

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## Editorials

### Lapeer—Lawless?

We have been accustomed to hearing of lynching and its lesser-brother, tarring-and-feathering, in Mississippi, for instance, but most of us have undoubtedly believed that the day of such lawlessness is past in Michigan.

Regrettably we must admit that apparently it is not. According to news dispatches there occurred last week in Lapeer County, next neighbor to Oakland on the north, an event which reminds one of the dark ages out of which our southern sister States have not yet, unfortunately, completely emerged.

Twelve men, according to the reports, broke into a farmhouse about midnight last Thursday night, routed out the woman whose home it was and "beat her severely." They are also stated to have taken from the house a farmer employed there, dragged him down the road and applied to him a coat of tar and feathers. Among the gang, said to have consisted of "twelve prominent farmers," was supposed to have been the estranged husband of the woman victim.

If these charges be true (and we have not yet seen any denial), then this is one of the occasions on which language fails to afford words severe enough to adequately condemn the acts of men, or rather, creatures supposed to be men. For twelve to band together and attack one, at midnight and without warning, is a piece of cowardice that beggars description. And for any man to participate in such acts as that of which the twelve are accused is an act of barbarity that no community which calls itself civilized can afford to tolerate for a moment. It harks back to the days of the rope and the fagot.

More damning still to the name of Lapeer County, in the mind of every civilized person, was the report that there was even difficulty in getting warrants issued for the twelve; and, further, the additional statement, on the day after the warrants had been made ready, that they had not yet been served. And the sheriff of Lapeer County was quoted as saying that he "had no official connection with the case!" It would be interesting, surely, to hear the Sheriff outline what he considers his duty in the way of discovering and investigating breaches of law, and apprehending those responsible.

It makes not the slightest difference whatever if the man and woman victims of the gang may have been arrested the following morning "on statutory charges," as reported. Whatever they may have been guilty of in no way justifies the commission of a crime against them, and, which is much more important, a crime "against the peace and dignity of the people of the State of Michigan," as criminal warrants read. No two wrongs ever made a right.

Unless the tar-and-feather charges be denied and disproven, Lapeer County stands in the position of having permitted the good name of Michigan, as a civilized State to be brought into disrepute. If the charges be true, Lapeer

County owes it to the remainder of our State that it should not rest a moment until every man connected with the lawless attack be arrested, convicted and punished, for they have brought shame upon us all, their fellow-citizens.

When will men learn that in perpetrating such deeds, examples of what is sometimes called "taking the law into their own hands," they are just as much guilty of a crime as the victim could ever be—and of an act of base cowardice besides?

### Always "One Better"

It's almost impossible to set a record nowadays, and absolutely beyond possibility to hold it. Here was Farmington Township deciding a 769-vote primary election by three votes. And everybody thought that was rather close.

But along comes Birmingham with a 1400-vote election decided by six votes, and Northville chooses its mayor by a difference of three votes in over 1100.

There used to be an old saying, "Somebody is always taking the joy out of life."

### "In The Spirit Of The Season"

Of course, we view events occurring in Detroit police headquarters from a distance of nineteen and one-half miles. We have to use a spy-glass, as it were.

But judging from a distance, it would appear to us as though Mr. Police Commissioner Emmons has done a most thorough job of spring house-cleaning down there. And without waiting for March 21 to do it, either.

### For All Good Citizens

Farmington citizens have an opportunity on Monday night to demonstrate good citizenship, and more important, to exercise that citizenship in a matter which may very materially affect the future of our City for some time to come.

The City Commission has invited the people to attend their meeting Monday evening and become familiar with proposed plans for needed sewer construction. As we understand the Commission's purpose, it is not to "sell the proposition" to the people so much as to enable them to understand it, thoroughly, and vote on it intelligently when the time comes.

At the last Commission meeting, the opinion was expressed that Farmington has a fine opportunity right now to "kill four birds with one stone." The four unusual advantages which have been pointed out are: economic conditions, which make bidding the lowest in years; the opportunity to have the State participate in the cost of the Grand River sewer if constructed before the wider pavement is laid down; the opportunity to avoid having the proposed \$400,000 Farmington Storm Sewer approved as a necessity, with its financial burden on the City if should go through; the advisability of pro-

viding adequate sewers before any paving is done, to prevent tearing up of streets after the hard surfaces are laid.

The people ultimately will have to vote on the proposition. They will also have to pay for it, although not nearly as heavily, it appears, as they would be likely to pay if this opportunity is allowed to slip by. Thus it behooves every citizen who might care to cast his vote on the proposition later, to attend the meeting Monday night and find out all he can about it. Without that knowledge he cannot intelligently decide for or against it.

## CHURCHES

**Evangelical Church**  
Rev. A. A. Schoen, Pastor  
Second Sunday in Lent.  
Sunday School, 10 a. m.  
Service, 10-11:15.  
English worship, 11:15.  
Evening Lenten service, 7:30.  
Rev. Eugene Spathef, Christ Church, Detroit, will preach the sermon.  
Lenten Bible Study at High School, Monday evening.

**Our Lady of Sorrows Church**  
Rev. James A. Callahan, Pastor  
Sunday masses at 7 a. m., 8:30 a. m. and 11 a. m.  
Daily mass at 8:00.

**Clarenceville M. E. Church**  
Rev. Robert Richards, Pastor  
10:30—Morning worship.  
11:30—Sunday School.  
7:30—Evening service.

**Baptist Church**  
Rev. E. W. Palmer, Pastor  
10:30—Morning worship.  
"God's Delighted Man."  
11:45—Bible School. We are aiming for the 200 mark. Help us to reach it.  
6:30—Young Peoples Hour.  
7:30—Evangelistic service.  
Sermon theme, "A Fool For Christ's Sake."

Lenten Bible classes in the High School each week on Monday night. Miss Helen Wallace of New York City will speak at the opening period this week.

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Clarenceville**  
(At Switzer Road)  
Rev. Paul Graupner, Pastor  
9:30—Sunday School.  
10:30—German service.  
7:30—Wednesday: Lenten service.

**St. Martin's Episcopal Mission**  
Lenore Ave. 3 blocks south of Grand River, Five Points  
During Lent meetings will be held each Thursday evening.

**Methodist Church**  
Dr. H. Addis Leeson, Pastor



The sermon on Sunday morning will be preached by Rev. William Richards of Northville. This neighboring minister is very favorably known in this section. He has been the very popular pastor of the Northville Church for the past eight years. It is a friendly exchange of pulpits between the two pastors who have been close friends for many years.

In the evening at 6:30 o'clock, the first of a series of five Sunday evening "Vespers," marking the period of Lent. This meeting will be in the dining room of the church, and will be with a simple Sunday evening lunch and be followed by the brief vesper service at the tables. You are invited to spend Sunday evening with us in this appropriate and informal fellowship.

**M. E. SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
The Methodist Sunday School was given a little study in connection with the song service in the general assembly to show how the songs are selected to emphasize the Sunday School lesson. The School also enjoyed a very interesting talk on the subject of Lent given by S. D. Hager. Our next is 1:30 at 4:00 before Easter. Come out and help ring the bell on that high mark!

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