

The Farmington Enterprise

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Kymon Lovinson Editor and Publisher
C. J. Lehmann Mr. Printing Dept.

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Editorials

An Enlightening Campaign

For the first time in a good many years, the election in Oakland County, which takes place this year on November 4, gives some indication of being other than a mere formality. Republican candidates are bestirring themselves more actively than at any time in recent years, aroused by the unusual activity of the County's Democratic leaders.

Judging from the meeting held in Farmington last Thursday night, the Democratic candidates are making a campaign that is not only energetic, but one that is highly intelligent and carries a strong appeal to the voter who is willing to listen before he votes. They strike straight home at the weak spot in the present administration of County affairs, and they do it with undeniable impressiveness, yet without slightest trace of "muddling."

Two exceptionally effective speakers appeared here. One was Charles P. Webster of Pontiac. In launching a sharp and powerful attack upon the high cost of Oakland County government and heavy taxation, he does not make the mistake of branding all Republican office-holders as grafters and crooks. He points out, however, what experience has shown time and again, and what everyone knows to be true—that when one party has been in office for many years and money has flowed freely into the public treasury, it is only human nature for those who have the opportunity, to take advantage of this agreeable condition and each one get as large a share of it as he can. He points out, further, that when any official, Republican, Democrat or of any other party, finds it necessary only to sign a slip of paper for whatever he desires for his department or himself, and it is immediately forthcoming from an apparently unlimited supply, then that man loses his sense of the value of a dollar, loses the point of view of the taxpayer who earns the dollar by hard work. Mr. Webster admitted that the same condition would undoubtedly prevail if it had been the Democrats in power for the past 20 years rather than the Republicans, and that the people would have the same just cause for demanding a change. It would be hard to conceive of more effective political argument.

Another immensely impressive presentation was that by Robert Heitsch, Pontiac attorney, who has worked out a chart of the increase in the County's salary budget since 1910. The hearer immediately asks himself at the beginning, if Mr. Heitsch is going to content himself with showing the salary increases, overlooking the huge increase in population, which would certainly be most unfair. But Mr. Heitsch did not drop into the pitfall. He followed his report of the salary budget increase with figures on the growth population, and proved that the budget has mounted out of all proportion with the population increase. On top of that, he shows by the price of wheat, a staple commodity, that while the salary budget for 1930, \$726,351, is almost double that of 1925, which was about \$376,000, that the cost of living has dropped considerably in the last five years, but apparently without those in charge of the County salary budget being aware of the fact.

The declarations by some leaders of taxpayers' associations which have been formed as a protest against high taxes, that "the Democrats will sweep the County" may not, probably will not prove to be true. They may not capture any offices at all, or only one or two. But they have given Oakland County its first real searching discussion, with facts and figures, of County affairs in many years, a discussion that is thorough, intelligent and gives the voter some actual knowledge of things as they are. In doing so, they have performed a distinct service to the people of Oakland County, whether or not any of their candidates succeed in overcoming the usual tremendous Republican majority at the polls a week from Tuesday.

A Sad Condition

It was a splendid and humane deed that Ralph Hogle of Redford, formerly of Farmington, performed when he donated 50 tons of coal to destitute families in Brightmoor the other day, after the father of the family had been caught stealing coal in the yard which Mr. Hogle manages. It warms one's heart and one wishes that there were more instances of such open-heartedness, that of the many who may possess such charitable inclinations there were more in a position to offer aid of this kind.

But the incident causes an uneasy reflection, too. For one cannot but feel that there is something very seriously wrong when in this day and age, our supposedly-civilized world in the year 1930, an honest man must steal—because his wife and children must not freeze and starve.

Two Dollars And A Half A Day

The Oakland County Board of Supervisors paid Supervisor Arthur Coe of Farmington Township a distinct compliment when they adopted the system of giving men work in exchange for poor relief, rather than merely doling out charity. The Farmington Township Board, at the suggestion of Mr. Coe, had initiated that policy some months before.

However, the Supervisors appear to many to have spoiled their own good work when they voted to value this labor at only 25 cents an hour, instead of 40 or 50 cents, as was suggested. Farmington Township pays 50 cents. It is possible for the County to ask men to work for it too cheaply, even if it is only in return for charity.

Clipped From Other Newspapers

'No Time For A Raid'

(Ingham County News)
Significant indeed is the action taken by the circuit judge of Michigan, at a meeting held in Lansing, Thursday, when it was decided that a determined effort be made to secure permanent pensions for all jurists of 70 years or more.

The proposed pension law provides for retirement of all judges at 70 years of age and provides also a sliding scale of retirement pay. The scale of annuities which the judges will ask for is \$3,000 following 30 years' service on the bench; \$2400 for 24 years; \$1800 for 18 years; \$1200 for 12 years.

The writer has no desire to enter into a controversy over the merits of the question involved. It may or may not be good practice for the state to retire all its officials at 70. It may or may not be good practice for the state to recognize the bench in this manner and provide each with a pension. To the laymen, of course, will come the thought that most circuit judges receive fairly good pay; that they are men of intelligence and by every measure ought to be considered above the average in clean living, habits of thrift and sobriety. Circuit judges never should be considered objects of charity. Such being the case, would it not be better to provide a reasonable salary and expect the members of the judiciary to provide their own retirement funds as other individuals are expected to do.

One of the most important questions to come before the approaching session of the state legislature is that of old age pensions. Under modern industrial conditions the man above 45 is handicapped. No matter whether in an executive, administrative or accounting capacity or whether employed as a factory worker, the man above 45 is not wanted. Therefore unless he is fortunate enough to secure a competence before that time, and few are able to do so, his ability to support support himself and family after that age dwindles rapidly. This condition has brought a plea for universal old age pensions.

If the state held some mysterious power to create money; such a plan would offer a paradoxical solution to our whole world economic structure. But as long as the state must extract every penny of its income from the pockets of its citizens the plan of old age pensions offers some obstacles.

The plea of the bench for retirement annuities, in the face of the present economic depression; in the face of the fact that tens of thousands of wage earners are walking the streets without any income whatsoever; in the face of the fact that every municipality is faced with dire necessity of providing funds to keep its own people from starvation, in the face of industry staggering under an unprecedented load; in the face of a condition among farmers bordering upon actual bankruptcy it seems to be an ill timed and unwarranted raid upon the state treasury.

Now Is The Time To Build

(Michigan Bulletin)
Now is the time to build, to remodel and to modernize, according to advice given by leading contractors and material men. It is possible that the present opportunity afforded by low material costs and high efficiency will not recur in several years to come, they say.

This statement is substantiated by the heating research bureau of the C. A. Dunham Company of Chicago, which has made a recent study of labor and material costs, showing that great savings may be made by taking advantage of the present situation.

An interesting feature of the bureau's report is that labor is co-operating effectively in reducing construction costs, not so much by accepting lower wages, but by doing more work in a day. Union bricklayers in Chicago are said to be laying nearly twice as many bricks in a day as formerly, while carpenters and other workers have increased their efficiency 30 to 40 per cent.

During the summer and early fall there has been much remodeling, including the replacing of

heating plants with differential systems which effect large fuel savings. Economy in operating costs is being sought, as well as in construction itself.

By having needed work done now great savings are possible, besides the employment of surplus labor will aid in hastening the return of prosperity.

More Kind To Horses?

(Redford Record)
Nearly a year ago we began talking about an old age employment insurance act for Michigan. We have noted recently that several candidates have taken up the idea. We hope they are sincere, rather than merely opportunist. Until industry can take care of all men who want to work, we believe an old age insurance act, taxing industry, is essential. We see no other way out, unless we contemplate establishing a national chain of old folks homes doubling or trebling our present capacity.

The automobile, radio, jazz age quickening our enjoyments, has encouraged spending rather than frugal saving.

A new and larger crop of old indigents has come within the past 25 years.

Old age pensions are a necessity today. They will raise the cost of living, but make living somewhat more comfortable for a generation that carried as much of the national burden as it could without collapsing.

Definitely, we owe an old age pension to workmen and women who have broken down in the harness.

Why, we even put without work-horses on good pasture in their declining years, as a sop to our sentimentality. Cannot we do as much for human beings?

WEST FARMINGTON

Mrs. Irvin Knapp
PHONE 4074

Willard Wixom, who is stationed at White Pigeon as a State Police officer, will spend about ten days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Wixom.

The West Farmington Cemetery fence has been painted black and the letters over the gate gilded.

Mr. and Mrs. William Kurz attended a mission festival at the Royal Oak Evangelical church. The corners at the intersection of 12-Mile and Halsted road, 13-Mile and Halsted road are being widened.

The orchard known as the Evelyn Soles orchard on 12-Mile and Orchard Lake road, is being cut down for wood.

The West Farmington school has planned to have shorter recesses and morning hour during the cold weather, so the children will be home earlier in the afternoon.

Mrs. Emma Kurz and daughter, Dorothea spent Saturday in Detroit.

Mrs. John Graham spent Monday evening with Mrs. Charles Halsted as quilt committees of the North Farmington Auxiliary bazaar.

Lee Halsted, who is taking a medical course at Ann Arbor, spent the week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Halsted.

About 25 from around here attended the North Farmington Auxiliary held at the home of Mrs. Lora Borgne at Detroit. Dinner was served in the basement of Mrs. Borgne's home, which was prettily decorated in autumn leaves, flowers and yellow and green crepe paper. A business meeting was held in the afternoon and plans were made for the bazaar to be held at the next meeting at West Bloomfield Town Hall, November 18. A chicken dinner will be served at noon.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Welch spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Green.

Mr. Proctor was a Tuesday evening dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Green.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cox and son, Edsel, of the J. M. Cox subdivision in Clarenceville spent the week end with Mr. Cox's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cox.

Lillian Laland of VanDike avenue, Detroit, called on Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cox Sunday.

Miss Gordon entertained about 30 guest nurses from Receiving Hospital at dinner at the Frank Vandervein's home on 13-Mile road.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer French mo-

tored to Saginaw Saturday afternoon to take Mrs. Richardson home. Mrs. Richardson is Mr. French's mother and has been spending the week with them. Miss Pearl Graham was hurt about the face in an auto accident Saturday night, when the

car in which she was riding was hit by another machine driven by Edward Wonfield of Detroit. The accident occurred at the intersection of Orchard Lake and Telegraph road. Miss Graham was given first aid at the Pontiac City Hospital.

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