

Attention Centers on Gas Tax Increase

(Continued from Page One)
In the House there is some sentiment for a corporate income tax, as favored by Governor Williams.
Several of the representatives interested in the Good Roads bill joined in sponsoring a 2% corporation income tax. It was suggested that this might have been motivated by a desire to influence Governor Williams to sign the gas tax bill or to woo a few Democratic members to vote with the Republicans to override a gas tax veto.

ELECTRIC CO-OPS. The Senate approved unanimously S-123 which would give rural electric co-operatives the privilege of condemnation for right of way the same as is now enjoyed by

public utilities organized for profit. This bill is now in the House committee on public utilities. It is a part of the legislative program of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

STATE FAIR. S-87 would put an end to the confusion and overlapping of control regarding the Michigan State Fair and its facilities. It has received considerable attention but has made slow progress thus far. The bill was substantially revised and considerably improved by the Senate committee on Agriculture. As amended it was acceptable to the Michigan Farm Bureau. Executive Secretary C. L. Brody, sent each Senator a letter endorsing the bill and urging affirmative action on it.

This bill has been in and out of the Senate committee on Agriculture a couple of times. Chances seem fairly good for its

passage by the Senate.

BEAN INDUSTRY. Another bill that ran into rough sledding was S-92, which in its final form provided for a check off of 3c per cwt of dry edible beans to be collected from producers by the first handlers. The fund so accumulated would be administered by a committee of 7 producers and 2 processors to be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. It would be used for research in developing disease resistant varieties, etc. and for publicity, information to producers and consumers and for stimulating consumption of and demand for Michigan beans.

After having been twice reported favorably by the Senate committee on agriculture and surviving some hostile attacks on the Senate floor it was amended 21 times and then defeated by the Senate by a vote of 14 to 15 April 25. Seventeen affirmative votes are required to pass a bill in the Senate. All 32 Senators were present when this vote was taken, but 3 of them failed to vote. This vote was later re-considered and the bill placed on the table from which it can be removed and considered again at any time up to May 4.

In writing each Senator in support of this legislation, Secretary Brody of the Michigan Farm Bureau, said: "We are impressed by the fact that during recent weeks meetings of bean producers have been held under the auspices of the Michigan Bean Producers Association in 21 counties. In these meetings, which were attended by about 2,000 producers, the provisions of Senate Bill No. 92 were thoroughly explained and discussed and these bean producers, who would be financing the proposed program, voted almost unanimously in favor of this measure."

GAS TAX REFUNDS. One source of disappointment and misunderstanding would be cleared up if the Senate would follow the example of the House in passing H-68. This provides that the post mark would establish the date of filing gas tax refund claims.

As you know such claims have to be filed within 6 months after the fuel was purchased. Sometimes because of week ends or holidays the claims, although mailed within the time limit are not processed by the Sales Tax Division of the Secretary of State's office until after the 6 months' deadline has elapsed, so the claim is denied. This would take care of such situations.

AID TO COUNTIES. Another

bill in harmony with the Michigan Farm Bureau resolutions is H-165. This provides for returning to the county of origin one-half the proceeds from the oil and gas severance tax.

The Farm Bureau resolution pointed out that "the hauling of the heavy equipment used in drilling oil wells and the transporting of the crude oil cause excessive wear and tear on county highways. For this reason, we believe that 50% of the revenue from this source should be returned to the county from which it originates to be used by the County Road Commission for maintenance of its county highway system."

This bill passed the House by a narrow margin and is now in the Senate committee on Appropriations. Its passage would of course reduce state revenue, as all the yield from the severance tax now goes to the state treasury. Regardless of how badly the state may need this money, there is certainly justification for returning half of it to the county of origin for the reasons outlined in the Farm Bureau resolution.

Measures discussed in this article mean a lot to every Farm Bureau family. Regardless of how busy you are with your own farm work, do not neglect to let your senator and representative and Governor Williams know how you feel regarding these vital issues. The lawmakers are working against a set of definite deadlines and prompt action on our part is imperative or it will be too late for our views to have any influence in determining what will be enacted.

Mrs. Wagar To Be With Us In June

Mrs. Edith M. Wagar of Carlton, a regular contributor to the readability of the Michigan Farm News for many years, has no article in this issue. For the past two months she has not been well and it was agreed that she should save her strength for a speedy recovery. Her interesting and inspiring words will again appear in the coming June edition.

Buildings in which livestock and poultry are housed should be cleaned and disinfected to kill germs and parasites, say Michigan State College agricultural authorities.

Stairways and ladders should be checked and kept in good repair.

"The Face Is Familiar..."

Producers of fresh fruits and vegetables, like the producers of practically everything else, are being called on for increased supplies.

This same thing happened during the last war, and growers and distributors delivered the goods. As a result, the produce industry earned and has held a position of greater importance in the national food picture.

So two long-range objectives—financial soundness for the industry and improved service to consumers—were furthered.

It looks like the same thing is beginning to happen all over again.

Once again the produce industry is faced with the responsibility of improving its performance.

Once again the produce industry is offered the opportunity of improving its position.

This situation calls for practical application of the very same principles progressive groups have been emphasizing for years. These fundamental principles are not revolutionary, or even new. But they are essential to the successful completion of the job at hand:

1. The production of varieties most useful in meeting the nation's food needs.
2. Increased efficiency in every phase of production, grading and packing
3. Constant efforts by growers and distributors to eliminate damage, waste and spoilage.
4. Constant efforts by growers and distributors to get produce to the consumer at the peak of its quality and freshness.
5. Constant efforts to improve the distribution process by shortening the route, reducing handling and speeding movement.
6. More effective advertising and promotion of produce to create more uses and greater demand.

In other words, the situation calls for constant, cooperative efforts involving every segment of the industry, and covering every step from the beginning of production to the consumer's market basket.

The "face" of this program is certainly familiar. But we of the Atlantic Commission Company sincerely believe such a program will best enable the produce industry to meet its new responsibilities and promote its future well-being.

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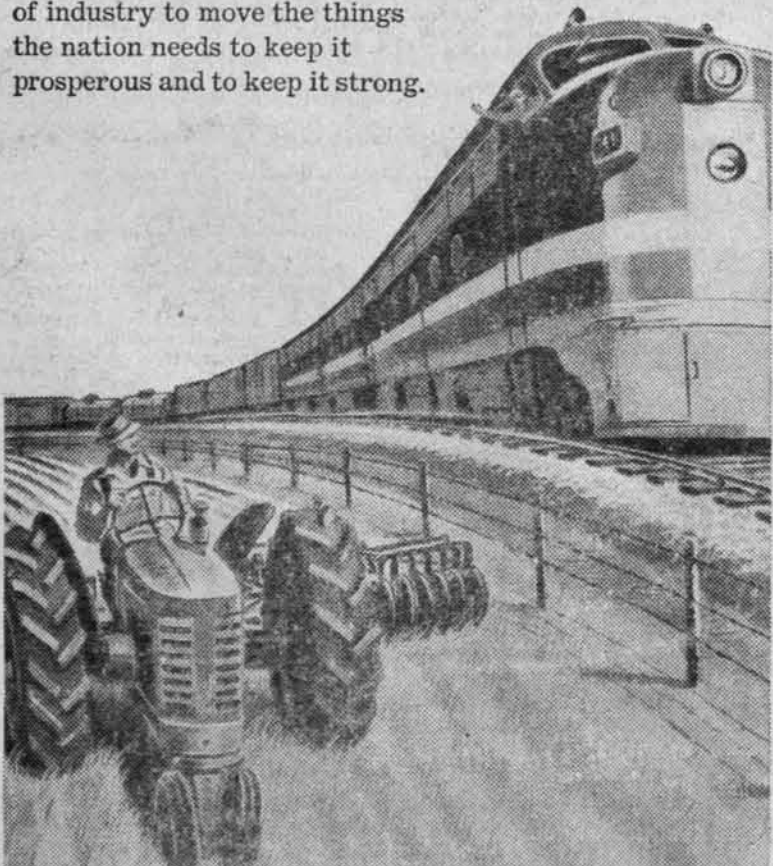
Farmers and railroads are long-time "partners"—in one of the biggest and most vital jobs in America.

for a
stronger
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The farmer grows the food, the feed, and the fiber so basic to the strength of the nation. The railroads bring the farmer his supplies and equipment—and carry his products wherever they are needed.

And these days, when national rearmament is everybody's biggest job, this "partnership" takes on even greater importance. For, as America's "muscles" get bigger, its appetite for almost everything increases enormously.

American farmers are working to produce the crops that will be needed, come what may. And the American railroads are working with them and with all of industry to move the things the nation needs to keep it prosperous and to keep it strong.



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Summer Safety CHECK LIST

IF YOU HAVEN'T YET TENDED to thorough spring house cleaning, there's no better time to start than today. Listed below are a few important things which deserve your immediate attention. Why not cut out this list and pin it up on the wall as a handy reminder? You can check off each item as you tend to it. But don't delay getting started. Remember, the critical spark could arrive anytime—next week, tomorrow—even today!

1. Clean up trash and rubbish in barn outbuildings, attic and basement. Burn in an incinerator.
2. Check wiring in buildings. Repair or replace worn or frayed electric wires and cords.
3. Examine furnace for checks and cracks. Be sure any chimney which will be used during dry weather is free from soot.
4. Check fire extinguishers to make sure they are properly located and in good working condition.
5. Be sure ladders, water buckets, and hose are easily accessible.
6. Tools and equipment are easier to find if stored in an orderly manner. Have a place for everything—keep everything in its place.

WE WILL BE GLAD TO SUPPLY YOU with further information on how you can eliminate the hazards which result in disastrous farm fires. Or you can ask your local State Mutual Agent. Be sure he also tells you about State Mutual's farm fire insurance—a policy that gives you "protection made to order".

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"State Mutual Insures Every Fifth Farm in Michigan—Ask Your Neighbor"

