

The Farmington Enterprise

Established 1883 by Edgar R. Blomster as "A Permanent Journal of Progress"

Published Thursday of each week and entered at the Post Office at Farmington, Oakland County, Mich., as second-class matter.

Editor and Publisher: Myron Levinson
Manager: C. J. Lohman



Member
Michigan Press
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National Editorial
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Farmington, Michigan, Thursday, September 12, 1929

Editorials

Attend Monday Night

If you want to know all about one of the very biggest and most important public works that will be undertaken in and around Farmington in the next ten or twenty years, be up at the meeting of the Farmington City Commission Monday night. At that time County Drain Commissioner Arthur Spencer and an associate are to be present and outline in detail the plans for construction, the advantages, and the cost of the Farmington Drain.

Particularly if you are a property-owner you will be interested. The drain will have a most important effect on the value of your property in the near future. The matter of taxation will also be taken up, and the approximate amount the sewerage system will cost, per thousand dollars of valuation, will undoubtedly be determined, and stated.

Even if you do not own property, if you rent the house or place of business you occupy, you have an interest in Farmington's future. And this Drain project is closely bound up with that future.

Every resident of the area which this Drain will serve (and it includes land in the Township as well as in the City), has a duty as well as an interest in being present next Monday evening. A good crowd there will indicate that Farmington is ready to help build the development of which those steam-shovels working down on Grand River seem to be the welcome heralds.

The Flower Show

By the time these lines are read, Farmington's community Flower Show in the Methodist Community Hall will be over. Prizes will have been awarded, ribbons pinned to the winning exhibits, and the proud growers rewarded for their work.

It cannot, of course, be said in advance that the show has been a great success. But regardless of the outcome of this year's show, those who have sponsored it should look forward to another one next year, if any interest at all is displayed. Unfortunately, it was impossible this year to give as much advance publicity as would have been desirable, and thus the entries and the attendance might be below the highest possibilities for this community.

However, the success of flower shows in other places, and the certain enthusiasm of at least a small group of men and women, ought to give those in charge good reason to plan for another year. With a full year in which flower-lovers and growers might plan their exhibits, and more time to arouse interest among the general public, there should be a Farmington flower show next September, and a much better one than the exhibit just held.

Charity Starts A 'Battle'

When a tramp dropped off a freight train in Birmingham recently and successfully solicited

a "handout" from a Birmingham housewife, he started something. Now Publisher George R. Averill of the Birmingham Eclectic and Editor Frank Bryce of the Grand Ledge Independent have become engaged in a debate on the advisability and possible consequences of such generosity as the Birmingham lady displayed.

It started when Publisher Averill wrote musically a few lines praising the lady's charitable act. Editor Bryce promptly offered the following comment from a distinctly practical viewpoint:

"Yes, and it is a wonder that the old man didn't show his gratitude by then going in, knocking down the old lady, assaulting her, cutting her rings off her hands, rummaging anything that looked like valuables, and a few more such acts of appreciation. Every city is provided with legal means of giving aid to anyone who is stranded. It is better and safer if the kindly housewives have nothing to do with these seekers of aid, and direct them to the civic headquarters for such help!"

To the Grand Ledge editor Mr. Averill offered reply, suggesting that Mr. Bryce read the Bible, Psalms, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, which give assurance of protection from evil, that no harm will come, and that "a thousand will fall by thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee." Mr. Bryce's reply to this, if any, has not yet come to us.

But neither of these editors, we think, mean all what they say or would be willing to go "sled length" with their written opinions. Mr. Bryce, or Mrs. Bryce, has probably helped many a down-and-out man, and probably will assist many more. But on the other hand, we don't believe either that Mr. Averill would feel very great peace of mind if, sitting in his editorial chair up-town, he had the knowledge that Mrs. Averill would be opening the door to the knock of every tramp who came along, risking, it cannot be denied, just the sort of treatment Editor Bryce describes.

The peculiar aspect of the debate is that Mr. Averill lives and edits in the thickly-settled metropolitan area near Detroit, where the tramps are many, and the desperate men very desperate indeed—whereas it is Mr. Bryce, who lives farther from the scenes of many violences, yet who warns against them.

What then, the course? To open the door and dispense charity—or not to open it and be sure of safety? Since there are always dozens of little things to be done around printing-plants, might not both Mr. Averill and Mr. Bryce have their shoes run off a hundred cards, which their wives might slip under their respective kitchen doors, when tramps knock, informing them that no "handouts" are dispensed, but that an hour's work which would earn a substantial meal, is always available at the local newspaper office.

How many would grasp the opportunity? In other words, how many would work for a meal and

many would work just "want" it free and keep on soliciting until they got it?

The answer you make depends on the experiences you have had in giving, and the issue will be debatable as long as there are some people stricken by misfortune, and others who are not unfortunate, but lazy and vicious.

DO YOU KNOW..

That when travelling at 40 miles per hour you can't stop under 50 feet?

That the average highway is about 30 feet?

That you must stop before crossing a main trunk line highway?

That you must drive so as to be able to stop "within the assured clear distance ahead?"

That you must move over as far as practicable when the car behind sounds his horn?

That your safety as well as the safety of your hand way out beyond the side of your car before you start to turn or stop?

That when intending to make a right hand turn you should move over to the right side of the road—then signal so the man behind can slow down and drive around you instead of into you?

That when an automobile goes through the business portion of your home town at 40 to 50 miles per hour, that your home paper would not print what you say under your breath, and the same rule applies when you do so in the other fellow's town—but you are both right even though the paper will not print it. (A few special words for the occasion will be supplied on personal request.)

That all of the imbeciles, fools, and drunks have not been killed in traffic accidents for they as a rule are lucky, and you may meet one coming over the hill or around that curve—slow down—keep way over to the right, don't cross the yellow line, for their luck may hold but you may go to the hospital or the morgue—that is where 297 of your friends in this state went the first four months of this year.—Detroit Auto Club.

"IF YOU HAD LET THEM ALONE"

"If you had let our company alone, our president, Mr. Promise, says he would have made money for us stockholders. He told us that the Bureau and the 'big moneyed interests' were after him, because he wanted our company to make money for the common people."

Not infrequently the victims of a dubious promotion are the last to co-operate in bringing its perpetrators to justice. Fired by propaganda put out by Mr. Promise to save his own skin, and divert attention from his misdeeds, defrauded stockholders complain of "interference" by the Bureau and public authorities.

Stockholders believed the rosy picture which Mr. Promise painted, and they are later loath to abandon their dreams of wealth overnight.

It is true that when such schemes are stopped, the stockholders lose all, but this would have happened anyway. They never had a chance from the very beginning.

Public authorities must consider the damage which would be done to scores of others whom Mr. Promise would, by continuing his game, also entice into trusting him with their money.

Dollars lost can seldom be recovered, but an expose of facts and a warning to prospective stockholders may save a wreck from becoming a ruin.—Better Business Bureau.

Eleven beef cattle shown by Michigan State College at the State Fair won nine first prizes and two championships.

News items are welcome by us and by readers.

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