

THE TRUE NORTHERNER
 PUBLISHED BY
THE TRUE NORTHERNER PUBLISHING COMPANY.
HERBERT GEDDES, Editor and Manager
MINNIE B. GEDDES, Associate Editor.
 Largest Circulation in the County

SUBSCRIPTION \$1 per year in advance
 6 Months 50c
 3 Months 25c
 Single Copies 5c
 Kibbie's phone

Entered in the postoffice at Paw Paw, Michigan as second class mail matter

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HENRY W. BUSH, associated for a long time with the Kalamazoo newspapers, left that city this week to become the editor of the Dowagiac Daily News. A banquet was given at the Berghoff hotel in Kalamazoo Saturday night, at which Mr. Bush was the guest of honor. He was presented with numerous articles as an appreciation of his 25 years' work as a newspaper man, the presentation speech being made by E. R. Eaton, who, since the retirement of Mr. Bush, becomes the dean of Kalamazoo newspaper men.

The dinner given to the homeless poor of Chicago by the Volunteers of America, on Christmas, was partaken of by 12,000 persons, representing every type of the social derelict. It was the fifth successive charity dinner attended by a certain west side grocer, the first of which he attended as a tramp, the next two he worked to pay for his food and to this one he contributed \$200 in currency and food for 100 men.

JIM HILL, the great railway magnate of the northwest, is authority for the statement that the most important thing in the life of this nation or any other nation is the pocketbook of the wife. He contends that the average wife fails to make the best use of her purse, having a tendency to buy everything as cheaply as possible, when it should be not how cheap, but how good.

An effort will be made again this winter to get the county road system question submitted to the electors of Van Buren county next spring. The matter will be brought before the board of supervisors at the January meeting.

The State association of county superintendents of the poor will meet in Kalamazoo January 29-31. Alexander Johnson, secretary of the National Association of Corrections and Charity will deliver an address.

As "Old Cap Whipple" says, there are many who could not turn over that new leaf on January first because they reached the back cover some years ago and there are no more leaves to turn.

The political complexion of Kalamazoo county's officials underwent quite a change on January first. Nine republicans and one democrat were succeeded by democrats and one progressive.

LAWTON doesn't propose to be behind her neighboring cities, as she will hold a poultry show from January 14 to 18, at which time a large bunch of silver cups will be distributed.

Who's afraid of '13, as there ever a new year greeted with such beautiful weather, and haven't we the best chance to make good that we ever had? We say welcome to 1913.

WILLIAM B. NESBITT, the veteran newspaper man of Big Rapids, has been tendered the position of private secretary to Governor-elect Ferris.

WORK AHEAD FOR SOLONS

Session of State Legislature Begins This Week.

MANY MEASURES PROPOSED

Lieutenant-Governor Ross Wants Quick Action and Early Adjournment, but Prospects Are That the Session Will Have a Long Run—Senator Smith's Friends Active to Insure His Re-Election.

BY J. W. HANNEN.

(Special Correspondence.)

Lansing, Mich., December 31.—Economy is to be the keynote of the administration of Governor Woodbridge N. Ferris, the first Democratic chief executive of Michigan since the period of Governor Winans, 22 years ago. And it is the determination of Governor Ferris that the cost of operating the institutions supported by the taxpayers of the state shall be reduced and that his administration in this respect shall conform to the letter of his platform and as voiced in his campaign utterances.

While the chief aim of the incoming governor is to reduce the cost of state government to the taxpayers if



© 1912 by H. E. NIX
 GOVERNOR FERRIS.

possible he is not going about it blindly. He has an intimate knowledge of where it is best to begin, and he is convinced that money is being wasted, not essentially through carelessness but in method. It is his purpose to relieve present conditions by reforms which the closest of prevailing systems seem to warrant.

While the legislature is Republican in complexion and the balance of power rests with the controlling party members, the new governor will have the cordial support of a stronger array of sympathetic supporters than would appear upon the surface.

In the house there are 54 Republican representatives, 36 Democratic members and 10 Progressives. In the senate 21 Republicans control, while five Democrats and six Progressives form the minority. On a joint ballot the Republicans have an effective working majority, but it is conceded that there is a progressive element among the Republicans which, combined with the Progressives and Democrats, will have a powerful swing in emergencies.

Ross Urges Short Session.

Lieutenant-Governor Ross is out vigorously for a short session and has written all the state senators relative to a policy of quick action and a limited term. He argues that the state has borne too heavy an expense in the past, and it is his purpose to make a record for the 1913 session. In this he may be disappointed, as the change in administration promises a rush of more than the ordinary quantity of business. With an array of new members, there is likely to be a flood of measures for reform presented that will consume a vast amount of time, regardless of the ultimate results.

Senator Smith's Prospects.

The fate of United States Senator William Alden Smith is in the balance, and although the Republican majority would indicate a safe re-election of the senior senator, the margin is really so narrow as to cause alarm to the friends of the Grand Rapids statesman.

This alarm is justified, as it is conceded that there is a movement on foot to land Alfred Lucking in Washington to assume the toga worn by William Alden Smith. It comes on good authority that the Progressive leaders are backing a movement to unite the progressive Republicans in the Michigan legislature with the Progressives and the Democrats and thus defeat the Grand Rapids man.

Nor is this a visionary possibility. It has so much of reality that the friends of the senator are doing some very energetic work to have things clinched before the election of United States senator takes place by joint ballot January 15.

New Food Laws Proposed.

Among important legislation to be enacted will be a law to more effectively protect the consumer of household necessities within the state.

James W. Helme, who is to succeed G. M. Dame as state dairy and food commissioner, has plans which will revolutionize the operation and effectiveness of that department. He has already declared war against deceptive advertising relative to coffee and butter, together with other needful articles of consumption, and proposes a system of publicity that will be a menace to evil doers among manufacturers and vendors within the state of Michigan.

He will ask for an appropriation providing the expense of a regular monthly bulletin describing methods and operations of producers for the purpose of publicity, under the assumption that in publicity the people will find their greatest protection.

Mr. Helme believes that the high cost of living may in part be solved by a more effective state supervision of foodstuffs, and the health of the state thereby conserved. He declares that the state laws in this respect should conform to the national laws and claims that the Michigan statutes are inferior in some respects to the laws of other states. He declares that inspectors of weights and measures should be placed under the jurisdiction of the state food department and that the work performed by these officials should be done by the regular food inspectors, thereby saving to the state a large amount of money.

Several bills are being drafted at the instance of Mr. Helme that will materially change the system if enacted.

Free and Uniform Text Books.

One of the problems to confront the legislature, and one in which every parent in the state is interested, is the matter of uniformity of text books in the state. There will be a bill presented providing for a uniform system, and it is said that at least all the progressive members are pledged to it.

Senator Straight, who was two years in the house, worked hard for a uniform system of school books throughout the state, and it is expected that he will lead the fight for such a measure at the coming session.

The former superintendent of public instruction, H. R. Pattengill, has opposed a uniform system, but would lend his influence to free text books. This proposition also has a strong following, and it is assured that there will be bills presented providing for both. Many cities in the state have already the free text book system and in these it works well. The lack of uniformity, however, is declared to be a detriment to the educational system as a whole in the state.

License Real Estate Dealers.

During the past few years, when the development of the lands of Michigan has been given so much attention, it has come about that misrepresentation of conditions and values in many instances have given the state a black eye, because of the zeal of the dealer to realize profit with disregard of the future results and the reputation of the state.

Land Commissioner Carton will propose legislation compelling a dealer to secure a state license, especially where sales are made to parties outside the state.

This plan is proposed to regulate the activities of buyers and sellers of state lands, as well as dealers handling private Michigan real estate and seeking outside investors.

It is claimed that speculators have secured fancy prices from innocent parties for waste lands that have been worthless for the purposes represented.

More Rigid Laws on Child Labor.

One important measure that will receive early recognition will be that providing for more rigid supervision of child labor within the boundaries of the state. While in the main there have been few glaring infractions of the present laws, it is believed that more stringent legislation should be enacted.

Short Ballot, Simplified Primary.

Governor Ferris, like thousands of others in Michigan, favors a more simplified method of operating the primary system. This will be one of the first considerations of the new governor's legislative program.

He will also advocate vigorously a shorter ballot according to the accepted Australian plan. A ballot where parties are not mentioned, but where the voter is enabled to exercise his choice without regard to party consideration is, in brief, the essential of the proposition. In detail the legislature will be required to expend a great deal of time to effect a simplification that will appeal to the house and senate. But certain it is that this reform will receive the most ardent personal support of the governor.

Pensions for Teachers.

A measure contemplating pensions for school teachers will come before the legislature for enactment. A bill has been drawn after numerous conferences and consideration of various phases by many prominent instructors in the state. The measure will provide that there be no compulsory age limit; for voluntary retirement after 25 years service upon salary, providing the applicant has served 15 years, including the last five, in the Michigan schools, and providing relief for physical disability of teachers and retirement after 30 years service at a salary of not less than \$500 a year. The proposed measure has many phases that will be threshed out in the legislature, but in the main the act will be given powerful backing, as it is conceded that the Michigan school teachers are underpaid.

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There was a large audience present at Almena church last Sunday to witness the baptism of a large company of those who have lately experienced religion. The pastor, Rev. A. T. Luther, administered the sacred ordinance to twenty, all of them adults but one. There have been nineteen accessions to the church on probation, and there are still others who will join. Both pastor and people are very happy over the good work accomplished. The whole community is interested and lends aid to the work.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

What might have proved a serious accident happened on Maple lake yesterday, when Claude Kline, 16 years of age, a pupil in our public schools, ventured too near the channel and as a result received a cold bath. He was rescued from his perilous position by Arthur Munn, who assisted him to a solid foundation, which was much more comfortable for the lad in question.

The ice has been considered by wise heads to be unsafe and if this near-accident will prove to be a sufficient warning to others it has served a purpose. Keep within a reasonable distance of the old river channel and be on the safe side.

Here is a remedy that will cure your cold. Why waste time and money experimenting when you can get a preparation that has won a world wide reputation by its cures of this disease and can always be depended upon? It is known everywhere as Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, and is a remedy of real merit. For sale by Longwell Bros. adv

MADE SHORT VISIT

Lyno Downing of Chicago and brother Harold of Griffith, Indiana, were home for Christmas dinner with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Downing who are again living in Paw Paw. The boys have plenty of friends here who are glad to see them and to know that they are filling responsible positions in the world's business affairs. Their vacations are necessarily short and not very frequent.

Courage and Truth.

Without courage there cannot be truth, and without truth there can be no other virtue.—Sir Walter Scott.



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