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Hyman Levinson
William Hone

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Editorials

Confounding His Critics

A profound change came over the governmental and political scene of Michigan within a few short hours Tuesday afternoon. It left a strange silence in places that have heretofore been conspicuous for their clamor, a silence more eloquent than written or spoken word.

For the large majority of Michigan people who have been keeping an open mind, Governor Brucker's message to the Legislature brought not so much surprise as a feeling of reassurance and confidence—confidence renewed and greatly increased, in the capacity of their chief executive, and reassurance that his first thought is to the welfare of the people.

No man in Michigan's public life since Pingree's time has had the spotlight turned on him with quite the intense heat that burned upon Governor Brucker Tuesday afternoon. The opening day of the long-awaited special session was here. What would the Governor's message be like? How would he measure up to the most difficult situation faced by any Governor in a generation, if not in the history of his State? Would the people find in him a thoughtful, serious-minded leader, thoroughly conscious of the tremendous responsibilities that weighed down upon his shoulders, and fully capable of measuring up to them—by sound, hard thinking and sustained, serious effort? Or would he stand revealed to their tragic disappointment, as just a "light-weight" in the Governor's chair, rattling around in shoes too big for him, merely an accomplished political campaigner and speechmaker after all—that, and nothing more.

We have the answer. Not with the sweeping oratory of which the Governor, as perhaps no other man in public life in the State is capable, not with gilded promises or impossible hopes. What the Governor offered was page after page of sound, sensible, practical, well-rounded proposals, full of meat and weight and handed out without any sugar coating. Not all of it pleases everybody, and some parts of it were sure to displease somebody, but that is inevitable. What matters most is that the Governor placed before the Legislature suggestions for action that represent the best thought thus far advanced to alleviate the ills of Michigan's taxpayers.

Not that the credit of authorship is to go entirely to the Governor. He himself would hardly claim that. It is public knowledge that for weeks numerous leaders in government, taxation, banking, finance and other fields have been called to Lansing to discuss what each one could offer in the way of suggestions for legislative action that might aid the State. No one man could embrace the special knowledge of the expert in all these fields. But after the expert suggestions and advice had been obtained, the wise judgment as to what should be included and what omitted, what was possible or impossible of realization, the weighing and judging and the all-important final decision in each case—that rested with the Governor. His well-wrought message, the most comprehensive and constructive program yet put forward by any public official in Michigan to meet its governmental problems, has afforded a true measure of his stature. And it was such a revelation as to display his critics, delight his friends, and bring a solid satisfaction to the great numbers of the people of Michigan.

That it has vastly increased his personal and political prestige is beyond question. Those of open mind who have watched closely, have observed that whatever his handicaps of youth or inexperience when he was inaugurated, Governor Brucker has steadily broadened and deepened with his responsibilities, has unmistakably "grown with his job." There has been, of course, (and probably as well known to him as anyone else) in certain quarters severe and constant criticism made of him, on the subject of his frequent addressing of gatherings throughout the State. Sarcastic remarks have been offered regarding his acceptance whenever possible of invitations to community celebrations, meetings, and the like, on the theory that it interfered with his work as chief executive. Unfortunately for the critics, this theory appears like so many others, to be untrue. They are apparently confronted with the unusual spectacle of a man who can work hard at his desk from early morning until the end of day, attend gatherings as he pleases during the evenings and do his thinking between times—perhaps as he travels to and fro. Anyway, his severest test showed no absence of careful thought. And if he finds it possible to encompass all that effort, that would seem to be the Governor's own business. He will probably ruin his present magnificent physique doing it, which would be tragic for him and surely no advantage to the State, but that, too, is his affair. Michigan has thousands of superfluous laws, but we know of no law which says that the Governor of Michigan has to stay in Lansing after he's done his day's work, and go to bed at nine o'clock every night. Anyone who sees and hears the Governor knows instantly that here is a man who enjoys the platform and if he chooses to spend his evenings letting the people of various parts of Michigan look at their Governor, that's his hard work.

They have even called him "the Chautauqua governor." But that's not too harsh a name. Chautauqua's heyday is past, but a lot of people who kept their minds and eyes and ears open learned a lot of things from Chautauqua. It is well to remember, too, that Chautauqua captured the interest of millions of people, that it made the name of a little New York town of 3,500 population famous in every corner of these United States, and that altogether it was the most successful thing of its kind ever launched in this country.

Not such an unkind cut, gentlemen, after all!

The Martyr

An epidemic comes in March,
Most every other year.
Contagious in this deadly germ—
It's rampant now I hear.

Each day a candidate appears,
Who would some office seek.
He's humble, modest and contrite
And very, very meek.

He lets you know he's forced to run,
To satisfy demand,
The clamor comes from near and far—
It's heard on every hand.

A martyr he, he'll sacrifice
In order to become
The champion of the under dogs,
Reluctantly he'll run.

He's soon convinced he has to run,
To save the town or state
For consequence all he can dire
For me, to here relate.

How long responsibility
On him begins to weigh.
A brand new smile on him appears,
To stay to lecture day.

His hand darts out when him you meet,
He's known you many years.
He grips your hand and pats your back.
It moves you most to tears.

He paws his way around your town
And every place the same.
He paws and talks and talks because
He doesn't know your name.

At last when that long looked for day
Reveals the ballots' toll,
And county clerks don't find his name
On the elected roll.

He thinks the people's judgment poor
And shudders for the soul
Of all the liars he has met,
Who had success foretold.

But politics is politics
And funny kinks does take.
It's not the guys that guy you on,
But it's the votes you make.

I'm sorry that they passed me up.
The loss is theirs I think.
You can lead a horse to water,
But you can't make him drink.

HARRY J. MERRITT,
Royal Oak, Mich.

March 16th, 1932

CHURCHES

Evangelical Church
Rev. A. J. Schuch, Pastor

English Worship, 10:15.
Subject: "At Thy Word."
Sunday School, 11:30.
Ladies Aid Wednesday afternoon.

Brotherhood Wednesday, evening.
The friendship club will also meet Wednesday evening.

Our Lady of Sorrows Church
Rev. James A. Callahan, Pastor

Sunday masses at 8:30 a. m.
and 11 a. m.
Daily mass at 8:00.

West Point Park Presbyterian Church
Rev. John Adams, Pastor
2333 Grand River, Detroit

10:30 Sunday School.
11:30 Morning worship.

Baptist Church
Rev. E. W. Palmer, Pastor

10:30 Morning Worship and Communion service. There will be the reception of new members.
11:45 Bible School. Come study with us.
6:30 Senior and Junior Young Peoples meetings.
7:30 Evangelistic service. "A Decision for God."

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Clarencville
(At Switzer Road)
Rev. Paul G. Griesner, Pastor

10:30 Divine Service.
The first and third Sundays of the month the services are conducted in the German language. All others are English.

Methodist Church
Rev. F. C. Johnson, Minister

Now that the great Easter season is over with its many triumphs "We must press on to the mark of the high calling which is in Christ Jesus."

"After Easter What?" will be the theme of next Sunday morning's sermon. In the evening Rev. Johnson will preach on "God's first two questions." We cordially invite you.

We urge you also to attend our Sunday School which meets every Sunday at noon. Our young people's club meet at 6:30 also.

Tuesday evening will be the regular official board meeting at the church. All members, come.

MANY LANDS EXCHANGE GREETINGS BY VOICE

Overseas Telephone Calls on Christmas Set New Record

Overseas telephone calls handled on Christmas Day through American Telephone and Telegraph Company radio stations in the United States set a record, both for volume and for the number of countries reached. A total of 342 messages were sent to or were received from Europe, Australia, South America, and island groups in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. This compares with a total of 207 messages for Christmas Day 1930, and 127 messages the preceding Christmas.

Of the total, 87 conversations between this country and Honolulu were handled through the new Bell System radio stations on the Pacific Coast at Dixon and Point Reyes, Cal. This speech channel had been opened for public service on December 23. Messages to and from Bermuda on Christmas numbered 20, while those exchanged with Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, totaled 13. These channels had been put into service on December 21 and December 18 respectively.

Christmas traffic to Europe totaled 132 conversations, as against 105 on Christmas Day last year. Of these, 54 passed between England and the United States, 38 were exchanged with France and 19 with Germany. Of the 41 remaining calls, 15 involved Swiss cities, 12 crossed the Alps to and from Italy, three went to Sweden, one to Ireland from Toronto, and three went to Roumania, a country which was added to the transatlantic network in November.

Once Housed Vikings?
A stone house found in ruins on the east coast of Greenland by the explorer Knud Rasmussen is believed to have been used as a shelter by Vikings in 988 A. D.

BEES WORK SO HARD THEY CHEAT OWNERS

East Lansing, Mich.—Honey bees are so ambitious that their restlessness may lead them to form habits which are injurious to the owners of Michigan orchards who place bees among their fruit trees to secure pollination of the fruit blossoms, according to members of the horticultural department at Michigan State College.

Bees placed in the orchards before the fruit blossoms open are apt to start work on other flowers and, if these furnish a desirable source of nectar, the bees may continue to work on them and

neglect the fruit blossoms when these are ready. Some varieties of fruit get very light crops unless bees are used to set the pollination of the blossoms.

To avoid danger of bees forming the habit of working outside the orchard the hives should be placed among the trees only a short time before the blossoms are ready. Dandelions are the chief competitors in Michigan, of the fruit blossoms and the latter furnish a more liberal supply of nectar.

The policy of using bees in Michigan orchards has become so well established that many horticulturists now own enough hives of bees to perform the work of transferring pollen. Other fruit growers rent bees from commercial apiaries and hives of the insects are placed in the orchards during the blossoming season.

In orchards which have large blocks of self-sterile varieties of fruits, branches carrying blossoms of other fruit varieties may be placed in the trees to provide the bees with pollen for cross pollination.

Don't blame your neighbor if he thinks you are half witted. He may be a wise man.



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