

The Farmington Enterprise

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Of course, there is one who will not be outdone—Mr. Hearst. So in the Detroit Times, and presumably in the other Hearst newspapers throughout the country, there appeared Monday, the morning after the Lindbergh baby was born, a cartoon-drawing. This was the product of one "Nell Brinkley." Occupying the top center of this great work of art was a sketch of Mrs. Lindbergh, which made her look like a "Hollywood" movie actress; although, as everyone knows, Mrs. Lindbergh has not a beautiful, although a very interesting face. In the sketch her hair has of course, just been shampooed, marcelled, and whatever else could be done to make it conform to the artist's conception of beauty. Eyebrows have been plucked and pencilled in a straight line, and on her fingers are rings of generous size. In her arms lies a baby which, it must sadly be confessed, the artist apparently could not make look very much like his father.

But best of all is the drawing of Lindbergh himself. Down in the lower left hand corner is he, drawn like one of the young men whose faces adorn collar ads on street cars. He is, of course, impossibly handsome. His hair is adorably full of the most marvellous curls, his lips are almost as perfectly bowed as those of his wife just above, and his face is that of an altogether perfect young man of seventeen or eighteen years.

But is this enough? Not for Hearst. The artist is also somewhat of a romantic poet, and so this gushes from beneath the picture:

"THIS FINE young lady, with the wistful and amiable little face that has become familiar to homes throughout the world, is Anne Morrow Lindbergh. She started out as 'the girl' that LINDY married. Later she was captioned 'Mrs. Charles Lindbergh.' Still later, the quiet little person who never made a bid for publicity for herself, won the affections of the American people and became 'Anne Lindbergh.' Now she is universally known with real affection, peculiar admiration and regard, as LITTLE ANNE MORROW, 'Lindy's' wife. She is a big personality and a wonderful girl all by herself!

"Without any effort upon her part—unless you count a winning smile—she is facing the camera with engaging simplicity as a tremendous drag—she has gradually captured the fancy of her country. If the country's 'boy you can't forget,' Charles Lindbergh, but knew it, his nose is decidedly, as the old saying goes, 'out of joint,' and has been for some time, since the whole world fell in love with his wife. "Probably today in his happiness he does know it, for all America is wishing joy and sending happiness to little Anne and her new baby.

"And though it congratulates him with all its heart, even an air-hero father with his name already written on the pages of history, must be part of the background, and get but a small picture for himself today!"

Also, lest the event be insufficiently heralded, Mr. Arthur Brisbane, the Hearst high-priest of wisdom, devoted a third of his daily column on Tuesday to a learned dissertation on what kind of a man young Lindbergh would grow up to be. It was all very reassuring.

What chance has the young Lindbergh baby to grow up a modest, unspooled young man, with the normal life of an American boy? One cannot but feel that there may come some time when he may regret that his father was first to fly from New York to Paris—and maybe, the father, for his son's sake, may feel this, too.

What Other Newspapers Are Saying

Daylight Government

(Crystal Falls Diamond Drill) I ran out on a front page article in a southern daily newspaper a few days ago which dealt with the subject of the publication of the proceedings and the doings of public officials. I am led to comment upon it in this column because so many persons fail to sense the importance of "daylight government" which means simply the disclosing by public officials and of public bodies, of their actions in the expenditure of public funds. The article was induced by a letter written to the paper asking why the laws governing the publication of proceedings was not lived up to in some towns.

It is not because I think that Iron County political units fail to disclose their doings, for all of them do publish their proceedings, but to bring the attention of the reading public to the importance which those concerned hold these published reports and how careful they are to catch attention to any error that may creep into the type that actuates me.

The public official discussing this subject says: "There is a close relationship between expending public funds and taxation. If the public money is expended carelessly, not to say wastefully, the taxpayers have to pay! There must be a constant vigilance especially in times when revenues shrink.

The law provides that every question of public funds shall publish in a newspaper each year a statement of the moneys he receives and from what source and the moneys he pays out and to whom.

It is a very wise requirement of law that every public treasurer shall publish in some newspaper each year a statement as outlined above. It is a protection to the treasurer. If his handling of public funds is questioned, he can point to this publication. It further lets the public know where the money comes from and where it goes. Now what has this to do with the subject of taxation? Simply this, that if an official handling public moneys makes an annual statement that is published in the newspaper, he is going to be very careful about the expenditure of the moneys.

It is a delicate matter for a newspaper to urge compliance with this statute, because it has to face the charge of doing so to get the revenue from the advertising. Nevertheless this is a good law, and if observed will serve to protect the public.

It is frequently said that it is merely a waste of money and that by omitting the publication, this money can be saved, but in a great many cases it is not saved, it is used in directions that would not stand the spotlight of publication.

The taxpayers are entitled to the information regarding the handling of public moneys. They are entitled to know where the money comes from and who gets it. A detailed statement will show all of this. Merely lumping amounts will not do so.

There are public officials who do not trust the public. They are unwilling to lay the cards upon the table. And that very attitude makes the public distrust the official. What the writer really intended was that the writer says about this being a delicate subject for newspapers to handle is only too true. Frequently officials who wish to conceal their actions complain of the cost of publishing. Very rarely does "cost" really actuate the complainer; he simply puts that forth as a veil to hide his real thoughts—the concealment of his acts. He knows that newspapers as a rule feel the delicacy of the situation. They don't wish to be accused of selfishness and such official in many times able to get away with his own selfishness by playing upon the hesitancy of the other.

I have many times noticed how general the dissemination of information contained in proceedings is. Many persons do not read them; others are careful to read every word, letter and figure and the subject is talked about, especially if one of these critical persons happens to notice any item that he thinks should be talked about. Publication of official acts safeguards against waste. It is one of the means of keeping taxation down.

A Question

(Charlotte Republican) Press comments on the political retirement of Governor Green were unusually friendly. None were bitter and even the polit-

ically infringed were tinged with praise for the personal side of the Governor all of which causes Editor Harry Whiteley of the Dowagiac Daily News, a strong Green partisan to rightly inquire: "Some mighty nice things are being written in various state papers about Governor Green. We wonder if some of them would have been said had he been a candidate again."

The Right Of Way

(Michigan Bulletin) Motorists who are finicky about the right of way at intersections and are inclined to "bawl out" the other driver are invited by the National Safety Council to read the latest decision of the Supreme Court in Washington on the case involving this point.

The court decided that the right or preference at a crossing does not arise except when drivers are approaching at the same time and approximately the same speed. Then the one on the right has the right of way. It is no excuse to say that trees obscured the way, for this would only increase the vigilance.

When a driver approaches a street intersection, and sees another approaching from the right and near enough so that there is reasonable danger of collision if both proceed, then it is his duty to yield the right of way.

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Editorials

The People And The Government

Editorials in the Birmingham Eclectic are, week in and week out, thoughtful, well-considered expressions of opinion. The fact that the publisher, George R. Averill, is not given to taking leaps in the dark lends added weight to a challenging editorial which appeared in the Eclectic last week.

Mr. Averill describes with uncanny accuracy the feeling of the people of Michigan at the present moment toward their government. After calling attention to the fact of his allegiance to the Republican party, Mr. Averill declares that the people today, regardless of party affiliation, are "getting more serious toward government and public officials," and after an orgy of spending are demanding more efficiency and a fair return for their money.

The editorial, which in our opinion stands out above anything that has been published in the weekly or daily press of Michigan on the subject of government and politics in a long time, says, under the title "Michigan Republicanism":

"Politics in Michigan, generally overwhelmingly Republican, are in a state of turbulence. As far as we are able to observe, the Republican groups gathered about offices to be filled this fall, from Governor down to county corner are battling with each other. In a state that is so Republican, perhaps the direct primary is the unwitting solution of political problems that always arise when any one party dominates a section of the country; for the direct primary, because it often brings out many candidates, often stirs up the political pot to such an extent that a portion of scum rises to the top of the cauldron, and is skimmed off.

"Although we profess allegiance to the Republican party, there are times when, for the sake of good government, we Democrats in Michigan. If this be treason—as Patrick Henry once shouted—"make the most of it."

"If we may venture a suggestion to those who claim fealty to the Grand Old Party in Michigan, we would say this: 'The people of this state (and all others, too) have just passed through a period of unprecedented prosperity, and paid their governmental bills, suffered at the hands of incompetent politicians while they sought various ways and means of spending the remainder of their incomes. They are now going through a period of Republican 'readjustment,' or Democratic 'panic,' (depending upon your political views, as Will Rogers argues) and are getting serious toward government and public officials. All they want is a fair return for their money. All they seek is common decency in high places of government. They are waking up from their orgy of spending and are demanding more frugality in the government kitchen. And no party, Republican, Democratic, Socialist, or other brand, is going to survive the ordeal unless it exemplifies a higher and more efficient citizenship in public office. To paraphrase an old political axiom, let us conclude with this thought: to the victor belongs the spoils—until the victor becomes spoiled. Then the victor belongs to the vanquished."

"Party loyalty isn't worth surviving unless it includes country loyalty, too. After all, political parties are only names given to

groups of people interested in politics; better citizenship begets better political parties."

No one, whether private citizen or public official, who claims even the slightest public spirit can quarrel with these opinions. But in the lines printed above, there is more than mere opinion. There is sound sense and a note of prophecy—prophecy which every public official, for the sake of his own skin if not for any other reason, will do well to heed.

Real Independence

Next Friday, on Independence Day, there will be in Farmington and other towns of Michigan no fireworks, no noise of explosions, no Roman candles, or sidewalk "scorchers." Here and there in the evening will be displays of "exhibition" fireworks, but the noisy Fourth as of other days will be absent.

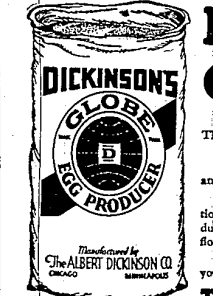
And there will be no burned fingers, no mangled arms and legs, no eyes blown out by exploding powder. There will be no horrible specter of lockjaw hovering over houses of fireworks victims.

Celebrating Independence Day, we people of Michigan ought to celebrate the achievement of liberating ourselves, through legislative act, from an old and dangerous habit, ought to celebrate the greatest kind of independence human beings can ever possess—that independence of mind which enables man to throw off the shackles of custom, hampering, even perilous custom. In the fact that we no longer do this or that merely because "they did it years ago" or "they have always done it," lies humanity's real hope for a future when intelligence will rule the world.

What Chance Has He?

If there has been any reason in the past to wonder why, reading the daily newspapers, one feels that all sense of propriety has been lost in this country, that the "big news" every day consists of the "idiotic doings of senseless, publicity-mad men and women, there is on need to wonder any longer. The chief culprits are the newspapers themselves, and no clearer proof could be asked than that provided by the recent stories of, about, for and before the birth of the Lindbergh baby.

It mattered not that Lindbergh had demonstrated himself as probably the most modest man alive, in the face of hero-worship perhaps unexceeded in history. It mattered not at all that both he and his wife and Mrs. Lindbergh's family have sought to keep as much as possible in the background, even in seclusion. Little things like that do not bother. Of the Detroit papers, the tables, of course, ran for with the first prize. Two weeks or more ago, stamped like other papers with terror lest somebody else get the news first and broadcast it to an anxious world, the Detroit Daily shouted forth in capital letters four or five inches high, "Lindy Heir Due Today."



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