

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## Editorials

### On the Other Foot

For years the people of Oakland County outside of Pontiac have sat more or less quietly by while the taxpayers of that city have enjoyed low assessments, to be made up by the remainder of the County. Pontiac's proud boast of sensational growth in population, in industries, in wealth, described as among the most phenomenal in the entire country, has been spread everywhere—except upon the assessment rolls.

Now at last the representatives of outlying districts have united and this week have voted an equalization for Pontiac that brings that city in proportion with other parts of the County. And Pontiac, despite its long enjoyment of low valuation, or perhaps because of it, has sent up a mighty howl. One hundred and thirty millions is outrageous, say the representatives of the County seat.

And so Mr. Ely, who is both a Pontiac assessor and leader of Pontiac's supervisors, offered a substitute report, in which his city's valuation is set at about one hundred millions. But whether Mr. Ely realizes it or not, his own proposal is a tacit admission of what neither he nor other Pontiac supervisors have wanted to admit—that the valuations set on Pontiac property in past years have been far below what they should have been. The fact that he himself increased Pontiac's assessments from seventy-five to a hundred millions proves this. It would seem to indicate also that the astute Mr. Ely, knowing that nothing like the seventy-five millions would get by again this year, raised the figures to one hundred, possibly hoping to avoid a still higher total, on the theory that "half a loaf is better than none."

Fortunately, however, the Supervisors declined to be stampeded into accepting Pontiac's proposals. And one might expect that men of experience in politics would, when "the worm turns," as it always does sooner or later, accept the condition with a show of good sportsmanship.

Not that there is anything wrong with the promised protest to the state tax commission. Pontiac has a perfect right to protest. But possibly that city's representatives may have some difficulty in showing state officials that Farmington Township for instance, has one-tenth the property values of Pontiac, or eight millions in comparison with one hundred for Pontiac. Viewed in this light, even 130 seems none too high—surely, Pontiac's real estate is worth more than 16 times that of Farmington Township.

There is no reason, however, for any feeling against Pontiac supervisors. They have pursued the old, time-honored practice in politics of getting the very most they can for their constituents. They are, perhaps, to be congratulated on their success. But they will not, certainly, protest if others suggest that the whole situation is aptly described by a saying that is as old as their tactics that now "the shoe is on the

other foot." It pinches Pontiac, perhaps, and causes a bit of discomfort. But it fits, and Pontiac should wear it.

### Proven Capability

The electors of Farmington Farmington School District No. 5 have done well to re-elect Lloyd S. Gullen as member of the Board of Education, this time for a full term. In the year that Mr. Gullen has been on the Board, he has proved a very capable, progressive member. His former experience as a superintendent of schools, has been valuable throughout. In addition, Mr. Gullen has often taken the initiative in actions of the Board, expediting the work and leading the way to advances in school administration.

### A Quiet Fourth

Boys and girls may have missed the sound of exploding firecrackers last Thursday, but to most adult residents of Michigan the quiet Fourth of July was probably a matter of considerable satisfaction. While it must be admitted that drownings, motor accidents and other occurrences were sufficient to make up for any elimination of casualties due to absence of fireworks, the number of children who were saved from being burned or maimed can hardly be even guessed at.

In a few years, we predict, not even the children will mourn the loss of firecrackers. A new generation will be growing up which has not known this means of celebrating Independence Day. And what they have not known they will not miss.

Firecrackers will, not long hence, be as completely forgotten as the patriotic orations that used to be regarded as an indispensable part of Fourth of July celebration. But those who do remember them will probably recall them with more affection.

### "In The Good Old Days"

There is a good deal of talk about youth having "gone to the days" in this year of 1929, but probably not as many people believe it as the volume of discussion might indicate. It is, however, a fair question as to whether the youth of today appears to have gone ahead of his predecessors, who are not his parents.

Much interest has been manifested in the picture and story of the Young Peoples Literary Union of Farmington, published in last week's issue of the Enterprise. And certainly what we hear of the accomplishments of that organization of the last years of the preceding century speaks volumes for the old as against the new. The accounts do not criticize modern youth except to indicate that the young people of 30 to 40 years ago were interested in things more substantial.

What is there in the life of Farmington youth of today to compare with the Young Peoples Literary Union? Nothing that we know of. No organization

unites the interest of a large number of young folk in things worth while. The Farmington Players has thus far attracted but a comparatively small number as active participants in the work, commendable as it is. Not only are the young people of today missing the valuable cultural advantages and training derived from such interests as the Literary Union provided, but it is easy to believe that they are also missing a lot of fun. What good times the Union must have had—the reminiscences of members, who recall their meetings and outings with a great deal of zest, attest to that.

Maybe if the Literary Union would have a grand re-union, and the members would "brush up" on their work, they might make the young people of today envious to start on themselves.

### A GOOD THING TODAY

The Irish are rather a contentious people. Yet at one time they had a custom which should have been perpetuated and adopted by all other nations.

If Irishmen did not agree and one thought of bringing suit against another, he went to the home of the man whom he was about to sue. He placed himself upon the door step and there he stayed from early morning until the sun had set. After this day of fasting and prayer he returned home.

The purpose was a double one. Such a step was to bring to the plaintiff the full seriousness of his actions. It also made the other party to the action contemplative of a friendly settlement.

We are not seating ourselves before the hearthstone of those with whom we contemplate legal action but the people of the United States have a different attitude towards litigation than they once had. The public is beginning to realize that most litigation is useless, a loss to winner or loser. While the courts are still too busy, yet the number of disputes which they adjust is very small in proportion to the transaction of business—Grand Rapids (Minn.) Herald-Review.

### WEST FARMINGTON Mrs. Irvin Knapp PHONE 4074

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Green entertained Mrs. C. A. Knapp and daughter Dorothy of Yankton, S. D., and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Halsted and son Lee at dinner Tuesday evening.

Mrs. Grace Heliker entertained Mrs. Smith Green and children and Mrs. Charles Heliker and children at a birthday party in honor of her daughter, Charlotte's birthday anniversary.

The North Farmington Auxiliary will have their meeting and picnic dinner at Walled Lake, Dodge Park, Tuesday, July 16.

Miss Eyeline Bush met with what might have been a serious accident while driving on the 13-Mile road Friday evening. She turned out to meet a car and hit a loose rock, losing control of her car and going in the ditch, turning over twice. She was very fortunate and escaped with minor bruises. Her car is wrecked.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Knapp and son William and Mrs. Edith Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Heliker and sons Starr and Richard motored to Hartland to spend Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Giegler and family.

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Manistee—First street Beach community playground will be dedicated July 4.

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