

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## Editorials

### Warn Your Children

Parents of Farmington school children living west of Farmington road have reason to take particular care to warn their children frequently of the danger that lurks in Grand River traffic. The corner of Grand River and Farmington road, always a bad one for pedestrians, seems to grow more dangerous every day, and if we get through the detour period without a fatality, we shall be fortunate, indeed.

The intersection is dangerous for adults to cross, and the children ought to be cautioned at least every morning not to cross the corner under any conditions unless the officer is there at the time to protect them. A few moments' extra care on the part of a parent in this regard may save a lifetime of regret.

The State's still taking off its hat and scratching its head over Brucker's victory. It was largely a matter of hats.

Judge Jeffries took off his and tossed it into the ring. Governor Green put on his and went travelling—and talking. And the women of the State, thousands more than ever before, put on their hats and went to the polls and voted for Brucker. And hat's that.

### Not Without Reason

If any one of the 410 men and women of Farmington Township and City who voted against retaining the present prosecuting attorney while 401 were voting for him have regretted their decision, the conduct of County cases arising in this community in recent weeks should surely set their minds at rest. It is unfortunately necessary to admit that the conduct of the prosecutor's office in at least two recent instances have not increased, but rather greatly decreased the respect in which the prosecutor's office is held.

On August 30 Prosecutor Orr adjourned an inquest into the death of Mary Essex in Farmington to lead a raid on the Workers' Camp on 12-Mile road, arresting a number of men there as Communists. Prosecutor Orr posed for his picture with the prisoners, the photograph appearing in Detroit newspapers. Much publicity was given the raid.

But Mr. Orr's successful opponent, Clarence Smith, charged that the raid was merely a political "publicity stunt", and asked the pointed question, yet to be answered, as to why Mr. Orr, knowing as did everybody else for months that the Communist camp was there, suddenly awoke a few days before election to the fact that the menace existed. Mrs. George T. Hendrie, prominent Bloomfield Hills society woman, made a similar charge (that the raid was conducted for political advantage), and nothing appeared at that time or since to disprove it. The raid was referred to by political speakers urging Mr. Orr's re-election and the very failure of the prosecutor's office to present anything like a case after two weeks lends considerable color to the "publicity stunt" charges, if not, actually proving them.

Judge Schulte's rebuke to the prosecution for its attempt to "play horse" with him and his court, was commended by higher Oakland County judges and was well-deserved. America guarantees that the life, liberty, or property of no person shall be taken away from him without due process of law. However silly or foolish we may regard the doctrines of those arrested, the Constitution of the United States is still the Constitution of the United States to be obeyed by all, although often one feels that its mandates are "honored in the breach rather than in the observance" thereof. As Judge Schulte astutely pointed out, flagrant disregard of the law, even though it be by those whose duty it is to enforce the law, will breed that very thing which is feared from doctrines such as held by the men arrested—anarchy.

Nor was the conduct of Mr. Orr at the inquest session held in Farmington a few hours before the raid such as to raise his standing. The inquest was held for the purpose of determining how the girl came to her death, and it was in charge of the prosecutor himself, who evidently was to take the lead in finding out. But Mr. Orr acted as though his purpose was, not to discover how Mary Essex came to her death, but to prove that his office had made no mistake in their handling of the case. His intensely antagonistic attitude toward one witness, a State trooper, at whom he hurled for his first question a belligerent, sneering: "Are you still a gun expert?" created astonishment in the court. Later it was said that the prosecutor and the trooper had clashed in court once before, but meanwhile the antagonism aroused at once by the prosecutor could scarcely be of assistance in aiding the coroner's jury to determine how occurred the death of Mary Essex.

Mr. Orr is a young man of certain marked abilities, and especially in view of his political downfall, it is not pleasant to dwell on these faults that have been disclosed in recent occurrences in and around Farmington. But, unfortunately, these things do not reflect discredit upon him alone, but upon the community and the entire County. Detroit lawyers, for instance, could scarcely carry back a complimentary opinion of the Oakland County prosecutor's conduct of the inquest in Farmington.

Mr. Orr still has many friends in Farmington, and there is no reason why he should not continue to have them. But when this community polled the majority of its votes against him, despite the fact that his chief assistant's home is in Farmington, it was not without reason. The demand for a change in tactics of the prosecutor's office may prove to be a good thing for the County and also for Mr. Orr himself.

### Read The County News

The Enterprise is pleased to call the particular attention of its readers to the columns of County and County seat news which began appearing with last week's issue.

There is much to be gained for Farmington as well as for other communities outside the County seat in developing a closer contact with County affairs. Particularly is this true of Farmington, we believe, because of its location in a far corner of the County, as close to Detroit in many things as it is to Pontiac. We are in danger of losing that close relationship which we should have to the County seat and to the rest of the County also.

Especially now, with increased attention being paid to administration of County affairs, largely because of the taxation problem, is there apparent a more widespread interest in Oakland County's business on the part of its citizens. The Enterprise believes that it can perform an important and valuable service in providing its readers with County news that is not only interesting to them, but important to the general welfare. The interest of every reader is invited, and also any comment on the column at any time.

### Groesbeck Going Back

No better brief description of the Groesbeck recount business than that of one staunch old Farmington Republican, M. B. Pierce, who says: "Groesbeck's recount is going to put the State back \$200,000, and it isn't going to put him ahead one bit." To which it might be added only that Mr. Groesbeck will not only not be ahead, but his attitude in defeat has already put him farther behind, in the estimation of thousands of citizens who like to see a man take his beating like a man, than the \$200,000 will ever put Michigan. And Michigan just now hasn't \$200,000 to toss to the winds, either.

### Clipped From Other Newspapers

#### Return Government To The People

(R. S. Hursey in Detroit News)

It seems to be the custom for men when elected to public office, to perpetuate themselves in that office and stay on indefinitely. One auditor has served 18 years with two more years to serve; the clerk, 20 years; the treasurer, 10 or 12 years, etc. There are men working in these offices who have never had any other job. From a financial standpoint the office of County Clerk is the best office in the state. The present incumbent is at the age when most men think of retiring from private business, and after serving 20 years, in the most remunerative office in Michigan he certainly ought to be in a position financially to retire. A public office being a public trust, it certainly is not good policy to give all the good things to one man or one group.

No matter how efficient an official has been, that is only one of the duties of the office; that is what he is paid for. In this great metropolitan district of Wayne County with a population of over two million people there are many men capable and qualified to hold any office, and it is against the ideals of real democracy to keep the reins of our local county or state government in the hands of a few. I hope the voters will bear this in mind September 9th and keep on working on these lines, building a mind in the public, so that in future elections we may continue this good work, and eventually put the government of Wayne County into the hands of the people.

#### We All Pay Fire Losses

(Trenton Times)

In 1926 the fire loss of the United States was the largest in our history—\$560,000,000. The following year there was a decrease to \$464,000,000, and in 1929 a slight rise to \$473,000,000. And in the first seven months of 1930 a still further increase over 1929.

When this stupendous total is taken into consideration, but one conclusion can be drawn—that a large part of our people are careless in regard to fire and, moreover, thoughtless as to the results of their carelessness. "Let the fire insurance company pay for it" is but a concrete expression of this carelessness and thoughtlessness.

For the actual fact is that we ourselves pay our fire losses, not the insurance companies. True, the fire insurance companies settle the loss and hand over the check, but they are merely handling the money that every fire insurance policy holder in the United States has turned over to them to meet the national fire loss.

And, since fire insurance rates are based solely upon experience, if we once appreciate how our carelessness increases the insurance company's risk and how every preventable fire goes into the total loss of the nation to cause higher rates, we would stop saying that fire insurance companies pay for fires. If fires become fewer, rates are lowered by the com-

panies; if fires increase in number beyond previous experience, rates are raised to produce more money to pay for them.

Our national fire loss will go down and stay down only when every member of every community realizes that he is penalized by every fire, even if some one's else property is destroyed. For it is undoubtedly true that every citizen must pay for every fire in higher insurance rates, in unemployment, loss of taxes, business depression, or some similar way.

#### Money And Food

(Ionia County News)

The present business situation is marked by two things. One is a surplus of money, the other a surplus of food.

By money we do not mean the money which every citizen may or may not have. We refer to the accumulated deposits of the great banking houses of the large cities. Money for gambling in stocks in Wall Street has been at the lowest interest rate in years and there has been plenty of it available. However many people seem to have gotten over the stock market craze and comparatively few are taking many chances on stocks.

The surplus of everything grown upon the land has been the serious aspect of the agricultural situation. That surplus has driven down prices, stood in the way of returning land values and it has had its serious effect upon every form of commercial activity.

Now if we can find a way to get that surplus money set at the task of buying surplus food, we shall make progress.

#### Refreshing Independence

(Muri H. DePoe)

There is just as wide a difference between editorial policies as between individual editors. The old days of strong editorial leadership on the big papers is now a memory. In this state, for example; we had Jas. F. Scripps of the Detroit News, William E. Quimby on the Free Press, or a more recent example like Arthur H. Vandenberg on the Grand Rapids Herald. Today managing editors tell highly trained literary men what to write; there is no personality involved so far as the public is concerned. On the weekly individuality is emphasized. The comments of so-called country weeklies may not compare with the large dailies in logic and style; but the opinions are in no sense "assignments" but the ideas of men who select and discuss their own subjects with a fearlessness and independence discontinued long ago in the metropolitan field. Mr. Bryce, (Grand Lodge Independent) as a country editor, has never been cramped in the expression of his opinions. He has said what he pleased when he pleased. This small paper independence is refreshing and far more compensating in mental satisfaction than writing editorial under instructions.

The political pot is boiling with considerable activity, which frequently means that the gas is being burned underneath it.

FOR

## SINCLAIR SERVICE

Phone 91

Farmington

## STATE THEATRE PONTIAC

### OPENS

TO-MORROW SATURDAY SEPT. 20th

Zane Grey's All Talking OUTDOOR THRILLER

## "LAST of the DUANES"

with GEORGE O'BRIEN

Added

All Talking Comedy "GIRL SHOCK"

Sound Cartoon "FIDDLE STICKS"

with Charley Chase

Metro Sound News

Coming Wednesday Billie Dove in "Sweethearts and Wives"

## OAKLAND THEATRE PONTIAC

7 DAYS COMM. FRIDAY, SEPT. 19

The picture that has everything! Three walloping love stories in one—

## JOAN CRAWFORD

in

## "OUR BLUSHING BRIDES"

with

Robert Montgomery, Anita Page, Raymond Hackett Dorothy Sebastian



Warm, sunny days are still with us, but cold and blustery ones are just around the corner. Order your Winter's coal supply now. Service is at its best, prices that may not be as low later on. Phone 20 and give your order.

## Farmington Lumber and Coal Co.

Carl G. Hogle, Mgr. Phone 20  
Clarenceville Office and Yard—  
Phones: Farmington 1 and Redford 7027R4