

## MUST BE DEFINITE

RAILWAY COMMISSION WANTS  
MORE DETAILED REPORTS

## TO AID STATE'S LAWMAKERS

Items of General Interest Gathered  
From Reliable Sources Around  
the State House.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

The state railway commission is insisting upon a more detailed report from railroad companies in regard to passes issued. In 1907 the Nebraska legislature passed an anti-pass law which makes it unlawful for a railroad to give or for persons to receive or use a free pass, employee and certain others excepted. This law has been in force in Nebraska ever since its passage. It requires railroads to file monthly reports of passes issued. Recently these reports have been meagre in form and have failed to show under what exception in the law the person receiving a pass is entitled to receive one.

The penalty under the Nebraska law for giving, or receiving or using an unlawful pass is a fine of from \$100 to \$1,000 for each offense. Every time such a pass is used would probably constitute a separate offense. The state law excepts the use of free passes by the following classes of persons:

Officers, agents, bonafide employees, the major portion of whose time is devoted to the service of such railroad company, and dependent members of their immediate families.

Children under seven years of age.

Officials and linemen of telegraph companies.

Ex-employees retired from service on account of age or their widows.

Ex-employees retired from service on account of disability sustained while in the service of said railroad company and the dependent members of their immediate families, or the widows or dependent children of all employees who die while in the service of such railroad company.

The corpse of any employee dying in the service.

Necessary caretakers of live stock, poultry, vegetables and fruit, including transportation to and from the point of delivery.

Employees of sleeping car companies, express companies, and railway mail service employees, news boys on trains, baggage agents and persons injured in wrecks and physicians and nurses attending them.

## To Aid the State Law Makers

A committee comprising legislators, attorneys and representatives of the legislative reference bureau called on Governor Morehead last week and later organized for the work of formulating recommendations to the legislature for the standardization of bills and legislative procedure. J. J. Thomas, one of the attorneys appointed by the state bar association was elected chairman of the committee and Miss Myrtle Keegan, an assistant in the legislative reference bureau, was chosen secretary. It will be some time before the committee formulates its report. The recommendations will probably be somewhat similar to those made by a joint legislative committee appointed for that purpose from the membership of the legislature of 1913, and which submitted its report to the governor and the members of the legislature of 1915.

## To Sue Douglas County Treasurer

W. G. Ure, treasurer of Douglas county and his bondsmen will soon be made defendants in a suit filed by the state of Nebraska, probably in the supreme court at Lincoln, to collect \$3,800 as interest at 10 per cent on state moneys which he held back at different times during the period from April, 1915, to and including February, 1916, and which he should have remitted monthly to the state treasurer. On the outcome of this suit will depend whether or not the state can collect similar penalties from other county treasurers of the state who have failed to make monthly remittances at different times since last February. If Ure is held liable for the interest charged against him by State Auditor Smith, the treasury will be enriched by several thousand dollars more from these delinquent officials.

## University Collegiate Debate

With eight intercollegiate debate victories out of the last ten contests in five years with Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Kansas, Nebraska teams for the 1916 battles will take the forum Wednesday evening, December 13. They will discuss with representatives of Kansas, at Lincoln and at Lawrence, the question of the incompatibility of the submarine warfare on commerce as now conducted with the rights of neutrals and the laws of nations regarding non-combatant enemies.

## To House All State Departments

In the event that a new state house is provided for Nebraska by the coming legislative session it will contain room for the state historical society and for the mammoth state library. That is the judgment of a number of legislators who are favorable to the new capitol and who want to see all state activities properly belonging to the state house government housed under one roof.

## COUNTIES OWE THE STATE

Total of \$46,785.78 for Care of County Insane Patients

Counties of Nebraska owe the state \$46,785.78 for the care of insane according to the report of State Auditor W. H. Smith. The total was \$96,000 when W. H. Howard, auditor, started to collect from the counties, Gage and Stanton counties have refused to pay and a suit involving the matter is pending in the supreme court.

Most of the counties that now owe the state have promised to pay and are making regular payments. Saunders county has paid \$10,833.49 to Auditor Smith and its account has been wiped off the books. Burt county paid \$2,003.31 and Boone county \$5,272.22 and are now square. In two years Auditor Smith has collected \$32,197.17 from counties. The amounts still due the state are as follows:

Box Butte	2,003.31
Butler	5,683.97
Colfax	2,500.00
Dakota	192.94
Dawes	1,061.31
Gage	3,225.79
Greeley	400.00
Hayes	607.99
Holt	2,414.93
Johnson	5,500.00
Keith	757.86
Lincoln	5,698.92
Logan	946.75
Madison	7,007.17
Pierce	1,552.75
Scotts Bluff	381.26
Stanton	2,213.36
Webster	3,337.47

Total \$46,785.78

## Quarter Million in General Fund

Nebraska's state treasury still contains a balance of nearly a quarter of a million dollars in the general fund, notwithstanding that the "lean season" for collection of taxes has been running for several months. The statement issued by Treasurer George Hall at the end of business for November shows \$247,000 still in that fund. The total cash in all funds on November 30 was \$1,289,000.

The general fund always runs down in November and December to the lowest point during the whole year. State Treasurer Hall figured last June that he would probably touch bottom with something like \$100,000 to go on, but now it looks as though the general fund balance will not be diminished much below \$200,000 until county treasurers begin remitting new taxes.

## Hunting for Oil in Nebraska

Any rewards the state may offer for a flowing well of oil may not be applied for within the next year, but there are several outfits in Nebraska now drilling for that product, and it is the belief of state officials that limited quantities may be located before long.

Three prospects are prominently mentioned—the areas in Cass, Furnas, and Dawes counties, where efforts are now being made to obtain petroleum. Indications in all three places are that good luck will be encountered and that what Nebraskans have hoped for for many years past will at last be realized.

The coming session of the state legislature will be asked to further aid the proposal of extending a pipeline to eastern Nebraska from the Wyoming oil fields. The last session appointed a commission to investigate the subject and the feasibility and desirability of the project will be reported to the session. It is stated here.

## Edgar Howard Speaks to Students

In a speech enlivened by bits of poetry to illustrate what can be done with words, Edgar Howard, lieutenant-governor-elect, editor of the Columbus Telegram, spoke to journalism students at the university, on the duties and opportunities of the editor. Mr. Howard asserted that while the city papers might be under the control of the public service corporations, the country editor was often no less subservient to the powerful interests in his community, and he urged an independent stand by those who entered the profession.

A comprehensive re-enactment of public health laws is quite apt to result during the coming legislative session. Dr. Carroll Fox, the federal physician, who reviewed Nebraska's conditions carefully a year ago, has made extensive recommendations behind which the greater share of the medical profession seems to be solidly entrenched.

## Will Banquet the Members

Seven of the writers of Nebraska's present constitution have been located and have indicated their willingness to attend the banquet to be tendered them Saturday night, December 30, by the legal association of Omaha. They are O. A. Abbott of Grand Island; A. G. Kendall of San Bernardino, Cal.; John Lee Webster of Omaha; James W. Dawes of Ottumwa, Ia.; Isaac Powers, Jr., of Norfolk; ex-Chief Justice M. B. Reese of Lincoln, and A. M. Walling of David City.

Governor-elect Neville has announced the following appointments: W. S. Ridgell of Alliance, re-appointed state fire commissioner, H. F. Requette of York, re-appointed deputy fire commissioner, J. H. Presson of Omaha, re-appointed recording clerk in the executive office.

George Koster of Niobrara named game warden to succeed Gust Rutenbeck of Seward.

William Wood of Lincoln has been chosen caretaker of the governor's mansion. He has held the place four years.

## U. S. SENDS PROTEST

WASHINGTON FORWARDS NOTE  
TO BERLIN ON DEPORTING CITIZENS OF BELGIUM.

## CALLED BLOW TO HUMANITY

Document Cabled to American Charge  
Grew After President Wilson Discussed Matter With Ambassador Gerard—Germany Defends Action.

Washington, Dec. 11.—A note to Germany protesting against the deportation of Belgians for forced labor was made public on Friday by the state department.

The note was cabled to Charge Grew at Berlin on November 29, the day Ambassador Gerard discussed the subject with President Wilson, with instructions that he read it to the German chancellor personally.

In making it public, the state department announced that the interview had taken place, but said nothing about results.

The text of the protest follows:

"The government of the United States has learned with the greatest concern and regret of the policy of the German government to deport from Belgium a portion of the civilian population for the purpose of forcing them to labor in Germany, and is constrained to protest in a friendly spirit, but most solemnly against this action, which is in contravention of all precedents and of those principles of international practice which have long been accepted and followed by civilized nations in their treatment of noncombatants in conquered territory.

"Furthermore, the government of the United States is convinced that the effect of this policy, if pursued, will in all probability be fatal to the Belgian relief work, so humanely planned and so successfully carried out, a result which would be generally deplored and which, it is assumed, would seriously embarrass the German government."

Senator Lodge introduced a copy of resolutions adopted by the American Rights league at Boston, condemning the deportation from Belgium of non-combatants and calling upon congress "to support the president of the United States in every measure he undertakes to maintain America's traditional position as the friend and the champion of all the oppressed."

Berlin, Dec. 11.—The German government issued a statement on Friday in explanation and justification of the transfer of Belgian laborers to Germany. It says the measure is by no means a hardship for the laborers, but is a social necessity.

Owing chiefly to the British embargo against Belgium's overseas trade which before the war supported a large part of the industrial population, large numbers of Belgian workers are idle, the statement says, and conditions are growing worse.

## FRENCH BATTLESHIP IS LOST

Suffren Left Port November 24—Has  
Not Been Heard From Since—  
730 on Board.

Paris, Dec. 11.—The battleship Suffren, which left port on November 24, has not been heard from since, and the minister of marine considers the vessel lost with all on board. The Suffren sailed for Lorient, a French naval station in Brittany. The Suffren displaced 12,750 tons. Her normal complement was 730 men. She was 410 feet long and 70 feet of beam, and was laid down in 1890. She was armed with four 12-inch, ten 6.4-inch and eight 4-inch guns, 22 3-pounders and four torpedo tubes. Last year the Suffren took part in the bombardment of the Turkish forts at the Dardanelles.

## TWELVE MARINES WOUNDED

Americans Kill Eleven in Battle With  
Forces of Governor Perez of  
Santo Domingo.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The navy department received word on Tuesday from Capt. Harry Knapp, commanding the United States forces at Santo Domingo, that in an engagement between United States marines and forces of Governor Perez of San Francisco, D'Macoris, on the night of November 29-30 11 natives were killed. About a dozen Americans were wounded, several seriously.

## Poultry Men Are Indicted.

New York, Dec. 7.—Indictments based on an investigation of the so-called poultry trust, which is alleged to have cleared about \$200,000 through controlling the city's live poultry market during the last year, were handed down on Tuesday by a grand jury, charging violation of the state anti-trust act.

## Hawaii Has Population of 237,633.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Hawaii has a population of 237,633, an increase of 45,714 over 1910, according to the annual report of Governor Pinkham. The greatest increase was among the Japanese.

## Shoots Wife; Kills Himself.

Grays Lake, Ill., Dec. 11.—Edward Madole shot and seriously wounded his wife in their home, and, locking his five children in the building, he set it afire. Then he killed himself. The children were rescued.

## FLICKERING!



## BUCHAREST IS TAKEN TO HEAD NEW CABINET

PLOECHTI, IMPORTANT RAILWAY  
STATION, ALSO CAPTURED.Fall of Roumanian Capital Marks Cul-  
mination of Brilliant  
Campaign.

Berlin, Dec. 8.—Bucharest, capital of Roumania, has been captured, it was announced officially here on Wednesday.

Ploechti, the important railway junction town, 36 miles northwest of Bucharest, also has been taken.

Field Marshal von Mackensen's troops, advancing victoriously, approached the railway line running northward from Bucharest to Ploechti, causing the Roumanians to evacuate their positions north of Sinalia, the war office announced.

South of Bucharest the Teutonic troops have occupied other towns along the River Alt. More than 6,000 Roumanians were captured.

The capture of Ploechti, on the railway running north from Bucharest, cuts the main line of retreat for the Roumanian armies operating in the Bucharest region. The official statement does not indicate whether the entry of the Teutonic forces into Bucharest and Ploechti was simultaneous. The capture of Ploechti before that of the capital would be far more serious for the Roumanians.

The taking of Bucharest virtually completes the conquest by the Teutonic forces of the southern section of the Roumanian kingdom, embracing territory of more than 50,000 square miles.

## THOMAS J. HICKEY IS ELECTED

St. Paul Man Chosen President of  
American Association at  
Indianapolis.

Indianapolis, Dec. 11.—Thomas J. Hickey of St. Paul was elected on Friday president of the American association, defeating President Thomas M. Chivington, who was a candidate for re-election. Hickey was the first president of the association when it was organized in 1902. The vote was 5 to 3.

The election of Hickey to the presidency is a victory for the Cantillon forces on that minor organization. It is a defeat for George Tebeau and his backers who dominated the league for many years.

Louisville was chosen as headquarters for the American association. A committee of five was appointed to confer with representatives of the International league on the question of a series of interleague games.

## JOHN D. ARCHBOLD IS DEAD

Associate of Rockefellers for 40 Years  
Expires at Tarrytown, N. Y., After  
Illness of Two Weeks.

Tarrytown, N. Y., Dec. 7.—John Dustin Archbold, capitalist, president of the Standard Oil company of New Jersey and officer or director in various other enterprises, died at his home here on Tuesday, after an illness of two weeks following an operation for appendicitis.

## Leather Shortage Ties Up Report.

Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 11.—It was announced here on Friday that reports of the supreme court of appeals of West Virginia cannot be made public because of a scarcity of leather with which to bind them.

## Congressman Tribble Dies.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Representative Samuel J. Tribble, who represented the Eighth Georgia district for three terms, died at a local hospital. He was stricken with apoplexy in his office on the opening day of congress.

DAVID LLOYD-GEORGE WILL RE-  
PLACE ASQUITH AS PREMIER.Reported That General Joffre, Com-  
mander in Chief of Allied  
Armies, May Resign.

London, Dec. 7.—David Lloyd-George has overthrown the Asquith cabinet and will become prime minister himself.

The new government will be coalition, like the old one, but probably without the same measure of harmonious support which attended the formation of the first coalition government, because its birth has created additional factional differences.

There was a prospect that the personal offices of the king might solve the situation, and many thought that the Asquith regime might be continued. The king called the party leaders to Buckingham palace and conferred with them for more than an hour. Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd-George of the Liberals, Bonar Law and Mr. Balfour of the Unionists and Mr. Henderson of the labor party were present.

It is many years since a British ruler assembled the representatives of the different factions face to face when they had shown themselves unable to settle their differences. But no such serious crisis has arisen before to require such action by the king.

The king gave an audience to Mr. Bonar Law, who declined to undertake the formation of a new ministry, and then to Mr. Lloyd-George, who accepted the responsibility, as everyone anticipated he would if the opportunity came to him.

The official announcement that Mr. Lloyd-George had undertaken the task, with the co-operation of Mr. Bonar Law, was a notification that the new government would be coalition.

There is strong ground for belief that Mr. Asquith, who resigned as premier last night, will have no place in the new coalition government.

Dispatches from Paris quote political writers as saying that the political upheavals may be followed by the resignation of General Joffre.

There are reports that the French government may be changed so as to concentrate authority for quicker decisions and action.

## ERB IN JAIL REVEALS PAST

Former Railroad President, Held at  
Chicago as Automobile Thief,  
Breaks Silence.

Chicago, Dec. 8.—The "cheekered career," a term often applied to the experiences of one who has practiced various occupations with dubious success, was applied to the past of Louis Erb, former railroad president, and now under indictment as an automobile thief in Chicago. Erb was the principal witness for the state in the trial of Mrs. Elvina Stiles, recently acquitted of the charge of being the head of an automobile thieves' trust.

Breaking his silence regarding himself for the first time since his arrest, Erb said that he has two brothers, Newman and Louis, one president of several railroads and a copper magnate, worth \$50,000,000, and the other a former judge, and Chicago lawyer, now in London.

## Steer Brings Record Price.

Chicago, Dec. 9.—"California Favorite," grand champion steer at the International Live Stock show, sold to a Detroit firm for \$1,977.50. The animal was the property of the University of California.

## 50,000 Farmers Apply for Loans.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Officials of the farm loan board announced that 50,000 farmers have applied for mortgage loans aggregating approximately \$150,000 more than the amount available for loans.

## 2 AMERICANS SLAIN

HOWARD GRAY OF ILLINOIS SHOT  
AND THEN HANGED BY VIL-  
LISTAS AT PARRAL, MEX.

## ANOTHER CITIZEN IS BURNED

British Subject Also Murdered—Min-  
ing Man Killed While in Doorway of  
Home and Body Suspended—Sixty  
Carranzistas Have Ears Cut Off.

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 9.—Government agents sent a report to Washington on Thursday saying an American named Foster had been mutilated, then burned at the stake by Villa bandits operating near Torreon. The report was said to have been brought by refugees coming to the border from Torreon. They also reported 60 Carranzista soldiers, with their ears cut off by Villa bandits, near Torreon. Foster's son was forced to witness his father's execution, the report said. Foster was an American hacienda superintendent.

Guillermo Snyman, son of the late Gen. W. D. Snyman of Boer war fame, is reported to have met his death at the hands of Villistas at San Pablo Meoqui, Chihuahua, near Chihuahua City.

Howard Gray, an American mining man at Parral, Chihuahua, was killed by Villa bandits when they entered the town November 5, according to a telegram received by the Alvarado Mining and Milling company. The messenger reports all other Americans safe and American property unharmed. Gray has a sister, a Mrs. Bowman, residing in El Paso. He was born in Peoria, Ill.

Gray was shot to death in the doorway of his home, near Parral, and his body then hanged by a band of Villa bandits from Villa's main column, two foreign refugees who reached here from Parral reported.

Cincinnati, Dec. 9.—The man murdered by Villa bandits and known in Mexico as Howard Gray, is, in fact, Howard Weeks, brother of Dr. R. Weeks, a dentist of this city. Doctor Weeks said Weeks had used the name as Gray while in Mexico for business reasons. Howard Gray formerly lived in Denver, according to his brother.

## BOYCOTT ENDS EGG CORNER

Prices Drop 10 Cents at Chicago Fol-  
lowing Drastic Action Taken by  
Women—Foodstuffs Lower.

Chicago, Dec. 9.—The "egg corner" is smashed.

Food prices are tumbling.

Speculators, packers and produce men are "unloading."

This was the good news brought to Chicago housewives on Thursday on the heels of the opening of the federal grand jury hearing, egg and butter boycotts, and a report of warehousemen showing the selling out of big holdings of eggs.

Eggs have dropped 10 cents a dozen, wholesale, in the last ten days. Butter is 4 cents cheaper than it was a week ago. Potatoes started on the downward road with a drop of 5 to 8 cents in the week. Southern fruits and vegetables came down from 8 to 10 cents.

While packers and produce men were inclined to hold the boycott responsible for the drop in prices, the big shift came with the opening of the federal grand jury's investigation of food prices.

That the packers and warehousemen and produce men are "unloading" hoarded supplies of foodstuffs became known immediately after a conference between Arthur Meeker, vice president of Armour & Co., and United States District Attorney Charles F. Clyne.

## LINER CALLED A TRANSPORT

Note From Germany Contends Subma-  
rine Commander Believed Arabia  
Was Carrying Troops.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Germany in a note made public on Thursday by the state department contends that the British steamer Arabia, sunk in the Mediterranean November 6, was in reality "a transport ship for troops in the service of the British government, which is to be considered as an auxiliary warship according to international law, and can, therefore, be treated like a warship." The German government's attitude, however, like that in the Marina case, is expressed to be one of readiness to make amends if it be shown that the submarine commander violated Germany's pledges to the United States and made a "regrettable mistake."

It may be said that the United States does not regard the circumstances that the German note recites as showing justification for sinking the Arabia without warning or as relieving the submarine commander from establishing the status of the liner.

## Australia Trade Increase.

London, Dec. 11.—The trade commissioner of New South Wales reports that figures show that in the last three years Australia's trade with America has increased 500 per cent, or \$45,000,000.

## Allies Drop Bombs on Trieste.

Rome, Dec. 11.—Two Italian seaplanes raided Trieste Thursday, according to an official statement issued by the admiralty. The statement says that the raiders dropped five bombs on naval sheds and returned unharmed.