

Michigan News Tersely Told

Traverse City—Robert Lannon, 49, a farmer living near the city, killed himself with a shotgun.

Ionia—Mrs. D. W. Taylor, an elderly woman, stepped on a cat and fell downstairs, breaking a wrist. In November her husband fell and broke a hip.

Flint—Grasping an electric light cord in the basement of his father's shoe repair shop, Sylvester Nesich, 11-year-old son of Stephen Nesich, was electrocuted.

Big Rapids—Former Governor W. N. Ferris, who was at the head of the Chinese famine committee in this county, has been named chairman of the Near East relief campaign.

Corunna—Read repair men employed by Shawnessy have been unable to draw their wages for several weeks as a result of the exhaustion of the state and the county's state reward funds.

Grand Rapids—Motor truck operators, storage and warehouse men and operators of buses between various cities in the state met here for the annual convention of the Michigan Highway Transportation association.

Port Huron—Plans are now being formulated whereby Lapeer, Sanilac and St. Clair counties will join in the erection of a sanitarium for tuberculosis patients. Commissioners of all three counties will meet in the near future.

Grand Rapids—Preparations to receive 1,500 persons at the annual meeting of the Michigan Retail Hardware Dealers' association, to be held here February 7 to 10, are being made by Carl Hudson, who is in charge of arrangements.

East Tawas—Richard Starke, one of three Whittemore bank robbers arrested a few days ago at Dowagiac and brought here for trial, pleaded guilty in circuit court and was sentenced to 29 to 40 years in Jackson, with a recommendation of 25 by Judge Wildis.

Battle Creek—The sales and general administration departments of the Postum Cereal Co. and the office forces will be moved to Battle Creek in the spring. Mrs. Marjorie Post Closs Hutton, daughter of the late C. W. Post, who is the principal owner, now lives in New York.

Owosso—A central relief committee, embracing representatives of every church, lodge, association and fraternal group in the city, has been appointed by Mrs. A. L. Denmore to have charge of the relief work among people in need here during the winter. Mrs. Denmore was appointed by the mayor.

Lansing—Information received here says the Grand Rapids, Grand Haven & Muskegon railway will appeal from the recent decision of the Ingham county circuit court holding that it is entitled to only a 2 1/2 cent passenger rate. The 1.5 cent was put on a 2 1/2 cent fare schedule for the public utilities commission had decided that it was earning more than \$10,000 a mile.

Lansing—Litigation to test the constitutionality of an act passed by the 1921 legislature, prescribing that railroads operating in this state must charge reasonable and non-discriminatory rates for losses of railroad property to warehouses, elevators and similar establishments may result from a controversy between the Mueller Co. of Port Huron and the Pere Marquette railroad.

Kalamazoo—Henry Mills, one of the 13 persons arrested for complicity in the operations of the Kalamazoo burglary ring, pleaded guilty and was placed on probation when he was arraigned in circuit court. Mills admitted he had accepted a suitcase full of clothing which Harry McCormick, 18-year-old leader of the ring, had stolen from the Rochester Clothing company at Vicksburg, Mich.

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CANDY MADE AT HOME

HOW TO PREPARE SWEETMEATS FOR CHRISTMAS.

Box of Dainties is Sure to Make One of the Most Appreciated Yuletide Presents.

Forty years later before it was officially adopted as Christmas Festival.

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In Rome the Saturnalia, or feast of Saturn, fell at about the same time as our Christmas, and it marked the greatest festival of the Roman year. The city abandoned itself to gaiety. Universal mirth was the order of the day; friends feasted friends, and foes were reconciled. All social distinctions were laid aside. Work was stopped, and no war was ever entered upon at that time.

One by one other legends and customs have been disproved and overthrown, yet none has dared attack the legends and the customs sacred to Christmas. It remains with us, and will always remain. Christmas marks the winter solstice. The days begin to lengthen, and the sun no longer journeys away from the earth, but enters upon its return. It is a promise of renewed light and warmth, the approach of summer, and unhealed these signs with every expression of gladness.

When Christianity spread abroad, men adapted the old customs of the ancients to the new order of things. The word Yuletide, used to give a picturesque, oldtime flavor to the Christmas idea, comes from Yule, an old name for Christmas. The tenth century found an English word for Christmas eve and for the two months of December and January, one of which was called the "former Yule," the other the "after Yule." There is a legend which relates that it was the custom of the Saxons to burn the Yule log on Christmas eve. This was a great gnarled log of tree trunk, cut the day before Christmas and brought into the hall on the occasion. But even the Christmas tree, with its lights and ornaments, the gifts found beneath the tree, the work of jolly old St. Nicholas, the Santa Claus, as we know him, the kindly saint was no legendary character. He lived about 300 A. D., and was a noted bishop of Asia Minor. He was looked upon as a patron saint of generosity because of his liberality. The idea of St. Nicholas traveling in a sleigh drawn by reindeer originated in the cold northern countries. The reindeer were the swiftest animals known, they must needs fly like the wind to carry St. Nick to the homes of the world in one night.

Almost as important as the gift giving and gift receiving on Christmas day is the feast of dainties spread on this occasion. But even the Christmas dinner has its origin in the dim, distant past. Feasts were always the accompaniment of any festival. In Egypt, at the winter solstice, every family killed and ate a goose as a religious observance. We preserve the custom of eating fowl on Christmas, but the toothsome turkey has more generally supplanted the goose.

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