SHOE DEALERS CLOSE MEETING

CONVENTION ENDS WITH PROPOSED MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY AS REALITY.

WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY

Albert Murray, Charlotte, Is Chosen President of New Organization—C. C. Weber of Kalamazoo Heads Association.

Lansing.—The convention of the Michigan Retail Shoe Dealers came to a close at Detroit with the proposed mutual fire insurance company a reality. After Chairman George Brode, Fremont, had reported for the committee, it took but a short time for the approval of the plan by which the shoemen will take advantage of the state law permitting the formation of such mutual companies.

Temporary officers of the company were elected as follows: President, Albert Murray, Charlotte; directors, O. D. Allan, Detroit; John Wehr, Ann Arbor; Jacob Martin, Monroe; Charles Olson, Cadillac; John Muffy, Kalamazoo, and George Brode, Fremont. Over $60,000 of the necessary $100,000 stock has already been subscribed for, and the charter will be obtained as soon as the full amount is in. The company, which will be known as the Michigan Retail Shoe Dealers' Mutual Fire Insurance company, will not begin active operation, however, until January 1, as it is necessary to report to the secretary of state December 31 of each year, and the company would hardly have time to get in working order by that time.

Charles C. Weber, Kalamazoo, was elected president of the association. Other officers elected were: Treasurer, Edward Stocker, Detroit; secretary, Fred G. Clark, Detroit; board of directors, William J. Dittman, Mt. Pleasant, chairman; William Gardner, Wyandotte; O. D. Allan, Detroit; L. A. Dudley, Battle Creek, and L. H. Hyde, Hart; vice-presidents, Fred B. Elliott, Flint; Leo Gruner, Ann Arbor; Rolla D. Chase, Owosso, and Joseph Hrosett, Bay City.

Back Separation of State Taxes.

Word comes from Lansing that the special tax commission will not confine its report to advocating a partial separation of state and local taxes, but will submit two plans; one the complete separation of state and county taxes and the other the partial separation plan which was made public recently in a statement issued by Patrick H. Kelley of the commission.

A movement for the complete separation of local and state taxes first made its appearance in the last legislature, but the opposition among the representatives from the counties who receive more money from the primary school fund than they pay in state taxes was so strong that it never got very far, even though it has so strong an adherent as Attorney General Kuhn.

The corporation tax plan of Governor Osborn, which is along this general line but does not contemplate disturbing the present primary system, complicated the situation and nothing was done.

But the farce which the equalization of county valuations developed into this time again brought the subject to the fore and the special tax commission has decided, it is said, to advocate the complete separation and then as an alternative offer the plan which it had first decided on as a basis for its report.

Growth of U. of M. Surprising.

"It is surprising how fast the University of Michigan is growing," said a member of the law department. "I can look about me and see a million dollars' worth of new buildings that have been put up within the past few years, and I can also see prospects of another million dollars' worth which will be built in the next few years. They have got to come. It is some different from what it was when we older fellows were in the university."

Asked concerning the use to which the $208,000 increase annually in the state appropriation to the university would be put, Robert E. Campbell of the treasurer's office said: "We will not get that until after the taxes are paid in December, and then it will not all be used at once. The only money that can be used for the erection of new buildings has to be first accumulated by the university through its savings. At the end of each year all the money on hand is transferred to what is called an accumulation savings account. After the money is once transferred into this fund, then it can only be used for building purposes."

State Undertakers In Meet.

The thirty-fourth annual convention of the Michigan Funeral Directors and Embalmers' association opened at Saginaw. Following the address of welcome by Mayor G. W. Stewart, President W. G. Wismer of Charlotte gave his address in which he said that the association failed to secure a chair at Ann Arbor because of the lack of funds. He said that there had been violations in the state because licensed men would fill out certificates and leave them for unauthorized persons to execute.

G. O. P. State Central Committee.

Republican State Chairman W. F. Knox will call a meeting of the state central committee for Grand Rapids for some date between October 1 and 15. It is likely that the date and place for the spring convention will be fixed at this meeting. There is no spring election in the state, but there will be a state convention for the selection of delegates at large to the Republican national convention, and there will also be district conventions to select the district delegates.

Michigan Bean Crop to Be Light.

A Michigan bean crop of 5,400,000 bushels, with a value of $11,000,000, was prophesied at the opening session of the Michigan Bean Jobbers' association convention at Detroit.

Reports from 34 counties of the state were to the effect that while a ten per cent. greater acreage has been devoted to the crop this year, the yield will be but 90 per cent. of that of 1910. This will be due to the summer's drought. Last year's output was 6,000,000 bushels, worth $12,000,000. Michigan raises about sixty-five per cent. of the bean crop of the country, the white pea beans and red kidney beans forming the larger part of the amount.

For California, which comes second in the list of bean raisers, E. A. Bunker, San Francisco, reported a good crop in sight. The shortage in white beans there will be overcome by the advance in Lima beans, of which, it is estimated, there will be 2,500,000 bags. Each bag holds 85 pounds. Last year that state raised 1,000,000 bags of Lima beans and an equal amount of other kinds combined.

"Except as the crop in other states affects the general market price, we have little to do with them," explained President J. A. Heath, Lenox. "The Michigan bean jobbers actually handle few beans outside of those grown here, but we keep constantly in touch with the national market, so that our members may be aware of price fluctuations and crop prospects.

"Genesee county probably leads the state, with Sanilac, Tuscola and Saginaw close behind."

Jobbers from New York, Wisconsin and Canada also reported on the outlook in their territories.

The big fight of the convention will come over the question of net weights and free bags. It has been the custom of the jobbers to ship beans in 12 ounce sacks, but the railroads have complained that they are too light and frequently burst.

Penny Postage Not Called For.

Michigan postmasters are strongly opposed to Postmaster General Hitchcock's plan of penny postage for the United States, and are saying so, not only as individuals, but also as an organization, having adopted resolutions to that effect which have just been made public. Instead, these postmasters are demanding that the service shall be improved, and that free delivery shall be given to residents of the small villages and cities as it has been to rural districts.

Postmaster Seymour Foster, one of the members of the committee on resolutions, says that with one accord the postmasters assembled at the convention held at Charlevoix last week declared that there is no demand among the people of Michigan for penny postage for first-class matter. Postmaster Homer Warren of Detroit also admitted that from the poorer people of the city to the concerns which sent out hundreds of letters a day there have come no requests for a reduction in the price of sending letters. In fact, some of these are now buying two cent stamps for their circulars in order to assure themselves that their catalogues and circulars will reach their destination unopened.

"We commend the postmaster general for having reduced the $17,000,000 deficit," says Postmaster Foster. "He has brought about great economy without impairing the service, and made various publications pay their just proportion of transportation through the mails. But if the department has now reached the place where it is on a self-supporting or profit-bearing basis, the postmaster general should not reduce the postage on first-class mail, but instead, should use that money for the improvement of the service.

"For instance, when inspectors have come to Lansing to look over the service here, we have asked for free city delivery for the folks living in Caldwell's addition, or for some of those living near the school for the blind."

Resigns From Board of Control.

M. J. Murphy forwarded to Governor Osborn his resignation as a member of the board of control of the Michigan Home for the Feeble-Minded and Epileptic at Lapeer. No reason was stated, but Mr. Murphy asked that he be relieved as soon as possible. He has been a member of the board for six years and has devoted much time to the institution.

While Mr. Murphy would not discuss the matter, saying that he was too busy to remain on the board, it is believed that he did not take kindly to the way in which Governor Osborn works up political thunder. Some weeks ago the members of the board met with the state board of auditors and fixed the per diem for feeding the inmates at 48 cents, the same as it was the year previous. Although asked to be present the governor did not attend the meeting, but when the matter was submitted to him he refused his sanction and called another meeting, when he stated that the amount be fixed at 46 cents a day.

Michigan Patents.

Michigan patents issued: C. G. Boeck, Jackson, automobile muffler; William H. Buller, E. Glassbrook and H. N. Hanchett, Jackson, spring motor; J. F. Card, Three Rivers, collapsible core for use in the manufacture of coils; R. M. Cauffman, Centerville, pasteurizing apparatus; J. C. Coss, Detroit, bow socket separator; William E. Dawson and R. McAlpine, Detroit, alarm for cash boxes; J. Dobrenbos, Kalamazoo, lamp; William R. Fitchet, Pinnebog, food safe.

D. Garst, Detroit, fence post; A. M. and F. M. Gifford, Mancelona, shipping crate; N. W. Hartman, Detroit, window case, also glass cutting-off machine; M. Hoswitz, Detroit, clothes line support; R. Huff, Detroit, hydro-carbon engine; E. Karvakko, Red Ridge, lamp wick trimming device; F. Koch, Saginaw, reversible plow; G. Koch and J. A. Gates, Detroit, vehicle wheel; F. W. Lovelady and H. Kennedy, Saginaw, candy machine; H. A. McGrery, Detroit, elevator controlling mechanism.

RUSSIA AND FRANCE AGAINST GERMANY

RUSSIA PROMISES TO THROW ARMY ON GERMAN'S FLANK AND INVADE AUSTRIA.

WILL TAKE ACTIVE PART IN WAR IF GERMANY ATTACKS.

France Holds Troops Whose Terms Have Expired and Are Gradually Massing Army Near Frontier.

Efforts of Germany and Austria to drive a wedge between France and Russia have utterly failed and if the Moroccan dispute results in war Russia will be found as an active ally of France.

M. Izvolsky, the Russian ambassador at Paris, has been authorized to tell France that her proposals to Germany are accepted by Russia as involving her full duties as an ally should Germany follow its rejection by a belligerent act.

It is understood that Russia's strategy in such an event will be to hold a sufficient force on Germany's eastern rear guard as to keep half the German army there while an expeditionary army invades Austria through the North Balkans.

Before the czar left for Kleff the German and Austrian ambassadors at St. Petersburg went aboard the royal yacht Standart and bade him a long leave. The farewells were ostensibly friendly but the ambassadors were hiding deep chagrin for they had been unable to carry out successfully a long-laid and intricate intrigue which it was hoped to give Germany a free hand to deal with France alone on land in event of war.

ENGLAND READY FOR WAR

British Preparations Reflect Seriousness of Moroccan Situation.

The gravity of the situation arising from France's refusal to grant Germany's demands as regards Morocco is reflected in England by the extraordinary precautions being taken throughout the United Kingdom.

The army and navy is held at its highest degree of efficiency. England is prepared for any eventuality.

Startling precautions are being taken at Sheerness. Mounted armed guards are stationed at all the approaches and everyone seeking admission is challenged.

The barricades recently erected around the two searchlights east of the Ravelin batteries are closed night and day despite the protests of the urban district council.

The steel observation tower further east, which commands extensive views of the North sea, has been strongly barricaded and at night is guarded by infantry with fixed bayonets and ball cartridges.

WIFE-SLAYER KILLS SELF.

George Reebe Found in Field Near Home With His Throat Cut.

The hunt for George Reebe, whose wife was found slain in the kitchen of their home seven miles northeast of Essex, Ont., ended when his brother and two sons found his body in a cornfield on his own farm, near the shed in which it is supposed he spent Sunday night. The man had done himself to death. His throat was cut and there were stab wounds in his neck and over his heart.

Beside the body were found two knives, one a large butcher knife, the other a jack-knife, and the shotgun with which he was armed. No ammunition for the gun was found other than the charge with which it was loaded. Search was made for a revolver also, as it had been reported to the officers that he had both gun and revolver, but none was found.

Prowler Murders 7-Year-Old Girl.

The body of 7-year-old Annie Lemberger, of Madison, Wis., who was kidnaped, was found in Lake Monona. She had been murdered. The child was stolen from the bed in which she had been sleeping with a sister and her disappearance was not known to her family until morning. Examination of the body disclosed no evidence of violence beyond a slight laceration of one ear and a discoloration of the neck, the latter indicating that the child may have been strangled. The only motive for the murder seems to be revenge upon her parents by some enemy at present unknown.

Etna's Eruption Growe Serious.

The eruption of Mount Etna has become more intense. The showers of ashes and cinders are heavier and the rumbling of earth shocks at short intervals is heard for miles. The shocks are growing in violence, and a panic prevails. The fear of the people is augmented by the great heat and suffocating atmosphere. All the country round about is covered with ashes and seems, under an immense funeral pall.

Founder of Red Cross is Dying.

Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, is believed to be dying at her summer home. She is 99 years old. In poor health when she started early in the summer from her home at Glen Echo, Md., she has grown gradually worse. Her strength was greatly impaired by pneumonia some time ago and her extreme age left her without power of recuperation.

The enrollment of the Flint schools this year is 161 greater than last year.

Masuchika Shimose, who invented the high explosive to which the name Shimose powder was given by the Japanese navy, is dead. He was born in 1859. His compound was adopted in 1892 by the Japanese navy.

Dr. George Alexander De Santos Saxe, of New York, one of the best known physicians in this country, is dead of heart disease. He was a specialist in gynecology, and held the professorship in that department in the Bellevue and postgraduate hospitals. He also was on the editorial staff of the New York Medical Journal and author of several textbooks.

SUGAR SOARS.

United States Agricultural Department Says a Famine Comes.

The United States is facing the most severe sugar famine in years. The refineries have hardly any stock on hand; there is practically no trading in anything but seconds in the New York market; it is impossible to obtain any of last year's European surplus, and the fall crop for the United States threatens to show a large diminution.

The price of sugar has gone up steadily for months. It has risen a cent and a quarter a pound, wholesale, the last few weeks, and the fall production not only will not bring about a drop in prices, but may be responsible for a continuation for the increasing price.

This is the situation as summed up by sugar experts in the department of agriculture, after a period of reports from all sugar-growing sections of the country, reports on the present condition of the market and estimates on the amount of sugar now held in stock by the refineries.

THE MARKETS

LIVE STOCK.

DETROIT—Cattle — The general condition of the live stock market was about the same as that of last week. There were some changes in prices, but none of any considerable importance. In the cattle department the run was below that of a week ago by nearly 200 head. Quality was about the same. The poorer grades came in for more attention than they have been running for several weeks, and among the best sellers were bulls and canners. Fat cows and handy butcher cattle were also wanted. There was some demand for stockers and feeders and a few loads went back to the farms, but for most part the cattle sold were for shipment east and the slaughter pens. There was a better demand for milch cows and a better grade of cows on hand to fill it. Prices were slightly higher, some being held at $65@70 per head. Best dry fed steers and heifers, $6; good to choice butcher steers and heifers, 1,000 to 1,200 pounds, $5@5.75; light to good steers and heifers, 700 to 900 pounds, $4.25@5.00; choice fat cows, $4@4.50; common butch cows, $3@3.75; canners, $1.50@2.50; choice heavy bulls, $4@4.50; common bulls, $2.50@2.50; choice well bred feeders, $5.50@5.25; common feeders, $4@4.75; stockers, $3@4.25; choice, large, young to medium aged milkers, $55@90; fair to good milkers, $40@50; common milkers, $25@35.

The veal calf trade, while active, had to be conducted on a range of prices 50 cents below those paid for calves of like quality last week. The run was slightly above that of a week ago. The best grades brought $9@9.50 per hundred, with those of less quality ranging from $5 up.

Sheep—Demand took all in the yards. Best lambs, $6; fair to good lambs, $5@5.50; light to common lambs, $4@4.50; fair to good butcher sheep, $3@3.50; culls and commons, $1.50@2.50.

Hogs—Packers say they are losing money on Michigan hogs at the present range and are bearing down on everything not strictly first-class for the season. Prices on the good ones were off 10 cents per hundred and still more on common kinds. Prices ranged: Light to good butchers, $7.20@7.30; pigs, $6.50@6.75; light Yorkers, $7.20@7.30; roughs, subject to dock; stags, one-third off.

EAST BUFFALO—Cattle—Demand slow at a trifle below last week's prices.

Hogs—Lower; heavy, $7.30@7.50; Yorkers, $7.70@7.75; pigs, $7.75.

Sheep—Lambs, $6 top; yearling, $4.50@7.00; wethers, $4@4.25; ewes, $3.25@3.75.

GRAIN, ETC.

DETROIT—Wheat—Cash and September No. 2 red, 91c asked; December opened without change at 93c, advanced to 97 3-4c, declined to 97c and closed 97 1-4c; May opened at $1.01 3-4, advanced $1.02 1-4, declined to $1.01 3-4, and closed at $1.02; No. 1 white, 83c; No. 3 white, 1 car at 82c.

Corn—Cash No. 2, 57c; No. 2 yellow, 69c; No. 3 yellow, 8 cars at 68c.

Oats—Standard, 2 cars at 40c; No. 3 white, 2 cars at 41 1-2c.

Rye—Cash No. 2, 1 car at 71 1-2c.

Beans—Cash and prompt, September and October shipment, $2.05; November and December, $2.

Cloverseed—Prime spot, October and March, $11.65; sample, 25 bags at $11.25, 45 at $11, 19 at $10.75, 8 at $10; prime alsike, $10.25; sample alsike, 15 bags at $9.75, 24 at $9, 12 at $8.50.

Timothy Seed—Prime spot, 100 bags at $3.75.

Feed—In 100-lb. sacks, jobbing lots: Bran, $26; coarse middlings, $27; fine middlings, $29; cracked corn and coarse cornmeal, $26; corn and oat chop, $26 per ton.

Flour—Best Michigan patent, $4.60; ordinary patent, $4.40; straight, $4.15; clear, $3.90; fancy rye, $4.35; spring patent, $5.65 per bbl. in wood.

FARM PRODUCE.

Potatoes—$1.20@1.35 per bu.

Onions—Southern, per bu. $1.15@1.25; Spanish, $1.40@1.50 per crate.

Dressed Calves—Extra, 8@9c; fancy, 11@12c per lb.

Tomatoes—Home grown, 50@60c per bu.

Honey—Choice to fancy comb, 15@16c per lb.

Green Corn—17@20c per doz.

Live Poultry—Broilers, 14@14 1-2c; old roosters and stags, 8c; hens, 12 1-2@13c; ducks, 12@13c; young ducks, 15@16c; geese, 8@10c; turkeys, 14@15c per lb.

Hay—Car lot prices, track, Detroit: No. 1 Timothy, $21; No. 2 timothy, $19@20; light mixed, $19@20; No. 1 mixed, $18@17; rye straw, $7.50; wheat and oat straw, $6.50 per ton.

VEGETABLES.

Beets, 65c per bu; carrots, 65c per bu; cucumbers, hothouse, 15@20c; celery, 20@25c per doz.; egg plants, $1@1.50 per doz.; green onions, 12 1-2c per doz.; green peppers, $1.75 per bu.; head lettuce, $1.25 per bu.; radishes, 10@12c per doz.; turnips, 65c per bu.; watercress, 25@30c per doz.; $1.50 per bu.; green beans, 75@80c; wax beans, 75@80c per bu.

FRUITS.

Apples—$1.25@2 per bbl., and 50@60c per bu.

Grapes—Worden, 8-lb. baskets, 15@16c; Delaware, 1-lb. 10@12c; Delaware, 10-lb., 35@40c; Niagara, 10-lb. baskets, 60c.

Huckleberries—$3@3.50 per bu.

Peaches—In 1-5 bu. baskets AA, 40c; A, 35c; B, 30c. In bushels; AA, $2; A, $1.75; B, $1.25.

Plums—$1@1.25 per bu.

Pears—Common, 40@50c; Bartlet 65@75c per bu.

The National Prohibitionist, a weekly publication in the interests of the Prohibition party, has suspended publication. The suspension is the result of factional strife within the party during the past year.

The Illinois State Fair association contends that the Illinois Suffrage association is a political organization and has refused to allow the Suffragettes a booth on the state fair grounds at Springfield. The suffragettes are angry because a booth is being donated to the W. C. T. U., which, they assert, has a part in every election.

Former Congressman Edward H. Funston, 75, father of Brig.-Gen. Frederick Funston, commanding the department of the Philippines, died at his home in Iola, Kas., of heart disease. He was in congress 12 years in the late eighties and early nineties, representing the Second Kansas district.

Joseph G. Cannon, erstwhile speaker of the house of representatives, will run for congress again in 1912. This was announced by men who are in his confidence. It was further declared that the former speaker will try to regain the gavel should the house go Republican.

$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:

1. 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.

2. 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 herewith.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. VOTES CLASSED—Votes will be issued in the following denominations:

New subscriptions, 600 votes	$ 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

6. 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 ran 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 lock 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
One Pair Ladies' Shoes Value $5.00
Donated by
V. Nixon
Dry Goods, Notions, Shoes, Gents' Furnishings
We give a 25-vote Coupon with each $1 cash purchase.
ASK FOR COUPON

Birmingham Eccentric Piano Contest
Electric Flat Iron Value $5.00
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
Chafing Dish Value $5.00
Donated by
W. H. HOGE & CO.
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

Five $106.00 Piano due bills Value $500.00
Five $100.00 Piano Due Bills
Donated by the
Birm'gham Eccentric

Place your order with the Eccentric for your 1912 Calendars