



1—Women at Trinity church, New York, in a demonstration against the allied blockade of soviet Russia. 2—Modest dwelling near St. Vincent, France, recently bought by Premier Clemenceau and to which he will retire when he leaves public life. 3—Certificate given each subscriber to the Roosevelt Memorial association.

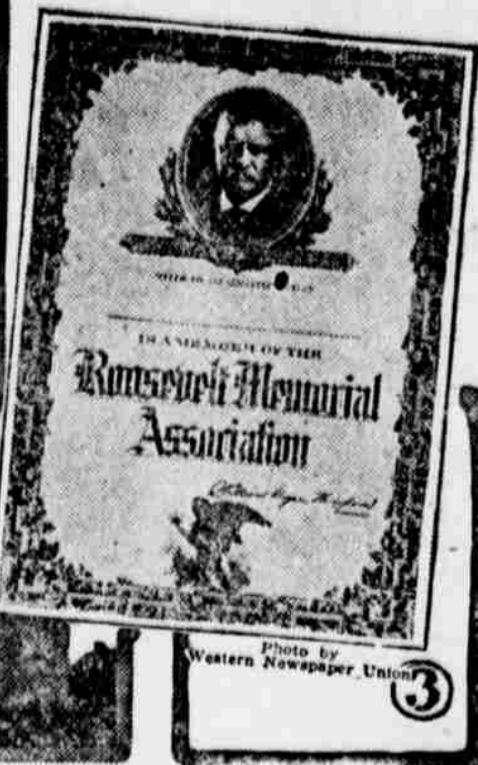


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### NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

#### Supreme Court Deals Hard Blow to the Wets and They Stand Up to Get Another.

#### NOW ATTACKING AMENDMENT

Attorney General Palmer Persuades the Packers to Abandon Their Side Lines—Fiume Agreement Blocked by D'Annunzio's Troops—Growing Sentiment for Peace Treaty Compromise.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Like a real tragedy to a great many citizens of the United States was the chief event of the past week—the decision of the Supreme court of the United States upholding the constitutionality of the war-time prohibition act. It was a severe blow not only for the men who hoped to renew their fast dwindling supplies of "private stock" before January 16, when the constitutional prohibition amendment goes into effect, and to the dealers who had hoped for a chance to dispose of their vast stores of liquors, but also to many banks that had made loans on whisky certificates totalling perhaps \$100,000,000. It was estimated that the government would lose in taxes about \$900,000,000, and that the loss in physical value of plants and other property would be \$200,000,000. The total was roughly put at a billion and a half of dollars.

The cases decided were those of the Kentucky Distilleries and Warehouse company of Louisville, Ky., and Dryfoos, Blum & Co. of New York, instituted for the purpose of compelling the government to release whisky from bond.

In both cases the court denied contentions of Elibu Root and other attorneys for the distilleries that the act, in violation of the constitution, takes private property without just compensation; that the period of the war emergency, for which the act was passed, had terminated; that the law was an interference with the state police powers and an undue exercise of the war powers of congress.

The war-time act, the court held, is not confiscatory, asserting that more than seven months were given distillers to dispose of their stocks, which time the court believed to be adequate. The act also was not repealed, the court held, by the prohibition constitutional amendment, which, it asserted, is binding not only in peace, but also in war times.

The wets did not give up all hope, but at once went to work on new lines, "previously prepared." The Retail Liquor Dealers' association of New Jersey and the state of Rhode Island both asked the Supreme court for permission to institute original proceedings to have the national prohibition amendment declared unconstitutional and to enjoin federal officials from enforcing it. Rhode Island is one of the states that did not ratify the amendment, and the present action was taken by direction of the legislature. These attacks on the amendment are based on the allegation that it violates the fifth amendment to the constitution, which prohibits the taking of private property without just compensation, and also on the charge that it is an interference with the state police powers.

Another attempt to repeal the war-time prohibition law was made in congress, but the house agriculture committee reported unfavorably on the bill by a vote of 16 to 3. Representative Rainey of Illinois made the only argument for repeal, urging that the wet period should be allowed, so the persons of small means could lay in a stock of liquor for medicinal purposes, and the government could collect \$50,000,000 in revenue taxes.

ers, and last week it was announced that the latter had agreed, admittedly under government pressure, to discard all their interests except those directly connected with the handling of the nation's supply of meat. More than a billion dollars will be involved in the disposing of the side lines the packers have been handling, but it is stated the bulk of their business will not be affected. The "unscrambling" process really began last summer when Swift & Co. gave up their leather business and their foreign business to new companies.

Reorganization of the packers is expected to follow virtually the plan of breaking up the Standard Oil company and the method provided in the International Harvester company agreement in 1918. Of course, the primary object of the department of justice in this is to bring about a lowering of prices of foodstuffs. Whether or not this will be the result is uncertain. The representatives of the packers were noncommittal on this point, and many persons were of opinion that there would be a tendency to increase prices through abolition of the control that now exists. If the process of unscrambling does no more financial harm to the packers than it has done to capitalists in previous instances, they need not worry on that score.

At the opening of the week the news was cabled from Fiume that D'Annunzio was to hand over that city at once to regular Italian troops, commanded by General Cavilgia, former minister of war, and that France, Great Britain and Italy had agreed that Italy should have complete sovereignty over Fiume and that all the provisions of the pact of London would be carried out. The alleged agreement was not confirmed, and at this writing D'Annunzio is still holding the city. The truth seems to be that he was asked to give it up on the promise by the Italian government that it would be held by regulars, at least until the Adriatic question was finally settled. But a large part of his garrison is strongly objecting to this arrangement. His officers and soldiers are living in luxury there, receiving much higher pay than they would as part of the regular army, and prospects for work in Italy are had. Consequently they insist that they be permitted to remain as the garrison, and the task of ousting them promises to be difficult.

Just what the London conference discussed and what decisions it reached, if any, is not known at this time, as no official statement has been issued. Doubtless there was a lot of talk about the peace treaty deadlock in the American senate, and certain European correspondents were insistent in their assertions that the British and French were ready and willing to accept any reasonable reservations the senate might make in order to assure the co-operation of America. The European diplomats realize the urgent need for an early declaration of peace, say these correspondents, and one of them asserts that Ambassador Jusserand for weeks has been trying to see President Wilson to assure him that the senate's reservations are acceptable to France.

Meanwhile the sentiment in congress in favor of a compromise is growing stronger daily, though the president and the Republican majority continue to "pass the buck" back and forth. Senator Underwood, who is a candidate for the place of minority leader in opposition to Senator Hitchcock, came forward as an advocate of "peace at any price." He said that the president, when he declared he had no concession of any kind to offer and that all the responsibility rested on the Republicans, was merely giving notice to the senators to get busy and compromise among themselves before asking him to compromise. Mr. Hitchcock proposed the appointment of a conciliation committee for compromise in a spirit of give and take. Senator Knox again attempted to have the senate sidetrack the League of Nations and pass a resolution ratifying the treaty "in so far as it restores the status of peace between the United States and Germany," but he was blocked by objections.

Whether or not the Germans are taking advantage of the unpleasant treaty situation, they certainly are haggling a lot over the signing of the

protocol. Certain concessions were made to them, but these were not enough, for they insist they are unable to turn over the 400,000 tons of harbor and dock material demanded in reparation for the sinking of the interned warships in Scapa Flow. Late reports said their proofs of this inability were so strong that experts of the allies were disposed to consider an offer to reduce the amount to 200,000 tons.

Germany's chief internal trouble just now is financial. The premium loan, by which it was hoped to raise five billion marks, was a failure, and some of the papers assert that open bankruptcy is not far distant.

Austria is starving. That grim fact has been established by the testimony of numerous persons, and it appears to be up to the United States to supply the food for that unfortunate nation. All the other nations of central Europe are suffering only in less degree, and Herbert Hoover, who knows more about the foreign food situation than anyone else, proposes that the great surplus of wheat and flour held by the grain corporation be sold to them on credit.

The Russian bolshevik and the Estonians in conference at Dorpat are not arriving very rapidly at an amicable understanding. The Estonians suspect the Russians of treacherous designs, and in addition there are rumors that France is intervening in the Baltic against the soviet government. In the field the bolshevik had more victories to report, including the capture of Kiev, capital of the Ukraine, from General Denikine's troops. They also occupied Kupiansk, southeast of Kharkov.

The United States and Great Britain have become involved in an unpleasant controversy over the treaty by which virtually a British protectorate over Persia has been established. A Teheran paper accused the United States of having abandoned Persia, whereupon our legation there issued a statement this country had done its utmost to befriend Persia but that the net of some Persian authorities in concluding the treaty with England had indicated that they did not desire the friendship of the United States in the future.

British Foreign Minister Curzon has taken extreme exception to this statement as being un diplomatic, unfriendly and even hostile, and asks that the impression made by it be corrected in Persia by our state department. In the reply from Washington it is plainly stated that the United States will not, at the present time, approve of the Anglo-Persian treaty.

According to what is called authentic information from the highest sources, the government will not return the railroads to private ownership on January 1, but will continue to operate them until March 1, or perhaps for a month longer. This was good news for everybody and served to remove the apprehension that the return would be made before congress had passed the needed legislation, which certainly would result in the paralysis of transportation and business and in great general financial loss. There is no immediate prospect of the passage of the Cummins bill which the senate is considering, or any other railroad bill, and Director General Hines is said to have recommended to the president that the government retain control until legislation is effected.

Mexico's reply to Secretary Lansing's latest note on the case of Consular Agent Jenkins was received in Washington Thursday, and doubtless gave the state department little satisfaction. In it Carranza said he took it for granted that the release of Jenkins on bail had removed the cause of complaint, and then declined to have the proceedings against the consular agent dropped. He asserted that the American government's belief in the innocence of Jenkins was not sufficient cause for removing that official from the jurisdiction of the Mexican tribunals. So once more it is up to Washington to make the next move, and what that will be there is no intimation. Senator Fall thinks that our government will not depart from its time-honored policy of permitting Carranza to insult and defy it with impunity.

### CORNHUSKER ITEMS

#### News of All Kinds Gathered From Various Points Throughout Nebraska.

#### OF INTEREST TO ALL READERS

State Superintendent Clemmons says Nebraska must get ready to line up with Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa for the interstate old-fashioned "spelling bee" which is to be held at Wayne, this state, in October, 1920. Every Nebraska school child in the seventh grade and under in city and eighth grade and under in rural schools is eligible. Elimination preliminaries will be held first in all counties. The state will be divided into thirteen districts, to be announced later. Each district will hold a contest, the winners of which will contest in Lincoln some time in the spring.

J. C. Cook, county attorney of Dodge county, has sent a vigorous protest to the state attorney general at Lincoln over the action of the pardon board in approving the release of Tom Caldwell, Winslow bank robber, from the state penitentiary. The county attorney says that not a single Dodge county resident was consulted about the matter, and the people are highly incensed over the affair.

Mr. and Mrs. John Zimmerer of Seward have donated the former home of ex-Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court T. L. Norval and 30 acres of land to the city for use as either a home for aged people or a boys' school. The property is valued at \$40,000. The gift was made as a Christmas present.

The boycott on certain high priced foods instituted by the more than 2,000 members of the Woman's club at Lincoln, is already showing results. Latest reports show that eggs have dropped from 85 to 55 cents a dozen, and some other important staples have decreased in price considerably.

A report issued by L. I. Frisbie, leader of state junior work in this state shows that 412 members of Nebraska Boys and Girls clubs, raised poultry valued at \$11,611.35 this year. The net profit was \$8,273.09. The total number of chickens raised was 12,006.

The latest state crop report shows that the average of winter wheat sown in Nebraska last autumn is 17 per cent less than that a year ago and about 5 per cent under the usual amount. The estimate is 3,993,000 acres as compared with 3,727,000 acres last year.

Although the coal strike has been called off, reports from Lincoln indicate that Nebraska is yet a long way from relief in the fuel situation. Conservation measures, practiced throughout the state, must be continued indefinitely, the reports say.

Railroads are refusing to ship hay into western Nebraska and hundreds of head of stock are dying as the result, according to a letter received by the State Railway commission at Lincoln from S. N. Stapleton, Crawford banker and ranch owner.

A movement is on foot at Lincoln to persuade the city to rebuild the cattle barn at the state fair grounds, which was recently destroyed by fire, and make the fair association a president of the building.

Athletic authorities at the University of Nebraska have already arranged football games with the following colleges for next year: Washburn, Notre Dame, Penn State, Kansas University and Michigan Aggies.

Several hundreds of dollars in prizes were distributed among members of the Webster county boys' and girls' club, at the annual show and sale at Red Cloud.

Delegates from all parts of the state are expected to attend the annual convention of the Nebraska Retail Clothiers' Association at Omaha February 4 and 5.

Assistant Adjutant General Bross of the G. A. R., at Lincoln, declares that organization suffered severely from the recent coal restrictions throughout the state.

January 7 to 9 are the dates set for the annual meeting of the county assessors of Nebraska. Lincoln is the lucky city to entertain the tax makers.

Work has begun on the construction of the new \$150,000 Keystone hotel at McCook. A Kansas City firm has the contract.

A movement is on foot at Geneva to erect an \$8,000 stock sales pavilion.

Six veteran railway locomotive engineers acted as pallbearers at the funeral of J. W. Coolidge, Union Pacific engineer, who died at Omaha following his collapse at the throttle, while his train was speeding through Valley.

School authorities at Lyons believe they have solved the teacher question. Hereafter grade teachers will receive a minimum of \$1,000 a year and a yearly increase of \$100 until a maximum of \$1,600 is reached. High school teachers will receive a minimum of \$1,200 and a yearly increase of \$100 until a maximum of \$2,200 is reached.

Twenty or more organizations, with a combined membership of many thousands of those who have to do with the raising of farm products and live stock, will hold their annual convention at Lincoln between January 19 and 24, the dates set for Organized Agriculture meetings. Negotiations are now being carried on with several noted speakers who will address the meetings. This year the farmers have many things on their minds, which it is expected will be brought up. In some respects the sessions will be as important as those held during the war. During the war the farmers were asked for a maximum production. Now they are wondering just what the future of farming will be during the next two or three years.

It is announced that any American Legion post in Nebraska can now have a women's auxiliary. State Commander Earl Cline in making this announcement stated that anyone desiring to organize an auxiliary should obtain blanks from our state headquarters at Lincoln. Membership will be limited to mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of members of the Legion, and mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of men and women who were in the service during the war.

Considerable comment was caused at South Omaha the other day over the arrival of thirty carloads of cattle sent to that market by the Crow Indians under government supervision. The man in charge of the shipment said the Indians had very good luck in breeding cattle, and proved apt students.

Governor McKelvie sanctioned the "furlough" of Beryl Kirk, Omaha bandit, who was released some time ago from the state prison on papers signed by State Senator Bushue while acting governor, two days before the man was given his freedom, the supreme court investigating committee was told by Attorney P. Petrus Peterson of Lincoln.

Burt county's farmers' union held a lively meeting at Tekamah the other day at which the organization went on record as being in favor of the establishment by farmers' associations of sugar factories over the state in an effort to smash the sugar trust.

The eleventh annual Nebraska farmers' congress, which was to be held at Omaha in December and was postponed because of the coal shortage, will be held soon after the first of the year, O. G. Smith of Kearney, its president, announced.

Dr. Dillon, chief of the state bureau of health, has sent letters from his office at Lincoln to local health boards in Nebraska, asking their aid in seeing that all dairy herds are tested annually for tuberculosis, as required by law.

State Engineer Johnson expressed the belief, after inspecting the forty or more army trucks, owned by the state, which were damaged by fire at the State Fair grounds at Lincoln, that many of the trucks can be saved.

The Nebraska College of Agriculture at Lincoln estimates that at least 25,000 farmers of this state will keep an accurate account of expenditures and income by using the college's farm record books this year.

Thrashing small grain has been resumed with the moderation of the weather in the vicinity of Surprise where there is considerable of that kind of work yet to be done.

Oscar Hansen, Fremont's crack shot, will probably be included on the team of the ten best trapshooters to represent the United States in the Olympic games at Antwerp next summer.

Municipal bonds in the sum of \$10,000 were recently sold at Theftford and arrangements are being completed for the establishment in the village of a system of waterworks.

In an effort to stamp out an epidemic of smallpox at Blue Springs schools have been ordered closed and a strict quarantine of all cases is to be kept.

Mrs. J. B. Bacon, Dawson county ranch owner, known as the "Alfalfa Queen," realized the sum of \$20,000 from a 500-acre alfalfa field this year.

Fifty farmers and business men held a meeting at Venango the other day and organized a Commercial club.

A number of extensive improvements are to be made in the Y. M. C. A. headquarters at Beatrice.

The Douglas county fair, which is usually held at Omaha, will be transferred to Waterloo next year.

Ex-servicemen of Cedar Bluffs are backing a movement to organize a post of the American Legion.

### CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION NOTES

Lincoln.—The convention adjourned following Friday's session until after the holidays, and, outside of some possible committee meetings, there will be no meetings of the members until time for reconvening on January 6. During the holiday recess delegates will mail to Secretary Barnard any proposals they wish to introduce.

Before the assembly broke up blank ballots were placed on the desks of members bearing the names of leading presidential candidates, to secure a stray vote of the convention. There were sixty-three ballots turned in, thirty-seven not voting. Some members seemed to take the ballot seriously, but not all. General Wood led, with thirty-six votes; Bryan was second, with five, while Jerry Howard, representing Douglas county and the "Irish republic," tied Senator H. Johnson of California for third place, both receiving four votes. Many other celebrities, including President Weaver of the convention, received complimentary votes.

Among the proposals before the convention is one by Hyrum of Franklin and Jackson of Nuckolls, which proposes a reorganizing of the civil government of the state, eliminating centralized power such as is placed in the governor's hands by the code bill. The proposal, which is attracting a great deal of attention, provides for ten departments as follows: Public welfare; public lands and buildings; labor; trade and commerce; finance; law; agriculture; public works; education; accounts; public utilities. The head of the department of public welfare would be the governor, with a salary of \$6,000 a year. The proposal would cut down the number of elective state officers to the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, treasurer and auditor.

The scale of compensation fixed by the committee in charge of this feature of the convention, allows Secretary Barnard \$10 a day; two assistants \$8 a day each; stenographers and engrossing clerks, \$6; sergeant-at-arms, postmaster, custodian of cloak room, assistant sergeant-at-arms, mimeographer, chaplain, janitor, bill room clerks and proof readers, \$5 a day each, and the two pages, \$3 a day each.

Synodists of Howard county has submitted a proposal which he claims will be pushed with vigor, calling for the election of state senators for a term of four years, one-half elected every two years and makes the number 34 instead of 33, as at present. It also divides the state into that number of districts. House members remain the same with terms of two years and the pay fixed at \$10 a day.

President Weaver of the convention has been informed that committees containing some of the ablest members of the convention will have very little work to do, in some instances practically none, while other committees are already swamped with work.

Members of the convention generally appear to be in favor of a resolution submitted by Davies of Boyd, which would elect supreme judges by districts and the chief justice of the supreme court by the entire state.

Abolishment of the state board of control and the state railway commission is the outstanding feature of a proposal introduced in the convention by A. H. Byrum and George Jackson.

Jury service for Nebraska women is provided for in a proposal by A. H. Byrum, Bloomington. He would also peremptory verdicts by less than twelve members of a jury.

The first 103 proposals introduced in the convention have been returned from the printer and were distributed to their respective committees last week for consideration.

W. H. Pitzer, Nebraska City, has submitted a proposal for a state industrial commission of labor, trade and commerce, to consist of three members appointed by the governor.

Proposals for a recall law, applicable to all elective officials, and a workable initiative and referendum law have been introduced by J. N. Norton, Polk county.

John L. Webster, president of the 1875 convention, will address the members of the convention on January 8.

The convention voted to invite W. J. Bryan, former secretary of state, to address the convention at a date to suit his convenience.

Bigelow, of Douglas county, introduced a proposal which would allow Omaha and Douglas county to consolidate their governments, in a manner to be provided by law.

The convention will be asked to authorize the state and municipalities to operate and establish public utilities and industrial enterprises whenever empowered to do so by a vote of the people.

Delegate Scott of Chase county is the father of a resolution before the convention which would abolish the indeterminate sentence law and forbid any official taking any action which would shorten the sentence of a prisoner, except the usual good time allowance.