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THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1927

EDITORIAL

THE "IMPOSSIBLE"—NEXT YEAR

Cannot the good work of the State Highway Board in turning over \$50,000 for the extension of Grand River widening from Five Points to the car-line crossing be extended, not only to complete wider Grand River to Farmington, but perhaps farther, out toward Novi?

It was a hopeful sign, coming almost as hope was gone, when the Highway Board made the appropriation of money due Wayne County. It shows that the directors of the board are aware, to some extent at least, of the dire need for a wider Grand River far beyond Five Points.

But do the members of the Highway Board realize fully the condition that actually exists? Until this summer it was believed that Grand River widening was imperative—as far as Farmington. But this summer has brought traffic lines on Sunday afternoons, not from the end of the present double road to Farmington, but far out beyond, to the Lathrop road and almost to Novi. Automobiles a solid line of them for miles, most of them not twenty feet apart.

It is already apparent that the extension of the double highway to Five Points this summer, and perhaps to the car line crossing next year, will not bring relief. To the contrary, it will only increase, perhaps double, the congestion on the narrow, worn-out pavement between Farmington and the car-line crossing. The "bottle-neck" will be narrower and jammed more tightly than ever before. A wider road to Five Points will bring more cars—and the drivers of those cars will not turn back.

Many people believe greater congestion between Farmington and Five Points is "impossible." But unless Grand River is widened at least as far as Farmington, we shall probably see the "impossible" happen next year.

PAVED ROADS PAY

Do paved roads pay? Few doubt that they do, but an unusually striking instance of what the construction of hard-surfaced roads may mean is apparent in connection with the Pontiac-Walled Lake-Novi road, which is to be paved next year.

Early in the summer, petitions were circulated for the paving of that much-travelled highway. Although the property-owners were not unanimous in their desire for the improvement, the necessary signatures were secured and it was announced that the road will be paved next year.

The paving will not be started until next spring—"early in the spring," it is promised. It cannot be finished much before Labor Day, 1928, practically the end of the season, as far as big activity in real estate is concerned.

Yet three pieces of acreage totalling nearly 300 acres already have been sold, along and near the highway at good prices. They are already beginning to reap the benefit, the paving will bring.

Investors find the mere promise of pavement attractive enough to prompt them to buy acreage. Property values will probably increase sufficiently, before the concrete is laid, to more than pay the cost that the property-owners will have to bear.

Meanwhile the road department has labored heroically to keep the gravelled surface, in a condition suitable for traffic. The worn-out surface has been covered deep with gravel, and as costly as it is dangerous.

The Pontiac-Novi gravel road (is an outstanding example of the folly of trying to maintain gravel roads where there is heavy traffic. The increase in values of land along the road, on the mere promise of a pavement to be laid a year hence, demonstrates the boons of hard-surfaced roads.

"STATES INFRINGE UPON RIGHTS OF PEOPLE"—SCHULTE

By John J. Schulte, Jr.

The dangers of centralization and bureaucracy are not merely inherent in the tendency to make of the Federal power an overlord. The individual States are infringing upon the rights of the component civic parts, counties and cities.

The Akron Beacon Journal, which has, to our knowledge, on many occasions proven itself a defender of sound principles, has called upon the people of Ohio to resist the abuse of power by Commission Government now threatening them. It has told the citizens of that great commonwealth right along, they had suffered a deep wrong when a bill was sneaked through the legislature representing a State Commission to be represented by county tax duplicates. An editorial, printed in the issue of February 14, warns them "a greater threat to their rights and welfare is now in incubation in the present legislature."

The reference is to the Jones and tax bill, slated by bosses and lobbyists for early enactment, which confers upon the Tax Commission "the unchallenged right to fix rates as well as the duplicates for every city and county every township and village." In fact, according to the editorial, the Commission may increase these tax rates above the present fifteen mile limit when in its opinion any city or county needs more money for operating expenses or for the payment of its debts. It (the bill) even allows the Commission, upon the appeal by local spenders, who may be dissatisfied with appropriations allowed by Budget Commissions, to set such budgets aside and install a higher one of its own. Every local Budget Commission, thus shorn of its power, will be no more than a rubber stamp to approve the figures which any extravagant administration may wish to write into the tax bills. And only the blue sky is the limit of assessment which may be demanded from taxpayers to make extravagance more convenient for tax eaters.

It is thus that self-government is strangled and bureaucracy, which ultimately spells corruption and inefficiency, fostered. At one time neither emperors nor kings could thus infringe upon the rights of the communes; the American colonists revolted against their mother country because it attempted to impose upon them, in accordance with the mercantilist theories of government and the divine right of kings, certain taxes without their consent. At the present the American people are submitting to incursions, on their rights which will leave them fewer liberties than they possessed before the Declaration of Independence.

The prevalent attitude of indifference toward public policy leads the same editorial to declare: "It is surprising that with such an intended menace to their rights (as the one discussed by that paper in this particular instance) the whole state is not in rebellion against it. The reason it is not is because the people are not informed of what is being done. They leave lawmaking to others, and responsibility thus defaulted or referred is appropriated eagerly by the lobbyists for special interests who are swarming at the capitol."

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Commissioners Proceedings

Meeting of the Commissioners of the City of Farmington, held August 8, 1927. Called to order by Mayor Butterfield, at 8 p. m. Commissioners present: Gildemeister, Stannard, Hogle, Johnson and Russell.

Minutes of the last meeting read and approved. The clerk reported the receipt of \$1511.95 by his office during the month of July.

The Commission was advised by E. N. Genney of Plymouth in regard to the disposal of garbage and the plan adopted by that city, seconded by Hogle that we give Mr. Genney's garbage disposal plan a three months' trial. Carried.

Ordinance C—27 was submitted by the ordinance committee. The following communication was read: I hereby request that the Ordinance C—27 entitled "Noxious Weeds" be considered and passed immediately in accordance with Sec. 5, Chapter 9 of the Charter of the City of Farmington, Wells D. Butterfield, Mayor.

Motion made by Hogle, seconded by Johnson that the Ordinance be adopted and given immediate effect. Carried all yeas.

Motion made by Gildemeister seconded by Johnson that bills be paid when approved by the auditing committee. The following bills were approved:

Good Service Station	\$ 2.44
Farmington Hdq. Co.	39.38
N. J. Eisenlord & Son	1.30
Crane & Co.	65.60
D. U. R. freight bill	4.27
Auto Shop	11.80
Olin Russell	54.54
Farmington Lumber & Coal Co.	62.91
Earl G. Vivier	4.07
Park Garage	24.39
Bell Telephone	4.05
Lee Hardware	4.76
Farmington Enterprise	29.90
L. F. Fondt	289.76
Northville Sand & Gravel Co.	466.00
Lewis W. Wrinn	15.00
American Oil Co.	3.39
Detroit Edison Co.	673.37
Taxes on Police Booth Lot	14.00
Justice John J. Schulte	50.82
Eugene Brown	65.00
William Maas	55.00
Eugene Brown	65.00
John Nelson	14.30
James Quinn	15.25
John Nelson	12.00
James Graham	8.00
Ed. Quinn	15.00
Francis Dolsen	15.00
Everett James	48.00
Ed. Quinn	52.50

Adjourned.

N. H. POWER, City Clerk.

"YOUNG AMERICA"

He would fly the widest ocean
 Just to see if science made
 A machine so near perfection
 That he reached there undismayed.

He would climb the tallest mountain
 Just to stand on the divide
 -Sun and sky to have above him
 Descend upon the other side.

He would trek the pathless snow wastes
 Just to see if Arctic days
 Furnished warmth and food and sunshine
 For the native where he stays.

He would send balloons the highest
 Just to see if he would find
 That fact and lungs could stand the air
 When he left the world behind.

He would swim the broadest channel
 Just to see if wind and tide
 Would overcome him, in his struggle
 Keep him from the other side.

He would don the diver's helmet
 Just to walk the ocean floor,
 Peer into the sunken vessels
 That sailed the waters—days of yore.

He would search the darkest jungle
 Just to see if he could hit
 All the "hippos" and the tigers
 Match their strength against his wit.

He would cross the hottest desert
 Just to see if sand was nice
 To carve a road from out the ages
 With some modern new device.

He would challenge all the world
 Just to prove there is no feat
 That with tact and much endurance
 An American could not beat.

—Imogene Bicking.

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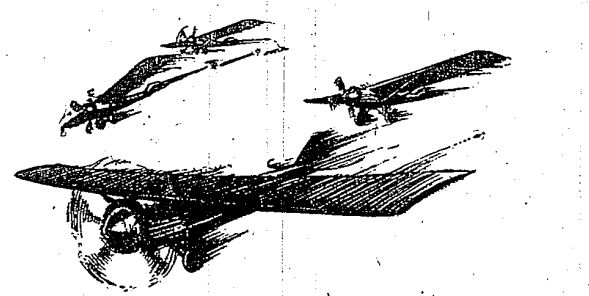
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