

Clash Over State Board of Agriculture Calls Attention to Mich. State College

By GENE ALLENMAN
Michigan Press Association

STATE CAPITOL, Lansing.—One of the indirect results of the Governor Van Wageningen's legislative program is the best way to remove the commissioner of agriculture from politics has been an increased recognition of Michigan State college's governing body.

The board's official title originated in the day when the East Lansing institution was known as "Michigan Agriculture College."

Today the board members are "regents" of an all-around state college whose 1940 freshman enrollment numbered 993 in liberal arts, 714 in home economics, 265 in engineering, 202 in agriculture, and forestry, 41 in music, 68 in physical education, 1916 in applied sciences, and 99 in veterinary medicine.

Of the 1798 freshman total, 1491 reside in Michigan. And, incidentally, this fact may surprise you: The 1940 freshman class led the University of Michigan freshman enrollment for the third successive year.

Thus the former "ag" school at the shadow of the state capitol has been growing up!

A "Barn" School. It was during the depression decade, just closed, that Michigan State experienced a remarkable surge in development.

Growing pains became acute. From 3,346 students in 1930 to 10,892 in 1940 (including summer school), the growth was 77.3 per cent. The undergraduate gain was even higher—111 per cent.

Legislative appropriations have lagged far behind, being \$2,136,284 in 1930 and only \$2,500,000 a decade later. Pinching every dollar until it bled, the state board cut the annual student cost from \$360 to \$244. Salaries of professors and others on the teaching staff were gradually squeezed from \$3,418 average to \$3,741.

This predicament prompted the state board of which William H. Hervey of Cassopolis is chairman, to appeal to the 1941 state legislature for \$450,000 additional maintenance and operation funds.

And since the last legislative appropriation for classroom facilities was \$200,000 over a decade in 1932, nine years ago, the board is asking for a natural science classroom building at a cost of \$1,200,000. Other structures, also badly needed, could be authorized later.

Because the legislature seems intent on giving the college board the duty of selecting the state commissioner of agriculture, as well as solving the college's urgent needs, the above review of information is pertinent to the moment.

School Reforms. From Dr. Arthur Moehlman of the University of Michigan, a national authority on education and editor of "The Nation's Schools," comes a three-point program for Michigan educational reforms, presented at the fourth annual citizens' conference on education held at Lansing this month, as follows:

1. Eliminate politics from the office of state superintendent of public instruction by making him an appointee of the state board of education.

2. Elect board members on a non-partisan ballot for staggered terms.

3. Reorganize 4,500 local school districts into not more than 600.

Dr. Moehlman warned against the pitting of cities against rural areas, declaring "for generations professional politicians have fanned the minor differences between rural and urban groups into strong conflicts."

Resistance to a consolidation of school districts, even in the interest of economy, come from these sources, reminded Dr. Eugene B. Elliott, state superintendent:

1. "Traditional point of view."

2. "Individual and group selfishness."

3. "Vested interests of the (21,000) board of school board members."

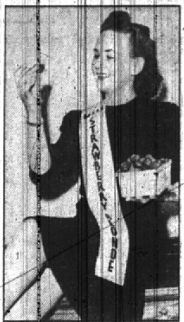
Sales Tax Row. Both retailers and consumers are interested in amendments proposed to the state sales tax law.

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Sugar and Queen For Strawberries



Strawberries and sugar might be the title of this picture, with Tommie Thompson of Kansas City providing the sweetness to accompany the fruit. Queen "Miss Strawberry Blondie" by Western Fruit Growers of America, she will reign as their Strawberry Queen at coming convention.

posed to the state sales tax to shift the taxing burden from merchant to buyer on sales under 17 cents.

Supported by the Michigan Retail Association, Michigan State Pharmaceutical Association (drug stores) and the Detroit Board of Commerce, the amendments would introduce a complicated scheme known as a retail tax credit.

Each consumer would have two choices:

1. Pay sales tax by purchasing a prepaid card—31 worth of taxes for 3 cents—from each merchant from whom a purchase is made. The merchants would punch the card, like a meal ticket.

2. Pay sales tax by credit hat on sales under 17 cents. A 10 cent loaf of bread would require one cent sales tax. Total price, 11 cents for a sales tax of 19 per cent.

'Deck of Cards'. Critics of the prepaid tax card declare that the consumer would have to buy a card from every merchant, carrying a pocketful of cards, one for each store, like a deck of cards.

The shopping might forget to bring them along. Or another member of the family might have them.

The result, say the critics, would be a consumer annoyance of 10 per cent cash tax on small purchases, for the purchase of duplicating 31 tax cards.

While consumer benefits technically would reduce taxes on 16 price levels below 33 cents and increase taxes only on eight, critics maintain that the practical outcome would be for the average customer to ignore the multiple card system, pay higher taxes on small items, or patronize large business firms which would offer to absorb a cash tax on small items rather than annoy customers—a competitive practice that would not help the little retailer, the forgotten man whose the plan is intended to benefit.

Student Borrowers Are Good Risks. ANN ARBOR.—Student borrowers make good risks, student loan fund records at the University of Michigan reveal.

The total of principal charged off as losses during a 13 year period amounts to only the four-fourths of one per cent of the loans made during that time, the 1939-40 Payroll's Report shows. The majority of final failures to pay have been due to death or to permanent disabling illness, the report says.

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PORK ROAST Picnic Cut Lb. 13c SPARE RIBS Fresh, Meaty, Lean lb. 15c PICNICS SMOKED 5-7 lb. Avg. Hockless lb. 15c HAM SMOKED Heavy Avg. Shank Half lb. 21c	STEWING CHICKENS 3-4 Lb. Average Lb. 21c	TOMATO JUICE Fancy 2 4-oz. Cans 25c Preserves 2 Lb. 27c Jellies 2 Lb. 10c Pure Honey 5 Lb. 39c Apple Butter 2 2-oz. Jars 19c Dressing 2 4-oz. Jars 23c Syrup 2 4-oz. Jars 25c	FRUIT COCKTAIL 2 16-oz. Cans 19c Disquick 2 16-oz. Cans 25c Flour 5 Lb. 21c Cocoa 2 16-oz. Cans 15c Cocoanut 2 16-oz. Cans 25c Morsels 2 16-oz. Cans 25c Bread 2 16-oz. Cans 21c	MILK White Evaporated 4 Tall Cans 25c Wax Paper 10c Tissue 2 16-oz. Cans 19c Yawsels 3 16-oz. Cans 25c Napkins 5 16-oz. Cans 15c Gleasher 2 16-oz. Cans 15c Bleach 2 16-oz. Cans 15c	CARRQTS BROCCOLI 2 bunches 5c WINESAP APPLES 5 lbs. 25c NEW CABBAGE 2 lb. 9c	SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT 10 or 29c BEETS 2 bunches 9c LEMONS 360 Size doz 19c POTATOES Maine 15 lb. bag 27c
PORK LOIN Rib Half Lb. 16c RIB ROAST Standing from Grain Fed Steers lb. 29c BACON SQUARES 1 lb. 11c BACON 2 Pkgs. 27c PORK LIVER 1 lb. 10c	FISH FOR LENT A Complete Variety... Low Prices Every Day FANCY QUALITY SHRIMP Lb. 17c	BOLOGNA 5-7 lb. Avg. Hockless lb. 15c FRANKFURTERS 1 lb. 10c DUCKLINGS 1 lb. 19c	Wax Paper 10c Tissue 2 16-oz. Cans 19c Yawsels 3 16-oz. Cans 25c Napkins 5 16-oz. Cans 15c Gleasher 2 16-oz. Cans 15c Bleach 2 16-oz. Cans 15c	Hot Cross BUNS LIGHT, SWEET AND TENDER... Pkg. of 12 12c DOUGHNUTS Plain or Spiced Doz 10c SOFT TWIST BREAD 3 1/2 lb. Loaves 23c		

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