

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## EDITORIALS

### America Spends for "Wants" (Exchange)

Americans spend more to maintain their self-respect and "to keep up with the Joneses," than they spend on keeping their bodies fed, Dr. Edward L. Thorndike, psychologist of Columbia University, recently said in his farewell address as president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Only about half the seventeen billion dollars spent annually on food in the United States goes to satisfy the fundamental urge of hunger. The rest goes to fulfill esthetic and emotional desires that have no direct relation to his basic urge. The same situation exists as to clothes, says Dr. Thorndike, for the eight billion dollars annually expended for this item, less than half buys real protection against the elements, while the remainder goes to make clothing more pleasing to the eye of the wearer and of others.

By making such analyses of the items for which money is actually spent by the people of America, Dr. Thorndike believes that psychologists can gain a practical knowledge of the demands of modern human beings.

Less than one-third of the national income was spent for wants which must be satisfied to keep Americans alive and rest perpetuating, he found. The rest went chiefly to keep us amused and comfortable physically, intellectually, morally and especially socially.

The intellectual budget is a relatively small part of the two-thirds of our total expenditures which go for intangibles. Relatively little is paid for the satisfaction of intellectual life.

### Old Stuff Professor (Exchange)

Professor Edward Bartow of the University of Iowa has produced a super-explosive from corn, and the technical societies are all agog. That just goes to show how out of touch the academic mind is with everyday affairs; any man who ever painted twigs for a pint of corn liquor could have told the Professor long ago that corn has explosive possibilities that makes nitroglycerine look about as dangerous as lipstick, in comparison.

It is not until they have safely sought new fields that their victims realize they have been taken for a ride. Detroit reports the presence of fly-by-night salesmen offering unusual discounts on new and used cars of any make or model. Their plan is to secure a down payment before the purchase has a chance to look at his purchase. It is hardly likely they will invade the rural districts, except in the vicinity of the larger cities where an urban dealer is known by reputation, but it is just as well to be on guard! Before paying over a single dollar, insist on seeing the car and talking with the dealer, they claim to represent. Caution in advance will prevent you from being victimized.

### Fly-By-Night Salesmen (Exchange)

Keeping ahead of the easy-money boys is a never-ending battle of wits. While honest men are engaged in the everyday affairs of life these grafters are busy concocting schemes to separate them from their money. Often their plans are so carefully devised that it is not until they have safely sought new fields that their victims realize they have been taken for a ride. Detroit reports the presence of fly-by-night salesmen offering unusual discounts on new and used cars of any make or model. Their plan is to secure a down payment before the purchase has a chance to look at his purchase. It is hardly likely they will invade the rural districts, except in the vicinity of the larger cities where an urban dealer is known by reputation, but it is just as well to be on guard! Before paying over a single dollar, insist on seeing the car and talking with the dealer, they claim to represent. Caution in advance will prevent you from being victimized.

### Winter versus Summer Vacation (Exchange)

A good friend who cannot afford two vacations a year tells us that hereafter he is going to worry about without a summer vacation and instead, spend a few weeks in Florida in the middle of the Winter. Not a bad idea—if those weeks can be in February or March—or possibly a part of April. Most any part of Michigan is a good vacation spot during the summer.

### Appraising a Prize Play (Exchange)

Many persons, understandably, are wondering why the Pulitzer prize play award went to "Idiot's Delight" by E. Sherwood, rather than to "Winter-bet" by Maxwell Anderson, or "Dead End," by Sidney Kingsley. To be sure, there were some people whom "Winter-bet" made slightly uncomfortable because of its choice of the spectators: What is your attitude toward justice? But if one could acknowledge himself guilty in the abstract as a member of a society that tolerated injustice in many guises, it was possible to sit before the play in absorbed interest, even if one could not get the whole way with the author in his theory, that modern colloquialisms may be expressed in blank verse, seriously. Many people, indeed, normally thought that "Dead End" might win the award because it showed how environment tends to make gangsters of boys in the slums. The author made it clear that slums are a part of the general guilt, though he put his message in the form of a melodramatic entertainment. Again a play which some persons found uncomfortable.

Only persons of sensibility, apparently, who object to being subjected to pointless disgust, object to "Idiot's Delight." It is a jolly show, according to majority opinion, with its two popular stars, Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne. He masquerades as a cheap hoofer from America, and she as a mysterious demimonde, an old flame of his. Their reunion largely constitutes the play's action. For further spice there is a night club floor show. The cast represents a miscellaneous group of persons caught in a European war zone some time in the conjunctural future.

### Maybe It Isn't the Gardener (Exchange)

No more need the Optimistic Gardener, scanning that bald spot for that flourishing patch of weeds in the flower border, feel he must confess his nursery school a miserable flop. These horticultural surprises that shake one's self-esteem may now conveniently be blamed upon the seeds. Flower seeds, it is disclosed, are likely to play hooky almost any time. They do not receive, even in the best families, the training in manners and morals that is given to vegetable seeds, grass and farm seeds in general.

In fact, many flower seeds never even take home a report card, or go into the examination room—let alone work for a degree. Recent tests given to the entering class of flower seeds at the State Agricultural Experimental Station, Geneva, N. Y., have divulged a wide range of abilities and inabilities on the part of the seeds to do their stuff.

Of the 500 packets purchased at random all over the State, and tested, about 57 per cent gave satisfactory germination, 28 per cent were considered of doubtful value, and 15 per cent were worthless.

### The Life Beyond (Exchange)

Nearing the end of a long and beautiful life, which had been enriched by experience and observation, Ralph Waldo Emerson said: "Of what importance is this vessel, these puffing elements, these significant fires, full of selfish love and quarrels and enmity?" Then he answered his own question: "Everything is prospective, and man is the inventor. That the world is for his education is the only sane solution of the enigma. All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen. Whatever it be which the great Providence prepares for us, it must be something large and generous, and in the great style of his works."

### Uniform Auto Laws (Exchange)

Steps have been taken in Connecticut toward a uniformity of automobile laws in all the communities, in order to lessen the confusion over a multitude of conflicting rules. However, there are still 48 state laws to contend with, a fact that is not pleasing to the average motorist.

Might we suggest that some action be taken by state officials toward the enactment of a national code of laws, so that the man from Connecticut will know what he can and cannot do while driving through California? In this way much trouble will be avoided by drivers of every state.

## Homemaker Corner

by Home Economics Specialists Michigan State College

This is the busy season for moths. Adult moths are judging the usefulness of your clothes as nests for their young ones. Unless precautions are taken, little ones will soon come out of their eggs and choose nice holes in your best garments.

Extension workers at Michigan State College, East Lansing, state that two steps are essential to prevent damage by moths. Garments must be cleaned promptly and thoroughly before being put away and clothes should be put into storage as soon as possible.

"If cleaning is done at home, each piece should be brushed, aired and sunned after the spots have been removed," they say. "This treatment should rid the garment of any moth eggs that may be lodged in seams, pockets, and other inconspicuous places."

Delay in putting garments in storage gives a moth the opportunity to lay eggs and all the preliminary cleaning and brushing will be wasted effort. Safe storage may be a good tight cedar chest or any tightly closing trunk or box which is moth proof. A cedar garment bag which has no crack or opening. A pound or two of naphthalene flakes, or balls of paradichlorobenzene crystals scattered through the articles will be an extra safeguard.

## CHEMICALS CURB SPREADING OF NOXIOUS WEEDS

Quack grass, poison ivy, Canadian thistle and other troublesome weeds should furnish little difficulty in the future. Chemical extermination of weeds is proving exceedingly successful and popular, according to C. R. Megee, farm crops expert.

For small patches, chlorates can be applied when the weeds are at or near the bloom period and have been very effective and economical, he says. For larger areas, sulphuric acid or calcium cyanide sprays have proven their worth.

The ordinary manner of fighting weeds consists in pulling them from the ground. Where the weed spread by an underground root system, cultivation tends to spread them over the entire field.

Sodium chlorate and Alacide, a commercial product, are frequently used for driveways, pathways and small areas, but precautions must be taken with both. Sodium chlorate in solid form is explosive when mixed with sulphur or organic matter. Clothes dampened from the spray should be washed immediately. If permitted to dry without washing, tritium may cause them to burst into flame.

Mr. Megee recommends that applications should be made from three weeks to one month apart and that patches of land so sprayed should not be used until the next season. Where heavy applications have been made or where the fall, winter, or spring seasons are unusually dry, injurious effects have been noted for several years.

## AUTHORITY SAYS COYOTES ARE BOTH GOOD AND BAD

Killing off the coyote, traditional enemy of the sheep, will make northern Michigan a hunter's paradise and a conservationist's headache.

That is the opinion of P. A. Herbert, head of the Michigan State College forestry department at East Lansing, who fears the balance of nature may be upset by extermination of predatory animals. A bounty has been placed on coyotes by state conservation authorities to aid sheep growers against animal night raiders, which include dogs as well as coyotes.

"Decline in the number of coyotes would result in a great increase in rabbit population," he says. "While this would make northern Michigan a hunter's paradise, it would make any predator-reduction program almost impossible because rabbits chew the bark and twigs of trees for food during winter."

Balance of Nature  
"Complete elimination of predatory animals is not desirable because they make for a balance of nature. That is nature's way of weeding out the weak and the unfit. From the farmer's angle, coyotes should be exterminated because of their threat to the sheep industry. From the conservation point of view, such a program would have sad consequences. From the hunter's approach, it would be paradise."

Professor Herbert believes that many sheep are killed by household dogs belonging to the farmer or his neighbor. The dogs run about all night and sleep during the day, giving the farmer the impression that the dog is quiet and docile. He recommends close attention to the night activity of farm dogs.

## SOUND WOULD ENCIRCLE THE EARTH IN 30 HOURS

### "Shot Heard 'Round the World" Would Take a Day and a Quarter on the Way

Sound waves travel through the air at a speed of about 770 miles an hour. How far a sound can be heard depends, of course, on how loud it is; but it is only exceptionally loud noises, such as the thunder of heavy artillery or the roar of a volcanic explosion, which can be heard at a distance greater than a relatively few miles.

Electric waves travel infinitely faster. Radio waves flash through the ether with the speed of light: 186,000 miles per second. Even though electric waves are slowed up somewhat when they travel along wires, the slowest of these can cover about 10,000 miles in one second. The distance at which electric waves can be received depends either on the power with which they are transmitted or upon the amplification which they receive along the way, or both.

When the historic round-the-world telephone call was held last year, between President Walter S. Gifford of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and Theodore G. Miller, head of that company's Long Lines department, electric waves carried the voice impulses by wire and radio circuits from New York around the globe to New York in about one-quarter of an hour. The electric waves were amplified by 950 vacuum tubes at different points on their journey.

In Concord, Mass., is a bridge, and by the bridge is a monument, and that monument is this inscription: By the rude bridge which arched the flood, This flag to April's breeze unfurled. Here once the embattled farmers stood And fired the shot heard 'round the world. And that shot had been loud enough to be heard around the world, actually as well as poetically, it would have taken more than 50 hours for its sound to make the circuit of the earth. The telephone would have carried it, like the conversation of Mr. Gifford and Mr. Miller, in a quarter of an hour.

## Deer Toll Heavy On Drummond Island

In the badly over-browsed Bass Lake yard. Three of these examined were predator kills.

On the basis of this figure, the authorities estimated that between 300 and 500 deer died of starvation and exposure on Drummond Island during the past winter.

State game authorities who recently conducted an inspection of deer-yard conditions on Drummond Island, found 41 dead fawns.

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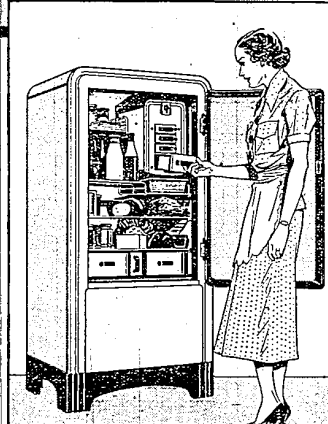
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