

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## Editorials

### One Place It Must Not Go

"Could Abraham Lincoln speak to his countrymen today he probably would ask them not to make a Deity of him but to look upon him as a human being who had the most heartbreaking task our country ever gave to any man, and who tried his best to bring peace, to reunite his country and heal the wounds."

We clipped this from the front page of one of the Oakland County papers on our exchange list. It was but one of the hundreds of Lincoln tributes published throughout America last week and this. And yet this one has a particular applicability to a Farmington situation that is in the foreground right now.

Officials of Farmington Township and City and the Farmington Masonic Lodge are in the midst of an earnest attempt to reach a settlement of the four-year-old Town Hall question. It has been tried before, but this time the effort seems to have unusual vigor.

The problem is involved enough to call for the wisdom of a Lincoln. But in the absence of such wisdom, we can take heed from Lincoln's thoughts. Lincoln knew that there never had been a good way, and he tried to avoid one by attempting to persuade Congress to appropriate money with which to buy the slaves in the hands of Southern slaveholders. Time has proven that Lincoln's plan would have cost less in the end than the Civil War, would have prevented ruin of the South, the evils of the Reconstruction era, and avoided the sectional bitterness which was not the least of the Civil War's great tragedies.

To come back to Farmington—a month's time has been agreed upon, and on March 12, the representatives are to meet again. What will transpire then no one knows. But one thing must be determined before that time, decided definitely and irrevocably. That is, that Farmington Township and City and Farmington Masonic Lodge are going to settle this question, that the carrying of the problem to the courts would not only be unwise and unprofitable—but that it must be made "unthinkable." It would be an event which Farmington must not face—it would be a calamity which this community must not suffer.

### 'Coals To Newcastle'

A large New York book-publishing house this week sent to us, and, we presume, to most of the other editor-publishers of Michigan, a letter offering for sale what might be a very excellent book, entitled, "Problems of Newspaper Publishing," by a "former newspaper publisher." We didn't order the book, and we had never heard of the author. But our experience would lead us to believe that anyone who thinks that any newspaper publisher needs to be offered a book describing the "Problems of Newspaper Publishing," doesn't know very much about the problems, puzzles and perplexities of newspaper publishing.

### They're For Him—Or 'Agin' Him

Luren D. Dickinson, lieutenant governor, may have the satisfaction of knowing that whatever opinions may be held regarding him and his unusual characteristics, he at least succeeds in creating opinions. His announcement that—well, he didn't say he would and he didn't say he wouldn't—but, anyway his announcement about the coming race for the governorship moved editors all over Michigan to speak their minds.

The opinions revealed, even in looking over a very few of the newspapers, are interesting. The editors differ widely. Some of them are so interesting that it is too bad to restrict them to a sentence or two. Let us look at a few at random:

"The frankness with which he views the tax situation in Michigan and the increasing cost of government is noteworthy in a candidate seeking public office," says Frank D. Brown in the Belleville Gazette. "If the Dry issue should be foremost in the coming campaign, Dickinson will be a powerful candidate," says the Sanilac-County Times.

"He deserves the support of every person interested in good government. Frankly, Mr. Dickinson is our candidate," says the Tri-County (Blanchard) Banner. But from the Rochester Era, edited by W. A. Fox, comes a blast in the other direction:—

"Say, folks, don't you really think that the great state of Michigan is hard up for gubernatorial timber when Luren D. Dickinson of Charlotte, five times lieutenant governor, is spoken of as a leading candidate for governor of Michigan?"

Mr. Dickinson's years in office are also mentioned by Frank M. Weber in the Atlanta Tribune, as follows:

"He says . . . that he is not a politician. We don't know just what Luren would call a politician, but we do know that he has been running for and being elected to office for the past fifty years."

The Standard Bulletin (Dutch) of Grand Rapids strongly favors the Lieutenant-Governor, saying, "He has the confidence of many thousands of people in Michigan. We know that Mr. Dickinson is honest and trustworthy."

Quite opposed to the above paper's view of Mr. Dickinson, is that of the Michigan State Digest, which says of his statement:

"Luren, who is a cagy politician, wants to see how the cards stack up before he bets his pile. He is patiently angling for support."

Just the opposite of The Digest's impression is that of the Charlotte Republican-Tribune, published in Mr. Dickinson's home county. The Republican-Tribune says:

"The others can now start on their political plans with the definite knowledge that Mr. Dickinson, if he is alive when the time arises for filing petitions, will be a candidate for governor in the 1930 republican primaries." Which last statement leads us

to believe that when the primary ballots are made up, the name of Mr. Dickinson will be there. The Republican-Tribune is located in Mr. Dickinson's home town, and the type with which his statement was printed closely resembled that of the Republican-Tribune. We wonder, we editors of Michigan, whether Editor Muri Defoe of Charlotte is not holding out something on us.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Oakland County Infirmary  
February 10, 1930

Editor: Dear Sir I am sending you an article telling the conditions that exist here, asking you to publish it as has the Pontiac Press, Royal Oak Tribune and the Ferndale Enterprise.

When the Supervisors were in session I talked with Mr. Moore, chairman of the board and others and they were surprised that conditions were such here. They promised me they would bring it up before the Board which they did. Mr. Kennedy, supervisor from Ferndale made a statement he had received a communication from a committee of the Oakland County Woman's Council who had made an investigation here and although hardly 35 years of age, is already as much of an outstanding figure in the senate items.

I called on two of those women and they both admitted to me that they knew conditions were such when they made the investigation. Why should women who are supposed to do good, make such a false report. None of us are here by choice and not all of us are here from our own direct fault. Then why should we be made to suffer almost untold agony as some of them do here on account of no place to lie down from morning until night. It is a Christian, human and detrimental to our health and I will state the reason for this ruling, that they have given to so many different people.

To the editor of the Pontiac Press we would lie on our cots so much it wouldn't be good for us. Mrs. Brummitt, we want to cut down expenses. Mrs. Pepper. They are all able-bodied men in those rooms. To the Editor again some of the men go down town, get drunk, come back and make a disturbance in these rooms. To this last reason several of us have been here three years or more and never have we seen but one disturbance on that account. My reason for having this article published is to let all the people know the conditions here. So will you please help us to have these conditions changed.

Yours respectfully,  
A. E. Smith,  
Box 136, Pontiac.  
(A number from outside have expressed this opinion through the Pontiac Press).

(The article mentioned above is printed below.)

Something To Meditate Upon  
To the good people of Oakland County, we inmates of the poorhouse have a complaint for your consideration. In August last, there was a rule made and still remains, for some reason unknown to us, that about 70 of us, many 75 to 80 years old, many of us suffering with disease and pain, are denied the privilege of entering our rooms from morning until night—nowhere to lie down our feeble bodies but to sit up all day long.

Are we living in a Christian Community where the rule should be, "Do unto others as you would be done by," or are we living in a community where nobody cares. Would that God might give the rulers of this home more Christian principle, heart, and feeling. Then how much more pleasant it would be for us for whom the taxpayers are giving their hard-earned money for a home where the aged infirm and the less fortunate may live in as much comfort as possible.

Friends, would you deny your aged suffering Father, Mother or friend the privilege of lying down at anytime during the day without extra cost to you. We leave this for your consideration.  
—A. E. Smith.

A YOUTHFUL LEADER  
Congressman Roy O. Woodruff writes a chatty weekly news letter to the papers in his home district. We have always contended that one of the most necessary, if not the most useful man in any legislative group is the person who is constructively negative. The Bay City congressman must agree to some extent, at least, with our position. Read what he had to say about young "Bob" LaFollette of Wisconsin in a re-

cent letter: "Speaking of Washington personalities, we must not overlook Senator "Young Bob" LaFollette. He has just won for himself a place on the all-important Finance Committee of the senate, and although hardly 35 years of age, is already as much of an outstanding figure in the senate items. as was his father. When he addresses the senate, he commands the respect and close attention of the most hard-boiled of "Old Guard." His career in the senate will bear watching—Charlotte Republican-Tribune.

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