

CONGRESS HEARS WILSON'S MESSAGE

President's Address to Both Houses Is Quite Short.

RAIL TROUBLES COME FIRST

Further Legislation on That Line Is Strongly Recommended—Bill Giving Foreign Commerce Promoters Free Hand Necessary.

Washington, Dec. 5.—President Wilson today delivered his message to both houses of congress in joint session. The address was as follows:

Gentlemen of the Congress: In fulfilling at this time the duty laid upon me by the Constitution of communicating to you from time to time information of the state of the Union and recommending to your consideration such legislative measures as may be judged necessary and expedient I shall continue the practice, which I hope has been acceptable to you, of leaving to the reports of the several heads of the executive departments the elaboration of the detailed needs of the public service and confine myself to those matters of more general public policy with which it seems necessary and feasible to deal at the present session of the congress.

I realize the limitations of time under which you will necessarily act at this session and shall make my suggestions as few as possible; but there were some things left undone at the last session which there will now be time to complete and which it seems necessary in the interest of the public to do at once.

In the first place, it seems to me imperatively necessary that the earliest possible consideration and action should be accorded the remaining measures of the program of settlement and regulation which I had occasion to recommend to you at the close of your last session in view of the public dangers disclosed by the unaccommodated difficulties which then existed, and which still unhappily continue to exist, between the railroads of the country and their locomotive engineers, conductors, and trainmen.

Railway Troubles First.

I then recommended: First, immediate provision for the enlargement and administrative reorganization of the interstate commerce commission along the lines embodied in the bill recently passed by the house of representatives and now awaiting action by the senate; in order that the commission may be enabled to deal with the many great and various duties now devolving upon it with a promptness and thoroughness which are, with its present constitution and means of action, practically impossible.

Second, the establishment of an eight-hour day as the legal basis alike of work and of wages in the employment of all railway employees who are actually engaged in the work of operating trains in interstate transportation.

Third, the authorization of the appointment by the president of a small body of men to observe the actual results in experience of the adoption of the eight-hour day in railway transportation alike for the men and for the railroads.

Fourth, explicit approval by the congress of the consideration by the interstate commerce commission of an increase of freight rates to meet such additional expenditures by the railroads as may have been rendered necessary by the adoption of the eight-hour day and which have not been offset by administrative readjustments and economies, should the facts disclosed justify the increase.

Fifth, an amendment of the existing federal statute which provides for the mediation, conciliation, and arbitration of such controversies as the present by adding to it a provision that, in case the methods of accommodation now provided for should fail, a full public investigation of the merits of every such dispute shall be instituted and completed before a strike or lockout may lawfully be attempted.

And, sixth, the lodgment in the hands of the executive of the power, in case of military necessity, to take control of such portions and such rolling stock of the railroads of the country as may be required for military use and to operate them for military purposes, with authority to draft into the military service of the United States such train crews and administrative officials as the circumstances require for their safe and efficient use.

Renews His Recommendations.

The second and third of these recommendations the congress immediately acted on: it established the eight-hour day as the legal basis of work and wages in train service and it authorized the appointment of a commission to observe and report upon the practical results, deeming these the measures most immediately needed; but it postponed action upon the other suggestions until an opportunity should be offered for a more deliberate consideration of them. The fourth recommendation I do not deem it necessary to renew. The power of the interstate commerce commission to grant an increase of rates on the ground referred to is indisputably clear and a recommendation by the congress with regard to such a matter might seem to draw in question the scope of the commission's authority or its inclination to

do justice when there is no reason to doubt either.

The other suggestions—the increase in the interstate commerce commission's membership and in its facilities for performing its manifold duties, the provision for full public investigation and assessment of industrial disputes, and the grant to the executive of the power to control and operate the railroads when necessary in time of war or other like public necessity—I now very earnestly renew.

The necessity for such legislation is manifest and pressing. Those who have entrusted us with the responsibility and duty of serving and safeguarding them in such matters would find it hard, I believe, to excuse a failure to act upon these grave matters or any unnecessary postponement of action upon them.

Not only does the interstate commerce commission now find it practically impossible, with its present membership and organization, to perform its great functions promptly and thoroughly, but it is not unlikely that it may presently be found advisable to add to its duties still others equally heavy and exacting. It must first be perfected as an administrative instrument.

The country cannot and should not consent to remain any longer exposed to profound industrial disturbances for lack of additional means of arbitration and conciliation which the congress can easily and promptly supply. And all will agree that there must be no doubt as to the power of the executive to make immediate and uninterrupted use of the railroads for the concentration of the military forces of the nation wherever they are needed and whenever they are needed.

This is a program of regulation, prevention and administrative efficiency which argues its own case in the mere statement of it. With regard to one of its items, the increase in the efficiency of the interstate commerce commission, the house of representatives has already acted; its action needs only the concurrence of the senate.

For Control and Operation.

I would hesitate to recommend, and I dare say the congress would hesitate to act upon the suggestion should I make it, that any man in any occupation should be obliged by law to continue in an employment which he desired to leave. To pass a law which forbade or prevented the individual workman to leave his work before receiving the approval of society in doing so would be to adopt a new principle into our jurisprudence which I take it for granted we are not prepared to introduce. But the proposal that the operation of the railroads of the country shall not be stopped or interrupted by the concerted action of organized bodies of men until a public investigation shall have been instituted which shall make the whole question at issue plain for the judgment of the opinion of the nation is not to propose any such principle. It is based upon the very different principle that the concerted action of powerful bodies of men shall not be permitted to stop the industrial processes of the nation, at any rate before the nation shall have had an opportunity to acquaint itself with the merits of the case as between employee and employer, time to form its opinion upon an impartial statement of the merits, and opportunity to consider all practicable means of conciliation or arbitration.

I can see nothing in that proposition but the justifiable safeguarding by society of the necessary processes of its very life. There is nothing arbitrary or unjust in it unless it be arbitrarily and unjustly done. It can and should be done with a full and scrupulous regard for the interests and liberties of all concerned as well as for the permanent interests of society itself.

Other Legislation Urged.

Three matters of capital importance await the action of the senate which have already been acted upon by the house of representatives: the bill which seeks to extend greater freedom of combination to those engaged in promoting the foreign commerce of the country than is now thought by some to be legal under the terms of the laws against monopoly; the bill amending the present organic law of Porto Rico; and the bill proposing a more thorough and systematic regulation of the expenditure of money in elections, commonly called the Corrupt Practices Act. I need not labor my advice that these measures be enacted into law. Their urgency lies in the manifest circumstances which render their adoption at this time not only opportune but necessary. Even delay would seriously jeopard the interests of the country and of the government.

Immediate passage of the bill to regulate the expenditure of money in elections may seem to be less necessary than the immediate enactment of the other measures to which I refer; because at least two years will elapse before another election in which federal offices are to be filled; but it would greatly relieve the public mind if this important matter were dealt with while the circumstances and the dangers to the public morals of the present method of obtaining and spending campaign funds stand clear under recent observation and the methods of expenditure can be frankly studied in the light of present experience; and a delay would have the further very serious disadvantage of postponing action until another election was at hand and some special object connected with it might be thought to be in the mind of those who urged it. Action can be taken now with facts for guidance and without suspicion of partisan purpose.

I shall not argue at length the desirability of giving a freer hand in the matter of combined and concerted effort to those who shall undertake the essential enterprise of building up our export trade. That enterprise will

presently, will immediately assume, has indeed already assumed, a magnitude unprecedented in our experience. We have not the necessary instrumentalities for its prosecution; it is deemed to be doubtful whether they could be created under our present laws, and we should clear away all legal obstacles and create a basis of undoubted law for it which will give freedom without permitting unregulated license. The thing must be done now, because the opportunity is here and may escape us if we hesitate or delay.

Porto Rico's Needs.

The argument for the proposed amendments of the organic law of Porto Rico is brief and conclusive. The present laws governing the island and regulating the rights and privileges of its people are not just. We have created expectations of extended privilege which we have not satisfied. There is uneasiness among the people of the island and even a suspicious doubt with regard to our intentions concerning them which the adoption of the pending measure would happily remove. We do not doubt what we wish to do in any essential particular. We ought to do it at once.

There are other matters already advanced to the stage of conference between the two houses of which it is not necessary that I should speak. Some practicable basis of agreement concerning them will no doubt be found and action taken upon them.

Inasmuch as this is, gentlemen, probably the last occasion I shall have to address the Sixty-fourth congress, I hope that you will permit me to say with what genuine pleasure and satisfaction I have co-operated with you in the many measures of constructive policy with which you have enriched the legislative annals of the country. It has been a privilege to labor in such company. I take the liberty of congratulating you upon the completion of a record of rare serviceableness and distinction.

Bound to Make Good.

The well-dressed stranger stepped into the drug store and, passing by the boy who usually attended to casual customers, approached the proprietor, who was arranging some goods in the show case.

"Mr. C—, I presume?" he remarked, pleasantly, and the druggist turned and bowed gravely. "I have heard my friend, Mr. Quorn, speak of you often," said the brisk man. "He told me if ever I needed anything in this line to come to you. He spoke of you as a man on whom one could rely with perfect confidence, who had out of the best of everything and with whom it was always a pleasure to deal."

"Mr. Quorn is very kind," answered the other, beaming with gratification. "He is one of our best customers. What can I do for you this morning?" "Well—er—this morning, as it happens," said the stranger, with just a little briskeness. "This morning I should like, if you will allow me, to consult your directory."

"Certainly," was the calm reply. "We also have a good selection of one and two-cent stamps as well as railway time tables, if you need anything of that kind."

Franklin Objects Seriously.

She isn't very large, that's true, but being a county seat, and boasting of a college, several factories, flour mills, railroads, interurbans and her lately acquired Masonic home, Franklin feels that she is not a town to be passed lightly by, in fact, she knows her importance, and thought that everyone in the state realized it until she was taken down a bit lately. During the big conference of the Methodist churches held recently in the town a meeting of the Indianapolis presbytery was in session at the same time at Hopewell, a country church in a prosperous farming community a few miles out. One of the Presbyterian delegates, on leaving the train joined in the throng headed for the Methodist church. When it came to registering, some of his inquiries caused someone to suggest that probably he was in the wrong place, and he asked innocently: "Isn't this Hopewell?"

"No, this is Franklin," was the proud reply.—Indianapolis News.

Rather Embarrassing.

Irvin Cobb, the war correspondent, home from Europe long enough recently to get his breath and look over the proof sheets of a new book, attended an authors' banquet in New York. A deaf man sat next to Cobb. Farther down the table another man told a funny story, and when he finished, the deaf man laughed and applauded louder and longer than any of the rest.

"Good old boy!" shouted the deaf man. "That reminds me of a story," he added to those near by. "Get up and tell it, Charlie," cried several. The toastmaster sanctioned the suggestion.

Then the deaf man got up and told the same story the other man had told.

He Was on the Job.

The undertaker arose and said to the mourners assembled: "If anyone present wishes to say a few words of tribute to the deceased, now is the time, when the family will be glad to hear such."

A stillness prevailed, and after a few moments of silence it was broken by a young man, who arose and asked: "Do I understand that no one wishes to make any remarks?" "It would appear so," replied the undertaker.

CONDENSED NEWS

OF INTEREST TO ALL.

The expense of waging the democratic campaign in this state was \$21,151, according to the report filed by Treasurer A. V. Johnson of the democratic state committee, with the county clerk of Lancaster county. The committee emerges from the conflict with a \$444 balance. The national committee contributed \$10,022 to the state committee. Senator Hitchcock and Keith Neville were the heaviest individual contributors. In all there were over 2,000 donors from among Nebraska democrats.

Several Sarpy county farmers who have lost all the way from 150 to 200 hogs from cholera after they were inoculated, have laid the matter before Senator Hitchcock, Congressman Lobeck and several state officials and legislators in an effort to interest them in the serum for cholera which, they claim, has been faulty in many cases. An investigation is promised in the serum business. One farmer near Gretna has a suit pending against a serum company for \$5,000.

Weeping Water's stone quarry has just closed a contract for 10,000 tons of sugar stone to be shipped to a large sugar refinery, which has plants in operation at Fort Morgan and Brush, Colo. This order will keep a large force of men busy at the plant most of the winter.

One mile of new paving has just been completed at Plattsmouth and there is some talk of trouble resulting from objections of property owners abutting the paved streets. It is said an injunction may be applied for to prevent the city from collecting the tax.

According to a letter received at Beatrice from one of the company C boys doing duty along the Mexican border in Texas, there is a possibility that the Nebraska regiments will be relieved from service before Christmas.

Box Butte county is entitled to the office of clerk of the district court, according to the number of votes cast at the recent election. The figures show a 17 per cent increase in population in the county during the past four years.

At the instance of the woman's club all the churches and the Commercial club of Friend have decided upon a community Christmas tree. A program will be arranged and it is the plan to make the program an annual affair.

The Holdrege Ad club closed a successful month's "Buy in Holdrege" campaign when it awarded two automobiles to its trade. Awards were based on cash purchases during the month, which totalled a little over \$125,000.

Fire completely destroyed the Episcopal church located at the Ponca Indian sub-agency, a few miles west of Niobrara. The church was built for the Ponca Indians nearly thirty years ago, and was valued at about \$1,000.

Approximately \$50,000 was spent by the Prosperity league in its fight against prohibition in Nebraska, according to a statement of expenditures filed with Election Commissioner Moorhead at Omaha.

The Beatrice Cold Storage company is building a concrete fireproof plant at Columbus, to take the place of the building destroyed some time ago by fire. The new building will cost about \$15,000.

Lincoln afternoon daily newspapers have increased the price from 1 cent to 2 cents a copy on the streets and at news stands. The advance in the price of print paper is given as the cause.

Twenty thousand dollars was subscribed during a three days' campaign to secure a Boy Scout Master for Nebraska at Omaha. Fifteen thousand dollars was the mark set.

Farmers in Gage county report winter wheat looking fine and say that it is in good shape to go through the winter without being damaged by cold weather.

The presidential election this fall cost Lancaster county just \$4,552.10, according to a report compiled by Deputy County Clerk Miller.

In the county court at Columbus two men were fined \$50 for selling meat from two cattle which had been the victims of the cornstalk epidemic.

It cost an average of \$33.28 per day to maintain Lincoln public schools during the first four months of the present fiscal year, July, August, September and October.

The new well for the water system at Dixon is nearly completed and work was started on the new electric light plant, both being owned by the city.

At the public sale of thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle at Tecumseh, fifty-six head were sold at an average price of \$179.20. Buyers were present from many states.

Oxford is in the midst of the great-est union revival in its history. Evangelist W. D. Hamilton of Sabetha, Kans., is leading it. A frame tabernacle has been put up for the meetings. Already converts number nearly 200.

M. E. Smith & Co.'s shirt and over-all factory at York is now in operation. Fifty girls are now employed, while the number will be increased to 200 in a short time.

Al F. McReynolds, a Johnson county farmer, received \$485.90 for a wagonload of clover seed. He marketed the seed in Tecumseh.

After twelve years of litigation a new drainage ditch, fifteen miles west of Dakota City, has been completed and the people of the community celebrated the occasion last Saturday. When the canal was first begun, 700 residents of Dakota county secured an injunction against the project. The case was carried from one court to another and altogether it was tried in the district court twice, twice in the Nebraska supreme court, in the U. S. supreme court and in the federal court at Omaha. The case was finally settled when the U. S. supreme court sustained the district court to dissolve the injunction. The decision was written by Justice Charles E. Hughes, republican candidate for president at the recent election. It is estimated the cost of fighting the case amounted to \$30,000.

A model aero club of Nebraska—whose members will build toy aeroplanes and hold contests under the auspices of the Aero Club of America is being organized in Lincoln by Dr. F. W. Buck. It is the doctor's plan to have a "flying day" about January 13, when all contestants will compete in class and sweepstake prizes. His office will be open Saturday morning only, during the first three Saturdays in December, for contestants to call and get information. Those not living in town have been asked to write to him. Any boy in Nebraska can join the club.



MRS. JOHN M. TANNER.

Who died November 26 from the result of burns received on the 22nd. The tragedy was brought about by her dress catching fire from a gas stove when she turned to use the phone. Mrs. Tanner was the wife of Senator-elect John M. Tanner, known to his friends as "Dock." Mr. Tanner has been editor and owner of the Omaha (formerly South Omaha) Democrat for years, and is a past president of the Nebraska Press Association. Both Mr. and Mrs. Tanner took great interest in the Press Association meetings, and did much to make the excursion last summer successful.

Hog and cattle receipts at the South Omaha stock market last month were the largest for the month of November in the history of the yards. The cattle supply for the month was 152,511 head, 8,900 more than during November, 1915. Thirty-five thousand more hogs were registered than any previous November, the total number being 276,638 head.

After lying idle in the Omaha National bank for twenty-one years, drawing no interest and practically unknown to anyone, \$7,643.62 has just been carried into court for distribution among the creditors of the estate of John W. McMenamy, who died April 8, 1890.

Lincoln financiers are planning a new hotel project for the Capital City. Those backing the proposition have made it known that the structure will cost around \$1,000,000.

The Hastings city council has authorized negotiations for the purchase of the old Methodist church property for a new city hall location. The site is offered at \$14,000.

County Commissioner James A. White of Otoe county died at his home in Palmyra a few days ago. He was a pioneer of Nebraska.

Complete investigation of the Bishop block fire at Norfolk shows that the loss will exceed \$60,000.

Saunders county is agitating the question of organizing a baseball league next summer. Several live fans of the county have undertaken the move of working up the proper sentiment with the intention of perfecting an organization during the winter. There has been some talk of including Fremont, located only a mile from the Saunders county border, in a circuit.

William J. Amos, an old resident of the Odell vicinity, has purchased eighty acres of land near Odell for which he paid \$112 per acre.

While Captain P. R. Halligan of company E, Nebraska National Guard, was on duty on the Mexican border his mother, Mrs. J. J. Halligan, of North Platte, conducted a vigorous campaign in his behalf and secured his election to the position of county attorney of Lincoln county.

Isaac Pollard, one of the early pioneers of Nebraska, and a leading horticulturist of the west, died at his home at Nehawka. Mr. Pollard owned the largest single orchard in this state and was recognized as an expert on fruit culture.

CONGRESS AT WORK

RECONVENES FOR COMPLETION OF SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION.

PROGRAM IS EXTENSIVE ONE

Immigration and Corrupt Practice Measures Will Be Acted On First; Railroad Legislation Up Early.

Washington.—The Sixty-fourth congress reconvened at noon last Monday for its second session which will end with the life of the present congress on March 4. The administration, although assured of control for four years more in all branches, excepting possibly the House of Representatives, has an ambitious legislative program all of which cannot be crowded into the next three months.

Where the administration is to draw the line on general legislation has not been determined. Party conferences will outline the program to be attempted in addition to the appropriation bills which must be passed to meet expenditures of government for the fiscal year 1917-1918.

When congress adjourned last September, the democratic senate caucus agreed that the immigration bill, with its off-vetoed literacy test, would be taken up and passed before consideration of any other legislation. It also had agreed to act on the Owen corrupt practices bill, a measure to limit expenditures in national political campaigns and to provide new penalties for election frauds.

Besides those two measures the memorable railroad eight-hour day fight which marked the last days of the last session had ended with legislation suggested by President Wilson unconsidered. It will be urged upon the congress by the administration above all other subjects.

In view of the probability that the administration is to face a divided Sixty-fifth congress, or at best a non-dependable plurality in the lower house, it is the hope of democratic leaders to complete before the March adjournment what remains of a constructive program of reform legislation long ago conceived. They include the public lands water power bill and the measure to provide for development of water power sites in navigable streams by private capital. There also is pending the Newlands' \$60,000,000 bill for general development and co-ordinated control of the country's waterways. Measures are pending also for conservation of mineral resources and improved control of the flood waters. Measures left over for which attention will be asked are the Shafroth bill to provide civil government for Porto Rico and the Hoke Smith bill to create a system of vocational education with federal aid throughout the states.

Russia's Prize If Allies Win.

Petrograd.—The semi-official news agency says that in the duma on Dec. 2 Premier Trepoff read a proclamation announcing officially that an agreement concluded by Russia, France and Great Britain in 1915 and later approved by Italy "establishes in definite manner the right of Russia to the straits of Constantinople.

The premier declared that the announcement was made for the specific reason to make known to the people of Russia what they are fighting for.

De Facto Again in Chihuahua.

Juarez, Mex.—Carranza forces are again in control of Chihuahua City and Villa and his band of outlaws have fled to the mountains to the west of the capital city. It was announced by General Francisco Gonzales, commander of the Carranza brigade here. No Americans have been killed in Chihuahua City by Villa, according to a private message received here from that city.

Reports Troop Ship Sunk.

Berlin.—The sinking by a German submarine of a 6,000-ton French transport filled with troops has been announced by the admiralty. The announcement follows:

"A German submarine on November 27, near Malta, sank the French transport steamer Karnak, 6,000 tons. The Karnak was crowded with troops destined for Saloniki."

To Reconstruct British Government.

London.—The political crisis has become acute. It is stated in well-informed circles that David Lloyd George, the war secretary, has threatened to resign in certain contingencies. It has been officially announced that Premier Asquith has decided to advise the king to consent to reconstruction of the government.

Banker Given Long Prison Term.

Waco, Tex.—T. R. Watson, bank president, was found guilty of murder and sentenced to ninety-nine years' imprisonment by a jury in the district court. Watson was charged with shooting and killing John S. Patterson, state banking commissioner.

Editor Acquitted of Charge.

Augusta, Ga.—Thomas E. Watson, author and editor, was acquitted by a jury in the federal court of the charge of sending obscene matter through the mail.