

THE ALMA RECORD

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M. S. HARCOCK, Editor; ELLIOTT G. HARCOCK, Associate Editor

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

FARM PROBLEMS

Farming operations are just commencing, and it is appropriate to consider some of the problems of present day farming. Probably, first and foremost amongst these problems is the one of competent help.

Other occupations are paying such large wages that it is next to impossible to obtain good help on the farm, and even when competent help can be had it is very difficult to make the farm produce enough to pay operating expenses and have anything left for the farmer and his family.

Farm life should be very attractive, because of the outdoor life, the healthful food, the abundant physical exercise, and the many attractions of nature, but unfortunately it is not attractive for the reason that we are looking for artificial things instead of substantial.

Farmers are getting a better price for their products than ever before, but the price they are getting is not keeping pace with what they have to buy, and the price they must pay for labor. The result is that we see abandoned farms on every hand. The newspapers contain many notices of auction sales, and almost invariably the farmer says he is quitting the farm because he does not find it profitable.

This situation is not only serious for the farmer but it is even more serious for the country at large, because the growing shortage of farm products increases the price to the consuming public and will continue to do so until there is some kind of an adjustment which equalizes farm and factory cost of production, and makes work on the farm lucrative enough and attractive enough so farm help can be kept on the farm.

Some city people have the notion that all the farmer has to do is just sit around in the shade; and listen to the hens cackle to proclaim the production of high priced eggs, hear the cows looting to be milked at sixteen cents per quart; watch the beans grow at five dollars per bushel, and see the beets gather sugar out of the mud, but that is a mistaken notion. The farmer who succeeds must keep busy about sixteen hours per day. It is not necessary to pass any daylight laws for him. He needs all the daylight there is for his daily task and then takes his lantern to do the chores for exercise.

It is a part of human nature to go where the easy money is to be found, or we imagine it is, at least, and the fact that so many young people leave the farm makes it pretty certain they are not finding farming a right down soft snap and the deserted farms offer mute testimony to the fact that the men who have had the experience are not sticking to it.

This is a serious situation for the country and there should be a concerted action to make the farm a place of pleasure as well as work. Steps must be taken for an equalization of prices or the country will suffer untold injury. We might just as well face these problems as they are and make an honest effort to find a solution.

Professor Sauer of the U. of M. has just made a report which says that sixteen million acres of good land is lying idle in the state of Michigan. That statement should make us sit up and take notice of farm problems and possibilities.

WORK

A few days ago Thomas A. Edison celebrated his seventy-third birthday anniversary, and when asked what had kept him so strong and hearty, and made him so active at his age, he replied with one word of four letters, "Work," and in that brief reply there is much food for serious thought.

Probably no one man in all the world has really accomplished more than Mr. Edison, and he accounts for his success in terms of hard work. Quite a number of years ago a certain reporter visited Mr. Edison and asked for an interview. In the course of the conversation he said to Mr. Edison, "Your success must be a great inspiration to you," and Mr. Edison replied, "Young man, success is about two per cent inspiration and ninety-eight per cent perspiration."

It is unquestionably his attitude toward his labor that has enabled him to accomplish so much, and therein is a valuable lesson for all of us. Just now we seem to be in an era when shorter hours and more leisure is the general demand, hence we can learn a lesson from Edison's life work. He has accomplished much but only because he has been willing to give much in the way of right down hard labor and long hours, and when we come to look around amongst those who have done things worth while, we find they have all been people who have been willing to "work" and work hard.

About five years ago, we were all amazed to read the great headlines in the newspapers which announced that Mr. Edison's great plant in New Jersey had been destroyed by fire, and was a total wreck with a loss of seven million dollars. It was considered a tremendous loss.

Probably few of us noticed the short item the next day which stated that a friend sympathized with Mr. Edison and remarked to him, "It is a terrible loss for a man of your age to have everything, the work of a lifetime swept away," to which Mr. Edison replied, "I am sixty-eight years young tomorrow and I intend to start in and build my business up better than it ever was before."

It is that spirit of accomplishment that has made Edison a great and successful man. When most men would have been utterly discouraged and disheartened by the loss, he was spurred on to greater effort and more brilliant achievement.

If America is to meet her many problems, pay her tremendous debt and get on a sure business foundation we must get more of the spirit that has actuated the life of such men as Edison. We must quit our lounging and seeking after ease, and get down to honest hard work.

No great and lasting success has ever been achieved without honest hard labor, nor can it be. The idea that we can accomplish something without hard work is on a par with the false notion that we can get something for nothing.

Mr. Edison at seventy-three years of age has sounded the keynote of success for America in the word "work," and the sooner we recognize that and quit chasing after the bubbles of shorter hours and more pleasure, the sooner we will get back to stable business conditions and real happiness.

From the one manufacturing district of Bradford, England, exports to the United States during 1919 amounted to \$24,382,000 as compared with \$7,767,000 for 1918. This is one item of evidence that Great Britain is rapidly getting back into her former position in world trade.

There is nothing we need so much today, as good loyal American citizens with vision enough to see our dangers and our needs, and courage enough to do the thing that should be done regardless of personal consequences. There is great need of men and women of foresight and courage.

All who prefer the present income tax and excess profit tax to a protective tariff that will raise revenue and at the same time protect and encourage American industry, please raise your right hand. Thanks.

If you believe in America and American ideals don't be bashful about saying so. That is just the kind of men and women America needs.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

You are hereby notified that the following resolution has been duly adopted by the City Commission of the City of Alma and that said City Commission will be in session at its Chambers in the City Hall in said City of Alma, on Tuesday, the 20th day of April, 1920, at 8 o'clock p. m. of said day, at which time said City Commission will hear any objections that may have been filed in the office of the City Clerk relative to vacating, abolishing and setting aside of all the streets, avenues and alleys, in what is known as the "Old Fairground Plat" Addition to the City of Alma, Michigan, according to the original plat thereof now on file in the office of the Register of Deeds for Gratiot County, Michigan, and which said streets, avenues and alleys were heretofore dedicated to the use of the public, except such as are a part of Block 20, in said "Old Fairground Plat" Addition, aforesaid; and you are hereby further notified that any person may file his or her objection thereto with said City Clerk, at any time prior to said 20th day of April, 1920, at 8 o'clock p. m. and that those who do file such objections may also be heard orally by said City Commission at the time above mentioned for such hearing.

Whereas, the following named persons, namely, Earl Morris and Grace Morris, his wife, Charles G. Rhodes and Edna B. Rhodes, his wife, Thomas A. Burt and Jessie B. Burt, his wife, and Charles O. Ward and Della S. Ward, his wife, are the owners and proprietors of lands embraced in plat known and designated "Old Fairground Plat" except some portions there on Block 20 of said plat which have been heretofore sold; and

Whereas, said parties are about to re-plate and re-name said plat to be hereinafter known as "Shadow Lawn" Addition to the City of Alma, Michigan, and for that purpose desire and expect to change the location and description of the streets and alleys as now described and located on said "Old Fairground Plat," said streets and alleys having been heretofore dedicated to and accepted by said City of Alma, Michigan, now therefore be it

Resolved by the City Commission now in session, that all the streets, avenues and alleys as laid out, described and dedicated to the use of the public, according to the recorded plat of said "Old Fairground Plat" addition to the said City of Alma, Michigan, be and the same are hereby vacated, abolished and set aside, except those on Block 20 thereof, and be it further

Resolved that the said City Commission will meet and hear objections if any, relative to the vacating, abolishing and setting aside of said streets, avenues and alleys aforesaid, as is required by Section 5 of Chapter XXXIII of the City Charter.

JESSIE WOLFORD, City Clerk.

Estate of Addie Wright, Deceased

HEARING CLAIMS STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Gratiot.

At a session of said court, held at the Probate office in the village of Ithaca in said county, on the 25th day of March, A. D. 1920. Present: Hon. J. Lee Potts, Judge.

In the matter of the estate of Addie Wright, deceased.

Estate of Bert Hamborough, Deceased

HEARING CLAIMS STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Gratiot.

At a session of said court, held at the Probate office in the village of Ithaca in said county, on the 2nd day of April, 1920. Present: Hon. J. Lee Potts, Judge.

In the matter of the estate of Bert Hamborough, deceased.

The above estate having been admitted to Probate and Earl E. Adams, Attorney at Law, Michigan, appointed administrator thereof.

It is ordered that four months from this date be allowed for creditors to present their claims against said estate and that such claims will be heard by said court on Wednesday, the 27th day of August, next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

It is further ordered that public notice thereof be given by publication of this order for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Alma Record, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

A true copy. Attest: J. LEE POTTS, ELLEN M. WALTER, Judge of Probate, Register of Probate.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—In the Circuit Court for the County of Gratiot—In Chancery.

At a session of the said court, held at the Court House, in the Village of Ithaca, in said County, on the 21st day of February, A. D. 1920.

Present: Hon. Edward J. Moynet, Circuit Judge.

Hazel Winslow, Plaintiff, vs. Edward Winslow, Defendant.

In this cause it appearing by affidavit on file, that the defendant, Edward Winslow, is not a resident of this state, and it cannot be ascertained in what state or country, the defendant Winslow, now resides.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Gratiot.

At a session of said court, held at the Probate office in the village of Ithaca in said county, on the 25th day of March, A. D. 1920. Present: Hon. J. Lee Potts, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of M. Lydia Kehn, deceased.

Leonard Kehn, husband of deceased, having filed in said court his petition praying that the administration of said estate be granted to John D. Spilney or to some other suitable person.

It is ordered, that the 25th day of April, A. D. 1920, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition; and that the next day of hearing be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition, and that the next day of hearing be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition, and that the next day of hearing be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Gratiot.

At a session of said court, held at the Probate office in the village of Ithaca in said county, on the 17th day of March, A. D. 1920. Present: Hon. J. Lee Potts, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of Reed C. Latimer, deceased.

Henry J. Shaw, administrator, having filed in said court his petition, praying for license to sell the interest of said estate in certain real estate therein described.

It is ordered, that the 16th day of April, next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition, and that the next day of hearing be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition, and that the next day of hearing be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition.

A true copy. Attest: J. LEE POTTS, ELLEN M. WALTER, Judge of Probate, Register of Probate.

(40 to 43)

Record Want Ads for Results

ALMA COLLEGE GLEE CLUB HOME CONCERT

A Concert Full of College Pep

QUARTETTES SOLOS READING

Come and Hear Galli Curci's Only Rival

Presbyterian Church

Admission: 50c and 35c

Wednesday, April 14, 1920

TO THE VOTERS OF ALMA

I beg to submit the following communication from our Bishop to the careful perusal of the voters of Alma, with these preliminary remarks.

A petition for an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Michigan is now at Lansing. This amendment forces parents to send all children from the age of five to sixteen years to the public schools.

We have no objection to a law enforcing education, but we do object to a law abrogating private rights of parents to say where their children should be educated. This amendment, if passed, would close the Kindergarten of Alma College, would close every private school in Michigan up to the eighth grade. It would throw some one hundred and twenty thousand children on the public schools, already overcrowded; it would necessitate four thousand more teachers,—and already there is a crying scarcity of teachers—it would require the erection and maintenance of three hundred new schools and taxes aggregating seventy millions of dollars, for the housing and education of these children, costing every man, woman and child in Michigan, twenty dollars a year, and why? Not one good reason, as the Bishop's letter proves.

Voters of Gratiot County, do not let yourselves be blinded to your interest and your neighbor's, by bigotry.

JOHN A. MULVEY.

Chancery Office, Grand Rapids, Mich.

DEAR FATHERS AND BELOVED PEOPLE:

May I venture upon your word of light and encouragement in the face of the injustice and tyranny involved in the proposed School Amendment of the Wayne County Civic Association? This organization would suppress our religious schools, suppress our Church, suppress our homes for orphans and destitute children, and banish God from Society and the State.

Conscience demands of us that we educate our children in the fear and love of God, in reverence for ancient and holy things, in loyalty to our beloved country. How can any American, not blinded by bigotry and unspeakable hatred, legislate against the religious affiliation and rights of conscience of his fellow American?

Perhaps what is needed most of all is the old definition of democracy. A democracy is government of the people, for the people, by the people, all of which means that the state exists for the people, not the people for the state. The state has inherently the right to protect conscience. It has no right whatever to destroy conscience.

Democracy and its eternal principles are set squarely against autocracy, radicalism, centralization, and bigotry. Democracy can no more harmonize with these things than truth with error, light with darkness. With democracy you have liberty, the liberty you have created in an antient, in a glorious traditional past, the liberty of conscience, the liberty of worship; with autocracy you have repression; with radicalism, chaos; with centralization, a paternalism akin to Socialism; with bigotry, a fanaticism that is Mahometic in its nature.

If we would be safe in the future, we must choose now between the liberty of democracy and the dangerous political and socialistic "ism" of the day. The Constitution of the United States is founded on that basic principle of democracy that the State has no right to restrict the liberty of the individual beyond those limits necessary for its own protection and preservation.

Violence is being done to our national ideals, the spirit of our Constitution is no longer the anchorage of our ship of State. Power has been seized and utilized at the expense of personal and civic rights, the standard has been set to invade personal liberties. God has been banished from the parliaments of the world. His name was crowded out of the League of Nations. Our national mottoes are becoming meaningless. "E pluribus unum" will soon be in the scrap-heap with that other: "In God we Trust." We are travelling backwards on the road to Caesarism and paganism.

One might have thought that the lofty principles with which this nation entered the war and the vast losses sustained would have served forever as a warning lest we, having preached the gospel of liberty to others, might ourselves become a castaway. The effect however has been the opposite. The orgy of repressive legislation continues unabated, gathering momentum as it proceeds. What the future holds in store as a result of this policy may best be judged from the pages of history.

The passage of the proposed amendment would mean a death warrant to constitutional rights and a travesty on democratic government. We are slow to believe that the enactment of this measure is possible, where education and enlightenment have at all obtained. The common sense and the patriotism of the vast majority of our non-Catholic brethren can surely be depended upon to rebuke the bigoted element which has recorded itself as willing to prostitute the principles of liberty to the furtherance of unreasoning prejudice or to sell the Constitution for a mess of pottage.

Here indeed is a case of wanton assault upon the rights of citizenship. Were the Catholic schools of Michigan, against which the measure is primarily directed, not proven by every standard of education and citizenship; were they failing in the thoroughness of their Americanism; were they lacking in any qualification desired in those institutions which cradle the hopes of the America of tomorrow, the amendment would be intelligible on the ground of public policy. But there is no such refuge. We challenge the authors of the scheme to produce one scintilla of proof that the Catholic Schools are not one hundred per cent American, at least as efficient as the public schools in secular education and unique as a bulwark against the forces of disorder which threaten the

Sincerely in Christ.

E. D. KELLY, Bishop of Grand Rapids.

(Advertisement)