

Editorial Page

Governor Williams . . .

participated last week in some skirmishes on proposals to change the method of naming delegates to a convention to rewrite the Michigan constitution. He made his position clear—he and big labor are trying every way they can to change the constitution so that Detroit's labor forces and the Democrats can take over control of the state so completely there could never be a change.

It's a little involved, but nevertheless very plain and definite. Michigan voters every 16 years have a referendum on the question of constitutional revision, and that's coming up next fall. The legislature, which is Republican, had passed a bill to provide for partisan elections for delegates. The constitution is silent on this procedure, but is rather explicit in that choice of delegates must be by senatorial districts. Williams vetoed the Republican bill.

If choice of delegates is by senatorial districts (which presently have a Republican majority) the state constitution would be revised by Republicans. If delegates were elected by another plan, and especially by representatives' districts, it's likely the Democrats and labor forces would rewrite the constitution. There is no other plan specified in the constitution, however—although labor would like to figure out some way to attain this.

This battle for reapportionment of representation by population has been going on not only in Michigan but many other states for years. Usually there is no possibility the state constitution will ever be rewritten, because city and out-state groups are so suspicious of each other—justifiably so, we presume.

Small town and rural people will often admit they are over-powered because their legislative representation is strong enough under the present system to balance the populated areas. They feel better state government results.

Heavily populated areas think they should have stronger representation because of their numbers. Historically that pits labor against the rural groups.

So every 16 years we have a referendum, and a constitutional convention usually fails because when it comes everyone is so thoroughly confused or inflamed that a continuation of the present constitution appears desirable.

Maybe no change is better than the alternative of having the constitution re-written by big labor.

Junk Mail . . .

could be stopped by householders simply by filling out a form if a bill introduced in Congress recently were passed. We believe we're right in our understanding Congressman Broomfield was one of the sponsors, along with other congressmen from heavily populated areas where the problem is greatest.

Residents in some of these districts have complained at the large numbers of handbills, throwaways, brochures, booklets, form letters and other junk mail cluttering up their mailboxes and doorsteps.

Their point: postmen would carry less junk mail, could work faster with first class mail, and probably decrease postal costs overall.

Your Picture . . .

will appear on your driver's license one of these days, as a result of legislation just passed in Michigan. Won't be for awhile yet, for the legislature didn't appropriate funds to start the program—but it undoubtedly will in a year or two.

We can see the point of the backers—bankers, liquor licensees and law enforcement officers hoping to cut down on use of borrowed and forged identification papers. We're curious now to learn if other states have this, and how effective it has been.



NOVI—Plans for a multi-million dollar race track and sports pavilion in Novi are still very much alive. It was disclosed last week. Only a stalemate over sale of the track site has been broken up by construction, said B. F. Gregorie, one of the principal backers of the track. Gregorie said construction of the \$3,500,000 structure can begin "immediately" after the land sale is finally completed.

Gregorie stated that his group's option on the track site, north of Grand River near Meadowbrook Road—had run out. The sale is now being re-negotiated with the owner of the site, Dr. August Holcomb.

The race track issue has been dormant for more than a year and many Novi residents and some officials have speculated that plans for the elaborate sports center had died a quiet death.

"We are very certain that the track in Novi will be built," Gregorie said. No change in plans have been made, he added.

PLYMOUTH—City voters will be asked this fall to approve the sale of liquor by the glass, it was disclosed last week by the manager of the Mayflower Hotel.

He revealed his plan at a meeting of the board of directors of the hotel, which is now under the management of the Mayflower Hotel.

The present dry law is discriminatory in its effects on business within the city, the C. C. resolution said. "It also places an undue competitive burden upon city business as compared to business outside the city," the resolution also stated.

The hotel manager said several cases where more competition planned to open in the city would be extremely difficult for the hotel to continue operations unless it is permitted to sell liquor.

BIRMINGHAM—By the end of May the Birmingham branch of the League of Women Voters will have contacted its first thousand people urging a "yes" vote in November on calling a state constitutional revision convention.

Signs or speakers can be arranged for through October by area organizations by contacting Mrs. William Hammond, 938 Brookwood, Birmingham.

"The League is using every opportunity to see that voters are informed on the arguments in favor of a vote for the constitution," G. N. Hittner, chairman of the committee on constitutional revision for Birmingham League, said.

"A complete revision of the constitution is needed in order to modernize it for today's needs. Unlike the federal constitution, which is basic, concise and flexible, the Michigan constitution was written in 1908 with a great deal of detail which is now out of date."

SOUTH LYONS—An overwhelming vote of approval was cast last week by property owners in South Lyon for bond issues to take care of to be used for construction of a new sewage disposal plant.

The new plant will replace the community's present sewage treatment facilities, considered by state health authorities as being inadequate to handle present loads.

Constructed more than 20 years ago, it was designed to handle a capacity of 1,000 persons. At the present time it is handling sewage waste for approximately twice that number.

Plans call for having the new sewage disposal facilities in operation by mid-1939.

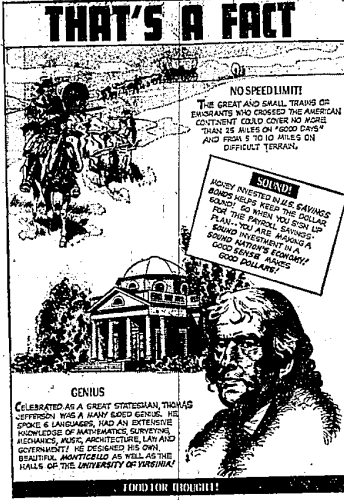
SOUTHFIELD—One of the more spectacular benefits to be derived from completion of the incorporation of Southfield as a city by adoption of the proposed charter is expected to be better roads.

Except for privileges specifically granted by general Michigan law or special legislation, Southfield township is but a tax collection agency for Oakland County. It has no control of its some 200 miles of roads and is given no money by the Oakland County Road Commission for their care.

Whether or not the township is getting its fair share of road maintenance from the road funds given the county by the state from weight and gas taxes is a question often asked. Local officials claim county service has dropped drastically, that they have never been able to get a satisfactory answer to the question of local allocation of road money.

Under city status, weight and gas tax payments would be made directly to Southfield to be used by its department of public works on roads. Funds from the state in weight and gas payments would run about \$100,000 per year, it has been indicated.

THE FOUR CORNERS PRESS. 4,381 families read The Farmington Enterprise every week.



MICHIGAN MIRROR • by Elmer White

Sees Voter as "Man of the Year" In Coming State Political Battle

POLITICAL SIGNS OF 1938 point toward the voter as the man of the year.

Both major parties are busy trying to put down rebellions. A change of philosophy might be in the making for Republicans, but Democrats envision their brightest hour in Michigan.

The developments make the voter a king whose decision next Nov. 4 will decide the kind of government the state will have for at least two more years.

Gov. Williams, at the crest of a decade of power, is seeking his sixth consecutive year. Republicans have two candidates ready for the primary with another said to be ready in the wings.

Democrats were the first to run into trouble. A group of rebels headed by former Congressman Frank E. Cook, of Iron River, charged that Williams and labor bosses are "leading the state down the road to socialism."

They argue the loyal, old-time Democrat is being read out of the party, with Williams and "the crew-cut" of a latter-day liberal wing taking command and running the show.

State Chairman Neil Staehel immediately denounced the rebels. Republicans hope the group will help them. It has already entered a state in the Democratic primary for the first time since Williams became the party choice for governor in 1934. The campaign can show how much opposition there is to the governor within his party.

Williams will be going into the election with Senator John B. Swainson (D-Detroit) as his running mate. Democrats are already guessing whether they will win by 300,000 or 600,000 votes.

Dissension among Republicans is on a more idealistic plane. The active 14th district organization in Detroit has repudiated "modern Republicanism," charging it is a "me-too" approach doomed to defeat from the better-organized Democrats.

They call for a return to traditional conservative Republicanism. GOP leaders are fearful that the split-off will cause trouble when all are asked to back the candidate after the primary.

Considerable support for the conservative approach has developed among some legislators, who are pressing Senator Edward Hutchinson (R-Fennville) to carry their banner.

The most likely Republican candidate is Paul D. Bagwell, professor of communications skills at Michigan State University, who has a leave of absence without pay. His salary runs to \$1,400 a month at the University.

Another candidate is little-known Richard I. Moore, a Wayne automobile salesman. His present political obscurity is reminiscent of 1918 when the politicians asked, "Who's Williams?"

Bagwell is 44, three years younger than Williams, and is nationally known as an educator and as one national president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

He suffered a football injury 27 years ago and the complications of polio made him permanently disabled. He walks with a cane.

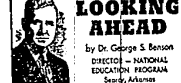
Bagwell, who led the Republican nor in 1934. The campaign can show how much opposition there is to the governor within his party.

Michigan's state treasury is headed for a deficit that could climb to \$65,000,000 next year. More than 415,000 workers are jobless. More government services are needed for an expanding population.

The search for answers to the problems has created still another campaign issue.

Williams is seeking a bigger budget and more taxes, pinpointed on corporations and banks.

Republicans are seeking to cut spending in state government and to delay new taxes.



SECRETARY BENSON LASTS "FLECTIONS" Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra Taft Benson, recently appeared before the newspaper, television and radio reporters covering the nation's capital—at one of the famed Press Club luncheons. In the course of his formal address he cited a number of "flections" concerning the farm problem which he asked the Washington reporters to help him expose to the people of America. Among the "flections" were:

"Flection"—That the higher farm incomes in the past were due to rigid price supports. This is untrue. The fact is that it was war—the insatiable demands of war and the inflation—and not price supports—that forced prices up. Farmers sold all they produced at well above support levels. In fact, their prices would have been higher or yet had it not been for government imposed price ceilings!

"Flection"—That high rigid price supports can hold up farm income even though surpluses accumulate. This is untrue and the fact is that there was just one year between 1917 and 1935 that farm income did not decline. In all these years until mid-1935, high rigid price supports were in effect. Our present farm problem developed under such price supports. If high rigid price supports were the answer, we would have no problem.

Doesn't Help Small Farmer "Flection"—That the small support program helps the small farmer. It does not. The fact is that more than half of our farms make only 9 per cent of agricultural production. Obviously most of the government's attention is directed in the direction of the bigger producers.

"Flection"—That most farm prices and incomes today are government supported and an artificial basis. This is false. The truth is that most farm products are being sold competitively and on free markets. Only 18 cents, per bushel of wheat are being supported—out of 850 commodities that farmers produce. More than four-fifths (82.2 per cent) of our costs for price stabilization in fiscal years 1932 and 1937 were for four commodities. Wheat and cotton alone accounted for more than 48 per cent of the total cost of our price stabilization programs.

Government Can't Control "Flection"—That agricultural production can be successfully controlled by government action. It cannot. The fact is that since 1910, the per acre yield of corn has risen 56 per cent—wheat 40 per cent—cotton 67 per cent. Last year's yields of all major crops averaged 27 per cent above the 1917-19 level. To control crops effectively so as to maintain price at 90 per cent of parity would mean setting allotments "impossibly" low. Congress would never vote such controls. No Secretary of Agriculture could effectively enforce them. And American farmers just wouldn't stand for such regimentation.

"Flection"—That farm programs of this Administration are driving people off the farms and undermining the family farm. This is not only false—it's ridiculous. The family farm has been, is now and always will be the backbone of American agriculture—operated by the most efficient farmers in all the world. The size of the family farm is changing, but fortunately for America, there is no reason of its moral or economic foundations.

Farmers And Freedom Secretary Benson also said in his Press Club speech: "If the voices of 22 million farm people in America could be crystallized into one voice, it would I feel sure, demand (Continued on Page 2B)

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

Valuation Slash

ACTION is planned in the near future to bring about a great reduction in all property valuations in Farmington Township sufficient to result in a greater lowering of taxes than has been achieved thus far. A committee of citizens, with whom township officials are reportedly in accord, will start work shortly toward this end. The development committee were formed—one on township finance, headed by Ernest Blanchard, and the other on the welfare situation, headed by Isaac Bond, former supervisor and county road commissioner. Mr. Bond said that a number of larger taxpayers are agreed that the lowering of valuations is the one best and most certain way to bring about lower taxes. Supervisor Arthur Coe is in agreement, he added.

Mid-Month Sales Farmington's business section experienced an active weekend last Friday and Saturday when merchants of the town joined in "Mid-Month Sales" designed to stimulate business activities and acquaint the people throughout this section with Farmington as a trading center. Large numbers of visitors from various directions came to town during the two days.

TEN YEARS AGO (April 22, 1928) Roller Skating Rink Permisson to operate a roller skating rink at the Macabee Hall on St. Francis Street near Eight Mile Road in Clarenceville was granted by the Farmington Township Board this week. A license for the operation of the rink was issued to Gerald Chioracki of 20954 Devonshire, Mr. Chioracki and his wife will operate the rink with skating each evening from 8 to 11 p.m. The rink will be opened the first part of May.

Students Strike A large group of students at Clarenceville High School refused to go to classes Tuesday morning in protest to the dismissal of Lloyd Samuels, Clarenceville coach and instructor. The students formed a picket line outside the high school building on Middlebelt Road. Estimated as to the number of students participating in the demonstration ranged from 150 to 300 students. The students returned to classes in the afternoon. The student protest followed action by the School Board not to renew Samuels' contract for the coming year based on charges made against him of non-cooperation and dissention.

FIVE YEARS AGO (April 23, 1933) New Ordinances A proposed ordinance prohibiting the removal of top soil and another setting up provisions for the installation of culverts on private property were introduced at the City Council meeting this week. The ordinance concerned the removal of top soil prohibits both the lowering of grade below the official street level as well as the dumping of loose earth above the official street grade. The proposed culvert ordinance prohibits the blocking or plugging of any natural drainage. It also provides for the replacement or installation of culverts where proper drainage is being impaired.

We want the spirit of America to be efficient; we want American character to be efficient; we want American character to display itself in what I may, perhaps, be allowed to call spiritual efficiency—clear disinterested thinking and fearless action along the right lines of thought. —Woodrow Wilson

A good woman flees from temptation but a man just crawls away from it in the hope that it may overtake him. —National Safety News

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