THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC
ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.
WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL, PUBS.
BIRMINGHAM, FRIDAY, MARCH 27

And a get rich quick investor also is born every minute.

Mr. Kipling prefers the bagpipes, but he can also touch the lute.

English earls and American poker never have become thoroughly acquainted.

In the matter of swelling the death rate the late Dr. Gatling easily headed his profession.

There are plenty of men who will never grow round-shouldered from carrying their brains.

Some people are already beginning to fidget for fear panama hats may be stylish again next summer.

Cornell professors will get pensions of $1,500 per year if they escape typhoid until they are seventy.

Kipling's new poem would seem to indicate that he wants to hedge on the flanneled fools and muddled oafs.

The lioness Aesop tells about, you remember, entertained a somewhat different opinion concerning large families.

Count Boni de Castellane says he is delighted with America. Evidently the Gould checks have been liberal of late.

The news that the author of "All Coons Look Alike to Me" is a bankrupt should cause genuine regret in Indianola.

The Louisville Courier-Journal rises superior to local prejudices in an editorial on the "Value of Kentucky Waterways."

Sir Thomas Lipton has served notice that he is coming for the cup this time. He is tired of being merely a jolly good fellow.

Be Patient!

About a year ago congress passed a bill which included appropriations for government buildings in several Michigan cities, and immediately thereafter the residents of those cities took to walking around past the sites of the prospective buildings to see how they were coming along. They are beginning to realize now what anyone who has had experience with such things knows, and that is that molasses in January is chain lightning compared to the movements of your Uncle Samuel.

Site for Federal Building.

The government has issued an advertisement for propositions for the site of Ann Arbor's federal building. The specifications say that the site must be on a corner lot with dimensions approximating 150x100 feet. The sum of $12,000 is appropriated for the site.

Plants Brook Trout.

John R. Benson of Mt. Morris, is the kind of fisherman that helps along any place. He has secured a consignment of brook trout fry and placed them in a nearby stream and is trying to educate the people in that vicinity to let them alone for a few years.

News for Fishermen.

The fishing season for pickerel has opened at Lake Goguac, one of the best fishing lakes in the state. Guy Burnham caught a pickerel that weighed twelve pounds and W. T. Butler pulled in one that weighed eighteen pounds this week.

Building at Battle Creek.

Three more large factory buildings are in course of construction at Battle Creek. Work on the Battle Creek Lounge & Mattress company, one for the Whip & Leather company, and one for the Battle Creek Gear & Wagon company.

Contemplates Art Gallery.

The new library, which August Spies will erect and donate to Menominee, is to cost about $25,000 or $30,000, and it will be built so that it can be added to any time without marring the beauty of the building for an art gallery.

Cruelty to Animals.

Cruelty to animals is unprofitable in a financial way at St. Johns. A man who left his team standing on the street there from 4 o'clock in the afternoon till 2 the next morning, while he was drunk, was fined $15.

Search for Missing Man.

Another systematic search has been made for John Rosel, who disappeared from Traverse City in February, and is believed to have frozen to death in the woods while on way home from a lumber camp.

More Pay for Justices.

Among the bills signed by Gov. Bliss is the one raising the salaries of Police Justices Whelan and Sellers of Detroit from $3,000 to $4,000. They will get the benefit of the extra $1,000 at once, as the bill was given immediate effect.

Bicycle Licenses.

At Kalamazoo, where all bicycle riders have to be licensed, more licenses have been taken out so far this year than in any previous full year.

Her Hundredth Anniversary.

Mrs. Lucy J. Myrick, who lives with her daughter, Mrs. Wm. Shortell, two miles south of Shelby, celebrated the 100th anniversary of her birth March 20. This centenarian still enjoys good health.

Caught in a Slab Saw.

Fred Austin, an employe of Granger & Jourdan in their saw mill at Iatton, lost the thumb of his right hand and had his index finger badly torn on a slab saw at their mill. He is a married man with a family.

Michigan Items

State Happenings Succinctly Told by Our Special Correspondents.

FOR GOOD ROADS CONVENTION

List of Delegates Who Have Been Named by Gov. Bliss.

Governor Bliss has named the following delegates to the National and International Good Roads convention to be held in the city of St. Louis, Mo., April 27, 28 and 29, 1903, to serve as such without expense to the state: H. S. Earle, Detroit; L. D. Watkins, Manchester; L. A. Goodrich, Hillsdale; J. R. Stone, St. Joseph; George W. Rowe, Grand Rapids; A. J. Crosby, Novi; Frank F. Rogers, Port Huron; H. H. Eymer, Saginaw; Neil McCallum, Hesperia; Chas. C. Rosenberry, Bay City; A. E. Palmer, Kalkaska; Louis Nadeau, Nadeau; Dr. E. B. Smith, Detroit; Fred Slocum, Caro; F. R. Hathaway, Alma; A. J. Sager, Climax; Dr. Rachel Davison, Flint; Dr. A. W. Nichols, Greenville; Fitch Beach, Lyons; R. R. Stanton, Grosse Ile; Chas. B. Judd, Grand Rapids; Frank L. Dunning, Menominee.

HOUGHTON COUNTY CROP TALK

Conditions for Winter Wheat Better Than in the South.

Since the organization of an agricultural society in Houghton county there has been considerable discussion about wheat raising in the county. It is probable that the acreage planted to wheat will show a big increase before long, as it is figured that the conditions for winter wheat would be better there than in the lower part of state. In the upper peninsula snow comes early and stays late, and the young wheat would thereby be protected against danger from late spring frosts. If a frost should come now it would injure wheat in the southern section of Michigan, but in the upper peninsula there is enough snow on the ground to effectively protect the grain from any ordinary spring frost.

Be Patient!

About a year ago congress passed a bill which included appropriations for government buildings in several Michigan cities, and immediately thereafter the residents of those cities took to walking around past the sites of the prospective buildings to see how they were coming along. They are beginning to realize now what anyone who has had experience with such things knows, and that is that molasses in January is chain lightning compared to the movements of your Uncle Samuel.

Site for Federal Building.

The government has issued an advertisement for propositions for the site of Ann Arbor's federal building. The specifications say that the site must be on a corner lot with dimensions approximating 150x100 feet. The sum of $12,000 is appropriated for the site.

Plants Brook Trout.

John R. Benson of Mt. Morris, is the kind of fisherman that helps along any place. He has secured a consignment of brook trout fry and placed them in a nearby stream and is trying to educate the people in that vicinity to let them alone for a few years.

News for Fishermen.

The fishing season for pickerel has opened at Lake Goguac, one of the best fishing lakes in the state. Guy Burnham caught a pickerel that weighed twelve pounds and W. T. Butler pulled in one that weighed eighteen pounds this week.

Building at Battle Creek.

Three more large factory buildings are in course of construction at Battle Creek. Work on the Battle Creek Lounge & Mattress company, one for the Whip & Leather company, and one for the Battle Creek Gear & Wagon company.

Contemplates Art Gallery.

The new library, which August Spies will erect and donate to Menominee, is to cost about $25,000 or $30,000, and it will be built so that it can be added to any time without marring the beauty of the building for an art gallery.

Cruelty to Animals.

Cruelty to animals is unprofitable in a financial way at St. Johns. A man who left his team standing on the street there from 4 o'clock in the afternoon till 2 the next morning, while he was drunk, was fined $15.

Search for Missing Man.

Another systematic search has been made for John Rosel, who disappeared from Traverse City in February, and is believed to have frozen to death in the woods while on way home from a lumber camp.

More Pay for Justices.

Among the bills signed by Gov. Bliss is the one raising the salaries of Police Justices Whelan and Sellers of Detroit from $3,000 to $4,000. They will get the benefit of the extra $1,000 at once, as the bill was given immediate effect.

Bicycle Licenses.

At Kalamazoo, where all bicycle riders have to be licensed, more licenses have been taken out so far this year than in any previous full year.

Her Hundredth Anniversary.

Mrs. Lucy J. Myrick, who lives with her daughter, Mrs. Wm. Shortell, two miles south of Shelby, celebrated the 100th anniversary of her birth March 20. This centenarian still enjoys good health.

Caught in a Slab Saw.

Fred Austin, an employe of Granger & Jourdan in their saw mill at Iatton, lost the thumb of his right hand and had his index finger badly torn on a slab saw at their mill. He is a married man with a family.

MILLIONS IN LIFE POLICIES

Insurance Commissioner Issues Statement of Last Year's Business.

Insurance Commissioner Barry has issued a statement showing the volume of life insurance business in the state during the past year. The aggregate of business of the old line insurance companies for the year was as follows: Policies issued, $53,900,780.66; policies in force December 31, $220,353,383.88; premiums received, $7,926,220.04; losses incurred, $2,490,096.35. There should be no comparison, however, between the amount of premiums received and the losses sustained, since premiums paid during the year must cover the cost of carrying insurance for many years to come. The figures show that a large amount of new insurance was written in the state during the year, the increase in the value of policies issued being $7,000,000 over the previous year. Since the report of one year ago five old line life insurance companies have been admitted to do business in the state. One casualty company, ten assessment companies and six fraternal companies have also been admitted. It is interesting to note that the industrial insurance companies have been doing a large business in the state during the year, one New York company having issued 41,327 policies having a face value of $6,043,524. Another eastern company has issued 23,670 policies; the total industrial policies issued amounting to 71,578 in number and $10,198,126 in value. Plate glass, surety, accident and casualty companies received during the year $874,651.55 in premiums, and incurred losses of $360,942.13.

Gets $18,000.

Frank Smith, a German laborer of Niles, has gone to Covington, Ky., to receive a fortune of $18,000. Five years ago Herman Smith, his uncle, died, leaving an estate valued at $200,000. There were six heirs, one of whom was Frank Smith of Niles. The deceased specified in his will, however, that the $15,000 he left for Frank should be held in reserve for five years, or until Frank was 35 years of age, he being of a wild disposition.

Test for Midshipmen.

An examination to select alternate nominees for midshipmen at Annapolis will be held at Niles on April 9. The examination will cover the common branches ordinarily taught in the public schools in the grades. The successful applicant will be obliged to take an examination for admission to the academy on the third Tuesday in April, either at Detroit, Grand Rapids or Saginaw. Nominees must be between the age of 15 and 20 years.

Dog Eats Greenbacks.

A Traverse City man offered to sell his dog for $15 to a friend who wanted it. The later did not buy then, but next day he came around and wanted to close the deal. He found that the dog's owner had raised the price of the canine to $18, on account of the fact that doggie had in the interval chewed up and swallowed a letter containing $3 in greenbacks belonging to his master.

Display of Foresight.

The stores of a proposed three-story flat building had been erected at Grand Rapids, and the contractor was going ahead with the work when a building inspector ordered it stopped till spring, to see what effect the spring thaw would have on the walls. It is well that he did, for when the thaw did come the wall fell.

Reward for Pyromaniac.

Within a short time there have been three large barns burned at Mt. Morris, and as there are indications that all three of the fires were of incendiary origin a reward will probably be offered by the county and the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, in which the property was insured, for the capture of the arsonist.

Former Hotel Man Dies.

William H. Smith, a retired business man of Sparta, is dead. Death was caused by paralysis. Deceased was for many years a prominent hotel man of western Michigan. He leaves a widow and daughter and three sons. The funeral at the Baptist church was under the auspices of the Knights of Pythias and Maccabees.

Fish in the Fields.

Farmers near Royal Oak are spearing pickerel in their fields. The big ditches are overflowed to such an extent as to put the adjoining fields partially under water. One farmer says that if he had a rowboat he could make more money just at present spearing fish than at anything else he could do.

Bi-City Fair.

Houghton county will have an agricultural fair this year. It will be a sort of sectional affair, in that the exhibit of farm products will be at Houghton, and the exhibits of live stock and the horse races at Hancock.

Smallpox Scare.

It will cost Albion $422 to foot the bills for its recent smallpox scare, notwithstanding there was but one case, and that one so light that the victim wouldn't known he was sick at all if the doctors hadn't told him so.

To Raise Tomatoes.

Despite reports to the contrary the farmers around Brown City are contracting for tomato acreage in sufficient quantity to insure a successful season for the canning factory unless the weather is as unfavorable as it was last year.

To Protect Game.

The Dickinson County Protective Game association has been organized at Iron Mountain to put a stop to the ruthless slaughter of game all the year around.

Ludington's New $40,000 Structure is Interesting to Builders.

Ludington's new $40,000 hotel is rapidly approaching completion, and when done will be the finest strictly commercial hotel in northern Michigan. J. S. Stearns is the promoter of the enterprise, and no expense will be spared to make the Stearns a modern and model hostelry. In the erection of this particular hotel there attaches more than passing interest because the structure is built of Portland cement, being the first large cement hotel erected in this state. Builders and constructors all over the country are interested in the experiment, which thus far bids fair to prove a complete success.

CARPENTERS FALL SIXTY FEET

One Has His Hip Injured and the Other is Severely Bruised.

Two carpenters, Arthur Strong and Charles Weber of Bay City, fell from a height of sixty feet at the new casino at Wenona beach and live to tell the story. In fact, if the diagnosis of the doctors is to be relied upon, the men will be at work again in a short time. They were placing trusses for the casino roof when they lost their footing and came to the bottom of the building, striking the staging on the way and landing on the floor joists. Strong had a hip injured and a rib broken. Weber was only severely bruised.

Soldiers' Memorial Building.

Senator Cannon has advanced a new plant to meet the demands of old soldiers for a $250,000 monument and of state officers for a $250,000 addition to the capitol by combining the two propositions. He would erect a $250,000 soldiers' memorial building on the site of the old state capitol on Washington avenue, Lansing. All militia, historical and G. A. R. offices now in the capitol to be moved to the new building. "A shaft such as is proposed for a soldiers' monument would not, it seems to me, be as satisfactory as a memorial building, and the state would save money." The senate committee on finance favors Cannon's plant.

Must Earn Bonus.

Morrice is going to follow the example of Nerthville, and see if there isn't a way to compel a business firm which has been given a cash bonus by the village to stick to its promises. A few years ago the village stood for a bonus of $2,000 to the owners of a flour mill, in return for which the latter promised certain things. The firm, it is alleged, has failed to live up to the contract, and the village has taken the matter into the courts.

Has "Little" to Do.

Lainsburg pays its marshal $10 per month, but some of the people are complaining on the ground that the salary is too large. The marshal is on duty from 8 a. m. till 10 p. m., is required to do the janitor work of the town hall, shovel snow and tend to the fires in winter, mow the grass in summer, keep the fire engine and hose in condition for use, and in addition preserve law and order in the village.

Famine Bread.

A Menominee man recently received a sample of food which the people of the famine stricken districts of Finland and Sweden have had to live on. It was a piece of bread and came direct from the famine districts of Finland. It was black and composed of straw, pine bark and a little flour. This is the only food the people of the district from which it came had for several months.

Some Mistake.

Senator Doherty claims he has a petition from 500 Prohibitionist voters in Arenac county who are opposed to the adoption of a primary election law. That is queer; the Michigan manual shows that but thirty-five Prohibition votes were cast in the whole of Arenac county at the last election.

Wants City to Pay.

Mrs. Mary Layher of Marengo township, has petitioned the Marshall council for $10,000 alleged damages but no action was taken. Her horse ran away as she was coming to church on Nov. 2 last, and she was thrown out and injured. She claims the runaway resulted from a defect in the highway.

Auto-Boat.

In view of the condition of the roads at present an automobile company at Lansing is considering putting an auto equipped with paddles on the wheels instead of rubber tires.

Is Burned by Acid.

An ironwood man put into his pocket a bottle of carbolic acid he had just purchased and the forgetful about it and sat down with considerable emphasis. The bottle broke and the man was badly burned.

Raise Maple Trees.

Alpena's streets are lined with fine maple shade trees, and this spring the trees are being tapped for the sap. There are enough trees along the city streets to make hundreds of pounds of maple sugar.

Will Offer Bonuses.

Petoskey's board of trade has effected a permanent organization, with the $40,000 capital all subscribed, and will at once proceed to hustle for industries to locate in the city. The stockholders number 240, making the organization one of the strongest of its kind in the state.

Beaverton Puts on Airs.

Beaverton is now a city, as far as the legislature is concerned. The first election of city officers will be held on April 6

CEMENT HOTEL IS BUILT OF

He Was Crazy Drunk.

Frank Ward, a Britton farm hand, 22 years of age, is in Adrian jail on the serious charge of firing a double-barreled shotgun at Mrs. Thomas Wilson, the wife of his employer. Why he committed the deed Ward is unable to explain. It seems that Mr. Wilson had gone to Milan to attend a meeting of the Odd Fellows' lodge, and his wife and the hired man went to Britton, a distance of three miles and a half, to do some shopping. While in the village Ward got drunk and, returning home in the evening, became abusive and offensive. About 9 o'clock he threatened to "shoot the first out of her," and she, becoming frightened, started for the home of Ed Auten, half a mile distant. Mrs. Wilson says that when about half way to the neighbor's house, Ward came up behind her and fired both barrels of the shotgun at her. The shot took effect in one hip, but she managed to get to the house.

The Legal Battle Comes.

Attorney-General Blair has been advised by the Michigan Central officials that on Friday of this week the various railroad companies operating in Michigan will apply to United States Judge Wanty, of the western Michigan district, for an injunction to restrain the auditor-general from levying on his property for non-payment of any portion of the taxes levied under the ad valorem law. The application will be made under the fourteenth amendment to the United States constitution, and is in line with the purpose of the companies to test the validity of the new law. Attorney-General Blair will look after the state's interests on Friday.

Seeking a Pardon.

Congressman-elect Townsend, ex-Warden Huth, Warden Vincent, the mayor of Jackson and others are petitioning for the pardon of James Crafts, a life prisoner at Jackson, who, with Mrs. Etta Brass, a life prisoner in the Detroit house of correction, brutally murdered Milo Brass near Stillwell, Missaukee county, in 1886. Crafts was an evangelist. He was intimate with Mrs. Brass, and the couple found the husband's existence inconvenient. Mrs. Brass confessed at the time and again recently. Crafts' excuse is that he was drunk.

Hammond's Conviction Confirmed.

The Supreme Court has affirmed the conviction of H. Judson Hammond, of Pontiac, a member of the legislature of 1899, indicted by the Ingham county grand jury for soliciting a bribe, and convicted by a jury. The bench was divided, Justices Montgomery dissenting from the affirmative opinion in which Justices Montgomery, Grant and Hooker united. Hammond was charged with soliciting $240 from James Cove, of Grand Rapids, to defeat a bill which was being opposed by the wholesale grocers of Michigan.

A Great Blizzard.

One of the severest wind and snow storms of the winter raged throughout western Michigan Tuesday with a drop in the temperature to a point far below the freezing point. Great fears are being felt for peaches and other small fruits. Snow plows were used on street railways and interurban roads.

Giron who run away with Princess Louise of Saxony is now with the Trappist Fathers in Rome and proposes to become a monk.

AMUSEMENTS IN DETROIT.

Week Ending March 28.

DETROIT OPERA HOUSE—"A Gentleman of France"—Sat. Matinee at 2; Evenings at 8.
LYCEUM THEATRE—"Arizona"—Saturday Matinee; Evenings at 8:15.
WHITNEY THEATRE—"The Little Minister"—Mat. tue. 2c and 10c; Eve. 10c, 20c and 30c.
TEMPLE THEATRE—"Ben Greenfield's Adventures"—Mat. 10c to 25c; Evenings 10c, 20c to 50c.

LIVE STOCK.

Detroit, Cattle: Steers, choice, $4.50@5; good to choice butcher steers, 1,000 to 1,200 lbs., $4@4.50; light to good butcher steers and heifers, 700 to 900 pounds, $3.60@4; butchers' fat cows, $3.25@3.75; canners, $1.50@2; common bulls, $2@2.25; good shippers' bulls, $3.25@4; common feeders, $3.50@3.75; good stock and feeders, $3.75@4; light stockers, $3.40@3.65. Calves—Market good; calves about 50 cents higher; others steady. 250@300 Milk Cows and Springers—Steady, $30@55.

Hogs: Light to good butchers, $7.15@7.25; pigs, $7.10@7.15; light yorkers, $7.10@7.15; roughs, $6.90@6.50; stags, $4@5.

Sheep: Best lambs $7@7.15; fair to good lambs, $6.50@6.75; light to common lambs, $5@6.50; yearlings, $5.75@6.25; fair to good butcher sheep, $4.50@5.50; culls and common, $3.50@4.

Chicago: Cattle—Good to prime steers, $5.10@5.70; poor to medium, $3.50@5; stockers and feeders, $2.75@4.85; cows, $1.30@4.60; heifers, $2.25@4.75; canners, $1.50@2.75; bulls, $2.25@4.25; calves, $3.50@6.75. Texas fed steers, $3.75@4.50.

Hogs—Mixed and butchers, $7.15@7.35; good to choice heavy, $7.40@7.52½; rough heavy, $7.20@7.40; light, $6.90@7.25; bulk of sales, $7.15@7.40.

Sheep: Good to choice wethers, $5.40@6.25; fair to choice mixed, $4.50@5.40; native lambs, $5.25@7.50; western lambs, $5.50@7.50.

East Buffalo: Cattle—Prices are about steady for good cattle. Veals—Tops, $8.25@8.50; common to good, $5@8.

Hogs—Heavy, $7.55@7.75; mixed, $7.80; medium, $7.80@7.90; yorkers, $7.80@7.90; pigs, $7.25@7.40; roughs, $6.75@7.10; stags, $5@6.

Sheep—Top native lambs, $7.75@7.80; one deck fancy, $7.90; culls to good, $5.50@7.65; western, $7.50@7.75; yearlings, $6@6.75; ewes, $5.75@6; sheep, top mixed, $5.25@5; culls to good, $3.25@5.65.

Grain.

Detroit: Wheat—No. 2 white, 73½c; No. 2 red, 72 cars at 75½c; May, 25,000 bu at 77c; July, 12,000 bu at 73½, 4,000 bu at 73¾c, 5,000 bu at 73¾c, 4,000 bu at 73½c, 5,000 bu at 73¾c, 5,000 bu at 74¼c; No. 3 red, 2 cars at 72c, 10 cars at 71½c; rejected, 69c.

Corn—No. 3 mixed, 42c bid; No. 3 yellow, 43c asked; for D. & M. 3 yellow, 44c was bid.

Oats—No. 3 white, 1 car at 38c; No. 4 white, 1 car at 37½c; sample, 1 car at 38½c per bu.

Rye—No. 2 spot, 54c; No. 3 rye, 52c per bu.

Chicago: Wheat—No. 2 spring, 76@77c; No. 3, 69@76c; No. 2 red, 72¾@73¼. Corn—No. 2, 42¾c; No. 2 yellow, 42¾c. Oats—No. 2, 33¾c; No. 3 white, 34@35½c. Rye—No. 2, 49½c.

Jno. F. Genkinger, a well known man about town, was shot and almost instantly killed at Newcastle, Pa., by George Mark, a hotelkeeper of Darlington, Pa., in the apartments of Mrs. Eva Thomas. Markel was arrested, but refused to state his reason for the shooting.

Lena Cook, 12 years old, has confessed to the robbery of eight houses in the fashionable north end quarter of Derby, Conn., by using skeleton keys. The stolen goods were found in the girl's bedroom, and she said she had stolen the articles to use when she married.

Four Servian officers, including former War Minister Antohies, have challenged Prof. Alexander Boriswljevic, of the University of Belgrade, to fight duels to the death because he publicly charged them with obtaining promotion over their seniors through servility to Queen Dragha.

President Castro has resigned. He placed his resignation of the presidency of the republic of Venezuela in the hands of the president of congress after reading the presidential message. General Castro handed over the exercise of the presidential functions to the president of congress.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Brief Chronicle of Matters of Importance

It had been hoped that the session would be brought to a close not later than May 1. This hope is gone because of the delay in the printing of bills, etc. The legislature cannot clear up the docket without having in its possession the bill calendar. This document is made up by the clerks in both house and senate immediately after the close of the 30-day limit for the introduction of bills. Last session the calendar was in the hands of the legislators by March 5. Now on the 20th not even the proof of the calendar has been received from the printer. "If this delay continues," said Maj. Johnson, the governor's secretary, "there will be all kinds of trouble. The law gives the governor but five days after final adjournment in which to sign bills. If the work piles up, as it threatens to, there will be so many bills that the governor will have to select only a few of the most important and let the others go by default, or the legislature may have to take a long recess to allow him to catch up, but that would be outrageous. As the expenses of the legislature go on at the rate of $1,000 a day until the final adjournment."

After treating Representative Grenell in the most discourteous manner, the house committee on city corporations announced that it would report, without recommendation, his bill providing for the submission of a constitutional amendment to enable cities to acquire and operate street railways. The question will at least get a respectful hearing on the floor of the house. It may even pass as it stands, or, at any rate, so amended as to confer power on the city of Detroit. If the Detroit United railway is opposed to the passage of the measure its opposition will probably be centered in the senate.

Senator Vaughan, secretary of the Republican Press association, says the meeting of that body, which is to be held in Lansing next week, was really planned last fall, it being decided that the association should hold a meeting during the legislative session in order that pending legislation might be discussed. "I suppose," said he, "that a primary election bill will be considered among other matters, but I think that most of the editors in the body are in favor of primary reform. There is nothing in this talk about the association being used to work up sentiment against the direct voting plan."

One of the results of rushing local bills through without reading them, simply because the member or senator from the district affected says the bill is all right, is that some wonderful things are given the sanction of the legislature. Although many of these measures are drawn by lawyers who ought to know how to prepare a bill, at least well enough to make sense, many are put through in such a way that they mean nothing, and in some cases will be inoperative.

Despite the scheme to defeat it without bringing action upon the senate, the Kelly bill to exempt from taxation mortgages and land contracts was passed by a vote of 17 to 10. The plan was to have the bill amended so as to exempt all credits. He induced Weakes to offer such an amendment. He knew, of course, that the house would never pass the bill with such an exemption.

The senate held no session Friday. The committee on finance and on asylum for the feeble minded were authorized to visit the Lapeer institution to ascertain what facilities it had for taking care of epileptics. They lost no time in starting on the junket, and their absence, with the fitting of those senators who always hurry home on Thursday, destroyed the quorum.

Senator Brown's bill to regulate the sale of merchandise in bulk was passed. It amends the present laws so as to make it mandatory for a merchant who desires to sell part of his stock to give his creditors five days' notice. The object of the bill is to prevent fraudulent sales of stocks of goods with the purpose of defrauding creditors.

The judiciary committee of the senate reported favorably Senator Maria's bill making it a felony for a convict of a penal institution to escape. The bill provides for a sentence of not less than two years or more than five, which sentence shall commence at the expiration of the regular sentence for which the convict is committed.

There will be another committee hearing on the Van Zoeren bill, that is intended to kill the St. Joe marriage industry. Several county clerks have been notified, and an interesting session is being anticipated. Clerk Hess, Church, of Berrien county, in which St. Joseph is situated, is making strenuous efforts to kill the bill.

E. V. Chilson, secretary of the senate, is taking a special interest in the bill appropriating $125,000 for the world's fair exhibit, and it is said that if the salary of the secretary of the proposed Michigan commission is up to Chilson's standard he will try to get the snap.

Senator Bowen has started a fight against Gov. Bliss's plan to have a separate home for epileptics established at Saginaw. Brown comes from Lapeer, where the present home for feeble-minded and epileptics is located, and he contends that the proper thing to do is to enlarge his home institution.

A member of the house from Detroit says the bill exempting mortgages from taxes is of no value whatever unless all credits are included. The exemption must be made by the house to render the bill operative.

The house at the request of Gov. Bliss and ex-Senator Earle, listened for 10 minutes to Hickey Commissioner James H. MacDonald, of Connecticut, on the subject of good roads.

The Sleeper bill which was passed by the senate makes it mandatory upon the state banking commissioner to have two examinations of the state banks each year. Heretofore they have only had one.

A flashlight photo of the house in session was made Wednesday which probably accounts for the increased attendance. Ninety-nine answered roll call, the only absentee being Representative John Lane.

Senator Fuller's bill to amend the factory inspection laws by exempting the canning and evaporating factories from the provisions as to the employment of child labor during the school months, passed.

The senate has appointed James C. Miller, of Marine City, committee clerk in place of J. L. Baird, who resigned to take the postmastership of Marine City.

The legislature met Monday evening having rested from the strenuous labors from Friday p. m. as usual. The house passed a few bills and agreed to a committee of the whole last week. Among these is Duncan's bill requiring all physicians, jewelers to be labeled as such. It was passed by 50 to 19, when Randall wanted the house to go into committee of the whole, and consider the list of bills on the general order numbering over thirty. His motion to continue work, however, was voted down. In the senate the two bills increasing the pay of members of the pardon board from $7 a day and extending the time for which they may draw compensation to six months came up in the committee of the whole. Senator Moriarty, who introduced the measures, was asked for an explanation, but was not prepared to give one, so they were passed over.

The prospects for legislation on freight rates are growing dim. It had been proposed that in the April election the electors of the state should be asked to vote upon an amendment of the constitution enabling the establishment of a freight rate commission. Railroad men asked for a hearing and it was fixed for Tuesday night of the week. The committees were then informed that the Michigan Central and Pere Marquette lawyers were not ready. Hence the hearing was deferred for two weeks, which will make it too late for publication before the election, and the proposition will not go to the voters until the fall election of 1904, even if the bill should pass the legislature.

State taxes are small compared to what the people of Michigan pay for running cities, counties, townships, school districts and villages, judging by what the state tax commissioner says in an addendum to their annual report. In fact, state taxes have decreased, while municipal taxes have jumped. The report says: "We invite the attention of taxpayers to this fact: that for every $1.88 paid for the support of the state administration $14.67 is paid by them for local purposes. The average American citizen is too apt to find fault with those things for which he is largely to blame. If one-half of the time which he spends in grumbling at the great increase in taxation was employed in attending to the selection of proper officials to administer the assessment and taxation laws, there would be quite a reduction in taxes paid within the next two years that the work of the tax commission would bear its full fruition and the saving of millions of dollars which it has added to the public so equalize the expenses of government that they would no longer be an unreasonable burden to any property-holder in the state."

There is a movement on among the Detroit owners of summer homes at the St. Clair Flats to get the legislature to annex the islands to Wayne county. The advocates of this measure, which may be introduced at the present session, say that while the homes and lands have been made and improved by people from Detroit, the county of St. Clair gets all the revenue. The residents are without protection of any kind, and no municipality spends a cent in the way of improvement. The only interest displayed in the Flats by the county of St. Clair is to collect revenue, they say.

Rep. DeLisle is patiently awaiting the opportunity to take up his bill to amend the garnishee law which is before Rep. Wade's committee on judiciary. This bill proposes a radical change and will not be reported out without a public hearing, probably. Under its operations the married debtor would be under the same protection against incomes as the debtor in municipal employes. It would be necessary for a creditor to secure judgment in his main suit before being able to lie up a debtor's earnings in money. DeLisle's bill would extend the protection to householders only, as he considers unmarried men likely to fight out suits sued.

It looks as if the house of representatives intends to stand by primary election reform—the rural members included. A careful poll shows that more than half of the house is ready to vote for a bill to provide for the whole reform.

Rep. Vandercook says his proposition to the house state affairs committee for the removal of the state capitol to Grand Rapids was merely a "josh," and not intended to be seriously considered.

The board of state auditors have engaged an architect to prepare plans for repairing the roof to the state capitol in accordance with the recommendations made to the board last week, when the roof was declared to be unsafe.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

For whistling one tune ten hours a day Roy Downs has been discharged by the Hercules Manufacturing Co., of Indianapolis. Downs worked under a contract and is suing for money due him under said contract.

King Edward has sent Col. Cody (Buffalo Bill) a handsome scarf pin with the royal cipher in diamonds surmounted by the crown, as a souvenir of his visit last Saturday to the wild west show.

A remarkable blind man, William Krell, is dead at Tamaqua, Pa., aged 88. During his 53 years of blindness he conducted a hotel, raised a family, and so acute was his touch that he could locate every article in his store, and could even detect different denominations of greenbacks.

Mrs. Kit Brady, principal witness in the Anna Snyder murder case, at Toledo, is violently insane as a result of brooding over the case. As Mrs. Brady was the only one who saw the murderer leave his victim, this new turn of affairs will prevent the solving of the murder mystery.

The first labor union to file articles of incorporation in Connecticut did so at Hartford, when an application was presented at the office of the secretary of state for the incorporation of the Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers, Molders and Brass Workers' Union No. 73, of Meriden.

Boodling was charged by Speaker Whitecotton before the Missouri lower house in connection with the Davidson school text book bill, and during a discussion Speaker Clark struck Rep. Selph. The house was in an uproar, and a general mix-up was narrowly averted