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Editorials

They Don't Like Him—And Why

Newspapers of Michigan have been favored recently with a reprint of an editorial in the Sault Ste. Marie Evening News, and subsequent correspondence between Senator James Couzens and Chase S. Osborn, former governor of Michigan. In the editorial, Mr. Osborn launched an attack on Michigan's senior senator and when the latter replied, Mr. Osborn went even further in his censure of the Senator. The whole thing was assembled and dished up to the newspapers by the Sault Ste. Marie paper in a proof-sheet, with the heading "Osborn Brands Couzens As A Vacillating Wet," apparently in the hope that all the other Michigan publications would leap to the attack.

Mr. Osborn described Senator Couzens as "vacillating," in other words, wavering and subject to frequent changing of his mind. But we suspect that what is bothering Mr. Osborn and also not a few of Michigan's politicians is not that Senator Couzens changes his mind often (as they claim), but that Senator Couzens has a mind of his own, and further that he refuses to let it be controlled by any political organization or influence. The senior Senator from Michigan has often been a distinct annoyance to machine politicians, not only of Michigan but of the country. He refuses to do their bidding, and in doing so he has served the people well.

Which brings us to the question of his functioning valuably—or not. Far be it from us to disagree with a former governor whose son publishes two daily newspapers, while the distinguished father writes editorials for at least one of them. But in our humble opinion, Senator Couzens has not only been of inestimable value to the people of Michigan, but we believe that there are not half a dozen men in the Senate whose services have been so great to the people of this country. The large majority of Senators have been of so little worth to the country that they are hardly worth mention, and they won't receive it 25 years from now.

Senator Couzens is the first man Michigan has had in the Senate in the last 25 years who has made the name of Michigan count for something to the rest of the United States. (The junior Senator, Mr. Vandenberg, has also already begun to give Michigan added prestige). And this is the very reason why some do not like Mr. Couzens. Machine politicians, particularly, do not care for this type of man in high office.

We have an idea that this sending of propaganda to the newspapers of the State is but the fore-runner of a prolonged and probably vigorous attack upon Senator Couzens, in an effort to overcome his tremendous popularity and put somebody else in his seat in the Senate. We hope such a battle will not come, believing that if it does, it will probably be thoroughly disgusting. Senator Couzens is not one of the

many in Washington who "drinks wet and votes dry," yet his attitude on the liquor question and ever other possible source of attack will be used in order to draw a "red herring" across the trail, and make the people lose sight of his real achievements in a fog of oratory.

But we don't think the people of Michigan will be too much misled. We think they are intelligent enough to distinguish between a man who really amounts to something and the average run of candidates who will dance to the politicians' tunes if elected.

'Hard-Boiled' No More

Perhaps it ought to come under the popular heading, "Believe it or not," but anyway, it appears that the much-abused truck driver is in a fair way toward overcoming the prejudice against him. For years the drivers of large trucks have been maligned as selfish "road hogs," who took advantage always of the size of their vehicles, knowing that the passenger-car driver would hesitate to risk colliding with them. "Hard-boiled truck driver" became a favorite descriptive term. Everybody has heard, or course, that whenever two trucks dispute the right-of-way, the drivers immediately forget all about their errands and hasten to the middle of the street, where they fight it out with bare fists before a gaping crowd.

We haven't seen two truck drivers fight in a long time (except in the movies). But we have had experience recently that would indicate that truck drivers are not "toughs" at all, but pleasant, obliging fellows every bit as polite as the average motorist, and much more thoughtful. On several occasions while driving along Grand River avenue in the last few weeks we have come up behind the drivers of body and milk trucks, each with two trailers. And the drivers, looking in their mirrors, have watched the road ahead for us, signalling when it was necessary to stay behind, and again when the way was cleared to pass them. One such occasion was on the coldest day of the recent cold spell, when sticking an arm out while driving was something to think about twice. We have never had a passenger-car driver do that for us on any highway.

So the "hard" truck drivers are softening the public's attitude toward them, perhaps. How it began or where it will end, we don't know. Possibly the truck drivers have, like the big corporations, employed a "public relations counsel" who advised them that good-will is a valuable asset, and perhaps he is even now preparing propaganda to make this country "truck-driver conscious."

Many passenger-car drivers themselves could take lessons in road-courtesy from these truckmen who are supposed to be so "hoggish."

The predicted ankle-length skirt—coming in style will be another factor against the freedom of the sea.—Newark News.

A Christmas Smile

A Christmas card sent without a Christmas seal is like a word of greeting spoken without a smile. Make certain that all your holiday mail bears the tuberculosis Christmas seal, identified by the double-barrier cross. A year around campaign against tuberculosis is carried on under this symbol by the Michigan Tuberculosis Association and branch societies.—Exchange.

Crime Soars

Cheap cars, easily acquired liquor by school children, child labor laws, parental indifference, lack of school supervision, insanity, biological defects, general lack of co-operation between enforcement agencies, improper prison supervision and feeble parole and probation control are charged as being contributing factors to Michigan's rapidly soaring crime wave, which has increased 288 per cent within the last year, setting a new high mark in crime increase for the entire country.

These facts were brought out and discussed at an open meeting at Grand Rapids held by the Michigan crime commission, which was attended by judges, prosecutors and parole officers from Western Michigan. Reports of the meeting indicate that no two speakers were in accord as to the best methods of handling this situation, although it is believed that from the mass of information being collected by the commission a satisfactory report, with suggested legislation, will be laid before the next Michigan legislature.

The meeting brought to light a serious anomaly; that of a State having on its statute books the most severe penalties for crime of any state in the Union, yet with a crime increase that has shocked the nation. And Michigan, as an industrial state, with a large labor turnover which has been without steady employment during the past few months, is being blamed for part of this condition, but there is also the general impression and belief that what is needed is a more intelligent handling of the situation, together with an educational campaign, before we can hope to secure relief from the present situation.

The work of the crime commission will be followed with much interest by every citizen who has the best interest of society at heart. Certainly the present situation is appalling and any way out of the wilderness will be hailed as a great victory.—Ionia County News.

Just Be Careful

Michigan winters the last few years have been marked by an unusual amount of ice on the highways, caused by snow removal which leaves the roads in such shape that every light thaw and freeze forms a thin coating of ice on the hard surface.

And there seems to be no remedy for this condition, so rapidly is the falling snow rolled down and flattened out by the rubber tired vehicles, making it impossible to keep the pavements thoroughly bare through the greater part of the season.

There is only one answer to this new hazard—careful driving. Railroad crossings, street and highway intersections should be approached with great caution, and at no time should a car be driven at an excessive speed with a slippery coating underneath the wheels. Traffic laws will not help—it is up to the individual motorist to be his own "safety first" movement.—Michigan Bulletin.

Information Bureau was asked how to ship lobsters. Amidships, say we.—Arkansas Gazette.

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