

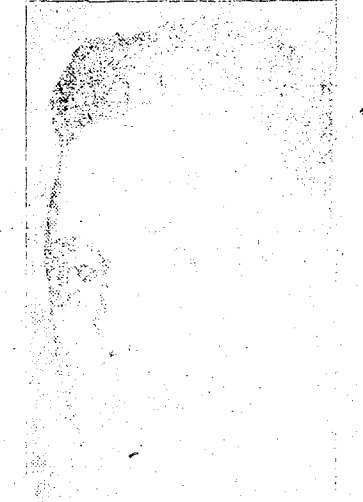




### Watson Turns the Dry Facts of History Into Absorbing Narratives

A large number of the very interesting illustrated feature articles that Elmo Scott Watson writes for this paper deal with historical subjects. This is natural since Mr. Watson, for a very good reason, is greatly interested in American history. He comes from a long line of Americans—seven generations of them—even though his first ancestor in this country were "immigrants" who arrived on the Mayflower in 1620.

Mr. Watson, later American-born ancestors had their part in making American history, sailing in the French and Indian wars, in the Revolution and in the War of 1812. One of them, of the paternal side, a pioneer of Ohio, was noted as being one of the greatest hunters in the old Northwest territory and on the national side he comes of a line of Kentucky pioneers and Indian hunters, some of



ELMO SCOTT WATSON

Watson's interest in history is not only a hobby but a profession. He has written many books and articles on American history, and his writing is both accurate and engaging. He has a deep knowledge of the events and people that shaped the nation, and he brings this knowledge to life in his writing. His articles are not only informative but also entertaining, and they provide a unique perspective on American history.

Watson's writing is a blend of fact and fiction, and it is this blend that makes his work so appealing. He takes the dry facts of history and turns them into absorbing narratives that capture the reader's imagination. His writing is a testament to the power of good storytelling, and it is a pleasure to read his work.

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## THE Week At Lansing

(By FRANK D. BROWN, Special Correspondent)

(Delayed)

Events at the capitol this week recalled to the minds of many state attaches those stirring days back in 1894 when "General" Coxey and his famous "army" set out from eastern Ohio to take Washington by storm. Perhaps less spectacular, but somewhat more gratifying in results was the march on Lansing participated in by approximately 500 coal miners from the Saginaw valley district who presented in person their demand that the legislature pass the bill making it mandatory for state institutions to burn Michigan-mined coal. The pilgrimage was not without its comical features. Neither was it without its more serious aspects. Arriving in town Tuesday afternoon, the housing problem soon became acute as the shadows of night bore down and the major portion of the long delegation proceeded to convert the House and Senate into large "shop houses." Sergeants-at-arms were hard pressed to clear the power's rostrum, the lieutenant governor's desk and the various committee rooms of their human occupants in order to permit the nightly session of the two chambers. All matters finally left Lansing in a hasty fashion Wednesday afternoon when the House, after affixing a myriad of bewildering amendments, passed the bill. For them it was a complete victory—for the legislators. But another laugh. As sent to the governor, the measure means absolutely nothing as far as aiding

the coal mining industry of this state. There are so many "ifs" and "ands" written into it that the only consolation seems to be the fact that they compelled the lawmakers to take speedy action for once.

Coupled with this influx of militant citizens is the feud between Gov. Fitzgerald and the one-time all-powerful Wayne county figure, John C. Gillespie. Even this incident is not without its amusing ramifications; all of which have added zest to the developments of the week.

Gillespie is reported amongst the missing while state and federal authorities extend their search for him. The seriousness with which his reported threats are regarded by the executive office can only be verified by the presence of the state troopers who loiter about the innermost sanctum as a precautionary step against the Detroit gentleman's appearance, with gun in hand, to wreak vengeance on the governor. The ruction grows out of a dispute over certain policies of the liquor control commission; it should be regarded as personal and political, and of no great concern to the taxpayers of Michigan. Gov. Fitzgerald is simply trying to rid his administration of a certain undesirable element that has attached itself to previous administrations. Apparently he is going to "carry through."

Senate and House calendars—those daily bulletins which set forth the work of the hour to be disposed of—are growing by leaps and bounds. The daily agenda in both houses is reaching the proportions of no less than 50 items to be considered, debated and voted on. The increasing volume of work gives those of us who want the session to terminate real encouragement that the end cannot be many weeks in the offing. Night sessions of the legislature are now the vogue.

The supreme court has entered the picture of specific exemptions from the three-cent sales taxes. An opinion handed down by the tribunal during the past few days denies manufacturers exemptions on processing goods. The ruling is regarded as having a very definite bearing on the bill now in the senate committee which would place a dozen or so items of foodstuff on the free list. Without a constitutional amendment relative to the rule of uniform taxation, it is feared that the entire sales tax law might become inoperative should the legislature deem it advisable to pass the exemption measure now pending.

Senator Andrew L. Moore (R), of Pontiac, chairman of the taxation committee of the upper house and one of the real leaders of this session, has proposed that the powers of the state sales tax division be enlarged so as to permit discretionary action on the part of the division in allowing certain worthy exemptions. This proposal, however, is meeting with some opposition on the grounds that the sales tax administrators might abuse their powers should their authority be expanded to such an extent.

Action of both houses was slowed up somewhat toward the end of the week by the absence of four senators and four representatives who were sent Thursday morning to Berrien county to conduct a recount in the second judicial circuit. A friendly suit, taking the form of a petition asking the legislature to decide which of the two candidates is entitled to the judgeship, resulted in a bi-partisan delegation of lawmakers being sent to St. Joseph to open ballot boxes and conduct a recount. The results of the official canvass in that county revealed that the democratic candidate for the office had defeated his republican opponent by only two votes.

Neither candidate, according to the petition filed with the legislature, wishes to take over the office under any cloud of doubt.

The procedure in this case is quite in contrast with that earlier this year when the democrats under the leadership of Senator A. J. Wilkowski of Detroit attempted by "shady" methods to count Major Wilson into the office of secretary of state. By the way, Senator Wilkowski is still holding forth in Lansing and is making every effort to reinstate himself in the good graces of his many associates, who, naturally, are skeptical regarding his ideas of representing the people of the state. Personally, Wilkowski is quite affable, but he appears woefully lacking in many of the essential qualities that might gain for him general regard as a reliable public servant.

With visions of perhaps losing lucrative possibilities, senate lawyers banded together early in the week to defeat the Palmer "heart balm" measure which would have prevented unjustified suits of a marital nature. The bill may be revived later. The measure was patterned after those laws recently enacted by the Indiana and New York assemblies. An interesting sidelight on the history of this bill is the fact that the introducer, Senator William Palmer (D), of Flint, happens to be the senate's only bachelor.

The Senate education committee has been weighing a plan to turn over to the school districts of the state the \$3,500,000 saving from the abrogation of the state property tax which was written into law last week. The proposal would be accompanied by a \$5,000,000 reduction in the \$25,000,000 school appropriation which bill now rests in the senate committee.

Proceeding along the line that the newly elected superintendent of pub-

lic instruction, M. L. Keyworth is favoring the maximum appropriation, the Michigan Education Association of School Board Member are conducting a formidable lobby at the capitol in an effort to bring about passage of the appropriation measure which the governor has already frowned upon. Unless Gov. Fitzgerald "abouts face," the school people are going to be plenty disappointed even tho they are successful in talking the senate into passing this bill as is. The governor as stated previously, has assured your correspondent that he will not accept anything more than \$20,000,000 in this bill. With the governor, it is purely a matter of trying to balance the state's budget as against certain unreasonable demands from "paid representatives" of the school lobby who have been operating in Lansing ever since the writer first became interested in state goings-on.

These final few weeks of the "Lansing merry-go-round" are bound to be weeks of much bewilderment to the average layman. With budget bills, other appropriation measures, and what-not "popping" out of committees at the rate of a dozen or more every day, it is little wonder that few of us know what has really taken place until the "statesmen" have retired and there is ample opportunity for sound evaluation.

Private interests and personal aggrandizement characterize this session like every other session since time immemorial. The big criticism that I have to offer is nothing more or less than: Michigan (like every other state with Washington, D. C., included) has too many public servants "playing to the galleries" with little or no regard for what the consequences may be for the people "back home" who perpetuate such a condition by paying out their hard-earned money in taxes.

### Whose Money?

I have watched the use of investment money by the investor banks, the officers of government agencies, and the various departments of the United States in the name of Congress on the public trust.

Who put up the money for the 30,000 copies of President Roosevelt's message on utility regulation? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the coal industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the steel industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the rubber industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the paper industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the textile industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the food industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the clothing industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the furniture industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the jewelry industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the watch industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the clock industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the toy industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the game industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the book industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the newspaper industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the magazine industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the motion picture industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the radio industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the television industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the automobile industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the airplane industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the shipbuilding industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the steel industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the rubber industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the paper industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the textile industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the food industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the clothing industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the furniture industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the jewelry industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the watch industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the clock industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the toy industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the game industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the book industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the newspaper industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the magazine industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the motion picture industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the radio industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the television industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the automobile industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the airplane industry? Who paid for the 100,000 copies of the report on the shipbuilding industry?

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