

NEWS FROM THE STATE CAPITOL

THE GOVERNOR'S BROAD VIEW OF CIVIL SERVICE AND MR. VERDIER'S BILL.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM MAY WORK FOR LIQUOR MEN.

View of the Matters of Most Interest Which the Legislature Will Take Under Consideration at Once.

[By Gurd M. Hayes.]

Senator Leonard Verdier of Grand Rapids, who introduced the bill placing all state employees under civil service, has the hearty cooperation and support of every man and woman now on the state pay roll. Whether it is a commendable bit of legislation seems to depend on one's position and political affiliations in Lansing. The father of this bill realizes that he has a vast army of volunteer lobbyists right on the job and this influence is bound to be felt. Whether soft is given immediate effect involves some question, but the passage of a civil service bill is conceded by every one in the legislature. "I am for civil service, but it should be made broad enough to eliminate parasites and dead ones at any time," said Governor Ferris. "I haven't seen the bill," continued the governor in speaking of Senator Verdier's measure, "but I am for civil service. But at the same time I do not believe that it should be so drawn out as to offer protection to those who are now on the pay roll. It must be based on efficiency and political expediency should not be considered."

Broaden Home Rule Bill.

To broaden the powers of the home rule bill and eliminate many of the objectionable features in the law is the object of a bill introduced by the honorable Senator Verdier. It also paves the way for municipal ownership of public utilities. Under the Verdier bill cities may take advantage of the progressive features of the new constitution to the limit of one-half of the territory to grant operation along that line, because of public sentiment and not because a majority of the convention believed in the progressive demands of the people.

Mortgage Tax Law.

Rep. A. H. Cullen, of Ingham, has introduced a bill to repeal the present mortgage tax law and place the taxation of mortgages on the old basis. The bill, if it becomes a law, will not, however, affect the mortgages taxed under the specific system, as it cannot be made retroactive in the opinion of the attorney general. The bill, however, is in accordance with the bill, Rep. Cullen says there is a great deal of sentiment in favor of repealing the present law, with which many state officials have found considerable fault.

The Liquor Question.

Some of the so-called "dry" leaders in the legislature are wondering whether the initiative and referendum will militate in favor of the liquor interests of the state if this constitutional amendment is passed by the legislature and adopted by the people at the general election in 1914. Many of the statesmen who are apparently in favor of the initiative and referendum are opposed to the domination of the liquor men in state affairs, but the rumor has reached Lansing to the effect that the liquor men are preparing to use the initiative and referendum as an instrument to repeal the local option law. It is curious some of the hearty advocates of this measure to stop and think.

Political Squab.

Some of the members of the legislature are objecting to the selection of the temporary chairman of the republican state convention to be held in Lansing, February 11, and announce that they will protest against Allan Fraser, now on the floor of the convention. With two exceptions every republican in the legislature signed a petition asking the state central committee to name Senator W. Frank James, of Houghton, as the republican nominee for the position.

Free Lunch Bill.

If the bill introduced by Rep. Kohler of Detroit, becomes a law, the time honored free lunch will again be in vogue. Rep. Kohler has presented a bill repealing the law passed at the session four years ago abolishing free lunches in public buildings.

Drinking Cups for Sale.

Railroads and those in charge of public buildings will find themselves guilty of misdemeanors if they fail to establish drinking cup vending machines at their drinking fountains, if the bill introduced by Rep. Schmidt, of Oscoda, becomes a law. The bill provides that the vending machine must be maintained near the fountain and that the cups may be sold not to exceed one cent each. Glass, wax or porcelain cups may be furnished from the machine.

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Propose Swiss Election System.

Rep. Kappler, of Houghton county, has introduced two proposals in the lower house that are considered somewhat revolutionary in their character. Both are concurrent resolutions. The first and most important of these is designed to establish an entirely new system of legislative representation in Michigan and is based on the representative system in vogue in Switzerland where the initiative and referendum came from. It will provide that the members of the house and senate be elected in accordance with the percentage of the vote. The resolution of course is to submit the necessary constitutional amendment to the people and it will be followed by a bill working out the details of the plan. Under this proposal districts will be established in which the representatives will be chosen by the percentage system. If two-thirds of the people vote the republican ticket and the district is entitled to three representatives, a republican will have two of the three and if the democrats represent the other third they will have the third member, the vote to be large in each district.

Rep. Kappler declares the present system disfranchises the minority party no matter how close they come to winning and sees his plan as the only fair solution of the problem.

The second resolution presented by Kappler is addressed to congress and urges the necessary constitutional and statutory amendments to provide for the convening of the incoming congress and administration with the first day of January of the year following the election. Kappler sees no reason why congress should hold over for more than six months after its defeat by the people.

The Trunk Line Roads.

Going deeper into the idea of trunk line state roads, Senator Alexander of this county, finds that such a large proportion of the original trunk line highway route is already improved and that he can add another north and south line to the original proposal and still remain in the \$7,000,000 appropriation.

To this end, he has outlined a third or east coast link road from Detroit through Flint, Saginaw, Tawas, Alpena, Cheboygan to Mackinac. With this road he will have three north and south lines, one on the central meridian and two on the west and east, starting at Niles and following the Lake Michigan coast. The cross state line is from Detroit to St. Joseph.

The proposal calls for a total of 1,300 miles, of which 300 already is improved, allowing \$2,000 per mile and subdividing into labor. Senator Alexander says the work can be kept within the \$2,000,000 appropriation that represents one-half of the automobile tax over a period of three or four years.

Offices and Civil Service.

Because of the fact that the senate is slow about reporting out the appointment of John T. Winship, who has the nomination for Governor Ferris as insurance commissioner to succeed C. A. Palmer the first of next July, some of the democrats in the legislature are inclined to the belief that the republicans are simply playing a smooth game to rob them of some of the patronage.

Senator Verdier has already introduced a bill putting all state employees on a civil service basis. Governor Ferris is known to favor such a measure and the democratic state platform is pledged to support such a bill. However, Verdier's bill carries an appropriation clause that gives it immediate effect, and inasmuch as it further provides that all the present employees shall be retained, the democrats will have few jobs to distribute. It makes little difference whether or not the senate confirms Winship's appointment, as the governor will be able to put him in Palmer's place after the legislature has adjourned.

Helen Gould Married.

Helen Miller Gould, known throughout the world as the queen philanthropist of America's wealthy women, and Finley J. Shepard, assistant to the president of the Missouri Pacific railroad, chief of the Gould railway lines, were married in the spacious drawing room of the bride's stately home mansion at Lyndhurst on the Hudson, New York.

The Alpena Shoppers' Association.

The Alpena Shoppers' association has complained to the state railroad commission against the Western Trunk Line association of railroads, alleging the rate reduction instituted by the association on sulphuric acid is prohibitive.

Chief of Police Struble.

Chief of Police Struble, of Kalamazoo, has recommended the appointment of Miss Or Matthews, traveling sales secretary of the Young Women's Christian association, as a special police officer.

State Representative Middleton.

State Representative Middleton, of the second district of Genesee county, in an effort to find how the workingmen look on the proposed weekly pay measure, took a straw vote on the question at the Bush plant in Flint. There are 7,000 men employed at the plant and the vote showed them opposed to the measure.

At a meeting of the progressives.

At a meeting of the progressives of Alpena plans were made for placing a full city ticket in the field this spring. The board of supervisors of Genesee county voted an appropriation of \$1,000 for the construction of a tuberculosis sanitarium at the Genesee county infirmary.

A primary election will be held.

A primary election will be held in Marshall next spring to nominate three road commissioners. The primary is called by Attorney General Grant Ferris and will be the only means of nominating the commissioners.

WIRELESS STATION IN A CHURCH



Rev. Horace K. Holtzinger of Philadelphia has installed a complete wireless station in the Fifth Street M. E. church, where he will have classes in wireless telegraphy as an inducement for the boys and young men to come to church. The upper picture shows the roof of the church with the posts and wires of the wireless, the lower picture shows the clergyman in the study of the church receiving a message.

Teachers Object to Str.

Politics has cropped out in the Saratoga Teachers' association because the president, John Mitchell, a member of the Saginaw high school faculty, is reported to have said he did not believe the members from the grammar schools were actually capable of serving on any of the important committees.

Levee Gives Way: Convicts in Flight.

Following a break in the levee at Houlah, Miss., which threatens wholesale destruction in the fertile Mississippi delta valley region, 100 convicts working on the levee made a dash for liberty. Scrying guns they fought desperately to resist capture. The guards also armed with guns, fought back and four convicts wounded so seriously that they will die.

Michigan Needs a New Prison.

"This state is in need of another prison," says Warden Nathan F. Simpson of Jackson prison. "The Detroit house of correction is crowded to its capacity, and all of the penal institutions of the state have about all the inmates that can be taken care of. The idea of establishing a prison in the northern part of the lower peninsula and developing large tracts of land I believe is a good one, but I don't think it would be good policy to discontinue the Jackson prison for the purpose of locating it in some other section of the state. So much money has been expended in building here that it would be a big sacrifice to make any such change."

Turkish Fortresses to Be Surrendered.

Peace in the Balkans is in sight, although announcements came from the Balkan capitals that a "demobilization would not begin until a treaty of peace is concluded."

The following are the Balkan questions in issue to Adriatic, which threaten to cause trouble in the future negotiations.

The demand of the Balkan allies for \$200,000,000 indemnity; the status of the Turkish islands in the Aegean sea; the boundaries and form of government of Albania; the status of Soutari and Janina and the dividing of the Turkish debt based on former Turkish possessions in Europe.

The immediate consequences of the decision of the Turkish grand council will be the cessation of hostilities between Greece and Turkey, and the surrender of the Turkish fortresses of Adrianople, Janina and Soutari. At all three fortresses the Turkish garrisons will withdraw with the honors of war.

An order was issued by the railroad commission to several railroads in the upper peninsula to restore their former rates or ship goods from the mines to lake shipping points.

Milton Hazles, of Cutcheneau, was seriously injured by being struck with a heavy iron pipe, while at 60 cents.

State Insurance Commissioners Palmer has forwarded to the editor of the Michigan Tradesman, an article on the construction of a tuberculosis sanitarium at the Genesee county infirmary.

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THE BANKS OF CANADA

The closing of the year 1912 has brought out the usual bank statements accompanied by the addresses of the Presidents and the Managers of these institutions. Their reading is interesting as they show in a striking manner the prosperity of the country, and deal with economic matters in a first hand way. Those who know anything of Canadian banking methods know the stability of these institutions, and the high character of the men who are placed in charge. In discussing the bank situation the President of the Union Bank of Canada, whose branches are to be found in all parts of the Canadian West, said: "A good deal has been said about speculation in land. The increase in land values has added enormously to the assets of Western business, and has to some extent formed a basis for extended credit, but this is not felt to be a drawback when the value is real and convertible. We consider that a business standing which is strengthened and enhanced by property holdings is well placed in a reasonable judgment of credit for legitimate business operations."

It will thus be seen that the banks recognize the certain rise in the value of farm lands in Western Canada. When the facts are known of the wonderful producing qualities of farm lands in the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, it is simple to understand the liberal standing taken by the banks. Living not far from Lashburn, Sask., is a farmer named Clarke who in 1912 secured a crop of Marquis Wheat, yielding 75 bushels per acre. This is spoken of as a record yield, and this is doubtless true, but several cases have been brought to notice where yields almost as large have been produced, and in different parts of the country. During the past year there have been reported many yields of from 35 to 40 bushels of wheat to the acre. Ontario, where we successfully raised the barley crop, wheat that would yield 40 bushels per acre, would bring on the market 70c (a fair figure) per bushel, a gross return of \$28.00 per acre. At low \$22.00 per acre (an outside figure) there would be a balance of \$16.00 per acre net profit. This figure should satisfy anyone having land that cost less than \$160.00 per acre. Very much less return than this proves satisfactory to those holding lands in Iowa and Illinois worth from \$250 to \$300 per acre.

The latest Government returns give an approximate estimate of four hundred thousand of an immigration to Canada during 1912. Of this number 200,000 will be from the United States. Most of these are of the farming class and it is not difficult to understand why farming lands in Canada will advance from ten to twenty per cent. within the next twelve months. Therefore investment in Western Canadian lands is not looked upon as being in the speculative class. Those fortunate enough to secure free homesteads in Canada will acquire in the intrinsic value of the land alone the best possible start for a splendid future. Advertisement.

THE FLYING AGE.



"How did it do, Swift's youngest child?" "It can't be more than a year old. It's just learning to fly!"

Wedding Rings That Wear Out.

The first time you are married or, if you will when you are married, don't buy a gold wedding ring. It isn't being done! Platinum wedding rings are the best thing. Mr. Jeanne Provost, of French actress, is to blame. She thought of the idea, and when she was married to M. Firpo, she had one. Platinum rings are more expensive than gold and wear better. Just buy an actress, especially French actress, should want a wedding ring that will last a long while the jeweler haven't learned.

His Childish Wish.

Here is an excerpt from Paul West's "Just Boy" letters, which reads like a clipping from the "Little Johnny" papers by Ambrose Bierce in the early volumes of the Argonaut: "I ask my father why indians move so much, and he said he guessed they 'was forced to on account of 'thar's no gold in the north' was an invention. San Francisco Argonaut."

Real Test.

Gave—How do you tell a genuine diamond from a fake? Answer—Try to knock it.

Some men begin to economize after marriage by growing whiffers.