

The best of the prophecies of the future is the past.—Byron.

### Before They Leave-

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## Saturday Specials CHICKENS

CHOICE YOUNG BROILERS, lb. ... **35c**

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### Forests Good Crop On The Poorer Soils

Trees are the best crop for 750,000 acres of southern Michigan soils which are not adapted to the growing of ordinary field crops due to slopes, erosion, or the type of the soil itself, according to members of soils and forestry departments at Michigan State College.

Plantings on cutover lands in the northern part of the state have been advised for several years but the recommendations for southern Michigan have been brought about by agricultural conditions which make it unprofitable to grow the common crops on lands which are hard to till or which will not produce good yields.

About 1,200 seedlings will be needed to plant one acre. Cultivating, fertilizing, or watering are not recommended after the trees are set.

Mixed plantings of white pine and Norway spruce are recommended for lower Michigan. The trees can be set as seedlings in furrows or in holes dug with a spade. The seedlings should be spaced about six or eight feet apart each way.

Norway spruces can be thinned out for Christmas trees eight or ten years after planting. Trees from 20 to 30 years old will furnish pulpwood, 40 year old trees are large enough to cut for railroad ties, and trees which have passed the 50 year mark will be large enough to yield saw logs.

A great movement is on to break up old cars for junk to help the automobile industry. Unfortunately many owners fail to get out before the job is done.

## News From The County Seat

By F. M. Blunk, Special Correspondent, Farmington Enterprise and Oakland County Weekly Press Assn.

Those very interesting salary lists given to the Board of Supervisors by County Auditors, have given the people of Oakland County something to think about. The lists, only partially complete, inasmuch as they do not include part time labor and office help, prove that it takes quite a parcel of coin of the realm to keep the county going. Just a casual mental adding of the columns shows a total of \$1,000,000 a year. If all the expense accounts and supply charges and general office expense were included the figures undoubtedly would cause us to gasp. Then if all the food, etc., necessary to the various public institutions were enumerated we might be staggered.

Yet some public office holders' salaries may not be out of proportion. There's some highly capable specialists working for us for \$5,000 a year and less. Dr. John Monroe, health commissioner, draws top pay at \$7,500 and is allowed \$1,020 for motor car expense. The prosecuting attorney and sheriff are next in line with \$7,000 salaries. That's pretty nice pay for a sheriff.

It is possible that a little efficiency experting by the supervisors could eliminate some of this expense. It would be impossible of course to do away with any of the department heads but there's a few, at least, soft jobs among the lesser lights that we could do without. And we wonder just what kind of car costs \$1,000 a year to maintain!

There are some shrewd business heads on the Board of Supervisors. And they have been doing some casual investigation into the various county departments. They have been given some interesting financial data by the Oakland County Bankers Association. They have at hand traffic figures on the various highways and byways of the county and they are rather well acquainted with the topography. The people of the county are getting acquainted with conditions, and it is quite certain that the new budget will show at least some effort to economy.

The calendar of the criminal branch of the Oakland County courts is filled with cases, the mere perusal of which causes one to wonder what we're coming to. Crimes of sex and passion. Petty theft and prohibition law violations are in the ascendancy. And a majority of the offenders are youthful. We sat in court recently and watched the parade of these young offenders before the bar of justice. There were only a very few in the lot with clean, good clothing. There were a few whose intelligence seemed to be below the average, but the others, despite their unattractive clothing, appeared to be bright young men with the possibility of something better in their lives. There were those of course of the criminal stamp, furtive eyed, sneering, knowing what is in store for them and only wondering whether it's to be six months or six years.

After court we met the alert Justice in chambers and asked him for his explanation of this apparent wave of lawlessness, inasmuch as it affected the young, bright-eyed fellows.

"It is the curse of idleness," said the Justice. "These boys have just drifted into violation of the law. The venturesomeness of youth, that unthinking, takes a chance. Some of these boys, especially those who have violated the prohibition laws by transporting liquor, have been drifted into their crimes by professional bootleggers. These professionals are backed by still bigger operators and their financial resources seem unlimited. They hire these young chaps so that they themselves will not have to take the chances of arrest and imprisonment. If the youngsters get through they pay them fairly well; if they don't they forget them."

"Our courts are filled with such cases. We seldom get the man higher up, the real criminal. Yet the law is there; it must be respected and enforced."

A pathetic figure, slightly stooped, nervously fingering a brown felt hat, stood in Judge Gillespie's court Monday, and made a plea of guilty to second degree murder. This was A. Towle, of

Milford, once a prosperous woodworker, the head of a happy family, admitting the shooting to death at Milford of his estranged common law wife.

In pronouncing sentence upon Towle, Judge Gillespie stated that he was taking into consideration Towle's age (he has passed his fifty-eighth year) and the possibility of extenuating circumstances and that at the end of twenty years, the minimum sentence for second degree murder, his case was to be referred to the Board of Pardons. Thus with good behavior, Alfred Towle may look upon the world again when he is 78 years old.

The tears streamed down Towle's face as he stood listening to the sentence. Then he sank down in his seat beside a pink cheeked youth of seventeen, from Waterford, who is awaiting trial on a charge of robbing a gas station. Towle's nervousness increased. He fumbled with some papers in his coat pocket and selected from them a yellow clipping. It was a clipping from a newspaper of 1890 stating that A. C. Towle had been elected by his senior high school classmates as the one among them most likely to succeed and become an outstanding citizen.

Then a sheriff's deputy led him away.

The road to economy sometimes is strewn with obstacles. For example, the proposal submitted by Supervisor W. W. Peardon, of Oxford, for the Board of Supervisors to set an example and reduce their daily rate of compensation. The legislative committee of the Oakland County Board succeeded in having the bill passed legalizing the present rate of pay for supervisors. It is obvious that quite a bit of legislative machinery has to turn before a bill is passed. It probably costs more when the machine turns backward and it is certainly a slower process. There is a possibility that the cost of having the bill repealed or amended would cost as much as the reduction would save. At any rate the supervisors didn't squander any time discussing the matter, disposing of it in three minutes by adopting the motion of Supervisor John Grant to refer it back to the legislative committee. So it is likely that the matter will die a natural death in committee or be tabled.

The sportmanship of Oakland County residents was praised by Conservation Officer McClure in a report of his work to the Supervisors, Monday. Of several hundred men arrested during the last eleven months for violation of the game laws less than ten were residents of Oakland. A majority of these offenders were anglers caught taking undersized fish from the lakes. They paid close to \$5,000 in fines. Mr. McClure stated that persons living in and about the county lakes had displayed a high spirit of co-operation in enforcement of the conservation laws. More than 18 million perch have been planted, Mr. McClure reported, in addition to thousands of bass, while hundreds of thousands of blue gills and other choice food members of the finny tribe are yet to be planted.

Signs for the forthcoming weeks point to lots of talk on the prohibition question, mostly wet, some dry, throughout the county. While the Oakland County Democratic delegation was sent to the State Convention at St. Joseph instructed to vote against a plank on prohibition in the platform they found themselves in a hopeless minority, the convention drenching the party platform with a pledge to seek a national referendum. This will give William A. Comstock, Democratic nominee for governor, something to talk about inasmuch as Wilbur M. Brucker, his opponent, is counted among the drys, but the real fireworks will be heard in the campaign for Congress between Seymour H. Person, Republican and Patrick H. O'Brien, the Democratic nominee. Mr. Person is a liberal and seeks a remedy while Mr. O'Brien, if he follows the policy laid down at St. Joseph will be even wetter. On the other hand the forces allied with prohibition are going to have a problem on their hands; who is wet and who is damp and who to support, if anybody.

Drain Commissioner Spencer, in his report to the Board of Supervisors, stated if the courts follow precedents that taxpayers suits now pending against the Southfield Drain will be thrown out. The one case in which a suit was upheld against the drain was in the matter of the Clinton and Smith estates which under the law had no right of personal notification before the drain was built. But all others in the district do not come under the provisions of this law therefore can have no complaint, he reported. Yet the suits are on file and the county is destined to hear lots more about this drain.

### COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Special meeting of the Commissioners of the City of Farmington, held September 23, 1930.

Called to order by Mayor Lamb at 7:43 p. m.

Commissioners present: Hatton, Gildemeister, Goers, Stamman, Otis.

The Commissioners discussed the question of laying new water mains from the bridge to Farmington Junction. This is made necessary by the change in the grade, consequent on the repaving of Grand River avenue between the points named. Further time was required to estimate the cost and the Commission recessed until September 24, 7:30 p. m.

N. H. POWER, City Clerk.

Army Needs Rifles  
Washington. — Major General Fugate, chief of infantry, declares that the next war will find the doughboy going into battle with the army rifle, which will never become obsolete.

Dangerous—Chicago.—Frederic Rex, statistician, says in 1913, 1923 women were injured getting on street cars while in 1928 only 328 met with accident. An 1913 skirts were longer.

A proverb is the experience of many men expressed tersely.



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Harry Gribbon in "Swell People"  
Johnny Perkins in "Lady You Slay Me"  
Cartoon Comedy  
"Strike Up The Band"  
Saturday Matinee Only  
"The Indians Are Coming," No. 3

SUNDAY-MONDAY-TUESDAY, SEPT. 28-29-30  
CONSTANCE BENNETT  
Lulu McConnell  
Common Clay  
Neighborhood Neighbor  
with LEW AYRES  
From Cleves Kinkaid's Harvard prize play  
Allen & Cartfield  
in "Food For Thought"

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY, OCT. 1-2  
THE TWO BLACK CROWS  
MORAN AND MACK  
in "Anybody's War"  
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"The Cactus Kid"  
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The Song Plugger  
"All Riot on the Blackface Front"

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