

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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No. 8

VILLAGE ELECTIONS MARCH 9

GROSSE POINTE VILLAGE:

On March 9th the electors of Grosse Pointe Village will vote upon the following Ballot:

President; 1 year, Richard P. Connor, unopposed.

Clerk; 1 year, Norbert P. Neff, unopposed.

Treasurer; 1 year (vote for one), Edwin Watko, Stephen VanTiem, Milton A. Renaud, Wm. G. Diegel, Frank R. Cadieux, Fred Burk.

Assessor; 1 year, Neil Blondell, unopposed.

Trustees; 2 years (vote for three), Dan M. Cronin, Maurice DeVuyst, Geo. F. Kimber, Leo O. Teetaert, Herbert B. Trix.

Mr. Cronin, Mr. Teetaert and Mr. Trix are incumbents.

GROSSE POINTE SHORES:

At a special meeting held January 26th, five commissioners were elected to revise the Charter. Geo. Osius, Fred A. Behr, W. S. Fitzpatrick, Hobart B. Hoyt and Ford Ballantyne were chosen for this work. At a preliminary meeting Mr. Osius was made chairman.

The regular spring election in the Shores comes on the 19th of May and it is expected that the new Charter will be ready to submit to the voters at this election.

The present Charter has been in use for 17 years, and several changes appear necessary.

GROSSE POINTE PARK:

No primary was necessary in the Park and the final election will be conducted March 9.

Waldo J. Berns is unopposed for re-election to the Clerkship.

John VanLinden, Otto Grohn, and Jos. Kelly, incumbent Commissioners, and Noah Paye, A. Damman and Chas. Porthun, new candidates. Three to be elected.

LOCHMOOR VILLAGE:

Lochmoor Village holds its regular annual election of officers March 9th. No primary will precede this election and candidates were permitted to file up to February 18th. Following is the Ballot:

President; 1 year term, Edmund C. Vernier, Jas. W. Carter.

Clerk; 2 years, Phillip F. Allard, Albert A. Stock, Fred Duross.

Treasurer; 2 years, James Van Assche, James Van Antwerp, John W. Holme, George Schaefer, Glen Horwood.

Assessor; 2 years, Bert H. Allen, Leo Athman, W. J. Hergenroeder.

Commissioners; 2 years, 3 to be elected, Roy D. Crane, Wm. J. Michaux, Paul Baulsen, Jules Devorre, Wm. Wright, Harry Wedyke, M. Steven Fischer, Clyde Goodman.

GROSSE POINTE FARMS:

On March 9th the electors of Grosse Pointe Farms will vote upon the following ballot:

President; 1 year term (vote for one), Michael C. Beaupre, Joseph W. Snay.

Trustees; 2 year term (vote for three), John R. Grylls, Herbert W. Hall, Francis J. Hock, Raymond V. Moran.

Clerk; 1 year term (vote for one), John R. Kerby, Harry Reginal Dey.

Treasurer; 1 year term (vote for one), Ben J. Allard, Gervase Meldrum.

Assessor; 1 year term (vote for one), Alonzo R. Backman, Walter A. Allard.

Francis J. Hock is seeking re-election as Trustee. Alonzo Backman is also incumbent, as well as John R. Kerby, who seeks his 22nd consecutive term.

On February 9th a primary was held which eliminated one of three candidates for Treasurer.

TOWNSHIP:

The Township Primary was held March 2nd; because all the candidates

were on the Democratic Party ticket the result of the Primary was the final result.

The present Supervisor, Edmund C. Vernier, seeking re-election, was unopposed.

Jas. Rasmussen was unopposed for his second term as Treasurer.

Daniel Allard, incumbent, was unopposed for Township Clerk.

For Justice of the Peace: Wm. F. Dorn, Victor H. DeBaeke and Noah Paye. Elected: Victor H. DeBaeke.

For Constable: Andrew F. Phillips, Frank DeFer, Jos. Trombly, Samuel Gordon. Louis W. Champine was eliminated.

REGISTRATION

National, State, County, Township, Village and School elections form a list that often proves confusing to the elector on the important matter of registration. Add to this the varied qualifications of electors for certain bond issues and the pantomime is complete.

The whole matter is simplified if one remembers that two registrations entitle the voter to his full privileges in all six units of Government.

Every person of age, having resided in Grosse Pointe three months, is qualified to register with his respective Village Clerk on days advertised. This registration entitles elector to vote on Village, Township, County, State, and National election both on candidates and bond issues.

A second registration is necessary for school voting. To qualify here an elector must be a taxpayer to vote on bond issues and candidates, but voting on candidates alone is extended to electors who are parents of children of school age, regardless of whether or not they hold property. Registration for balloting on school issues can be made at the Superintendent's office, 389 St. Clair Ave., Grosse Pointe Village.

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

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Printed once a month as the official publication of the Citizens Association of Grosse Pointe Township, under the authority of the following board of directors: Lincoln Maire, President.

Charles H. L'Hommedieu, Vice-President.

James E. Morrison, Secretary.

George Porter McMahon, Treasurer.

Henry S. Slyfield. Charles S. Cole.

Benjamin G. Vernor. Frank H. Dewey.

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TOWNSHIP ELECTION

March 2nd marked the 1931 Township Primary which for years has had the significance of a final election. Our Township elections have been dominated by a group known as the "Democratic Party," which seems to be a local term.

This spring's election finds no party opposition. Because the primary result was tantamount to an election more than usual interest was shown. The plum of the contest was the office of Justice of the Peace, since this carries with it a position on the Township Board.

With the growth of the Villages and finally the organization of Lochmoor, which made the five Villages co-terminus with the Township, we find the Township Board losing much of its work and importance until it was considered almost defunct and was often spoken of as "the fifth wheel of the cart."

But recently the Township Board has increased its importance by virtue of taking over the management of the Health Board and the police radio. With the present depression increasing the importance of the "Poor Fund," the "fifth wheel of the cart" bids fair to become the "steering wheel" of the whole community.

The "Poor Fund," by the way, has been well handled by our supervisor and his board in the past, according to reports from the Bureau of Governmental Research.

The "return" of importance of our Township Board warrants an increased interest by the electors in Township elections. More competition and stronger party opposition, it is rumored, is in the making. But the competition waits for a more diversified and representation electorate to attend the polls.

SCHOOL MEETINGS

Following is a resumé of the regular meetings of the Board of Education for the last month:

The Architect presented preliminary plans and elevation conceptions for the proposed new elementary school for the Cadieux-Kercheval site. The plans were accepted and floor plans authorized.

The estimated cost of the first unit, which would be the main part of the building and one of the two wings, was approximated at \$292,000. This sum was for a flat roof on the wing, about \$25,000 being the additional amount for an elevated roof. No decision was reached by the Board concerning the style of roof or the date for public authorization of the bonds.

The Superintendent submitted a report on finance (see article on School Finances).

Bids on a six-room house were accepted. This house, on Notre Dame near Mann Ave., had been vacant and repairs were necessary before it could have been rented.

Mr. James Sutton, insurance expert, was engaged as advisor for the Board. The current budget carries a \$7,000 premium payment for 1930-31. Several policies are carried.

Report on the January achievement test of pupils was submitted to the Board by the Superintendent.

At the last meeting a report was submitted dealing with post graduate attainments, particularly of Grosse Pointe high school graduates attending colleges. This report was a preliminary sketch. It stressed the importance of high school students making an early decision on a college course and if possible the college which they would choose. In this manner curriculums that will assist them in their college entrance can be arranged, which will give a foundation for their college work. The Post Graduate report was requested by the Board.

SCHOOL FINANCES

Borrowing at the rate of \$58,000 a month, the School District stands to float short term loans to the sum of \$290,000 by the end of the school year, unless more delinquent taxes are forthcoming.

Four hundred and two thousand, eight hundred and eighty dollars was the outstanding sum due the school

district on the first of February. The Board has been able to borrow against this on notes from local banks.

The financial problem was helped by a saving of \$34,695 in proposed budgeted expenditures and an increase of \$23,872.92 in the State Primary fund over the \$64,500 that had been expected. Other funds brought \$3,760.47 more than estimated, making a total unexpected or unestimated sum of \$62,328.41.

The practice of short term loans to finance the Budget is not new in Grosse Pointe, and this year at least is common throughout the country.

The situation with the Grosse Pointe District has been added to by a delay in County tax funds instigated by the Wayne County Road Commission. When the Eight-Mile Road super highway was constructed in Lochmoor the Supervisor refused to spread the construction tax upon the property holders and the Township because he considered it excessive. The County retaliated by holding back County tax funds due Grosse Pointe for schools until the amount of the road tax was paid. At the present time over \$87,000 has been withheld in this manner. The Grosse Pointe Board of Education, through their attorney, has carried the case into lower court and has won a decision against Wayne County. Present indication is that Prosecutor Toy will not appeal the case, which means that this sum will soon be available.

There is no cause for alarm in our school finances. Delinquent tax borrowing is a customary procedure because the law prohibits schools building up reserve funds. While other years have seen a smaller proportion of borrowing, there is one case where all the funds for the entire year were borrowed due to legal error in spreading the roll.

A NEW PAPER

A new printing machine was recently installed in the High School, a printing shop which promises to be a vital addition to more than the High School.

The School Board plans to publish a monthly publication on school matters that should be of interest to Grosse Pointe citizens. The means of circulation of the new paper has not been determined, but it likely will be sent through the mail to all the tax-

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 3)

THE ALLOCATION OF OUR TAX DOLLAR

HOW MUCH FOR SCHOOLS

The amount of money being spent on our schools at the present time is a matter of much gossip, speculation, and concern. Perhaps the general play of this topic in Detroit through the Detroit press has popularized the subject in the suburbs, but beyond a doubt much of the concern focused on school expense in Grosse Pointe has been induced by political considerations.

Public criticism of any governmental unit may generally be considered for the good. But electors must remember that a good Board of Education has in mind the education of the pupils, while its critics have in mind primarily the next election, and that in so far as this is true the Board and its critics are facing different problems.

The task of the Board of Education is to educate and to train to good citizenship the pupils at a reasonable cost. Naturally they must work toward the future, keeping well in mind an orderly development of the school system over a period of years. Such citizens as may be interested in the change of the School Board personnel at future elections would likely be engaged in an attack on the board. The element of this attack would be the subject of the moment. The economical depression has set the stage, and suggests the attack upon cost. It seems quite natural at this time that the charges against our Board of Education should be that of "extravagance." The charge of extravagance against a unit of government, providing all facts are presented for consideration, might prove a valuable piece of work. Just why the present attack against extravagance should be limited to schools is a matter that the electors will have to figure out for themselves. Perhaps it is because it would be political suicide for one interested in a school election to make a sustained attack upon the six other governmental units.

Whatever the criticism of extravagance is, and whoever it is directed against, it seems fitting that the taxpayer should not be thrown off balance by the present financial depression, but should give consideration to the past and to the future.

Considering our school cost and a probable reduction, the problem appears as follows:

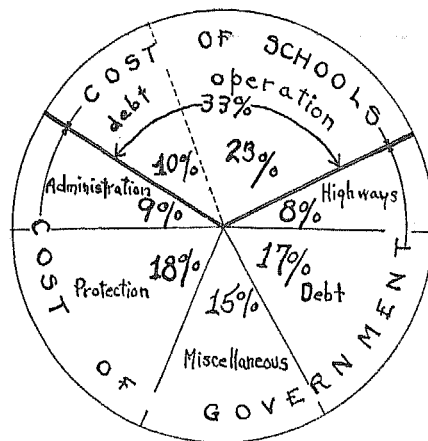
Our School Budget for 1930-31 calls for \$874,610. Of this amount \$285,130 is for interest and bond retirement. There can be no cut on this, as it is a fixed amount.

Of the balance, \$589,480, the sum of \$35,000 already has been saved and \$88,372 is the amount of the primary fund, and other funds bring this total to \$100,000. This leaves the sum of \$454,480 as the amount of Grosse Pointe money being spent on operation and maintenance. It does not seem likely that any appreciable sum could be saved from this amount. Assuming that a drastic slashing of these accounts were made, without regard to effect on the educational feature, a small per cent of our total tax could be saved. If we were to close up the entire school system we could only reduce our total taxes (State and County included) about 14%. The debt service would have to be maintained.

The attack on our School Board and cost of schools has been so conducted that the casual observer is in danger of forgetting that we have other taxes besides schools.

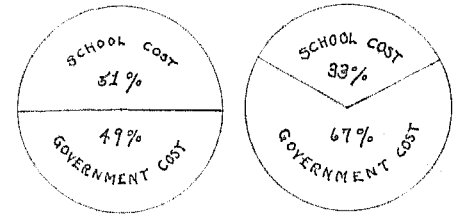
Let us investigate the allocation of our tax dollar. Taking the State and County tax out of the picture (because this tax is beyond our control), the tax dollar spent in the combined Grosse Pointe area during the fiscal year 1930-31 is being expended as follows:

CHART I.



Such proportional cost of School and Government is something found in large cities of a million or more people, but let us see how it compares with the average for the State of Michigan.

CHART II.



All of this means that in the average town in the State of Michigan 51 cents of each tax dollar spent locally goes for schools and 49 cents for government. In Grosse Pointe 33 cents goes to schools and 67 cents for government.

For the 67 cents on the dollar we are getting good government and plenty of it in the form of five separate Villages and a Township (all of which duplication is expensive, but is all right as long as we prefer to have it that way).

In view of all this it becomes difficult to accept the efforts of certain citizens in their attack on our school costs under the assumption that they are going to reduce our taxes for us, especially when their efforts are directed only against 14 per cent of our total or 23 per cent of our local taxes (allowing for school debt service).

If the people of Grosse Pointe want a tax reduction with its corresponding decrease in School and Government efficiency, then a campaign along the entire line of tax expenditure is in order. If we are satisfied with our tax rates and assessments, we can turn our attention to other matters.

PARK CONDEMNATION

The Wayne County Circuit Court on March 3rd called a jury hearing of condemnation proceedings on the proposed new Lake Front Park in Windmill Pointe, Grosse Pointe Park. The condemnation was on the subdivision restriction and not on the price of the land under consideration. The land is being obtained by direct purchase and the price was set arbitrarily. An option has been given by the owners. Owners of property in the subdivision were given the opportunity of making claims for any depreciation they supposed may have resulted from the Park location.

GROSSE POINTE SCHOOLS ENTERTAIN MANY VISITORS

Approximately 200 school superintendents, supervisors and professors in teacher training institutions visited the Grosse Pointe schools during the week of February 22nd.

While no accurate registration was held, it is known that these visitors represented fifteen to twenty states. All were in attendance upon the Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association or the meetings of the Progressive Education Association, which were being held in Detroit. The modern buildings and equipment, the organization of the schools, and teaching procedures were all studied by visitors.

Among the visitors were Dr. Fretwell and Dr. Keefauver, both of Teachers College, Columbia University; Superintendent Burnham of Beatrice, Nebraska; Miss Mary J. Waite, Supervisor of Elementary Education, Cincinnati, Ohio; Dr. Louise Farwell, Associate Professor, National College of Education, Evanston; Dr. Perry Smith, Headmaster, North Shore Country Day School, Winnetka, Illinois; Dr. Vernor Sims, Professor of Education, University of Alabama; Dr. E. Crabtree, Towson Normal, Baltimore, Maryland; Dr. Fredericks, Dr. Brubracher, Dr. Nelson and Professor Sayles of New York State College for

Teachers at Albany; Superintendent Van Kleek of Walden, New York; Miss Clara Wilson, Head of the Department of Elementary Education, Teachers College, University of Nebraska; Miss Alice Cusack, Supervisor of Elementary Education, Kansas City, Missouri; Drs. Henzlick and Koch of Teachers College, University of Nebraska; Dr. Zenos Scott, Superintendent of Schools, Springfield, Massachusetts; Miss Olive Payne, Supervisor of Elementary Education, Peekskill, New York; Superintendent Hodge, Yonkers, New York; Superintendent C. K. Morse, Curtis, Nebraska; H. Linton, Assistant Superintendent, Schenectady, New York.

ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

The Superintendent of Grosse Pointe Schools, in a report to the Board of Education, points out that the elementary schools are attaining the highest achievement records since the standard testing program was introduced in 1927.

The following chart shows the achievement gain by grades during four months, from September to January:

Grade 1A—8 months' gain.
Grade 2B—8 months' gain.
Grade 2A—6 months' gain.
Grade 3B—8 months' gain.
Grade 3A—9 months' gain.
Grade 4B—7 months' gain.

Grade 4A—7 months' gain.
Grade 5B—8 months' gain.
Grade 5A—6 months' gain.
Grade 6B—11 months' gain.
Grade 6A—9 months' gain.

(Concluded from Page 2, Col. 3)

payers. This plan is not an original idea. In fact, it is a common practice for School Boards to issue periodical information. The printing of the paper will be done by the student printing classes; the linotyping, however, will be done by an outside agent.

According to "The Tower," a very creditable little High School paper which is now being printed on the new press, the machine is being used for printing attendance slips, permits, blanks, pamphlets, etc., that are necessary in the school work.

The press cost \$3,450, is automatic feed, and capable of rapid work. Mr. Verle E. Wypke is printing instructor in charge.

Editing of the new paper will be done by the Superintendent's office.

There is some talk of enlarging "The Tower" and printing it every week, with a view to broadening its scope and increasing its field. From contact through the schools alone this paper would have a circulation of 3,500, making an advertising medium that should bring revenue sufficient to promote an interesting program.

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