THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC
ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR IN ADVANCE
WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL, PUBS.
BIRMINGHAM, FRIDAY, DEC. 30.

NEWS OF A WEEK IN CONDENSED FORM

RECORD OF MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS TOLD IN BRIEFEST MANNER POSSIBLE.

AT HOME AND ABROAD

Happenings That Are Making History —Information Gathered from All Quarters of the Globe and Given in a Few Lines.

Washington

Because of the little time which remains before President-elect Wilson will appoint new men to all the important positions in the diplomatic service. President Taft has decided not to name a successor to Ambassador Whitelaw Reid at London, but to let the post remain vacant until after March 4 next.

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The Supreme court of the United States canceled as violative of the Sherman anti-trust law the contracts by which railroad-owned coal companies in the Pennsylvania anthracite fields had purchased the output for all time of "independent mines." The charge of a "general combination" was not sustained.

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In their annual reports Secretary of the Interior Fisher urges the need of new public land laws and Secretary of Commerce and Labor Nagel recommends the establishment of a board to adjudicate the differences between railways and their employes.

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The annual report of the interstate commerce commission contains a caustic arraignment of the lax methods prevalent among the railroad companies with reference to providing protection for their passengers and employes.

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Imports of luxuries into the United States during October were probably the highest on record. The bureau of foreign and domestic commerce of the department of commerce and labor estimates that luxuries are coming into this country at the rate of $1,000,000 a day.

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That commissions amounting to nearly $50,000,000 a year are poured into the pocket of Wall street brokers each year was the testimony given in Washington before the house committee investigating the "money trust." Frank K. Sturgis, a broker and former president of the New York stock exchange, was on the stand.

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The omnibus private pension bill, providing increases for 223 pensioners, passed the house of representatives without a record vote. It adds about $50,000 annually to the pension rolls.

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Adjournment of congress for the Christmas holidays from December 19 to January 2 was authorized when the senate adoped a resolution already passed by the house.

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Representative Charles C. Bowman of the Eleventh district, was unseated by the house of representatives by the passage, 153 to 118, of a resolution declaring that corrupt practices had been used in his election in 1910.

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Domestic

What is regarded as the second highest alimony ever granted in New York state was allowed to Mrs. Bernice G. Heinze, when Justice Arthur S. Tompkins in the supreme court at Newburgh, N. Y., granted her a decree of divorce from her husband, Fritz Augustus Heinze, the former copper king.

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Before the United States government had served notice of suit for dissolution upon its officers, the Elgin (Ill.) board of trade, in a wild session, abolished its quotation committee. The action was marked by a bolt of the dissenting faction from the annual meeting.

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Six persons were killed and six injured as the result of a collision between a street car and a Lake Shore coal train on the Oil City branch at the Central street crossing in Ashtabula, Ohio.

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A vicious bulldog, with his jaws locked on the throat of five-year-old Homer Goff, strangled the child to death at Bessemer, Ala.

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Seven students of New York high schools were found in a recent test in arithmetic who could not add 1 and 1, declared Prof. Louis Ehrlich of Columbia university in a statistical report on the unfitness of public school pupils for business.

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As the result of a head-on collision between passenger trains on the Rock Island road near Minnekah, Okla., one person was killed outright, fifteen seriously injured and about twenty others received cuts and bruises.

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Marvin W. Hambl, twenty-year-old messenger, whose car on the Sunset Western train of the Santa Fe railroad was robbed of $20,145 in gold last week, confessed that he had robbed the safe with the aid of his sixteen year-old brother Melvin.

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The sale of 118,000 acres of unallotted Indian land was started in McAlester, Okla., by George Wright, commissioner of the Five Civilized Tribes. The first land sold brought much more than its appraised value.

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As a protest against the convict lease system Governor Donaghey of Arkansas broke all pardon records by pardoning 316 state convicts and 44 county convicts.

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Alfred J. Payne, father of Fred Payne, former member of the Chicago and Detroit American league and Baltimore International league baseball teams, was shot and killed near Utica, N. Y., while hunting. He received a death wound when a gun in the hands of his son, Bert, was discharged accidentally.

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Amelio Prince, said by the police to be a notorious "black hand" leader, was shot and killed in a bakery in upper New York. According to the story told the police by employes of the shop, he had just demanded $100 of Joseph Gallucci, the owner.

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The accidental prick of a woman's hatpin in the cheek caused the death of James Sinclair, chief of the Caledonian club in Boston. Death resulted from oedema of the brain, brought on by blood poisoning.

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Twenty-seven men and boys lost their lives by firearms in the New England states and the maritime provinces during the fall hunting season, which has closed.

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A Missouri state appointive office, with fees estimated at $9,000 a year, which had been overlooked for thirteen years, was filled for the first time by the appointment by State Auditor Gordon of Thomas Bond as auditor's counsel in collection of the collateral inheritance tax.

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Judgment for $660, entered by agreement against the estate of Floyd K. Whittemore, a bondsman for Henry L. Hertz, Illinois state treasurer in 1907, settled the last of a score of cases brought by the state to recover fees for recording bonds from former state treasurers.

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The National Museum in Washington has added to its historical collection four antique chairs that once were the property of Alexander Hamilton.

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Brought to Indianapolis by the defense to impeach the testimony of Ortie McManigal, Frederick W. Zeiss, union iron worker, Chicago, was taken from the witness stand at the dynamite conspiracy trial by order of Judge Albert Anderson and held under $2,000 bond to appear before the next federal grand jury for perjury.

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The 20,000 officers and men of the Atlantic fleet will be in New York for the next fortnight and will spend about $800,000 on their Christmas shopping and holiday festivities.

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The application of A. E. Cary and others who are members of the supreme lodge, Independent Order of Moose of America, for a writ of mandate to compel Secretary of State Frank C. Jordan to file the articles of incorporation under this name, was denied by Superior Judge Shields in Sacramento, Cal.

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The Tenants' union of New York, devoted to the interests of 800,000 rent-paying families, hopes to enlist the aid of the clergy in an effort to help the poor families of the city by having landlords remit ten per cent. of the rent until the high cost of living is reduced.

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Four men were hanged in the penitentiary at Salem, Ore., despite efforts to save their lives that were unprecedented. The quartet had been under reprieve granted by Gov. Oswald West for varying periods in order that the electorate of the state might have an opportunity to pronounce its verdict whether the men should hang. The verdict was given in November and was in favor of hanging.

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Foreign

Queen Maud of Norway has undergone a slight operation at Appleton house, near Sandringham, one of her father's (King Edward's) wedding gifts.

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Whitelaw Reid, United States ambassador to Great Britain since 1905, died at Dorchester house, his London residence, of pulmonary oedema. Mr. Reid was in his seventy-sixth year and the end was quiet and peaceful.

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The peace conference, which has before it the arduous task of arranging terms of permanent peace between the Balkan states and Turkey, began in historic St. James palace in London, the picture gallery having been set aside for the use of the plenipotentiaries.

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The announcement that M. Simics, the Servian minister to Austria, had been recalled by an imperative order from Belgrade, has thrown the Austro-Servian situation into a state of utter confusion.

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The much beloved and venerated Luitpold, prince regent of Bavaria, is dead in Munich, at the age of ninety-one years.

Sporting

Packey McFarland, the pride of the Chicago stock yards, won another victory in a ten-round bout with Eddie Murphy at Kenosha, Wis. But when it was all over Packey knew that he had been in a real battle. Not in many months, or perhaps years, has McFarland had to fight so hard as he did here last night.

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Personal

Passaic (N. J.) benevolent and charitable institutions will receive $340,000 under the will of Peter Reid, one of New Jersey's pioneer manufacturers.

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Twelve years ago Capt. Julius Friedman died, leaving a fortune estimated at $250,000 to charitable institutions. The superior court directed that the Hebrew Home for the Aged and Disabled in San Francisco receive $600,000 as its share of the estate, which has grown to $1,000,000.

NEW PARTY'S PLANS

WHAT PROGRESSIVE MEMBERS OF THE NEXT CONGRESS ARE TO DO.

TO HOLD THEIR OWN CAUCUS

They Will Introduce Bills Based on Platform, Especially for Amelioration of Laborer's Condition and for Abolition of Child Labor.

By GEORGE CLINTON.

Washington.—If the members of congress gauge things right there is a good deal of interest throughout the country among people irrespective of their political affiliation in the legislative plans of the Progressive party's representation in the two houses of the next congress. People apparently want to know what the Progressives intend to do through their representatives in the house and senate when President-elect Wilson calls congress together in extra session. It is possible today to give on sufficient authority some of the legislative plans of the Progressive party's leaders and members-elect to congress.

In the house of representatives in the Sixty-third congress there will be nineteen members to hold Progressive credentials without any hyphen before or after the name. In the senate there will be two Progressives, but before they can so be written down there will be a necessity of removing an at present existing hyphen which helps to designate them as Progressive-Republicans.

They Won't "Go Over.

In the next house it is the intention of the nineteen Progressives—it is possible there may be one or two more than this number—to hold a caucus of their own and to demand proper committee representation. It is the expressed determination of the leaders of the Progressive party now here to refuse to listen to any overtures from Progressive-Republicans to go over to them on any line of legislative endeavor. The Progressive leaders say that the new party members will be perfectly willing to act with the Progressive-Republicans on many lines of legislation, but that the Progressive-Republicans must come over because Progressives are determined not to take the initiative and to "go over."

It is the intention of the Progressives in house and senate when the new congress meets to introduce bills which if they should become laws will effect the planks of the Progressive party's platform. The Progressives intend if they can to beat the Progressive-Republicans in the race to the "bill basket" at the opening of the session. Men of all parties in Washington recognize that there is precious little difference of legislative intention between the Progressive-Republicans and the Progressives, but the latter want to get first credit if they can for the introduction of measures looking to the amelioration of the laborer's condition generally, and to the abolition of child labor in the United States.

Will Urge Child Labor Law.

There are of course other measures to which the Progressives in office will attach their evidences of loyalty, but their plan is first to advocate bills which are known specifically as having the sanction of the delegates to the party's convention at Chicago. Some of the Democrats in congress are talking of the necessity of introducing Progressive measures akin to those which the Progressives intend to introduce. It is not likely that child labor bill will be one of those having Democratic sanction because in the Democratic view a federal child labor bill is unconstitutional, and it is said that Woodrow Wilson believes that all child labor legislation, or certainly most of it, should be a matter for consideration and passage by the individual states.

It is known that every effort will be made by the Progressives to secure a foothold at least for child labor legislation along the lines of the Beveridge measure of some years since, a measure which failed of passage because of opposition on the unconstitutional grounds already noted. The Progressives, it is said, feel that child labor legislation has a peculiar humanitarian appeal which will weigh as a live issue until some law against it can be put on the statute books.

Why Secretary Wilson Is Proud.

It perhaps goes without saying that Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson of Iowa has absolutely no thought that he is to be reappointed when his presidential namesake enters the White House. Secretary Wilson has served longer than any other cabinet officer in the history of the government. He expects to return to his home in Trayer, Tama county, Iowa, early in March when he will have served as secretary of agriculture for sixteen years.

It may be of interest to hear what Secretary Wilson had to say in an interview concerning the achievements of the agricultural department under his administration. This question was asked the secretary by a correspondent seeking an interview: "What will be those things upon which when you return home after March 4 you will look back with the most pride?"

"If you start me talking shop here you will never get away," the secretary explained. "But there are some things of which I am more than proud. It is hard to pick out the special things. Well, here's one: When we went down south to see about the boll weevil business which was destroying the cotton crop, we found a terrible state of affairs. The south was then a one-crop country and if anything happened to that one crop, they were out of business. The negro labor was packing up and moving away. Everybody was scared to death. Well, we did some good work down there to get rid of the boll weevil; but more important than that one thing was what it led to.

Taught South How to Farm.

"We began the business of teaching the southern farmer how to make the most of his farm. We found a man in each county best fitted to direct this work. He knew where the need was greatest and could drive about from place to place showing his neighbors what ought to be done. The south isn't a one-crop country any more.

"Then we saw that there had to be some animals on that land; that we should have to look to the south pretty soon for beef. The homesteaders were taking up the land of the great western cattle ranches and the ranchmen were beginning to give up. So we tackled the pasture question, and helped the southern farmer about his hogs and cattle.

Secretary Wilson also talked upon what has been done and what he hopes may be done further in the way of putting demonstrators on the farms in all the states of the Union.

"There are no post-graduate institutions to supplement the agricultural colleges," said he. "We have to train our own men in many branches. Congress has not permitted us to pay the salaries that would keep them with us in all cases, and these trained men have sometimes been taken away from us. But we keep on training 'em just the same. It is the same about road building; the technical institutions turn out civil engineers, but they do not teach them practically how to build roads. We are training road experts. We should like to train a half-dozen superintendents for New York state.

"Another thing I like to talk about is what we did to redeem the dry belt west of the 100th meridian. The soil is good, but there is little rainfall. There were great tracts of almost useless land, given over to half wild animals. We visited the deserts of the old countries in search of the plants and grain that could be grown in soil like that and learned the ways of cultivating them. Do you know about Durum wheat? We are growing 75,000,000 bushels of it a year now, and last year we exported 30,000,000. Then we had to have legumes for that land—the plants that take nitrogen from the air and put it in the soil. We went four times to Asia and Africa in this search. We brought over the yellow-blossomed alfalfa and installed it where it would do the most good."

Pensions for Ex-Presidents?

When Andrew Carnegie proposed his plan to pension ex-presidents of the United States at the rate of $25,000 a year in order that they might take life easier and lend their counsel as private citizens to the lawmakers of the Union, it was strongly suspected that the Scottish-American philanthropist had no thought that the pension plan would be accepted, but that its suggestion might stir congress to take action looking to the care of ex-presidents and their families.

The argument in congress against pensions for ex-presidents is an old one, and in many respects, apparently a perfectly proper one, that we should have no civil pension list. It has been held that if this country once begins to give pensions to men who have held civil jobs under the government, there will be no end to it, and also that the pension giving might be much abused. It always has seemed to be the fear of congressmen that some men will, at pull or personal popularity who have held some kind of government jobs for awhile might by their influence induce congress to give them pensions. There are some civil pensions granted by the United states, notably those given by special acts of congress to the widows of presidents. As a rule, however, civil pensions have stopped at this point, and while it seems probable now because of the agitation that some plan may be evolved to pension ex-presidents, probably a long time will elapse before anything like a plan for general civil pensions will be sanctioned by the congress of the United States.

What He Saw.

Pater—Well, son, did you see 'em milk the cows while you were on the farm?

Juvenile—No, daddy; but I seed the man pullin' the corks out of 'em.—Judge.

WARLIKE SPIRIT SEEMS GONE

Women of Today Are Not a Counterpart of Their Sisters of the Sixteenth Century.

"Women do in truth loathe war. But when the war is noble they become its advocates. War is a noble thing when it is waged in self-defense, when honor and life and liberty are at stake. Then, be sure, women are not lagging in the rear. Beatrice d'Este, with a stout heart, dragged Ludovico Moro to the camp facing the French; and there, showing him an army, quaking for all its cheers at that solemn hour, the eve of battle, she set the feeble heart of her husband beating in time with her own. In November, 1506, the ladies of Urbino besieged the ducal palace with offers of their jewels for the purpose of repelling Caesar Borgia. At Sienna, the women, led by ladies of the highest rank, set to work to carry baskets of earth upon their heads, and, what is still more extraordinary, they agreed to perform this service systematically, under the orders of three lady captains, recognizable by their satin petticoats. One young girl pushed her enthusiasm to such a length as to disguise herself as a soldier's uniform, in order to pass the night on the ramparts. . . . . But to fire a woman's heart a just cause is needed, otherwise she execrates war"—a man wrote it, R. de Maulde la Claviere. But he wrote it mainly of women of the sixteenth century. If the face of the militant argument is changed it grows less and less applicable to the women of the twentieth century. Soon it will be writ ten, "woman execrates war, and the just cause must be won in another way."

Non-Rusting Tinware.

If new tinware be rubbed over with fresh lard and thoroughly heated in the oven before it is used, it will never rust afterwards, no matter how much it is put into water. For stained tin ware borax produces the best results. If a tea-pot or coffee-pot is discolored on the inside, boil it in a strong solution of borax for a short time, and its brightness will return.

PARCELS POST

List of Zones and Rates.

The parcel post law which becomes effective January 1, 1913, provides: "That hereafter fourth-class mail matter shall embrace all other matter, including farm and factory products, not now embraced by law in either the first, second, or third class, not exceeding eleven pounds in weight, nor greater in size than seventy-two inches in length and girth combined, nor in form or kind likely to injure the person of any postal employe or damage the mail equipment or other mail matter and not of a character perishable within a period reasonably required for transportation and delivery."

For the purpose of carrying this law into effect the United States is divided into zones with different rates of postage applicable to each, as follows:

We'ght.	1st zone. Local rate.	Zone rate. Rate at 50 miles.	2d zone—50 to 150 miles.	3d zone—150 to 300 miles.	4th zone 300 to 600 miles.	5th zone—600 to 1,000 miles.	6th zone—1,000 to 1,400 miles.	7th zone—1,400 to 1,800 miles.	8th zone—1,800 miles.
	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate
1 pound	$0.5	$0.05	$0.06	$0.07	$0.08	$0.09	$0.10	$0.11	$0.12
2 pounds	.06	.08	.10	.12	.14	.16	.18	.21	.24
3 pounds	.07	.11	.14	.17	.20	.23	.28	.31	.36
4 pounds	.08	.14	.18	.22	.26	.30	.37	.41	.48
5 pounds	.09	.17	.22	.27	.32	.37	.46	.51	.60
6 pounds	.10	.20	.26	.32	.38	.44	.55	.61	.72
7 pounds	.11	.23	.30	.37	.44	.51	.64	.71	.84
8 pounds	.12	.26	.34	.42	.50	.58	.73	.81	.96
9 pounds	.13	.29	.38	.47	.56	.65	.82	.91	1.08
10 pounds	.14	.32	.42	.52	.62	.72	.91	1.01	1.20
11 pounds	.15	.35	.46	.57	.68	.79	1.00	1.11	1.32

The local rates is applicable to parcels intended for delivery at the office of mailing or on a rural route starting therefrom.

It will be observed that the rates of postage are largely reduced and that the limit of weight is increased from four to eleven pounds. Parcels will be delivered at all free delivery offices and to patrons residing on rural and star routes; they may be registered and may be accorded special delivery service on payment of the usual fees, and they may be insured against loss in an amount equivalent to their actual value, but not to exceed $25, upon payment of a fee of five cents. Distinctive stamps must be used on all parcels, but they may be mailed in quantities of not less than 2,000 identical pieces without stamps affixed, the postage being paid in money.

DISSOLVE BUTTER TRUST

Sweeping Charges of Conspiracy to Fix Prices Is Charged.

The Elgin board of trade, popularly known as the "Butter Trust," and the American Association of Creamery butter Manufacturers was attacked by the federal government in a civil anti-trust suit filed in Chicago, for the dissolution of both concerns.

Sweeping charges of a conspiracy to fix arbitrarily the price of butter in the interest of big manufacturers and cold storage concerns and to the detriment of the farmer, other small producers and the consuming public, are made by Attorney General Wickersham.

Butter-making has drifted to the large manufacturers, the natural increase in volume of business has been curtailed and prices to the people have been enhanced, especially during the winter season, by the operations of the "conspirators," according to the government's petition in equity.

An Eight-Hour Day.

Following a conference called by Labor Commissioner Pery F. Powers a few days ago, which was attended by representatives of the leading labor organizations, women's clubs and other associations interested in legislation that will benefit the working classes of Michigan, it was decided to ask the legislature to pass a law limiting the hours of employment to 48 hours a week.

At the present time Michigan has a 54 hour law for women, but the labor unions are clamoring for shorter hours for men. More stringent laws tending towards the prevention of child labor in Michigan will also be advocated. Labor Commissioner Powers says the conditions surrounding child labor in Michigan are exceedingly good, but will advise additional safeguards.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

West Side Business association of Saginaw adopted a resolution urging the state legislature to take action to insure Michigan being represented at the Pan-American exposition in San Francisco in 1915.

Kalamazoo will be the gathering place in 1914 of all the civil war veterans in America, if a movement set on foot at the meeting of Orcutt Post to ask the G. A. R. to hold its national encampment there, succeeds.

The annual meeting of the St. Clair Teachers' association will be held in Port Huron Feb. 14. Dr. W. D. Henderson, of the University of Michigan, will act as conductor, and Dr. L. Barnes, of Philadelphia, as instructor.

The state of Michigan may go into the printing business on its own book. A bill is being prepared and will be introduced at the coming session of the legislature to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a printing plant and bindery by the state.

State Treasurer Sleeper has received $10,000 from the Commercial club of Kalamazoo to be credited to the armory building fund of the Michigan National Guard, the money to be added to the $20,000 appropriated by the state for the erection of an armory for the two Kalamazoo companies. In addition, the city furnishes a site for the armory.

One hundred dollars was paid W. S. Beebe for a white Wyandotte rooster, the prize winner of that breed at the Shiawassee poultry show at Owosso.

Capt. James Wilcox, of Ontonagon, representative-elect from the Iron district, denies that he will introduce in the legislature a bill legalizing tenround boxing bouts in Michigan.

At a meeting of the Saginaw council the voting machines and election boards were found not guilty of trouble caused at election day by failure of the progressive lever to work.

A movement to interest the Michigan Central railroad to build a line from Flint to Oxford has been started. A committee has been appointed to interview officials of the road.

Senator-elect Woodworth, of the Huron-Sanilac district was in Lansing and stated he was preparing bills to introduce at the coming session for the initiative and referendum.

State Treasurer Sleeper has received $10,000 from the Commercial club of Kalamazoo to be applied on the new armory in Kalamazoo. The state will pay $20,000 towards the armory.

THE MORGAN INTERESTS

Showing the Enormous Amount of Money Under His Control.

Domination of $25,325,000,000 of the nation's wealth by 18 leading financial firms was the stupendous evidence purporting to show actual, real existence of a money trust presented to the Pujo congresional investigating committee Wednesday.

Five firms, the Morgan Co., Guaranty & Bankers' Trust Co., the First National and the National City bank, were said to have 341 directors in 112 corporations, with aggregate resources of $22,245,000,000.

The firm of J. P. Morgan & Co. was held up as the "heart" of the alleged combination.

With a staggering broadside of statistics, charts, tables and compilations, the Pujo committee dramatically presented its figures to the country. The data represented the efforts of 30 expert accountants of the committee.

J. PIERPONT MORGAN

The statistical tables showed that the Morgan firm, the First National, National City, Guaranty and Bankers' Trust companies, together, have:

One hundred and eighteen directors in 34 banks and trust companies, with resources of $2,670,000,000 and deposits of $1,983,000,000.

Thirty directors in 10 insurance companies, with assets of $2,293,000,000.

One hundred and five directors in 32 transportation lines, capitalized at $11,785,000,000, with mileage of 150,200 miles.

Sixty-three directors in 24 industrial corporations, having a total capitalization of $3,339,000,000.

Twenty-six directors in 12 public utility corporations, capitalized at $2,150,000,000.

Total financial control of these five great companies was stated to be 341 directors in 122 corporations, with aggregate resources of $22,245,000,000.

Details of the concentration of money interest of all of the other 17 "giants" were also shown.

Hunting parties returning from the northern parts of Newaygo county report that there was not enough snow to follow a wounded deer after the shooting. One party reports the loss of four deer in this manner.

Before the Saginaw Board of Trade, Congressman Fordney urged engaging an agricultural expert, promising the support of the government.

Plans are being made to hold the ninth annual Michigan corn show of the State Corn Improvement association at the Kalamazoo Western normal, Jan. 10 and 11.

The public domain commission has received 75 applications for the post of secretary, which is to be vacated when Secretary Carton becomes land commissioner, Jan. 1.

From a student body of 200 and a community of 3,000 people, has recruited a chorus of 110 voices and an orchestra of 25 pieces. The conductor is Reese Farrington Veatch.

Several weeks ago infantile paralysis seized six children of George M. Askell, of Lucas, and killed one of them. Now the other five are practically well.

The Ingham County Progressive club indorsed Charles C. De Camp, of Lansing, for messenger to carry the result of Michigan's presidential election to Washington.

On Jan. 1 the Grand Trunk railroad will provide modern vestibuled equipment and improved train service on C., S. & M. branch, between Bay City, Saginaw and Durand.

WILL COMBINE TWO TAXATION BOARDS

STATE TAX BOARD WOULD JOIN FORCES WITH THE STATE ASSESSORS.

TAX BOARD WILL REAPPRAISE SEVEN COUNTIES.

Says Electric Railways Should Be Assessed by State Officials Only—Many Other Important Recommendations.

Recommendations by Board.

That supervisors begin their terms of office in July instead of April, and have nine months for their work.

That electric railways and similar properties be assessed, not by local assessing officers, but as an entirety by the state board and the levy duly apportioned among the counties.

Asks for power to call assessing officers together, instead of the board being required to visit each county.

That the state board of assessors and the state tax commission be consolidated.

That all conveyances of real estate name the actual consideration.

The board of state tax commissioners made its report to Gov. Osborn for 1911 and 1912 in the most complete ever issued by this board.

The report shows that during the past two years the assessed valuations of iron mines have been raised from $19,625,508 as assessed by local assessing officers, to $85,567,500 after reviews had been held.

"When the board began its work in 1899, the real estate of the state was assessed at $825,858,711, and the personal property at $142,320,376, or a total of both real and personal of $968,189,087.

"In 1891 the real estate was assessed at $796,431,830, and the personal property at $156,299,285, a total of $952,731,115,—showing an increase for the ten year period of $29,426,881 in real estate and an actual decrease in the assessment of personal property of $13,968,909, and showing a net increase of the whole assessable property in the state for the ten years mentioned of only $15,407,972.

"In 1910 the real estate of the state was assessed at $1,348,901,950 and the personal property at $390,750,508, or a total of $1,739,652,458. This was an increase in real estate assessments of $523,043,239, and an increase in personal property assessment of $248,420,132, or a total increase of $771,463,371."

"In 1899 the per cent of personal property assessed to real estate assessed was 14.66 per cent. Through the work of the commission of personal property assessed is now 10.

As to the Railroads.

Under the old taxation law, the report shows 101 railroad companies, 70 car loaning companies, seven express companies and 250 telephone and telegraph companies paid in taxes $1,649,175, while under the new ad valorem tax law as administered by the tax board these companies paid the state in taxes $4,857,865 in 1910 and $4,912,997 in 1912.

During 1912 reviews were held in six counties, resulting in increased assessed valuations by the state board of $98,092,1112.

Will Reappraise Seven Counties.

The state tax commission announced that the commission would start a reappraisal of the counties of Bay, Calhoun and Jackson in the lower peninsula, and the counties of Alger, Baraga, Ontonagon, Chippawa in the upper peninsula for the coming year.

The work in these counties will probably take the entire year of 1913 and judging from the raises made in those counties where reappraisals have been held there will be some big boosts.

Arkansas Governor Frees 360 Felons.

Gov. George W. Donaghey yesterday pardoned 316 state and 44 county convicts and in a long statement said his action was taken as a protest against intrusion of leasing convicts in vogue in Arkansas. The governor scored magistrates for imposing long sentences for trivial offenses and told of what he termed disadvantages of the lease system.

As a result of the pardons three state convict camps will be abolished but several camps where prisoners working on the roads are housed will be continued in operation.

Warren Shepard, of Belding, Mich., will get $1,200 in a lump from Uncle Sam as back pension. He will also receive $12 a month.

"The liquor forces stole the ballot from the women of the state in the same way they kept prohibition out of the state in 1887," says Mrs. E. L. Calkins, state W. C. T. U. presidents.

Flint's city council decided to open a municipal skating rink in Thread Lake park. A signal will be placed on the city hall to indicate when skating is good.

Opposition to Battle Creek's new city charter has arisen from the socialist element because of failure to embody the recall clause in it.

A new state bank has been organized at Au Gres with a capital stock of $20,000. E. G. Cole is president.

Mrs. Lena G. Maughan, chairman of the conservation department of the State Federation of Women's clubs, has written letters asking the support of commercial organizations, city councils, and congressmen in the fight against state control of forests. She says that state control would do away with the unity maintained by federal control, and would lead to state control of water power, mines and waste lands.