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Editorial

LET'S MAKE OUR GIVING COUNT

The suggestion for the establishment of a permanent welfare group in Farmington has come about through the odd circumstance of a surplus in the "Good-fellow Fund," but it is nevertheless one that should be acted upon at once and carried forward with energy. If well developed and administered, the work might prove of very great benefit and credit to the community.

There is need for organization of charitable work, not only for the benefit of those requiring aid, but to an equal degree for those who are called upon to aid. As Rev. Elmer Palmer pointed out to the Farmington Exchange Club, charitable organizations from out of town come into Farmington and freely solicit the business-men—at least—and it is impossible to discern between the worthy and the unworthy. No one likes to refuse a worthy cause yet it is recognized that charity's greatest problem everywhere is to stop the flow of alms to the unscrupulous and undeserving alms-seekers.

A concrete example was cited by Rev. Palmer, who told of a group canvassing the business-section of Farmington just two days before the Farmington Goodfellow Fund committee went out last month. The out-of-town group went away with \$100 of Farmington's money, Rev. Palmer said, and certainly this diminished, to some degree at least, the contributions to the home movement. The Detroit organization may have been a worthy one—but it may also very well have been an unworthy one—certainly enough of the latter exist in any city of a million and a half people. It is not selfishness on the part of Farmington and other suburbs to inform Detroit that they should look to Detroit for aid. We do not ask Detroit to assist our needy.

A permanent welfare group then, would not only result in Farmington getting the utmost good from what Farmington contributes for Farmington's distressed, but it ought also, through investigation and familiarity with the families for whom assistance is proposed to check what is everywhere recognized as the great difficulty charity organizations meet everywhere, the haphazard, hit-and-miss giving of small amounts here and there to practically everyone who makes an appeal. Farmington can, in a modest way, follow the practice of charitable organizations in large cities, by placing all the work, but it might be of value in which passes on each case and each request for help.

Not only would a work of this kind make immensely more effective the community's charity work, but it might of value in other ways. From the standpoint of co-operation between various groups, Farmington can realize a considerable advantage, as nearly every small community can. The more organizations there are working together harmoniously on worth-while things, the greater will be the development of a true community spirit of co-operation.

As a practical matter, it might be said that charitable work in a community like this should be left in the hands of City and Township officials. There are difficulties, however, such as appeared in one township case, in which it is reported, a single instance of assistance to a newly-arrived family would have rendered the township responsible for the family for a whole year. Undoubtedly, too, both City and Township officials would welcome the friendly co-operation of a permanent, well-organized and intelligent welfare group.

WHY NOT JULY?

With the New Year has come again, this time with increased force, the suggestion that some effort be made to reduce the great volume of extra expenses which fall upon citizens, and particularly taxpayers, in the months of December and January. It is pointed out anew, that numerous small and large, are concentrated within a few weeks, and put a strain upon pocketbooks of almost all degrees of thickness. Since Christmas is fixed, the agitation is directed at a change in two factors particularly, taxes and automobile licenses. And as those who speak for change appear to realize that small changes are more easily achieved than big ones, the greatest emphasis is being laid upon the possibility of changing the date when automobile licenses should expire, July 1st.

Not only from the standpoint of relieving the family budget in December, but in other ways, the idea is a sensible one. One aspect that perhaps has not been noted is that a large proportion, if not the big majority, of new cars are purchased between January 1 and July 1. Changing the expiration time to the latter date would save thousands the payment of a full fee for only a portion of the year's licensing. This would seem, too to offer an opportunity for the State to cut down, over a period of years, on the immense amount of clerical work in the issuing of licenses, since fewer licenses would be required for the same number of cars recorded.

The proposal is a practical and probably the only thing that is likely to stand in its way is custom, which, just as probably, will be strong enough to block it for some time to come. But theoretically, at least, it has a lot of intelligent argument in its favor. And besides, the "late fellows" undoubtedly would much less dislike standing in line in summer's sun than in December's cold.

PRIZES FOR THE YOUTHFUL

Aviation enthusiasts have given a prize to the first youth under 18 to fly across the continent. How about something along that line in Farmington? Prizes ought to be given all these many boys and girls, children under 16, who pilot automobiles on the highways in and about Farmington, when they can hardly see over the steering-wheels.

The prizes ought to be revocation of their parents' licenses.

OAKLAND COUNTY PINIONS

Oakland County's board of supervisors are not afraid to let the home folks know how they vote on every question. And the home folks are watching.

When you hear somebody accusing a public official of something, it's a good plan to reflect a little on the record of the accused.

Pontiac is a rapidly growing city. It now has about 25 per cent of the assessed valuation of our county.

When you pay your dog tax take Fido along and let him growl for himself.

A free circulation newspaper is usually worth about that much or less.

Picked Up At Random

By Contributor

Optimism

Optimism seems to be the keynote of the New Year. In every branch of industry there is an air of confidence that is reassuring. Bankers, brokers, manufacturers and merchants are unanimous in the opinion that 1929 is to be big in prosperity, and are planning accordingly.

A feeling of cock-sureness has extended to the spenders. Anticipating a fat year purse strings were loosed on New Year's Eve and an unbridled prodigality indulged in that set a record. At tables in Detroit's fashionable cabarets and hotels where "The Glooms" sat a year ago and quietly slipped ginger ale at 75 cents a pint, "The Joys" made the welkin ring Monday night and willingly paid \$1.50 a pint for sparkling fizz, with or without.

The real estate brokers, who have been in the doldrums for many months, are cheered by glad tidings of the New Year. They see in the near future a boom in the real estate market, and are smiling as of yore.

Those with lands and goods to sell are becoming amiable philosophers of optimism, which is giving their facial wrinkles an upward curve.

May the whole year be as good as it looks at the outset.

When And Then

When the courts put a foot down so hard on the necks of our criminal lawyers that they will find difficulty in breathing a prayer for relief of criminals.

When judges base decisions on common sense instead of archaic rules and precedents that might have been practical under conditions a hundred years ago.

When a whipping post looms ominously before the eyes of gun-toters, pick pockets and petty thieves.

When judges refuse to grant indefinite leave of absence from prison to convicted persons on appeal to supreme court.

When the boot is on the other leg and the criminal lawyer becomes the joke and the judge the joker.

When judges hand out to evildoers stiff sentences that are made to stick, instead of campaign cards with a smile.

When "pardon brokers," camouflaged as "attorneys" find a chilly reception by the office of the commissioner of pardons and paroles.

Then will come an appreciable subsidence in the crime wave now rolling over the country.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

The letter of Mr. Ham in your issue of December 27 regarding paving and haying, interested me greatly. If there is any person deserving of a harp and a place in the angelic chorus, it is the editor of a paper.

I am not informed as to whether Mr. Ham is the possessor of a harp or not, but he is it is sadly out of tune and needs rest. He says Oakland avenue has not a decent surface of gravel. What has become of all the gravel that has been drawn upon that highway? He ought to know if he has resided there any length of time. It has sank into the soft mud and disappeared. Because of the amount of traffic there it will continue to do so, and it is a waste of money to try and make a substantial and durable road that way. It is blinding, choking dust in the summer and mud and deep in the fall and spring. Mr. Ham, I am told, has lots that he would like to sell. How can he expect to sell them, when the street upon which they are located is a quagmire a considerable part of the time. If Oakland road could be paved, the value of his lots would increase at least 50 per cent and there would be a market for them. From a financial standpoint he is standing in his own light every hour that he opposes paving. If he thinks this a strong statement let him inquire of real estate men at Northville, Plymouth and other towns that have paved streets and see what their experience has been in selling property before and after paving a street. As far as the paving tax is concerned it can be made payable in five annual installments. This makes it easy to pay and inflicts no hardship upon the property owner. We have had the Indian trail, the bridge path, the dirt road and the ox team. Is it not time that we have paved street for the automobile, the greatest force in our modern civilization?

—Observer.

The Great Preventive--

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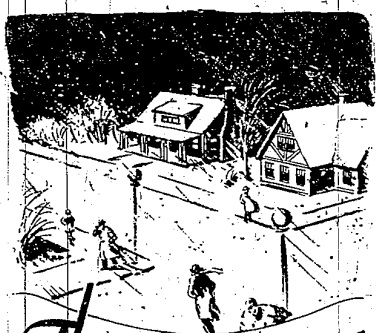
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