

Michigan History in Pictures

The Michigan state legislature will convene in special session next Monday, Feb. 4, ready to wrestle with the boom-time question: "Who gets a cut of the state's surplus?"

Auditor General John D. Moran has asked into the crystal ball and forecast a plus margin of \$27,000,000 in the state treasury by July, 1947.

Hence the rush of pressure-groups—cities, counties, schools and others—to get a share of the excess dollars which are accumulating in the treasury at Lansing. There are several new developments of interest.

First, a possibility that county supervisors may join hands with the mayors of financially distressed cities in a coalition at Lansing, organized against the state's administration program of priority to state needs.

The supervisors held an annual meeting at the state capital last week, and it is significant that the mayors' appeals for cooperative support received a sympathetic audience with the rural officials. The county treasurers, for example, see no reason why the state treasury should not pay part of their salaries—that is, of the sales tax which is such a bountiful source of revenue.

Lieut. Governor Vernon J. Brown, receiving the trend away from local governmental responsibility, has indicated that the state should either reduce taxation or increase its aid to local government. The state's study commission has recommended reduction of the 5 per cent sales tax from 3 to 2 1/2 per cent, permitting municipalities if they choose to levy 1/2 of 1 per cent on local retail sales.

Second, Governor Kelly is adamant to pressure of local governments, insisting that the needs of the state—schools, hospitals, welfare, for example—should have the right of way over increased state aid to local governments.

One cause for the predicament is the administration now finds itself in is the fact that the legislature has never established a depreciation fund for public buildings. Once a hospital or school building is constructed, no provision is made for its ultimate replacement.

Corporation practice of providing a depreciation reserve for needed construction is not followed by the State of Michigan. It has been established that approximately \$5,000,000 annually is needed for public work construction by the state. During the depression the state treasury was running in the red and no public works could be undertaken; now when it is in the black, materials are not available and costs are sky high.

If the state does not set aside money now for these postponed and delayed public works, construction by the state during the boom when welfare needs may absorb any surplus in the treasury will be the auditor general may be mournfully proclaiming a deficit instead of the present surplus.

Louis M. Nims commissioner of revenue, reports that property taxes pay 60 per cent of the state and local tax dollar, computed for the year 1944-45. The retail sales and use tax bringing in 26.2 per cent. Other sources of revenue include gasoline, motor weight tax, railroad and public utility taxes, alcoholic beverage taxes, corporation tax and inheritance tax.

The fact that 7,903 units of local government—83 counties, 1,215 townships, 173 cities, 303 incorporated villages and 6,076 school districts—all receive financial support from the State of Michigan is not news to taxpayers.

The entire proceeds of local property taxes are retained for expenditures of local governments. No state tax on property is now levied, the sales tax replacing this form of taxation.

Quoting the statistically-minded Mr. Nims of the department of revenue: "When Michigan consumers dig down into their pockets for their sales tax pennies, they contribute a total revenue of nearly one hundred million dollars as they did last year, they should know what they ought to know—what happens to all this money. Who spends it? For what purpose is it spent?"

"The Department of Revenue, of course, is charged only with the duty of collecting taxes. The responsibility of determining how the proceeds shall be expended rests upon the chosen representatives of the people—the Legislature. The sales tax revenue is not levied, the sales tax replacing this form of taxation.

More attractive inspirations for Valentine's Day are to be found at MULHOLLAND'S. They have some gay hankies with red hearts on them, 29c, and others at 59c to 1.50. Bright flowers for a lapel or to tuck in your belt include single roses or parianias and bunches of violets and field flowers . . . 59c to 2.00. Pretty, feminine scarfs of handkerchiefs in a wide variety of colors, and you'll find dressy Cordes, gleaming plastic patents, and the new Kadar plastic, which is leather-like, and won't scratch. 5.00 to 15.50.

You'll have lots of fun choosing Valentines at the INDIAN CRAFT & GIFT SHOP. They have a wonderful selection of bright, pretty ones . . . including some unusually lovely hand-painted cards . . . 25c. A new notion is their Valentine sachets . . . fragrant and dainty . . . covered with sheer pink or simulated sapphires to hang them in a closet. Some are appropriately heart-shaped. 59c to 1.15. They have the fine Congress bracelets for mother and daughter; these are fine gift when imprinted with name or initials. In plain red or blue with a simple border, 2 packs for 2.00 . . . 1.00 for imprinting.

It's always nice to receive a really pretty new apron . . . and the MAXWELL SHOP has some of the most adorable ones we've seen. One style is checked gingham has a full gathered skirt, and is trimmed with rows of white gathering. In blue, green, or brown, it's 3.50. Smooth chambray in lovely pastels has a wide, crossed bib, and rows of white gathering and embroidery, 3.95. A becoming style is in brightly printed cotton with wide corded borders, 2.95. The same thing in a tiny cocktail version is 2.00. And a small, trim job is very snappy in striped denim . . . 1.39.

Winter weather is apt to have a discouraging, drying effect on your skin; but you can prevent this with a wonderful cream they're featuring at WILSON'S. It's DuBarry Derma-Sec Formula . . . a skillful blend of emollients especially prepared for very dry skin conditions, soothes, soothes and smooths . . . and is tremendously effective as a throat cream. Everyone who has tried it raves about it, and you may be sure your first jar won't be your last. This is a good time to invest in some, as they're offering the 2.00 size for 1.00 . . . plus tax.

Those of you with small children, will be interested to know that the RAKAR STUDIO has a new photography service. They have a new staff of specialists in child portraiture . . . and one of these experts will come to your home to photograph your pride and joy in his natural habitat. This service is a real boon . . . as it eliminates all handling up and nervous tension caused by a trip to a studio . . . and results are wonderfully natural, since the child is so much at ease. Make an appointment for an obligation-free sitting by calling 3757.

There's nothing quite so satisfactory as having a dress made that not only fits perfectly, but has smart individuality as well. Mrs. GOLDON'S DRESSMAKING SHOP at 148 S. Woodward is a real find for people who are particular about these things . . . as Mrs. Goldon does marvelous things, and she does it with ease and hanging with sure experience. She has imagination, too . . . and will interpret your ideas, or make a dress from a picture you see. She does alterations and remakes . . . and can make bathing suits and such things for people with hard-to-fit figures. Call 887 for an appointment.

Michigan resumes its role in Mississippi saga with Robert Caveller de La Salle.

The "Griffin" (45) sold Lake Erie Buffalo to Detroit, Aug. 17, 1679.

The ship saluted St. Ignace on Aug. 27, departing for Green Bay on Sept. 2.

From Green Bay it left for Niagara on Sept. 18, only to disappear completely.

dedicated to expenditures for any particular general fund, it may meet by the state collected taxes.

"Since all of the sales tax goes into the state general fund, this money is spent for the same purposes as general fund receipts which are not earmarked for specific expenditures. About three-quarters of the total free and undedicated general fund revenue is required to meet appropriations for education, social welfare and health services, including state grants-in-aid and other payments for those purposes to local units of government. Consequently most of the sales tax money goes to meet expenditures and state payments for these functions. It should be noted that the strongest and most insistent demand for increased expenditures have been those for larger state appropriations for education, old age assistance, the care of children, more hospitals and other desirable social services."

In addition to the Michigan Educational association's appeal for increased state aid, running into many millions, the Detroit Board of Education has dumped into the legislature's lap the fate of Wayne University.

Here is the thirteenth largest university in the nation, an institution with 10,500 students currently enrolled, of which 3,000 are in Wayne county. Financially unable to maintain the university, the Detroit school board has turned it over to the state. It is estimated that at least \$2,000,000 will be needed in legislative appropriation to assure continuation of Wayne university.

Here is the setting for the legislative session. If educational, hospital and welfare needs are to be met first by the State of Michigan, the \$27,000,000 surplus will be more than absorbed. Actually, this fund won't go far enough to meet 1946 actual needs. If the local governments succeed in deterring governments success to their local needs, they will do so at the expense of the state's own program. It's a squeeze play, so use the old phrase. State legislators must make the decision.

International cooperation through international interest is one of the outstanding features of the Junior program. Local Juniors get acquainted with children in other lands through the exchange of international correspondence albums which are made by Juniors in connection with their school work. There are 20,000,000 Junior Red Cross members in the United States and members in 47 other countries of the world.

Recent enrollment figures of schools in the Oakland County Chapter were 156 schools now participating in the program.

VETERANS' FACILITY NEEDS MEDICAL DOCTORS

One hundred and eighty veterans and veterans' dependents are presently receiving medical care in the hospital at the Michigan Veterans' Facility at Grand Rapids. This number is in addition to some 300 more receiving domiciliary care.

The State Civil Service Commission has established new positions for medical doctors at the facility. It is imperative that these positions be secured to fill these positions. Interested doctors should apply either in person or by mail to Colonel Walter J. Baker, Commandant, Michigan Veterans' Facility, Grand Rapids, Mich.

representatives were in attendance at the meeting from Waukegan, Pontiac, Farmington, Bloomfield, Ferndale, Royal Oak. An exhibition of the work of Juniors in their school rooms was on display, including knitted articles for articles made by Juniors of the Holly school.

RAPID PLANTING OF TREES NOW POSSIBLE

It is expected that extensive acreages of rough non-crop land will be planted to evergreens as a result of the development of a machine which will plant 10,000 trees in an 8-hour day. The machine is being demonstrated as one of the scores of displays of labor-saving devices which are a part of the Michigan State College Rural Progress Caravan to visit Pontiac on Tuesday, Feb. 12. Admission to the caravan is free. Hours are from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. The Caravan will be exhibited in the Pontiac Armory on Water street.

LAST AT TOWN HALL

"How Much Will Peace in Asia Cost America?" is Alfred Wages' subject on the Detroit Town Hall at the Gas Theatre next Friday morning, Feb. 8, at 11 o'clock. This is the concluding lecture for Town Hall's 17th season.

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NOTICES

THE O.E.S. will have a dress ball luncheon Wednesday, February 15th at 10:00 at the Masonic Temple. For reservations call 2523. Tickets \$10.00. ALL ANVONE interested in making plans according to official instructions. Call at your home, country, R. P. Thompson, 2155 Ryan Road, Van Dyke, Mich. Phone 2155.

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CONSULT our Blue Book for the latest style in wedding announcements. The finest engraving workmanship to be obtained anywhere. Fine quality, noticeable work at moderate prices. Call our office to see samples. THE BIRMINGHAM ENGRAVING CO., 115 N. 11th St.

HERMAN J. BANKMOLZ, former auditor of D. I. M. A. and U. S. Bank, was elected St. Mark's. He will shortly begin his study in Birmingham. New students who wish to join the school should call Frank 5114-W or Detroit 9149 or write 1517 Northside, Detroit 44-7.

THESE PICTURES ARE WONDERFUL! Treasured moments, during wedding, birthday parties or any special event, can only be well recalled with beautiful photographs. Excellent photography from PHOTOGRAPH HOUSE will be there for you. Call Frank 5114-W or Detroit 9149 or write 1517 Northside, Detroit 44-7.

ELMER EDWARDS will be glad to answer questions (information resulting in interest and satisfaction) on the subject of installing street signs in Beverly Hills, California. West of Southfield road, 1949 or write 1925 or 1928.

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