

The Farmington Enterprise

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Editorials

Let's Keep It

Farmington's City Commission has been asked whether the City wishes to sell its old fire-truck, and if so, what price it will accept. The Commissioners considered the idea, and from their estimates, it is probable that the truck would not bring more than two or three hundred dollars.

Yet, it was stated, the truck is serviceable, and at one fire some time ago pumped without a stop from midnight until morning.

In view of these facts, and the added circumstance that the larger fire truck answers many calls from beyond the limits, it would seem that the City should not dispose of the truck for a comparatively small sum of money, without a good deal of consideration. The occasion may well arise when the old truck will be worth, perhaps not its weight in gold, but several thousand dollars in saving a home or business building. There might easily be two fires within the City at the same time.

Particularly when the City is in such excellent financial condition, with money in the bank and no obligations, (aside from bonds), it would be an unfortunate step, indeed, to sell the truck now for a few hundred dollars, and then regret it later on.

Going Back To Monkeys

Twenty-five years ago, there was everywhere vigorous dispute over a theory about "man coming from monkeys"—although, it is pointed out that the phrase is not a true statement of the theory at all, but just a catch-word used by its opponents in attempting to ridicule the idea.

However that may be, and whether or not man did "come from monkeys," it is quite apparent that the "tree-sitters" are doing their best to reverse the process and get him back to that status, as fast as possible.

The only difference seems to be that monkeys have sense enough to stay where they belong, and the tree-sitters don't.

What's the next craze?

It's getting so nowadays a man can't even be murdered without some police commissioner accusing him of being "a racketeer."

Lack Of Judgment

It's hard to believe, but it's true. On Monday afternoon, with the thermometer above the 100-mark, the hottest day in over 50 years, and the sun burning everything in sight, a man got some grass afire. He was a Detroitier who owns property here, and he chose that day to come out and "burn off" the grass around his house. It burned, of course, without the slightest coaxing, and kept the neighbors frightened all afternoon, for fear the flames would get beyond control and burn down their homes.

The following afternoon, with the fields just as dry, and a cool but strong breeze blowing, someone else started a fire, "to burn some rubbish." Within a few minutes it had spread over several acres, burned a number of fence-posts and caused considerable loss. Half a dozen residents of the neighborhood spent the better part of the afternoon fighting the flames.

There is apparently no substitute for good judgment.

'Smart' Politics

That "stunt" up at Lansing, in which the names of candidates for governor were certified to county clerks, with Governor Green's name omitted and George W. Welsh's left, in order to embarrass Mr. Groesbeck, was a fair sample of what passes nowadays in some circles for "smart" or "shrewd" politics.

Occasionally, however, these "smart politicians" find that the people are not always at all times so thoroughly "dumb" as even the "smart politicians" think they are—and the people, they find, resent this sort of hocus-pocus indulged in to gain an unfair advantage.

Very soon after the trick became known, it was apparent that there was throughout the State a reaction to such business that would far outweigh any gain that might have been achieved. One gets new faith in the people's sense of what is fair when "clever politicians" so act as to destroy the people's faith in their fairness.

A Real Curiosity

If the Farmington American Legion boys are looking for suggestions for their coming Gala Day celebration, this one is offered free of charge. It ought to make a real exhibit—one that would draw twice as many people as the war relics exhibition did.

They could have a tent about 10 by 15 feet square, with an ample flap attached to keep away those who tried to get a look without paying. In front there ought to be a circus-barker, one who knows his business. He would stand on a box in front of the tent, beside the ticket-seller, and shout:

"Step right up ladies and gentlemen, and get your ticket to see the only thing of its kind in existence. Just a dime, ten cents, to see this unique specimen, the only one in captivity."

Inside, would be just a common, every-day automobile, the kind you see on the street every minute of the day. But it would be the only automobile in Oakland County, in the year 1930, that has not carried, on the spare tire at the rear, a tire-cover urging everybody to elect or re-elect somebody to something.

What Other Newspapers Are Saying

The Real Red Menace

(Grand Rapids Chronicle)
We have never been thoroughly sold on the idea that the efforts of the Communist party would result in their adherents tearing down Old Glory, burning the churches and putting the clergy to the sword all over this fair land. It is no compliment to the mental ability of the average American workman to believe that he will ever pay more than passing attention to the oratory of the ungrammatical gentry who apparently gave up the quaint old American custom of bathing before embarking on their speaking tours. The danger to be apprehended from the Russians lies in an entirely different direction.

A recent dispatch to the New York Times carries the news that the industrialization of Russia has proceeded to the point where their manufacturers have flooded Belgium with matches at prices that the Belgian manufacturers can no more meet than they can fly, and have offered textiles in England at prices 20 per cent below the British makers' cost price.

The recent visit of two Soviet engineers to Grand Rapids indicates the trend in Russia. With practically unlimited man-power they are turning to industry in place of farming. Albert Kahn, celebrated Detroit architect, consulting expert for the Ford Motor Works and designer of hundreds of immense manufacturing plants has sent to Russia a unit consisting of forty trained architects, engineers and technical experts to make the necessary surveys and plans for a program of plant building that will entail the spending of over forty millions of dollars. The Russian government is making every effort to utilize the latest methods of production in their infant industries, availing themselves of the services of acknowledged experts in each line.

Evidently Russia, so long on the defensive, intends to undertake a business offensive that will be hard to combat. With their controlled currency and state-centralized system of production they have an enormous advantage over private manufacturers in other countries. It will be possible, of course to keep Soviet goods out of this country by increasing the height of the tariff wall; but if they capture the South American and eastern markets the American manufacturer will find his export business seriously curtailed.

Considering these facts, it becomes obvious that the "red menace" will not be put down by the hysterical jailing of a few misguided Communist orators and school boy fanatics, or by the persecution of half a dozen radical school teachers. The real menace lies in the industrialization of Russia, and it is a menace that must be met by a more intelligent method than the clubbing of a few soap-box orators.

Be Safe At Home

(Michigan Bulletin)

Home is not always a safe place.

We refer, not to the violence of husband or wife, but the fact that many an accident occurs in the home and it is a good place to be careful.

The National Safety Council reports that there were 4,000,000 accidents in homes in 1929 and 24,000 of them were fatal. Most of the serious accidents were falls. They doubtless came when mother was dusting and father was hanging up a picture. Five hundred serious accidents were caused by falling in the bath tub. There were many other causes and if you would be safe at home the following things should be particularly recommended:

Do not start a fire with gasoline or coal oil.

Do not attempt gymnasium stunts in the home—such as standing on ladders, chairs and window sills—unless you have a firm foundation or are otherwise protected from falling.

Keep your medicine chests inaccessible to children and never take any medicine yourself from a bottle in the dark.

Do not start your automobile in a closed garage.

Do not point a gun at anyone, even though you are sure "it isn't

loaded." Use reasonable care and caution in performing your daily chores or duties.

An Independent Candidate

(Detroit Free Press)
Judge Edward J. Jeffries speaks a little emphatically when he asserts that the "line of demarcation between the Republican and Democratic parties, so far as their attitude toward the problems confronting the country are concerned, has been entirely eliminated." But it is true that the operation of the primary system has all but obliterated vital party leadership and party authority, and there is nothing either unusual or startling in the decision of the judge to run for the gubernatorial nomination in the Michigan Republican primary, although he has a life-long record as a Democrat. He is doing only what other men of repute have done lately, and done successfully.

Indeed, because of the persistent tendency of this state to grow so lopsidedly Republican in its formal allegiance that it is in danger of becoming a victim of a one-party system and consequently the victim of a vicious factionalism, Judge Jeffries' appearance in the field may serve a valuable end. A strong, vigorous, independent candidate for the governorship this year will mean a campaign which will have substance, and provoke a real discussion of public policies and public affairs. Michigan needs something of that sort.

Paying The Price

(Charlotte Republican-Tribune)
Some of our fast growing cities are now paying the price of progress. Based on poor payments for ten months the cost of looking after the poor of Oakland County for the present year will reach the stupendous sum of \$703,200. The county at large is alarmed at this annual poor bill and the Rochester Carlon closes an incisive editorial comment in this fashion:

Pontiac desired to rank third in the state in population, and carried on an active "Pontiac-Boosting Campaign," and when the crash came, Pontiac also crashed and was hit harder than any other city in the state. She didn't reach her goal of third city in the state, she has lost a good many citizens, will lose many more, has thrown hundreds of people on the bounty of the county and is the direct cause of one of the highest taxed counties in the Union.

Pests

(Greenville Daily News)

A young man saw a girl standing on the edge of a Chicago bathing pool, gay in her brightly colored swimming suit, did the same thing that so many others do.

"I'll get your suit wet for you," he said jokingly—and forthwith shoved her into the water.

It was nothing unusual, except for two reasons. The pool at that point was eight feet deep, and the girl didn't know how to swim. The practical joker dived in after her, but his efforts to save the girl failed. She drowned and he himself was rescued only with difficulty.

Just another object lesson for the assorted smart alecks who infect the nation's bathing beaches in the summer months. It points to the very impressive moral that a bathing beach is no place for practical jokes, and the worst practical joke imaginable is pushing some one into the water.

KNOWLEDGE

Pleasure is a shadow, wealth is vanity, and power is pagan; but knowledge is ecstatic enjoyment, perennial in fame, unlimited in space, and infinite in duration. In the performance of its sacred offices, it fears no dangers, spares no expense, looks in the firm foundation, dives into the ocean, perforates the earth, wings its flight into the skies, explores sea and land, contemplates the distant, examines the minute, comprehends the great, ascends to the sublime—no place too remote for its grasp, no height too exalted for its reach.—DeWitt Clinton.



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CEDAR POINT

On Fridays after July 4, a special excursion is given to Cedar Point. Fare, \$1.75 round trip; children half fare. A stay of three hours is permitted to enjoy the great bathing beach, boardwalk and the thousand-and-one attractions of this Life of America. On other days a stay of one hour is allowed.

Write for Folder

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Foot of First Street Farmington, Michigan