

A snake that has entwined itself about the leg will not leave without biting.—Hindoo proverb.

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LAYERS into
"HIGH!"



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News From The County Seat

(Special to the Enterprise)

The corridors of the County Court House at Pontiac during these sessions of the Board of Supervisors is a miniature of any capitol or legislative hall in the nation—filled with a shrewd crowd of lobbyists, men and women, job-seekers and appropriation hounds, critics and boosters, and not a few office holders. These latter, ever since the talk of economy and the calling by the supervisors for lists of employees and salaries, have been on needles and pins. What an attractive time is a gullotine in a time of revolution!

Aesop, or some other fabulist, once wrote about a sly dog that came up on two of his brethren in a slashing fight over a bone that lay, for the nonce, at the side of the road. The sly one paused for a moment to applaud first one then the other combatant, and as they carried on with increased viciousness, took the bone in his teeth and went away from there.

Analogies, like comparisons, may be odious at times, but it is interesting to look upon the present slashing setto between the forces supporting Wilber M. Brucker, who was given the Republican nomination for governor at the primary polls a few weeks ago, and those die-hard henchmen of the veteran politician, Alex Groesbeck. They have been at one another's throats for the last fortnight and more and there is every indication that they'll keep up the battle for some days to come.

Meanwhile they had better keep an eye on the bone of contention. For there is a very alert fellow in the person of Democratic gubernatorial nominee Comstock. The bone is a tempting morsel, or we might borrow a bit of slang and call it a mouthful. And besides, Mr. Comstock, who has an eye on that bone, there are a lot of lesser onlookers, ready to follow him if there appears any possibility of his carrying it away.

In other words a great strength is developing in the Democratic

State camp. It is pointed out that the fight between Groesbeck and Brucker is working a great detriment to the Republican nominee; that there comes a time when, if the worm isn't strong enough to turn itself, it is turned, despite itself, by the force of circumstance.

In Detroit, where Brucker did not show any great strength, in the primary battle against Groesbeck, the forces that may become strong enough to turn the worm already are organizing behind the Comstock banner. In Pontiac another organization, bent upon the same idea, is being moulded into a rather formidable shape. In Lansing there is another and from these three big organizations there are branching others.

Political worms are turning all over the nation. Dry worms are turning into wet worms; Republican worms are turning Democratic. It is, perhaps, a harbinger of defeat for others who long have held themselves invincible. Mr. Groesbeck was a topheavy favorite to win the primary race, as were Grant M. Hudson and others. Some of the most astute political prognosticators were willing to lay their bottom dollar on these chaps to win.

The odds are all in favor of Republicans in the forthcoming elections, from governor on down. Yet there may be a worm getting ready to do a flopping stunt and if the big worm turns there'll be a lot of little fellows rolling over in sympathy.

Republican office seekers in Oakland County, better watch out, else when we turn the knives down after the November voting, they won't be there a'tall.

The new village and lake signs are being set up about the county. They are easy to read, and those we have seen have been placed well. They undoubtedly are a great aid to motorists' pleasure bent, but it seems a big expense that could have been saved, especially in times such as these.

Idle A Problem

What's to be done about the thousands of idle men in Oakland County?

There has been no official tallying of these hosts of unemployed, yet unofficial estimates made by various persons in close touch with the industrial situation in this section place the number in the thousands, with prospects of an immediate relief rather slim. The situation, actually, is growing more serious. A great majority of the idle have been unemployed for months. Others have been working part time, while some of the larger factories have maintained curtailed production schedules for about six weeks. Now another period of complete idleness looms.

Tradesmen, interviewed by the writer, say that they have extended more credit this year than any time since the War, and that moreover, they have extended it willingly, realizing the situation, but certain of the honesty of their patrons and hoping only for some relief. Yet there is none in sight and the limit of credit has almost been reached.

It has reached a point where cash is no longer a means of trade. Desperate heads of families, owning cars, by which they travel to and from work, are using their credit at groceries and other neighborhood establishments to procure goods which they trade for gas and oil.

A great number of landlords have ceased hoping for any rents for months to come and are generously carrying their tenants until better times. "We know they will pay when they can," one landlord, who has more than 50 delinquent tenants, told us. It is believed likely that within a short time it will be necessary for leaders in Oakland County to form an organization for relief. Hundreds of families, without funds, now are facing abject poverty, destitution. Where is the coal, food and winter clothing for the children to be had?

Here is a situation that the officials of the county would do well to give a serious thought, if they can forego politics for awhile.

Club, that band of chaps who are required to support the wives and families that divorced them, is another organization hard hit by the industrial dent. Some \$15,000, roughly, is annually collected from the club members and paid their families every month by the county authorities. But a great many of these estranged husbands have earned hardly enough to keep themselves for the last few months. This condition has naturally led to some suffering and too, to a number of reconciliations, based undoubtedly on the theory that two can starve as easily as one.

Try To Cut Salaries

It may be stated on reliable authority that the County Board of Supervisors, at least a sturdy group who seem unafraid of political retaliation, are making a sincere effort to effect reductions wherever possible in the salary lists of county employees. It is considered likely that this group will have its way and bring about a general cut, which, while not occasioning any real hurt to any individual will nevertheless cause a lot of howling among those affected.

Some of the salary lists of 1930 have been made public, and the Supervisors have obtained 1929 lists. Some of the complete lists, it is said, show unexpected earnings of certain high-salaried officials in the way of fees, and naturally an attempt is being made to use the financial shears a little more liberally on these than on the lower salaried and "un-fed" employees.

The committee having the thorough investigation of salaries, fees and expenses in hand has found, it is said, some interesting details among the allowances for motor cars and it is considered a certainty that some of the county employees' families who have been used to taking weekend motor trips with gas and oil paid for by the taxpayers are going to buy their own hereafter.

There has been a bit of criticism of the Supervisors' action in calling for the 1929 salary lists and ordering them withheld from the public until after the Supervisors have finished with them. There also has been some howling on the part of certain taxpayers against the Board declaring executive sessions thus excluding the public from their discussions on questions such as the salary reduction matter.

Supervisor Alfred Gale of Waterford Township, who made the motion for withholding the 1929 salary lists from publication defended his action on the ground that in such suppression only could the Board proceed with its work without outside interference. There are quite a few interested parties staying close to the Supervisors' meetings in an effort to learn just what is going on, and it is from these that the Board desires to protect itself.

On the other hand Supervisor Gale championed the cause of certain taxpayers who objected to being excluded from the Board session on Tuesday when the salary committee report was to be received. Mr. Gale argued that the meetings should be open but his proposal, after some wrangling, was voted down, 21 to 19, after the salary committee had advised that it sought clarification of certain questions before it, which could be decided by the Board, and that as this was a matter of procedure the discussion should be secret.

First War Vet Claim

The first case in Oakland County in which a World War Veteran, holding public office, claims a precedence over other aspirants to the office because of his war service, and the right of public hearing before being refused reappointment, has been filed with the Board of Supervisors by Herbert G. Hayes, poor commissioner.

Following a vigorous attack on his administration before the Supervisors last week, Mr. Hayes failed of reappointment. S. Lee Pack being selected by the Board to succeed him January 1, when Mr. Hayes' three year term expires. Last Monday Mr. Hayes petitioned the Board for reconsideration of Pack's appointment, citing a state law giving preference to veterans in appointive public offices and providing that no veteran having been appointed shall be removed without a hearing.

Whether the Board was with-

has now been made a legal question and referred to the Prosecutors' office for an opinion. This opinion probably will be ready by next Monday when the Board has scheduled the poor commission appointment matter as a special order of business.

Ford Trucks In Wide Field Of Usefulness

Recent improvements in the Ford truck have so extended its usefulness that it is now serving in practically every line of truck transportation except those requiring the heaviest hauling. Olin Russell local Ford dealer, says this, he added, is evidenced by the fact that more than 45 per cent of all the new trucks and commercial cars registered in the United States in the first half of the year were Fords.

"Since the introduction of the new chassis with four speed transmission, dual rear wheels, heavier springs, and stronger frame and axles, Ford trucks have entered a number of new fields," Mr. Russell said. "By themselves and in combination with trailers and semi-trailers they are rendering economical and efficient transportation in practically every line of business."

"In the first place there is the Model A commercial car with bodies designed for light delivery work. The Model AA truck may be had with either 131½ or 157 inch wheelbase, with a variety of standard bodies, and with scores of bodies designed for the Ford chassis."

"In a Ford commercial car exhibit recently opened by the Ford Motor Company in Highland Park, Mich., more than one hundred types of bodies are displayed on Ford truck chassis."

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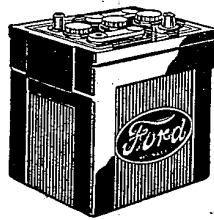
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