumbing contractor; W. Whiting Raymond, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce; Walsh, James and Wasey, Company; and Allen Tenny, managing editor of The Birmingham Eccentric.

Functions and purposes of the FHA were explained at Tuesday's meeting by Louis Porter, representative of the Michigan FHA. He said that the FHA is giving a graphic illustration of the program.

Major benefits of the FHA program, as expressed enthusiastically in a local housing and modernization campaign, and the temporary committee was appointed to begin making the drive which is intended to develop the position of the FHA.

Mr. Clark emphasized the fact that the FHA does not make possible through FHA loans, will not only benefit the owner, but also the community as a whole. The value of their property for sale or rent, and operate to the advantage of the community.

# PRE-LEGISLATION RALLY CALLED

Head Of Detroit Citizens League To Discuss Candidates, Amendments

Birmingham churches have joined in sponsoring a pre-election rally to be held at the First Baptist Church at 10 o'clock on Tuesday, Oct. 30. The speaker will be William P. Lovett, executive secretary of the Detroit Citizens League since 1931.

Mr. Lovett's theme will be "The Christian Voter on Nov. 6." He will discuss all six of the proposed constitutional amendments, and will present non-partisan opinions about the leading candidates for office. He is well-informed regarding both candidates and issues, and will be prepared to answer questions at the close of the meeting.

Young people, as well as voters, have been invited to attend. There will be no charge for admission. George W. Smith, district publisher of The Eccentric, will preside.

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# Bits O' Birmingham

By The Wanderer

Club members of the Ferndale club were in attendance as well.

Governor Bonisteel made an eloquent appeal for a greater interest in the "Youth Service" movement on the part of Rotarians... he urged the Rotarians to help in the work which service clubs in particular are doing, but that they should not neglect their own newspapers and magazines, and their own technological employment.

# Victory In Cheering Contest Gives Seniors First Place

In Class Competition

The senior class won the annual Baldwin High School field day competition Wednesday afternoon at Pierce Field. The seniors defeated the juniors by a score of 100 to 80.

At least, the senior victory brings assurance that the 12th graders have the huskier lungs in the school, for it was on the group cheering, pushing, pulling, and shouting that the seniors were winning.

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