Michigan Mirror

NON-PARTISAN STATE NEWS LETTER

LANSING, May 23—What effect Michigan's new civil service law will have on the present $2,000,000 a month payroll, an all-time high, is an interesting topic of speculation here.

Director Brownrigg "let the cat out of the bag," so to speak, when he casually informed League of Women Voters in Detroit that from two to three thousand state employees were to be dropped by July 1. Although he insisted later to the press that the estimate was merely a guess, Brownrigg was unable to convince observers here that he did not know what he was talking about.

The state administration is faced with a deficit that may extend to $20,000,000 by July 1. The likelihood grows that the bumper payroll will be cut before fall, campaign year or not. It represents an increase in state tax spending of over $9,000,000 in four years—an astonishing development in bureaucracy at Lansing.

Capitol City Bulging

Office room is at a premium here, and for some time there has been a trend to move state offices to Detroit.

The newly created civil service department, for example, has had to lease quarters in a warehouse district, away from the business area. Recently Attorney General Raymond Starr was called upon to pass on the legality of moving a state department wholesale to Detroit, where office building space is not hard to obtain. Starr ruled against the transfer. Governor Murphy himself gave out a press statement that some solution must be found to keep the state government intact at the state capitol city.

A fact-finding commission to study the housing problem was unable to find a vacant office for its own use.

To date, the nearest approach to anything that looks like a solution is Brownrigg's admission that part of the payroll army could be fired. That ought to provide some room—maybe enough for the legislative study commission.

Relief Forecast

How to finance relief for the unemployed in Michigan still remains a problem.

As long as millions are needed to feed the hungry, there is little chance that school districts will get an increase in state aid over the present year. Districts received $41,200,000 in 1937-38, of which $18,000,000 came from the primary school fund and the balance from the state general fund.

Advocates of better education for the masses without local taxes to pay for it see a rising hope in legislation pending in Congress which would pour federal millions into public and parochial schools. Getting federal money without costing you anything is somewhat of a myth, however, as it has been proved that Michigan gets back less than half of what it contributes in form of federal taxes.

If more relief millions are needed at Lansing in 1939 and the entire biennium fund is nearly exhausted today, it is apparent that the state budget will continue to be unbalanced.

Fall Upturn Expected

Market pages of newspapers tell the cheerful news that general merchandise sales in small towns and rural areas were about 9% per cent higher last month than for March.

Small towns are classified by advertising experts as those having 10,000 population or less. The small town-rural area, known as the "D" market, accounted for 32 per cent of all merchandise sales last year. Its population in this area has 41 per cent of the entire nation. It is a rich sales market.

You will be interested to know that the old-fashioned general store still is an important factor. These general stores last year sold as much food as all the food stores in the country put together. Your city cousins may not believe it, but a reliable consumer research survey established it as a fact. Metropolitan experts had to be shown pictures before they could be convinced there was such an institution as a general store.

While Michigan tourist region will be an exception, the real upturn in business is not expected until Fall.

Tourist Prospects Good

Michigan resort leaders are looking forward to a good season, despite the new depression.

The way the lake hotel people size 1938 up is this: People get fed up on their troubles. They like to "escape"—to get away—even though there may be unpaid bills on the merchants' books. A summer outing amid hot weather is an emotional safety valve. The one all-important essential is hot weather and then the highways will be loaded with people coming from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and other mid-western points.

European troubles and dividend reductions have combined to increase the number of inquiries received by Detroit and Chicago steamship companies. Lake travel will be popular this season. One company is abandoning the time-hallowed custom of seven day cruises. Three and four day trips with prices to fit the middle class budget are to be offered.

C. I. O. Reverses

John Lewis' reverse last week in Pennsylvania where his C. I. O. candidates were soundly doubled has only strengthened the belief held by many observers that the Michigan C. I. O. has seen its best days. The peak in strength was reached early in 1937, when a combination of circumstances made the sit-down landslide seem a seeming evidence of success.

In Detroit the C. I. O. ticket was swamped.

Wildcat strikes this year in the ranks of the Michigan C. I. O. were too much even for Richard Frankensteen, C. I. O. vice-president, who proposed disciplining measures—but so far all in vain.

Governor Murphy "Gone With Wind"

Governor Frank Murphy made a stopover in Michigan last weekend on his trip from Palm Beach, Florida, to Wichita, Kansas, and points East, including Washington, D. C. His stopover in this state enabled him to address a mid-town open air mass meeting of United Automobile Workers, in Flint, on Saturday. Tuesday, while packing his personal effects for the trip to Kansas, he issued a press release. In it he threatened to call a special session of the legislature, to veto the May sale of lands for delinquent taxes. Then he took off for Kansas, without doing it.

There appears some question here, and some also there, whether the governor would well pause in his state-to-state goings to attend any special session of the Michigan legislature, even if one were called. It might be impracticably if not downright impossible for senate and house members to accompany the governor in his travels, what with Lieutenant Governor Leo J. Nowicki along. Nowicki doesn't like eating in Pullman dining cars, nor for that matter eating anywhere in the presence of Gov. Murphy, nor being present even without eating. He feels that it might necessitate looking at the governor, and other things also which he cannot bear.

Gov. Murphy is alleged to eclipse all governors of Michigan, from Stephens T. Mason to Frank D. Fitzgerald, for sheer love of travel; with expenses paid, as one might observingly say. During two long years he was isolated on an island, there in Manila, in the Philippine group. He couldn't get off in the island without getting into the shark-infested sea. It was not entirely unlike a sort of Alcatraz. He had two houses, so he could travel from one to the other. Secretary Norman Hill always in those days could tell where the governor was. He was either in this house, or in that'n, or maybe on the beach. But he sure was on the island. Indeed, that also was the hellsvit. Nothing but palms, incessant and exasperating palms, with their monotonous waving, waving, waving-gg-f-f-f-waa, undenting. The putt-less tropical sun. The restless and unyielding sea, heartless, unsentimental, menacing. Neptune, the murderer!—clutching and dragging down his wretched victims. Bubbles arose and burst around. Night fell. Moon came out, slinkily. Dread silence. One imagined sounds of low moans, drifting in from the deep. From it all there was no escape; without giving up $18,000 per year of salary.

It was not unusual, many think, that Frank Murphy—sole and only spokesman and accredited representative all people—should then and there highly resolve that if ever again he got back to Michigan—dear old uncomplaining and vulnerable Michigan—and be in official position, with travel expenses guaranteed by Samaritan taxpayers, he'd travel literally from coast to coast. If anyone were to blame him they would be guilty of "politics," duty, slanderous "politics."

Well, he has done it. One bright morning since his inauguration the governor was found breakfasting in Los Angeles. Only Norman Hill knew of the governor's secret penchant for travel. Hill would minimize it. He had to. Next the governor was in Boston, heart of the baked bean country. No Hill, no Starr. Just a continental **Garden of Allah** in which between flora extravagances run streamlined limiteds, with club and observation cars. Then the island. Beautiful villas for guests, who have money. Historic hostleries. Evanescent dew, glamorous sunshine, everywhere over the spreading terrain. The governor could not resist a visit to fashionable and Saratoga-like White Sulphur Springs, in gallant and distinguished old Virginia. The District of Columbia beckoned, and he went. Pennsylvania, "Keystone State," locale of Penn and the Quakers, wooed him and had their way. His Florida trip was alright, in its way, excepting for more of those waving palms. They revived the nightmare of former isolation. Better $10,000 and travel than $18,000 and twiddle-dee-dee and jitters.

Well-meaning boys in the elective units of state government watched last spring for Guild Hall for Gov. Murphy a "Governor's Mansion," in Lansing, back of the State Capitol building. But, why build a mansion? He wouldn't be in Michigan very much anyway. What also with silver plate all monogrammed with the Great Seal, and the Latin advice carved above the fireplace, **Si Quaeris Peninsulam Amoenam Circumspice**; on the linen the word **Tuebor**, and above the outer front door **E Pluribus Unum** meaning "From many, one" which interpreted factually would mean "From many, (taxpayers) one," (house). Every visitor who left the place would carry away a blanket under his arm as a souvenir.

Even with Personal Counsel Edw. G. Kemp going along on a trip, also Secretary Norman Hill (But Hill can't go. He must stay on his two jobs, to watch against uprisings of the UAW, of the tribe of Sitting Bull, the first "sit-downer"—it manifestly would be cumbersome to carry a Governor's Mansion among the other luggage and trappings. Like as not some fool bell-hop would build plaster across the East Conservatory a mucilaged sticker, "Biltmore," when in fact we didn't build more; and even were sorry that we had built this one.

Patriot Edmund C. Shields, jolly fellow, is stirring around these days trying to find a limb on which his State Planning Commission might alight, with rent warranted to be paid from anticipated state revenue for the fiscal year 1939.

Michigan doesn't want a planning commission. Michigan is already swamped with plans. There are little else than plans. Brownrigg plans a $12,000 inter-office communication system. The state administrative board plans to turn down Brownrigg's request. Gov. T. Gundry plans to hold a May sale of lands for delinquent taxes. Murphy plans to block Gundry. Gov. Murphy plans to call the legislature. Gundry plans to show that an extra session isn't necessary. Starr shows that Murphy's plans is illegal planning.

What the state really needs is a Governor's Travel Bureau. Other states would say, "You've got something there." It would accumulate data—showing the departure time of deluxe passenger airplanes, streamlined zephyr trains, luxurious lake and canal liners. It would archive great lists of healthful retreats, nature nooks, ivy-clad cottages beside sylvan lakes, woodland bridle paths, the Sierras to the Adirondacks.

Whispers are going the rounds that among those who are far back in state official society are such as Mr. Theodore L. Fry, Mr. Leon D. Case, Mr. Murray D. Van Wagoner, Mr. Raymond W. Starr, Mr. George Terry Gundry and such. These men reside permanently in Michigan. They know no better than to grudge with their noses to the grindstone, month after month, earning their money, on account of some oath of office or code of fidelity or something. They belong to the UAW, meaning Usually At Work. Taxpayers should significantly present each of them with gold-mounted leather luggage. The first plank in the solemnly declared 1938 party platform should sound a ringing challenge to the opposition to "Serve America First". Then as for the state's official slogan: "Gone, With the Wind."—Michigan State Digest (Lansing).

No Pecking

"Knees to peek from below Paris skirts," says a fashion note. Peek nothin. They'll lift the curtain and look right out.—New Orleans Times-Picayune.

It's Unnatural

"It is safe to follow the guidance of nature." And you'll notice none of her creatures makes a noise like a saxophone.—Buffalo News.

Honk, Honk!

The wild goose has honked peacefully northward, but the wild flivver honks aggressively in all directions.—Boston Transcript.

Try an Eccentric Classified Ad for quick results.

Latest Legwear for Kicking Cows

Those aren't shin guards that the young lady has fastened over her trim pair of legs. No indeed! They really belong on a cow, to keep Bossy's knees stiff so there'll be no kicking over the milk pail. When shown at the Inventors' Congress in Chicago, no cow was available, but the inventors agreed that the young lady provided a more attractive display than any Bossy could.

Star Dust

★ *Movie Whereabouts*
★ *How to Kiss a Girl*
★ *Toys for Crosbys*

By Virginia Vale

HAVEN'T you frequently felt, when you were at the movies, that you'd like to know where some of the scenes were taken? Harry Sherman, producer of the "Hopalong Cassidy" pictures, has solved that long-standing need.

Beginning with "Beneath Western Skies," each of these films will carry an announcement of the location where it was made.

It's a grand idea. But probably it won't be taken up to any extent, for imagine the shock if you were told, at the beginning of a picture whose scenes were laid in France, for instance, that it was filmed right along the good old California sea coast. Parts of that coast have been used so often that old-timers recognize them instantly.

It looks as if Metro had a winner in "Three Comrades," the sequel to "All Quiet on the Western Front." Robert Taylor really had a chance to be dramatic in this one.

Robert Taylor

and he had to be good, for the other leading roles are played by Margaret Sullavan, Franchot Tone and Robert Young.

Wayne Morris has found, to his sorrow, that kissing a girl for the movies is pretty complicated and decidedly difficult. For instance, the director tells you to look down at the girl. Maybe you're not tall enough, then you have to stand on a box. (That doesn't worry Wayne, because he's plenty tall.) "You have to take the girl in your arms and kiss her," he says, "while the hairdresser stands by, glaring if you muss the girl's hair, and you mustn't wrinkle the collar of the girl's dress, and you must raise your arms so that your own coat doesn't hike up in back, if it does, everything stops while the tailor is summoned to see what's wrong with the coat. Screen love is the bunk—but it's a living."

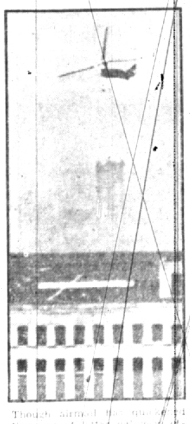
Peg La Centra is the hot radio program director. Not only does she sing (probably you've heard her on the "Rise Mrs. Otis" program), but she acts the female counterfeiter parts in the character sketches as well. She's been women and children with southern, Scotch and Swedish accents; all she needs to do when a different dialect is required is to hear someone who speaks it—she's a born mimic.

Jerry Belcher has in his office interviews with three-star celebrities from almost every famous town in the United States, and from some in Canada, but so far he hasn't interviewed any of the one-horse town best of all—those in his own native of Texas.

Bing Crosby's wife went to New York to have a lot of fun and do a lot of shopping. And what do you suppose she bought? Clothes and toys for those four small Crosby boys? Somehow, the Crosby household just didn't seem to be very interesting.

ODDS AND ENDS—Gloria Blondell has been learning to ride a boat, with her brother-in-law, Dick Powell, doing the teaching. . . . Adolphe Menjou was weighed the other day at the studio and beamed when he found that he'd lost four pounds, due to the hot weather. . . . And Ann Sothern came Lionel Barrymore and he became because he'd gained five. . . . James Stewart has 17 harmonicas, but he's still in the market for more. . . . Joan Bennett collects salt and pepper shakers. . . . Universal's haircut for Deanna Durbin's next picture, 'Cinderella,' is $1,000 spot—which will buy a lot of glass slippers. . . . John Payne is doing so well in 'Garden of the Moon' that Warner Brothers have him all set for a build-up—so gild him to your list of potential movie stars. . . . Have you a good idea for a radio program for children? A certain big cereal company is in the market for one. . . . Joe Penner recently escaped injury while broadcasting—and from a wooden box, of all things! He was supposed to be thrown out of the ring by a wrestler. A splinter from the broken box used in sound effects missed him by a fraction of an inch.

Airport to P. O. Via Autogiro



Though named for the late Will Rogers, the line of airmail service from the Los Angeles airport to the Beverly Hills Post Office will be operated by Johnny Miller, a pilot who has given thousands of rides to the film colony's celebrities. Sign of Progress

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, May 31st, 1938, at 8 o'clock P. M. for the purpose of considering the 1938-39 budget.

IRENE E. HANLEY,
City Clerk.

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