

# DOWN TO BUSINESS

LEGISLATURE RESUMES ITS WORK OF ORGANIZATION

Items of General Interest Gathered from Reliable Sources Around the State House

**Western Newspaper Union News Service.**  
Both houses of the legislature have resumed their work and settled down to the grind that confronts them.

The house named its committee, the senate initiated Lieutenant Governor Howard into the mysteries of lawmaking and listened to Ex-Lieutenant Governor Tom Majors tell of the olden days in law making.

In the selection of house committees there was little dissension in the democratic caucus. That body met and put the seal of approval on the activities of the committee on committees.

It took new ground in barring the members of the committee on committees from membership on the sifting committee, the body which takes charge of the general file at the end of sessions. This is done for the purpose of keeping control of lawmaking from one committee or one set of men, and to give new lawmakers and those old lawmakers who have participated heavily in the early session something to do in the windup.

Richmond of Douglas landed the cities and towns chairmanship. Keegan of Omaha, who was slated for the place, was deposed by his colleagues. Ollis of Valley captured the headship of the education committee, while Regan of Platte gets the railroads committee.

Trumble of Sherman will preside over the affairs of the corporations committee.

### Names a Bank Examiner

Governor Neville has appointed one state bank examiner and two inspectors in the state fire insurance commissioner's office. He has named Charles White of Sutherland as a bank examiner. No vacancy in the list of nine state bank examiners has been announced, but it is supposed that the appointment of Mr. White means that the governor will consider all of the examinerships vacant and will proceed to reappoint or to name new examiners. The bonds and commissions of all examiners soon expire. A short time before the end of Governor Morehead's term, S. M. Hall was appointed examiner to take the place of E. N. Van Horn, who had resigned to go into the banking business. The other eight examiners at the present time are S. M. Patterson, M. C. Wilde, T. R. Riley, E. E. Bennett, S. A. Lapp, A. D. Touzalin, John Boatman and J. H. Donnelly.

The women suffragists of Nebraska will ask the state legislature to give them limited suffrage at the present session. An effort has been made in advance to ascertain the opinions of the senators and representatives on what is known as "presidential suffrage," which means that the once weaker sex will be given the right to vote for all officers not named in the state constitution.

This bars their voting for governor and state officers and judges of courts, but opens the gates to their casting of ballots for president and vice president, congressmen and municipal officers.

The women who have been interesting themselves in the matter feel very much encouraged over the attitude of the legislators, although opposition has been encountered in both bodies.

### May Limit Druggists Sales

While no official action has yet been taken by the committee of lawyers that has been engaged in drafting the Nebraska dry federation prohibition law, a practical agreement has been reached whereby the bill will be changed to conform to the wishes of the druggists, and that it will shoulder upon them the task of supplying the needs of the communities in the matter of alcohol. In other words, their sales will be limited to alcohol, and all beer, wines and brandy will be cut out.

This agreement was reached in a meeting with the officers of the state pharmaceutical association.

### Proposes New Game Laws

Superintendent W. J. O'Brien of the state fisheries has filed a report with the chief game warden in which he recommends the following changes in the game laws:

Open season on black bass from April 1 to June 1, instead of April 1 to November 15. Fix size limit at which channel cat, croppie and striped perch may be legally taken. Prohibit seining of minnows for bait purposes except in running streams, and impose a severe penalty for taking or destroying immature fish.

### Murschel Takes Charge

Otto Murschel is at his new office with the state pure food commission, where he is the commissioner. Food Commissioner Clarence E. Harman issued a final statement and retired. To replace G. C. Turnipseed, the secretary, who will become deputy county clerk, Governor Neville has appointed T. V. Thomas of Seward. Only one change is announced on the staff of inspectors. To replace one who has resigned, the governor has appointed G. H. Nichols of Fairfield, who will be in charge of the dairy department.

### HASTINGS MAN CHOSEN

John M. Teeling Elected to Carry Votes to Washington.

John M. Teeling was chosen by Nebraska's eight presidential electors to carry their votes to Washington, D. C., and cast them for Woodrow Wilson for president and Thomas R. Marshall for vice president. The selection came after what is said to have been the longest period of balloting ever indulged in by Nebraska electors. On the sixty-sixth ballot, after five hours of almost continuous voting, Mr. Tee-



**GEORGE W. POTTS**  
Of Pawnee county, by acclamation elected to succeed himself as chief clerk of the house of representatives, state legislature.

ling received five of the eight votes cast and was declared elected.

During the first twenty-two ballots Mr. Teeling alternated with Felix Gallagher of Rosalie in claiming the honor of being high man. During most of that time one would poll three votes and the other two, with the other three votes scattered among the six other electors. On the twenty-third ballot Mr. Teeling assumed the lead, and from then on to the sixty-sixth he was never headed.

### Henry Richmond Buys a Chair

Representative Henry Richmond of Douglas county is the possessor of a fine, leather-upholstered oak swivel chair, which is conspicuous in the house chamber on account of its superior appearance to the other furniture. He bought it himself and paid \$13 of his own money for it. The chair has Mr. Richmond's name painted on the back.

"I had an attack of lumbago right after coming to Lincoln and I couldn't sit with comfort in the hard wooden chair," explained Mr. Richmond. "So I got an upholstered one. That's all there is to it. I presume there will be no objection so long as I am paying for it myself."

### Results of Compensation Act

The sum of \$76,143 was the balm for industrial injuries in Nebraska under the workmen's compensation act in the first eleven months of 1916, according to the annual report of Labor Commissioner Coffey. The amount in 1915 was \$24,923. The total number of reports filed with the labor commissioner was 10,822 in 1916, compared with 4,082 in 1915. There was settlement of six fatal cases in 1916, averaging \$1,041.46 for each case. Sixteen fatalities in 1916 averaged \$1,221.31 each.

### Rural Life Conference

At a meeting of religious interests at the university farm recently it was decided that the next annual rural life conference should be held there June 4 to 15 inclusive. This date was selected because it covers a period during which commencement exercises will be held by educational institutions and because many folks interested in the conference come to Lincoln for commencement addresses.

J. F. Webster of St. Paul, new state printer, performed his first official act Friday morning. He signed the name of the governor, Neville, and his own, to the first new voucher under the present administration, to reach State Auditor Pool. It was for stationery from a Lincoln printing company.

Wrestling, basketball and indoor track, with about 400 Cornhuskers participating will be the sports schedule at the university until the spring months. Basketball will keep about 200 men busy. The varsity season will commence next week when the Nebraska team will invade Iowa, playing the small colleges there. The conference season is slated to start at the end of the month, with the Kansas Aggies as Nebraska's opponents. The latter school is angry because Nebraska would not schedule a football game at the end of the 1917 season.

### Over Half Million in Warrants

Warrants issued in the office of State Auditor W. H. Smith, for the month of December, totalled \$526,719.90—over a half a million dollars—according to his monthly report just made public. Of this sum \$250,825.75 was from the general fund, in 2,389 warrants. The largest other item was \$85,165.53 from the normal school fund. The sum of \$76,784.79 went to the university fund, \$30,207.99 to university cash, and \$30,443.02 to special university building.

## CONDENSED NEWS

OF INTEREST TO ALL.

### DATES FOR COMING EVENTS.

Jan. 24-25—Nebraska League of Municipalities convention at Hastings.  
Feb. 7-9—Nebraska Retail Lumber Dealers' Association Convention at Omaha.  
February 15—State Volleyball Contest at York.  
February 20-21—Nebraska Clothiers Association Meeting at Omaha.  
Feb. 26 to March 3—Omaha Automobile Show.  
March 5 to 10—First Annual Auto Show at Lincoln.  
March 6 to 10—Mid-West Cement Show and Convention at Omaha.

It was decided by the committee in charge of the national swine show, which is to be held in Omaha October 3 to 10, to give \$10,000 in cash prizes this year. This will be divided between the Chester Whites, Durocs, Berkshires, Poland-Chinas and Hampshires.

P. F. Peterson, president of the U. P. Steam Baking company, at Omaha, declared the war has caused more than 1,500 bakers throughout the United States to suspend business, and he estimated that fully as many more are on the verge of bankruptcy now.

The Dodge county board of supervisors cut the total estimates for the expense of running the business of the county for the coming year \$26,000 as compared with last year's figures. The decrease is in the general bridge and drainage funds. The total estimate is \$145,000.

A teacher-parents' club has been organized at Neligh. The purpose of the club is to attain closer co-operation between parents and teachers, which is expected to materially aid the pupils in every line of study.

Word has been received at Beatrice from Llano Grande, Tex., to the effect that the Fifth Nebraska regiment, now doing duty on the border, had been quarantined for diphtheria at camp headquarters.

Fremont citizens are agitating the question of a new union depot for the city. Efforts will be made to induce the Union Pacific to spend a part of the 1917 budget in improving its system and property in Fremont.

Nearly twice as many miles of road were graded in Lancaster county last year than during the previous twelve months. The total was 412, while during the year 1915 it was only 270.

Over a million and a half dollars in sales was made by the Dempster Mill company of Beatrice during 1916, more than \$100,000 above the previous year.

An embargo on freight shipments over the Union Pacific lines which has tied up more than 500 cars in the Omaha and Council Bluffs yards since December 26, has been lifted.

Wolves have been doing considerable damage in Gage county and the farmers are making plans to hold a big circle hunt. Many chickens and pigs have been killed by the wolves.

The Deshler Coffee Mills company has been organized at Deshler with a capital stock of \$100,000. A two-story building to house the concern is to be constructed.

Bonds to the sum of \$25,000 will probably be voted upon by the people of Fremont at the spring election for the purpose of building a new auditorium.

Lincoln is soon to have a new manufacturing concern. Gooch Food Products company has filed articles of incorporation, with a capital stock of \$300,000.

At a primary to select a popular candidate for postmaster at Petersburg Emil H. Mack got 222; John B. Cameron, 155, and George Probst, 81.

Richardson county, after being under the township form of government for thirty years, is now back to the old system of commissioner form.

Two hundred and seventy-one marriage licenses were granted in Adams county during 1916 as compared with 245 the previous year.

Eleven thousand dollars was the price paid for 82 acres of land in Fillmore county recently.

The old Peter Jansen ranch of 640 acres near Jansen, was sold recently for \$86,000.

Two Wolbach women were ordered by Judge Woodrough of Grand Island to pay to the United States funds loaned them shortly after the beginning of the European war. The ladies in question were in Germany when aided by the government.

Mrs. Myrtle McClellan and James Erskine were fined jointly the sum of \$2,325.20 by District Judge Grimes at North Platte for the violation of Nebraska liquor laws. This is said to be the heaviest fine ever administered in Lincoln county for such an offense.

General Joseph R. Webster, attorney general of Nebraska in pioneer days, and former resident of Lincoln, died in Washington, D. C., a few days ago. Gen. Webster had a wide acquaintance throughout the state.

Jerry Keen, a farmer living southwest of Stella, has lost nine head of horses recently, death being due, it is thought, to some form of acute poisoning.

Charles W. Kaley, a well known citizen of Red Cloud, prominent in political circles and world-wide traveler, died in Los Angeles, Cal.

Through a co-operative plan, managed by Miss Esther Warner, Seward county agent, the members of the Seward County Home-Makers' association realized 30 per cent more than regular market price for dressed poultry during the Christmas trade. Names of purchasers were secured by Miss Warner in Omaha, Lincoln and other large towns in the state and the produce was sent direct to the consumer by parcel post, C. O. D. from a convenient marketing place in the county. Plans are under way for a series of poultry meetings throughout the county in the near future.

The official figures just compiled by the several live stock markets of the country for the year 1916 show that Omaha is unquestionably the second market in the country. Chicago is still at the head of the list. It is contended from time to time in Kansas City that the market there is the second largest in the country. The figures show that in 1916 Omaha received 7,722,032 head of stock and Kansas City received 7,067,575. These figures show that Omaha received 654,457 head of stock more than the contender for second place. Chicago stands firmly in first place with 16,729,048.

It has been definitely decided that the 1917 National Swine Show will be held at Omaha, the dates being October 3 to 10. The show will again be staged in the big barn at the South Omaha stock yards. A new feature will be added to the show this year. There will be night exhibitions. This was one of the few defects of last year's show.

Four hundred and fifty farmers and business men of Gage county have lodged a protest with the County Board of Supervisors against paying the salary of the farm demonstrator. Nearly as many favor the county paying the demonstrator and January 23 has been set as the date for hearing both sides of the case.

Falls City A. O. U. W. members are greatly agitated over the increase in rates voted at the grand lodge meeting at Omaha. Many of the older men will be compelled to drop their membership and many of the younger men will drop out through sympathy for the older men.

The Fremont Milling plant is working on a 5,000-barrel order of flour that will be shipped to Chicago for use in making unleavened bread. It will require over three weeks, with the plant running night and day, to complete the order. The bread is eaten by Jewish people during the feast of the passover.

The farmers of Dodge county plan on doing considerable ditching the coming season. Two new ditching machines costing \$2,000 and \$2,300 each, have been purchased, one by Lewis Bros., the other by Leo Merley. Both parties have large contracts for work, beginning in the spring.

The Hastings Chamber of Commerce has advised State Senator Walter E. Hager that Hastings will give twenty acres of well located ground for a building site for a new state capitol on the condition that the capital of Nebraska shall be moved from Lincoln to Hastings.

Val Peters, publisher of the Omaha Tribune, has purchased the Platte River Zeitung, the only German newspaper in Dodge county. The paper was published at Fremont and was established in 1885. Mr. Peters will consolidate the Zeitung with his Omaha journal.

The cost of running Lancaster county for 1917 will be \$74,500 higher than last year, according to the estimate adopted by the county commissioners providing for expenditures of \$460,000. The 1916 budget was \$386,000.

A campaign has been launched to increase the Hastings college endowment fund to \$500,000.

The Nebraska grand lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen adopted the national fraternal congress schedule of rates, which will mean a general increase on all members, at a meeting in Omaha. The new rates will be even higher than those imposed in 1915, which were found inadequate. Provision has been made for a reduction from \$2,000 to a \$1,500 policy.

Seventy-eight head of cattle were sold for an average of \$775 a head at the Mousel Brothers sale near Cambridge.

Coal at cost is being sold to the people of Falls City by city authorities.

The new Masonic building at Alliance is nearing completion. Alliance Masons declare they will have one of the finest lodge buildings in western Nebraska when this work is finished. The structure represents an outlay of \$30,000.

According to figures compiled by a Lincoln newspaper the Capital City's valuation has doubled in the last twelve years. In the year 1905 the total valuation was \$38,600,000; in the year just closed it jumped to \$70,000,000.

Frank A. Anderson, grand master workman, has appointed R. O. Marcell, cashier of the Merchants' National bank of Nebraska City, grand treasurer of the A. O. U. W. of Nebraska to fill the vacancy caused by the death of E. L. Dodder of Omaha.

The mortgage record for the past year in Gage county shows that a total of 314 farm mortgages were filed aggregating \$995,256.09, and 343 released, aggregating \$895,614.37.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Young, of Brock, recently celebrated their sixty-first wedding anniversary.

## FIGHT "PORK" BILL

OPPONENTS OF PUBLIC BUILDING MEASURE SAY MANY PROJECTS ARE NEEDLESS.

Congress Wants to Make Big Appropriations but Has Trouble Getting Its Courage Screwed Up to the Sticking Point.

By GEORGE CLINTON.

Washington.—Congress dares one day and does not dare the next. The majority gets its courage screwed up apparently to the sticking point and then something comes to make it recede rapidly. Congress wants to pass the omnibus buildings bill while the president, it is said, does not want it to pass, and one day it makes up its mind to pass it and the next day it changes its mind.

Years ago the name "pork" was given to each of two measures which come yearly before congress, the public buildings bill and the rivers and harbors bill. It is needless, of course, to say that many of the buildings for whose erection provisions have been made, and many of the rivers and harbors for whose improvement money has been voted, have been necessary for the good of the country.

The charge, however, from both Democrats and Republicans all over the United States is that proper discrimination is not made by congress between the good and bad propositions contained in these measures. The friends of such legislation always spring to its defense. The row has been going on for years.

It has been pretty well understood this year that President Wilson does not want his party in congress to pass the public buildings bill as it is at present written. It calls for \$38,000,000 for the erection of federal buildings in different parts of the country. The necessity of economy is urged by some members of both parties in house and senate as a reason for withholding consideration from the bill as it has been presented. Its proponents declare that every item in the bill is justifiable. The struggle is on. If the bill passes it is said that the president stands ready to veto it, but this, of course, is a matter for future consideration.

### 417 Projects in Bill.

The total number of projects provided for in the measure is 417 with authorizations amounting to \$38,794,700. Public buildings and their construction are under the control of the treasury department, the secretary of which in his estimates asks for authorizations of money for building purposes. In the present public building bill the names of 61 towns and villages appear of which the treasury department made no mention in its report. In other words, congress, acting on its own behalf, has gone far beyond the estimates submitted by Secretary McAdoo.

The officials of the government this year have said that nearly one-fourth of the entire building appropriation is needless, unwise and extravagant. On the other hand, the members of congress who desire that these buildings shall be erected say that it is due to the people of the smaller towns in the country that Uncle Sam should be represented throughout the land by proper buildings and by adequate facilities for all his purposes and that if the building is too big the needs of the places will grow to meet it. The basis of the argument really is, however, that as all the people are taxed for all the federal buildings that the smaller places should be given recognition and that Uncle Sam loses nothing by keeping his nephews and nieces satisfied.

### Want Parks Made Accessible.

A conference has just closed in Washington which brought together a surprisingly interesting group of men and women. It was the National Parks conference.

There are many congresses or conferences, call them what you will, in Washington every year, but perhaps more than all the others there attaches to the National Parks Conference what may be called the higher human interest. The object of this conference is to influence public opinion in favor of national parks, and to urge the necessary legislation to make the parks accessible to the people of the country, to maintain them in all their original beauty and grandeur and to endeavor to find ways and means to secure an "economic hospitality" within their limits for Americans who are not blessed with great riches. In other words, the effort is to make the national parks truly national playgrounds.

Let us take one of the meetings of this and enter the doors. It is evening and on the walls of the great hall in the National Museum are hanging the wonderful pictures painted by American artists and setting forth the glories of color, of sky, mountain, tree and valley of the national parks of America. The most famous of our artists here are represented.

Gathered to look at the pictures and to listen to the addresses from scientists, educators and nature lovers on the value of the parks to the people, are men and women whose names are known in scientific, art and educational circles generally throughout the world. In addition here are men interested in the outdoor life, in the preservation of the big game, of birds, and of the fish of the country in order that the people may benefit economically and that the wild life may be preserved within the limits of its natural ranges.

Here is Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian institution, one of the best-known geologists of the world, and a scholar of high standing in other branches of the sciences. When he was a boy Charles D. Walcott used to take a little hammer and wander through the gorges and ravines of the foothills of the Adirondacks in Central New York, chipping off specimens of rock to add to the little cabinet which he kept in his home. He was a boy enthusiast, and his enthusiasm lasting, he persevered in his studies and his writings and finally he became one of the world's noted scientists.

Here also is Dr. T. S. Palmer in charge of the work of game preservation in the biological survey. Doctor Palmer perhaps more than any other man is responsible for the legislation looking to the federal protection of migratory game birds. He knows all about wild animals' sanctuaries and about the continued prevalence here and there of the various species.

Here is Enos Mills who lives either in or at the edge of the Rocky Mountain National park in Colorado. His writings are known throughout the land.

Here is Mrs. John Dickinson Sherman, conservation chairman of the General Federation of Women's clubs, a great organization of women which is working for the establishment of national parks and for their maintenance forever for the people of the country.

Here is Stephen T. Mather standing by the side of Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane who is his immediate chief. Ever since he came into office Mr. Mather has given his entire time and energy to the development of the parks and to the furtherance of plans to make them accessible to the people.

Here is Orville Wright, the aviator, who is to talk on air routes to the national parks, and here are dozens of others, all keenly interested in the great works of nature.

The men and women who are gathered at this National Parks Conference are the men and women who do things in this world.

### Gossip Buoy Over "Leak."

A leak ordinarily is understood to be a small thing, but the recent leak in this capital city actually inundated the town with excitement.

The charge that somebody in advance of the president's peace note told stock speculators that it was to be expected, has been exploited pretty thoroughly in the press. Washington is a gossip place, and within 24 hours stories were afloat that this man or that man, the names being given, was responsible for giving away the administration's secrets and for making some millions in Wall street for one set of speculators and losing them for another.

In the senate of the United States the chairman of the committee on foreign relations said flatly that he believed that the leak had come from the state department and he intimated that he thought it came from employees holding high and confidential positions. This statement of Senator Stone set the gossips' tongues wagging once more, but it relieved the anxieties of certain innocent persons not in the state department whom scandal-loving Washington had charged by word of mouth from one person to another with being responsible for the betrayal of state secrets.

It is criminal for one charged with news gathering to jump at conclusions in this town. Men gossip and women gossip, and you can hear anything that you want to or do not want to about this man or that man, and even about this woman or that woman, and the more prominent in official or social life the person is the more certain it is that things that ought not to be said will be said.

### Gossips Busy Over Leak.

Take the leak case. One heard at every street corner and in every hotel corridor in the city of Washington, that a certain man of high official position, whose name was given, had met another man whose name was given, at a certain place and at a certain time, one located definitely, and the other given to the minute, and had tipped him the peace note secret.

A little inquiry showed that the official of the government had not met the man and had not been at the place mentioned at any time, let alone at the hour set for the meeting when a trust was said to have been betrayed.

The plan for the writing of the peace note was in President Wilson's mind for three weeks. He said so at the time that there was an intimation he had put it out suddenly in order to have it appear coincidentally or almost coincidentally with the German note suggesting that peace might be had on certain terms. When a state paper is being prepared the state department and the White House are, of course, in communication one with another and of the very necessities in the case at least half a dozen and sometimes a dozen men know something about the matter. There are records to be consulted, precedents to be studied and then, of course, there is the writing and the typewriting, all of which involves the inclusion in the "secret circle" of employees.

It seems to be generally admitted that there was a leak somewhere along the pipe line of information. There have been leaks before in the history of the United States government. Certain parts of the presidents' messages have been known in places where they ought not to be known prior to the date of release. A foreshadowing of what the president was going to say in his message on some matter of moment has affected stocks in Wall street.