

# The Farmington Enterprise

FORTY-SECOND YEAR—No. 50

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## Democrats Say County Condition Demands Change

### Increase in Salaries, County Expenses, Cited As Reasons For "New Deal"

The first Democratic mass meeting held in Farmington in a good many years took place Thursday evening in Farmington Town Hall. About 50 men and women were present, and heard practically the entire slate of County candidates.

Nathan H. Power opened the meeting on behalf of the visiting candidates, and introduced Charles P. Webster, who presided. Mr. Webster said that abuses have resulted from keeping one party in power too long, and that the same principle applies, whether it be Republicans or Democrats. Mr. Webster said that he had no desire to attack any candidate, but that public moneys have not been conserved in County, State or national governments.

Robert D. Heitsch, Pontiac attorney, displayed a chart on which he had sealed the appropriations for salaries since 1910, the growth of population, and the price of a staple commodity, wheat, as indicating the cost of living. The 1910 appropriation was \$17,500, he said, while that of 1930 was \$726,351, or 41 times that of 1910. The population is four times that of 1910. Meanwhile, Mr. Heitsch indicated, wheat rose from 88c in 1910 to \$2.14 in 1920, but now has dropped to 70 cents. In recent years, however, Mr. Heitsch declared, salaries in the County "have been going up like a rocket," even while the cost of living has been dropping.

Mr. Heitsch said that the Board of Supervisors' salary committee recommended two weeks ago general salary cuts, but that County officials, through long years in office, have become so powerful that they appear able to block the adoption of recommended cuts by the Board. "They had the officials in all day Wednesday," said Mr. Heitsch. "But these men with political influence so bamboozled the supervisors that one supervisor told me he had been convinced there should be reductions, but at the end of the day almost felt that the officials ought to be given raises. The question is now, will the dog wag the tail, or the tail wag the dog?"

The cost of maintaining the prosecutor's office, and increases of salaries in that office since 1924 were particularly attacked. "The County officials have blocked the progress of the supervisors," declared Mr. Heitsch. "They have prevented the wishes of the people from being carried out. There is one solution. If the County officials group is so well-oiled and work together so well that they can block the supervisors, then the task falls back upon the people, regardless of party. The conduct of those County officials before the supervisors is a challenge to every voter. It has nothing to do with the Republican or Democratic party. Forget that and answer the challenge with your vote on November 4. Every candidate on the Republican ticket has enjoyed part of the salary-raising, but the Democratic candidates are men who have made their own way. The Democratic candidates have the viewpoint of the taxpayers, because they haven't held a public job."

Mr. Webster introduced the following Democratic candidates who spoke briefly: Mrs. Blanche Mann, for treasurer; Frank M. Dunston, for sheriff; Clarke Adams for prosecutor; Murray Van Wagner for drain commissioner; Frank McIntosh for County clerk; Dewitt C. Davis for coroner; Patrick O'Brien for congress.

Salem Evangelical church Ladies' Aid Society will hold a bazaar Wednesday, November 12.

## Taxpayers Start Movements For Investigation Of County Affairs

By F. M. BLUNK

A definite movement toward an investigation of Oakland County governmental and institutional affairs has been started by "taxpayers committees" in several townships (Royal, Oak, Oxford and Orion) with the circulation of petitions calling for either an inquiry by a special committee of representative citizens or by an old fashioned eighteen-member grand jury. Similar movements are to be started in every section of the County.

Whether the Board of Supervisors before final adjournment of the present session will see its way toward the initiative in this matter is problematical. If the

## Jobs Provided Men In Township

### Appeal Is Highly Successful; More Requested To Give Men Work

So successful has been the appeal issued two weeks ago through the Enterprise for work for men in Farmington Township that the request is again made for employment of Township citizens on every job that it is possible to provide for them.

Supervisor Arthur P. Coe reports that 18 men have been given work. Mr. Coe has on his list a number of worthy men, heads of families, who need work very greatly, and are willing to do any kind of job in order to keep their families in necessities.

It is again pointed out that providing of work for the 18 men employed effects a saving of the amount paid them, in taxation, since the Township would have had to assist them were it not for the jobs provided. Anyone having work of any kind may assist these worthy men and save money for every taxpayer by communicating with Supervisor Coe at any time.

## FIRST MEETING OF YEAR IS HELD BY WOMAN'S CLUB

### New President Welcomes Members, Rev. Eva Gives Address On England

Forty-four people enjoyed the program provided by the committee of the Farmington Woman's Club Friday, October 10.

With the past presidents about her, the new president, Mrs. Harrison Johnson rose to express a hearty welcome to the members and guests assembled. Reminiscences by Mrs. Minnie Wilber gave a happy and hopeful inspiration for the coming year's opportunities.

In his inimitable style Rev. S. D. Eva conducted the listeners about Westminster Abbey, Warwick Falmouth and Worcester Cathedral as he pictured unusual glimpses of the land of Tennyson, Browning, Keats, Burns and others.

The committee urges that members be on hand at the Cranbrook Museum, Lone Pine road, promptly at 2:15 Wednesday, October 22. Those requiring transportation may call Mrs. Leo Hendryx and Mrs. L. C. Thayer.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday at 2 p. m. at the residence with interment at Romulus, Mich.

pressure were strong enough the chairman of the Board could call a special session to discuss the matter, but such a procedure is a remote possibility.

Through the power of the petition however, the taxpayers of the County could force a special grand jury empanelling, and judging from the attitude of a great majority of those who have discussed the matter they are willing to go most any length to give the County's affairs an airing. With some exceptions there is no personal feeling or animosity entering into the taxpayers' desire for an inquiry.

There is a feeling, however, that there has been some lack of system or coordination or management, or possibly a too great use of the wide discretionary powers enjoyed by certain departments or commission heads that has resulted in needless expenditures of large sums of the County moneys. And it is the belief of these taxpayers that only a thorough probing into the workings of the various departments and commissions will bring to light some of the things they want to know and are entitled to know.

### Doubt About Projects

There have been projected, for instance, certain drains and roads that on their face stand to cost Oakland County hundreds of thousands of dollars. There has been quite some talk, pro and con, about these projects, whether they should be carried on, whether their construction is, all things considered, the best thing for the County. These are complicated matters that the average taxpayer does not thoroughly understand. He reads something in the papers about them but the information, for the most part, is vague.

The taxpayer does know that a lot of hullabaloo is being made just now over the reduction of salaries and this cutting down of employees' rosters in County offices and institutions. At the same time savings will be some-where between \$100,000 and \$125,000. The taxpayer cannot sneer at reductions like this, but he begins to wonder about drains or roads being built in sections of the County now showing greater than 50 per cent tax delinquency. He sees the possibility of the cost of these roads and drains in those highly delinquent sections becoming an added burden on his already-stopped tax-paying shoulders. Further he sees the possibility of new county indebtedness that in comparison would make the salary savings appear as a handful of pennies.

### Who Pushes Projects?

What are the forces that are trying to put these projects through?

Are the people who will have to pay for them properly represented in the discussions connected with their construction?

An investigating body could determine these points. Further the people want to know just how much authority, how much power, the heads of various departments, commissions and institutions are vested with. And they would like to know whether the men at the head of these departments are competent to wield the authority. In this connection an investigation probably would be a great help to some of the department heads, for judging by some of the arguments on the floor of the Supervisors' sessions there is a great difference of opinion between supervisors and officeholders, regarding just how much power and authority the office holder is entitled to.

### Favor Investigation

Twenty men all in business and all taxpayers of the County, were interviewed by this writer. These men, half of them Republicans, half Democrats, all are in favor of an investigation of some sort. Fifteen preferred a grand jury. (Continued on page five)

## Asks Parents To Take Broad View Of Study Report

### Parent-Teacher Association Opens Work Of Year With Large Attendance

That parents should view the marks on the school report cards of their children tolerantly, and that school work should be made as attractive and interesting as possible, was the viewpoint expressed by Supt. J. A. Dalrymple of Farmington Schools at the Parent-Teacher Association's first meeting of the year Thursday afternoon.

A large attendance marked the first meeting, over 50 being present. Mrs. Lee Hill presided.

Supt. Dalrymple discussed the value of report cards as a gauge on progress being made by the individual student. He said that parents should watch the report card, but should not take it as an absolute indicator of advancement.

School should be made as pleasant and happy a place as possible Supt. Dalrymple said, in order that the students might be encouraged to get the most out of their work. While some require more attention and closer supervision than others, too close a check on the student is not conducive to good work. Encouragement and intelligent interest are more effective, said Mr. Dalrymple.

Supt. Dalrymple pointed out that there are 84 different elements in facial expression, and that it is probable that there are many times that number in mental development, so that even with the same source of supply, it is necessary to take individual characteristics into account.

Speaking on the program also was Dr. DeCamp, who stressed the importance of the care of children's teeth from the age of two years up. Dr. DeCamp said that early care gives much better opportunity to the later dental development. He pointed out that great accomplishments have resulted from teachers, parents, nurses and all organizations co-operating in this work, unknown in the past.

Dr. DeCamp stressed the importance of diet in the development of teeth, and urged parents also to make teeth-cleaning attractive to their children, by providing bright-colored brushes of proper size, and adding inducements for conscientiousness.

President Mrs. Hill brought before the meeting the question, a matter of some discussion last year, as to whether there should be a restriction regarding who would be invited to the annual honor banquet. Athletes have been on the honor roll in the past, but it has been suggested that they receive recognition throughout the year, whereas the honor banquet is the opportunity for recognition of high scholastic standing. The President said she believed the question should be determined early in the year, and it was decided to leave the question open for a time to allow members to consider the matter.

A committee was appointed to work with other organizations of the community in welfare work. The executive committee was empowered to act in regard to a "stunt" for "Stunt Night" next month.

The high school orchestra furnished music at the meeting, which was held in the high school auditorium.

### AUXILIARY TO MEET

North Farmington Cemetery Auxiliary will meet with Mrs. Laura Borgne, 9305 Ward avenue, Detroit, about a mile south of Farmington on October 21. Supper will be served. A bazaar is also being planned for the next meeting.

—Mrs. C. Crahan.

Supt. M. J. Crawford and family of Cairo were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Crawford.

## Hope Abandoned For Saving Grand River Trolley Tracks

### Decision Expected Within A Few Days; Funds For Relocation Of Rails Proves Stumbling Block; Removal Next Spring Likely

That the long battle to keep the trolley tracks on Grand River avenue into the City of Farmington is nearly over, with an unfavorable result, is the belief of

city and county officials who have been fighting to have the tracks retained with completion of the new road. The decision is expected within the next few days.

It is regarded as a foregone conclusion that the decision will be for tearing up of the tracks, probably next spring, with some possibility of obtaining trackless trolley service from Detroit.

Lack of funds for re-location of the rails in the center of the new right-of-way, and the strong inclination of the State Highway Department for discarding the tracks, are said to be factors which have practically decided the issue. The State Highway Department, it is understood, favors paying the Eastern Michigan Railways its price of \$25,000 for the right-of-way and ordering the tracks torn up.

While the State Administrative Board some time ago passed a resolution providing for re-location of the tracks and encasing them in concrete, this program has long since been abandoned. Some time ago, it was reported that State Highway officials suggested that if Farmington would be willing to give up the concrete-encasement idea, the State department would have the tracks put in with crushed stone and tar, which would mean an immense saving. Farmington officials agreed, but it has since developed that State officials favor disposition of the tracks entirely.

### Fear Later Expense

It is said that relocating of the tracks, with crushed stone and tar, would cost about \$25,000, the same as the cost of buying up the right-of-way, but that State officials feel that in time it would be necessary to encase the tracks in concrete, at a cost variously estimated from \$65,000 to \$115,000.

A decision on the matter must be made, it is understood, within the next few days, in order not to delay further completion of the paving. How much hope there is of trackless trolley service will depend, it is said on the attitude of Detroit city officials.

Far-sighted officials who have urged retention of the tracks, with the idea in mind that some day there would be rapid transit developed to Farmington by trolley, expressed disappointment in the probable outcome of the battle. Loss of a means of handling freight by carload is regarded as likely as to be of the most serious consequence.

A recommendation that the State Highway Department exercise its option to buy the Eastern Michigan Railways' right-of-way, was passed by the Detroit Street Railway Commission Tuesday. This, in effect, appeared to indicate that the Commission did not look with favor on any special effort to continue the car service to Farmington.

### PIANO RECITAL

Miss Irene T. Kremer will present her pupil, Miss Dorothea L. Kurz in a piano recital on Thursday evening, October 23 at 8:00 o'clock at Salem Evangelical Church.

Miss Kurz will render several difficult selections.

Miss Alice I. Reuter, soprano, of Pontiac, accompanied at the piano by Miss Kremer, will assist with vocal solos.

Miss Kurz, who also is studying mandolin with Miss Kremer, will be heard in mandolin solos and obligatos.

The public is invited to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Gullen went to Toronto last week end to attend the funeral of the former's sister-in-law, Mrs. Fred Gullen.

## Former Farmington Man Helps The Poor

Fifty tons of coal were donated by Ralph G. Hogle, formerly of Farmington, president of the Grand River Lumber and Coal Co., of Redford, to needy families of Brightmoor, after a man had been arrested for stealing coal at the company's yards.

The man told police his family was destitute. Mr. Hogle was asked by a detective if he would donate a small amount of coal to the needy, and responded by donating 50 tons to 54 families.

## Heads Group In High Tax Fight

### Karl Tibbitts Of Farmington Is Elected President Of Taxpayers' Association

Karl Tibbitts of Farmington Township was this week elected temporary president of the Oakland County Association, for Reduction of Taxes, one of several groups that have sprung up in the past few weeks in various parts of the County to protest against high taxes. Mr. Tibbitts accepted the call.

Mr. Tibbitts, continuing his campaign against the Covert road law, reported receiving the following letter from O. E. Fuller, State Auditor-General:

October 7th, 1930  
Mr. Karl Tibbitts,  
R. F. D. No. 1,  
Farmington, Michigan.

My Dear Mr. Tibbitts:

The cards you forwarded relative to the Covert road law have been received, and I agree with you in regard to the Covert road law.

The Covert road law has lasted longer than I anticipated it would when the law was enacted by the Legislature. I was in the Senate the day the Legislature passed the law and I advised Mr. Rogers at the time that in ten years the law would be repealed, as I thought it would not last even ten years.

The Upper Peninsula did not take very kindly to the law. There is one road in Ontonagon County and one road in Menominee County and they are the only Covert roads in the Upper Peninsula.

I enclose herewith a statement of the taxes assessed on the general property of the State in 1929, in which you will note that the Covert road tax was quite heavy. I believe the law should be repealed.

I would suggest that you send some of your cards to Hon. Wilbur M. Brucker, who will become Governor on January 1st.

Yours truly,  
O. B. Fuller,

### TO SING SPIRITUALS AT BAPTIST CHURCH

At the Baptist church Sunday night S. L. McCaskill, a well-known bass and baritone soloist will be present and sing several hymns and some negro spirituals. The church leaders regard it as a privilege to have so able a singer come to the community.

The public is cordially invited to be present and hear Mr. McCaskill. He is at present finishing his schooling at the U. of D. preparatory to going to Africa as a missionary.