

# The Farmington Enterprise

Established 1888 by Edgar R. Bloomer as "A Permanent Journal of Progress"

Published Thursday of each week and entered at the Post Office at Farmington, Oakland County, Mich., as second-class matter

Myman Levinson Editor and Publisher  
C. J. Lehmann Mgr. Printing Dept.

Member Michigan Press Association  
Member National Editorial Association

Farmington, Michigan, Thursday, October 2, 1930

## Editorials

### 'A Queer Way To Make Money'

"It's a queer way to make a living," Fontaine Fox, creator and resourceful maintainer of the always enjoyable "Toonerville Trolley," told not long ago of his beginnings as a newspaper comic artist, of how his father, 'way back in the days when the comic art was new, objected strenuously to the son's ambition and means of livelihood. Unable to dissuade the erring young man, Mr. Fox's father (so he relates) finally declared, "Well, all I can say is that it's a queer way to make a living."

No more queer is it, however, than the way the City of Farmington has been making some money these last few months. Farmington has made several thousand dollars just by having some old chunks of worn-out cement dumped over the top of a hill.

In more exact terms, it is the filling in and strengthening of the Shiawassee street bluff. Somewhere between four and five thousand yards of concrete have been hauled to the cliff from Grand River road. One City official estimates that the job is worth at least \$5,000 to the City, and of course the hauling alone would cost a good part of \$5,000 if the City had to pay for it, to say nothing of the cost of material. Yet it would be hard to find anything better for the purpose.

Herein lies a good example, for those conducting public works in various fields, in the way of efficiency and conservation rather than of waste.

### 'What A Godsend!'

With an Oakland County dog catcher drawing a yearly salary of \$3,600, what a Godsend to the taxpayers our Board of Supervisors have not to date found use for the services of an elephant herder. —Rochester Clarion.

### A Powerful Idea

When a home has been burned, the first question we ask is, "Was it insured?" If the answer is "no," we express regret and sympathy for the family which has suffered the loss. If the answer is "yes," we feel a warming glow, and hug close to ourselves the satisfying feeling that a sad event has been averted in our community.

But has it? Michigan officials, and particularly the fire chiefs of the State, start their annual campaign to reduce fire losses next Monday, when "Fire Prevention Week" begins. And it appears likely that the officials will accomplish more this year and from now on than they have in the past, because they have begun to hammer home a single, simple idea which everyone can understand and appreciate. That idea is, that when a fire occurs, the mere fact that the owner has insurance does not mean at all that there has been no loss, but that "insurance is only a means whereby the individual is protected and the loss distributed to all citizens of the State," as Governor Green says in his proclamation designating Fire Prevention Week.

When the people can be made to understand this, we shall have achieved a great part of the task of eliminating the tremendous loss and waste caused by fire.

### Hobbies Are Useful, Too

Last week, at the Farmington Exchange Club, Robert Allen of Birmingham entertained the Club for an hour with an exhibit and history of a collection of unique canes, picked up by his father in his travels about the world. It may be that nowhere in this country or the world is there to be found so great a variety of peculiar and unusual canes as that possessed by Mr. Allen.

Now it might not occur to one at first that there is anything either very useful or valuable in such an odd hobby as the gathering together of every queer sort of walking-stick the collector can discover. It was undoubtedly very absorbing business to Mr. Allen, and everyone who sees the collection and hears the history of the canes will agree that it is immensely entertaining. Yet the work which afforded so much pleasure to the collector has a very real value too, for it cannot but impress others with more than one profitable lesson. It proves that almost anything a human being wants to do can be made interesting, if he only wants to do it well enough; it demonstrates also that the queerest sort of individual quirk, pursued diligently and intelligently, may provide a lot of entertainment to the rest of us whose hobbies are of more ordinary kind. It also justifies itself, if it gives those who come in contact with it an increased appreciation of beauty, even in a walking-stick.

Kepler, the famous mathematician, took up mathematics by accident after his retirement from active business, and his great gifts to the world's knowledge resulted when his chance interest in calculations and figures became intense. Albert Bushnell Hart, one of the greatest historians the United States has yet produced, took up history as a hobby, after having retired from business while still in his forties. His business is forgotten—his hobby placed his name among the most accomplished Americans of his time.

### He Won't Need Them

"Political workers for me will have no advantage in getting jobs from the unemployment committee," Mayor Murphy of Detroit is reported to have said. If he said that, and means it, and sticks by it, and runs other city affairs on the same principle, he won't need any political workers for him for a long time to come.

## Clipped From Other Newspapers

### Bad Penny Turns Up

(Grand Rapids Chronicle)  
The proverb that a bad penny has a habit of turning up was freshly illustrated recently in Washington, where to the horror of the supporters of President Hoover, it was prominently displayed by Robert J. Bulkley, Democratic nominee for senator from Ohio. It was a souvenir of the 1928 campaign, and was a copper coin marked "The Hoover Luckey Pocket Piece—Good for Four Years of Prosperity."

Nominee Bulkley declared, according to Time Magazine, "I'm here to get this thing redeemed, but it doesn't seem to have much of any value and payment has been refused."

Copper is far too durable a medium to be suitable for a material on which to engrave campaign predictions. The genius who remarked that promises of this description ought to be written in disappearing ink said a mouthful.

### Rendering An Inestimable Service

(Detroit News)

Despite the fact that the Republican ruction at Lansing over the recount does not present a very edifying spectacle, there is no reason why the electorate of Michigan should feel especially downhearted about it. On the contrary, it may furnish a providential example for their "instruction, admonition and reproof"—which seems to be one of the prime public needs of the times.

Somebody once wrote a book about "The Revolt of the Oyster," and maybe that describes something like what we will see in Michigan this fall. At any rate, the spectacle of the Republican leaders quarreling like near relatives and dragging one another over the smoldering embers of old political scandals until the odor of singed hides can be detected from Lenawee to Keweenaw is calculated to arouse the lethargic Republican majority in this state to the necessity of subjecting the party to some long-needed corrective discipline. If it should accomplish this desirable result the recount squabble would be worth all it is costing the state, which some perhaps prejudiced Lansing experts say will reach the very sizable figure of \$250,000.

It is certain that an increasing number of Republican voters throughout the state are somewhat agast at the aspersions and assaults which are being tossed back and forth between the camps of the Republican factions whose accredited leaders are now engaged in a terrifically bitter struggle for control of the administration at Lansing. They are beginning to echo the question of the poet, "Whom shall my soul believe?" with every prospect that they will end by not believing any of them, except, perhaps, in regard to the mutually hurled charge that the people have been taken for a ride by successive Republican administrations.

Of course such a charge will take a lot of proving, but apparently each side is prepared to fulfill that demand to the best of its ability. It may take them until frost comes to do it, but that won't make any difference, as they are bound to encounter a frost—perhaps a killing frost—in the end, anyway.

As we have stated, the outbreak of this unseemly personal and internecine Republican fracas at the state capital furnishes no occasion for downheartedness on the part of the intelligent and, we trust, now thoroughly awakened electorate of Michigan, for whatever may be its outcome they will still have an opportunity to vote for a gubernatorial candidate who stands for some other purpose than that of either capturing or retaining official spoils and power at Lansing. This opportunity is afforded by the candidacy of William A. Comstock, the nominee of the Democratic party. He is no newly-risen political Moses, but a seasoned exponent of the issues upon which the people are thinking and upon which the voters are going to divide. In two previous campaigns he has courageously held aloft the banner of public economy and reform, and it is greatly to his credit that, in the face of wholly undeserved defeats, he has again answered

that lives up to its name. It looks and acts just the way it sounds."

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The boys will probably consent to attend Sunday School this fall, provided the lesson hour is spent in discussing the football situation.

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