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Editorial

LET'S BE CAREFUL

Not to be embraced without a good deal of careful consideration is the reported proposal for annexation of five Oakland County Townships, including Farmington, to Wayne County. The people of every one of the five townships can well afford to take plenty of time before making up their minds as to how they would vote, should the proposition be placed before them.

It would not be well to be too easily intrigued by the promise of lower taxes. In the first place, it must be remembered that there are two factors in taxes, valuations and the rate. And while Wayne County rates may be lower, some property-owners at least, who have land in both counties, say that Wayne valuations are much higher than Oakland assessments for similar properties, enough to offset a considerably lower rate.

Practical people will bear in mind, too, the fact that when improvements are made in this section, by either Oakland or Wayne County, this section is going to pay for them. It is folly to believe that Wayne County has any intention of absorbing a large territory and then proceeding to install millions of dollars in improvements, to be paid for by the remainder of Wayne County. No one, certainly not Wayne County, is going to give us "something for nothing," the thing that many seek, but never find.

Farmington, in particular, has had, and is still having a very pertinent lesson in the matter of making important changes in governmental status without adequate study. The monumental step of transferring five Townships from one county to another is of such far-reaching significance that those who make up their minds either way without going into the question very thoroughly, may easily mislead themselves and others. Surely, unless there is to be very great advantage, beyond doubt, it would not be profitable to go through the tremendous labor such a change would entail.

Whether the proposal goes through or not, we believe that the five Townships and the rest of the County, outside of Pontiac, have already benefitted greatly, merely from the newspaper reports of the proposition. For it is apparent that if the annexation should ever become a fact, the City of Pontiac would suffer most of all. And this bit of talk may serve to curb somewhat Pontiac's inclination to saddle upon the rest of the County a good share of the taxes which Pontiac should by right be paying.

HERE'S A POWERFUL SERMON, put about as briefly as anything we have read in a long time; it was stated by a certain bishop recently: "Many folks don't think. Oh, they think that they are thinking; but what they are really doing is re-arranging their prejudices. This means, of course, that they are merely arranging into new rotation the old belief—the shuffling of a deck of cards, all of which have non-removable spots upon them, with no plain ones for new designs—only an extra joker."—Birmingham Ecceptic.

THE LIBRARY ACQUIRES STANDING

Recognition by the Farmington City Commission of the desirability of a regular annual appropriation for the Library, based on the property valuations, marks the beginning of a new period in the history of the Library. From now on, if the vote of the present Commission is followed as a precedent, the Library takes the final step from the "pass the hat" stage to that of a recognized public work.

The women, and men, largely the former, who have worked so hard to keep the Library going for many years must view this development with a good deal of satisfaction. Everyone else who wants to see this community move forward in education and culture, and to whom education is more than merely attending school and studying specified lessons, will be thankful for the Commission's vote. And now that the city's governing body has shown its approval, the Township Board, which has always been ready to aid the Library, may be expected to adopt that part of the Library Committee's recommendation which is addressed to the Township.

These events mean much in the future development of the Library, but not more certainly than the thing which has kept it going thus far—the devotion of those to whom the Library has been a labor of love. Not the least of these is the Librarian, Miss Mary Kennedy. When the Library Committee took up the matter of raising her salary from the recent \$45 per quarter, Miss Kennedy said, "Don't mind about that now, we need the money for the books first."

Few will quarrel with the Committee's opinion that the Librarian should receive five dollars per day each day she keeps the Library open, \$260 per year. And certainly none will deny that most of the credit for keeping the Library open when funds were low, patching the books to make them usable by more borrowers, stretching every penny to its farthest possibilities, should go to Miss Mary Kennedy.

GEORGE WELSH, IN HIS Grand Rapids Weekly Chronicle last week labelled a story "What guides her when she takes a partner for life?" To which we answer: that's what she spends the remainder of her life, trying to find out.—Birmingham Ecceptic.

SOME THAT MIGHT BE ADDED

"Boys and girls of today," the ever-interesting James Schermerhorn, America's prince of toastmasters, told weekly newspaper editors of Michigan at their recent annual meeting: "Get their alphabet from the radio, their arithmetic from the telephone dials, their geography from the rumble seat, and they study physiology from their mother's knee."

Mr. Schermerhorn might have added a few more studies to the curriculum for instance, that the boys and girls of 1929 get their history from motion picture "spectacles," their language from the comic strips, and their literature from the pages of "I Confess."

Random Hits

By Contributor

Ponder Before Plunging

A movement has been set on foot by Detroit parties to detach the lower tier of five townships of Oakland County and attach them to Wayne County. Whether the advantage of such a change would be wholly that of Detroit and Wayne County, or shared to some extent by the Townships of Lyon, Novi, Farmington, Southfield and Royal Oak, the territory most vitally affected, is purely speculative. Future events will determine the folly or wisdom of the change.

There is no question but that

Oakland County would suffer by the loss of five of its principal townships in which real estate value per acre is considerably higher than the average value per acre in the remaining twenty townships. Notwithstanding the fact that Oakland County would be adversely affected by the change, it appears that the County as a whole has no voice in the deal, necessity and advisability being questions for determination by the Legislature.

It is claimed that there is a strong sentiment favoring the move in each of the five Townships coveted by Wayne. This sentiment is almost entirely due to the fact that taxes are lower in Wayne than in Oakland County. This is no doubt true at present, but there is no certainty that taxes will always remain lower across the line. There are several contingencies which might arise in the near future that would tend to boost Wayne taxes as high or higher than the present Oakland County rate.

For some time the question of having Detroit make an independent county has been agitated and there is a strong sentiment favoring it in that city. This move is more than probable in the near future, when sufficient territory has been carved out of surrounding townships to satisfy Detroit's expansion needs. When this is done what will become of low county taxes in Wayne, with the townships called upon to defray county expenses?

With Detroit's assessed valuation running into billions, the elimination from the Wayne County tax roll there is no possibility of a lower tax rate there than in Oakland County. A union with Wayne would not affect state, school, city, township or village taxes as the costs of maintaining the separate divisions would remain the same with no increase in taxable valuation.

Talk of lower taxes certainly sounds good to tax-payers in this section. Any proposition promising an easing up on the strain, no matter how chimerical, is sure to find a listening ear and some adherents, but the cautious will carefully investigate each phase of situation before committing themselves. That which appears obvious is sometimes deceptive. The light ahead may prove to be a will-o-the-wisp.

Ponder before plunging.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I noticed in last week's issue of the Enterprise that there was some talk of the south tier of townships of Oakland County being annexed to Wayne County, which I think is a long step in the right direction. Why? First, because our interests are mutual, that is, if Detroit grows and expands that helps Farmington. Pontiac could grow three, four, five or six times as large as it is and not effect Farmington materially, while if Detroit grows three times (in fact her next breath will affect us), it cannot help but help us, situated as we are on one of the main arteries. Secondly, without a doubt it would lower our taxes. If you don't believe it look into it. (It is like B. S. paint, it will bear looking into). A man that owns a house and lot in Oakland County and one in Wayne County gave me the prices per thousand of his taxes which is given below. Draw your own conclusions.

Oakland State taxes, \$3.25 per thousand, Wayne, \$2.82; Oakland County taxes, \$6.22, Wayne County, \$1.74.

—A Citizen.

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