

For 1923



Our heart-felt wish is that a full measure of Happiness, Health and Prosperity may be the lot of all for the coming New Year.

Fischer Mercantile Co.
Farmington, Mo.

NEWS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

(Written by J. S. Hubbard, Executive Secretary of the Missouri Press Association.)

Jefferson City, Dec. 23.—When the Constitution Convention recessed on Dec. 15 it had been in session just seven months from the time of convening on May 15. In that time 329 proposals and the whole of the old constitution had been considered by fourteen committees and studied thoroughly. These committees had made reports to the convention, eight of the reports had been considered and passed by the committee of the whole and the convention and are in the hands of the committee on Phraseology and Arrangement, one other had been passed by the Committee of the whole and another partly completed by the committee of the whole.

If it had not been that the general assembly would need all the room available in the capitol on January 1 or if other suitable quarters could have been obtained the delegates would have preferred to go on and complete the work, which could have been done by mid-winter. But when it became apparent that the end could not be reached by the close of the year it was thought best to take a recess until after the general assembly was through with its session and to re-convene on April 16th.

While there have been some interruptions in the work the delegates have forged steadily forward and much more has been accomplished than a cursory view might reveal. There has been no disposition on the part of the members to consume unnecessary time or expense. The entire cost up to the present time has been less than 10 cents per capita to the taxpayers. This feature will be negligible if a document is written which will stand the test for a half a century or more and result in the saving of millions to the taxpayers of Missouri, a result which is the hope of the convention members.

Outstanding features in the program of economy are provisions for a budget system for limiting state expenses; placing a limit on the number of state departments and boards, under proper control, and cutting down the general expense of the legislature. Nothing in the draft so far considered contains any hint of increased expenses or taxation. All through the debates the thought of conserving the interests of the people has been uppermost and they may rest assured that no measure will find favor which

would add to the burden of taxation in the state.

Of the 329 proposals before the committees not more than one-tenth have found a place in whole or in part into reports to the convention. Many had merit but were legislative in character and thus had no place in the fundamental law. Others were too radical in nature to meet the approval of the committees after careful consideration. There has been a disposition on the part of a majority of the members to make as few changes as possible in the old constitution and the result is that there will be comparatively little matter in the document when submitted to the people. The new features will be important, however, and it is believed will appeal to the people when they realize their full import.

No change was made by the convention in the preamble and boundaries and but few in the bill of rights. Section 8 of the old constitution, relating to religious corporations, was eliminated after substitutes had been suggested placing certain limitations on the general assembly in its dealings with religious corporations. With the section eliminated the full power rests with the legislative body. No other change of importance was made in the bill of rights, which remains practically in the same form as at present. One new section provides that "the right of citizens of Missouri to vote or hold office shall not be denied or abridged on account of race, color or sex."

In the draft of the Committee on Legislation adopted by the convention the time of the biennial session of the general assembly is limited to sixty days and the pay of members increased to \$10 per day for sixty days with \$1 per day for additional days. The clerical expense is, however, cut to \$400 per day in the house and \$300 in the senate. This would represent, in the opinion of the committee, a saving of from \$75,000 to \$100,000 a session.

This report also provides that vacancies occurring in either house within twenty days of the convening of the general assembly shall be filled by appointment of the governor, the member so appointed to serve for the unexpired term. This is to save expense of special elections and give the districts representation without delay. Provision is made for changing the fiscal year so that it will begin on July 1 instead of January 1. This will save state institutions embarrassment now experienced in having to wait for money until after the

legislature is through and in some cases having to borrow money to take care of its needs pending the passage of appropriation bills.

The Committee on Executive and Ministerial departments has provided for an executive budget, which it is believed will serve as a check on state expenditures and save the state millions of dollars. It provides that all departments and institutions shall file their budgets of estimated needs for each biennial period with the governor. He is to go over them carefully, providing for hearings where items need explaining and he is to submit his recommendations to the general assembly. It can make reductions but cannot add to any items submitted and is directed not to act on any other appropriations until the executive budget has been passed. With the budget the governor is to submit an estimate of the revenues available for the biennial period and the general assembly is not to pass appropriations in excess of those estimates. The legislative and judicial budgets are to be submitted to the governor, but he is not to amend or reduce the amount.

The same committee provides for a maximum of twelve departments of state government in addition to the governor and lieutenant-governor. It names four, to be headed by the secretary of state, state auditor, state treasurer and attorney general. The others are left to the legislative body to create and name, as well as to provide for the duties of each. Under this system the numerous boards and bureaus now existent will be abolished and such necessary duties as they now perform will be transferred to the limited number of departments.

Provision is made that the governor as conservator of the peace throughout the state may call to his assistance the local peace officers of the state. His only recourse now is to call out the militia to quell disturbances. This would seldom be necessary under the terms of the provision which has so far been approved.

One or two of these provisions made in the report of the Committee on Suffrage and Elections have been anticipated by the adoption at the polls in November of Proposal No. 2. One provides that only citizens of the United States will be eligible to vote after one year's residence in the state. Under the old law a resident of the state could vote after taking out his first papers. The other provides for extending the absent voting privileges to persons absent from the state as well as within the state.

This report also authorizes the opening the ballot boxes and comparison of ballots with the poll lists in the investigation of fraud and the use of the ballots before grand juries and the courts in the investigation or prosecution of criminal cases. A modification of the primary has been tentatively approved which would leave to party committees the option of nominating officials for state and district offices by direct primary or by delegate conventions, the delegates being named at primaries. It is proposed by the committee to offer a substitute for this which may be submitted to the voters as an alternative proposition. Registration of voters is provided for in all cities of 10,000 or more.

Public health service is recognized in the report of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare which has been approved by the convention. It provides that "the general assembly shall provide by law for the safeguarding and promotion of the public health."

The initiative and referendum have been amended slightly to meet objections to the measure which makes it so easy to secure the referring of laws. The percentage for referring laws is raised to 10 per cent and while the percentage for initiating laws remains at 8 per cent it will require 12 per cent for initiating amendments to the constitution, if the section is finally approved. Voters who cannot write their names are to make their mark in the presence of two witnesses, and in districts where registration is re-

quired it is provided that the signers must be registered voters.

Scarcely any change is made from the present constitution in the report of the Committee on State Officers and Salaries. The first general assembly after the adoption of the constitution is directed to fix salaries of state officers and in the list the lieutenant governor is to be paid a fixed salary which shall compensate him in full for all duties including his acting as president of the senate.

Provision has been made for a workmen's compensation law, it being made mandatory on the general assembly to pass such a law. It was pointed out in the convention that forty-three states already have good workmen's compensation acts and it was time that Missouri should get in line with the rest.

In the report of the Committee on Corporations "business trusts" are put in the same class with corporations and the legislature is directed to provide laws for controlling them. The railroad section in the old constitution referring to the "long and short haul" was amended by the committee to meet the requirements of the federal transportation act. Numerous amendments and substitutes were offered, but the section was finally adopted substantially as submitted by the committee. The convention declined to approve the provisions for making stockholders of banks and trust companies subject to double liability and also a provision to allow banks to act as executors, curators, etc., for estates.

The report of the Committee on Counties, Cities and Villages which was passed by the committee of the whole, but has yet to go through the convention the first time, has several new and important provisions. Limited home rule is extended to all cities of the state, where St. Louis alone was mentioned in the old constitution. The cities are still to be subject to all general laws but will be allowed to enact certain local laws not in conflict with the constitution. While the cities are allowed to appoint police commissioners, one of whom is to be the executive head of the city, the governor is to have power of removal and can appoint to fill vacancy, pending the action of the city.

Cities are divided into four classes, those having 25,000 or over constituting the first class; 3,000 to 25,000, second class; 500 to 3,000, third class, and those under 500 to be classed as villages. In cities of the first or second class it is provided that special charters may be adopted and the manner of calling elections and the other machinery is provided for.

Under the provisions of the report cities may extend their boundaries beyond their corporate limits, either within the county in which they are situated, or so as to take in contiguous territory in adjoining counties, in the manner prescribed by law. Provision is to be made by general law for the incorporation of all cities and villages and by general law for the organization and government of cities which do not have or adopt special charters. All these laws relating to the government of cities and villages are to be uniform as to each class. It is also provided that these cities shall make financial reports to the state at regular periods.

The city of St. Louis will be allowed to extend its boundaries to the extent of seventy-seven square miles under provisions of this new document. Another provision will allow the city by vote of the people to return to the county so that it will occupy the same position as now enjoyed by Kansas City, St. Joseph and other cities. Provision is also made for the acquiring of property for parks and other public purposes under certain conditions to be prescribed by law and for zoning of cities so that industrial and other sections may be designated by the proper authorities.

The right of the state to control the services, practices and rates of public utilities, all elections, the right to control taxation, the limit of indebtedness and the supervision over accounts has been expressly retained in the state. The state's control over education is also recognized in the report.

The convention in the committee of the whole has agreed to one provision of the judiciary report, that raising the number of supreme court judges from seven to nine, though the manner of appointment or election of the additional judges had not yet been decided. The committee report has twice been up for consideration, but was postponed on account of the absence of the chairman. As revised it provides among other things for abolition of county courts as now existing and also of probate judges and abolition of justices of the peace except where their retention is specially desired. In place of probate judges the committee provides for a county court in each county to be provided over by a judge with the same qualifications as for the circuit bench, and with jurisdiction in misdemeanors and civil cases up to \$2,000, appeals to be taken direct to the court of appeals. A judicial council is proposed to form rules of procedure and practice. As amended the report provides that these rules could be annulled by the general assembly, but could only be formulated by the council. The membership would consist of judges from the supreme court, courts of appeal, circuit and county courts. The committee claims that adoption of its plan for reorganization would result in a simplification of court procedure to speed up litigation and to prevent miscarriage of justice through delays or technicalities.

An elective state board of education is provided for by the Committee on Education. It would have supervision of instruction in the schools of the state, report the conditions of schools to the general assembly each session with recommendations for improvements, and a part of its duty would be the appointment of a commissioner of education to take the place of the elected state superintendent. Six months is made the minimum school year in place of four months as provided in the old constitution; the general assembly is permitted to provide for the establishment of teachers' retirement funds in districts where desired; other educational institutions beside the univer-

ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY RAILROAD COMPANY

TIME CARD NO. 46
Effective Sunday, Dec. 17, 1922

NORTH BOUND TRAINS

No.	Leaves State Hospital	Farmington P. O.	Farmington Depot	Arrives Power House	Flat River
200		5:32 a m	7:00 a m		7:35 a m
202	6:52 a m	6:59 a m	8:23 a m		8:59 a m
204		9:42 a m	10:00 a m		10:45 a m
2		12:23 p m	12:24 p m	12:31 p m	
232	1:55 p m	2:02 p m	2:00 p m		2:45 p m
4		2:13 p m	2:14 p m	2:21 p m	
206		3:32 p m	3:33 p m		4:08 p m
246		4:45 p m	4:46 p m		5:20 p m
6	7:04 p m	7:11 p m	5:33 a m	7:19 p m	6:08 a m

Note: Trains Nos. 2 and 4 start from DeLassus at 12:10 p. m. and 2 p. m., making connections with Missouri Pacific Belmont Branch Trains. All trains run daily.

SOUTH BOUND TRAINS

No.	Leaves Flat River	Farmington Depot	Farmington Depot	Arrives Power House	State Hospital
201	6:08 a m	5:25 a m	5:31 a m	5:32 a m	
203	7:45 a m		6:44 a m	6:45 a m	6:52 a m
243	9:05 a m		8:21 a m	8:22 a m	
233	10:50 a m	ar. 11:26 a m	9:41 a m	9:42 a m	
3		lv. 11:41 a m	11:42 a m		11:49 a m
5	1:28 p m	1:35 p m	1:37 p m		1:44 p m
205	2:55 p m	1:40 p m	1:47 p m	1:48 p m	1:55 p m
245	4:08 p m	3:31 p m	3:32 p m	3:32 p m	
		4:44 p m	4:45 p m	4:45 p m	
			6:56 p m	6:57 p m	7:04 p m

Note: Trains Nos. 233 and 5 arrive at DeLassus 11:55 a. m. and 1:50 p. m., making connection with Missouri Pacific Belmont Branch Trains. All trains run daily.

M. R. & B. T. Ry. Trains

NORTH-BOUND		Arrives	
No. 925	7:44 a. m.	St. Louis Union Station,	10:58 a. m.
No. 32	2:55 p. m.	St. Louis Union Station,	6:19 p. m.
No. 44	9:36 a. m.	Bonne Terre,	10:00 a. m.
No. 46	5:22 p. m.	Bonne Terre,	5:45 p. m.

SOUTH-BOUND		Arrives Flat River	
33 St. Louis Union Station,	7:20 a. m.		10:49 a. m.
925 St. Louis Union Station,	3:15 p. m.		6:19 p. m.
43 Bonne Terre,	8:45 a. m.		9:05 a. m.
45 Bonne Terre,	3:45 p. m.		4:05 p. m.

C. M. SWAN, Traffic Manager.

city and public schools are recognized in a section giving the general assembly right to retain, establish and maintain such other free educational institutions as the educational needs of the state may demand.

Reading the Bible in the public schools is provided by the section on religious or sectarian schools by the statement that "this section shall not be construed to prohibit the reading of any version of the Holy Scriptures in the public schools of the state."

The report that will probably occupy the attention of the convention for the longest time when it reconvenes is that of the Committee on Taxation which spent five months in considering sixty-nine proposals and the whole of Article X of the 1875 constitution. Among the important provisions of the majority of the committee is one giving the general assembly power to classify for purposes of taxation notes, bonds and other intangibles and to apply a lower rate than for real and personal property. The theory is that it will bring these securities out of hiding if a small rate is imposed. It was stated in the committee that only 7 per cent of such securities were reported in St. Louis, while in the country districts from 75 to 90 per cent were reported, in some cases.

A state tax commission is recommended in place of the present body and the state board of equalization would be abolished, its powers being taken over by the proposed tax commission. This body would also exercise the power of original assessment of properties not assessable by the counties.

Cities and counties under provision of this report would be allowed to incur additional indebtedness for the purpose of acquiring, extending and enlarging waterworks, electric light works, underground and surface railways. An important provision would permit cities to create revolving funds to pay for public improvements, the fund to be reimbursed by taxing the abutting property. It is claimed this would result in much better terms being made with contractors for public construction work.

Conservation of forests is to be encouraged by exempting from taxation for a certain number of years land on which forests are being grown, the state to be reimbursed from later proceeds derived from these properties.

41 PER CENT OF MONEY LOANED TO FARMERS REPAID WHEN DUE

Washington, December 21.—The American farmers have demonstrated that when properly financed he can weather the worst economic storms, the War Finance Corporation declared in its annual report sent to Congress today. The report set forth that 41 per cent of the money advanced to the agricultural industry had been repaid either in advance of maturity or when due.

Advances by the corporation saved the industry many millions of dollars, the report declared, explaining that the corporation's officers believed its activity had proved as beneficial in the restoration of confidence as in the actual pouring of cash into spots where credit was tightest. The loans had made it possible for thousands of farmers to handle their products in an orderly fashion, it was added, and the confidence instilled in them through the knowledge that money was available acted as a stabilizer, the value of which, the report said, could not be estimated.

"It is impossible," the report continued, "to estimate the full effect of the aid given, by the corporation to the live stock industry, because calamities that are averted can never be measured. It is generally recognized, however, that by providing as it did financing for more than 6,000,000 head of livestock, the corporation checked, the demoralization in the industry, gave the stockmen a breathing spell, stabilized the market and turned the tide away from disaster toward recovery and reconstruction." The effect of the corporation's activity on the live stock industry was typical of that on many other phases

of agriculture, it was added, and satisfaction with the assistance rendered has been expressed to the corporation in countless ways.

"Large as is the number of advances made by the corporation," the report said, "it falls far short of indicating the number of farmers who benefited from them; for even those farmers who have had no financial assistance, directly or indirectly, have nevertheless been aided by the situation in their own communities, in neighboring districts and in the country as a whole, as well as by the stabilization of markets for the many products of agriculture."

The report added that the gradual decrease in the number of applications for loans further reflected the general benefit which the corporation's operations have had on the agricultural credit situation. Advances for agricultural and live stock purposes totalling \$433,447,000 in 87 states had been approved up to November 30. Of this, \$182,850,000 went to 4400 banking institutions, \$77,761,000 to 113 live stock loan companies, \$172,827,000 to 32 co-operative marketing associations.

Nineteen Twenty-Three

(© 1922, Western Newspaper Union.)

THEY friends are all important. That this year may be fortunate. They weave a special wishing spell About this year to guard it well. Let any harm should come to thee Because old time says "Twenty-Three" Grace and good cheer attend this year And rout all shapes of doubt and fear.

But it will be well not to put too much faith in resolutions. Resolutions are often the vapors of auto-intoxication. They are the rainbows that succeed the last storm, before the tears have dried up. They are the halos that we place upon our heads too soon. They are the thin ice that glitters but lets us through.

There is more power in resolution. If a man can overcome himself he has conquered his worst enemy. He will have to use both fists to knock himself out and both feet to kick himself out; he will have to get himself down and sit upon himself before he can be himself.

This is worth while, but it is unpleasant and difficult. Resolutions are apt to fall before it or be entirely forgotten, but resolution can do it and have force to spare. As a poet has said:

So nigh is grandeur to our dust,
So near is God to man,
When Duty whispers low, Thou must,
The youth replies, I can.

SPARING HIS FEELINGS

"I want a word of advice."
"Well?" replied Mr. Wadleigh, grimly.

"What is the best way to approach you for a loan."

"If you are sensitive, you had better write for it, and when you get my reply tear it up without reading it."
—Birmingham Age-Herald.

666 Cures Malaria, Chills and Fever, Dengue or Bilious Fever.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT
Notice is hereby given to all creditors and others interested in the estate of Eugene P. Thurman, deceased, that I, Louella Thurman, executrix of said estate, intend to make final settlement thereof at the next term of the Probate Court of St. Francois County, State of Missouri, to be held at Farmington, on the 3rd day of January, 1923.
LOUELLA THURMAN, Executrix.
Dec. 8, 15, 22, 29, Jan. 5.

NOTICE TO DAIRY FARMERS

We are now receiving milk at our new Station at the Rickus Cash Grocery in Farmington. We will buy any quantity of sweet milk, if delivered before 10 a. m. of each day. Highest market price paid for same. Let us help you make more money off your dairy.

But please remember, it is necessary for us to have considerable product if we are to remain in this field, thereby enabling you to get a right price for your dairy products.

THINK THIS OVER.

Pevely Dairy

C. H. CUNNINGHAM
IN CHARGE OF FARMINGTON BRANCH.