

The Farmington Enterprise

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Editorials

One Road

"Headlines," was what everyone said, and "the best news that Farmington has had in many years," spoken by a leading citizen, seemed to sum up what the rest were thinking.

Two alternatives present themselves to Farmington at this moment. They are, side by side:

1. Continuing without a bank for perhaps 10 or 15 years, until local citizens would be able and willing to subscribe all the capital for a new financial institution.
2. Continued wait for dividends as gradual liquidation proceeds, with occasional distributions of 5 per cent, in the end probably less than would be realized with liquidation economies that would be possible through organization of a new bank.
3. The community demoralization that the above would surely bring about.

Between these two it might conceivably be said there is a choice to be made, but few will regard it as such. There are two roads. One leads down, to what no one knows. The other leads upward. Two roads—but for once there is only one way to go.

Baffled Young Men

Speaking on the Boy Scout movement last week at Farmington Exchange Club, Henry A. Houston of Pontiac included in his talk a quotation from Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, son of the great Teddy, on what may consider among the two or three foremost problems of today. It is the problem of the young men and women who have finished courses in our high schools and colleges and now find themselves unable to obtain anything to do.

The tragedy of these young people, particularly the boys, is portrayed with keen understanding by Colonel Roosevelt when he says:

We have seen tragedy on all sides during these last three years. We have seen men and women weary, sickly, sickness untended and the hard brought gain of years of patient labor crumbling. Dreadful as these may be, none of them is worse than the tragedy of the young people.

They finish school or college with high hearts and clean ideals, keen for the work of life, keen to build homes for themselves. They find the doors of opportunity closed against them. They look for jobs and there are none. They are puzzled, hurt, surprised. They lose confidence just when they need it most. Still worse, they fell ashamed. As the days pass their spirit is broken. They tend to become silently rebellious. Then come days and months of idleness. They have nothing to do but hang around a gloomy home or lounge on a street corner. Inevitable idleness becomes a habit.

It is an easy habit to form and a hard one to break. Idleness is bad for grown men. For young men it is ruinous. With nothing to do of value there are always petty vices and slackness that creep in which lead to shiftlessness, or worse to viciousness.

Some boys leave home and wander. What chance in life have the boys who drift from place to place, living on chance charity? Standards are shattered and vices of every sort take root.

In this country the cost of crime to the taxpayer approaches the cost of the entire public school system. I believe in the efforts to reform the criminal, but I believe a thousand-fold more in work to prevent a boy becoming a criminal. Every day I hear of young fellows who have drifted into crime because all other avenues seemed closed to them.

Until a few years ago it was believed that a college education was the final required stepping-stone to success, that once out of college the young man was surely on his way upward, however lowly he might start, and that nothing could stop his forward progress.

But now there are not even lowly jobs available for most of them. The question of finding places for practically all of them in our scheme of things is going to be one of the great tests of our society, and may well determine its survival or fall.

Nor is it those whose wholly unemployed who must be considered. There are thousands who have had long and expensive schooling who are now performing labor in order to eat. Not that high school or college graduates are too good for mental tasks—the great majority are in fact benefited by a period of such labor after they leave school, for it brings them a contact with reality which they need. But the permanent relegating of any person to work or a position requiring less mental equipment than he possesses, or almost none at all, is a social waste that harms society and does incalculable injury to the individual. If society fails and the educated but totally unemployed remain unemployed, and the day comes when they will endure it no longer, the jobless army will be joined that day by those who have jobs which point only to what for them is a bleak and dreary, hopeless future. Society may well pray, and still better, work quickly, that such a day may not dawn.

The Butter Surplus

That huge surplus of butter in storage in this country, which is holding down every dairy farmer in America, has set more than a few to thinking. Not only some sound thinking, but an excellent

suggestion on the problem has come from "A Northern Michigan Farm Wife," in a letter to a Detroit newspaper. The idea is probably too good to be adopted, but it is worth the attention of every person interested in the future well-being of the dairy industry, and agriculture as a whole. She writes:

To the Editor: The Pathfinder publishes in a recent issue that although Uncle Sam bought up 60,000,000 pounds of butter there are still 100,000,000 pounds of surplus in storage. During the war we had meatless and heatless and wheatless days. Our President has asked for and being granted "war time policies" to aid in bringing butter to market. The common butter market of unemployed is 7,000,000, representing 7,000,000 heads of families. A conservative estimate, then, would be 21,000,000 people in need of food.

If, properly organized, and through Red Cross and welfare agencies, it can be done, I would suggest that every farm family give from one to five pounds of butter each week for five or ten weeks. If they make their butter they can give butter; if they sell all their cream, they can get so many pounds from the creamery, and those who sell whole milk can do likewise and average 20,000 pounds of butter a week to be given outright. This wouldn't hurt the sale of butter, as these people are not buying or using any butter at present. I for one will give one pound of butter every week for ten weeks consecutively. I now am giving one pound of butter weekly and one quart of milk daily to a needy family. And, thinking it over, were this giving multiplied by thousands it wouldn't be long until we would not have a butter surplus.

Put it up to the Granges and farm organizations everywhere. If necessary, give every farmer a service star of blue to go to school. "The Lord helps those who help themselves." We farmers would be helping ourselves to increased cream checks and through our selfish unselfishness aiding many an undernourished child. Let all of us farm wives get together and unite for the common good. Whenever farm families come up for products come to a meeting. Stores will buy merchandise, factories will operate and the little snowball will form the huge ball of prosperity again. The Government could insist on a higher cream percentage in bottled milk and help, but that is putting it up to Uncle Sam again. Let every farm wife who reads this paper suggest to my proposals! Won't the organized charities get busy and send representatives out to the country to enlist the help of farmers? Let's see if we can't pull ourselves out of the depression by our own bootstraps!

NORTHERN MICHIGAN FARM WIFE

WALLED LAKE

Edited by Mrs. L. M. Philp. Phone Walled Lake 57.

Baptist Church News in the Welfare Subdivision on "Children of God" is the topic that Rev. Victor Wik has chosen for Sunday morning. There will be no service on Sunday evening because of the Sunday School district meeting at Milford.

There will also be an afternoon program at this district meeting. The meeting will be held at the Presbyterian church.

The Teacher's training class will meet for the last lesson of this series on Wednesday evening. The lessons have been on the teacher's appreciation of the Old Testament.

Methodist Church News Rev. E. L. Carless has chosen for his topic on Sunday morning "The Boat which was Simone." The Dramatic Club of Birmingham will present a play at the Fourtowns school under the auspices of the Fourtowns Church on Friday evening January 26.

Rev. and Mrs. Carless were guests of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Blair during Friday evening and heard the famous lecturer, Mrs. Dorothy Fieldheim lecture on the "Dying and Reviving World."

The Ladies Aid met Thursday with Mrs. Gladys Buffeney on of last week for a pot luck dinner and business meeting. Miss Ruth Bradley was elected to fill the vacancy of Mrs. Juanita Farris. The ladies voted to have a supper during the month of January. Mrs. L. M. Philp was appointed chairman. It was decided to have a Penny Supper and program Wednesday evening, January 31.

Rev. and Mrs. Carless and Aubrey and Grace Carless were Sunday evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. Barbel of Royal Oak on Sunday evening.

Fred Thayer left Monday for Florida where he will begin work. Tim Roach is much improved after more that a week's illness of pneumonia. Little Miss Helen Roach is visiting at her grandfather's, H. C. Roach, during her father's illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce McKnight and Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Deveraux spent Saturday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Stanbro of Salem.

Miss Jennie Killiam is spending the winter months with Mrs. Francis McDowell of Commerce.

Dick Roach was severely ill with a cold Monday.

Miss Rachel McKibben of Pontiac is spending the week with Mr. and Mrs. Paul McKibben.

Mrs. William Hutton is much improved after her recent illness. Mr. and Mrs. George Willard celebrated their twelfth wedding anniversary Monday evening. The latter's sister, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Hudson entertained at a theater party in Detroit in their honor.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Buffeney and children Helen and Floyd spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Lewis of Ypsilanti.

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Carless were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Williams at dinner on Monday evening.

Glenn Tipton, jr., has been ill with bronchial pneumonia. Rev. A. K. MacKay attended the State Missionary meeting at Ypsilanti on Monday evening. Mrs. Sarah MacGregor will entertain the 500 club at her home

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Total Surface of Earth
The total surface of the earth is 197,000,000 square miles. More than two-thirds of this is water.