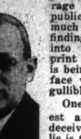
Fake Charged In State's Payroll Reduction Boast

Brown Says Auditor General's Report On Number Of Employes Is Misleading

By V. J. BROWN
(Member of the State Legislature and Publisher of the Ingham County News)

Never before in the history of this nation has propaganda in such huge doses been administered to the reading and listening public. An American does not scarcely pick up a newspaper that his eye does not rest on some glowing promise of relief which has emanated from some Washington bureau. To the same degree is the citizen of Michigan being regaled with publicity prepared at his own expense in some tax supported department, bureau or commission. Much of it is as far removed from the facts as the moon is above the sea.

Scarcely a department at Lansing can now claim immunity from the charge that paid publicists are eating up the revenues of the state poured in by a distressed and perplexed citizenry. Every newspaper office in Michigan is being virtually submerged under a barrage of colored publicity, all too much of which is finding its way into the public print and which is being taken at face value by a gullible public.



V. J. Brown

One of the latest attempts to deceive the public is to be found in a recent release to the press which purports to show a marked reduction in the number now on the public payrolls of the state. This document is so innocent on the face of it that many newspaper editors have accepted it, some even going so far as to give the article favorable editorial comment.

Signed By Stack

The article in question comes from the office of the auditor general, John K. Stack, Jr., and is released over his signature. It follows:

Comparative Statement of the Number of Employees in the Various Departments During Different Administrations.

STATE OF MICHIGAN

	(Groesbeck) July, 1926	(Green) July, 1929	(Brucker) July, 1931	(Comstock) July, 1933
Accident Fund	21	29	36	26
Accountancy Board	4	5		4
Administrative Board	1 in Aug.)		4 in Feb.)	
Adjutant General	148	269	257	168
Aeronautics Board	3	4	3	(a)
Agriculture Department	(Created Nov. 1929)		4	3
Bd. Exam. Architects	127	143	143	146
Athletic Board	3	2	2	2
Attorney General	(Created in July, 1931)		4	4
Auditor General	23	44	34	52
Board of Auditors	173	195	198	177
Banking Department	7	7	7	8
Board of Barbers	53	50	56	53
Century of Progress Comm.	6	11	14	12
Board of Chiropody	(Created in January of 1932)			14
Circuit Judges	(Created in Sept., 1927)	3	1	1
Crippled Children Comm.	64	65	73	70
Conservation Department	(Created in Dec., 1927)	22	7	16
Cosmetology Board	607	1559	839	1206
Crime Commission	(Created in September of 1931)			8
Board of Dentistry	(Created, '29)	1	1	2
Emergency Welfare Relief	4	3	3	3
Employment Bureau	(Created in 1933)			30
Executive Office	(Created in July, 1930)		2	2
G. A. R.	17	29	28	10
Health Department	1	1	1	1
Highway Department	193	174	165	132
Historical Comm.	2066	2163	3815	2320
Horticultural Society	7	6	5	2
House of Representatives	2	(b)	1	1
Board of Dentistry	3	104	103	123
Labor and Industry Dept.	30	39	39	42
Law Examiners	88	97	85	66
State Library	(c)			
Liquor Control Comm.	37	37	35	26
Mackinac Island State Park	(Created in 1933)			184
Bd of Reg. Medicine	24	29	26	37
Mich. State Ferry	3	3	2	2
Military Establishment	(d)			112
Naval Militia	63	59	66	55
Board of Nurses	4	13	4	26
Board of Optometry	8	5	10	5
Bd. of Reg. Osteopathic	4	7	1	3
Pardons and Paroles	2	2	2	2
Patriotic Fund	(e)			19
Board of Pharmacy	3	(Discontinued)		
Public Administrator	19	13	12	7
Public Debt. Comm.	(f)			1
Dept. of Public Instruction	(Created in July, 1932)			3
Public Safety Department	67	63	64	48
Public Trust Comm.	196	219	260	213
Public Utilities Comm.	(Created in 1933)			13
Sales Tax	34	38	84	82
Securities Comm.	(Created in 1933)			14
Senate	31	33	28	26
Secretary of State	3	36	36	56
State Fair	308	428	513	469
Stream Control Comm.	141	140	79	14
Supt. of Capitol	(Created in Dec. 1930)		9	8
Supreme Court	96	108	78	87
Tax Department	26	28	25	25
Comm. of Tax Inquiry	30	35	36	33
Teachers' Retirement Fund	(g)		1	
Treasury	6	7	6	6
Uniform Accounting	13	18	18	18
United Spanish War Veterans	(h)			15
Veterans of Foreign Wars	(Created in July, 1929)	1	3	2
Weather Bureau	(Created in Feb. 1930)	1	1	5
Welfare Department	1	1	1	1
	18	29	28	26
Total No. of employees	4695	6318	7353	6556

(a) Adjutant General Division discontinued December 31, 1932. (b) No salary paid in July. Payrolls for June and August each $10.00. (c) No salaries paid in July in any of these years. (d) Mich. State Ferry included in Highway Dept. total in previous years. (e) Included in Executive Office in previous years. (f) Formerly in this work. (g) Functioned from Sept., 1929, to May, 1932. (h) Included in Auditor General Dept. in previous years.

Because the showing attempted to be made is quite in contrast with statements made by the writer in previous articles and because the showing attempted to be made is not in accordance with the true facts, this article is prepared to subject the alleged payroll report to at least a degree of analysis and scrutiny.

The casual reader will of course accept the contrasting totals and at once jump to the conclusion that considerable progress has been made in the matter of reducing payrolls. When the true facts are presented he will not rejoice to any great extent.

Highway Figures in Error

According to the records of the highway department for June of 1931 on file in the office of the auditor general, department employes exclusive of laborers and mechanics engaged in actual construction work on force account number exactly 737. When Mr. Stack gives the number as 3,815 he must have taken the names of all employes, many working part time, out on the road doing shoveling, holding scrapers, ditching, spreading gravel and similar work.

Never in the heyday of the department has the administrative and engineering forces numbered as high as a thousand. In June of 1932 the number employed on the administrative and engineering payrolls of the highway department stood at 763. At that date a number were being given work on half time in order that the work might be divided and the maximum number be given at least a living wage, this in an effort to avoid the actual discharge of many faithful and experienced men who had been with the department for years.

In 1926, when Mr. Stack states there were 2,006 employed, there were actually on the department administrative and engineering payrolls considerably less than half that number notwithstanding construction work was at its peak and more than $30,000,000 a year was being expended for new highway work. In 1929 the expansion was still at full speed ahead.

Taxes Returned

In 1932 the Legislature called a halt on state trunk line extension and passed a law that beginning Jan. 1, 1933 all the weight tax and a portion of the gas tax was to be sent back to the counties to aid in the paying off of bonded indebtedness and to aid the counties in maintaining their county road systems. This leaves less than $5,000,000 available in 1933 for new state work.

Notwithstanding this a careful examinatjon of the department administrative and engineering payrolls will disclose the presence of nearly as many administrators, engineers and supervisors in July of 1933 as on July 1932 when every effort was being put forth to bring the big program of former years to completion.

Further than this the payroll of the Michigan State ferry between Mackinaw City and Saint Ignace has until the present year been carried as a part of the highway department payroll. It will be observed that this payroll is now being carried separately. This accounts for another boasted employe reduction of 112.

Deflation or Inflation?

When the present payroll of the highway department is compared with those of former years when vast sums were being expended upon state construction and when it is remembered that very little state construction, outside of the little now being carried forward from federal funds, is not even contemplated, the payroll of 1933 appears inflated rather than deflated.

So much for the highway false claims department. How about the others? The health department is shown as having reduced its force by 33 since 1931. Practically all of this reduction was accomplished as the result of the special session of 1932 and in no wise is to be credited to any policies adopted by the present administration.

The department of public safety was also reduced by action of the special session of 1932 and by drastic reductions in the amount appropriated by the 1933 Legislature. This is a non-political organization like the department of health and such reductions as have been accomplished in these two divisions of government cannot under any circumstances be claimed as administration accomplishments.

State Officials Responsible

Suppose we turn now to the departments headed by elective state officers. There are six of these, namely, the executive office, the department of state, the state treasury, the auditor general's department, the attorney general's department, and the department of public instruction. Five of these are headed by Democrats while the office of secretary of state is still presided over by a Republican. Here the administration may take full credit for any economy but must bear full responsibility for any failure to economize.

If the reader will turn back to the executive office is given credit for a drop of 18 since 1931 but if he inquires deeply he will learn that until 1933 there were 19 carried on the payroll of the executive office but now carried separately on the payroll of the division of pardons and paroles. This slight correction places the executive staff of 1933 alongside the all-time high of 1929.

The number employed by the state treasurer remains unchanged since 1929, notwithstanding the staff since the bank holiday has been forced to carry a much heavier burden of clerical work than in any former year.

Lawyers Multiply

Changes in the laws covering the advertising and sale of delinquent tax lands should have resulted in considerable less work in the department of the auditor general. The tabulation issued by the auditor general shows a reduction of 21—but a careful examination will disclose the fact that 15 formerly carried on the auditor general's payroll have been slipped over on a separate payroll under the title of uniform accounting. In truth they are as much a part of the department as the inheritance tax examiners or the head bookkeeper. This leaves Mr. Stack with a reduction of exactly six when compared with the payroll of July, 1931, a percentage of .003. Due regard for economy would dictate a much greater reduction.

Back in 1926, Michigan prided itself on the character and prestige of its attorney general's department. The legal business of the state then required 23 lawyers. By 1929 this department had grown to number 44. In 1931 it had dropped to 34, but on July of 1933, according to the administration's own schedule, it had leaped to 52, more than twice the number required in 1926 and 18 more lawyers than were required in 1931. Exactly 24 more state lawyers are on the July, 1933, payroll of the attorney general than are shown by the July, 1932 payroll.

Good Showing

The superintendent of public instruction has reduced his force from 64 to 48, an exceedingly creditable showing, the salaries for the month dropping to $7248.-09 as compared with $12,626.55 in July of 1931.

The department of state also made a good showing. No one is heard complaining of the service rendered by that department and none of its former duties have been abolished, yet the work was being done by 47 fewer employes in July of 1933 than in July of 1931. The payroll costs the taxpayers $7,000 a month less in 1933 than it did two years ago.

The director of agriculture is one of these appointive officials who has taken on editorial work and each week issues a sheaf of bulletins intended to make the work of the newspaper editor much easier and to acquaint the public with the importance of his department and the great service being rendered. A recent bulletin issued to secretaries of county fairs called attention to the lesser number of employes as a reason why certain inspection services heretofore rendered could not be attempted this year. He asked the fair officials to do it for the department. Now comes the statement of the auditor general which discloses the fact that Mr. Metzger has more employes on the payroll than ever before in the history of the department.

19 More Janitors

Then, too, it takes 19 more janitors and watchmen to keep the State Capitol in order than it did in 1931, according to the same report. The board of auditors had struggled along with seven employes since 1926 but in July, 1933, there were eight.

Newly created commissions certainly do grow with great rapidity once they sprout. Mushrooms have nothing on a board or commission once the fungus takes root. Four new agencies of government were created by the new deal last winter.

The first month of the fiscal year the emergency welfare board, charged with spending $12,000,000 of state welfare money, had a payroll of 30; the liquor control commission boasted of 184; the new public trust commission had 13 drawing pay; while the sales tax commission was up and coming with 14 in July. On Oct. 15 the payroll of the sales tax board showed a total of 110 employed in this new department, a jump of 96 in three months. This force is now eating into sales tax revenues to the tune of about $13,000 a month or $156,000 a year.

Tax Conferees

On Oct. 15, the sales tax administration board payroll shows a director at $4,000, his assistant at $3,000, an office manager at $3,000 and three conferees at $2,400. Conferees are something new, not elsewhere to be found. Their duties are not clear. There are 44 inspectors, all with expense sheets which take another big bite out of the sales tax plum.

When proper deductions are made to make up for payroll reductions for which the administration is in no wise responsible and proper additions are made to account for increases for which the administration is solely responsible, one is amazed that the state officials dare raise the issue of alleged economy.

DR. MOORE MUST PAY $80 MONTHLY TO WIFE

Dr. Herbert E. Moore, local physician and surgeon, must pay $80 a month for the support of his wife, Ada Moore, and their son, while his divorce action against Mrs. Moore is pending, Circuit Judge Glenn C. Gillespie has ordered. An attorney fee of $100 was also allowed. Dr. Moore recently filed suit for divorce, which was answered in a cross-bill filed by his wife.

Subscribe to The Eccentric; $2 per year, two years for $3.50.

CONCLAVE IS SET FOR H. S. STUDENTS

200 Oakland County Boys, Girls Expected At Cranbrook Conference Nov. 4

Approximately 200 older boys and girls from senior high schools of Oakland County are expected to attend the annual Cranbrook Conference, sponsored by the Y. M. C. A. and Christ Church Cranbrook, to be held at Cranbrook Saturday, Nov. 4.

Delegates will be chosen on the basis of leadership qualities by principals and superintendents of the various schools, in consultation with advisers of Hi-Y and Girl Reserve Clubs and similar organizations.

Built around the theme, "Rocks of Civilization," the program will include addresses by the Rev. Dr. S. S. Marquis, rector of Christ Church Cranbrook; the Rev. W. Hamilton Aulenbach, assistant rector; and Dr. W. O. Stevens, headmaster of Cranbrook School.

A panel discussion in the morning will be led by Ray Johns of the State Y. M. C. A., and there will be two group discussions. In the afternoon, the delegates will be guests of Cranbrook School at the Cranbrook-Lake Forest Academy football game, which will be followed by a tea dance in the Guild Hall of Christ Church. The conference will close with a vesper service.

In Detroit Theaters

WILSON

Direct from his annual fact-finding expedition in the Orient, Upton Close, noted authority on China, will give his first American lecture of the season before the Detroit Town Hall Series at the Wilson Theater, Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Close received wide publicity this summer when the Japanese banned him from Manchukuo for his Saturday Evening Post articles criticizing Japanese policies. In his lecture, Mr. Close will reveal the inside story of the danger-laden Sino-Japanese dispute. His subject will be "What's Coming Out of Asia for Us?".

Mr. Close has helped install a Chinese president, was on a Chinese general's staff through several wars, exposed China's "Tammany," called "The Peace and Joy Club"—was advisor to the Student Revolution of 1919. He was special investigator for the U. S. Departments of State and War throughout the Japanese invasion of Shantung.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—
Mayor Harry Allen: "I don't see how the Michigan Supreme Court will be able to get by this year without a bushel basket full of suits involving tax problems."

JOHNSON'S WAX

Liquid or Glocoat Wax — ½ Pints ... 43c; Pints ... 59c; Quarts ... $1.15

PASTE WAX — ½ lb. ... 43c; 1 lb. ... 69c; 2 lbs. ... $1.35

ARTISTS' MATERIALS
Block Printing for Christmas Cards

Phone 394 — Greens QUALITY — 175 W. Maple Ave.

Percy Penguin
"The Wise Bird"
Says . . .
"Remember Last Winter"

Get Set for WINTER Now!

It Won't Be Long Before Cold Weather Takes Its Toll of Careless Motorists.

Our Business Is Servicing Cars. You Want the Right Job Done . . . That's the Reason For These . . .

3 Groups of Winter Specials 3

PRICED AS LOW AS $3.90

GROUP 1

Essential for Safety
- Flush radiator with special compound
- Tighten all water connections
- Tighten water pump
- Tighten and adjust fan belt
- Clean and adjust carburetor
- CHECK GENERATOR and reset charging rate
- Clean and lubricate battery terminals
- Test and fill battery
- Fill radiator with Hermanent Anti-Freeze—one filling lasts all season.
- Inspect and Road Test car.

ALL COMPLETE $3.90

GROUP 2

for Safety and Performance
All Items Listed in Group 1—Plus
- Clean, adjust and retime ignition
- Clean and reset Spark Plugs
- Clean Generator connections
- Clean Starting Motor Commutator
- Check, clean and tighten all ignition and lighting connections
- Focus Head Lights
- Clean Fuel Pump and Gas Line
- Adjust and oil valves
- Re-lune motor completely
- Adjust and equalize brakes
- Drain, flush and refill transmission and rear axle with correct grade winter lubricant
- Lubricate car completely
- Remove, inspect, repack and adjust Front Wheel bearings
- Inspect and Road Test car

ALL COMPLETE, only $9.95

GROUP 3

for Safety, Performance and Comfort
All Items Listed in Group 1
All Items Listed in Group 2—Plus
- Tightening Body bolts
- Adjust Spring and Shackle bolts
- Tightening all fenders and running board bolts
- Adjust front axle tie rod
- Adjust entire steering mechanism
- Align front wheels with precision gauge
- Inspect and Road Test car

ALL COMPLETE, only $13.95

we call for and deliver your car
Phone 851-852 or 2723

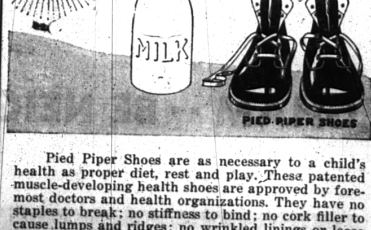
Goodrich Tires 4.75 x 19 ... $5.50
FULL SIZE Hot Water Heaters Installed Complete $9.95
Trade in your old battery GENUINE CHEVROLET BATTERIES $6.75 EXCH.

Drive in where you see Percy Penguin

JORDAN'S
WOODWARD AT RUFFNER — 2 Stores — WOODWARD AT DAINES
Opposite Bus Station

Buy Coal Now!
Prices Are Sure to Advance
Parks Coal Co.
Phone 2020 — 283 Brownell St.

The THREE GREATEST HEALTH AIDS for Children



Pied Piper Shoes are as necessary to a child's health as proper diet, rest and play. These patented muscle-developing health shoes are approved by foremost doctors and health organizations. They have no staples to break; no stiffness to bind; no cork filler to cause lumps and ridges; no wrinkled linings or loose insoles to cause pinching and irritations. Every child's foot is protected in 12 ways in Pied Piper Shoes.

WILLIAMS BOOT SHOP
115 W. Maple