

The Farmington Enterprise
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Clipped From Other Newspapers

Why The Increase?

(Rochester Clarion)
 Recently a member of the County Board of Supervisors figured that during the past six years there has been a great increase in county expenses, and taking the entire six years an average for increases in the salaries of county officials and employees is as follows:

The sheriff's office salaries have increased 136 per cent; treasurer's office 111 per cent; clerk's office 103 per cent; poor commission 94 per cent; road commission 48 1/2 per cent; drain commission 63 per cent; probate court 23 per cent; circuit court 189 per cent; school commissioner 156 per cent; prosecuting attorney 238 per cent; justice court 104 per cent; register of deeds 88 per cent; auditors 155 per cent; health department 72 per cent; welfare department 200 per cent and county buildings 114 per cent.

What is the reason for this outstanding increase? Has the county grown so much in six years that a double force was needed to handle its business? We believe not.

Kent County with its wealth and industry, is run for about one-third of what it costs Oakland County each year and Oakland County is also assessed \$102,000,000 more.

Does Oakland County have so much criminal business that it becomes necessary to increase the force at the sheriff's office more than 100 per cent?

It appears, from judging Oakland's expenses compared to those of other counties of similar size, that this county is paying too much for salaries.

Has our welfare department done 200 per cent more good than it did six years ago? These high increases are not justified and drastic action should be taken to find out why the increases were made.

The Primary As It Works

(Leslie Republican)
 Theoretically the primary election plan for choosing party candidates has a strong appeal, but in actual practice the results are far from the utopian claims of its early advocates. The primary was adopted in hopes of putting a stop to evil practices that had grown up in the convention system and also ending rule of party affairs by a few politicians. It has now been on trial nearly a quarter of a century in Michigan and evils have crept into it that are fully as bad as those that existed during the last days of the caucus and convention period.

A campaign for a state county district nomination that will attract attention of voters usually costs more than the emoluments of the office sought warrant. If the money for each individual campaign is subscribed by friends or interested parties the beneficiary is placed under obligations that might prove embarrassing to a candidate who honestly believes that public office is a public trust.

Professional politicians or chronic office seekers are quite apt to be devoid of conscientious scruples when it comes to sources of or means of securing contributions and are therefore in a position to make deals with interested parties, or have others do so for them. Such candidates talk glibly of "public trust," and interest of the people while thousands of dollars are being spent spreading political bunk, hiring workers to create prejudice and arouse race, sectional and religious animosities.

While the convention system had its faults candidates for office under it were chosen with some consideration for geographical location, fitness and desert.

Primary vs. Convention

(Birmingham Eclectic)
 Of one thing we are very sure, viz., that the present direct primary system of nominating political candidates is far superior to the old convention form of selection. We do not hold the direct primary as the final solution to the problem of choosing party candidates for public office; it can be, and will be, vastly improved upon. But, after close personal observation of the recent Republican convention at Grand Rapids, we are definitely certain that this form of nomination is about as near to hereditary monarchy as any possible to devise in a so-called democracy. Few, indeed, of the delegates at such a convention are in any manner "in the know," or able to select candidates. The convention committee, dominated by the state central committee, practically alone chooses who shall run for this or for that. We are happy that Governor-elect Willbur M. Brucker favors an improved direct primary; we shall do all we can to aid him in retaining election machinery that will allow the great body of electors to have some choice in the selection of political candidates.

Jimmy Walker

(William Allen White in Emporia (Kans.) Gazette)

Jimmie Walker, mayor of New York, a figurehead, one of those smiling, pleasant, hand-shaking, baby-kissing, he-dumb-Doras who sometimes thrive in politics when there are no great issues, is proving to an electorate what an entirely honest, exacting, well-meaning, gay, good-natured happy young man can do toward wrecking free government.

Jimmie Walker was elected because of the loyalty of his group, a blind, power-seeking, greedy group called Tammany. They put loyal to Tammany above every other political consideration. Tammany was loyal to him. He is loyal to Tammany. Neither was loyal to their conscience or their country. And the interests of conscience and country being forgotten, politics drops to its lowest ebb.

These things happen in this world and it doesn't take an electorate like New York to breed them. Wherever any group zealous for power makes loyalty to one of its own members the test of citizenship and the object of any election, then sooner or later corruption comes and taints that electorate. Whether it is Tammany or the Ku Klux Klan, or a church, or a lodge that submerges its duty to a city, a state, or a nation and votes with the gang, then and there by the law of balances, those who put in selfish greed for their own group take out waste and corruption for the state.

More Costly Than Drought

(Christian Science Monitor)
 A certain former President of the United States, who is now attaining distinction as Columist Coolidge, has performed a valuable service by drawing striking contrast between losses entailed this year by the drought and those caused every year by crime. Mr. Coolidge uses the estimate of "a reliable authority" that the yearly damage from crime is \$7,500,000,000. Calculations of other authorities have placed it at \$13,000,000,000 and \$16,000,000,000. In any case, drought losses, regrettable as they are, total only a fraction of the cost of crime.

Americans have heard so much about methods for reducing crime—reforming court procedure, improving police protection, divorcing politics from racketeering, preventing prisons from becoming schools of crime, moral education in home and school to lead youth away from criminality—that many have become somewhat bemused by the intricacies of the problem. But such a simple and timely comparison as the distinguished columnist makes—bringing home to every individual that he pays a yearly

tribute of more than \$60 to crime—should give new meaning to the truism that crime does not pay.

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Two quarrel and a third profits by it.—Hindoo proverb.

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Editorials

A Real Task

Farmington business-men who heard G. Hall Roosevelt, head of Mayor Murphy's unemployment committee in Detroit speak on the business depression and unemployment last week were greatly impressed by his contention that we can and must look to a change in psychology for improvement in conditions. They were impressed, too, in the limited references he made to the efforts of the unemployment committee toward providing men with work. Even brief contact with Mr. Roosevelt is sufficient to convince anyone that Mayor Murphy put a difficult job in capable hands.

But while one may agree fully with Mr. Roosevelt that psychology has much to do with the depression and recovery from it, Mayor Murphy's own report Saturday as to the extent of the City's probable aid in the way of providing employment in public works is rather discouraging when the number of unemployed is considered. Mayor Murphy received reports from heads of nine departments, which have certain works scheduled. A number of these may not be undertaken, the Mayor himself stating that there were some in the list he would not approve. Yet even if every project were pushed to the full, according to the report, the nine departments together would furnish employment to only about 5,200 men in addition to the present number. And Detroit's unemployed probably number around 100,000.

Still further, it is necessary to remember that the worst feature of the "public works" idea of relieving unemployment is that this work must be paid for in the years ahead by the taxpayers—it is not something that drops from Heaven. Possibly it would be best to face as soon as possible the fact that public works alone cannot do a great deal toward hastening business and employment recovery, as commendable as the effort may be.

Our factories must open again with steady pay-envelopes for all, executives, office-help, and workmen. Private business must flourish as well as public works be carried on—the former is even more important, being the larger factor. Recovery is bound to come of itself in time, and there is evidence that a measure of it has already begun. Speeding it up so that we again enjoy satisfying, if not booming prosperity, is a problem worthy of the highest efforts of the country's best men, outstanding in brains and ability, both among our industrial leaders and our public men.

The Gale Bloweth

If anyone familiar with County affairs knows where the Board of Supervisors are going to end up, or what may happen before the present session adjourns, he has not yet made bold to reveal his prophecies. He would be brave, indeed, as would anybody who would attempt to explain some of the twistings and turnings, the eddyings and cross-currents of this fall's session. Supervisors themselves admit that the folks back home, really watching for the first time in many years what is going on in Pontiac, are waiting for them with questions and demands for explanations.

Some supervisors may be asked not only why they "voted that way," but why they took one position one day and the opposite position another day. For instance, Supervisor Alfred Gale of Waterford Township, Mr. Gale was chairman of the board for a number of years when, so some people declare, an "old guard" held sway and things (particularly in regard to taxation and assessments) appeared to run just about to suit the City of Pontiac "to a T". It was not surprising when Mr. Gale introduced a resolution which, while it satisfied a demand for compiling of the 1929 county salary lists, specifically provided that the list should be kept from the newspapers.

Yet a few days later, when the committee on salaries wished to make a report and requested that the public be excluded, the same Mr. Gale blossomed forth as the people's champion. It was "public business," and the public "had-a-right to know all about" everything the supervisors were doing he declared.

Mr. Gale, it seems blew first in one direction and then the other. And the bewildered supervisors on Oakland County's ship of state tossed about here and there by shifting winds and breezes within their own body, and at the same time feeling the powerful current of public opinion flowing from every direction, demanding that the truth about conditions be known and something be done about it—they must feel the ship tremble a bit beneath their feet. All will last the voyage out, no doubt, but unless the ship goes somewhere, a few of the crew may be missing when she sets sail again next spring on a new adventure.

Dogs!—Beware The Catcher

Pity the poor canines of Oakland County! We hear much these days about stabilized incomes, and no doubt the County's official dog-catcher wants his stabilized, the same as does everybody else. So if the recommended cut in his salary from \$3,000 to \$1,000 plus 50 cents a dog is approved by the Supervisors, what's going to happen? It looks like he is going to make it hot for dogs in Oakland County. "Dog days" will be with us the year around, and a "dog's life" is likely to come to mean what the inventor of the phrase intended that it should.

Well thank goodness that's over. We were afraid for a while that Groesbeck-Barnard would ask a recount of the 1926 election.