

**The Farmington Enterprise**

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# Editorials

## The Rest Of The State Can "Freeze"

So the "Roosevelt plan" is, like the "good Indian," a dead one. And it was a good plan, too—still is, in matter of fact. Not because it came out of Detroit—we all know that everything that comes therefrom is not necessarily desirable, nor even so "dynamic" as it once was. Not because, either, it bears a name somewhat famous. (One often does well to be critical about things bearing exalted names.) It is a good plan because it would meet a desperate need of the hour, without interfering seriously with other necessities.

The plan, proposed by City Controller G. Hall Roosevelt of Detroit, is as follows: all road building and other construction work would be abandoned by the State for at least a year, and the money used to pay school taxes all over the State. This would not increase taxes, would yield enough from the gasoline and weight taxes to lift the school tax from the rural communities entirely, it is asserted, and give Detroit enough money to pay off from \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000 of its floating debt.

Even discounting Mr. Roosevelt's calculations to some extent his idea still sounds so sensible and practical, so perfectly adapted to the needs of the moment, that it probably won't come true. While other State departments struggle under mounting deficits, while counties and cities default on bonds and school teachers go unpaid and schools are to be closed months ahead of time, the State-Highway Department rolls along serenely with an income that far exceeds the State general property tax, and is reported at \$45,500,000 a year. Millions on millions must be spent, it is claimed, for new roads. Let the rest of the State go bankrupt, if necessary, but the Highway Department program must go on. "Money derived from use of highways must be used for highway purposes only," is a principle which cannot be abrogated, or amended in the slightest. The very suggestion that any part of the huge amounts of money pouring in from the weight and gasoline taxes should be utilized to help elsewhere, where there is difficulty, rouses the Department to instant fury.

If a man should give money from now until next fall for a dress-suit, and then just as he is about to take his money and buy it, if he should lose his overcoat, he would not, of course, use his savings to buy another overcoat. He would say to himself, "No, sir, I've saved this money for a dress-suit, and it can't be used for anything else." So he would go without an overcoat and freeze all winter, because he had saved his money for a dress-suit.

Half a dozen million dollars worth of new cement roads would be a nice thing for the State to have, just as a man likes to have a dress suit. But he would need the overcoat worse and the school districts, counties and cities of Michigan need that gas and weight tax money more than the Highway Department. There may be cold days ahead, especially if the Department persists in its present stubborn ways.

## The State Says Gambling Is "O. K."

Over in Rose Township, in the "wee, small hours" of Tuesday morning, occurred a dramatic gambling scene. While officials and officers of the law stood watching, two men gambled openly to the extent of hundreds, even thousands of dollars, and there was no protest. Neither the local authorities nor the State said or will say anything against it. More than that, the gambling was officially approved, sanctioned and even arranged for by the State itself!

There are probably on the statute books of Michigan a hundred laws prohibiting gambling, or possibly it is one or two laws to restrain any one of a hundred kinds of games of chance. Among the first games of chance to be mentioned in any law or ordinance against gambling is the lottery. Yet the people of the State of Michigan officially believe in lottery, as exemplified in our own County Tuesday morning, and as provided for by the following section of our Laws, passed in solemn session of our Legislature in the year of enlightenment, 1931:

Public Acts 1931—No. 297, Page 490

Determination by lot for township officers, procedure.

Sec. 2. If it shall appear on the canvass of the votes polled at any election for township officers, that two or more persons have received an equal number of votes for the same office, and that a failure to elect to any office is caused thereby, the election to such office shall be determined in the following manner: the board of township canvassers in the township in which such election was held, shall appoint a day for the appearance of all such persons before the township clerk, for the purpose of determining by lot among such persons, the right to such office, and shall cause notice to be given thereof to be given to all such persons interested; . . . the officer before whom such drawing is to take place shall prepare as many slips of paper as there are such persons, and write the word "elected" on as many slips of paper as there are offices to be filled, and the words "not elected" on the remaining slips, and fold the same so as to conceal the writing, and so that they may appear as so many slips of paper. Such slips shall be placed in a box, and near alike as possible. Each slip shall be placed in a box, and each of said persons may draw one of such slips from the box; and any such person drawing a slip on which is written the word "elected" SHALL BE DEEMED LEGALLY ELECTED TO the office in question; and the officer conducting such drawing shall forthwith give him a certificate of such election. (Capital letters ours).

Now drawing lots for anything of value is gambling, pure and

simple, whether the prize be money, a house and lot, or a public office. The office of clerk of a township is worth hundreds of dollars in salary and is of additional value in giving the winner of the lottery at the next election the advantage that almost always rests with an incumbent.

It seems strange that our Legislatures throughout many decades, with all the tie votes that have occurred in Michigan local elections, have never been able to devise any other method of settling the question other than by gambling, which is not only stupid and inconsistent with other laws, but would seem to be unconstitutional. It might well be unconstitutional because it deprives every one of the citizens who voted for the "loser" in the lottery, of having their votes accorded equal standing with those voting for the "winner"—unless the other man gets more ballots, they have just as much right to have their favorite in office as have the supporters of the other candidate. The fundamental law of the land provides for election by ballot of the people, and it is hard to see how any other means of choice can be logically defended.

The sensible method would be another election. It would, of course, be an item of some cost, as compared with the lottery scheme now in effect. But it would be much better than the present method of having hundreds of people going to the polls and having an election board tabulate their votes, and after all that is done, decide the whole matter by the drawing of two slips of paper. Another election would at least lend to the matter some consistency and dignity, and provide an intelligent system in place of one that is simply silly.

## Public Attitude Toward Bankers

Muri H. ("Doc") Defoe, editor of the widely-known Charlotte Republican, recently published some interesting comments on the report of Circuit Judge Frank L. Doty regarding the closing of Farmington State Savings Bank, as published in the Enterprise some weeks ago. Mr. Defoe begins his comment by saying:

"Speaking of closed banks, it is well for the public to remember that in a majority of instances the bankers did everything humanly possible to avert disaster. Several banks crashed in the Pontiac sector including the State Savings Bank at Farmington. Judge Doty, sitting as a one man grand jury on the affairs and operations of this bank, closed his report as follows: (Then followed part of the Judge's statement.)

After quoting the last paragraph of Judge Doty's report, the Charlotte editor concludes thus, the last sentence being particularly interesting.

"Judge Doty, earlier in his report, landed the personal effort of the Warner brothers, Howard M. and the late Harley D., to save the bank by borrowing over \$100,000 on their personal security and putting this amount in the bank in cash, taking mortgages in return. The fact that they made this attempt to prevent closing the bank has been known in Farmington, according to the Enterprise, since early last summer, but Judge Doty's statement revealed it to the public at large for the first time. In passing, one of the Warner boys (Harley D.) was killed, following the closing of the bank in a motor car accident which happened not far from Farmington. What we need in these times is less criticism and more praise for the bankers who have staked their all to save their communities."

## COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Regular meeting of the Commissioners of the City of Farmington held April 4, 1932	
Called to order by Mayor Lamb at 7:38 p. m.	
Commissioners present: Stannan, Osmus, Hatton, Gildemeister, Goers and Hamlin.	
Minutes of the meeting of March 7 read and approved.	
The following bills were read and approved by the auditing committee:	
Lapham Oil Co. ....	\$5.38
Mrs. J. A. Miller, balance due Dr. Miller .....	14.00
Oakland Co. Road Commission Road repair .....	5.04
Oakland Co. Auditors, jail charge .....	3.25
Detroit Edison Street lights .....	284.90
A. C. Wallbank, labor etc. ....	5.75
Richman Backus Co. light .....	3.00
Olin Russell, labor etc. ....	5.57
Graham Service Station, gas .....	12.95
Farmington Lumber and coal Co., merchandise .....	100.70
E. K. Tamm, gravel .....	9.00
Travellers Insurance Co., Firemen Insurance .....	99.00
John J. Schulte, Insurance fire truck, lighting fire .....	15.48
Farmington Hardware, Merchandise .....	20.10
Ed. Thayer, police work .....	3.50
Harold Oldenburg, police work .....	5.50
Ed. Thayer, police work, March .....	10.00
Harold Oldenburg, police work, March .....	15.00
E. N. Geney, garbage deficit .....	13.00
Motion made by Hatton seconded by Hamlin that bills be paid as read. Carried.	
Complaint of Mr. Layhain Farmington Road in regard to the sewerage condition on his property referred to the Sewer committee.	
Commissioner Hatton made a report on the cost of pumping water under the present system. It is thought that this cost can be greatly reduced if a Turbine pump is installed. Mr. Scully of Plymouth spoke at length in regard to the matter, showing that a considerable saving can be made if a change is effected. Matter left to the water committee and Commissioner Hatton.	
Floyd H. Nichols spoke to the commissioners in regard to the	

**FARMINGTON ACRES**  
Mrs. H. A. McIntyre

Junior Addition of Detroit spent several days of his spring vacation with his cousin, John Jantovsky Jr. of Edward avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Billig and son, Angus were Redford callers Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. N. F. Orsland Mrs. Margaret Hilton and George Fowler of Detroit, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Palmer and mother, Mrs. Sanderson of Franklin were the Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Damon.

Mr. and Mrs. Lafayette Anders of Detroit were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. McIntyre, Sunday.

Mrs. Harold Merham and son, Charles returned home Sunday after a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. McChonchie of Redford.

Mrs. Alfred Ducharme and Mrs. Hugh McIntyre attended the League Meeting for the Home Economic Extension Work of Oakland Co., at the Central Methodist church in Pontiac, Tuesday.

**FARMINGTON DAIRY**

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