HAPPENINGS AT STATE CAPTIOL

GOVERNOR SLEEPER IN HIS MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE URGED CAUTION IN ENACTING LAWS.

HIGHWAYS MUST BE KEPT UP

The State Geologist Says 40 Per Cent of the Land Area Is Agriculturally Unoccupied.

(BY W. L. CALNON.)

Lansing, Mich.—With all details and formalities connected with the opening of the forty-ninth session of the legislature disposed of, the senate and house now have under way the actual work that will continue, it is thought, for the next four months.

Introduction of bills, which began with the opening day ceremonies in the senate, is continuing in the house at present and furnishing the committees with material to start their deliberations. The first bill of the session was the Roberts-DeLand bill, introduced in the senate, to create a budget commission. The latter body is to be made up, according to the bill, of the governor, the auditor general and a $5,000 a year budget commissioner to be named by the governor. The idea is to have all state institutions submit by October 1 every other year a statement of their needs in the appropriation line, and for all persons having claims against the state to file them with the auditor general by the same date. The budget commissioner then is to compile everything needed in connection with the budget and the governor is to submit it at the opening of each regular session. Most interest at this time lies in the bills that are forthcoming on the prohibition issue and which will carry into effect the constitutional amendment adopted by the people of the state last November for statewide prohibition.

Some members of each house are rather perturbed over the question as to whether or not the people's vote meant stringent prohibition or just the abolition of the saloon. But from the talk heard about the capitol corridors it would seem the bulk of the dry members are of the opinion that when Michigan voted for prohibition last fall, it meant real, bone-dry prohibition. Unless the open sentiment so expressed undergoes a considerable change in the course of the next month, the bone-dry contingent will have its way in whatever laws are enacted before the session closes.

The fact that both retiring Governor Ferris and incoming Governor Sleeper impressed in their messages to the legislature the necessity of continuing the upbuilding process in the conduct of state prisons and other institutions, especially those dealing with youthful defectives, has caused much talk among the members of the legislature concerning bills to carry out the ideas of the two executives.

It is only a few years ago that Michigan legislators began to be informed that their state institutions were anywhere from ten to twenty-five years behind the times in their methods and management. Now they are gratified to be told that much has been accomplished in bringing Michigan up to the highest standard and there is little doubt but that the continuance of the constructive, forward institutional work will meet with thorough approval in this legislature.

Governor Sleeper, in his message to the legislature, urged caution in the enacting of legislation, in order that the will of the people be carried out properly. Fewer laws and better quality laws were advocated by him. His attitude in regard to the prohibition laws was expressed by him in this one sentence:

"The prohibition amendment adopted by a large vote at our recent election demands the enactment of stringent, but sensible laws to make the will of the people effective."

The governor declared for a public service commission of five men to replace the present state railroad commission. Other points of general interest in his message included the following excerpts:

"The development of our public highways is proceeding rapidly and efficiently. If defects exist in the so-called Covert Act, passed by the last legislature, steps should be taken to remedy it and make it immediately effective. The large number of petitions filed under this act shows the great demand for it. The upkeep of our highways, especially those built with state aid, is a matter which does not receive the consideration it deserves. It is a waste of public moneys to allow these valuable roads to wear out so rapidly, in most instances before they are paid for, and particularly when but a small expense is needed to maintain them. They must be kept up and if the local communities will not give them the required care, the state should be permitted to do so and to charge the expense back to the neglectful districts up to the amount of state aid received.

"Every effort should be made to develop our unsettled lands. It should be made easy for farmers with small capital to obtain and develop the untold agricultural wealth in our northern state lands. A series of trunk line roads running through this region connected with the highways in the more settled parts should be constructed at once under state supervision and with state aid as an important factor in accomplishing this much desired development.

"The drainage of swamp lands is very important to us. I urge legislation similar to the Covert act, by which the district benefited can carry the burden of the improvement for a number of years, paying the obligation serially.

"Greater agricultural efficiency is necessary. We should, in fact, make forty acres produce as much as eighty does now. Our soil is a natural resource which should be conserved like any other asset. This can only be accomplished by returning to it the elements of fertility to replace those which are exhausted by our harvests.

"The future of this nation depends upon its farmers. Europe long ago learned the lesson that in the scientific cultivation of her soil, in scientific agricultural instruction, rested her future prosperity. The marvelous ability of Germany to feed herself during the past two years of terrible war is the result of a half century of scientific agricultural education. France, the great producer nation of the world, has thousands of agricultural schools.

"The establishment of agricultural schools similar to our district normal schools will do much to build up our farming districts and to help reduce the high cost of living in the manufacturing centers.

"During the past few years our farmers have been very prosperous, but crop failures and unusual seasons have prevented the rural districts from getting the full share of this prosperity. You must bear in mind this condition when making all appropriations. Taxes must not be a burden to these people. Economy must ever be considered by you. Special appropriations must be reduced to the lowest possible limits. The poor man's little is even more important to him than is the rich man's much."

Former Governor Ferris, in his exaugural address, also impressed upon the legislature the necessity of good roads and of soil and other resources being conserved. On these points he said in part:

"I am in full sympathy with the work that is being done by the Public Domain commission. Re-foresting the non-agricultural lands and protecting growing timber from fire, constitutes a part of the great work of this commission. The plan of this commission for encouraging the settlement of the good agricultural lands by actual homeseekers and the prevention, so far as possible, of the settlement of these lands which are not suitable for agricultural purposes, is imperative. I recommend that a continuous appropriation be made so that the splendid work of this commission may be protected and carried to a successful conclusion.

"The state geologist says that fully 40 per cent of the land area of this state is agriculturally unoccupied. Of this amount, approximately 9,000,000 acres of good agricultural land is now, or soon will be, available for settlement. Much has been done and is being done by co-operative effort in the development and settlement of these lands."

Governor Ferris denounced crooked land dealers operating in other states who have injured Michigan by obtaining possession of worthless lands in the barren areas and selling them to unsuspecting buyers outside the state as good farm land. He added:

"If in the future the state is going to exert any important directive influence in the settlement and development of its unoccupied lands it goes without saying that it should acquire adequate and accurate information concerning them. It should know how much unoccupied land there is, where it is, how much is good, how much is fair, how much poor and how much agriculturally worthless.

"It should know how much is now available for settlement and how much of the timbered area will eventually make farms. Of the swamp areas it should know how much can be drained, and how much would be fit for farming were drainage accomplished. This information is not only needed by the state, but by everybody in any way concerned with these lands. This information can be obtained only through an actual examination and soil survey of those parts of the state which contain the unoccupied lands. A scientific soil survey means a greater and better Michigan. I recommend to your favorable consideration immediate action along this line.

"All the citizens of Michigan are enthusiastic over good roads. In the past ten years a little less than a revolution has taken place in the attitude of our taxpayers. While they sometimes find fault with the total amount of taxes they have to pay, they rarely complain of taxes that contribute to the building of good roads. Now that the Federal Aid Road Law, which was passed by the last congress, will bring to Michigan during the next five years $2,186,755, which must be matched dollar for dollar by the state, this movement must inevitably go forward.

"No one thing is more important for the further progress of our cities and especially for the further progress of our farming communities than good roads. Even our schools and churches depend for their success in no small degree upon good roads. I bespeak for this important feature liberal provisions and the kind of legislation that will promote rather than retard this great movement."

Lieut. Gov. Sleeper, in his inaugural address to the senate, discussed various matters to come before the legislature, particularly the prohibition legislation, concerning which he said in part:

"By a very emphatic majority the electors have voted the state dry and they expect it to be dry and the machinery through which this is to be accomplished must be created by the legislature of the state. In all probability your acts and votes on this question will be watched closer than on any of the other questions during the session. This interest is not confined to Michigan alone. Interests are as actively engaged in the abolition of the American saloon in other states and for a dry nation as they are in Michigan and for this reason they will watch with deep interest every action you may take.

"Detroit is the largest city in all the world's history ever voted dry. Because of this, in all probability, Michigan's near future on this line will be watched with keener interest than has been that of any other commonwealth ever voted dry. The national large and other states with large cities in them will schedule their future acts largely by the ability of this legislature to enact laws that will effectively enforce this edict of the people of Michigan.

"You have not only a state, but a national problem to deal with. It calls for the most serious consideration. The best experience of other states should be critically sought for. The best legal talent should be enlisted. And out of what must necessarily be prolonged and careful deliberation should come an act, sane, sensible and in accord with present advanced public sentiment on this question and with the proper machinery for effectively enforcing the emphasized expression of the people of the state at the November election."

The house, following the election of Wayne R. Rice, of White Cloud, Newaygo county, as speaker, elected the following other officers:

Lynn J. Lewis, of Van Buren county, speaker pro tem.; Charles S. Pierce, of Lansing, clerk; Harry J. McGrane, of Detroit, sergeant at arms; and Ira Ormsbee, of Genesee county, postmaster. The senate elected Senator J. Lee Morford, of Gaylord, president pro tem.; Dennis Alward, of Clare, secretary; William T. Shaw, of Lansing, sergeant at arms, and D. E. Dickinson, of Eaton county, assistant postmaster.

Following the session's opening Speaker Rice announced that he would need some time to complete the list of house committees. Those in the senate, a smaller body, were announced shortly after the session began by Lieut. Gov. Dickinson.

Granite City, Ill.—Harry Roseberry, 40, shot and killed Charles Kelly, 35, when he found him in his home on his return from work. Roseberry would make no statement to the police.

Washington—Conversion of the Grand Canyon of Colorado into a national park was urged at session of the national parks conference by speakers who declared thousands of tourists last year left that great natural wonder disgusted with conditions which rob visitors of enjoying its beauties.

Observing Mammy.

A few months after I had been married an old colored woman, living in the neighborhood said to me: "Say, honey, befo' yo' was married I noticed Mistah Green was always hangin' roun' yo'—ahm, but now I see yo' does the hangin' on his arm."—Chicago Tribune.

Mining Rights Sold at Auction.

The rights to mine in the Chilean nitrate fields are sold from time to time at public auction. The operations connected with working the mines are intricate and costly.

Woman Doctors Among Savages.

No matter where we look, whether it be among the Indian tribes of North or South America, or among the people of Africa, Australia, Kamchatka, or Cochin China, we come across women taking part in medical ceremonies. Everywhere we find "the medicine woman," or the "wise woman," held in deep reverence.

Rapid Travel Over Desert.

A new French automobile driven by air propellers can make a speed of 50 miles an hour over the sands of the Sahara desert.

TELEGRAPHIC FLASHES

Pottsville, Pa.—Damage to the extent of $900,000 was caused by a fire which swept unchecked through the power plant and car barns of Eastern Pennsylvania Electric Light, Heat and Power Co., injuring four firemen and damaging a row of 12 dwellings. Starting from an explosion of gasoline in the oil room of the power house, the flames spread with great rapidity.

Washington—Heroism in the battle of Carrizal won a government job for Dolley Farrior, a Tenth cavalry trooper whose right hand was paralyzed from a Carranza bullet wound. President Wilson waived the civil service rules to give Farrior a position as messenger in the war department, and issued an executive order directing his appointment. Farrior was quartermaster-sergeant of Troop C, and was a member of Capt. Boyd's command when it was ambushed by Carranza forces.

Amsterdam—An agreement has been reached under which for every 100 kilograms of fresh pork Holland exports to Germany 80 kilograms of bacon shall be exported to England, while equal quantities of salted pork will be exported to both countries.

Fort Riley, Kan.—Sergeant Patrick C. Daly, United States army, retired, died at the home of his son here. He was 86 years old and served 30 years in the regular army. He was the only non-commissioned officer ever in command of Fort Riley.

Washington—The Oregon law fixing a minimum wage for women was attacked as unconstitutional in a brief filed with the supreme court by Oregon employers bringing two test cases.

Davenport, Ia.—W. D. McDonald, of Springhill, La., who terms himself a "globe trotter," is under arrest at the Rock Island, Ill., police station, having surrendered as a deserter from the United States navy at Norfolk, Va., November 10, 1915. Since that time he has traveled over many parts of the world, he says.

Powerful Lighthouse Lenses.

Several French lighthouses have been equipped with lenses that enable their lights to be seen from 50 to 60 miles at sea.

Father Hennepin Found Coal.

The earliest mention of coal in the territory which afterward became the United States is recorded in the journal of Father Louis Hennepin, a French missionary, who in 1679 recorded the site of a "coal" mine in Illinois river, near the present City of Ottawa. Hennepin having passed through that region ten years bef

Diese Abteilung ist für die Familienglieder, welche am liebsten Deutsch lesen.

Vom Schauplatze des europäischen Völkerkrieges

Die fünftägige Durchbruchsschlacht auf der Linie Rimnicu-Sarat-Braila, die in einem vollständigen Sieg für die Schlachtverbündeten Heere Mackensens endete, hat die letzten festen Stellungen der Russen, die die Walachei ... [illegible]

Friedensbedingungen der deutschen Verbündeten.

Washington, Deutschland ist willens, mit den Alliierten Frieden zu schließen ... [illegible]

Ratten als Leckerbissen.

[illegible]

Werden zu Regierungsbeamte ausgebildet.

Berlin, ... [illegible]

State Happenings

Grand Rapids.—Henry W. Brobst, sixty-seven years old, president of the Central Boiler works, died at his home. He leaves a widow and a daughter.

Ann Arbor.—Word has been received here of the death in Dayton, O., of T. P. Manwaring, a former resident of this city, who moved to the Ohio town a few years ago.

Newaygo.—When the supervisors meet Newaygo will ask them to return the county seat to the village. The county is now paying rent to White Cloud and Newaygo offers the court house building with $10,000 spent on it in repairs.

Muskegon.—Muskegon's firebug broke out again and attempted to fire the Langeland Manufacturing company lumber yard. The blaze was discovered before serious damage was done. Muskegon has had ten incendiary fires in 30 days.

Cadillac.—Heart-broken, a mother followed her baby to the grave. A week ago the daughter of Mrs. Eno Lehto Jennings died. The mother had been very ill, but had fought bravely against death. When she learned that the baby was dead she said she did not care to live longer and died.

Ann Arbor.—Married for 33 years, Charles G. Schmidt of this city has started suit for divorce against his wife, Elizabeth B. Schmidt. He says the father of Mrs. Schmidt was brought to live with him and his presence there proved a disrupting menace.

Menominee.—Richard Erdlitz, Menominee high school football star, who won the recent Thanksgiving game from Marinette, was secretly married to Margaret Blom, eighteen-year-old society girl and daughter of A. W. Blom, wealthy land owner. The couple have left for Chicago to reside.

Lapeer.—Although no formal announcements have been made, two Lapeer attorneys are circulating petitions for the nomination for circuit judge of the Lapeer circuit at the election next March to succeed Judge W. B. Williams. Both are Republicans, H. W. Smith, now prosecuting attorney, and B. F. Reed.

Grand Rapids.—After months of investigation through federal authorities and private operatives, the Grand Rapids, Grand Haven & Muskegon Railway company has learned the identity of the directors of a ring which has been robbing cars for the last year. The arrests have been made and others are expected. It is estimated that the losses total $5,000.

Grand Rapids.—Verne Woolston, thirty years old, bond salesman for Allen G. Thurman & Co., investment bankers, was found dead in his room here. He had been dead several hours. A bullet hole in the right temple and an automatic revolver on the floor indicated that he had committed suicide. It was intimated that Woolston had been investing heavily in stocks.

White Cloud.—The board of supervisors of Newaygo county refused to submit the question of returning the county seat to Newaygo to the people by a vote of 17 to 12. The county seat was moved from Newaygo in 1910 after an agitation on the part of White Cloud residents for 39 years. Since 1910 Newaygo has been trying to get the county seat back.

Flint.—What is thought to be another blackhand murder was discovered when the body of Andrew Martinist was found by hunters in a woods about two miles northwest of Flint with two bullet holes in his back. He was lying in the snow and his body was frozen. He is thought to have been dead at least a week. The murder of Martinist is thought to be only another chapter in the many blackhand murders that have been terrorizing the north end of the city for several months.

Battle Creek.—The marriage of Charles R. Post, father of the late C. W. Post and of Carroll L. Post, to Mrs. Nellie J. Moore is announced in a message from Los Angeles, Cal., received in Battle Creek. The event took place at the residence of Rev. Martin Post of Eagle Rock, cousin of the groom. Mr. Post is ninety-one years old and his bride is about thirty years his junior. She formerly lived in Iowa and was companion to the late Mrs. Post till her death, which occurred two years ago in Fort Worth, Tex.

Battle Creek.—Joseph Maurer, forty-five years old; Mrs. Joseph Maurer, aged forty-five, of near Goshen, Ind., and Mrs. Nutzman of Rumson, Kan., were killed and Miss Carrie Stutzman, aged twenty-two, was seriously injured when a Goshen division train on the Michigan Central struck an automobile at East Goshen. Grover Maurer, twenty, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Maurer, who drove the car, escaped unhurt. The engineer, James Harvey of Battle Creek, says the driver disregarded crossing bell and engine whistle.

Muskegon.—Fletcher Fowler, owner of an aerial company making its winter headquarters in Muskegon and held in a cell in the city hall for two days, charged with being the firebug who has terrorized various parts of Muskegon by setting fires which caused a total loss of over $15,000 and for whose capture a reward of $500 was offered, was liberated, the police admitting they had failed to make a case against him.

Albion.—Albion business places closed during the funeral of Eugene P. Robertson, who was president of the Albion State bank.

Monroe.—Charles Kline, twenty-one, a member of Company K, Thirty-first Michigan infantry, summoned home a few days ago by the serious illness of his father in an Ann Arbor hospital, died here of pneumonia. His father died in Ann Arbor December 28. The father and five small children survive.

Alma.—Warrants have been issued charging Clyde Allen of this city with forgery and he is now being sought. Allen, who has been an insurance agent here, was recently arrested for jumping a livery bill and then given a chance to make good.

CZAR HITS FROM DVINSK TO BALTIC

MUSCOVITE SOLDIERS PICK OF THE RUSSIAN ARMY ARE HURLING TONS OF STEEL ALONG FRONT.

EAST PRUSSIA IS THE GOAL

The Germans in the North Were Aware of the Russian Aim and Anticipated the Offensive.

In a titanic eleventh-hour effort to save her steadily crumbling line and parry the threatening drive on Odessa, Russia is hurling volcanoes of shells into the northernmost Teuton front and sending the pick of the Muscovite soldiers into unceasing attacks on a sector of 120 miles, between the Baltic coast and Dvinsk.

A "rolling up" of the entire Teuton left is the aim. East Prussia is the goal. The great Russian drive, which early in the war forced the German legions to sweep backward from the gates of Paris and led to the battle of the Marne, is to be repeated if the apparent plans of the Russian high command materialize.

These plans, it seems, have been under way for months. Vast stores of ammunition have been accumulated behind the front of Riga and Dvinsk. The bulk of Russia's reserves are concentrated there. The Rumanian defeats failed to divert either. The psychological moment was patiently waited for. It came when Falenhayn's armies moved up against the Sereth line.

The Germans in the north were aware of the Russian aim and anticipated the offensive. On January 5, evidently just before the Czar's forces were to usher in the "big push," the Teutons took the initiative. They crossed the ice of the Dwina, with strong forces and captured the island northwest of Dvinsk. This strategical forestallment diverted the Russian thrust temporarily. Whether it had a far-reaching effect upon them only the next few days' development can show.

The Russians who had originally planned a converging simultaneous offensive on the whole front, were forced to concentrate their energy upon the sector attacked by the Germans. They succeeded in recapturing the island and now the full fury of the carefully prepared drive is in full swing.

FORMER WARDEN PAY RAISED

Has Received $7,500 Since August 15, 1915, Fuller Now Powerless to Keep Salary Down.

Lansing.—Nathan F. Simpson, former warden of Jackson prison, who retired in December, received a salary of $7,500 a year since Aug. 15, 1915, although it was generally believed that he was getting only $5,000 until this week. Simpson's request for an increase from $5,000 to $7,500 was approved by former Gov. Ferris and former State Treasurer Haarer, but the increase was held up by Auditor General Fuller.

Mr. Fuller was powerless to prevent the board of control from granting the request because Jackson prison is self-sustaining but he says he will bring up the issue the first time the board of control asks for funds.

The fact that the board of control had authorized the transfer became known when Mr. Fuller's auditors checked up the books after their transfer to Warden Disque.

COMBINE OFFICES OF HEALTH

Cadillac and Wexford Have Difficulty in Securing Suitable Health Service.

Cadillac.—Dr. W. J. Smith is urging the combination of county and city health offices in order that a competent full-time physician may be secured. Cadillac and Wexford have had difficulty in securing suitable health service. A year ago the city commission did not feel that Dr. David Ralston was giving sufficient time to the municipal post and consequently Dr. Smith was appointed. After holding it one year he has resigned and Dr. Ralston succeeds him.

Fred Fowler, 28 years old, a boilermaker, is dying at the hospital at Port Huron with a bullet through his brain and two in the abdomen, and Mrs. Mary Doak is at her home, shot through the left breast as the result of an attempted murder and suicide on the part of Fowler.

Jefferson City, Mo.—Governor Major, as one of the last acts of his administration, pardoned 92 young prisoners from the state penitentiary.

Washington—Activities of the National Housewives' league, a New York corporation, were attacked before the house interstate commerce committee by Frank McKinney. He declared the organization was run by its president and her paid assistants and that its name had been used by big manufacturers for advertising purposes.

San Francisco—Count Henry Helmuth von Adelmann of Stuttgart, Germany, dropped his titles in the United States district court. "I willingly give up my title to become an American citizen," said the count to the court where he was to become naturalized.

Nevada, Mo.—Moneta, Mo., a town of 5,000 population, voted "wet" by one vote at a local election June 16 of last year, according to a decision in circuit court. Official canvass of the votes gave the election to the antiprohibition forces by a majority of seven votes.