

# GOVERNOR SIGNS OIL CONTROL ACT

## Measure Providing for New Supervision of Petroleum Industry Now Effective

Machinery for clamping rigid state control over Michigan's oil and gas wells was being set up Thursday as the result of Governor Dickinson's signing of the newly passed Thomas-MacKay-Hampton act.

The measure took immediate effect Wednesday afternoon when the governor signed it. Ordinary acts are not effective until 90 days following adjournment of the legislature, but a two-thirds vote of both houses can set aside this rule. This was the case with the well supervisory measure.

### Farmers Protest Signing

Signing of the measure brought a protest from Hale Tennant of Benton Harbor, lobbyist for a group of independent oil producers in western Michigan. He claimed the governor two days ago had promised a group of farm organization leaders a hearing on the bill before signing it. This hearing was scheduled for 2 o'clock Friday afternoon, Tennant said.

Tennant, formerly director of marketing at Michigan State college, blamed Governor Dickinson's advisors for having slipped the bill through the executive's hands with a batch of others signed Wednesday. According to Tennant, he was prevented by Emerson R. Boyles and Leslie B. Butler, the governor's aides, from seeing Dickinson again Thursday morning.

Boyles told newspapermen that neither he nor Butler had known about the hearing the governor promised, and said that apparently Dickinson had forgotten about it. Tennant said the promise had been made personally by the governor to himself and three members of the house.

### Lists Those to Attend

Among those scheduled to attend the hearing were C. H. Bramble of Lansing, master of the Michigan State grange; Frank Oberst of Breckenridge, president of the Michigan Livestock exchange; James J. Jakway of Benton Harbor, president of the Michigan state farm bureau, and W. J. Sovereign, Bay City, millionaire refiner operating in the Bloomingdale oil field of Van Buren county.

Bramble, told that the governor had signed the bill before the hearing, said he had no protest to make. He termed the measure generally satisfactory and said he had intended to object only to certain features which seemed unconstitutional.

Under the act the state director of conservation becomes supervisor of wells. He is empowered to appoint, with the approval of the conservation commission, an advisory board of six members to collaborate with the supervisor in drafting rules and regulations for the industry.

### Divides Representation

The act provides that three members of the board shall be chosen from independent oil and gas producers or operators whose operations are chiefly within the state, and the other three shall be named from those operating

# Graduate Manage



VICTOR C. E. SPANIOLA

Mr. Spaniolo, Michigan State college senior from Charlotte, was appointed Tuesday afternoon by the board of publications at the college, as the first graduate manager of the Michigan State News, official student-edited newspaper at the college. In his position as graduate manager, recently created by the board, Mr. Spaniolo will serve as publisher of the student newspaper, directing the activities of both the editorial and business staffs. He will receive his A. B. degree in journalism from Michigan State in June.

During the present school year 1938-39, the young man has been working as business manager of the paper. He will take over his new duties in full term. A graduate of Charlotte high school, he has worked on newspapers in Charlotte and Muskegon. The board will fill the other important appointive positions on college publications at a meeting Thursday afternoon.

# POULTRY BUSINESS HELPS THESE BOYS

## Two Negro Lads Pay School Expenses by Developing 'Spare Time' Enterprise

SAVANNAH, Ga., May 4 (AP)—Two negro farm boys who came to town to learn the city trade of masonry are teaching their fellows at Georgia State college of profits in poultry and produce.

They are Charles Fisher and Ernie Davis, NYA students.

Pres. Benjamin F. Hubert lauded them today for a "remarkably inspiring job" in developing a poultry gardening business after school hours. They got a start by renting a half-acre of ground near the college for \$3 and feeding 150 baby chicks to the fryer stage. Net profits were \$15.

Other chickens, garden crops, and calf raising plans then developed. More land was obtained.

Hubert said the pair expected to use part of the profits for school expenses after expiration of their 12 months of free tuition and board under the

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### Divides Representation

The act provides that three members of the board shall be chosen from independent oil and gas producers or operators whose operations are chiefly within the state, and the other three shall be named from those operating chiefly interstate. Not more than one representative from any one company or its subsidiaries or affiliates is eligible to appointment.

Percy Hoffmaster, state conservation director, Thursday was studying the situation preparatory to presenting names for the advisory board to the commission. It is expected that it will be several weeks before rules are formulated and the supervisory system is fully established. Such regulations must be discussed at public hearings before taking effect.

However, emergency action may be taken at any time by the director, who under the bill is given power to issue orders effective for periods of not to exceed 21 days.

### Would Prevent Waste

Waste of natural resources is the chief target of the act. To prevent this the director and advisory board, subject to appeal to the conservation commission, are given authority to fix the spacing of wells; to halt operations causing waste; to require pooling of properties in a field or pool; to regulate "shooting" and chemical treatment of wells; and to regulate classifications of wells.

Appeal may be taken to the Ingham county circuit court from any rulings of the commission.

The bill was sponsored by Representatives John W. Thomson (R) of Freeland, Alexander MacKay (R) of West Branch, and Bernie F. Hampton (R) of Harrison.