

# The Farmington Enterprise

## Township Meet Again A Debate On Salary Cuts

Session Ends Abruptly Without Definite Action; Attendance Is Record

Farmington Township's annual business meeting on Monday like that of last year proved to be almost entirely a protracted debate on the question of salaries of officials and employees. It provided a striking climax when it came to a swift conclusion with a speaker on the floor, caught in the middle of a sentence as a motion to adjourn was made, put, and carried in a fraction of a minute. The meeting ended just about where it had begun, without positive action of any kind on the important subject of the day. The session was marked by much confusion, with one motion getting tangled up with another, voters being apparently unable to understand what was going on, and tellers unable to agree on counting of the hands raised for voting.

Two hundred men and women gathered in the large classroom of the Bond school for the meeting, a sizeable proportion of them being women.

**Opponents Again**  
The debate on the salary question, like that of last year resolved itself largely into a lively encounter between former supervisor Harry N. McCracken and justice-elect Walter Headerle, with a third party again taking a prominent part. The third in this case was Robert McCrumb. Mr. McCracken, whose long experience has gained him ranking as one of the most skillful parliamentarians in the county, provided technical skirmishes with Mr. McCrumb and others taking a hand now and then, and Mr. Headerle directing operations from the other side.

Following reading of a report on Township financial affairs, Mr. McCracken pointed out that the election officials had received a 25 per cent in their pay and asked if the township officials were willing to take a similar reduction. On receiving a negative reply he asked the reason for the discrepancy. Supervisor Coe answered that the election tax had been a compromise agreed on by the Township Board. Mr. Headerle entered the discussion at this point by declaring that it was not a fair comparison, as the township officials are on duty every day in the year, while the election officials work only on election days.

Mr. McCracken asked what was the pay of the highway commissioner, and Clerk William Campbell replied that it is 76 cents an hour, amounting to \$1,700 the past year. Ward Eagle asked if this had been for full time, to which Mr. Campbell answered "no" and added that "the total township salaries don't amount to one per cent of the Township valuation— you ought to start with the big fellow, not with the little one."

Mr. McCrumb remarked that "we can't wait for the big fellows, we've got to start here at home," to which Mr. Campbell replied: "The little fellow gets just a living wage, and you want to cut him in two." Mr. McCrumb answered that "everything has changed" at this juncture action started. Mr. Headerle offered a motion, supported by Justin Bullis, who took a decisive part in last year's meeting, that the matter of salaries be left to the township board.

Clarence Utley arose at this point to read an account of financial arrangements made by Dearborn Township. He asked that all salaries be cut a little, and declared that he didn't think we need to pay the County officials so much, such as the sheriff \$7,000, and the school commissioner \$6,000.

Roy Curran, candidate for supervisor at the primary, took issue. (Continued on page five)

## Young Men Show "How It Should Be Done" At Orchard Demonstration

One of the most notable agricultural events held in this vicinity in recent years drew a large gathering of fruit-growers Friday and greatly stimulated interest in possibilities of improving fruit crops and making them more profitable. The demonstration, taking place at McCracken Orchards on Twelve Mile road, attracted 75 fruit-growers, an increase of 25 per cent over the highly successful one held a month ago at the same place.

The demonstration Friday, which was on grafting, is the probable forerunner of two more, as it will be necessary to return next spring and the following year to complete the work. In view of the degree of interest shown, it is possible that demonstrations will be more frequent in future years.

A feature of the demonstration

was the work done by young men engaged in fruit-growing. Instead of acting entirely as pupils and watching the "teacher", a number of the young men stepped forward, took the grafting implements, and did the grafting themselves, under the supervision of H. D. Hootman, of Michigan State College. The surprising success of the young men resulted in a great deal of comment, and their work was a matter of much satisfaction to the older men in attendance. About 30 trees of the McCracken orchards were grafted, the trees being York Imperials grafted to McIntosh. The trees should begin to bear the new varieties in a period from three years upward. After the grafting process is complete, it is difficult in many cases for the average person to detect the grafted limbs from the "natural" ones, horticulturists say.

## Get Many Orders For New Ford V-8

Display Of New Car Attracts Many Daily To Olin Russell Showroom

Placing on display of the new Ford V-Eight at Olin Russell's Ford Sales and Service drew interested crowds to the Farmington display-room, as did similar exhibits throughout this part of the county. Of the hundreds of visitors coming to look at the car, many proved to be buyers, more than a store of orders having been taken over the week-end and the first few days this week.

Within an hour of the car's arrival a goodly number were on hand for the first glimpse of the new model. The car, a coupe, was inspected from radiator to tail-light by those motor-wise, and others whose interest was just as keen, though their technical knowledge was perhaps less extensive. As might be expected, men were most interested in the mechanical features, particularly the new V-eight engine that develops 65 horsepower and gives a speed of 75 miles an hour. Women, as also might be expected, were chiefly interested in the beauty of the new car and its comfort and conveniences.

## Miss Leola Ike Weds Resident Of Plymouth

Miss Leola Ike of Farmington and George Hake of Plymouth were married Tuesday morning at the M. E. church by Rev. F. C. Johnson, in the presence of Mrs. Minnie Johnson of Farmington and Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Johnson of Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Hake will visit relatives and friends in New York state for two weeks after which they will return home to their friends at 34015 Oakland Avenue, Farmington.

Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Courtney of Detroit, called Sunday upon Miss Boynton and Miss Hard.

## Lacy, Recent Speaker Here, Tells Why He "Won't Run For Governor"

The refusal of Judge Arthur J. Lacy of Detroit to be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor is of particular interest in Farmington, due to the fact that Mr. Lacy was a speaker at a mass meeting here some weeks ago. The statement made by him recently that he would not permit consideration of his name was a severe blow to Democratic leaders seeking an "available" candidate.

Judge Lacy explains in detail his continued and emphatic refusals to run in a statement to the Enterprise which reflects the personality of a widely-known man with whom many Farmington people have recently come into contact, and which also affords an interesting commentary on present-day politics as he sees it.

## "Opposition" In Livonia Missing

Candidacy Of Man Opposing Supervisor Zeigler Fails To Develop

The first "opposition" to Supervisor Jesse Zeigler in 10 years in Livonia Township turned out to be no opposition at all Monday. For some reason which still remains a puzzle to election officials and others in township affairs, the candidacy of Manuel Layland, simply failed to materialize. No votes were cast for him.

Mr. Layland himself had refused to solicit voters, but several citizens of the township were reported active in organizing support for him. It is believed that the candidacy was withdrawn by its sponsors shortly before the election, in view of the absence of a single vote for Mr. Layland.

The only other contest on the ticket proved to be a runaway for Mrs. Anna Rohde, justice of the peace. She was re-elected, defeating Gustave Adams, who ran on a sticker, 387 to 110. Other Republican nominees had no opposition. There were 511 votes cast.

## O. E. S. To Hold Election At Meeting Tuesday

Tuesday evening April 12 will occur the last regular meeting for Farmington Chapter No. 239 O. E. S. Meeting will be the annual meeting, payment of dues and election of officers.

On Tuesday April 5, 16 sixteen officers and members enjoyed the hospitality of Eutre Norris dinner at South Lyon for 6:30 dinner and initiation.

## FIRE DESTROYS BARN

A grass fire set ablaze an old barn on a farm owned by Elmer Doheny at Seven Mile and McKinley Roads Tuesday morning. The barn, which was empty, was burned down. Farmington fire department was called.

The statement is as follows: "I am grateful to all those who have paid me the compliment of suggesting I be a candidate for governor and to the press of this state for the great kindness it has shown to me, but it is utterly impossible for me to reconcile myself to the idea that I should get into politics for myself. I have definitely decided that I will not run for the office of governor. I have no political ambitions to gratify. The holding of that office would be distasteful to me. I do not like politics in the ordinary sense of the term, and I do not think I am so constituted that I could endure the intrigue, manipulations, sinister influences, and oblique attacks, unjust criticism and abuse which seem to attach to politics." (Continued on page four)

## Depositors Of Savings Accounts Get Money First

Supreme Court Ruling Gives Savings Accounts Big Advantage Over Commercial

Savings depositors in closed banks of Michigan will have a tremendous advantage over commercial depositors in the distribution of dividends of those banks, if a decision handed down by the Michigan Supreme Court this week is carried out. So great is the advantage of savings depositors as compared with the commercial, that already discussion is heard of possibilities of appeal to the United States Supreme Court.

Savings deposits are not given the status of preferred claims by the decision, but are placed ahead of commercial accounts, according to Howard C. Knickerbocker, Receiver of Farmington State Savings Bank. Press reports of the decision hitherto have been confusing and misleading, and in order to afford depositors exact information as to the actual meaning of the decision, Mr. Knickerbocker outlined it, in a statement to the Enterprise.

The question of dividends as between savings and commercial accounts has been a matter of much difference of opinion. In the case decided this week, the eight justices of the Supreme Court gave three different decisions. The prevailing opinion was signed by only half of the court, four justices, but it is so controlling, by a ruling of Chief Justice George M. Clark.

**Accounts Separate**  
Savings and commercial accounts and assets have always been kept separate in state banks, Mr. Knickerbocker says. "Every State bank is really two banks," said Mr. Knickerbocker. "Savings and commercial departments are separate. Assets and deposits of each are recorded separately. The effect of the Supreme Court decision is not to separate the two departments, for they always have been separate. But this decision does affect the distribution of dividends."

"The decision provides that savings depositors shall come first. The liquidation goes on in the usual way. However, the decision provides that the savings depositors are to receive every cent it is possible to get from the liquidation of savings assets, up to 100 per cent."

**"Commercial Must Wait"**  
"Meanwhile, liquidation of the commercial debts is to go on, of course, but no dividends can be distributed to commercial depositors from the liquidation of commercial assets. Only after the savings depositors have received 100 per cent, or it is decided that they have received all that it is possible to realize out of the savings assets, can money realized from commercial assets be distributed. And if the savings depositors did not receive, in liquidation of that department, their full 100 per cent, then they are to share pro rata with the commercial depositors in the distribution of assets of the commercial department. An important aspect of the decision is that while we may be very successful in liquidation of the commercial department and collect many thousands of dollars, forced to hold this money until after all the liquidation of the savings department is completed and the money distributed in order that he may know whether or not the savings depositors will share in the assets of the commercial department, and if so, to what extent."

Another important ruling made by the Supreme Court was the decision that, stockholders may not offset their deposits, or any part of them, against their 100 per cent stock assessment. It should be noted that the assessment against stockholders is not double the value of their stock as is often supposed, but just equal the amount of par value of the stock. The "double" loss to

## Town Hall Case May Be Heard Very Soon

The Farmington Town Hall case begun long ago may come on for hearing very soon in Circuit Court at Pontiac. Settling of the suits between three townships and the State Tax Commission has served to move up the Town Hall case on the calendar, it is reported, and it is expected that a call may be issued for the suit at any time.

Attorneys for all three parties reported themselves ready some time ago. They are George E. Bushnell, Detroit; James H. Lynch, Pontiac, and Roscoe O. Bonsteel, Ann Arbor.

## Decision Help To Township Finance

Ruling That County Cannot Claim All Of Covert Tax Is Important

Farmington Township, along with every local governing unit, won an important advantage in its financial set-up, particularly in relation to the County, in a decision handed down this week by the Michigan Supreme Court. The ruling makes a difference of \$17,000 immediately to the Township, \$7,000 in cash on hand and \$10,000 in indebtedness, and the effect in the future will be even greater. Instead of the Township being forced to pay the County \$7,000 which it has on hand and after that still owing the County \$10,000, the Township may retain the \$7,000 and the County will owe it \$10,000 in delinquent taxes.

A bit of foresight on the part of Treasurer Mark Bachelor and members of the Township Board put the Township ahead \$7,000 in cash. Anticipating a favorable ruling by the Court, or at least hoping for it, the Treasurer and Board members agreed that Mr. Bachelor should withhold the \$7,000 from the collection of taxes from the County during recent months. Had it been paid over, the Township would now have instead of \$7,000 cash and a \$10,000 credit from the County, simply a \$17,000 credit from the County, which is not able to pay.

The dispute arose over payment of Township Covert Road-at-large taxes, that is, those taxes assessed against the Township at large for Covert Roads built within the Township. In recent years there has been large delinquency in all taxes, and particularly in this class of levies. The Township treasurers, not having collected all of the Covert Road-at-large taxes from the taxpayers, have found it difficult to pay the full amounts to the County, and of late, it has been impossible. The money had to come out of other funds, and these did not exist.

**County Withheld Money**  
Failing to receive these taxes from the Townships, county officials sought other means. At frequent periods during the year the county treasurer distributes to the various townships and cities their shares of money received through payments of delinquent taxes, made by taxpayers. The County Treasurer began to hold back from townships and cities these delinquent tax returns. At present, \$17,000 has been held back by the county treasurer from Farmington Township.

The township protested this withholding of funds, and last year a test case was started, with Waterford Township instituting a suit to compel the county treasurer to turn over \$2,438.34, due it in the county-township settlement May 1, 1931. Circuit Judge Glenn C. Gillespie decided in favor of the township, and it was this decision which the Supreme Court affirmed.

"The County is not in financial (Continued on page four)"  
the stockholder, occurs through the fact that he loses his original investment in the stock, as well as the 100 per cent assessment.

## Pay Cut Petition Is Presented To City Commission

Proposals Are Topic Of Much Discussion Throughout City; Put On File

Filing of a petition urging reduction in pay of city employees, along with another relating to property assessments provided a climax Monday night to discussion of the proposals, which have engaged the attention of Farmington residents for the past week. The petitions were presented to the City Commission by Floyd Nichols.

Knowledge that the petitions were to be offered attracted a modest gathering of citizens to the meeting. Mr. Nichols presented the petition relating to assessments first, declaring that many of the valuations placed upon property by the State Tax Commission last year were unjust, and that the local assessing officer is in a much better position to judge relative local values than any State authorities. He said he believed that the city assessor is not required to follow the State officials' figures in making up his 1932 city tax roll.

**Looking Into Law**

Mayor Lamb said that the County civil counsel, George A. Cram of Pontiac, had stopped in Farmington Monday afternoon on his way to Lansing, and that he had asked Mr. Cram regarding the question. Mr. Cram had promised, the mayor said, to take it up with Lansing authorities and advise him in a few days as to whether there is anything in the law to prevent the assessor from using valuations for city assessments differing from those for State and County purposes.

The pay-cut petition was signed by 45 citizens, and the assessment petition by 67. Both were ordered received and placed on file by the Commission.

In offering the petition asking reduction of salaries, elimination of the day police officer and other changes, Mr. Nichols said that the petition was presented, not as a criticism of the Commission, but with the purpose of helping reduce expenses by every possible means and to eliminate any unnecessary expenditures.

**Reports Protest**

In regard to elimination of the day police officer, Mayor Arthur Lamb declared that he believes "a child's life is worth just as much in these days of depression as it was three years ago, when people were asking for an officer on every four corners," and that "the loss of a child would cause just as much sadness today as it did in good times."

Commenting further, the mayor asserted that he had received numerous calls from citizens, parents of school children, protesting against this suggestion. Those who called said, according to Mayor Lamb, that they felt "just as safe as if we took the children to school ourselves," under the present system, and that they feared their children would be in danger from traffic if the officer were eliminated.

**Discuss New Pump**  
Change in the pumping system at the water-works to save power (Continued on page four)

## Farmington Man In Governor Aid Group

William W. Slocum of Farmington, vice-president and actively in charge of the United Savings Bank of Detroit, was among the bankers who conferred with Governor Bracker in regard to suggestions for amendments to be incorporated in the Governor's recent message to the Legislature.

Mr. Slocum is a member of the last legislative committee of the Michigan Bankers Association, which advised the Governor on banking affairs.