

THE GREAT YEAR FOR FRUIT IN MICHIGAN

LARGE QUANTITIES OF PEACHES, PLUMS, APPLES AND PEARS TO BE OFFERED.

SPRAYING TREES HAS HELPED

Beets are being sold at forty cents a bushel—Potatoes have grown well, but the yield is small.

Lansing.—Peaches, plums, apples and pears are to be offered in Michigan markets in large quantities before fall as Lansing grocers. Already the vanguard of the early yield of all these fruits has arrived in Lansing, except the pears, which are offered in the Grand Rapids market, however.

Early Michigan peaches came to Lansing. The little white Michigan could be bought at wholesale for \$2.50 a bushel, while one grocer sold at retail for 30 cents a few baskets of small freestones. Those which attracted the most attention, however, were the big Arkansas peaches, actually as large as a man's hat, white and offered at 40 cents a basket. Last year, these sold at 30 cents. But even if the early fruit is high, owners of peach orchards declare that the crop is big, and that by the middle of September great quantities will be on sale.

Sweet apples are also purchasable now, and red Astrakhans are large and of a delicious flavor. Not only has the spraying helped, but the state of Michigan, through the agricultural college, is causing many trees afflicted with the white scale to be cut down. One farmer living near this city says that he lost half of his orchard this way last fall, that surrounding orchards might be protected.

All plum trees are said to be loaded with the fruit which is now worth about \$1.50 a bushel, wholesale. Grand Rapids wholesalers offer pears at \$1.75 a bushel, and it is probable that Lansing grocers will soon have them. Beets are now bringing 40 cents a bushel and home grown tomatoes have with in the last two or three days been offered at seven cents to Lansing grocers by truck gardeners. Cauldrons are now being shipped in, and are retailed at from 15 to 25 cents, according to size.

But the man of the house has discovered that potatoes are a luxury. The plants have grown well, but the yield is very small.

Prepare to Fight Increase in Tax.

Unusual efforts are being made by certain counties this year to secure any increase in their percentage of state taxes by the state board of equalization. About twenty agricultural counties have banded together to demand an increase in the equalized value of other counties, and to prevent any increase in their own taxation. There are indications that these counties are preparing to enter a coalition with Wayne, the big county of the state, for offensive and defensive purposes. The plan of counties has formulated a demand on the state tax commission for the valuation figures of the several counties of the state which the commission has prepared for the information of the state board of equalization.

Eleven of these counties sent representatives to a secret session in Lansing to discuss matters, form an organization and make plans to carry the equalization battle hard against certain other counties. G. B. Horton of the state tax commission was present at the conference.

None of these present would admit that any coalition had been formed with Wayne county, but several admitted they believed that they were well up to the standard alongside other counties. It seems that Kent county is an halfhearted selector for a second round, the point being that it is assessed for \$110,000,000 while Wayne has increased its equalization valuation the last five years by \$115,000,000.

Michigan Patents.

Michigan patents were issued as follows: Charles W. Carroll, Detroit, apparatus for cleaning castings and like; Harold W. Eden, Detroit, razor blade holder; Charles Flint, Ironwood, new state pocket; William M. Green, Niles, flying machine; Emil and W. Hantula, Bruce Crossing, trolling machine; Joseph Jeffre, Grand Rapids, reel glider; George W. Jones, Grand Rapids, concentrator; Edwin O. and W. A. Krentler, Detroit, automatically locking fast; Charles M. Lockard, Detroit, perfume dispensing apparatus; Franklin Lotter, Elkton, belt digger, also belt tapper; George H. Nichols, Grand Rapids, latch attachment; John W. Page, Adrian, wire fabric; George W. Peck, Detroit, explosive engine; Jan Popiel and J. Urbanski, Detroit, hammock.

State Health Board Alarmed.

Members of the state board of health are alarmed over the number of cases of infantile paralysis being reported indirectly throughout the state. During the past few years such cases have been reported in Grand Rapids. Reports up to July 1 received here show that twenty cases have resulted since January 1. Sixteen cases were reported last year, of which forty-seven resulted fatally. A large number of the others were left with partial paralysis.

New Corporations.

The following companies filed articles of incorporation with the secretary of state: United States Prismatic company, Detroit, \$100,000; Allegan County Gas company, Plainwell, \$25,000; Wicks Mining company, Iron county, \$100,000; Mrs. Fashion shop, incorporated, Traverse City, \$10,000; C. E. Trombly Furniture & Store company, Detroit, \$25,000; principal stockholders, Vincent C. Trombly, Charles E. Trombly and Harvey P. Trombly.

Private Banks Change to State.

Lansing.—Five private banks in the state were authorized by the state banking department to operate in the future as state banks. The present indications point to the fact that in the very near future there will be a large number of private banks which will be authorized to do business under the state banking law. It is said that at the present time there are at least a dozen applications on file in the banking commissioner's office from private banks which desire to become state banks under the state law.

There has been considerable discussion about the state house as to the reasons for these changes, but no one seems to be in possession of any information, or if they are they are not saying a word. At the present time there are 269 private banks doing business in the state as compared to 413 state and national banks and five trust companies.

Detroit bankers explain this action as the beginning of a process which practically means the elimination of the private banks. In spite of the fact that there are many first-class private banks in the state.

"The present banking law which limits the state bank to a minimum capital of \$20,000, prevents small towns where there are less than 500 population from having state banks because the business does not warrant a capitalization of \$20,000, but if the state banking act was amended, to permit of a \$10,000 capitalization, it would lead to the formation of state banks in the smaller towns, do away with many private banks and bring most of the financial institutions under state supervision."

Drinking Cup Still at Detroit.

Although the state board of health recently made public an order to abolish the public drinking cup, the common little glass promoter is still very much in evidence about Detroit. It is a case of a new broom which is not sweeping scrupulously clean.

Nearly every hotel in the city has a glass or porcelain cup under its ice water tank and in no cases have they been replaced with sanitary "bulleters." Most lunch counters provide enough glasses, so that each one need be used only once before being washed. At the Michigan city, however, four cups still remain in the waiting rooms, while at the Union depot they have been supplanted by a vending machine which sells an individual paper cup for one cent.

The cup is seldom seen now on cars of railroads operating in the state, but the roads have not yet adopted the drinking policy to their satisfaction. The Pere Marquette and the Michigan Central are considering the proposition of discarding every remaining cup; however, it is feared that the paper cups, after being used once, would be thrown about the cars and create a dirty and unhygienic condition.

According to railroad officials sentry of the traveling public is strongly against the new order, and many party of travelers carry metal folding cups with them. Few complaints are heard by the conductors, for the anti-cup campaign has progressed in many states for some time and people are becoming accustomed to providing themselves with drinking receptacles or else using their own.

"We will endeavor to arrange so that our agents can sell paper cups at all stations," said Leonard S. Tankard, chief of the Michigan Central, "and other railroads, we are providing water on all our interurban cars, but the passenger must furnish his own cup, there is no provision to be any sanitary fountain that is practical for a big city service. We have the cup vending machine in many of our stations and that will help in maintaining sanitation of the problem as we can get for the present."

Corporation Tax Being Considered.

According to information from Washington the commission of tax inquiry named by Governor Osborn to determine if the state tax system should be improved upon, is giving attention to the matter of establishing a corporation tax in this state as a means of providing funds for maintaining the state government. Former Lieut. Gov. P. H. Kelley of the commission and Prof. David Friday of the department of economics at the university are in Washington securing certain information to aid the commission in its investigation, and according to dispatches from there they hit the capital at just the right time.

The department has been gathering statistics as to taxation of corporations in the state and already has published reports covering New England and Atlantic states and today announces its report on the eastern states. Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

Commissioner Herbert Knox Smith of the Bureau of Corporations, writing Secretary Nagel, thus sums up his findings as to Michigan: "Michigan and Wisconsin make elaborate provisions for maintaining the state railway property, which with earning capacity, forms the basis of state-administered valorem taxes."

Harragill Elects Officers.

William Noeseman of Marshall was re-elected president of the Democratic order of Haragill of Michigan at the annual state convention at Kalamazoo. Charles Bauer of Detroit was elected secretary, and Charles Haubauer of the same city was made treasurer. Oscar Ehrmann, Herman Kramer and John W. Jones are the executive board. The membership of the society in Michigan was shown by reports to be 4,742, an increase of 749 members in the last year.

New Laws Are in Effect.

All the laws passed by the last legislature and which were not given immediate effect, are operative.

Among them is the law making it a felony to carry a weapon without a permit from a board consisting of the sheriff, the prosecuting attorney and the county clerk. Handguns more than ten inches in length are included in the list of dangerous weapons, so that all will have to get busy with the rule and measure up her batons.

SALES NEWS

Grand Rapids.—Margaret Wright, alias Goldie Fuller, who came here a short time ago from Kalamazoo, died in a local hospital after swallowing three ounces of laudanum with suicidal intent. She was walking with an escort, Charles Raisley, and when on Bridge street bridge slipped down the fatal portion. Raisley is being held by the police. Miss Wright expressed fear to her landlady that she would be fitted by a young man whom she was soon to wed.

Lansing.—While the majority of express rates in this state are reduced under the new rate schedule, yet it develops that certain shippers who have been enjoying a special rate for fruit and certain other articles, will discover that their rate has been raised. For many years express companies have granted rates, termed "fruit" phones, under which certain commodities listed as perishable, have enjoyed this reduction, but the new tariff now on file with the state railroad commission declares that these special rates have been eliminated, and this class of shippers enjoying the lower rates must now pay the general merchandise rates the same as general shippers.

Bay City.—Twenty-seven property owners on Jefferson street, which the Pere Marquette railway runs for several blocks before reaching its station in this city, brought suit through George E. Woodhoff, assignee of their claims, against the Pere Marquette for \$40,000 damages. The property owners allege that the Pere Marquette trains go fast along the street that they have made it impossible to keep platters on the ceilings and that comes because of the vibration and that chimneys have to be rebuilt almost continuously, while the smoke, cinders and soot make living almost unbearable along the street.

Kalamazoo.—George Moore, claiming to be a government detective, was robbed here by a pretty girl whose name he has not been able to give the government he is doing detective work for. He claims that he was robbed of \$200, the girl picked up his pockets while he stood on a corner waiting for a street car.

Chelsea.—The recent agitation here over the raise in telephone rates continues and it is reported that the Bell people have taken out several phones. The party who are engaged in organizing a mutual company are signing up subscribers by the score. An indication of the feeling of the people can be gotten from the fact that a petition is being circulated and freely signed in the farming community south of here to the effect that they will not patronize merchants who retain the Bell phones.

Ann Arbor.—Fifteen-year-old Viola Beck, a blond, told the story of her stepfather's crime against her to the officers of the juvenile court, with the result that Daniel Alford, who was charged with rape and battery on a charge preferred by his wife, was again arrested on a statutory charge. He was at once brought up for hearing and committed to the city jail, where he was bound over to the October term of circuit court and bail fixed at \$5,000.

Monroe.—Albert A. Milligan, the Toledo shoemaker held here on a bigamy charge, was given his freedom by Magistrate Berthelotte. Since Milligan was locked up in the local jail it was learned that the alleged first wife was married and had never secured a divorce at the time of her marriage to him.

Stanton.—Arthur Moore of Day Center brought some goods of M. W. Stevens in this city, giving in payment therefor a note for \$22.50, signed by Paul Steinberg. It was found that the signature was a forgery. Moore was arrested, the goods recovered and Moore bound over to the circuit court on a charge of forgery. He is out on \$100 bail, where he was sent on a similar charge.

Lansing.—Albert, the eight-year-old son of the Rev. Price pastor of the First Baptist church of this city, was drowned in Whitmore lake, near Ann Arbor. Albert was the eldest of three children, a wedding of the principals of the unique ceremony being Miss Ada May Nichols of Chillicothe, O., and Dr. Harvey E. Foot of Dublin, Ireland. The yacht was trimmed with flags of all nations, Old Glory and the green emblem of the health department, and the masts and upper works were entwined with white bunting and nearly hidden in masses of ferns and other greens.

Sault Ste. Marie.—Sixteen launches went up in smoke when Kebb & Shields' boathouse was destroyed by fire. The loss will reach \$3,500, covered by insurance. An explosion of gasoline while the fire was at its height snuffed and saved two launches. The fire lasted but ten minutes.

Pentwater.—On board the private yacht Olivia, off the Pentwater light in Lake Michigan, a wedding of international interest was solemnized. The principals of the unique ceremony being Miss Ada May Nichols of Chillicothe, O., and Dr. Harvey E. Foot of Dublin, Ireland. The yacht was trimmed with flags of all nations, Old Glory and the green emblem of the health department, and the masts and upper works were entwined with white bunting and nearly hidden in masses of ferns and other greens.

Grand Rapids.—Two more cases of infantile paralysis were reported to the health authorities, and a vigorous crusade has been inaugurated to stamp out the disease before it claims more victims. Two deaths have already occurred.

Escanaba.—A dog, supposed to be the daughter of Dr. W. B. Hayes and the other daughter of Andrew Peterson. As a precaution the children were taken to the Pasteur Institute at Chicago for treatment.

NOTHING BUT AN AMATEUR

Fair Damsel's Questions That Revealed Callow Lover in His True Light.

"Do you really and truly think I am beautiful?" she asked.

"You are simply divine," he replied.

"That there are other girls whom you think more beautiful than I?"

"No, I don't think there is a more beautiful girl in the world than you."

"There are other girls you think are just as beautiful, though?"

"You are more beautiful than any other girl I ever saw."

"I suppose there are plenty of girls whom you consider almost as beautiful as I am."

"I think you are far more beautiful than any other girl that ever breathed."

"Well, why didn't you say that in the first place?"

"That was what I meant, if I didn't exactly say so."

"O, well, go on. My goodness! Must I suggest everything nice that you say to me?"

"What more can I say?"

"Heavens! I'm not going to sit here giving you lessons. I thought the way you started out that you had made love before."

THE LONG BOW.



Sharp—Wilson says he stayed under water one day last summer for fifteen minutes.

Wise—Why, he must be amphibious.

Sharp—No; he's a—well, I wouldn't like to say.

In the Church Militant.

Henry N. Clay, the secretary of the Chicago Publishers' association, has a negro cook he took with him to Chicago from St. Louis. The cook is very religious and immediately joined a church in Chicago.

"Care the cook going out of the house one evening with a large carving knife in her hand."

"Where are you going, Mary?" he asked.

"To 'twine t' church."

"Well, what are you doing with that knife?"

"They're a religious dispute 'goin' on down there," said Mary, "an' I wanter see my side gits de best of it."—Saturday Evening Post.

Exhibition of Real Faith.

William Spill's little girl, who had been playing at making mud pies, aided by a tiny sprinkling can for a reservoir, ran to her father as he was lighting a cigar, bearing a package of dried-cleaned wearing apparel. Pointing to her muddy little boots Father Spill admonished his tiny daughter, "And don't forget, dear Louise, she praver fervently, "to dry-clean our street, and my shoes, for Jesus' sake, amen!"—Cleveland Leader.

Went Up Twenty Points.

During the recent hot spell a broker was complaining to a friend of the dull trading. "Business," he said, "What can one do in the way of business with the mercury standing at 100?"

Father Time.

"Got the old man in an atrabax, have they?"

"That's Good"

Is often said of

Post Toasties

when eaten with cream or rich milk and a sprinkle of sugar if desired.

That's the cue for housekeepers who want to please the whole family.

Post Toasties are ready to serve direct from the package—

Convenient

Economical

Delicious

"The Memory Lingers"

Sold by Grocers

POSTUM CEREAL CO., Ltd., Battle Creek, Mich.

\$1,000 In Prizes!

To be distributed by the BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC in its great prize voting contest, the Capital Prize to be an elegant

\$400.00

OAKLAND PIANO

The Progressive Merchants of Birmingham Have Contributed the Following Valuable Prizes Printed

Below, and Will Give the Eccentric Prize Vote Coupons

Rules and Regulations Governing Contest Are as Follows:

- ANNOUNCEMENT**—The Piano and Popular Ladies' Voting Contest will be conducted fairly and honestly on business principles, with justice and fairness to all concerned. With the above principles the contest will be an assured success.
- PRIZES**—The capital prize will be an Oakland Piano. Also other valuable prizes will be given to the amount of several hundred dollars, which are announced hereafter.
- CANDIDATES**—Young ladies in this and adjoining towns are eligible to enter this contest, and the party receiving the largest number of votes shall receive the beautiful \$400.00 Oakland Piano, and other premiums will be distributed in accordance with contestants' standing at the final count.
- TIE IN VOTES**—Should any of the contestants tie in votes, The Publisher's Music Company will award a prize similar in accordance with standing at the final count.
- VOTES CLASSED**—Votes will be issued in the following denominations:
 Renewals, 600 votes for \$ 1 00
 Renewals, 500 votes for 1 00
 Renewals, more than one year, 600 votes for 1 00
 Back subscriptions, 400 votes for 1 00
 Five-years new subscriptions, 5,000 votes 5 00
 Ten-years new subscriptions, 12,500 votes 10 00
- INSTRUCTIONS**—Results as to standing of votes will be issued after 30 days. No votes will be accepted at less than regular price of paper concerned in this contest. No one connected with this paper will be allowed to become a candidate in this contest or work for contestant.

Votes after being taken cannot be transferred to another. Be sure you know whom you are going to vote for before coming to the ballot box, as the editor or any one will positively not give you any information on the subject. The keys to the government ballot box shall be in possession of the awarding committee during the contest.

For the first 30 days this paper will run a 25-vote coupon which can be voted free for any lady contestant.

Contest to run not less than 90 days. Closing of contest will be announced 25 days in advance of closing. The right to postpone date of closing is reserved if sufficient cause should occur.

The contest shall close on a day which will be announced later. Ten days prior to closing contest the judges will carefully look or seal ballot box and take the same to the Bank, where the same will be kept in a place where the voting can be done during business hours and locked in a vault at night until close of contest, when the judges will take charge and count same and announce the young ladies winning in their turn.

The last 10 days all voting must be done in sealed box at Bank. Put your coupons in a sealed envelope, which will be furnished you and put same in ballot box. This will give every one a fair and square deal.

Birmingham Eccentric Piano Contest
Towel Bars, Soap Dishes, Bath Seats, etc. Value \$10.00
Donated by
Wilkinson and Bassett
Plumbing, Heating and Sheet Metal Work
We give a 25-vote Coupon with each \$1 cash purchase.

ASK FOR COUPON
Birmingham Eccentric Piano Contest
Electric Flat Iron Value \$5.50
Donated by
HUSTON HARDWARE COMPANY
General Hardware
We give a 25-vote Coupon with each \$1 cash purchase.

ASK FOR COUPON
Birmingham Eccentric Piano Contest
One Barrel Birmingham Flour Value \$5.00
Donated by
COBB-STANLEY-HARRIS COMPANY
Groceries and Drugs
We give a 25-vote Coupon with each \$1 cash purchase.

ASK FOR COUPON
Birmingham Eccentric Piano Contest
Five \$106.00 Piano due bills Value \$500.00
Donated by
W. H. HOGG & CO.
General Hardware
We give a 25-vote Coupon with each \$1 cash purchase.

ASK FOR COUPON
Birmingham Eccentric Piano Contest
Five \$100.00 Piano Due Bills
Donated by the

Birm'ham Eccentric

Place your order with the Eccentric for your 1912 Calendars