

WILMETTE LIFE

WITH WHICH IS COMBINED
WILMETTE ANNOUNCEMENTS and THE KENILWORTH TIMES

PUBLISHED THURSDAYS BY

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CHICAGO SUBURBAN QUALITY GROUP
Chicago Offices — 1016-1018 WILLOUGHBY TOWER
Telephone CENTRAL 3355

SUBSCRIPTION \$2 PER YEAR SINGLE COPIES 5 CENTS

All communications and contributions intended for publication must bear the name and address of the author, not necessarily for publication, but for our files. Such material must reach the editor by Tuesday noon to be in time for the current issue.

VILLAGE ELECTIONS

As the time approaches for village elections in the New Trier municipalities, the attention of citizens having the public welfare at heart should turn to the selection of such candidates for the various offices as will insure the highest type of local government. In communities so rich in available talent of the first order it should be possible to attract to public service men and women of such outstanding ability that no matter whether this faction or that loses in an election, the village will always win.

In recent years it has become more and more apparent that the "closed caucus," dominated by a few persons or a single individual, is one sure way not to get the most capable and efficient candidates. Indeed, with such a citizenship as ours, capable of judging between ability and mediocrity, the best results are obtainable through the earnest collaboration of as many public-spirited people as will join in the service.

Some years ago Winnetka, weary of the continual strife of election battles and determined to retrieve the village from the hands of petty politicians, formed a "village caucus" to select candidates. The result has been to give that village a government that is widely recognized as a model. This year the caucus has been enlarged to two members from each of the ten precincts, and ten from the village at large. As might be expected, the caucus method is opposed by factions that would throw the affairs of the village back into the maelstrom of partisan politics. But the great majority of citizen voters, recognizing the benefits of good government, continue to loyally support the caucus plan.

Glencoe adopted the idea later with varying success. Assaults upon the plan have been relentless, it being charged that the caucus itself had become a dominant political faction. Whatever the deficiencies in operation may be, it is evident that their correction lies in broadening the scope of the caucus, seeking the cooperation of civic organizations and groups to bring it to the point of highest efficiency where factional wrangles will be eliminated and only the public welfare served.

Kenilworth has just adopted the caucus plan in selecting candidates to fill vacancies on the Village board. Its success has been signal, and without doubt that finely developed community will refuse to discard it for a return to factional control.

Last year ten leading civic organizations of Wilmette cooperated in the formation of a non-partisan, non-political nominating convention, composed of four members from each of the thirteen precincts. It nominated three exceptionally high grade candidates for village trustees who were defeated in the election. Not dismayed, the convention is now preparing to nominate candidates for the spring election. Unfortunately the present administration, during the closing weeks of last year, nominated candidates, thus assuring at least one more contest before the caucus plan can be adopted.

This, in short, is a survey of the situations as they now exist in the four villages. It is to be

hoped that, in the interest of municipal welfare, there will be a drawing together of the various factions, a complete submergence of petty ambitions, a joining of forces that will insure capable and independent officials in the makeup of the various legislative bodies.

DAINGEROUS PROPAGANDA

While proponents and administrators of the national recovery act may be pardoned for the enthusiasm with which they are supporting that measure, as well as for their unbounded faith in its ability to bring back prosperity and correct all the evils of a complicated economic system, they should be warned that there is danger that unbridled propaganda may serve only to defeat the purpose for which the act was created.

In newspapers, from the platform and over the radio, the statement is made and overemphasized that "failure of the NRA means chaos and revolution." By means of this dangerous propaganda our heterogeneous citizenship, not all of which is rooted and grounded in American principles, is being educated in the belief that the American people will be ready and willing to ditch representative government and surrender the country to the forces of disorder, rapine and murder in case the NRA fails to accomplish what they have been led to believe it will accomplish.

This continual harping upon revolution as the only alternative to the success of the recovery act is doing more than any other agency to instill into the minds of uneducated and half-assimilated citizens the germs of revolution which might conceivably propagate so rapidly as to get beyond all control. Who is to be the judge as to whether the recovery act has succeeded or failed? It is possible that a very large contingent of the population might get the idea that the measure had failed when in fact its results were decidedly beneficial, and acting upon what the administrators have taught them, start a revolution that would lead to serious consequences.

If there were any definite assurances of the success of the recovery act the policy might be excusable on the ground that persuasion is better than force in compelling compliance with the program. But so long as its most devoted sponsors can offer no guarantee that the plan will work as expected, it would be safer and far more sensible to refrain from instigating mental revolution. In a radio speech January 18 Hugh S. Johnson, chief of the administrative forces, stated that the "NRA is a big success and business is in for the greatest prosperity it has ever known." A little later in the same speech he said "I hope it will succeed," and added, "I believe it will succeed."

It would seem that more assurance of success should be in evidence before revolution is held out as its only alternative.

BOTH FORTUNATE

North shore villages must have been especially fortunate in the personnel of CCC workers assigned to nearby camps, or these communities must inspire in such workers a desire to be on continual good behavior, if reports from other sections are to be credited. None but words of praise for the character and fine conduct of residents of the camps hereabouts are heard. The demand for good reading matter and text books on various subjects is alone an indication of the desire of the men to improve their minds as well as their bodies. Perhaps they, too, are fortunate in their location.

Reports are that Joseph Stalin, dictator of Soviet Russia, won unanimous approval of the congress of the communist party of all that he had said and done since the previous meeting of the congress three years ago. If we had to live in that country we would also be unanimous for Mr. Stalin. It is a lot more pleasant than being "liquidated."

NEWS-COMMENT

ADVICES of the precarious predicament of Commander Byrd and the men of his expedition in the antarctic is causing much concern. We bank on the intrepid commander. In a radio message Saturday he said: "The situation is a desperate one, but it CAN be licked." What can stop a man like that?

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There is a tang of the old west and a breath of Zane Grey in reports of the capture of the Dillinger gang by the police of Tucson, Arizona. The outlaw and his boy and girl playmates made a mistake in going to a country where law officers believe in arresting criminals instead of giving them a chance to escape.

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The scandals in CWA bid fair to bring that part of the national recovery plan to a gradual end, although another billion has been asked for to keep it going until spring.



Even Mordecai Ezekiel, the professor who, with an imaginary little black ball, an imaginary little white ball, and an imaginary line can imagine six years before it is born how much a hog will sell for when it is fattened for market, could not keep the politicians from getting their bit out of the "easy money" and landing their friends in cozy jobs.

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The big event locally this week is the automobile show, now in progress at the Coliseum. Some of the new designs are like man, "fearfully and wonderfully made," yet they will appeal irresistibly to those who want the latest thing. The show is well worth seeing.

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A psychologist, observing a lady litigant in a divorce action, testified that she had two personalities, in one of which she loved her husband dearly and in the other hated him with great vehemence. The court listened with much patience to the testimony.

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And another psychologist, speaking before the Chicago Executives' club, solemnly avers that by the year 2139 we will all be crazy. At the rate we are going, professor, it surely should not take that long.

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A personable young lady is pictured in the late prints modeling what will be vogue on the beaches next year. To us it did not appear to be very much.

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A truck driver was reported to have been hijacked and his truck and thirty cases of whiskey stolen. It just can't be true. Why, the eighteenth amendment was repealed and all crime ceased some time ago. It's just another of those lies the newspapers print.

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A \$40,000,000 heiress visited Chicago last week on her honeymoon. \$40,000,000! Why, the very idea! Up and at 'er, brain busters!

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Candidates for congress from the north shore district are showing considerable activity just now, presaging a hot primary campaign. The sovereign voter will be king—until the polls close.

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We are certainly moving fast. A 7½-pound daughter was born to a 12-year-old wife at Syracuse, N. Y., last week. If this keeps up mothers and babies will soon be contending over whose turn it is for a pull at the pacifier. And up in Ontario a 32-year-old grandmother gave birth to her 20th child in 22 years of married life.

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Profesor Tugwell, of the well known brain-busters, says that the present production ebb is only temporary. Now, what does EBB stand for? These alphabetical combinations have got clear beyond us.

THE PHANTOM REPORTER