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Michigan History in Pictures

Build reached Sault ("Soo") about 1623, reporting his finds to Champlain.

Women Voters Report Progress in Annual Fact Finding Study

Two major League of Women Voters committees, county government and international relations, reported studies progress in their fact finding at last week's meetings, according to their respective chairmen: Mrs. W. E. Mainland and Mrs. R. S. Plexico. The latter reports that Mrs. Orville Bond, Walled Lake, state League foreign policy chairman, expects to attend the January 26 meeting of the local international relations committee.

County and municipal government's committee heard last week the report of Mrs. E. V. Clarke on county finances.

Home rule government and the county manager plan to be the next general subject for study. County government is divided for study among these members: Mrs. Edward Proctor and Mrs. John Gordon, public welfare; Mrs. W. Williams, health; Mrs. E. V. Clarke, finance; Mrs. A. S. McCall, administration of justice; Mrs. Lee White, public works; Mrs. R. G. Silbar, general characteristics; Mrs. O. R. Steiner, education.

This group will meet Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2:00 p.m., in the League office, Municipal building.

At a luncheon meeting of the international relations committee last week at Mrs. Plexico's home, the meaning of the terms "democracy" and "communism" as interpreted in this country and elsewhere were discussed at length.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Percy Grainger, pianist and composer, will give a program of Christmas music at Detroit Town Hall in the Fisher Theater, Wednesday morning, Dec. 12, at 11 o'clock, in an hour and a half concert. Grainger will play a group of Yuletide favorites including his own composition, "Christmas Waltz," a personal arrangement of "Stuxes Mummer's Christmas Carol," "Noel" and Sparr Olsen's "When Yuletide Comes."

National Problem

Between 1912 and 1919 the Champion mine in Houghton county discovered through the studies of State Geologist Lucius L. Hubbard, paid in taxes more than twice the cost of the geological survey from 1857 to 1922.

**NO PLACE TO LAND**

NO PLACE TO LIVE CAN YOU HELP US?

**VETERAN'S WIFE INFANTICIPATING**

This scene indicates just how tough the housing situation really is—especially if the home seeker has a family. Ex-Paratrooper Stuart Karbel, parading his sandwich board in Hollywood, Calif., pleading for a "landing field for the stork."

**BONDS for the VICTORS**

Official Navy Photo Heavy Gauge, Fueling USS Lexington in rough sea. Your Victory Bonds will help keep these heroic crewmen on the new peace job in Pacific. Handling that hose was hard work.

War with England interrupted Champlain. The British held Quebec, 1673-1674.

**Michigan Mirror**

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

By GENE ALLEMAN

The continued drift of the nation toward state socialism, although to a lesser degree than in the case of England under the Attlee labor government, is illustrated by President Truman's message to Congress (Nov. 19) advocating national compulsory health insurance.

It is not the presumptuous intention of this column to proclaim judgment on the merits of national health insurance. We do feel, however, it is proper and timely to present the viewpoint of the average Michigan physician and surgeon, as represented by his state professional organization, and to outline briefly the general issue involved.

Medical care is a subject that reaches into the intimate lives of every man, woman and child in every corner of Michigan.

Health insurance typifies the growing controversy over voluntary vs. compulsory action as a solution of our many complex problems.

Prior to World War II, compulsory health insurance had been adopted by twenty-nine countries with a combined population of more than 600,000,000.

Five additional nations, as a subsidiary for compulsory insurance, granted government subsidies to volunteer organizations (sponsored by doctors) which insured their members in an acceptable manner. They are: New Zealand, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark and Spain.

The American movement began about 1915 following the adoption in England and the British Insurance Act of 1911. However, the idea was not received here favorably at the time. The American Medical Association went on record against it in 1920; among the critics were insurance companies, many employers' organizations, druggists and patent medicine manufacturers.

The American Federation of Labor through President Gompers and the executive council, and several religious groups, were denounced as being un-American, socialist, a wrong method of attack, and a death of the personal relationship between doctor and patient—just to mention a few objections.

After considerable discussion, the Michigan medical profession chose to do something about it.

The Michigan State Medical society, 1,800 members strong, with William Burns as a talented and capable secretary, evidenced its progressive leadership by recognizing the basic need for prepaid health insurance.

Instead of compulsory insurance under government control, the Michigan remedy was this: Two volunteer non-profit corporations, the Michigan Medical Service and the Michigan Hospital Service, each chartered by the state legislature in 1933 whereby any citizen is eligible to subscribe to low-cost insurance covering both medical and hospital expenses.

Today the Hospital Service has more than 1,000,000 members; the Medical Service, close to 900,000. No other state health insurance program has begun to approach this outstanding success. Michigan not only leads the entire country; it leads the world.

Paradoxically, Michigan's progress reveals and emphasizes a weakness of the American medical profession.

While 865,000 persons are now insured in Michigan against medical expense incurred during illness, only 200,000 are so protected in Massachusetts and 175,000 in California, second and third ranking states in voluntary health insurance.

To dispel the apathy prevailing elsewhere, the Michigan medical society last April invited presidents of seventeen state groups in the Middle West to a conference in Detroit. Its success led to the calling of a western regional conference in Colorado last June for ten states.

While Michigan leaders remain discreetly silent, doctors admit privately that Michigan's leadership has not received the blessing and support of the august and distinguished American Medical Association which remains officially aloof, now as in the past, from the field of social insurance.

The dilemma of the Michigan doctors is clear.

No matter how perfect Michigan's present program may become, Michigan alone cannot stem the spreading tide of socialized medicine.

Unless all state medical societies cooperate for positive local action, some degree of national health insurance appears now to be inevitable within a decade. Our economic loss due to illness is tremendous. Quoting President Truman: "On the average day there are about 7,000,000 persons so disabled by sickness or injury that they cannot go about their usual tasks."

The number of days lost by illness is forty times greater than the time involved in industrial strikes over a ten-year period.

Forty per cent of counties in the United States lack a hospital; this deficiency is particularly severe in rural areas.

You can't blame the Michigan doctors for being genuine, concerned. If voluntary medical insurance can meet the challenge, national insurance and control may be averted. Can the "forest fire" be stopped? Is there time?

It is another best of the free enterprise system; of voluntary cooperation vs. state collectivism.

History insists that every great war is followed by drastic change. A sharp swing to the left, bringing socialization of our modern economic life, would mandate the institution of private medicine just as it would everything else. The doctors' dilemma affects us all.

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FUEL AND BUILDERS SUPPLIES

Nicole's robe and "hunder sticks in both hands" amazed his savage audience.

TECH TAKES TO COURT

The Lawrence Tech "Blue Devils" will play their first basketball game in four years when they meet Defiance College (Ohio) Friday night, Dec. 7, at Hasket Field House, Third and Piquette avenue, Highland park. A new coach, Howard "Mac" McGarry, will lead the Tech against as the court game is resumed for the first time since the war put an end to the Lawrence Tech athletic program.

**G. A. R. Chieftain**

Hiram R. Gale, 99, Seattle, Wash., is new Commander-in-Chief of the G. A. R. of Columbus, O., during the annual encampment.

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