

The Farmington Enterprise

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Editorials

Aesop—And the Town Hall

Among Aesop's fables is one that tells of a lion and a wild boar. The two met at a well, arriving at about the same time. At once they began to quarrel as to who should drink first and soon they were engaged in mortal combat. But they paused for a moment for breath, and an idea occurred to one of them. He addressed his antagonist, saying that he realized that if the two continued to struggle, one and perhaps both would perish, and so would have no use for the water. He pointed out that it would be better to agree that one should drink first and then the other, and thus each would have a drink and be able to continue on his way healthy and happy.

Farmington Township and City are not quite engaged in a mortal struggle over the Town Hall property, and yet it appears beyond question that each has much to lose in going to court to settle the problem. The many advantages that would result from obtaining passage of legislation which would permit the Township to use the hall, which were so earnestly and eloquently argued by Justice Ernest Blanchard at the meeting last Friday night, are every one true and important. Mr. Blanchard cited the central location of the present hall, saving of expense in court costs, avoidance of friction and unfriendly feeling between the Township and City—two parts of what is really one community.

The situation could hardly be described better than was done by Commissioner Amos Otis, when he said in regard to a court battle: "When it's all over, the lawyers have got the money and you've got the experience."

Surely it would seem "like old times" to see the people of the Township in town again, passing the time of day and "talking crops" on the corner on election day. The people of the City would be glad to see them there, and undoubtedly most of the folks in the Township would be glad to be there, too.

Either Way—A Commission

Quite a while ago those in the High Place—Washington—decided that the country wasn't dry enough. So our President appointed a commission to find out why it wasn't.

Now the country's too dry, and a commission is appointed to see about that.

All Eyes On The Governorship

Who is going to be elected governor? Thousands of voters throughout the State are asking each other this question, and they attach a great deal of interest, if not importance, to the answer.

What most people forget is that who will win the governorship is not at all the most important aspect of the election, although it attracts the most attention. There are other offices to be filled. For instance, little interest is shown in most districts in the selection of a representative, and yet it is of vastly more importance to the welfare of the State that the people of each legislative district in the State select to represent them at Lansing an able, intelligent, fearless citizen. It is true that under the State Administrative Board system, the governorship carries with it unusual power in Michigan, but the fact still remains that a governor can hardly reach great heights of success without help from the Legislature, nor can many governors be thoroughly bad while there is an active, alert Legislature looking out for the welfare of the people.

Yet the governorship race holds the spotlight, and probably always will, until the great numbers of the people come to know how their government really works.

It Isn't A Crime

Says a publicity story sent out from Osborn campaign headquarters: "George Higgins, chairman of the county Osborn committee, predicts Oakland will give Mr. Osborn a majority over his opponent, Senator James Couzens."

Well, you can't yet put a man in jail in this country for being optimistic.

Double Danger

Crossing the corner of Grand River and Farmington Road on foot has been a hazardous undertaking ever since the road was paved and traffic became heavy. Now, with hundreds of additional vehicles turning at the intersection every day, due to the closing of Grand River east of the corner, it is many times more dangerous than before.

Every pedestrian will have to use the utmost caution, even in crossing with the traffic lights. Eastbound vehicles especially are a source of danger as they turn right "on the green," and often at pretty high speed. Probably it will be necessary before the summer is over to undertake unusual measures to prevent accidents at the crossing.

Farmington has not had a traffic tragedy—nor do we want one now.

Business Suffers

Business men on Grand River east of Farmington Road face a considerable loss of business due to closing of the road. Perhaps it was not possible to keep the highway open throughout the construction period, but in the meantime, all possible speed should be used in getting the road open again.

What Other Newspapers Are Saying

This Political Game

(Birmingham Eclectic)
Between political fits, spasms, convulsions, and sometimes apoplectic strokes, the people of this country mind their own business, largely. For a few weeks prior to an election, however, they get "het up" as various and sundry politicians hold aloft flaming and smoking torches; most of the combustion that takes place is like a grass fire—sort of too close to the mud to more than singe the stalwart trees that grow in our citizen-forest.

One of these political catastrophes is right upon us in Michigan. Every county in our state is not only interested in its own affairs but is having its attention focused upon the larger stadium of state politics, and also national.

County offices will not go begging this year. Most of them have three or more candidates seeking to do their best in behalf of a long suffering public. The appalling suffering being made by many citizens in the realm of public service plus a business year somewhat depressed have brought out many otherwise peacefully inclined people as candidates. Of course the present primary system is partially to blame for this great array of political timber. But that will be ironed out, some day not long hence, with the introduction of some other form of election machinery. Until human nature inclines to more unselfishness, more willingness to make personal sacrifices for the public welfare, government will continue to function inefficiently and dishonestly; taxation more and more will become a legalized form of looting the public purse, and a capitalistic democracy will gradually march nearer to the brink of the chasm of social chaos.

They Agree On One Thing

(Clinton County Republican)
Senator James Couzens visited the Clinton County Fair held in St. Johns last week. Hon. William M. Smith, former head of the Michigan Public Utilities Commission and a St. Johns attorney, introduced Mr. Couzens. Mr. Smith emphasized Mr. Couzens' philanthropy, especially his fine act in rebuilding the school at Bath where 40 children were killed in the dynamite disaster. It was plain that Mr. Couzens did not approve or enjoy the introduction. When Mr. Couzens started to speak he said, "I regret very much that my private acts should be mentioned in introducing me as a candidate for public office. I do not approve of it. Furthermore, whatever I may do in the way of philanthropy does not qualify me in the least for the office I seek." We believe Mr. Couzens was perfectly sincere in what he said and, surely, he was truthful.

Both Mr. Couzens and Mr. Osborn were right in their statements that their private benefactions should have no bearing on their support for the office they seek. Yet you and I and they know that it will. In this respect, it seems that Mr. Couzens has a decided advantage. No industry in the world is so well advertised as the Ford concern. Couzens was a part of it. His wealth is so much greater than that of any other candidate, and his philanthropy so outstanding that it is foolish to even suggest that they will not influence people. Further, Mr. Couzens' gifts have been largely made for crippled children. That has a peculiar appeal of its own over gifts made to educational institutions, such as Mr. Osborn has made. It looks to us at this time that the Soo candidate is fighting an uphill battle against almost unsurmountable odds.

False Ideas Stick

(Ionia County News)
After an erroneous statement has been repeated often enough it is next to impossible to eradicate it from the popular mind.

For many years the question was asked why the addition of a fish to a pail of water would not add to the weight of the bucket and its contents. Several ingenious explanations were offered, but the real reason could not be agreed upon. Finally some inquisitive skeptic weighed a bucket of water and after adding a 5-pound fish weighed it again. It weighed just five pounds more than it did before adding the fish. The question, therefore, was shown to be based upon a false

assumption.

A similar situation is pointed out by the Christian Science Monitor in answer to the question of why the younger generation is so much inclined to crime. Thirteen cities reporting to the United States Children's Bureau showed that in nine of them juvenile delinquency decreased, while an increase was noted in only four.

Likewise, it is popularly supposed that crime in Chicago is more prevalent than ever before. Yet actual statistics show that crime since 1915 in that city has not increased in proportion to the increase in population.

So, as John Billings once said, "It's just as well not to know so much as to know so blamed much that ain't so."

The Mighty Sauerkraut

(Hudson Post-Gazette)
A good natured parody on the line of endorsements given to cigarettes, face powders, soaps, and other articles which are being propagandized by way of the radio and otherwise, is the following from an unknown writer:

"I was thin and run down; I had nervous spells, there were black spots in front of my eyes at times and my hair kept coming out and would not stay combed. I did not get enough sleep. My garters slipped down. Frequently, in rainy weather I could not find my umbrella. People stepped on my heels and my rubbers would come off. I felt dull after eating and frequently found it necessary to take a drink of water. Just before meals I often felt weak and famished. I hated to go to bed at night. I disliked to get up in the morning, especially during cold weather when the fire in the furnace happened to go out I hated to even split wood for the kitchen stove. I felt cross when my wife's mother came to visit us and sometimes in the morning the coffee tasted like dish water.

Then a friend suggested, "Why don't you eat more sauerkraut?" I had never thought of it, but I followed his advice.

Now I can shave with a broken bottle and rub my face down with cayenne pepper; My hair does not come out any more for the reason that the last of it disappeared before I commenced the sauerkraut treatment. My vision is clear and my breath is stronger and I seldom stop to open a gate—I just jump the fence. Now I am the first in bed at night and the last one up in the morning. For people who are run down at the heels as I was, I can cheerfully recommend sauerkraut."

The Four Seats

(Grand Rapids Press)
The census says that California is entitled to nine more seats in Congress, Michigan four, and it is quite probable that instead of passing a bill on the matter during the three months of the coming short session, Congress will simply leave reapportionment on the calendar and permit the new seating to take place by administrative edict as provided in the Jones-Vandenberg act.

If Michigan wishes it may start calculating how to divide up its congressional districts so that its four more representatives will come from the faster-growing sections of the state in the election of 1932. But nothing in the Constitution requires it to elect the four congressmen by districts—nor for that matter, the congressmen it already has. The principal need of any state is not so much small district representation as competent able men at Washington. It can elect these four men at large, and a suspicion is that the whole state will be better served by four men so elected, chosen from all Michigan as a field of selection and obliged to "sell" themselves, as legislators, to all Michigan, than by four chosen only from a narrow constituency.

If it happens to be Detroit which wants these seats, a fair question to ask is this: Which congressman of recent years have been of more use to Detroit in Washington—the rather sensational Detroit congressmen who have come and gone, or the steady, experienced outstate men like Representatives Mages and McLaughlin, who have built up a large personal influence by their character and years of seniority? If we are looking for quality in the four extra men who are to stand up for Michigan on Capitol Hill, we had better all get together in picking them, and set

no district barriers within the state against any good man who wants to run.

THE CITIZEN WHO HELPS HIS TOWN

(Trenton Times)
The attitude of many persons toward their home town apparently could be expressed in this way: "We came here because we found work or business here. We would as soon move somewhere else if we could make more money. We have no special interest in this town."

What's the value of that sort of citizen to his community? Oh, about like radishes—a dozen for a dime.

Another class of persons will say: "We stay here not merely because we earn our living here but because we have made friends whom we love and because we feel this town is a mighty good place to establish and maintain a home. It would take a big offer to pry us away from here."

What's the value of that sort of citizen to his community? Beyond calculation. These are the people who make a community. If one of them leaves the town, it has suffered a real loss—one mighty hard to overcome.

THE FOUR-HOUR DAY

It is predicted that before many years men and women will be having a four or five-hour work day.

That may result in a happier situation. In the meantime, young folks will do well to notice that life's real successes are coming to those who work a fourteen or fifteen-hour day.—Exchange.



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On Fridays after July 4, a special excursion is given to Cedar Point. Fare, \$1.75 round trip; children half-fare. A stay of three hours is permitted to enjoy the great bathing beach, boardwalk and the thousand-and-one attractions of this Lido of America. On other days a stay of one hour is allowed.

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Detroit, Michigan

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