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EDITORIAL

THE SCHOOL ELECTION

There is reason for satisfaction in the large attendance at the annual school meeting Monday night. This is true although Farmington is probably no exception to the rule that a sharp issue is usually required to bring many voters of the community to elections.

Whatever the circumstances, the new members of the Board of Education may take a goodly measure of confidence from the fact that they were chosen at a meeting of large attendance. They can proceed to their new duties feeling that the community as a whole was alert to the occasion.

But this circumstance, affording them satisfaction, demands also its added responsibility, a necessity for the most careful reflection upon the duties that will be theirs. For it reminds them that they start out to serve a community whose consciousness to the affairs of its school government is thoroughly awake. It portends that their official acts will be closely scrutinized by a large portion of the citizens whom they represent.

The three new members, and the two members of the present Board, who are relatively new also, have before them a rare opportunity in their government of Farmington schools. It is not too much to expect that they will keep always clearly in mind the welfare of all, providing to the best of their ability for the children whose education is to a large extent in their care.

ADD BIRMINGHAM—ONE MORE EXAMPLE

To the list of neighboring communities which are reducing taxes and at the same time carrying on extensive improvements must be added Birmingham, whose taxpayers this year will enjoy a reduction of one dollar in their tax rate. The tax for the current year has been \$12 per thousand, and for the coming year will be only \$11. And this in the face of the fact that Birmingham is engaged in a comprehensive paving program, along with many other governmental undertakings.

Interesting indeed to Farmington citizens is the following, from the "Monthly Review," published by the Birmingham Eccentric:

Birmingham's tax rate has been decreased one dollar per \$1,000 valuation. This marks the lowest rate enjoyed by taxpayers during the past five years. The new rate per thousand for 1928 is \$12.

The new rate of \$12 was decided upon by the village commission in a recent meeting when Robert McClellan, village assessor, submitted his report.

The assessed valuation of Birmingham this year shows an increase of approximately \$3,000,000. The assessed valuation this year is \$23,560,000 as against last year's total of \$20,560,000.

In the face of unusual improvements which have been undertaken recently this announced reduction is considered remarkable. Birmingham is having more improvements now than ever before in its history.

Just as in the case of Royal Oak, which was cited as an example in these columns a few weeks ago, Birmingham is reducing taxes by the only possible method these days—by investing in im-

Children's Day

M. Marie Walling

Poem read at the Children's Day exercises
 at Farmington Methodist Church Sunday, June
 10, by the author.

Little children filled with joy,
 Lives are all in tune;
 Hearts overflow with happiness
 On Children's Day in June.

Bubbling o'er with sweet content,
 From carousal their minds the free;
 Mindful not of want nor pain,
 But only beauty see.

Eager eyes that sparkle bright,
 Are filled with joy and mirth;
 And these eyes will ever seek
 The beauty of the earth.

God is watching over them,
 These little children fair;
 So he sends them lots of joy,
 And gladness everywhere.

If you'll just smile upon them,
 And hark to laughter gay;
 You'll find sweet peace and great content,
 On this glad Children's Day.

provements that will increase valuations.

The quotation above should give those who may be opposed to Farmington's undertaking a paving program, occasion to think things over and look at them from more than one angle (that of cost); it should convince some, and perhaps they are numerous, who are still uncertain as to whether a paving program would be as desirable as its proponents declare; and it should spur the latter on to new efforts to achieve the paving program just as soon as it can possibly be brought about. It demonstrates clearly that the matter of keeping down taxes, after all, turns on a simple mathematical principle—that it is much easier to keep the result small by increasing the integer (the valuations), than by trying to reduce the denominator (cost of government).

A one-dollar reduction on a thirteen dollar rate is a very substantial one. Birmingham citizens have reason to be elated. Farmington, facing this year a two-dollar boost because while expenses mounted, increases in valuation were small, may learn by example rather than by painful experience, that the adage applies in government as well as in business, that "You must spend money in order to make money." Farmington must spend money for paving and other improvements, but in this sense the word really means "invest." For paving everywhere is proving an excellent investment. Birmingham residents are getting dividends on theirs already, although the pavement has more than paid for itself in increased property values alone.

But to go from a simple problem to a difficult one. Farmington has a \$16 tax rate and unpaved streets—other towns have all improvements and yet a lower rate, in the case of Birmingham, 25 per cent less. How can Farmington hope to compete under such circumstances with these other suburbs in attracting new residents? The answer is that Farmington, under these conditions, will not

compete with its neighboring communities for the outmoving population of Detroit. It will simply drop farther and farther back in the procession.

HOW MANY TIMES?

There used to be a song long ago entitled, "How Many Times?" How many more times will a truck or motor car crash through the bridge over River Rouge on Grand River near Lakeway drive. How many times will the City have to repair that fence and sidewalk? How many more people will be injured, and other lives imperiled, before the danger-spot is removed?

And how long, we wonder, will some owners of frontage on Grand River continue to expect that the State of Michigan (which includes their own neighbors) is going to build a great highway in front of their property, doubling its value (at least), charge them nothing for it and maintain it forever without cost to them—and on top of all that pay them a fancy price for the privilege of putting the profits into their pockets? And how much of the blame for all the delay belongs upon the shoulders of State officials, where it has been heaped for months and years?

Some perhaps—but not all.

When the proprietor puts "maitre d'hotel" after an item on the menu, it means that every waiter had better push that item if he wants to avoid harsh words in the kitchen later on.

It is said that the difference between the pessimist and the optimist is that the former asks, "Is there any milk in the pitcher?" while the latter says, "Hand me the cream."

If we didn't have to work what a lot of bother it would be to think up something to do with our time.

It must be a pleasure to attend a meeting and not be deemed for a contribution or appointed a member of a committee.

The world is amused rather than impressed by the man who doesn't know when he's beaten.

How we all envy the man to whom both making and spending money come easily.

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