

# Comstock Still Has Time To Keep Economy Pledge

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 and agencies multiply as they have wherein was said: "No politician in the past and consume so much as long as the gap between private and public salaries remains at its present width. Economic relations and relations are viewed by the present, undisturbed by opposition or political expediency—must rule if Michigan is to be saved from bankruptcy."  
 "Only the taxpayer can accomplish this end, and then only by determined effort and organized forces."  
 "These words are as true today as they were a year ago."  
 Again we quote from the closing chapter of the 1932 series:  
 (Concluded from Page 1)  
 want to call it that, is no more dangerous than the "licensing" of a public official to give out one story one day and another the next. That's the public official's weapon of propaganda. You'll remember how Teddy Roosevelt had the habit of disseminating a statement, either directly or indirectly, to determine what effect it would have on public opinion. Then, if the effect were unfavorable he would deny it.  
 "It wasn't quite ethical, perhaps. But it worked."

been carried away with enthusiasm for beer and wine. Some probably took the opportunity to express themselves against the amendments to the federal constitution. Then again it may be confessed that many were just tired of things as they were and voted for a change.  
 A New Force  
 But without a march to the polls on that November day a veritable army of voters who expressed themselves against the rising tide of public expense.  
 A new force in Michigan political affairs was recruited, and along with that some restrictions having to do with property taxation and the right to vote public money for the spending of the public debt and the creation of public debt were written into the constitution. There was no mistaking their intentions. The will of the people and their temper was never more clearly written in the stars than an election that was written into those of the fall election of 1932 in the State of Michigan.  
 May Still Redden Pledge  
 Gov. William A. Comstock still has ample opportunity to redden the pledge to the people of Michigan. He has lost some time but he still has nearly a year and a half to correct some of the evils his own party has heaped upon a long suffering state.  
 Let this admonition be not misunderstood. Extravagant spending ever before experienced in Michigan, while others contend that never before has such rigid economy been experienced in Michigan. There is one sure test: Not a cent of money can be paid from the state treasury without the warrant of the auditor general. Therefore every person who receives money from the state for any purpose has his name in a warrant register in that office. Each month for several years the auditor general has prepared a list of all names on the payrolls of all departments and institutions from that list is computed the number actually employed and receiving state pay.  
 This writer has before him the report of the auditor general in this respect for the month of August before experienced in Michigan, while others contend that never before has such rigid economy been experienced in Michigan. There is one sure test: Not a cent of money can be paid from the state treasury without the warrant of the auditor general. Therefore every person who receives money from the state for any purpose has his name in a warrant register in that office. Each month for several years the auditor general has prepared a list of all names on the payrolls of all departments and institutions from that list is computed the number actually employed and receiving state pay.  
 The auditor general is supposed to know the law and is not the province of a newspaper editor to argue that point. But a recent governor said in a report every appointee submitted to a reduction even in the middle of a budget bonanza and the appropriations had been made. This governor promised even greater reductions and the people accepted his promise. They are asking now what he proposes to do about it.  
 One of the leading Democratic editors of Michigan, in a recent article in his own newspaper, pointed out the fact that certain state officials, appointive and otherwise, who had tilted their own salaries back to pre-depression levels, said: "Of course it is perfectly all right for Republicans to draw the salaries which Republican Legislatures fixed, but it is entirely wrong for Democrats to draw them. It is a strange political philosophy which holds it all right for one party to do a thing and entirely wrong for another to do it."  
 It is not that it is right for one and wrong for another. A thing is not right because another has done it. It was promised that the wrong would be righted, not that merely those of another faith would continue the practice while the people continue to stand under an intolerable rate of common patronage.  
 Patronage Castly  
 As stated above, the governor appoints men to state government positions, rights, if such they have, and allow in the emoluments of some days, the same lower which appointed them can cause their removal and the appointment of others who are more amenable to the desires of the people and more in sympathy with the policies made. There are still many conscientious and able citizens of Michigan willing to do the work of the state for a compensation commensurate with the times in which we live.  
 The commission of inquiry into state governmental expense in its report which was written before the present administration took hold, said of Michigan: "Exhaustive investigation has led the Commission to the opinion that the most serious financial crisis in both state and local financial affairs is not due to the acts of any single administration. Rather it is the result of more than two centuries of unprecedented expansion in public service, much of which was ill-advised and mis-administered."  
 The public purse has too long been looked upon as an inexhaustible source from which all may draw at will. Those charged with the administration of public affairs have continued for long periods in an atmosphere of concession and compromise with minor groups seeking momentary advantage, to the end that patronage and self-interest have been substituted for statesmanship and wise leadership.  
 That, dear reader, is the history of the future? Shall it be but a repetition of the old error as is indicated in some instances, shall it be even worse? The answer lies in the front of the Legislature. Will Governor Comstock prove himself bigger than "petty office seekers" his administration will be a disappointment as any which has preceded. In fact, it might be said to be the biggest because when the people voted that they expected something better. They voted for a change, not merely

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Board Cuts High School Rate From \$160 To \$125 Per Year

Tuition rates in all grades in the Birmingham public schools were reduced Tuesday night. The new rates are \$80 per year for kindergarten, \$75 for elementary grades one to six inclusive, \$115 for grades seven, eight and nine, and \$125 for grades 10, 11 and 12. A schedule of reductions suggested by Superintendent Charles W. Crandell was adopted. The rate for junior high schools, which Mr. Crandell had suggested be cut to \$100.

The former schedule had been \$90 for kindergarten and grades one to four inclusive, \$100 for grades five and six, \$150 for grades seven and eight, and \$160 for grades nine, 10, 11 and 12.

for a change in names on the payrolls.

The real rank and file of Michigan's citizens voted for something better than the present. They voted for economy and a shifting of the burdens of taxation upon a few select ones and getting rid of the burdens of taxation extracted by other means. They will speak in louder terms at the next election than they did at the last. The test is upon the administration. There is still time for reform.

Payroll Controversy  
 Much has been said and done concerning the number of employees actually on the state payrolls. Some writers have alleged that the number exceeds anything ever before experienced in Michigan, while others contend that never before has such rigid economy been experienced in Michigan. There is one sure test: Not a cent of money can be paid from the state treasury without the warrant of the auditor general. Therefore every person who receives money from the state for any purpose has his name in a warrant register in that office. Each month for several years the auditor general has prepared a list of all names on the payrolls of all departments and institutions from that list is computed the number actually employed and receiving state pay.

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In each case the number reported is exclusive of those employed at the University of Michigan and Michigan State college. The exception is because of the fact that the Board of Regents and the State Board of Agriculture are each constitutional bodies which are not compelled by law to file their payrolls or other vouchers with the auditor general, each receiving their appropriations in lump sums for which each later makes detailed report to the legislature and the governor.

In August, 1931, there were employed in the several departments of state government a total of 6,937 persons. In August of 1932 this number had been reduced to 6,296. In July, 1933, the number had again grown to 6,479. Examination of the payrolls for the State Sales Tax Commission which came into being in July 1 with a very small number employed during that month showed that during the first half of August the payroll had been increased to 67. A large number of these are of other employees are being added.

It is probable that when the record is made for the month of August, 1933, the total for all departments will exceed 6,740, and within 187 of the whole number employed in August of 1931. State institutions which are required to operate strictly within the limits of the legislature show a different result.

In spite of the fact that practically every institution has a record of a decrease in total of 1932, there has been a decrease in the number employed. In August, 1931, the total number of institutional employees was 6,239. In August, 1932, institutional employees numbered 5,517. In July, 1933, the number had fallen to 5,211. Payrolls for the first half of August were not available.

Claims and counter claims may be made and alibis offered, but there are the facts who cannot be denied. They are records of those who each year have been employed.

This shall be the closing paragraph of the 1933 series of articles dealing with the state as viewed by a member of the Legislature. It has been the purpose of these articles to bring to the facts as they appeared. Some of these facts have been not altogether pleasant to contemplate or to record. There are those who have been led to think more about the affairs of their state and the government, the purpose will have been accomplished.

When grove rules permit a golfer to improve his lie, the privilege is to move his ball to a different spot about his score, Louisville Times.

The Eccentric endeavors to reflect the best phases of the community it serves. But when necessary to publish unpleasant facts that others bring upon themselves it tries to do so in an objective and helpful a manner as possible. We seek to present truthful, helpful journalism.

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Before Vera Van found her niche as a vocalist, she tapped her toes on the vaudeville stage. This radio singer of popular songs has been heard frequently from the west coast in the past few months. Now she's doing a series of broadcasts several times a week.

## Life's Little Laughs

Wife—"John, I'm so disappointed!"  
 John—"What's the matter now, dear?"  
 Wife—"Here it is your birthday and you forgot to bring me home a present to give you."  
 Checked Up  
 Wife—"How many fish was it you caught Saturday, George?"  
 George—"Six, dear; and they were beauties."  
 Wife—"I thought so. That fish market is trying to gyp us. They have charged us for eight."  
 One on Pop  
 Small son (from your school)—"Say, Pop, when you were a boy did you like it when grandpa gave you a spanking?"  
 Pop—"Why of course not."  
 Small son—"Well, here's my report card, Pop, and remember the Golden Rule."  
 An Inadvertent Confession  
 Aunt: Which one of you children ate the grapes I had in the cupboard? No! No denying it, I saw the seeds and the skin on the floor.  
 Ronald: It wasn't me, Aunt, cause I ate skins seeds and all.


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