

The Farmington Enterprise
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Editorials

School District Meetings

School districts throughout this section will hold their annual meetings next Monday night. Public-spirited citizens annually hope for and urge large attendance at these meetings, in the interest of public welfare. Officials generally urge all electors to attend, with the thought that they will thus receive guidance and be able to carry out policies representing the will of all the people.

To often these appeals fall on deaf ears. But there is far greater interest this year in public affairs and the conduct of government everywhere, than for a long time, and this may extend to local and school district government sufficiently to have a marked effect.

Insofar as one district in this section is concerned, Farmington No. 5, urging a large attendance is evidently unnecessary. The biggest in years, if not in history, is quite clearly indicated. Many will be there, not only as a matter of citizenship, but also because they won't want to miss it. Yet everyone will unquestionably take the opportunity to cast his or her vote.

The Only Thing To Do

With over 30 contractors desperately eager to bid on Farmington's sewer job, it is particularly unfortunate to have the bond company attorneys make a ruling which necessitates a change in the city charter before it is possible to go ahead. It is hard for the layman to understand a situation in which the State law, which is generally held supreme, permits but the city charter prohibits. The fact that other lawyers do not agree with the ruling makes it more perplexing than ever.

However, there is probably no individual in the world quite so particular as an attorney for a bonding company. Perhaps, considering his responsibility, he has good reason. So there is nothing left for us—if we want our sewer as assuredly we all do—but to go over to the Town Hall on the twenty-first and give the City's governing body our permission to do what the State law says it could do anyhow.

Up To Date

Farmington is getting some compliments on the new modern-type traffic lights that have been installed on the main corner. Everyone who drives a car, and that means thousands going through our town, knows how uncomfortable it is to crane one's neck out of the window, twisting one's backbone in a spiral curve to see if the signal has yet turned to "go." Sometimes it never does—or seems to. Every driver appreciates it when he is saved this inconvenience.

The new signals, with their long hoods, are intended to stop "creeping," by having no amber show between the red and green, and preventing the other amber light from showing. Drivers manage to see the reflection, however, particularly at night. About the only thing that will stop them from creeping is the invention of some sort of automatic motor-staller that would go into action when the car crosses the line ahead of time. And if such a thing was invented, no driver would put one on.

To Be Put Behind—But Remembered

An unpleasant episode in Farmington's history came to an end last week when a damage suit for assault against a deputy sheriff formerly stationed here was settled out of court. It is well that the matter is closed and may now be relegated to the past.

It had been better, of course, if the incident had never happened. Only one kind of good can come from such an occurrence, and that will be if those clothed with authority are thereby impressed with the fact that the plain citizen has rights which they are bound to respect, just as much as the plain citizen must respect the uniform.

Happy—And How!

Mr. Mayor Bowles of Detroit, having lost his legal battle to prevent the recall election, declared himself only a few hours later over the radio as "happy to go before the people." He was, in fact, so "happy" to go before the people that he went to the highest court in the State to prevent having to do so.

After he is recalled by the people, as seems likely unless something extraordinary happens before July 22, Mayor Bowles will probably step to the radio microphone immediately and assure everyone that he is "happy to have been recalled by the people of the City of Detroit."

Of such is the kingdom of politics!

Quite So, George, Quite So!

Said George R. Averill in the Birmingham Eclectic after the recent New Jersey primary election for Senator:

"Dwight W. Morrow, dad-in-law of Col. Charles A. Lindbergh, recently won the Republican nomination as one of New Jersey's United States Senators. Mr. Morrow, you may recall, ran on a prohibition modification program. Since he has been mentioned as a possible opponent of President Hoover's in two years, one may wonder what will happen to the Volstead Act not long hence. For it begins to appear as though something of national importance may happen tomorrow."

Quite so, George, quite right. And it would appear that it greatly behooves Herbert to look sharply to his fences; lest the shadow of tomorrow fall upon today's president—in 1932.

What Other Newspapers Are Saying

Underpaid Girls

The nation is interested in reasonably priced commodities. We are interested in economical distribution of goods.

Yet Americans do not wish to read that the average wage of the girl-employees of the large chain five and ten cent stores is but \$12 a week.

The desire of these stores is to sell merchandise, cheap merchandise, in a cheap way.

The public saves money for itself, but it does not make the greatest possible contribution to general public welfare when it buys.

This success in selling things is doubtless accompanied by hardships upon those who are instrumental in giving the service. Such a condition is not in tune with America.

Henry Ford has made two great contributions to American life. One is the production of a very useful article. The other is the payment of high standards of wages.

A poorly paid group of people cannot participate in the pleasures of modern days. They cannot buy the things that they make.

Far sighted industrial leaders know that—Grand Rapids (Minn) Herald Review.

The New Method

(Crystal Falls Diamond Drill) I traveled over a concrete road which extends from Kansas City, Mo., to St. Louis, Mo., recently.

The peculiar thing about this splendid highway is that it passes through the main streets of just two towns along its entire distance of 300 miles. All other places are slightly off the road or the highway traverses one or more of the outlying streets. The only reason that it uses the main streets of the two towns that it does use is that a big bridge issues therefrom in each case, which the highway has to use. One must travel such a highway to realize the convenience that it is to the motorist to escape the entanglements of main street traffic. One can whizz along all the route without slackening speed and splendid time can be made.

This switching of through traffic from the main streets of cities is coming in fashion rapidly these days as cities and small towns begin to feel the burden of the through traffic; traffic that is of interest in the towns and which seeks speed along at a rate that is a menace to main street business. Small towns in Illinois are petitioning the highway department in many instances to switch the highway from their main streets. They are doing this because they find that the tourist who merely wants to get through is more of a liability than an asset.

In this connection it will be remembered that when former Gov. Grosbeck insisted upon projecting the through highway from Detroit to Grand Rapids in a straight line between Lansing and Grand Rapids, he engendered the enmity of the Ionia people who wanted the highway diverted through their town. That was one of the incentives for the opposition to the re-election of Grosbeck by the people of Ionia. In the light of later discoveries it can be seen that Grosbeck was right and that as time goes on, highways will be constructed on the outskirts of towns instead of through the main streets.

Two Kinds Of Crops

(Minneapolis Tribune) The time must come when the farmer will produce two crops. The first crop will be food for human and animal consumption. The second will be raw materials for industrial consumption.

"The farms of the future," said Glenn Frank, president of the University of Wisconsin, not so long ago, "will raise leucuses as well as lima beans, rubber as well as rutabagas, and motion picture films as well as melons."

While the human being's food demands are limited, the factory consumptive demands are potentially infinite.

Not much expansion is now possible for the farmer's crop of edible products, but indefinite and unbounded expansion is possible in the market for his extractible products.

What agriculture needs more than anything else at night now is not increased productive capacity but increased consumptive demand.

The key to increased consump-

Progress In Business

(Michigan Bulletin) The day of the storekeeper is past and that of the merchant is here.

That is one of the difficulties of the present situation. The process of selling goods is changing.

In the older days all that was required was a building and a stock in trade. People came and bought and if they did not find what suited them in one place they passed on to another. Very few store keepers bestirred themselves to give the best service to their patrons.

A few years ago this condition began to change. Stores became business institutions which sold goods on the basis of quality. Stores became attractive places. The floor was kept clean. The loafers who talked politics around the stove were told to move elsewhere. Merchandise was displayed to be looked at and sold itself. The store keeper who had fed or clothed families without receiving pay for his merchandise decided to sell for cash. The number of different articles were standardized into simplified groups. Changes in the methods of distribution from the factories were established.

Now the merchant who simply unlocks his door and lets his customers in is not successful. He must do what is necessary to build and maintain business. He must be a merchant, not a store keeper.

Campaign Expenses

(Jonia County News) One of the perplexing problems of the day is that of campaign expenditures. How much should a candidate for office be permitted to spend in behalf of his candidacy?

Some of the amounts expended by recent candidates for the Senate seem unreasonably large, and in some cases investigations of campaign funds have resulted in the barring of successful candidates. If such investigations are to be continued, and they doubtless will be, it seems that there should be a law definitely fixing the maximum amount that may be spent, as is done in some state offices.

With our ever growing number of voters it takes a lot of money to reach each voter in the larger states with even one piece of campaign literature. In New York state there were 4,885,963 registered voters in 1928. If a single piece of literature were sent to each of these, and the cost of each piece, including postage, printing and addressing, were only five cents, it would take nearly a quarter of a million dollars to do the job. This sum would leave little margin for the expense of compiling lists, travel for speechmaking, newspaper advertising or other expenditures inseparable from an aggressive campaign.

In Illinois and Pennsylvania the number of voters is approximately one-third less than that in New York, so it would take at least \$200,000 to reach each voter with one piece of campaign literature and leave a small amount for other expenses in either of these great states.

These figures would only cover primary expenses, while in all three states mentioned there would be additional outlays necessary incident to the general election.

All of which illustrates how futile it is, generally speaking, for a poor man without rich supporters to aspire to high office.

SHOVE 'ER IN HIGH

"I wonder," said the old lady at the dance, "what has become of the old-fashioned girl who used to drop her eyes, raise her face and say: 'You must ask pap?'"

"She has a daughter," answered the girl, "who says, 'Shove her into high kid.' The old man's gaining on us!"—Exchange.

A book entitled "Why We Behave Like Human Beings" has had an immense sale in spite of the fact that most of us don't.

A Lincoln girl sued a boy friend who squeezed her so hard as to break three ribs. Those Nebraska lads get—and how.

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