







## BILLS IN LEGISLATURE

One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty-Six Have Been Introduced.

### REFORMING ELECTION LAWS

Progress Has Been Made During the Past Few Days—Bills Affecting Tax System.

Lansing, Mich., March 3.—It is violating no confidence to say that the legislature has sufficient work on the books to keep it in session until next fall if it sees fit to consider all the bills that have been dumped into the hopper since the session commenced. The public in general, however, and the taxpayers of the state in particular are to be congratulated on the fact that many of the measures that have found their way to the clerk's desk were never intended by the introducers to again see daylight, having been introduced "by request," while many more are the result of a sudden and not altogether well considered impulse to reform things, which impulse invariably dies away soon enough to leave the revolutionary measures in the dump, where they can perform their most meritorious service. In addition to these two classes of bills that were simply born to die without the aid of an executioner even, there are a large number of emergency measures which have been introduced by title only, with a view of having on hand material with which to meet whatever exigency may arise, and in a great majority of these instances the necessity for using these titles, for that is all there is to these bills, is never encountered. Practically every one of the state departments has had a number of these emergency titles introduced.

**Number of Bills Introduced.**  
When the gavel dropped at the close of the fifteenth day of the session, the limit for the introduction of bills under the constitution, a total of 1,766 bills were on the calendars of the two houses. This total is 148 less than that of two years ago. The senators outdid their record of 1901 by 11, while the house members fell short by 159. Pretty much every subject imaginable is covered, all the old familiar measures of recent years being out in full force, except, possibly, railroad tax bills, which dropped down a few notches, owing to the existence of the ad valorem tax law, which is generally satisfactory. It is safe to say that not more than one in three of the total number of bills introduced will be seriously considered, while a great majority are as near to becoming laws now as they peacefully slumber on the table or in the committee clerks' desks as they ever will be.

As predicted last week substantial progress has been made during the past few days in the direction of reforming the election laws. The Wayne county primary election bill was passed by both houses, the Kent county bill advanced, and a general hearing given on the primary election bill applying to the entire state. At this hearing a number of legislators and other citizens from various sections of the state expressed themselves freely and a large majority of them expressed themselves as unqualifiedly favoring the bill. There is practically no doubt that a general primary law will be enacted.

**Reform in the Tax System.**  
From the number of bills in hand affecting the tax system it is evident that a determined effort is to be made to effect some substantial reforms in this direction. While the material offered in this connection is of sufficient bulk to choke a rhinoceros or two, it is confidently expected by the prime movers that a satisfactory bill can be formulated from it. The main effort will be in the direction of doing away with double taxation incident to the taxation of both the real estate and the mortgage covering such real estate. Just how this will be accomplished remains to be determined. One of the tax bills exempts credits from taxation, while another provides for applying the stamp system to promissory notes, mortgages and deeds, the revenue varying from the nature of the instrument. This bill also seeks to reach parlor car companies, which now escape taxation altogether, by requiring them to place a one cent stamp upon each parlor and sleeping car ticket sold, such stamps to be purchased by the companies from the auditor general. A question has been raised as to the unconstitutionality of this method of taxation, and in order to meet the issue a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution providing for this plan has been introduced. Representative Rodgers would extend this plan of raising revenue to the theaters and require that a one cent stamp be attached to each theater ticket sold in the state.

**To Abolish State Census.**  
There are those among the legislators who believe that the expenditure of \$200,000 which it costs to take and compile and publish the state census every ten years is wholly unwarranted inasmuch as the general government covers this work quite as thoroughly. The taking of the next state census will occur next year and with a view of heading it off, Senator Barnes has offered a joint resolution submitting a constitutional amendment to abolish the state census. It is dollars to doughnuts that the resolution will be killed.

Gov. Bliss exercised the veto power

for the first time this session a day or two ago and put to sleep a bill providing that the finance and auditing committee of the board of supervisors of Ionia county might be paid a per diem for time actually spent in official duties during the time the board is not in session. The veto was based on the governor's oft repeated assertion that special acts should not be passed where a general law will apply, and he argued that if this proposed departure would be a good thing for Ionia county, it would be equally as good for the other counties of this state, there being no conditions which made it of special importance or necessity in Ionia that do not obtain in other counties. Several like bills are pending and will meet the same fate.

#### Some Heroic Pruning.

Now that the appropriation bills are all in the ways and means committee has made a survey and determined where we are at. It is evident from this computation that the committee and legislature will find it necessary to do some heroic pruning if the next state tax levy is to be kept within reasonable bounds inasmuch as the amount asked for by the various institutions, etc., considerably exceeds the total levy for the past two years, and it is conceded that that was high enough to suit the most fastidious. A recapitulation of the numerous appropriation bills shows the following demands: General expenses of the state government and other miscellaneous objects, \$2,990,880; current expenses of prisons, \$204,000; current expenses of asylums, \$1,373,122.61; current expenses educational institutions, \$1,328,356; special purposes, such as new buildings, repairs, etc., \$1,902,150; additional for buildings now being constructed, \$15,100; grand total, \$7,813,608.61.

Numerous bills affecting the liquor traffic have been presented, but the most unique is that of Representative Richards who would have Michigan adopt the South Carolina dispensary law. This would, of course, require the state to engage in the retail liquor business. Whenever a community desires a dispensary it could procure the articles upon the petition of a majority of its voters. This dispensary would be in charge of a state officer who would receive a salary of \$1,000 per year.

**Profits Accrue to the State.**  
Liquor would be furnished customers in sealed packages at the market price, and all profits would accrue to the state. The liquor would have to be toted away from the dispensary before consumed as the law forbids the opening of the packages at the dispensary. A board or commission of five members, each of whom would receive an annual salary of \$1,500, would be in general charge of the state dispensary system, and this commission would elect a state liquor commissioner who would receive a salary of \$2,500. All liquor dispensed by the state would first be chemically analyzed at the agricultural college with a view of insuring against the sale of anything but the real stuff. The indications are that patriotic citizens who might have a yearning to serve the state in the capacity outlined above need not fall over each other or run the risk of suffering a stroke of apoplexy in their anxiety to file the applications. It will be several days at least before the bill becomes a law. But then it is an interesting document and its introducer has hopes.

The women of the state, or at least the representatives of a large and very respectable and intelligent element, are again seeking to have the institution laws amended so as to provide that at least one member of each state institution in which women, girls or children are cared for shall be a woman. There is much to commend in this movement.

**The Divorce Question.**  
The divorce question continues to keep well on the surface and numerous bills designed to better conditions in this connection are on the lists. One offered by Representative Holmes provides that co-respondents in these suits which result in the breaking up of a family shall be prosecuted for felony, and also makes it a felony for a person to resort to hypnotism in his efforts to alienate the affections of a wife from her husband. It is evident that the alarming increase in the number of divorces granted in Michigan is directing public attention to this evil. Time was when no one ever seriously considered any portion of the upper peninsula as an agricultural possibility. Now, however, since eminently satisfactory experiments have been conducted in certain sections above the strait, a bill has been introduced to make an appropriation of \$25,000 for the establishment of an experiment farm in Alger county for the purpose of conducting experiments along the lines of the most effective methods of farming under conditions which prevail in the upper peninsula. The railroad committee of the house will endeavor to have submitted to the people a constitutional amendment that will legalize the creation of a commission on freight rates. It is proposed to submit this question next month so that the necessary law can be enacted at this session.

**JAMES V. BARRY.**

**New and Deadly Bullet.**  
In connection with the extensive manufacture of the new bullet invented for the French army several sets of cartridges have been stolen at Lyons. It is thought that they have been sold to foreign powers, and vigorous search is being made to trace the culprits. The new bullet's propelling power is so great as to drive the bullet in a straight course for half a mile without any of the rise and fall of the present trajectory. This insures terrific speed and certainty of aim.—Chicago Post.

# GRINNELL BRO'S DETROIT, MICH. MUSIC HOUSE

Announce the Opening of a Branch Store at

**606 Ludington Street, Escanaba, Mich.**

We are state representatives of Steinway, Mason & Hamlin, Sohmer, Sterling and others. Sixteen makes to select from. You are invited to call, learn our low prices and easy terms. Old Instruments taken in exchange. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Correspondence Solicited. Orders taken for Tuning.

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### MATRIMONIAL BLISS.

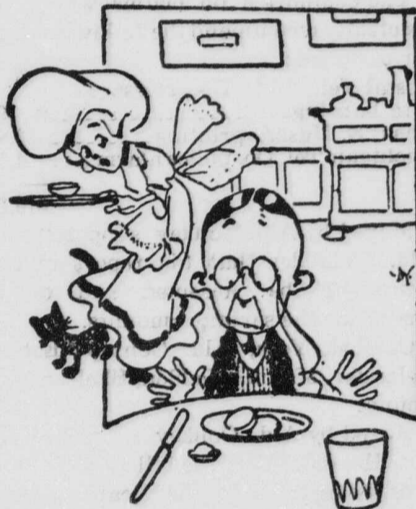
**The Ups and Downs of Poor Mr. Younghusband.**

"What ups and downs there are in life, even in one short twelvemonth of existence!" gloomily observed Mr. Younghusband as he climbed out of the matrimonial couch at midnight's chilly hour, fell over a rocking chair and then limply made his way toward a crib in which a fretful infant with sore leather lungs was wildly pawing the atmosphere and emitting hair raising howls of agony.

"Yes," he went on bitterly, reaching for the complaining bundle of humanity in the crib and cradling it on his arm; "one brief year ago I prided myself on being chief partner in the matrimonial firm. Now, hang it, I find I am only floorwalker in the infant swear department!"

And with a hoarse chuckle at his own wit he continued to walk.—New York Times.

### Book Learning.



**Mr. Newedde—**These biscuits are awful.

**Mrs. Newedde—**Impossible. Why, the recipe says they are excellent.—San Francisco Examiner.

### Defending Her Age.

**He—**Did you say your father was in the civil war?

**She—**Did I say so? What a silly blunder! Why, you must think me as old as the hills. No, dear papa wasn't in the war. He was just a mere boy then.

**He—**Pardon me, but I thought you said your father was at Gettysburg? You were telling how hard it was for him to keep step.

**She—**Oh, now I know! That was my stepfather.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

### Living Versus Rooming.

**Stranger—**How many people live in this city?

**Citizen—**About 200,000.

**So?—**I had thought you had a population of at least 300,000.

**Oh, so we have. But only about two-thirds of them live. The rest room and board.—Baltimore American.**

### ELECTION NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that at the election to be held in the County of Delta, State of Michigan, on Monday the sixth day of April, A. D. 1908 the following county officers are to be elected, viz:

County Commissioner of schools, one county road commissioner for the full term of six years and one county road commissioner to fill vacancy for the term ending the first day of May, 1907.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Circuit Court for the County of Delta, at the City of Escanaba, Michigan this 26th day of February, A. D., 1908.

[SEAL] ALFRED P. SMITH, County Clerk.

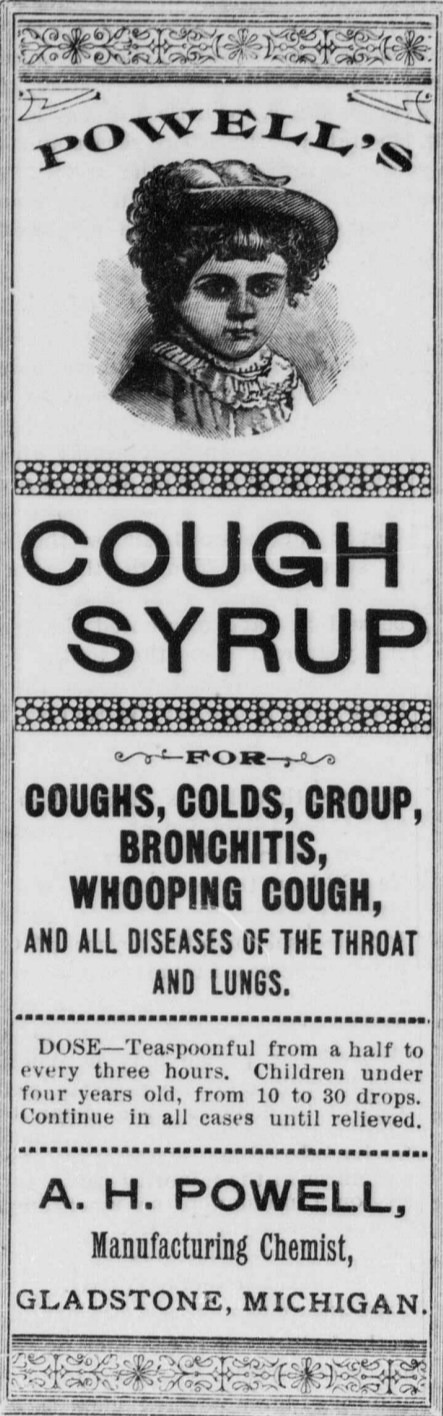
### TEACHERS' EXAMINATION.

The regular teachers' examination for Delta County will be held at the court house, city of Escanaba, commencing on Thursday, March 26, at 8:30 a. m. This examination is open to all applicants for first, second, and third grade certificates. The reading will be from "The Vision of Sir Launfal."

P. R. LEGG, County Com'r of Schools.

### DAILY TRIPS.

The Ann Arbor boats are now making daily trips into Manistique and will continue, making that port daily during the winter months. This is the most direct route to southern and eastern points. For further information apply to John Hancock, agent, Manistique, Mich. if



**POWELL'S**

**COUGH SYRUP**

FOR  
**COUGHS, COLDS, GROUP, BRONCHITIS, WHOOPING COUGH, AND ALL DISEASES OF THE THROAT AND LUNGS.**

DOSE—Teaspoonful from a half to every three hours. Children under four years old, from 10 to 30 drops. Continue in all cases until relieved.

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YELLOW PINE,  
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BASSWOOD.

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25 CENTS  
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**GOOD PRINTING**  
The only place to get it in Gladstone is at the Delta office on Ninth street. Good work, best paper and honest prices. Get ready for the spring rush and order now.

**Boiling a Ham.**  
If in boiling a ham it is found necessary to add more water, see that the water used is boiling. To fill the kettle with cold water makes the meat tough.