

Lively Times May Be Expected in Michigan

Governor-elect Pingree Tells of His Plans for Radical Reforms in State Legislation and Whets His Snickersnee for the Corporations.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.

Detroit, Dec. 10.—Governor-elect Pingree has said it is Michigan's duty to be battered this winter with the bullets of reform, while the whole country looks on at the battle.

Mr. Pingree will go to Lansing primed with several far-reaching and radical measures that will profoundly stir the people of the state and attract the attention of the nation.

Will be a hard fight. In a word, the new governor will attempt to overturn completely much in the business, industrial and agricultural life of the state, and to do this without delay.

To a correspondent of the Times-Herald Mayor Pingree outlined his plans today. "Yes, sir," said he, "I'm going to see to it that the people of Michigan get a 2-cent railroad fare.

"You know, don't you, that the people that have to travel can't ride one-third cheaper in this state than those that are poor? If a man has \$20 to spare he can buy a 1,000-mile book and ride for a cent a mile.

"They say they couldn't make a living on a 2-cent fare basis. I claim it would be the best thing that could happen to them. Let them get their prices down to where the people can afford to ride and they will be slow to get on the cars.

"Now, if roads that sell transportation for 2 cents a mile have to have receivers, why doesn't the Flint and Pere Marquette get one? And why doesn't the Grand Trunk? They've been selling tickets for any distance in the state for 2 cents a mile.

"That's the nearest thing to a corporation with a soul that I have ever come across. I asked the president of the Flint and Pere Marquette was not a Massachusetts man. You know down there you can buy a 500-mile ticket and a whole family may ride on it.

"The 2-cent fare idea is only the first plan that Mr. Pingree hopes to get into the form of a law this winter. He also expects to tackle the freight transportation matter.

"When only one road runs through a given territory its freight charges are fixed at the point where they think they can bleed the people most without the people kicking over the traces.

about these freight discriminations and show how they work. At Gladwin, this state, this very year, it cost a farmer \$40 to ship his wheat to Detroit.

"In this connection I want to get a law applying some of the principles of the inter-state commerce act of the federal government. There are similar discriminations between people and cities in the state that there are along roads running into different states and there ought to be similar remedies.

To tax railroad property. The third topic the governor took up related to the taxation of railroad property and the taxation of property in general.

"Do you know of any legitimate reason why the poor laboring man should pay city, county and state taxes on his cottage and lot while the big railroad corporations pay no city taxes and get off almost scot free from state taxes?

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"I want to see some measure that will clip the wings of the trusts and monopolies in this state. One such measure should be a law prohibiting stock watering and over-capitalization and such schemes for enriching stock and bondholders.

"There is not the slightest difference between the Detroit street railways and the Michigan Central and Lake Shore roads, except in degree.

"The farmer. State governments have created possibilities that these shrewd corporations have seized. By neglect on the part of the state they burden the farmer on the producing class.

"When I realize that all wealth comes from labor it is plain why there is no business in the country. The great arm of people are the farmers. All wealth comes from the laboring man. The schemer who sells watered stock doesn't produce anything.

"I'm a trifle off my text, but I'll get back to it all right. What I desire is that all the railroads in Michigan be to carry out the provisions of the state constitution and obtain the competition that instrument calls for.

To reform the primary. One of the most important measures that Governor Pingree will father in the legislature will be a primary election or caucus law that has been for some time a hobby with him.

"All there is to it is that the caucus or nominating election should be held on the same day and at the same time. Any man wanting to run for an office should have his name on the ticket as a Republican and the Democrats as Democrats.

"Don't you see that we should not elect a man to represent the people who would be his own delegate and there would be no chance to carry a convention by buying up a few votes for a small price.

"In connection with that, there's another matter that ought to be attended to by the legislature, and that is this matter of coercing voters by methods that are not just right. You know these big quasi-public corporations, and some that are not quasi-public, but just as big as the government.

Municipal legislation affecting Detroit is looked for at the coming session of the legislature. Much of it will be purely of local character.

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Thompson, of Detroit, who was re-elected after one of the most strenuous fights of the state campaign. Without doubt he will clip the governor's wings, although he says he will support any Pingree measure that commands a good sense.

Conditions of the house. In the house, which is looked upon as more nearly reflecting the feeling of the people at large, there will be no small opposition to Pingree reforms.

Hope of the Pingreeites. If the governor cannot have his way in legislative matters he will leave no room for doubt in the minds of the people that the legislature and not himself is to blame.

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