

# The Farmington Enterprise

## What Other Newspapers Are Saying

### Should Be Out Of Politics

(Linden Leader)  
 What is there about the office of county sheriff that makes it so attractive to the would-be office holder? For instance, there are six candidates now in the field over in Shiawassee county. As to the fitness of any of the six men we know absolutely nothing, but knowing as we do the responsibility of the office we believe it is all wrong to elect any one of the six on their popularity rather than their fitness for the office. We go further and say that it is wrong to make the office of sheriff an elective one, when it should be taken entirely out of politics and the aspirant made to pass a civil service examination, and by appointment make the term anywhere from six to ten years. Michigan and other states are cursed by too many elections, as they are only a big bill of expense, and as for service they have not always operated impartially.

### Schemes And Schemers

(Clinton Co. Republican News)  
 Hardly a week passes but some office to explain a scheme which he has to attract seeds of trade to a certain selected group of merchants. Invariably the scheme has attached to it some sort of a premium plan, or a lottery or near lottery which is designed to fool the gullible public.  
 Further, and almost invariably, the schemer wants the co-operation of the newspaper. He outlines how the scheme will mean many dollars to the newspaper in advertising revenue. It will, he claims, divert trade from other stores to the stores which he succeeds in hooking up with his scheme. The public of course will pay the cost—this he explains with a wise smile.  
 The country has always had slick loafers who go about the country making an easy living by their wits. Their schemes do not violate any law, except the laws of commonsense and economy. Without exception these schemes are based upon the inherent desire of the great mass of people to "get something for nothing."  
 When times are hard and trade is slow there is a greater inclination on the part of tradesmen to resort to this sort of thing.  
 If any merchant or the general public will stop and give the matter just a bit of thought, it is not difficult to see that any such schemes are expensive. Someone must pay for it. It must be added to the cost of doing business. Its success hinges upon the gullibility of the public. It may temporarily stimulate trade but the reaction is always bad—the same as any artificial stimulant.  
 If there has been a time in the history of the country when all people need to use more commonsense in their business dealings and in their everyday purchases, it is right now. While there is never a time when money should be paid to the schemer-loafer right now is the poorest time in the world. The genteel grafter knows that a depression makes his prospects easy to talk to. There is evidence that the slickers are out in force. We trust they will be given no more comfort in this community than they get from this newspaper.

### The Farmer—Prize Speculator

(Grand Rapids Press)  
 We are fond of Mr. Legge, the chairman of the Federal farm board. His statement that the farmer wasn't affected by the stock market crash because he stayed out of it, and that farmers actually are in the best shape since the war, is encouraging and doubtless true. But when he points out that "the farmer isn't a speculator," he should make a few interesting exceptions.  
 The farmer gambles in fall frost, winter snow, spring rain and summer drought. He gambles in scales and bugs and blights and foreign surpluses. On his bet he wagers, not merely coin or credit such as a stock market speculator tosses off with a telephone call and a flirt of the pen, but months of hard labor. His big topic—the weather—is more important to him than the probable call money rate next week can be to the stock exchange trader.  
 Speculating is peculiarly the farmer's business. Just now, with Mr. Legge's help, he is trying to get away from being a "sucker," a small gambler on the outside of the market. He wants to form pools and control prices. He is trying to be an insider. It's a logical ambition and any stock market speculator ought to understand it. When you wager the sweat of your brow you hate to see some one else collect the wager.

### Death To The Fly

(Ionia County News)  
 The pesky, seemingly irrepresible house-fly is with us again, brought by the first signs of warm weather. Small at present in numbers, the buzzing fly army can soon be expected to attain the countless proportions of other summers—unless organized efforts are made to keep the species in its place.  
 Lifelong familiarity with the fly tends to develop contempt for its dangers. Yet of all the insects that afflict us there are none more deadly than the ordinary house-fly. It contaminates food, spoils milk, and, states the Michigan Tuberculosis Association, spreads the germs of tuberculosis, typhoid fever, pink eye, and skin infection. A high percentage of the diseases of childhood are disorders of the digestive tract, and the house-fly is most efficiently equipped to carry the germs causing such diseases.  
 The campaign to eradicate the fly always meets one big obstacle, namely the enormous rapidity with which the insects breed. But there is the compensating fact that flies live upon filth and can breed only in filth. They are short lived and if prevented from breeding will quickly disappear.  
 Screening windows and porches and swatting the adult flies are only makeshifts. They will help, but the really effective measure against flies is to prevent their breeding. Filth should never be allowed to accumulate anywhere. One unclean and uncovered garbage pail will furnish enough flies for an entire city block, and a neglected stable will do the same for a farm.  
 Start exterminating the fly now—don't wait until he has developed several million descendants in August.  
 A man doesn't always reap what he sows. Mr. Edison invented the phonograph and he's mercurially deaf.—The Los Angeles Times.

Established 1888 by Edgar R. Bloomer as "A Permanent Journal of Progress"  
 Published Thursday of each week and entered at the Post Office at Farmington, Oakland County, Mich., as second-class matter  
 Editor and Publisher: Mr. Printing Dept.  
 Member Michigan Press Association  
 Member National Editorial Association  
 Farmington, Michigan, Thursday, June 12, 1930

# Editorials

### A New 'Red River'

The River Rouge, a branch of which flows through Farmington, was so named because, it is said, following one great battle of Indians the river ran red with the blood of the slain and wounded.  
 Another 'River' is red with the blood of the killed and injured. It is Grand River, especially that part of it between Farmington and Novi. The frightful tragedy at the Town Line Saturday night, following on the miraculous escape of several in a bad smash-up on Smith's Hill the night before, are but two of the many serious accidents in this stretch during the past year.  
 Widening the road part of the way to Farmington seems not to have reduced accidents on Grand River, but only to have pushed the location of them further out, between Farmington and Novi. If there is a more dangerous piece of road to ride on in Michigan, it would be hard to find.  
 Meanwhile, reported circumstances of the Friday night accident, in which a girl novice was said to have been driving one of the cars, makes more insistent than ever the demand for a re-examination of all automobile drivers in Michigan, much more strict regulations under which drivers' licenses are to be issued in the future, and heavier penalties for driving without having obtained a license.

### Beginning Of The End?

The Chicago Tribune may or may not be "the world's greatest newspaper," as it modestly professes to its readers each morning of the year. Quite a few people doubt it, and still others have definitely made up their minds that it is not.  
 Be that as it may, crime has probably overstepped the bounds, already farther out than anybody believed they could go, in the murder of Alfred Lingia, Tribune reporter. It is difficult to conceive of limits to which the Tribune will not go in its hunt for the murderer and the "war" it has already declared.  
 Four months ago, Capper's Magazine, reporting an instance of particularly reckless extravagance and graft on the part of a Cook County (Chicago) commission, commented: "All of which means Chicago and Cook County are going to have a first-class government one of these days."  
 Alfred Lingia may be the martyr whose death will offer the beginning of Chicago's freeing itself at last from the clutches of gangland.

### A Correction

In the Enterprise of May 29, an editorial was reprinted from the Rochester Clarion, in which the following paragraph appeared:  
 "The sheriff's office is, at best, an expensive luxury, costing Oakland County an amount in excess of \$230,000 per year. The salary of the sheriff is set at \$7,000 but when all of the special fees, perquisites and daily expense accounts that are allowed him, are taken into consideration, the emoluments of the office amount to as much as the juiciest morsel on the county's official menu."  
 Sheriff Schram informs the Enterprise that he receives no fees, and that his compensation from the County is limited to his salary and expenses while traveling. Although the editorial did not originate with this newspaper, the Enterprise is glad to comply with the Sheriff's request for a correction.  
 Phone In Your News Items.

### 'Giving' The Public

One of the things that makes politics interesting and entertaining is the men in the business, and how it works its effects on most of those who "get into the game."  
 For instance, not long after getting into office your average politician seems to fall naturally into the viewpoint (at least when talking to others) that in holding such office and doing public work, he is actually conferring a great favor on the people who elected him. "Serving the public," as it is called, is glorified and made to appear as a highly unselfish calling—by the office-holder. Meantime, the little fact that his "service" and his salary make him a servant of the public, and thus bound to act in its interest first, is conveniently forgotten.  
 As an example, an Oakland County politician visited this office a few days ago. He has served several terms in his present position, which, pays him nearly \$150 a week, and there has already developed around the County considerable opposition to his re-election. Discussing this opposition, he said: "I'm not a hog. But if the people want to elect me I'll"—he hesitated—"I'll give them another two years."  
 He did not say, "I'll take it for another two years," or "I'd like to have it another two years," but "I'll GIVE THEM another two years."  
 Thus the taxpayer who pays the salaries becomes the recipient of kindness, in the mind of the politician, though it is doubtful whether half of them could earn anywhere near as much money in other work as they obtain through "giving" their services to the public.  
 However, the people after a while get tired of having this or that politician "giving" his services to them indefinitely, and so they "give him the air," as the saying goes.  
 And that's another thing that makes politics so interesting, entertaining, and delightful.

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