

GOING EVENTS AT THE STATE CAPITOL

THE INCOMING LEGISLATURE AND THE PLUMS THE NEW GOVERNOR WILL HAVE TO DISTRIBUTE.
THE ELECTION OF A UNITED STATES SENATOR WILL NOT BE JUGGLED.

Notwithstanding the death records aviators continue to cut loose on a spiral glide.
A Chicago man went to jail rather than eat hash. Some things are worse than prison.
A specialist says that modern dress is killing women. Well, they're dressed to kill.
The compositor who set it up "the high cost of living" is, of course, a skinflap bachelor.
Wisconsin hunters found a thirty-pound muskox, or in other words enough to kill a regiment.

Our Correspondent has been looking over the situation at conditions upon which the Veterans Some Very Clear Predictions.

[By Gurd M. Hayes.]

State officials, veteran legislators and many persons outside the magic realm of politics confidently predict that the coming assembly of the lawmakers will develop into the most sensational gathering in the history of Michigan. According to advance information the chief drama of the session will be the election of a United States senator from various parts of Michigan, enough bills are being framed by embryo senators to hold the legislature in session until the middle of next July, but owing to the fact that the new constitution fixes the pay of the legislature at \$500 per session capitol habits are inclined to the belief that the bulk of the new members will wane after they have been in Lansing about three months. As a general rule old members are always plentifully supplied so there are some reasons to believe that the pyrotechnics will be all over within twelve weeks after the initial roll is called.

United States Senator.
One of the important propositions that will confront the next legislature will be the election of a United States senator. If the republican majority in the house and senate ratify the result of the primary election United States Senator William Alden Smith will be elected on the joint ballot with several other candidates. Recently rumors have reached the state house that some of the belligerent statesmen were holding out and have announced that they were not at all certain that they would vote for William Alden Smith, solely because he was the choice of the republican party in the primaries.

However, it is generally believed that all of the differences that are supposed to exist at present will be ironed out before the solons arrive in Lansing. As a result, Ferris has announced that there will be no "Loring" in the Michigan legislature. He says the republicans must support Senator Smith, the democrats Alfred Lucking, and the progressives Theodore Joslin. Friends of William Alden Smith in the state house assert that they will have the required number of votes when the roll is called on the joint ballot, Jan. 14.

Economy the Watchword.
With Chase S. Osborn in the executive chair and Herbert F. Baver as speaker of the house, economy will be the watchword during the session of 1913. The biennial junket, which for years had been little more than a two weeks' spree for a certain coterie of statesmen, was cut down to a few days, and most of the institutions were visited by the committees assigned for that purpose, the tours which had previously been a series of expensive to the state were entirely done away with and the same results were accomplished in a cheaper and more satisfactory manner. Appropriation bills were carefully pruned by the legislature and were more vigorously attacked by Gov. Osborn. Many clerks who had heretofore been appointed purely for political purposes, were dropped from the pay roll.

It is expected that the same program of economy will be followed out by the next legislature, and the newly elected chief executive, Woodriddle N. Ferris. Complications arising from the tangled political situation will result in the representatives of the three factions of the house and senate hewing closely to the line and follow out the pledges of the party platforms as nearly as possible.

Listen to the Voters.
For the first time in many years the democrats are well represented in the legislature, and with a democratic governor sitting on the safety valve, it is expected that there will be some exceedingly lively times when the solons assemble in Lansing Jan. 1. Heretofore the republicans have boasted of a top heavy majority in both the house and senate and as a result they have been able to do about as they pleased without much regard for the future, but next year they will have more or less on the docket that every effort will be made to enact a sane, conservative program, and more attention will be paid to the wishes of the voters "back home."

Prospective Legislation.
With 52 members in the house and 21 republicans in the senate, the most time making legislature ever known in Michigan is expected to get on its feet in matters of important legislation. It is not expected that party lines will be as closely drawn as in other years. Well knowing that the bull moose leg-

islators will endeavor to carry out a program that will endear them to the hearts of their constituents, the republicans and democrats will not be found napping.
Then, too, the republicans realize that although they have a comfortable majority in each house, they will be unable to enact any partisan measures, as the democratic governor would veto the bills and they would be unable to muster the required two-thirds vote to pass them over his head. On this account, it is pointed out that much desirable legislation will probably be placed upon the statute books at the coming session.

The Ex-augurist.
Governor Osborn has not informed the public as to the measures he will advocate in his ex-augural, but members of the democratic legislative committee declare that the retiring chief executive will be progressive enough to suit the most fastidious. It is known that Gov. Osborn is strongly in favor of a central purchasing board to do the buying for all state institutions and he will probably ask the legislature to pass a law creating such a board. When he assumed the duties of office two years ago he asked the legislature in his inaugural message to create a central board for all state institutions, but the lawmakers frowned on the proposition. Since that time Gov. Osborn has paid a personal visit to every institution in the state and he knows thoroughly the needs of each one. Only a few days ago he stated that he would have some interesting information to impart along these lines and it is expected that the 1913 legislature will get the essence of the research work he has been doing during the last year.

Being strongly in favor of the initiative, referendum and recall, Gov. Osborn is sure to advocate these measures in his ex-augural. There is every reason to believe that the next legislature will give favorable consideration to these important propositions as the platforms of all three parties show that republicans, democrats and national progressive favor them.

Four-Year Term.
There is also reason to believe that Osborn will recommend that the governor's term be extended to four years, and that he be prohibited from being a candidate for a second term. A four-year term for governor was advocated by Osborn two years ago, but the legislature turned a deaf ear. As uniform a system of accounting, amendments to the primary election laws and important liquor legislation, will be among the propositions discussed. Although it is expected that he will touch on taxation questions, there is no reason to believe that he will make any mention of the tonnage tax. However, he will be brought up in the legislature in some form or other, as the state grange and the farmers' clubs favor it and the tonnage tax bill is the cause of a hot legislative scrimmage every two years.

The Appointments.
One characteristic of Gov. Osborn that has been the cause of considerable comment during the past two years is his penchant for appointing to office members of the democratic party because of their fitness to fill the positions. When the legislature failed to provide a civil service bill in the legislature in some form or other, he took matters into his own hands and proceeded to name men to important commissions regardless of their political affiliations. At the present time Osborn is strongly in favor of a civil service law and it is expected that both the retiring and the incoming chief executives will make a plea for such a bill in their inaugural addresses of the first year of the job.

Will Be Boss of the Job.
When Governor-elect Ferris was in the city a few days ago for a conference with Osborn he intimated that he would appoint men for their ability to fill the position rather than for their political prestige. "If there are three candidates for a place, I do not care whether one is a republican, another a democrat and a third a bull moose. I shall pick the man whom I consider to be the best fitted for the place," said Ferris, "other qualifications being equal, I should name the democrat, but otherwise I would choose the republican or the progressive. I am going to give the people of Michigan an administration that is a business man and a little politics as possible, and I will be boss of the job myself."

The Patronage.
How to divide less than a dozen good jobs among many thousands of democratic patriots who are willing but anxious to serve the state, is a problem that will confront Woodriddle N. Ferris when he assumes the reins of office the first of the year. It has been 22 years since the democrats of Michigan have controlled the executive office and after the years of famine, there will be a lively scramble for the few choice plums that the governor will have at his disposal.

Had the democrats elected their entire state ticket, there would have been many minor clerkships at the disposal of the party leaders, but as things now stand there are only a few departments where there will be any patronage to distribute.

Seekers for Place.
Insurance Commissioner C. A. Palmer will be succeeded by a democrat. He will be succeeded by about 15 clerkships at the disposal of the few administration in that department. The cause of the insurance com-

missioner is \$2,500 per annum and the appointment dates for two years. The deputy insurance commissioner receives \$2,500 per year and this is a position that will be much sought for. Already there are a large number of candidates for the job, but the newly elected governor has given no intimation as to whom he will name for the place.

Railroad Commission.
The term of George Dickinson expires as a member of the state railroad commission and Ferris will be able to name one of his friends to a \$2,500 job on that important board. The law requires that one member of the railroad commission shall be a practical railroad man, and as that position has been filled by Dickinson during the past four years, Ferris will be required to pick some one with a thorough knowledge of railroading. The appointment will date for six years. Chairman C. L. Glasgow's term does not expire for two years, but should the democrats still be in control of the state government at that time, it will be necessary to reappoint Glasgow or pick some other republican in his place as the act requires that there shall not be more than two members of the dominant party on the commission. Lawyer T. Hemans was named as the lawyer member of the commission by Gov. Osborn two years ago and his term will not expire until Jan. 1, 1913.

However, with Hemans and the other democrat that will be appointed Jan. 1, 1913, on the commission, the democrats will be in a position to be able to out some of the clerks who have been holding their places by virtue of the republican party. There are a number of ministerial jobs in the railroad commission that are being eagerly sought by ambitious democrats.

Helme's Chance.
The term of Labor Commissioner Parry F. Powers will terminate the first of next July and this will offer Ferris an opportunity to give one of his friends in the office of the \$2,500 plum in the office of state dairy and food commission. It is expected that James Helme, who was made deputy dairy and food commissioner under William Haman, Gov. Osborn, will have this place if he wants it. Helme was the democratic candidate for lieutenant governor this year and it is said that he will be rewarded for his work if he cares to continue on the state pay roll.

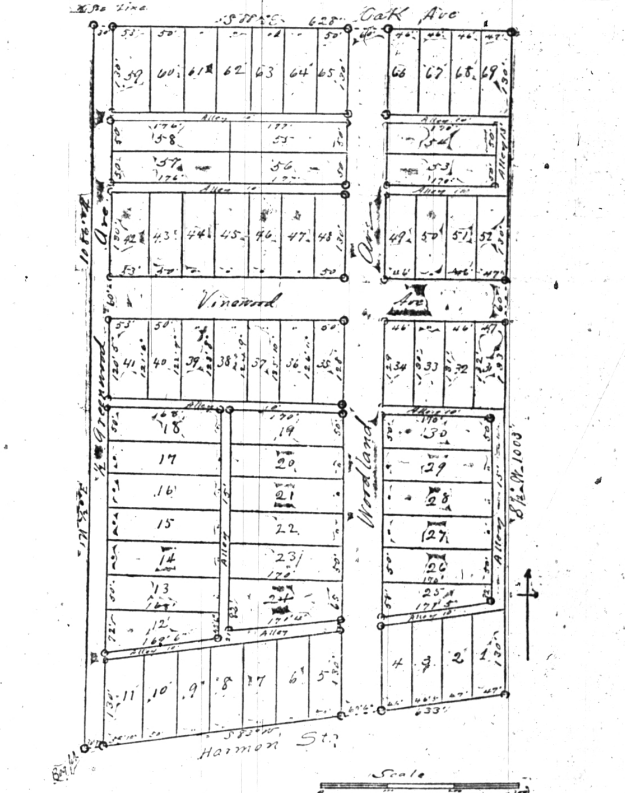
Clerical Jobs.
There are at least 20 minor places in the dairy and food commission that will afford jobs for the democrats. The salaries range from \$900 to \$2,000. Under the graded salary law passed by the legislature a few years ago all clerks were started at \$500 per year. If they are diligent they may be advanced to \$900 when they have been in the employ of the state six months, and may receive \$1,000 at the end of the first year if they merit it. However, \$1,000 is the limit for a common clerk, and owing to the fact that it costs considerable more to live in the Capital City now than it did a few years ago, clerical jobs are much sought after by men with families.

Mershon May Stay.
W. B. Mershon's term as a member of the state board of tax commissioners expires Jan. 1, but it is thought that Mershon will be reappointed by Ferris, if he cares to accept the position again. Mershon is a wealthy lumberman from Saginaw and a democrat. He was placed on the board by Gov. Osborn because of his extensive knowledge of taxation matters, particularly those relating to mineral and timber lands. With the exception of his personal appointees in the executive office, this constitutes practically all the patronage that will be at the disposal of the democratic governor at present.

Place to be Filled.
The position of private secretary to the governor pays a salary of \$1,800, while the executive clerk in the governor's office, who is also secretary of the state pardon board, draws a similar salary. At least three stenographers and a messenger are required in the executive office and each receives a salary of \$1,000 per year. During the term of a governor there are important vacancies to fill caused by resignations or death, so that Ferris will have plenty of opportunity to exercise his appointive tax assignments during the course of the next two years. There are hundreds of non-salaried appointments to be made, but these places are not generally considered of much importance.
The next legislature will be asked to create the office of state sanitary inspector and authorize him to hire assistants. The bill will provide that the inspector be a civil engineer.
Copies of resolutions passed by the Commercial club of Bessemer, protesting against executive tax assessments in Bessemer, have been forwarded to Gov. Osborn and Gov.-elect Ferris.
A co-operative store may be established in Cadillac, where groceries and a small line of foodstuffs will be sold at cost. At the head of this plan are local socialists.
According to statements made by dealers, there will be no shortage of coal in Port Huron, such as is being experienced in Detroit. Chestnut coal is quoted at \$8.25 per ton.

The Top o' the Mornin' Always, from Bir'gham Heights

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See A. Whitehead or George H. Mitchell for Particulars