

MICHIGAN OUT-OF-DOORS

TOO MUCH RAIN MAY CUT HUNTERS' CHANCES IN FALL

Above-normal precipitation recorded in recent weeks by the U. S. Weather Bureau at East Lansing may affect adversely the success of Michigan's more than a half million small game hunters next fall.

Field men of the conservation department's game division, are returning to Lansing after tours of most of Michigan's counties with reports that the 1930 crop of pheasants may have been reduced by excess precipitation which in May was 3.53 inches, 0.74 above normal, and which in June is likely also to exceed the normal for the two peninsulas.

Young rabbits, as well, may fail to survive when nests are soaked these days by grinding rain. In the case of rabbits, however, succeeding litters may lift populations to near-normal levels. Most pheasants are hatched in June.

A battery of bobbing machines these days is grinding out vital statistics covering 1930 hunting success which will guide the conservation commission in fixing 1931 season and bag limits. The task has been a huge one. Since February 15, deer hunters have reported hunting success by folders of 1930 licenses, the game division has handled approximately 23,000 cards which the law requires shall be detached from licenses and sent to the department. This year on the basis of reports returned, the department has a more complete picture of hunter success than has been available in any preceding like period. About 100,000 report cards were sorted and tabulated in 1929, covering the 1928 open seasons.

U. S. BUREAU OF FISHERIES PLANTS FISH IN MICHIGAN

Supplementing the fish plantings of the state department of conservation, the U. S. bureau of fisheries last year released 1,237,390 fry and fingerling in Michigan's inland waters. Detailed accounts of these plantings appear in the 1929 fish planting record.

About 400,000,000 of the 130,000,000 fish stocked by the conservation department were walleye pike fry. Federal bureau plantings for the species which made up the other 400,000,000 set out by 1929 included: 776,775 brook trout, 29,000 brown trout, 76,815 rainbow trout, 213,295 black bass, 5,560 perch, 75,270 bluegills, 56,000 lake trout, 220 calico bass, 600 sunfish and 185 rock bass.

Fish planted by the bureau in Michigan inland lakes and streams are produced at hatcheries at Northville, Mich., and LaCrosse, Wis., and at the trout rearing station on Sullivan creek, near Rice, and the Clare county cooperative station near Harrison. At the bureau's station in Charlevoix, experiments in rearing lake trout to fingerling size are underway.

The bureau cooperates with the department to avoid confusion in fish management programs, as would result from planting bass in pike lakes or brown trout in brook trout waters.

MINERAL INDUSTRY REPORTS LARGE GAIN IN 1929

A \$40,000,000 increase in 1929, half again as much as was produced in 1928, is revealed in final 1929 production figures for the mineral industries of Michigan, compiled by the geological survey division of the department of conservation.

Greatest gain in the beginning of the wartime heating which is now boosting 1930 production was made in iron ore, of which 11,237,605 tons were shipped in 1929, against 4,092,302 tons the year before, an increase of about \$24,000,000 worth.

Petroleum production increased 4,687,356 barrels to a total of 22,462,995 barrels worth \$1,700,000 more than the 1928 output. Copper production rose \$1,500,000 from \$2,291,526 to \$3,791,461 pounds. Salt production increased \$1,000,000 worth to 2,254,333 barrels. Limestone production went up from 7,522,830 to 12,672,114 tons, about \$3,000,000 worth.

Comment showed a \$2,000,000 gain, to 8,327,479 barrels. The output of magnesium, a light metal for plane parts, more than doubled, from 4,819,617 pounds in 1928, to 10,650,121 pounds in 1929, an increase in value of about \$2,000,000. Bromine (principally for ethyl gasoline) had a \$400,000 increase. Other Michigan mineral industries felt the 1929 upturn to a lesser extent.

The 1929 production values equal or surpass those of 1927, when a total mineral products value of \$118,000,000 made it the best year since 1926.

EXPECT BIG WEEK FOR MICHIGAN FISHERMEN

With fair weather, Michigan's fishing pressure will be at peak this week, as tens of thousands at work in shop and office when the season opened Tuesday, June 25, get their first opportunity to lure bass and bluegills to creel and trying for pike.

For most of Michigan's ordinary anglers, fishing means catching bluegills, and begins with the season opening, last week. Most abundance of the game fishes in southern Michigan where fishermen are most numerous, bluegills may be caught with a cane pole, with angleworm bait, and by boys, girls and women who can become enthusiastic fishing for them. Anglers wanting more excitement fish for bluegills with light tackle and flies, or concentrate on the husker black bass.

Early inquires from out-of-state directed to the Michigan department of conservation indicate more than the usual number of visiting fishermen will be added to the steadily growing number of resident sport fishermen. By federal records, Michigan already leads the 48 states in total fishing license sales and in sale of licenses to tourist anglers.

Fish production in Michigan lakes and streams under such pressure tests fish cultural programs in practical fashion.

GAME DEPUTIES KEPT BUSY WITH LAW-BREAKERS

Violators of fishing laws kept conservation officers busy this spring, accounting for 318 of the 381 cases arising from arrests made in May, 281 of 410 cases arising from arrests in April, and 83 of 144 cases arising from arrests in March.

Prosecutions in cases resulting from arrests in May concerned 12 instances. Violations of game fish laws included such offenses as fishing without a license, taking rainbow trout with snags and gaff hooks, spearing bass, bluegills, pickerel and sunfish, possessing firearms for purpose of killing fish, buying and selling game fish, having undersized fish, and fish on which the season is closed.

Of the other May arrests, 39 involved game and trapping regulations. 23 motoring pictures covering Michigan conservation affairs which are being shown currently to audiences that are numbered in the scores of thousands.

There are approximately 18,200 square miles of deer range in the lower peninsula of Michigan.

Field Party Shows How To Stop Swimmer's Itch

Swimmers at northern Michigan beaches who discover at the season's first dip organisms causing water itch are present may learn from a traveling field party of the state stream control commission how to clean the beaches for the summer.

The commission's field party is now in the upper peninsula checking infested beaches treated last year. Beaches are treated by poisoning the itch-causing organisms with cyanus cyanide. Cyanide is applied in small quantities and treated last summer for snails will show the relative effectiveness of chemical application.

The stream control commission at Lansing invites inquiries from residents at beaches bothered with swimmer's or water itch. It does not buy chemicals nor furnish labor for beach treatment, but its field party will inspect waters complained of, and make recommendations without cost.

At the state parks in the region where there is any likelihood of a swimmer's Itch infestation, park attendants are alerted to its detection and prepared with means for treating the pest. At a recent meeting at Interlochen state park they discussed methods of treating beaches for swimmer's itch with the stream control commission field party.

Landmark Pine Downed By Lightning Recently

Interlochen state park has lost its "Granddaddy" white pine. The 125-foot tree succumbed to a violent night windstorm which snapped it in two at a point 50 feet above the ground, where the trunk was 32 inches in diameter.

Though the old giant was decayed considerably at the point where it broke, park attendants were able to cut 20 feet of sound logs from the 75 foot stump.

The tall stump of the old landmark that once caught the eye of every park visitor still stands. Some 43 inches through at its base, it still has some green branch, and park attendants think it may live.

Fawns 'Kidnapped' By Woods Visitors

Nine little orphan fawns are feeding on warm milk at the headquarters of the Ogemaw game refuge near St. Helen, because misadvised persons kidnapped them from their parents, thinking they lost when they found them in the woods. Game men say the mothers are probably feeding nearby, watching from a safe distance when the "lost" fawns are being taken away by well-meaning but ignorant woods visitors.

George, the Ogemaw refuge's game deer, has a fine new rack of horns started. The antlers are new in "velvet" and George is most proud and careful of them.

Many Persons Seek Lots In Northern Michigan

The wish for a bit of land in northern Michigan supports a flow of correspondence averaging 50 letters a day into the office of the lands division of the Michigan department of conservation.

Lands drawing the inquiries and applications are the more than 2,000,000 acres north of the Muskegon-Bay City line that reverted to the state last November, for non-payment of taxes. They are sought for farming, for grazing, and for hunting cabin sites.

Auction of lands whose sale was applied for by former owners begins this summer in some counties, and will continue through the fall and winter. Sale of other tax reverted lands will begin later.

STATE COLLEGE TO RUN OLD GRANT AS MUCK FARM

Land which has been lying unused as a grassy muck area and part of an original grant obtained from the federal government in 1850 is to be surveyed and drained by Michigan State College this summer as the start of what will be a muck crops experimental farm.

Appointment of a committee by college president, R. S. Shaw, on approval of the State Board of Agriculture, lists the following men to supervise the project: E. L. Anthony, dean of agriculture, as chairman; V. K. Gardner, director of the college Experiment Station; C. E. Miller, head of the soil department; Paul M. Harner, muck crop specialist in the soils department; and James J. Jakway, Benton Harbor, member of the State Board of Agriculture.

This original grant of land covers 220 acres, of which 120 is in swamp. The remaining 200 acres consists of muck land.

Only one 40 acre piece is to be developed at present, explains Dean Anthony. O. E. Robey is in charge of the muck crop department. Agricultural engineering department will survey the land and plan drainage. Then the breaking of the land is scheduled so that planting land is scheduled so that planting the area will supplement the 14 acres of muck now in plots on the college farms at East Lansing. The plots have rendered service in showing thousands of farmers better methods of farming. The area will supplement the 14 million acres of muck now in use in the state. Michigan has an estimated four million acres in this type of land.

Experiments on a field rather than plot basis are expected to add new information for use of farmers in the state. The work is to be conducted as part of the college soils department research.

Co-op Institute Plans Meeting July 8-12

Final plans for the huge 16th annual session of the American Institute of Cooperation on the Michigan State College campus at East Lansing during the week of July 8 to 12 have been announced by committee serving C. W. Holman, Washington, D. C., secretary of the institute.

One of the major subjects, with political background, concerns the new federal policy toward what Holman terms "soft credit" and the shifting of the Farm Credit Administration to the federal department of agriculture.

Sectional meetings with widespread importance to Michigan and to Michigan cooperatives are included for study.

Four afternoon meetings are scheduled on poultry and egg marketing. Monday's special sectional meeting will include midwest marketing, Tuesday is devoted to quality, consumer preference and effects of legislation. Wednesday will bring on new developments in sharp freezing of poultry and the Thursday session restricted to turkey problems.

In livestock sessions, research discoveries which may create new opportunity for wool are under go scrutiny. Fourteen livestock and wool experts are scheduled on the program during the five days.

Another special subject given five afternoon schedules includes milk, milk marketing and the machinery of organization that handles milk and milk products from the producer's farm to the consumer's refrigerator.

More than 3,000 are expected on the campus for the five day program. More than 50 distinct programs will bring more than 160 speakers and authorities scheduled to participate actively, says Holman.

TELEPHONE CO. TAX BILL PASSES SIX MILLION MARK

The Michigan Bell Telephone Company's tax bill for 1929 crossed the \$6,000,000 mark for the first time, it was revealed by Frank L. Hall, Tax Attorney for the company, as he handed Auditor General Vernon J. Brown a check for \$1,550,259.13 representing half the company's state property levy payable into the Primary School Fund.

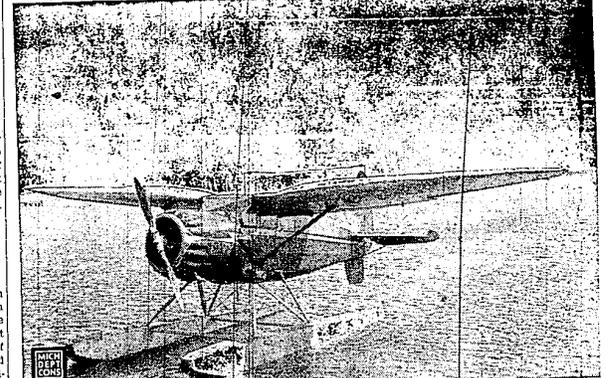
An increase of 7.1% over the 1928 total, the previous high, the 1929 tax bill totaled \$6,179,000, of which \$5,871,000 was charged to operating expenses. The latter amounted to \$8.26 per average telephone in service during the year and was 13.7% of the company's operating revenue.

These operating taxes, Hall said, embraced the following levies: State property tax for payment into the Primary School Fund, \$3,100,578.26; Federal income and capital stock taxes, \$2,157,000; Social Security taxes to the Federal and State governments, \$569,000; and miscellaneous taxes, primarily

municipal taxes on property not used in telephone operation, \$45,000. The company's state property tax is the largest single payment into the Primary School Fund. Under the statute, telephone, telegraph, railway, express and car-loading companies pay state taxes, in lieu of local levies, on property used and useful for their business. From the Primary School Fund these taxes are distributed to the 83 counties in proportion to their school population. Final payment on the \$3,100,578.26 property tax of the company is due on or before Oct. 31.



Air Patrol



Airplane operated jointly by department of conservation, Michigan state police and highway department has been fitted with postoons and is being used to discourage illegal commercial fishing practices. Illegally-placed nets can be seen easily from the air and the pilot and observer are in constant touch with patrol boats by short wave radio. When necessary, the airplane can land alongside a fishing boat which is outrunning one of the conservation department's patrol.

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WANT A PARTNER,
WANT A SITUATION,
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WANT TO BORROW MONEY,
WANT TO SELL LIVESTOCK,
WANT TO RENT ANY ROOMS,
WANT TO SELL TOWN PROPERTY,
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