

The Farmington Enterprise

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Editorials

For Farmington's Youth

The hundreds of motorists who passed by Farmington's new athletic field during the dedication exercises and the baseball games that followed on Monday, must each and every one have envied this community its possession of such a spot of natural beauty. In this charming place, and with the newly-raised flag flying overhead, Archie G. Leonard delivering the dedication address, the kind of address that the people of Farmington have come to expect whenever Mr. Leonard appears on the program.

Mr. Leonard devoted most of his address to the desirability of the boys and girls, spectators as well as athletes, "learning to appreciate skill on the other side." His address met with a warm response from all who were present.

The people of Farmington have given to their boys and girls a splendid place, as fine as they could ask for, in which to play their games. We hope that they will win often—most of the time, in fact—but we want them to lose once in a while, too, in order that they may learn that humility which is as much a part of character as skill is of doing. Above all, we want them to learn and practice the principle that it would be better to lose every game of every season than to gain an advantage at any time by a single unfair play.

A Guess About Groesbeck

The current gubernatorial campaign warms up considerably as September 9 approaches. A good deal of discussion goes back and forth among candidates and campaign-managers. Many questions are asked and answers given.

Of the three candidates, ex-Governor Groesbeck is the recipient of by far the largest number of queries. One of them asked very frequently is why, having had the office three times, he wants to be governor again. Opponents and hostile newspapers ask it almost daily. The answer that Mr. Groesbeck sees an unusual opportunity to serve the State, they decline to consider seriously, and it is recalled that Mr. Groesbeck, in announcing his candidacy, declared (with commendable frankness) that he seeks the office, not because he was "responding to a wide public demand" or to the urging of friends, but because he himself wanted to run. Even supporters of the ex-governor, while without in the least receding from their claim that he is "the man of the hour" for Michigan, have on occasion been hard put to offer a thoroughly satisfying answer.

Alex Groesbeck does not need the honor of the governorship, nor does he need money—if there is any to be had in the governorship. There is the factor of "sweet revenge," of course, and no one believes that Mr. Groesbeck has forgotten for a moment the staggering blow of Primary Day, 1926. Probably the ex-governor himself would be the last to deny that with anything like a fair degree of encouragement, he could not resist the temptation that lies in the possibility of the voters reversing their verdict of four years ago. The triumph would approach, if not equal, the earlier disaster.

But while not privy to the inner workings of the Groesbeck political strategy, this newspaper might humbly offer still a different possible explanation of Mr. Groesbeck's candidacy for the governorship again. To follow this line of thought, it is necessary to direct attention, not at 1930, nor even at January 1, 1931, when Mr. Groesbeck might again occupy the governor's chair, but to 1932.

Two agreeable political situations will present themselves in 1932. The first may be dismissed without much ado, so far as Mr. Groesbeck is concerned. Michigan will elect a United States Senator, to fill the seat now occupied by Mr. Vandenberg. Should the people return Senator James Couzens to office this fall, as they undoubtedly will do, there is no reason to consider Groesbeck's opposing Vandenberg for the office. With one Senator already from the Detroit area, the opposition out-State would be too strong. On the other hand, should something near the miraculous occur next Tuesday and the people of Michigan prefer Chase S. Osborn to Senator Couzens, there would be nothing whatever to stop Mr. Groesbeck from seeking the senatorial toga in 1932. Election of a Detroit would be logical. Of course, it is rather fantastic to contemplate Osborn defeating Senator Couzens, but no one ever accused Alex Groesbeck of "overlooking any bets"—not even miracles.

As to the other prospect two years hence—it is already being said that President Hoover may be in for a rather difficult time of it, and may not be renominated, especially if business conditions do not change quickly and materially. Then what is to prevent an energetic, alert, ambitious governor of Michigan from aspiring to the Republican nomination for the Presidency? If, in the welter of the 1920 convention, a Harding had a chance—why not anyone else? It looks now as though it might be "anybody's" nomination—why not Alex Groesbeck's?

This is not to say that such is really Mr. Groesbeck's aim, but the fact remains that as governor of Michigan for the next two years, he would be in the public eye, and in a position to take advantage of whatever opportunity might arise. Out of the governorship, as a private citizen, the second and most attractive possibility—that of the presidential nomination—would be practically an impossibility. Meanwhile, he has nothing to lose and everything to gain by running for governor, whether it is the final achievement or a stepping stone.

One need not doubt that the road ahead appears inviting to Mr. Groesbeck, and would to almost any man.

'Twould Be A Poor Exchange

"Chase S. Osborn has many fine qualities, but I can't quite 'track with' him on his criticism of Couzens about party regularity." Thus spoke the other day a clear-seeing, level-headed citizen of this section, whose interest in politics is merely that of being a good citizen and careful voter.

"I can't agree with Mr. Osborn insofar as to believe that a man elected by the people should vote as the party bosses tell him to. If that is to be the case, we might just as well have only one man down in Washington, and let him do the whole job."

Yes, Mr. Osborn has indeed many fine qualities, so many that it is almost distressing not to agree with him. One could wish that Michigan had three Senators to elect, and could vote for Mr. Osborn as well as Senator Couzens—not because of what Mr. Osborn says or stands for, but for himself alone.

But, sad to say, it cannot be done. Michigan must make its choice. And to exchange for even Mr. Osborn's immense charm the rugged principle, of Mr. Couzens; for high intellect to give up sturdy independence; for Osborn's breadth of travel, to lose Mr. Couzens' tremendous depth of knowledge of governmental problems; and finally, to accept the blind following of party dictates in exchange for Senator Couzens' ceaseless devotion to the welfare of the people—that is a mistake which the people of Michigan ought not to make. We do not think they will.

Not Cast Iron—"Brass"

"Ora C. Farmer has held the office of coroner for 14 terms, 28 years, and now has the cast-iron nerve to ask to be returned to office again," says the Orion Review, and adds, "He has probably drawn more from an office than any man alive politically."

The Review is quite right, except that we'd call it a different kind of metal, rather than cast iron. We'd call it "brass."

In a last-minute letter to signers of his nominating petition, a candidate for office says: "I am now giving the electors an opportunity to support me for the office of State Senator."

Now, isn't that just too sweet of him!

Many a candidate will wake up next Wednesday morning sadly, to realize that tire-covers don't count in the election-board returns.

What Other Newspapers Are Saying

Human Rights—And Regularity

(Grand Rapids Chronicle)

"I reserve the right to do as I please, wherever the Republican national platform is silent."

"I will allow no person or organization to influence my vote on any matter confronting congress. I will not be any other kind of Republican."

So said United States Senator James Couzens before a good-sized crowd which attended the Rotary club luncheon Thursday noon. The paragraphs quoted above were spoken in explanation of Senator Couzens' view of Republicanism. They state his attitude clearly.

A man of medium size, is this Senator Couzens—and a statesman. A thatch of gray hair tops off a face revealing a remarkably firm character, out of which twinkle two keen eyes that belie the presence of any coldness in his nature.

Some say that "Jim" Couzens is no real shakes as a speaker. But they must belong to the clan which loves flowery rhetoric. When Couzens speaks he does so with a certain finality that calls for no superfluous words. You know that this man is fully aware of what he is saying; that he has carefully thought over what he is going to say, and means every word of it; that makes his speeches doubly interesting, in our opinion.

To get back to that address.

Sensor Couzens finds that there can be no all-inclusive standard as to what Republicanism is, in a country as large as the United States. So he finds that a man must decide what kind of a Republican he should be; the kind of a Republican his constituents want and need, and then stick to his policies and promises. If he fails to hold to his policies he should be removed from office, Couzens feels.

Sensor Couzens admits that he is deemed a "radical" in some Republican circles. But he does not want to be the kind of a "regular" who is imbued with the idea that government comes from the top and not from the bottom—the common people. He objects to wealth's dominance of public affairs—its security in legislation—its crushing of individuality. He told the Rotarians that, and he told them that he did not want to be the kind of a Republican who believes wealth contains all ability and brains and should therefore be allowed to govern. He believes in the kind of Republican who feels that government comes from the common people. He is happy, he says, to be in agreement with all kinds of Republicans, but will not fear to say so when he is not in agreement with them. This, and the paragraphs at the head of this report just about covers Senator Couzens' view of Republicanism, and refutes the charges that he is not a "party man." These charges have been disproven by publication of his record, which showed him pretty "regular" where important administration projects are concerned.

Now let us look into some of the other beliefs this dynamic statesman holds.

"If holding of human rights over property rights is 'radicalism,' I'm in. I do my best to consider human rights first."

Sensor Couzens feels that business should not be interfered with by government unless business provides the need. In his address he recalled that such moves as workmen's compensation were opposed by "big" business until the workingman demanded that his government give him that protection. He feels that the working people are going to demand adequate annual incomes—that they no longer want to be pawns, to be hired and fired at will. And it is apparent that Senator Couzens, being interested in unemployment, will be a champion of the cause of stabilized income. He states his belief that even though industry might not be able to provide employment the year round, it can give annual incomes.

In this connection he said, "I am the kind of Republican who intends to use the party to solve this problem whenever and where ever possible, no matter how much capital may oppose such measures. I would propose, if necessary, to tax great wealth in order to see that the welfare of unfortunates is taken care of."

Plain words, and it took a statesman to say them.

The ovations Senator Couzens received during and after his address impressed upon the listener that his words had gone home. And as the Rotarians are a very representative group of citizens, it would seem that the plain spoken Detroit senator can talk the language of and understand that most important body politic—the average citizen.

TO RESUME SERVICES

Services will be resumed at 3 o'clock next Sunday in the Universalist Church, following the two months' vacation period. Dr. Frank D. Adams, of Detroit, will preach on "The Jibe of the Pagan." Regular services will be held on alternate Sunday afternoons during the season.

The tongue no man can tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.—James.

Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O Lord.—David.

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