

The Farmington Enterprise

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Editorials

A Good Investment

Farmington's Fire Department again brought honor to itself and the community Sunday morning when by quick response and efficient work it saved the Catholic Church and perhaps the parish house also. As the Bemidji, Minn. Sentinel says in an editorial reprinted on this page, the burning of a building is not balanced by the circumstance that it may be insured. It entails an economic waste, and often more distressing, the loss of many things which cannot be replaced by insurance money.

This fire, as well as others before it, has proven that the City's purchase of the new truck, with the encouragement it gave the volunteers, has been as good an investment as could be made.

Tie Red Tape Here

At last, a use for "red tape." That heretofore perfectly useless article might now be utilized by officials for one good purpose at least.

For instance, it might be the most effective method of stopping the practice of State police "escorting" automobile parties at high speeds along our main highways, without regard for traffic signals or people who trust in the protection of these signals.

It is easy to see how refusing all these "good fellows" verbally might be a difficult job for State officials. They have so many "friends."

But with red tape coming to the rescue, things might be very much simplified for the officials, and at the same time so complicated for the "boys" who "fix it," that the latter would give up in disgust.

Suppose, for instance, regulations were made something like this: Before any State police officer could be detailed to escort any party, it would be necessary to apply for such a favor one month in advance to the State police head, stating the exact route "the party" will take. A representative of the "party" must appear in person before the governing body of each community through which the party is to pass, stating the day and hour and proposed speed, and each body's sanction, evidenced in writing, must be obtained. If and when the approval of every community is received, the State police head may issue a permit to be countersigned by the Governor and Secretary of State. Each application for such a permit is to be accompanied by a fee of at least ten dollars, half of which would be returned if the "permit" is not granted.

This might stop the "good fellows." Faced with the necessity of going through a long "rigamarole" in order to obtain a privilege which isn't worth a whole lot after all, the "boys" would undoubtedly be willing to give up this little thrill on their "glad day." And they might thereby save some family living on or near a main highway a very sad day.

"Dead Dollars"

What happens when fire destroys a building? Too often men see only the obvious thing and say the owner has lost his insurance settlement, or that he is "out of luck" because he carried insufficient or no insurance.

But those who delve below the surface will see what actually takes place. They will appreciate that the materials in the structure are destroyed for all time and that the dollars represented in the value of the building die. They will realize that this represents an economic loss to the nation and when they are told that the total material destroyed by fire annually is valued at almost a half-billion dollars, they will appreciate that this cannot go on indefinitely without hampering American prosperity.

Those who look with discerning eyes will see even more than this. They will recognize the economic waste of time lost and of unemployment, if the building was used for industrial purposes. They will see, too, the loss to associated and dependent industries.

From the more personal side, they will realize that the tax revenue from the building is lost and must be distributed among other citizens. Likewise they will see that the cost of the fire must be included in the insurance charge to all policyholders.

In other words, the dollars that die when fire destroys property are actually taken from the pocketbook of every citizen in the community. — Bemidji (Minn.) Sentinel.

A Statesman Dies

Germany loses a great leader through the death of Dr. Gustav Stresemann, Secretary of Foreign Affairs for the German Republic. Dr. Stresemann's eloquence and power was considerably greater than that usually wielded by a cabinet member for he is generally credited with being the mainstay and controlling factor in the Mueller administration. The world at large, likewise, owes Dr. Stresemann a debt of gratitude for the pacific and conciliatory channels into which he directed German foreign policy. Dr. Stresemann has been foremost in promoting friendliness among the former hostile nations and in 1926 his efforts were recognized when the Nobel peace prize was divided between him and two other European statesmen.—Exchange.

Health, Good and Bad

The capacity of the human body to endure abuse and ill treatment is astounding. It far surpasses in this respect a metal machine. Automobile engines, run without proper lubrication, are soon reduced to uselessness. The human body, tortured though it may be by the indignities heaped upon it by such as our marathon dancers, flag pole sitters, and solo airplane fliers, returns to apparent normality with the help of a day or two of rest.

Fortunate as this ability of the body to meet and overcome mistreatment may be, it is a quality that has its disadvantages. A very prevalent tendency among people today, which exists solely because of the wonderful recuperative powers of the body, is to "go the limit" to push the accelerator of life down to the floor and to keep it there. We see a school young man playing a strenuous sport for long periods and marvel at his endurance. We see a young girl working days, dancing nights, sleeping a few hours in between, and marvel again. We see the mother of four who cares for her brood and at the same time indulges in church and club work to the limit of her free hours, and wonder that she can keep going.

What we so often do not see, beneath the surface appearance of good health and high vitality,

is a weakened physique that may be fast heading toward breakdown. The ability of the body to cover up the traces of too strenuous living is in reality just another style of camouflage, that art which was developed to such a fine point in the world war. A parallel to the trick of the ship builder who, by means of painted lines, gave a ship the appearance of travelling at a different speed or in a different direction from that it actually was pursuing, is found in nature's trick of concealing the direction in which health is taking. Appearance may indicate perfect health. Actually, conditions may be just the reverse.

Regular and reasonable habits of sleeping, eating and working are advocated by the Michigan Tuberculosis Association as the first and most important preventive against tuberculosis, the disease that typifies the fate of many who live as if health could never be lost. Possibly an Edison can counter to the laws of health sleeping but four hours a night and laboring without rest much of the remaining time but Edison's equals in this respect are probably as few as his in inventive ability. For the most of us, the safest course to pursue is one that protects rather than weakens, builds up rather than tears down the bodily structure. Sane living always pays.

A Question For Youth

Modern industry has brought many gifts to mankind. It has, without doubt, raised the standard of living and seems about to guarantee leisure time to all. The question arises, "What will man do with leisure time?" Before men and women acquire their full growth and power they must answer this question.

Young people might as well do a little thinking on the subject now. They may have the leisure.—Exchange.

Nearby and Yonder....
by T. T. MAXEY

"God's Acre" Forlorn
DOWN on the lower East side of New York city, almost within the shadow of Brooklyn bridge on New Bowery street, to be exact, behind a tall iron fence, a tablet carrying the following announcement unexpectedly attracts the attention of the passer-by: "This tablet marks what remains of the first Jewish cemetery in the United States, consecrated in the year 1656, when it was described as 'Outside the city.' During the War of the Revolution it was fortified by the patriots as one of the defenses of the city."

History records that this resting place of the departed was in high esteem for many years, many who were prominent in their day having been tenderly interred therein, but as the encroachments of the commercial activities of the living practically pushed the dead out of their own, many of the bodies were removed to a larger place than far beyond the city confines where supposedly they would remain undisturbed forever. But, as America grew and New York city expanded, this once beautiful place also had to give way to the march of progress.

All that is left of the original cemetery is a small plot of ground, containing probably one hundred tombs of unknown date. The inscriptions have been worn by time to a state of illegibility, the actions of the elements have badly disintegrated the stones and caused the vaults to crumble in decay. The rear windows of surrounding apartment houses frown upon this hallowed spot and an oil station adjoins to the south. A more forlorn sight would be difficult of imagination. (St. Louis Western Newspaper Union.)

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