

The Farmington Enterprise

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Editorials

Your 'Callers'

Whether or not you are inclined toward entertaining, you are going to have a "caller" within the next few weeks. Everyone in Farmington Township and City, and in fact the whole country, is going to have one.

The "callers" are the census-takers, who this week start their mammoth job. They come but once in ten years, but although they come so infrequently, they will appreciate greatly the courtesy which can be extended them everywhere.

Everyone can assist by helping them to get the information they seek with the least possible difficulty. The questions have been published frequently. They are simple and your being ready with the answers will send the census-taker on his way to the next call with thankfulness toward his "host."

Particularly is it true in the Township, where a farm census is taken, that the residents can be of very great assistance. Two hundred and thirty-three questions are asked in regard to each farm. Blanks with these questions have been mailed to most of the farmers in the Township. If each will devote a little time and effort to filling-in the answers, to the best of his ability, before the census-taker comes around, his task will be greatly simplified.

The census-takers have only a limited number of days in which to cover their territories. They will appreciate the aid of everyone in helping them to do their work in the time allotted.

The Band

Children in the first grade sing, or used to sing, a song about "a little man who bought him a big brass drum." No one knows, the song goes on, "when a war will come," and said the little man, "If I'm called on to fight for my land, I want to be ready to play in the band."

We hope that none of the boys who play in the Farmington School band will ever have to use their talents in a war-time band, or wear the uniform of battle. But nevertheless the group has developed into a most accomplished students' band, as anyone who attended the Parent-Teacher Association meeting last week can testify. Many parents were pleasantly surprised with the progress and ability of these young folks to play together.

It is the result, of course, of consistent hard work, particularly on the part of Edward Eaton, the School music instructor. The community knows that Mr. Eaton has for two years put in long hours, working with his pupils patiently and tirelessly. The community appreciates his work with these boys and girls.

Credit is due, also, to Supt. Ralph Baker, who fostered the growth of the band and strongly supported the plans by which the instruments were obtained; and to the Board of Education which has recognized how much the work in music means to the pupils and their parents, as well as

the community, and has been generous in its attitude toward developing needs of the music department.

Work Of A Lifetime Lost

Reports indicate a start toward recovery in business. Rates of interest fall and stock market prices rise. But while business may recover and conditions return gradually to normal, the necessity for stabilization of industry must not be forgotten, as it might be, until the time of the next depression.

A graphic picture of the situation, showing forcibly the despairing effects of business collapse and consequent unemployment, is given in the Detroit "Community Fund News" for March. It tells in a few lines of swift tragedies descending upon hundreds of families who a few months before had been happy and contented in their homes.

The Bulletin says: "Because of continued unemployment, social agencies in Detroit are confronted with the most serious problem in their history. Considering the magnitude of the task and the difficulties involved, they are meeting the situation in a satisfactory manner. While the depression is more widespread and probably involves more families than in 1921, there is actually less suffering because the agencies are better prepared for the emergency."

"Pride, wholly justifiable of course, has kept many families from applying for relief until every other resource has been exhausted. Among the 15,000 families now being provided with the necessities of life by the Department of Public Welfare, are hundreds who withheld their applications until they had lost their equities in homes they were buying on contract. Had they applied sooner their homes could have been saved. This is the most tragic feature of the present situation—the sweeping away of lifetime savings, and the consequent dependency of people accustomed to good standards of living."

Most tragic, it is indeed, and most vital, too, to the prosperity not only of these unfortunate people themselves, but of the whole country, or at least this part of it. For people who have lost their homes do not, cannot immediately turn about, the moment the head of the household gets a job, and start buying automobiles, furniture, electrical appliances and other manufactured articles upon the large scale production of which so much, if not all of our prosperity depends. Nor can they buy or build the homes upon the construction of which the development and upbuilding of community depends.

In addition, one experience in the loss of a home upon which a family has made contract-payments for years will rob them of the courage and confidence with which they once started out to become home-owners. It is, perhaps, the courage and confidence which, once lost, will be the hardest to replace."

Washington Spelldown

Congressmen and Washington correspondents held a spell-down the other day, according to a dispatch to a Detroit paper. From

the reports, he did some pretty good spelling, too. They spelled correctly a good many tongue-twisters, and deceivers that would have put down ninety-five per cent of the rest of us. The mistakes, were either accidental or on words difficult and little used. Their word-contest might be considered as of some importance, if only one were convinced that anybody reads what the correspondents write about what the Congressmen say. And if so, why.

MUSHROOMS AND FIRES

If a few people become ill or die from eating poisonous mushrooms, public opinion is aroused and manifests itself in demands for mushroom inspection, prohibition or whatnot.

Yet if a hundred people are burned to death in a fire which could have been easily prevented, the nation hardly gives it a second thought.

It is a parallel case to the old newspaper dictum: "If a dog bites a man, that's not news; but if a man bites a dog that is news." In one instance the public is appalled mainly because of the unusualness of the agency of death. We have come to regard fire to the contrary, as being usual and unavoidable.

This is a tragic situation. Every year thousands of people lose their lives, to say nothing of the hundreds of millions of dollars worth of property destroyed because of carelessness or ignorance. Fire is a menace to every citizen.

If the death of a person from poisoned food causes a nine-days' wonder, the death of thousands every year from fire should create a great public movement to remove the danger.

—Leslie Local-Republican.

Cat In Motor

In Evanston, Ill., C. Miles MacDowell, a automobile drivin'g, heard loud screams and cries issue from the hood of his car. He investigated, and released a large gray cat.

How the Useful Plants Came to Mankind
T. E. STEWARD
WFO Service

The Bean

IN THEIR differing varieties, beans and lentils are widely dispersed over the face of the earth, both the Old world and the New, and there are probably 20 species that are natives of tropical America. The bean which most people mean, however, when they use the word, the common white bean, is said by botanists to be as old as the earliest migrations of the Arab race into Europe from its ancient home somewhere in southwestern Asia. For all we know, the bean is as old as any cultivated plant now known to man.

Homer's "Iliad" mentions the bean as a cultivated plant, and the scientist, Virchow, found beans in a tomb at Troy. It was widely used in Rome. Even in very ancient Roman times people followed the rite of placing beans in the sacrifices to some of their deities.

Ancient inhabitants of Switzerland and Italy, in the age of bronze, cultivated a small variety of the common bean, some of which have been found in the kitchen dumps of the very ancient Swiss lake dwellings.

Beans were cultivated by the Egyptians of olden times.

Because beans are so abundant a crop in China, some have advanced the theory that the beans actually originated there. One scientist has offered evidence that of the five plants which the Emperor Chiu-nong commanded 2,600 years ago to be sown each spring with solemn ceremonial, was the bean. It has been shown, however, that this was not the plant we mean when we say bean, but was the soy or soy bean. Soy beans are still one of the principal crops of north China and Manchuria and have been introduced probably into Europe and America in very recent years.

Beans probably are nowhere found wild today. The best evidence goes to show that they originated in the region of the south of the Caspian Sea, whence went the first Arab immigrants into Asia Minor and Europe, and the other, in the northern part of Africa, hence such as Egypt, the western part of China, and the rich coastal districts now held by the Moors and Berbers.

The little area of the bean as a natural plant probably is the "beeb" growing less and less to a transmutation, less spread of the bean when its extinction as a wild form is complete.

So the bean joins the honored circle of things that have been "set ways" or at least as long as history covers seven eons and seven eons will pass that. Though there may be but two places where it is a native, it is at least an early and plucky settler wherever mankind now lives under cultivation, and conditions favorable to its cultivation.

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