

Editorial Page

Vote No on Con-Con

There are many reasons, and as many groups, urging you to vote yes or no on the constitutional convention (commonly called the con-con) at the election next Tuesday. We'd like to suggest that consideration of some facts involved might lead you toward a vote against the convention.

It's far from true that the Michigan constitution is outmoded. The state's present constitution is its third. The first was that of 1835, the second was 15 years later. Our present constitution went into effect January 1, 1909—and it isn't much different from its predecessor.

But during these years it certainly has not remained the same. At all but a half dozen of all the elections since then, proposed amendments to it have been submitted to the voters. In all the amendments considered number 119. Eighty-five of these proposed amendments were placed on the ballot by legislative action, and 54 of them were adopted.

Meanwhile, 34 proposals were submitted by the petition method. Nine of these were adopted.

Note then, that during this period of about 49 years, 119 proposals were submitted, of which 63 were approved and 56 rejected by the voters. Thus, Michigan citizens not only could, but do, change their constitution from time to time as they see fit. The same opportunities are present in the future if conditions demand changes.

Another thing to consider: it has been estimated, and we think carefully, that such a constitutional convention would cost the state at least \$1 1/2 millions, and if laws were changed drastically the costs could continue to affect citizens in their everyday lives.

It has been our impression that many of the backers of the change are either do-gooders, or people not sufficiently informed. It is very possible some may have definite ideas about things they want changed. Here are some things which have been suggested as needing change.

One is a desire of some to get rid of what remains of the protection afforded by the 15-mill limitation amendment relative to general property taxes. There have been suggestions for drastic revision of county government, and elimination of townships. Some favor elimination of sales tax diversion to schools and local units of government.

Re-apportionment of the legislature has developed into a political fight between the two parties, plus a battle between the city and rural areas, with labor control overtones.

With so many other things involved than technical changes in the state constitution, we're going to vote against the convention and prefer to continue making changes through amendments submitted to the people when needed.

Don't Fail to Vote

Next Tuesday's the big election day—one that should certainly not be forgotten by every registered voter. Truth is, there's a pretty high percentage of registered voters in city and township—but actual number of voters is something else again.

With the two city incorporation proposals, and a hot state fight on, we can only hope the remainder of the state will vote as heavily as we expect our area to vote.

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What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

NOVI.—The newly appointed planning commission for Novi Village has called for a public hearing on November 12 on the controversial "track rezoning" request.

The nine-member board, named only one night earlier, was not expected to act so promptly on the request. A spokesman for the village council had predicted that the planners would first develop a zoning and land use plan for the entire village. Currently, the village has adopted township zoning.

The decision to call for an immediate hearing was made after representatives of the track group appeared before the board. Shortly after the planners had elected officers, Walter A. Spinks, spokesman for the Grand River Enterprises corporation asked for immediate action.

The site, located at Ten Mile and Oakdale, is presently zoned agricultural.

SOUTHFIELD.—Councilmen last Monday night unanimously decided that the present South Oakland Garbage and Rubbish Authority collecting service would be replaced by that provided by a low bidder, Gus McCreeley of McCreeley Trucking Service.

The council, however, was not to the liking of Mayor Donald L. Swanson. Council voted to accept the McCreeley bid after viewing impressive figures presented by a special council committee to study this matter.

The committee pointed out the fact that the budget allows 79 cents for each pick-up of garbage and rubbish, whereas McCreeley's contract price was 60 cents for each pick-up.

Based on 7,300 homes, the committee claims the cost of private contracting represents a yearly saving of \$15,000 or an equivalent of 15 mills.

LIVONIA.—An estimated 9,000 Livonia homeowners will have \$10 knocked off their water bills next year as the result of an ordinance passed by the City Council.

The Council also announced its intention to levy a one-mill tax to finance a municipal garbage collection system beginning next year.

Thus, the Council is carrying out a promise to substantially cut the cost of garbage collection. The approval of the \$8,300,000 City Improvement Package bond issue to be voted on November 4 will not result in any increase in municipal utility rates.

The ordinance cuts the \$14 annual sewage disposal or sanitary fee to \$4. It also cuts the fee for a trash collection system to \$1. The new fee for a trash collection system is \$1.40 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

At present, Livonia homeowners pay \$11 to \$18 a year for trash collection. By putting the trash collection system cost of the tax bill, business and industry will pay 85 percent of cost. This system will also unify collection service under one contractor.

PLYMOUTH.—A study of the needs for new junior and senior high school facilities was ordered by the Plymouth board of education Monday night. It appears that if the board intends to keep the Plymouth schools up to par, enrollment they must make a decision within the next few months.

It was pointed out that under normal growth there would be a need for another junior high and another senior high by 1961 or 1962.

Should this be true, planning for financing of these buildings would need to start almost immediately.

The cost of the present junior high was \$1,700,000. Cost of the new high school would be at least \$2,000,000, depending on the capacity and what specialized facilities are needed.

BIRMINGHAM.—A quarter-million dollar capital improvement program is being considered by Birmingham. The program's cost is estimated at between \$250,000 and \$300,000.

City Finance Director James Purkiss told commissioners the city has slightly over \$250,000 in its capital improvement and available surplus funds with which to finance any and all of the programs if started this fiscal year.

THE AMERICAN WAY



MICHIGAN MIRROR • ELMER WHITE

This Year's Political Campaign Resembles That of 10 Years Ago

POLITICAL GHOSTS of 1928 are creeping back to haunt Democrats and give Republicans new nerve in the 1938 campaign.

They both remember the miracle of the underdog Democrat, G. Mennen Williams, who came from nowhere.

This year, Democrats everywhere are feeling that the attitude of all parties is apathy. Republicans are fighting for their life. For everyone, the question is: Will Success Spoil Gov. Williams?

Democrats have staged up for billboards along the highways, have bought television time and they pour the byways in style.

Republicans are the challengers again, using amateurish and enthusiasm in their campaign in the most energetic attack seen in Michigan by the "outs" in decades. However, there is still room for much enthusiasm and a need for unity within the GOP.

Williams is campaigning in places seldom seen by an official ranked above justice of the peace or county drain commissioner.

Republicans have comparative unknown, especially in Wayne County, headed by the die-hard Paul D. Bagwell, the speech professor on leave from Michigan State University whose best experience is a campaign for Senator General two years ago. He is plugging hard, but his task is tremendous.

That is what makes the 1938 campaign look like the 1928 side of the political coin of 1928. It was the year that Williams, a young former liquor commissioner and assistant attorney general, started stamping the state against Republican Gov. Kim Sigler.

Perhaps he didn't know or worry when the odds were against him. But he gamely worked with a handful of enthusiastic amateurs and won. For a decade, he has held the executive office in Lansing.

Nailing down his gains, Williams—now with a solid top-bottom party organization opposed by State Chairman N. E. L. Stebbins—has brought in his full slate of state officials.

Republicans, faced with losing control of over the House of Representatives, also remember 1928.

Bagwell relates to their party that Williams did not in 1928. He says heavy contributors have stopped backing Republicans in the wake of repeated defeats at the polls.

Bagwell, running on a shoe-string, has hit all 83 counties, and so has most of his state of unknowns. Williams, with apprehension this year, has done the same thing. Michigan voters are getting the most energetic alms campaign in modern history.

In 1928 Williams won handily over Sigler—a feat that political experts are trying to assess even yet.

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

October 26, 1913
Old Age Pensions

Census taking for the purpose of levying the new state head-tax, to raise money for the old age pension program, is now under way in Farmington township and city as well as throughout Oakland County.

Mrs. Ellen Goers is gathering the data in the township and Mrs. Rena Lamb the information in the city. The work is to be completed in the next few days.

Oakland County is the first county in Michigan in which the census is being made and will serve as a tryout ground for the State in carrying out the provisions of the old-age pension law and taxation program.

Pumble Cane
If you see a Farmington High boy walking around daytimes with a football on his arm, it's not practice—it's punishment. Since the team, through fumbles has lost two games and tied another which the coach feels they could have won otherwise, he has decreed that this will be the punishment for the next player that commits such an offense.

This Friday, the Farmington team will take on undefeated Melvindale. Coach Hall expects that the Farmington team would have a good chance to win if his boys can hold out the ball. Only 18 points have a been scored against them in the three games but they have scored only one touchdown themselves.

TEN YEARS AGO

Oct. 28, 1928
Gym Construction

Bids for construction work on the new Clarenceville high school gymnasium-auditorium are being prepared for advertising.

The architects are now completing plans for the unit. Tentative plans have already been approved by the Board of Education.

FIVE YEARS AGO

October 29, 1923
School Needs

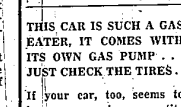
The Farmington Township School Board, Monday evening presented a group of citizens its receipt for a basic building program with which to meet the needs of the district.

The ingredients of the recipe include four new classrooms at Middlebelt, 12 additional rooms at William Grace School or in that area, a new ten room building south of the Grand River, Calcut, and a gymnasium-auditorium and four additional classrooms at the new high school.

The citizens were advised that a mortgage increase vote to raise an estimated total of \$124,000 would have to be taken to the people for a vote between now and next spring if the program is to be realized.

Even if the program is put into effect, first and second graders will have to go on double-sessions by September of 1931, school officials estimate. It was estimated that by 1935 there would be a need for at least 20 more classrooms. That need can be met with the proposed building program.

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THIS CAR IS SUCH A GAS EATER, IT COMES WITH ITS OWN GAS PUMP... JUST CHECK THE TIRES... If your car, too, seems to have a voracious appetite for gas, we've got a more practical suggestion. Let us check your motor. It is quite likely that our expert engine tune-up is all that's needed to give you a lot more mileage per gallon of gas; more pep 'n power, too!

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Public Letter Box

Letters submitted to The Editor for publication must be signed. Names will be withheld upon request. Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the policies of this newspaper. Maximum length is 1,000 words.

Xmas Seal Money

Dear Editor:

This is an open letter from the patients of the Oakland County Tuberculosis Sanatorium, to the citizens and organizations who donate to the Tuberculosis Christmas Seal Fund.

It is known that there are many people in Oakland County, who are under the impression that part of their donations are being used for the entertainment, recreation and rehabilitation supplies of the patients.

The patients wish to inform you that this is not so. Not one cent of the Christmas Seal Fund is used for this purpose, or any other activity that might keep them away from the mental health of patients if there were funds available. The patients therefore, have set up a fund at the Sanatorium for the purchase of books and request that any donation intended for this purpose be sent directly to the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Pontiac, Michigan.

The patients know that the Tuberculosis Christmas Seal Fund is a worthy cause and in no way wish to deprive the Tuberculosis Association from its fundraising efforts for their purpose.

Clarence Harper, President

Send donations: Patients Entertainment and Recreation Fund, Oakland County Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Pontiac, Michigan.

Seeking Used Textbooks

The Clarenceville school system will continue to accept used textbooks which families have lying around the house and have no further use for, school officials state.

These books will be given or loaned free of charge to needy children whose parents cannot afford to buy the books. They will also be loaned out to children whose parents plan on moving in a short period of time and therefore do not want to purchase books only to move to buy all new books in the school district they move to.

Persons having books currently used in the school's program are asked to call GR. 4-8900.

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