

The Farmington Enterprise

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Editorials

Clipped From Other Publications

Not A Panacea

(Washtenaw Tribune)

Capital punishment is a live subject these days with plenty of disagreement, which bids fair to increase as the time grows near to cast a ballot upon the subject. The Tribune has asked several people for their opinion with no previous knowledge of what their opinion was. It invites the opinion of anyone who cares to express it. The Tribune is not concerned in producing propaganda for or against the Foster bill which will be voted on April 6th. Its only concern is that the matter shall be carefully considered and that the result on April 6 will represent the informed judgment of the electorate.

The Tribune is neither for nor against the Foster bill. The Tribune's position is that the adoption of capital punishment will prove no panacea for crime conditions, that if it is to have any real deterrent effect it must be applied frequently enough to make its application fairly certain. The Tribune doubts whether it will be. It doubts whether juries will prescribe it often enough to make it a real crime deterrent. The frequency with which it is prescribed in other capital punishment states is not reassuring.

Whether capital punishment is or is not adopted, we should have certain other reforms that will make our justice more speedy and more certain. More intelligent juries, better judges who would conduct their courts with a view to finding out where justice lies rather than as a referee at a boxing match, and fewer reversals by higher courts where the error has not resulted in an injustice to the criminal; these, in the opinion of The Tribune, would better serve as a crime deterrent than capital punishment without them. Without them capital punishment is likely to prove a great disappointment to society rather than to the criminal.

What Folks Want

(Michigan Bulletin)

If one were to ask a number of people to say what the national, state and local governments should do for the benefit of the public, the answers received would probably include these:

- Reduce taxes.
- Reduce the number of public officials and employees.
- Reduce all public expenditures.
- In the same breadth many would probably demand that the government should also:
- Build more roads.
- Provide better schools.
- Enforce the laws more effectively.
- Erect more public buildings.
- Pay off public debts.
- It does not require a great deal of intelligence to comprehend that the accomplishment of these directly opposed objects is impossible.
- If people continue to vote bonds for roads, bridges, schools and public buildings, if they demand more officials of the law, better sanitary and health measures, and so on, it is going to cost more money, with an inevitable increase in taxation.
- To keep flies away next summer swat their great-grandparents now.
- A credit man is one who directs that your order be sent C. O. D.

Letters To The Editor

Another 'Observer' On City Affairs

April 1, 1931

To the Editor:

In your last week's paper there was a letter signed by "Observer". To anyone who read the letter it would have been evident that it must have been written not by an "Observer", but someone who takes part in our city government. A mere "Observer" could not have all those facts and figures about the city's finances at his finger tips. The condition of our city affairs is not so well known except to the officials.

It is pleasing to read that our city is in such fine shape. But if the "Observer" is not an official how can we be sure that his figures are accurate. If he is an official why does he go to the trouble just at this time to tell us about it.

The "Observer" surely has the right idea—the people ought to know more about our city affairs. But wouldn't it be a good thing if we had the details instead of just a few unofficial figures that after all don't tell very much.

—Another Observer.

Which Voice?

To the Editor:

There are some people who are talking very glibly for capital punishment at this time. The divine command, "Thou Shalt Not Kill" is entirely disregarded. They tell us it is useless to try to reclaim a hardened criminal. I think it was John B. Goff, who said "There is a stairway to every man's heart, no matter how hardened he may seem to be." He said "If you can clear away the cob webs, and dust from the doorway, you will still find written the word 'Man'."

We know there is one, who is able to blot out the blackest record, at a single stroke.

Let me ask the advocates of the death bill—are you happy that "the Lord has not rewarded you according to your iniquities?" All are sinners.

Where would we be today were it not for love divine?

Let us listen to the voice of the One, who gave Himself for us and this uncivilized measure will be defeated.

The One who gives life, reserves for Himself the privilege of saying when life shall cease.

—A Reader.

WEST FARMINGTON

Harvey Robison, who has been ill the past month, returned to work last Monday at Pontiac.

The entertainment at the West Farmington school was postponed from Tuesday evening to Thursday evening on account of the debate at the Farmington Town hall. Several from here attended.

Mrs. John Tamm spent Monday evening with Mrs. William Tamm and daughters.

There is a new house being built on the subdivision at 12-Mile and Halsted road, on the Howard property.

Bob Button won the spelling contest held at West Farmington school Friday afternoon.

The pupils of this locality who attend the Walled Lake Consolidated school are home this week as school is closed for spring vacation.

Miss Alice German, who attends Michigan State College, is spending this week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred German.

Miss Schoeman of Pontiac is spending this week at West Farmington school as applicant for teacher of rural schools under state supervision. Miss Schoeman is from the County Normal.

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Giegler of Hartland were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Knapp, Thursday.

About 25 relatives, are Elizabeth Heliker a pleasant birthday surprise party Saturday evening. Five tables of progressive cards were in play. Mrs. Charles Heliker and George Graham received prizes for high score. Lunch was served.

The Willing Workers of West Farmington, a religious association, will hold a business meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Grimmer April 9 at 2 o'clock.

Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Howard and Edgar Dart and Vernard Dart, who spent the winter months in Florida, started home Monday and are expected here the latter part of the week.

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