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Should Board of Education Be Elected By The People? Think It Over.

(Editorial)

Every once and awhile some one suggest that the members of the school board, or as they are called now The Board of Education, should be elected by the people instead of being appointed by the Governor of Maryland. The suggestion very often is made by some one who has been disappointed in some matter pertaining to the schools, or by some one who desires to "get even" with the school authorities for a real or fancied wrong. Some object to the present system of oppointment because, as they allege, it is undemocratic; that the members of the board are not responsive to the will of the majority; that the board, as a whole, is autocratic and domineering and that the oppointments made by the Governor to the board is the exercise of an autocratic power which should not be allowed to exist under a democratic form of government.

The objectors of the present mode of appointment of members of the Board of Education for the several counties of Maryland may be right in their contention, but we doubt very much if the election of members of the Board of Education by direct vote of the people will solve all the real or imaginary troubles and create a millenium in school matters.

Some one has said that "we learn wisdom from experience" and if we in Carroll county will just stop a moment to hear the testimony of some of the older citizens who, in their younger days, took great interest in the public schools of Carroll county, and who lived in a time in Carroll county when members of the School Board were elected by the direct vote of the people, we feel sure that many of those who now advocate the election of members of the Board of Education by direct voting will stop to think over the matter a little more carefully. We may think the present generation is better and wiser than our forbears but we do not think any one will be bold enough to claim we are more honest.

Let us examine some of the legislation in school matters passed within the last 50 years and see if we are worse or better off now. The constitutional convention of 1867, the last one held in Maryland, left the matter of the government of schools to the legislature which met shortly after the adjournment of the convention. That legislature passed a law providing for the election of five members of a school board in each county of the state and for Baltimore City. At that time (1867) there was in the hands of the Republican school board of Carroll county the sum of $75,000 invested in ground rents paying 6 per cent interest which had been set aside by the board as a reserve fund, the interest upon which was sufficient to permanently take care of certain expenses of the schools.

The election of 1867 was carried by the Democrats and five members of the party were elected members of the school board for Carroll county. The fight in Carroll county was very bitter. The Civil War had just closed and sectional feeling ran high, and in order to get votes the Democratic candidates went over the county promising school houses at nearly every cross road. The Republicans refused to make such promises because, as they claimed, sufficient funds were not available to build so many school houses, the $75,000 invested in ground rents being dedicated to a specific purpose.

As soon as the Democrats got control of the school board they sold the ground rents and spent the $75,000 in building cheap slab school houses in the then districts of Carroll county. These buildings soon fell into decay, were insanitary, had very little or no furniture and when the people of the county realized what had been done with the $75,000 a howl went up all over the county and the Democrats, at least the wise ones, saw a storm brewing which would probably sweep them out of power.

The members of the school board were cussed, discussed and damned by both Democrats and Republicans, and the wise men of the Democratic party, whose friends controlled the following Legislature, prepared a bill and had it passed taking away from the people of Carroll county the right to elect members of the school board and directing the Judges of the Circuit Court for Carroll County to appoint them.

Although the right of the Legislature to put the appointment of members of the school board in the power of the Judges of the Circuit Court was a mooted question the practice continued for many years. Chief Judge Miller of this circuit, however, refused to appoint members of the school board of Anne Arundel county on the ground that a Judge of a Court had no right under the state constitution to act as an executive officer, his duties being strictly judicial. In Carroll county the Judge appointed three Democrats and two Republicans and for many years there was peace in school matters.

Unfortunately, or fortunately, for the Democrats of Carroll county, following the death of the late Judge John E. Smith, a Republican, a bitter factional fight took place in the Democratic party over the nomination of a successor to Judge Smith and the-then school examiner, as he was then called, realized that if a certain Democratic candidate were nominated and elected he might be persuaded to appoint members of the school board who would not vote for his re-election to the office of school examiner. In order to head off any unfavorable action by the court the school examiner, who, by the way was a pretty smart chap, had a state-wide bill passed by the Legislature which repealed the-then law and placed the appointment of members of school boards all over the state in the hands of the Governor, which is the law to-day. The members of the Legislature were very glad to relieve the Judges of the responsibility of making appointments, many of them being lawyers, felt that the law placing the appointment in the hands of the Judges was only a makeshift and was enacted only for the purpose of saving the Democrats from defeat at the hands of an outraged public.

Afterwards other laws were passed until to-day we have the law to which many objections are made, principally on the ground that it sets up an obligarchy and the officers, who administer the same, are not directly responsible to the people.

We have no brief from the present school authorities and will not attempt to defend any of their alleged wrongful acts, but we would remind many of those who speak and write on the subject of "responsibility to the people" that the present government of Maryland and of the United States is not a pure democracy, but a republican form of government in which the people act through representatives whom they must hold responsible for acts of omission and commission which do not meet the approval of the people.

If we shall return to the election of members of the Board of Education what guarantee will we have that they will not act just as those elected 50 years ago? Has human nature changed? Has the element of selfishness been eliminated from the human system? What's everybody's business is nobody's business, and from the experience Maryland has had with laws submitted to the voters for their approval we are somewhat skeptical about the election of members of the Board of Education.

The public schools are very close to the people and politics should never be permitted to enter into their control. On the other hand few voters care to get mixed up in school matters because they know that a school fight can kill a political ambition very quickly.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT PLEASANT VALLEY

LARGE BARN, OUTBUILDINGS STOCK AND CROPS ON FARM OF E. C. YINGLING BURNED

(Pleasant Valley Correspondent)

The fine large barn of E. C. Yingling at Pleasant Valley, with all its contents, was burned to the ground on Saturday evening December 31, between 8 and 9 o'clock; also 5 horses and 1 mule, 4 cows, 1 steer, 2 large brood sows, 15 fine pigs, some chickens, 200 bushels of wheat, a lot of corn, hay, straw, a lot of shredded fodder, a large implement shed, hog pen, chicken house, and separator house. None of the family was at home when the fire was discovered, and those who saw the fire hurried to the scene, but were unable to get any of the cattle out. A strong Northwest wind was blowing and the residence was in great danger. The men forced an entrance to the house and began to carry out the furniture and taking it to a place of safety but before they had the house empty Mr. and Mrs. Yingling came home. They were almost frantic and had to be cared for by a physician. But, no wonder. When one just goes away for a few hours, to come home and find the buildings and stock destroyed by fire. It is sad, indeed. The fire company of Westminster was called out, but, very unfortunately, just as they had every thing ready to work, a valve burst and they could not do anything . So with a good force of men with buckets and tubs, water was carried to the house roof and it was saved from burning. Mr. Yingling's loss, which is heavy, is only partly covered by insurance. Several houses at the East end of the village, where the sparks were raining on them thick and fast, had caught fire several times; also the large huckster shed of Elmer F. Kindig. Sparks were carried by the wind for nearly a mile. The origin of the fire is unknown. Mr. and Mrs. Yingling have the sympathy of the community, and they wish to thank all who assisted so faithfully in saving their house and helping clean away the debris.

ST. JOHN'S OBTAINS BIRTH IN BALTIMORE LEAGUE

First Game Saturday, January 7.

At a meeting of the officers of the Baltimore section of the Catholic Diocesan League at Calvert Hall College, Baltimore, December 19th, St. John's School of this city was awarded a berth in the Baltimore section of the league.

Nine teams, including St. John's will contend for the Baltimore championship. The winner will then play the victors of the Washington and Western Maryland sections. This will give the winning team the championship of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

The league will get under way tonight when a double header will be staged in the gym of Calvert Hall. St. John's of Baltimore will play Sacred Heart of Mt. Washington and St. Martin's will hook up against St. Bernard's.

On the following day (Saturday) St. John's, of Westminster, will play it's first game in the league at Westminster. St. John's of Baltimore, will be their opponents. The game will be played in St. John's Hall. Play will start at 3 P. M.

Below is St. John's complete schedule. All the games will be played in Westminster.

Feb. 4—St. Bernard's.
Feb. 7—St. John's.
Feb. 11—Our Lady of Good Counsel.
Feb. 14—St. Andrew's.
Feb. 18—St. Ann's.
Feb. 21—Sacred Heart.
Feb. 25—St. Martin's.
Feb. 28—St. Elizabeth's.

DRESSMAKING CLASS TO BE FORMED

Several people have called at the Home Demonstration Agent's office in regard to starting a dressmaking class in Westminster The office is now ready for the organization of such a class and any woman interested is requested to notify Miss Everett before Thursday, if possible.

COURT HOUSE NEWS

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Roland C. Grimes and Ethel M. Jenkins, both of Carroll county.

Charles H. Simon and Lula M. Blum, both of York, Pa.

Russell H. Gernand and Carrie Alice Grabill, both of Union Bridge.

G. Henry Zenker and Grace E. Hunt, both of Baltimore.

TRANSFERS OF REAL ESTATE

James A. Buckingham and wife to Ray Brown, 3-4 acres $10.

Gilmore Becroft and wife to Fannie C. Henley and husband $1300.00, lot in Mt. Airy.

Joshua Trayer and wife to Lynn Trayer and wife $375.00, 144 square perches.

Albert S. Spencer and wife to William S. Hoffman and wife 33 acres $5.00.

Florence B. Scheufele et al to Eliza J. Mathias, lot in Westminster $1950.

Arthur F. Will and wife to J. Clayton Bloom and wife $100.00, 83 acres.

William E. Starner and wife to Robert I. Flohr, property in Westminster $3625.

Armfield Gosnell et al to John Gosnell, 1 acre $5.

William H. Umbaugh and wife to J. Hamilton Grimes and wife $5.

WEDDINGS

YINGLING—DULL

Miss Mildred A. Dull and Mr. Vernon V. Yingling, both of Snydersburg, this county, December 24, 1921, were married at the parsonage of the Reformed church, Manchester, this county, by Rev. R. J. Freeman.

STONESIFER—LIPPY

On December 27, 1921, at the parsonage at Silver Run, this county, Miss Louise Lippy and Mr. Clarence E. Stonesifer, both of Union Mills, this county, were married by Rev. A. G. Wolf.

HESS—REESE

Miss Hilda G. Reese, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Reese, Carroll county, and Ivan R. N. Hess, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hess, West Manheim township, York county, Pa., were united in marriage Saturday evening at 7:30 o'clock in the parsonage of the West Manheim Lutheran charge, Pleasant street, Hanover, Pa. The Rev. A. M. Hollinger performed the ceremony.

CASHMAN—COPPERSMITH

Clarence T. Cashman, of near Westminster, and Miss Billie M. Coppersmith, of Bachman's Valley, were united in marriage at 5 o'clock Christmas evening, by the bride's pastor, Rev. R. R. Richards, at the Lutheran parsonage, Lineboro, this county. They were attendel by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Helwig, of near Westminster, the latter being a sister of the bride. For the present Mr. and Mrs. Cashman will reside in Bachman's Valley. They have the best wishes of their many friends.

CARROLL COUNTY SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE TO BANQUET

The Carroll County Society of Baltimore City, composed of over two hundred and fifty loyal Carroll countians residing in Baltimore, is preparing for the greatest annual banquet in its history, which will be held at the Emerson Hotel, Baltimore, on Thursday evening, January 19th, 1922, at 7:00 P. M. sharp.

The committee is arranging an unusually interesting program, which will be fully announced later. A splendid dinner will be served at the nominal figure of $3.00 per plate.

It is the hope of those in charge of the affair that many residing in Carroll county will take the opportunity to enjoy this delightful occasion. Attendance is not limited to members, but all Carroll countians, or friends, who wish to subscribe will be made welcome, but should send their applications to the committee, not later than January 12th, 1922, if possible.

The main purpose of the Society is to keep alive the spirit of good old Carroll county, with its splendid history and its proud traditions, as well as to interest itself in its future well-being.

OBITUARY

ROBERT G. RIDGELY

Robert G. Ridbely, aged 23 years, son of Samuel G. and Mary A. Ridgely, of Sykesville, died Monday, January 2, 1922, at the residence of his parents.

The funeral services were held Wednesday at 1:30 P. M., and the interment was in Springfield Cemetery, Sykesville, this county.

ALFRED E. KEENEY

Alfred E. Keeney died Saturday, December 31, 1921, at his residence near Finksburg, this county, aged 75 years, 11 months and 5 days. Besides his widow he is survived by three sons and six daughters.

The funeral services were held Tuesday at 11 A. M. at Finksburg Church, Rev. McCaslin officiating, and the interment was in the adjoining cemetery.

The pallbearers were Thomas Ireland, Joseph Stocksdale ,Edward Peeling, John Armacost, Charles Kay and William S. Stever.

Harvey Bankard & Son funeral directors.

DANIEL KING

Daniel King died very suddenly in Lawrence county, Tennessee, December 28, 1921, aged 78 years. His remains were shipped from Lawrenceville, Tenn. on the 29th, and arrived at Asbestos on the 31st. from whence they were taken to the home of his son, Mr. Charles King, Finksburg. Besides his son, he is survived by his widow and one daughter, Miss Nellie King. Funeral services were held at his son's residence, Sunday, January 1, 1922, and interment was made in Reisterstown.

F. A. Sharrer & Son, funeral directors.

MRS. FRANCES A. SHIPLEY

Mrs. Frances A. Shipley, widow of the late Henry Shipley, died at the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hill, Gamber, Saturday, December 31, 1921, aged 70 years, 8 months and 11 days. She is survived by one sister, Mrs. Emma Lee and one brother, Mr. J. Thomas Conaway. Funeral services, in charge of Rev. John Field, were held at the home Sunday, January 1st., at 2 P. M. and interment was made in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. The pallbearers were Samuel Monroe, Obediah Buckingham, Norris Stocksdale, Talbert Buckingham, Geo. B. Knox, and Clinton Shipley. F. A. Sharrer & Son, funeral directors.

ST. PAUL'S M. E. CHURCH NEW WINDSOR

St. Paul's M. E. Church, New Windsor, is enjoying a repetition of the good things which came to it last year. The revival services which began with the Watch Night Service is increasing in interest and power. The pastor, Rev. W. C. Parrsh, is doing the preaching and Mr. J. V. Christy, gospel singer, of Baltimore, is again in charge of the music. His handling of the large choir of fifty voices, sometimes mixed and sometimes men only, is excellent, while his solos drive home the word of truth.

On Sunday afternoon at 2.00 P. M. there will be a great men's meeting in the church auditorium. Rev. J. R. Esaias, pastor of the Chatsworth M. E. Church, of Baltimore, will be the speaker. Special music in the form of chorus and quartette work will be a feature. Every man is given a special invitation to be present.

EVANGELIST STARKE AT CENTENARY M. E. CHURCH

Evangelist Starke will be at Centenary M. E. Church, this city, next Sunday, the 8th, and will preach at 10:45 A. M. and 7.30 P. M. The services will continue until January 20th inclusive, and a strong chorus choir will lead the singing. A bright song service at every meeting. Services every night, excepting Monday, and three times on Sunday including a 3 o'clock afternoon service.

This week Postmaster Coonan again went to the Maryland University, Baltimore, for treatment.

Former Mayor Smith Dies After A Long Illness

Joseph W. Smith died Sunday morning, January 1st., 1922, at his home in this city, after an extended illness, aged 60 years. A man of powerful physique, he fought the fatal disease with all his strength, never, until weakened, did he surrender his duties as a citizen and business man.

He was a son of the late John Smith, of Wakefield, this county, who, in his day, was a physical, financial, intellectual and religious power in the community, and one of the founders and a firm friend of Western Maryland College of this city.

Joseph W. Smith was a director of the Westminster Savings Bank, of The Westminster Ice and Cold Storage Company, a trustee of Western Maryland College, and up until January 1st. a member of the firm of Smith and Reifsnider, lumber and coal merchants of this city. When a young man Mr. Smith purchased the lumber and coal business of the late Alfred Dell and for a number of years conducted the same at the same place where Smith and Reifsnider conducted business. Later on John L. Reifsnider Jr. was taken into the business and the firm of Smith and Reifsnider established.

In the full realization of his physical condition Mr. Smith a few weeks ago sold his interest in the lumber and coal business to his partner to take effect January 1st. 1922, the morning of the day of his death.

Mr. Smith served two terms as Mayor of Westminster in the days when taxes were low and the Mayor and Common Council were expected to use all their knowledge of economy in order to keep the city clean and healthy and make some improvements in the streets. Mayor Smith met every requirement and the citizens of this city wanted him to serve longer, but his increasing business affairs forbade it. It was the only public office he held and he retired from the same with the confidence and respect of all the citizens.

Mr .Smith married Miss Margaret LaMotte, of Glen Falls, Baltimore county, Maryland, by whom he is survived, and by four sons (Dr. Frederick Smith, of Cumberland, Maryland; J. Paul Smith, of Virginia, and Joseph and F. LaMotte Smith, of this city). He is also survived by two brothers (Dennis A. Smith, of Wakefield, this county, and Paul Smith, of Washington, D. C.) and by three sisters (Mrs. Charles Billingslea and Mrs. Wm. R. McDaniel, of this city, and Mrs. Martha Fenby wife of Dr. Edward Fenby, of Baltimore).

The funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon, Rev. H. L. Elderdice, President of the Westminster Theological Seminary and Rev. Edgar T. Read, a former pastor officiating, and the interment was in the Westminster Cemetery.

The pallbearers, all of whom were selected by Mr. Smith, were: Dr. Dr. Jesse S. Myers, and Messrs. George R. Grumbine, George E. Marker, Nathan M. Albert, W. Frank Thomas and Edward D. Duncan.

F. A. Sharrer and Son funeral directors.

Maryland Legislature Organized

Senator Norris, of Baltimore, Elected President of Senate and John L. G. Lee, Speaker of House, Both Democrats

Both branches of the Legislature settled down to business at noon Wednesday and proceeded without unnecessary delay to organize their respective bodies. The majority party having selected the presiding officers and desk clerks in caucus Tuesday night, there were no contests except those staged by the minority party. These were, of course, expected, and were regarded by both as mere formalities. It required some time to finish the details, but once the wheels began grinding, they moved smoothly enough.

Governor Ritchie this Wednesday delivered in person his message to the General Assembly, which met in joint session to hear him. The Governor spoke—or rather read from his message—for more than an hour. He was applauded several times, especially when, near the close, he said that the budget would permit of a tax rate of 30 cents, a reduction of five cents from the rate of the current fiscal year.

The Governor called upon the Democrats in the Legislature to redeem the pledges made in the party's platform. At the conclusion of his address both houses adjourned until next Tuesday at 8 P. M.

Things Governor Recommends In His Message.

A State police force of 35 men.

Adoption of his State reorganization plan as prepared by the commission headed by former Judge Burke.

Reduction in the number of elections.

Additional provision for the care of the insane.

Increased appropriations for the public schools.

Installation of State-use system in the State prisons.

Removal of the political disabilities of women.

Bond issue of $3,150,000 for State roads.

A gasoline tax of 1 cent a gallon for road maintenance.

Increased salaries for judges.

State armories for Hagerstown, Silver Spring, Centreville and Cumberland.

Sale of the State-owned armory lot at North and Maryland avenues.

Reorganization of the Baltimore city police force.

A loan of $1,500,000 for general construction.

Minor Officers Elected.

The officers of the two houses elected are:

House of Delegates:

Chief Clerk—Albert J. Almoney, Montgomery county.

Reading Clerk—Clarence A. Wolf, First district, Baltimore city.

Journal Clerk—Edgar N. Ash, First district, Baltimore city.

Sergeant-Arms—John C. Slowick, First district, Baltimore city.

Chief Page—Henry Hazenkamp, Second district, Baltimore city.

The Senate:

Secretary Emerson R. Crothers, Cecil county.

Reading Clerk—Charles E. Simpson, Talbot county.

Journal Clerk—Robert Coursey, Queen Anne's county.

Sergeant-at-Arms—William G. Robinson, Fourth district, Baltimore city.

Chief Page—John Wagner, Fourth district, Baltimore city.

City Democrats Get Plums

The city Democrats fared very well in the naming of officials of the two houses in the caucuses Tuesday night, capturing the sergeant-at-arms of both houses, the journal clerk and reading clerk of the House and the chief pages of both houses.

Benjamin B. Baker, of the Second district, who has been chosen chairman of the city delegation in the House, is said to have been handpicked by John J. Mahon, and the selection seems to be popular.

Senator Snader, of this county, was elected Republican floor leader of the Senate and Joseph Wolfinger, of Washington county, Republican floor leader in the House.

The manner in which the Baltimore city Democratic politicians captured all the best jobs only shows what will happen to the counties, only worse, if Baltimore is given an increased representation in the Assembly.

FARMER'S CALENDAR

January 10, 11 and 12. All Farmers to Baltimore. The Maryland Agriculture Society Complete. Program in "Maryland Farmer."

The Woman's Civic League will meet at the County Agent's office on Wednesday January 11th, at 2 P. M. Every member should be present.

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