

The Farmington Enterprise

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Myran Levinson Editor and Publisher
C. J. Lehmann Mgr., Printing Dept.

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Editorials

Dedicate The Field

On Labor Day the first event to be held on Farmington School District's athletic field at Waterworks Park will take place. This also happens to be the day before school opens for the coming scholastic year.

Would it not be appropriate to have on the occasion of this first athletic event and one day before the opening of the school year, a fitting dedication ceremony for the new field? It is a day when a larger number of people will be in town than at almost any other time. It is also a national holiday and since there will undoubtedly be a flag-pole erected at the field some time, what better occasion could there be to raise the flag over the grounds and to dedicate the field to Farmington's youth.

While such a ceremony might not seem important in the minds of some older people, this field is for the boys and girls of Farmington, and a dedication program would undoubtedly live long in the memories of the school children, making them feel that this spot, so generously endowed with Nature's beauty, means much to them.

Half an hour spent in a brief dedication program would be well worth while. Undoubtedly the American Legion, which has charge of the game on Labor Day, would gladly co-operate with the school officials to carry out suitable exercises.

H. L. Mencken is to be married, dispatches say, and he does not deny it. So he was, all these years, just a sheep in wolf's clothing after all!

Brucker Makes It A Battle

The aggressive young candidate for governor, Wilber M. Brucker, proved a disappointment to many in the early part of his vigorous campaign, when, in other parts of the State, he travelled about making speeches. In a year when the people want facts, not fancy, Mr. Brucker was talking, albeit eloquently, of blue skies, rosy sunsets, and purple dawns. People who had welcomed the vigor and directness he brought into the Attorney-General's office a few years ago looked on sadly at the transformation which had apparently been wrought by the lure of the governorship.

But when Mr. Brucker got down into this part of the State, into Oakland and Wayne Counties and other industrial areas, he began, happily, to "get down to brass tacks." Without forsaking oratory, he started in to discuss some things the people wanted to hear. He talked with daily-growing courage and definiteness, about tax problems, about the urgent need for relieving real estate of its tremendous burden, of possible "taxes on intangible assets"—meaning, of course, an income tax. He spoke of other State problems in similar vein, and the people listened—even in the Groesbeck strongholds. They will keep on listening, so long as he talks this way.

Very sharply, too, Mr. Brucker trod on Mr. Groesbeck's toes, serving notice upon the former governor that he (Brucker) does not intend to allow himself to be made the target of attacks against the Green administration. Very deftly and cleverly he took advantage even of the calendar, by declaring that he "prefers to look forward to the decade that begins with 1930, rather than backward to the mistakes of the decade that is past." This, coming from a young man in the field, is the sort of remark that often counts more in winning a battle than dozens of lengthy speeches.

Intensely energetic and ambitious, with the knack of getting his name before the people, a skillful and tireless campaigner who apparently can quickly "size up" his audience while they are there to appraise him, Brucker has already made a far greater impression than many people thought possible. He has turned the campaign into a real battle. Don't be surprised if the Groesbeck "walkaway" so confidently predicted by the former Governor's friends a few weeks ago should turn out to be nothing of the kind, but a good hard sprint down to the tape with both runners breathing hard and giving every ounce they have to win.

What Kind Of Bottles?

A Farmington man has a new theory as to the cause of numerous grass fires since the heat wave started. He thinks they are caused by the sun's rays striking bottles lying in the fields, the bottles becoming so hot they set the grass afire. What does he think was in the bottles—firewater?

How Long?

Across Farmington's main street there now hangs a huge "Wheeler For Sheriff" banner, about five times as large as the one that two years ago boasted Schram and Orr. We hope this doesn't mean it will be left up there five times as long as the other one was after the 1928 election.

No Emeralds In His Crown

Former Governor Alex J. Grossbeck is pretty sure "to be crowned Alex IV" on January 1, 1931, thinks the Leslie Republican, if he is, we can be quite certain that among the jewels of his crown there will be no emeralds—nothing of a shade that is even slightly tinged with green.

What Other Newspapers Are Saying

A Public Protection

(Grand Rapids Chronicle)
The Chicago Tribune points out that Gov. Huey P. Long of Louisiana has given an administration criticized by every reputable newspaper in the state. And brands his attempt to lay a heavy tax on advertising as the punishment he would inflict upon these critics. Long is the foe of any newspaper that sheds the spotlight on his administrative failures. His stand is exactly the opposite of that taken by Edward Livingston, noted Louisiana leader, whose famous code for that state appeared in 1822.

One of the general provisions of Livingston's code was the right to discuss freely the conduct of public officers and judges. He also proposed to make it the duty of a public officer to publish accounts of all trials remarkable for the importance of the principles involved. He was the nation's foremost champion of publicity in all public affairs. Here are his views:

"Publicity is an object of such importance in free governments that it not only ought to be permitted, but must be secured by a species of compulsion. The people must be forced to know what their servants are doing or they will, like other masters, submit to imposition rather than take the trouble to inquire into the state of their affairs. No nation ever yet found any inconvenience from too close an inspection into the conduct of its officers, but many have been brought to ruin and reduced to slavery and abuses which were imperceptible only because the means of publicity had not been secured. In modern times the press is such a powerful engine to effect this that the nation which neglects to employ it in promulgating the operations of every department in government can neither know nor deserve the blessings of freedom." Livingston served as ambassador to France. And was also attorney general of the United States.

In connection with such matters, it is interesting to note that the Detroit Free Press carried a story and picture of Ernest A. Moross during the week. Moross, a resident of Mosherville, Mich., is running for the state legislature, and is a candidate for the Republican nomination from Hilldale County. Here are some of his views, taken from the story: "The laws governing the press which hamper it from calling attention to public conditions and placing responsibility on public officials, should be changed so that the press can take an even firmer stand for the public good, California, with its liberal press laws, was able to send a grat-receiving prosecutor, Asa Keyes, to the penitentiary."

They Were Democrats

(Charlotte Republican)
While Governor Osborn is making his senatorial campaign as a "stalwart", he had better stay away from the governorship. Judge Jeffries, one of the Republican candidates, has been a life long democrat; the Groesbeck family were democratic leaders down in Macomb county where A. J. was born, and Candidate Brucker's father was the last democrat congressman from the eighth Michigan district, in fact the elder Brucker was beaten by "Joe" Fordney, who remained in the lower house twenty-five years.

Which recalls a story we heard on Republican National Committeeman, Jas. E. Davidson of Bay City the other day. He was sitting around a voting booth at Bay City one night many years ago and was rather disappointed with the reported returns. Finally he remarked to So and So wasn't elected he (Davidson) wouldn't vote another democratic ticket—and he never did, according to the man telling the story.

Dog Bites

(Rochester Clarion)
In every village, city or tribal encampment, there is found a certain amount of dogs and during past times, these dogs have always exercised their teeth in the anatomy of some unfortunate human.

Dog bites, although seldom resulting in the death of some person, are nevertheless serious, and

proper precautions should be taken in the prevention of such incidents.
A dog in this city recently bit a boy. The wounds were not dangerous nor exceedingly painful, but the fact remains that dogs do bite and with the arrival of hot weather and the ever present dangers of rabies it would be wise to either tie up or muzzle your dog.

The Governorship

(Newberry News)
Brucker has the advantage of being early in the field and having his campaign well organized. He will also have the support of the Legion forces, an important factor in itself. Brucker is a clean young man with a good record, but if he is forced to assume all the ills of the Green administration his position will be unenviable. In a clean cut fight between Green and Groesbeck there would be only one answer, a clean cut victory for the latter. The former governor stands head and shoulders above any state executive in ability and work accomplished. Even his bitter enemies must admit that fact. He may be cold blooded and arbitrary in his methods but he delivers the goods. There is a well defined feeling that Michigan needs some outstanding figure in the executive chair at the present time.

We Are Still Rural

(Trenton Times)
According to the United States Census, the majority of the people of the United States live in "urban" rather than "rural" communities. The Census of 1920 showed 51.4 percent of urban population as against 48.6 percent rural. The Census of 1930 undoubtedly show a much larger proportion living in communities of a size which the Federal Government calls urban.

The catch in this is in the definition of "urban" and "rural." The Government's position is the arbitrary one that any community with more than 2,500 inhabitants is "urban" and anything less than that in size is "rural." We agree that the line has to be drawn somewhere, but we submit that this is drawing it too far down the line.

Certainly there are thousands of communities of more than 2,500 population whose interests are still rural, whose inhabitants have not got the big look on life generally. We can name cities of 50,000 and more whose interests are still almost entirely agricultural, or in lines which depend directly upon agriculture and a city like that, no matter what its size, is definitely rural. Rural communities are growing in size; that is clear from the incomplete Census reports already published. Towns which had 2,500 population ten years ago are now for the most part nearer 5,000. But that does not make them any the less rural.

We are almost inclined to agree with the New York Times, which suggests that only cities of 100,000 or more should be classed as urban. If that classification were adopted, about 36,500,000 of the people of the United States would be in the urban group, and the remaining 70 percent would still be rural folk. That would be drawing the line somewhat closer to the top than probably is justified, but there is something in what the Times says about Los Angeles, with more than a million and a quarter population; it is astonishing metropolitan in some respects but "on most of the issues on which the American people vote, small town."

There is a difference between "small town" and "rural." Mere size of the community in which one lives does not necessarily affect one's point of view. It has been said that there are more "small town-minded" people in New York than in any strictly agricultural community, and that is probably true. Certain it is that the dominant point of view of the people of America is opposed to the point of view which we think of in connection with the big cities. Probably the Times is right in saying that the "effective" urban population of the nation is not more than a quarter of the total.

If you lead a dog's life, of course you are privileged to growl.



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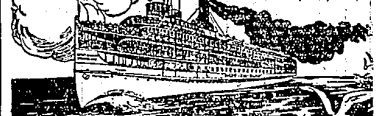
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