

The Farmington Enterprise

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Editorials

Making Government Simple—And More Complicated

Reforms are looked upon with considerable doubt by most practical people, and there is good reason for it. So often programs formulated and urged as improvements turn out to be no improvements at all, but merely changes, and the net result is a great deal of wasted time and effort, with no tangible gain. Occasionally the "reform" brings just the opposite of what was claimed for it, and so we end up worse off than before.

This is particularly true of ideas set forth from time to time for the promised "simplification" of governmental systems. Nearly everyone would be happy to see this achieved, but the reformers cannot complain if people view their pet plans with misgiving.

A representative of a Michigan organization which concerns itself entirely with governmental problems and ideas spoke recently to a group of Oakland County publishers, seeking their united support of an idea for simplifying county government, which would require a Constitutional amendment. Naturally, faced with a question of such importance, the publishers did not rush to pledge their backing. Their hesitancy was vastly increased when a little questioning revealed what has been the result of that organization's efforts in another phase of government, closely allied.

This organization has been the most active factor in getting villages to change to cities. Whenever, we are told, the slightest hint reaches them that a village might be considering the notion, a representative of the organization rushes thence and immediately begins to "whoop it up" for the city idea. It happened that the speaker at the meeting accompanied the Birmingham newspaper publisher, and it also happens that the latest field of the organization's "city" endeavor has been two villages in that same area, Bloomfield Township. The Village of Bloomfield Hills is already preparing for an election to vote on becoming a city, and the movement is being pushed in the Village of Birmingham. If the two villages vote to become cities, what will ensue? Birmingham as a city will be entitled to three members on the Board of Supervisors, Bloomfield Hills as a city to another, and the remainder of Bloomfield Township still another, or five in all, as compared with the one now representing the entire township. Thus the membership and payroll of the board of Supervisors will be increased by four, while representation from that area alone will be multiplied by five. And this is the result, partly at least, of the agitation of an organization whose proudest boast is in its efforts to simplify government and cut down expense. No wonder this country is slow to embrace so-called "reforms" and quick to distrust all of them.

It may frequently happen that proposed changes bring about actual advantages, though seldom all that are claimed. In the instance referred to above for example, Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills might benefit (though it could hardly be without corresponding detriment to the rest of the Township). But in any case a reform needs to be very thoroughly analyzed and every bit of foresight possible utilized to look ahead into the probable consequences. Scarcely any of the panaceas are to be swallowed whole.

What! No Women?

The people of Farmington and vicinity and one resident particularly, may enjoy a good laugh at this news dispatch from Columbus, Ohio:

Co-Ed Carrying Mail On Rural Route

COLUMBUS, O.—The Government appoints no women mail carriers on rural routes because it believes the hours too long and the job too strenuous. But Frances Smith, 18-year-old co-ed at Ohio State University, finds the work quite "restful" and enjoyable. Miss Smith substitutes for her father, I. L. Smith, on the Worthington route whenever he wants a vacation or a day off.

So "the Government appoints no women mail carriers" on rural routes because it believes the hours too long and the job too strenuous! That will be real "news" to this section. Apparently we have fallen behind in the times, and "the Government" has forgotten about this little place, for, as everyone knows, we have on Farmington's longest route a woman who has been putting in the "long hours" and doing the "strenuous job" for the last nine years. And she seems to thrive on it, too, for in addition to driving some 40 to 50 miles a day, she has managed at the same time to raise a family of six, see them through school and help the older ones along to college. On top of this, she has found time to take an active part in numerous community and organization activities and a leading part at some time on other, in most of them. And all the time, Mrs. Middlewood goes on, as healthy and happy as anyone in the community, nay, healthier and happier and more continuously cheerful, it seems to us, than almost anyone else we know. How does she do it, remains, of course, a mystery, but she does, even though "the Government appoints no women on rural routes." Not only does she handle the job, but secretly, we are quite certain that she enjoys it immensely, even though she does start out early in the morning and finish up late in the afternoon.

"No women carriers on rural routes" indeed! What a slander that reporter committed upon our carrier, Route Number Two, and since reporters are usually accurate, (despite belief of some to the contrary) what a pretty lass that co-ed must have been to bewitch him into such a grievous error!

Clipped From Other Publications

Shooting The Pianist

(Clinton County Republican News)

"We don't organize and murder ten million men on the planet and put out of commission fifteen million more and saddle fifty billions of debt upon the world, without consequences," says William Allen White, the famous Emporia, Kansas editor in discussing present day conditions. He adds mention of two years of drought over which no mortal man had any control. Consequently, is of wars of the magnitude of the last one do not stop when the gun is fired. The late war will be going on in the 1940's—long after President Hoover is out of the White House and after his successor has served his terms. The Kansas editor concludes: "It is the American habit to shoot the pianist when we don't like the tempo or the tune. Now is a good time to break the habit. For heaven's sake, gentlemen, quit shooting the pianist. He is doing his best. Let the dance go on."

The Year 1931

(Ionia College News)

The year 1931 has been put down as a year filled with conversation. We have done but little more than talk about the things that have been happening to the universe. As a nation of conversationalists, I think we lead all the rest of the world. We have been so busy talking about our troubles that we have had but little time for anything constructive. It is about time we began to forget the past and started planning something worthwhile for the future. There is not a single individual who could not help his own situation if he deliberately set him self to the task.

Parades, The Cemetery And Playgrounds

(Terre Haute, Ind. Star)

Thirteen Armistice day parades have swung down the road since word echoed around the world that peace had come. Thirteen times men have paraded to triumph music.

There has always been a thrill to marching men, ever since the first knights went forth, steel clad, to seek the Grail. Small boys instinctively parade to the sound of a red drum and a little tin horn. There is an innate martial rhythm in man that makes him join ranks.

But war itself is a bitter reality. The heraldry that precedes it is nothing more than a dazzling flash in the pan.

Broken ranks, mute reminders of half-remembered battles, show that slim green beds in other lands, too far away for flower tributes, are added testimony. The scarred hearts of men who came home are always pleasant places. Battle fives leave scars sometimes, that 13 years are slow to heal.

An army on parade is a glamorous thing. An army in action is a tragedy. The gleam of the passing helmets doesn't lead to a playground.

The bravery which the soldiers displayed in battles, half-lost under the tangled weeds in 13 years, isn't forgotten. It made a tremendous impression on civilization. Because the suffering that went with it has dragged its scar across the years is added reason that the time for abolition of war, so far as is possible, is at hand.

World leaders aren't seeking a millennium. They aren't pleading for pity—just, breakable principles of carrying off the game.

Men should march. They keep step better when they swing down the way. But they should not have to march to battle. Nor should they be called upon to surrender their common heritage—lamplight at dusk, firelight on the floor, rain on the roof, children's voices.

The fragment of a marching army should be a plea for universal disarmament.

The Smaller The Man The Larger The Cuss Words

(Saginaw Rapids Journal)

In business the biggest man rarely shows irritation. If something goes wrong in the day's program, they are not surprised. They expect things to go wrong constantly. Their salaries are based on the premise that when everything is topsy-turvy and subordinates are flustered, the big man at the top will keep calm and will reason a way out of the disorder.

Little men cuss and swear because they think it increases their standing to show impotence. The smaller the man, the larger the cuss words.

Bad temper and angry outbursts in an executive are really an expensive and sour the point of view. There is no accident in the fact that most executives have cultivated a calm and detached attitude toward their jobs. Keeping calm and unworried permits them to handle big work.

Hard Of Hearing

(The Ionia County News)

LT. Gov. Luren D. Dickinson says he sought Divine aid when selecting the senate taxation committee in the last legislature. And judging from what happened to the taxpayers, the Lord must have missed hearing his prayer.

And while we have the distinguished gentleman from Eaton County in the center of the stage, we are reminded that a few days ago he declared the battle for prohibition would be won, even if he had to call down a host from heaven to help him in the fight. And that, mind you, right in the face of this unemployment situation.

Think This Over

(Bangor Advance)

There is this to be said for newspaper advertising: It doesn't shout at you when you are trying to concentrate on something else, it doesn't obscure the view and mar the landscape, it doesn't interrupt your enjoyment of a good grand opera program, it doesn't clutter up your mail and your waste basket, it doesn't make you turn to page 37 and then shuffle through eighteen pages to finish your story, it doesn't clutter up your front yard or intrude itself onto the seat of your motor car on Saturday afternoons. It is like a well-trained servant—never intruding or making itself obnoxious, but always quietly at hand, ready to give service when called upon.

CLARENCEVILLE

Mrs. Clarence White 23-24

Mrs. Ann Zeigler, Mrs. Charles Rogers, Mrs. Michael Durham and Mrs. Otis Jensen spent Friday at Pontiac.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hargman of Ypsilanti were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rogers.

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Jensen were Sunday callers at the home of Mr. Fred Taylor at Plymouth.

Fred Taylor spent Thursday in Detroit where he visited at the home of his aunt.

Miss Lucille Jacobs of Toledo, Ohio, was a week end guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Smith.

Robert DeLuell entertained the boys of the Fox Patrol at his home Monday evening.

Carl Smith was a guest Thursday evening of Wayne Wagner at Ship 408 of the Sea Scouts in Detroit.

Mrs. Carl Smith with Miss Lucille Jacobs spent Saturday evening in Detroit at Orchestra Hall.

Mrs. Carl Wanck entertained the members of her five hundred club at her home on Wednesday at luncheon. After lunch the afternoon was spent playing "500."

Prizes were won by Mrs. John Wagner and Mrs. C. Barber.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Holloway were Sunday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. White.

Mrs. Carl Wanck was a Tuesday caller at the home of her daughter, Mrs. H. Cox.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jones were among those from here who attended the dinner in Farmington Wednesday night given by the Senior class.

Ruth Wanck and Mr. Cook of Detroit attended a skating party at New Baltimore Wednesday evening.

Mrs. LeVerne Rowoldt who has been confined to her home for the past week with the "flu" is somewhat better.

Miss Jessie Dunlap of Detroit, visited her mother, Mrs. George Kurtz, Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rice of Detroit were Saturday callers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence White.

Miss Bernadine Hogan and James Donnelly were Sunday evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Goers.

Mrs. John Wagner will entertain the ladies of Baseline Pedro club at her home Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Clarence Barber entertained

ed the members of the Baseline Pedro club on Thursday afternoon. Prizes were won by Mrs. Robert Jones and Mrs. H. Wagner.

The annual meeting of the Parent-Teachers Association will be held at the Central school on Eight Mile road the last week in March.

Mrs. H. Tucker entertained 26 friends Tuesday afternoon in the form of a stork shower for her daughter, Mrs. Ed Christenson.

Mrs. Drake of Detroit was a Tuesday evening dinner guest of Mrs. F. D. Hallock in honor of Rosemary Hallock's fifth birthday anniversary.

Due to the Easter vacation coming early this year, the school will close Friday, March 18 and will open again the Monday following Easter, March 28.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kennedy spent Sunday at White Lake to observe the 20th birthday anniversary of their nephew, Robert LaTour.

Friday afternoon the first spelling bee to be held in the school, will take place.

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