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THE CHANGES THAT COME WITH PROGRESS

While the sale of farm property for subdivision purposes in the territory adjacent to Detroit in the counties of Oakland, Macomb and Wayne, has brought great wealth to the landowners and lifted them from the ranks of toilers of the soil to capitalists and money lenders, the effect has not been so beneficial to farm insurance companies doing business in the territory.

So many of the farms have been disposed to subdividers who carry their own insurance that the loss to the farm insurance companies is most noticeable.

When a big decrease in the number of policy holders in one of these companies occurs it is due to the changed conditions and not to any unpopularity of the company.

The fact that some of these companies are reporting large decreases in membership furnishes concrete evidence of the tremendous extent reached in subdivision development around Detroit, spreading out into what but a few years ago, was quiet rural territory. The laying of gas and water mains, the construction of sewer systems, paved streets and sidewalks, where but a short time ago cattle pastured, is a familiar sight hereabouts.

The changes due to the reaching out of the city have been so rapid and complete that a person returning after a few years absence would find difficulty in locating once familiar places.

FAMOUS SPEAKERS TO TALK AT FARM WEEK

Speakers of national prominence are headlines on the program of general sessions for the annual Farmers Week at Michigan State College, to be held from January 31 to February 4 this year.

Preliminary announcement of the lineup for the big farm conference was made here this week, and reveals the fact that men who are famous leaders in different fields of work will be heard from during the week.

President C. C. Little of the University of Michigan will talk on Tuesday evening, February 1, making his first appearance here for a general farm audience in the state.

Senator Royal Copeland of New York State, farm leader and rated one of the great speakers of the day, is scheduled to address the general conference on Thursday evening, along with President Butterfield of M. S. C.

L. J. Young, Michigan's new commissioner of conservation; W. C. Cochell, editor of the Kansas City Star and formerly of the Kansas Agricultural College; H. L. Lackie, markets department, University of Wisconsin; Judge C. B. Collingwood, of Lansing; Dr. Caroline Hedger, of the Elizabeth McCormick Memorial Fund; and a long list of men prominent in state and national activities are among those listed for the Farmers Week meetings.

A feature of the week's program will be a big banquet on Wednesday evening, February 2, to which all visitors will be invited.

The usual lineup of exhibits and association meetings has been scheduled.

FREE RIDE HAZARD

The kind-hearted motorist who gives his friends and strangers a lift often finds that he has picked up a law suit as well as a passenger, says an Exchange.

Courts generally have held that the automobile owner is responsible for his passengers in case of accident. Court decisions regarding the motorist's responsibility to a passenger who had requested a ride have favored the passenger and have often awarded him thousands of dollars as compensation for injuries.

The "no passenger" rule is safest. Accidents will happen and unnecessary risks are foolish. This may appear to be a cruel and selfish edict to many pedestrians, but the careful pedestrian probably prefers to ride in a commercial vehicle where arrangements are made for just compensation in case of accident.

FRANK FAY HEADLINES AT TEMPLE THEATRE

Frank Fay, Broadway's favorite son, headlines the bill at B. F. Keith's Temple Theatre starting Sunday matinee, January 23. Mr. Fay's unique brand of fun appeals to all who enjoy good wholesome laughter. Because of the economies introduced in his own inimitable way through the various plays composing the bill. Each artist will be introduced to the public with a bit of the famous Fay clowning that has made him such a thoroughly enjoyable personage in the theatre. Others billed: Adlai C. Elliott, Byron Basley, Louis Frohoff, Anna Kostant; Douglas MacPherson, Marion Bushee, G. Davidson Clark, Hazel Cooper, Frank Reymann, Alfred Kappeler, Eleanor Z. Audley, David Leonard and Hamilton Phillips.

GEORGE JESSEL COMING TO NEW DETROIT

Much interest is being displayed by the Detroit public in the appearance of George Jessel, America's youngest emotional star in the comedy dramatic hit "The Jazz Singer," which opened in New York last season, and will be presented at the New Detroit Opera House Sunday night, January 23 for an engagement of two weeks. Mr. Jessel's sensational characterization of the title role won him stardom and a place of prominence in the legitimate theatre practically overnight.

Immediately after the opening Mr. Jessel was flooded with telegrams and congratulations from all the prominent people then in New York. David Warfield, after visiting the theatre where "The Jazz Singer" played, wired Mr. Jessel as follows:

"Let me thank you, please, for a delightful afternoon. Your performance was flawless and tear compelling. Too, your play is clean, wholesome and perfectly cast and I congratulate you on your promotion."

Eddie Cantor wired: "Twinkle, twinkle, 'The Jazz Singer' will be all that you are." George Cohan wired: "Congratulations, kid. You were always a star to me." The critics are most enthusiastic and marvelled at the art and technique of this young man, who had come from the varieties to play his first serious role. His performance is flawless and it is doubtful if any other actor on the stage could bring to this role what Mr. Jessel does.

"The Jazz Singer" has been booked for the next two years in the principal American cities; with London to follow. In the cast supporting Mr. Jessel are such well known players as Joseph Shaynold, Sam Jaffe, Dorothy Raymond, George Shayer, Edwin Arnold, John W. Aheey, Terrell Kennedy, Roger Alder, Maxwell Silverburn, Robert Milford, and Posner's Temple Choir and the "Jazz Singer" chorus. Albert Lewis staged the production. Both matinees, Wednesday and Saturday, are played at popular prices.

"HOWDY KING" COMING TO SHUBERT DETROIT

At the Shubert Detroit Opera House, Sunday, January 22, for an engagement of one week, with a matinee on Wednesday and Saturday, Anno Nichols will present Minor Watson in "Howdy King," with Anne Forrest and Frank Otto; an American comedy with a little romance, by Mark Swain. The play is in three acts; it is elaborately mounted and is staged by Clifton B. Kopp. Minor Watson is well known to Detroit theatregoers as an actor of unusual talent with an irresistible personality. Minor Watson gained a host of friends in Detroit while a member of the Jessie Bonstelle Stock Company, playing the leading roles at the Garrick Theatre and at His Excellency's playhouse. Among these offerings with which he scored personal triumphs were "The Carolinian" with Sydney Blackmer, "Love In A Mist" and "Andrew Takes A Wife" with Midge Kennedy and in "Silence."

In "Howdy King" he is cast as a rollicking, care-free cowboy who has been called to the throne of a mythical kingdom in a far-away spot in Europe. The "call" goes unheeded until he learns that the girl of his dreams is visiting that particular place, then he accepts the "King Job." His elevation to such a lofty position has its drawbacks, which leads the young adventurer into many complicated situations which is the cause of hilarious delight.

When no address is indicated the letters are divided into two groups, "worthless" and "valuable." Worthless letters include all ordinary communications, circulars and other printed matter not accompanied by enclosures. These are destroyed. Valuable letters are those containing checks or money-orders, cash receipts, photographs, merchandise, tickets and the like. These are put into corresponding compartments where they are kept in the hope of ultimate delivery. The postoffice finds daily more than \$100 enclosed in dead letters.

THREE CENT GAS TAX RATES PROPOSED

A three cent gas tax and a reduced scale of automobile license rates are proposed in two companion bills introduced in the House by Rep. Fred R. Ming, veteran member from Cheboygan. The appearance of these measures indicates that the ever-puzzling problem of highway finance will be an issue in the 1927 session of the Legislature.

Rep. Ming proposes to win the favor of Mr. Average Motorist by the additional cent gas tax by cutting the weight tax on passenger cars from 55 to 45 cents per hundred pounds and on trucks weighing less than 2,500 from 65 to 55 cents per hundred pounds.

While for passenger cars and light trucks the new schedule of license rates would thus be lower than at present, Rep. Ming's bill would materially increase the weight tax on the heavier trucks and other commercial vehicles. The rate for commercial vehicles weighing from 2,500 to 4,000 pounds would be boosted from 80 to 90 cents, for 4,000 to 6,000 pound vehicles from \$1.00 to \$1.25 and for those the rate would be left at 50 cents, while on trailers weighing over 1,000 pounds the rate would be increased from \$1.00 to \$1.25.

Besides revising the weight tax rates, this second Wing bill would give the counties fifty per cent of the automobile license revenues, instead of a flat \$6,000, and present Rep. Ming estimates that this would increase the counties' portion to \$9,000,000, or \$3,000,000 more than they receive according to the present distribution. The added cent gas tax would bring in around \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000 so Rep. Ming contends that if the two bills were passed together the State would probably have about the same amount of money for highway purposes as is provided by the existing laws.

BEWARE OF DEAD LETTER OFFICE, IS WARNING

The mailing list, one of the most important dogs in the mailorder business, came in for a warning from the postoffice recently when Postmaster Kieley of New York called attention to the use of obsolete lists, which caused the non-delivery of quantities of incorrectly addressed matter.

"Beware the dead letter office!" the Postmaster said in his appeal, adding that in the fiscal year ending last June, 5,788,000 letters had found their way into that department. Of these, 40,000 contained checks and money-orders amounting to \$1,673,000; 125,000 contained postage stamps worth \$11,000 and 120,000 contained cash.

The postoffice offers to correct mailing lists, bringing them up to date, at the rate of 65 cents an hour. It is urged that this small outlay will result not only in lightening the burden of the post-office, but in benefiting mail-order houses by insuring wider distribution of the advertisements and avoiding the return of thousands of letters. Where the return address is not plainly indicated on the envelope, a charge of 3 cents is made for each letter returned. Last year 414,000 letters were returned.

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The mail trouble with a mailing list, it is explained, is not that the names are incompletely or incorrectly given, but that it is not revised to coincide with frequent changes of address. The postoffice receives an average of 2,100 removal notices daily, but many people who move fail to notify their branches. As a result of this 350,000 pieces of misdirected mail are handled daily, 80,000 of which lack a street address. In its efforts to complete delivery of mail daily with the correct address, the postoffice and other city directories, and finds the owners of 400 parcels daily.

The department has lately been conducting a nationwide campaign with a view to having mail plainly, completely and correctly addressed. Merchants and business organizations are asked to include in their letter and bill heads, as well as in other stationery—particularly order blanks, envelopes and circulars—their complete street address. The practice of directing mail to business buildings and apartment houses by name is discouraged, because they have grown too numerous and their names have in many cases been duplicated all over town.

In a recent appeal for definite addresses the postoffice department thus visualized the problem of delivering 5,000,000 letters a day:

"First, the letters have to be distributed to the fifty branch offices, but suppose you leave off the house number, and address your letter only to Broadway? Broadway is in twenty-one different postal districts, and it is only by the number that the clerk can determine for which it is intended. Fifth avenue is just as indefinite, for it is on twelve districts, and scores of other streets and avenues present like difficulties.

"Second, after the letters reach the stations, they must be separated again; this time to the carriers, and there are many routes on every station. Here, again, the house numbers are essential, for each carrier serves only certain numbers of certain streets, and in the absence of the number distribution is interrupted and delay results not only to the indefinitely addressed letter but also to those that are properly addressed.

"Some people do not think it amiss to merely direct their mail to business buildings and apartment houses by name, without further address. The letter has reached the carrier. Picture him standing in front of a skyscraper with the letter in his hand; no floor and no room number. Of course the regular carrier has committed the names of all the occupants to memory. That is his job. But suppose he is sick or on vacation, and then consider the task of the inexperienced substitute in finding the addressee in the big building?"

Seems That Husband Has Real Grievance

Although we have not heard of any American hostess imitating Mme. Parlays to the extent of having seals to dinner or frogs and pike to an after-theater supper, as we ventured to suggest, perhaps a new and distinctively French method of husband baiting will recommend itself more highly. The wife of a Paris lawyer has driven her husband nearly crazy by introducing a collection of animals into their quiet apartment. He complains that she has already surrounded herself with two dogs, a cat, a turtle, a guinea pig, several birds and a number of fishes. He had to use all his authority to prevent her from adding a hedgehog and a kangaroo bear to the collection.

She spends all her time embracing and talking to her animals as if they were human beings. Not only does this make a bad impression on visitors, but her husband also complains that the smell, not to put too fine a point upon it, is unendurable. He feels that she would do better to devote her time and energies to having children.—Living Age.

SOLVED



"My sweetie and I are in perfect accord." "I always thought you were stringing him along."

Biddy Paid for Trip

When Jim Burgess, conductor on a California railroad, made his usual stop at Jamestown, a Plymouth Rock hen got on, making herself at home in one of the coaches. Not wishing to disturb her, Burgess produced a box and induced Biddy to enter. Next morning on the return trip when the train stopped at Jamestown he let her off. As the train started again Burgess looked into the box and found a newly laid egg. Biddy had paid her fare.

Travelers Get Hungry

The magnitude of the business handled by the dining cars is exemplified in the report of foodstuffs used by a leading railroad system in 1925. During that period 2,485,000 pounds of meat and fowl, 497,000 pounds of fish, 1,598,000 pounds of white potatoes and 405,000 loaves of bread are among the list of items served.

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