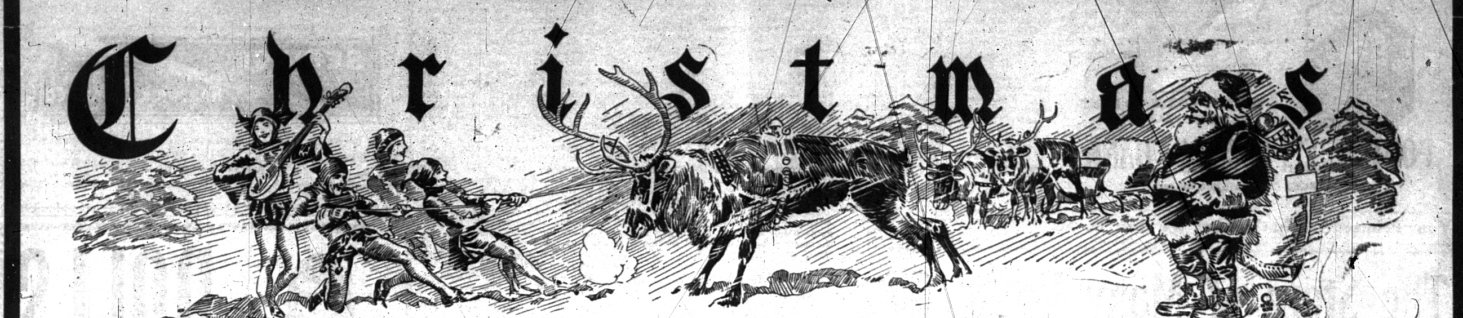


STAND BEFORE



The Valey Shop Next Door to POSTOFFICE

THE GROESBECK REGIME

(Continued from Page 11)
tached, name these same official members of those boards, and so make their offices plums which might very well be eagerly sought for.

Sec. 2 of article X of the constitution of Michigan provides:

The legislature shall provide by law for an annual tax, etc.

Sec. 6 of article 10 has the following:

Every law which imposes, continues or revives a tax shall distinctly state the tax and the objects to which it is to be applied, etc.

Sec. 16 of Article X says:

No money shall be paid out of the state treasury except in pursuance of appropriations made by law.

Clearly these sections not only provide that the legislature shall make appropriations but, further, that the legislature, and the legislature alone, shall have power to determine for what purposes the money shall be used.

Alex J. Groesbeck, since he has become governor, has, however, seen fit to read the constitution otherwise. During the legislative session of 1921—his first term in office—the legislature, according to custom, made certain appropriations for buildings for certain institutions. In that same session certain other institutions asked appropriations for buildings and the legislature denied them. However, when the time came, Alex J. Groesbeck, governor, set aside the acts of the legislature. He took money which had been appropriated for one institution, and gave it to an institution to which the legislature had denied an appropriation for building purposes.

To one who understands the English language at all well that is a clear violation of the constitution and the laws of Michigan, and a little was sent up about it at the time. In the campaigns of 1922 and 1923 these charges had been so frequently made that Governor Groesbeck saw fit to reply to them. His reply was clever, for he drew a picture of a child, unfortunate, suffering in one institution for want of buildings, and declared he had merely taken the appropriations from the relief of the suffering little ones. Of course he got away with it. Nevertheless, each year he has allowed to be spread on the tax rolls just what items he desired, and has not allowed the governing body to do as desired. In this manner he has been able to punish and reward. That institution whose chief executive head has been playing ball to the satisfaction of the governor, may have been cut off from the money which the legislature under the constitution had authorized. That institution which has played ball may have got what had come to it by law and some times more.

A SATEL of reward was shown in the most recent tax levy. The governor, to get the tax levy down where he wanted it, cut out of the tax levy a large number of appropriations for buildings for institutions. He allowed to go into the tax levy—

power to pass a bill over the veto of the governor. Sec. 36 and 37 of article V of the constitution set up this situation in very clear language. Briefly these sections provide:

That every bill passed by the legislature shall be presented to the governor for his signature before it shall become a law. If the governor disapproves the bill, it must be returned to the legislature with the governor's objections. The legislature may then, by two-thirds vote of the members of each house, repass the bill and it becomes the law regardless of the governor.

In the matter of appropriation bills, the governor is given a little further opportunity to discriminate. The constitution provides that in case of appropriations the governor may disapprove some items and approve others in the same bill. Those he approves become law. Those he disapproves do not become law, unless the legislature repasses them over the veto.

These sections provide, too, that bills presented to the governor and not signed by him within 10 days, and while the legislature is in session, shall become law without his signature.

But how has Alex J. Groesbeck handled the matter of appropriations? Take the present tax levy for an example. The legislature passed bills appropriating around \$30,000,000 for specific purposes in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. These bills were all signed by the governor and therefore, under the constitution, became the law of Michigan. But \$30,000,000 would have constituted a larger tax than the governor thought politically expedient. Therefore when it came time to make up the tax levy he ordered some \$12,000,000 omitted.

It didn't matter that this was the law. It didn't matter that he had already had opportunity under the constitution to veto these bills or any items they contained. He had assisted in making them law, and later refused to abide by those laws. He vetoed the purpose of the bills after the bills had become laws and long after the time allowed by the constitution for vetoing.

This action has been characteristic of the administration of Mr. Groesbeck ever since he became governor. Each year he has allowed to be spread on the tax rolls just what items he desired, and has not allowed the governing body to do as desired. In this manner he has been able to punish and reward. That institution whose chief executive head has been playing ball to the satisfaction of the governor, may have been cut off from the money which the legislature under the constitution had authorized. That institution which has played ball may have got what had come to it by law and some times more.

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indeed insisted that it should go into an appropriation for \$350,000 for the normal school to be built in the northern part of the lower peninsula. He has himself said there is no excuse for this fifth normal. It is not needed. It was used as a bait for votes in the legislature, and that sum goes into the tax levy this fall as a reward, while some worthy objects are denied appropriations.

To be sure, the governor reduced the taxes somewhat by thus arbitrarily refusing to spread the taxes made by law, but supposing that same principle is applied to all legislation, then the legislature may as well not assemble. Then the governor becomes vested with truly autocratic powers.

Again, the gas tax legislation provides that from its revenues there shall be paid back to the counties this year, 1925—\$1,500,000, and \$2,000,000 each succeeding year until something like \$10,000,000, now long overdue the counties for state highway awards, has been paid up. Not only has that money not been paid back—and Wayne county has due it more than \$46,000—but the state has paid back only a part of the \$6,000,000 to which the counties are entitled under the weight tax law and their share of the license money.

Nor have we yet reached the end of the story. The governor has proposed that the counties shall cancel the debt owing them for state highway awards. This is a matter of \$10,000,000 which the counties had raised by direct taxation on general property, and expended on the construction of highways under a law providing for a return of a portion of it as a reward.

These are some of the concrete reasons why from a financial standpoint Alex J. Groesbeck has won the title of king in "the kingdom of Michigan." In these cases he has manifestly evaded or circumvented the law and the constitution, and made himself a law unto himself. But there are other matters in which he has shown himself the autocrat.

The people of Michigan, under the constitution, and the law, elect an auditor general, with appropriate powers and duties. In establishing a central accounting division of his own subject to his dictation, the governor has taken from the auditor general practically all control and authority for himself. Many a bill which ought to be audited by the auditor general he never sees. The audit and the approval are done in the central accounting division dominated by the governor.

Many and many a time has the central accounting division paid bills which the auditor general has refused to pass. Many and many a time in the last three years has O. B. Fuller, the auditor general elected by the people, caught duplicitous vouchers. Many a time have concerns doing business with Michigan returned checks for already paid bills because they had already been paid.

The first that Mr. Fuller knew the checks had been issued was when they came back. Fortunately, indeed, had it been for Michigan that some of these concerns have been honest, since the duplicate checks have been

men as Richard Scott of the Reo may hold a job, however small, with Motor Car Co. He fired J. M. Frost, out of the job of the governor. That for many years in charge of the institution. He placed in charge of it that day of bearing in the Birmingham Eccentric, newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

It is ordered, That the 4th day of January, A. D. 1925, at ten A. M., at said Probate Office is hereby appointed for hearing said petition.

It is further ordered, That Public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy hereof for three successive weeks, previous to said day of hearing in the Birmingham Eccentric, newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

ROSS STOCKWELL, Judge of Probate.

A true copy, DAN A. McGAFFEY, Register of Probate.

Little by little has the governor transferred the duties of the auditor general's office to the central accounting division. Recently he proposed to transfer the tax department, which would have left the auditor general little to do.

Frank F. Rodgers is the only duly elected state highway commissioner. Alex J. Groesbeck is, in fact, the highway commissioner and the highway department. None will say that he has not done a good job in getting the highways built and in building good highways, but he has taken from the duly elected highway commissioner of Michigan all his authority, and the governor has usurped that authority for himself.

No road is laid out, no construction is ordered, no contract is let, except it be at the order of the governor or and to the contractor designated by the governor.

It will be remembered that one of the first activities of Mr. Groesbeck as governor was to place David Friday as president of the then Michigan Agricultural College. He rode rough shod over the state board of agriculture, elected by the people. He insisted that Friday have the job. What happened? Friday was permitted to resign, but not before the Agricultural College had been all but wrecked.

It will be remembered that the governor found a bad situation at the Industrial School for Boys at Lansing. It was bad, and unquestionably bad. No doubt about that whatever. What did he do? He fired the entire board, including each

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