

# THE LABOR BUREAU

TO BE ORGANIZED IN ALL NEBRASKA COMMUNITIES.

## LATE NEWS FROM CAPITOL

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

Western Newspaper Union renews service. Because labor is likely to be the limiting factor in increased production this year, plans for a state-wide labor bureau system to bring farmers and unemployed together have been mapped out by the extension service of the Nebraska college of agriculture.

This program, which has been nation-wide in scope, provides for the organization of labor bureaus in all Nebraska communities. These bureaus will list labor available and calls for labor, bring idle men in touch with farmers, and report excess or deficiency of labor to a county labor bureau which will be directed by the county agricultural agent or by some other county organization. The county bureau, in turn, will canvass its labor situation, equalize its labor, and report to the state labor bureau at Lincoln. By arrangement with the governor and the state department of labor, all labor bureau work of the state will be correlated and the state labor bureau will office at the state house. E. L. Rhoades will be delegated by the U. S. department of agriculture and the college of agriculture to co-operate with Labor Commissioner Norman.

### Plans for Semi-Centennial

The past week was one of great activity for the executive committee of the semi-centennial celebration. Under the auspices of the American Automobile association, automobile races will be held on the first day at the State Fair grounds and many of America's most prominent drivers have been secured.

A contract has been let for the most elaborate scheme of decoration that the city of Lincoln has ever undertaken. A new lighting scheme of red, white and blue lights for the principal streets of the city is to be inaugurated by the city commission. It is estimated that 50,000 flags will be used in the decoration of private homes, business buildings and streets.

A contract has also been let for a display of fireworks for each evening of the celebration. Though the government may deem it inadvisable to manufacture fireworks in the future because of the much needed materials for munitions, the fireworks already manufactured cannot be used for war purposes and consequently there is nothing unpatriotic in carrying out this important feature.

Special invitations have been sent out to prominent Nebraskans throughout the United States and to each governor throughout the union. A special committee will shortly visit the governors of the bordering states and present to them a personal invitation to be present.

### Will Make a Test Case.

In order to determine whether or not any of the various substitutes for beer, sold under various names, can be legally made and sold in Nebraska, Governor Neville, acting in conjunction with Attorney General Reed, will institute a test case in Douglas county. It will involve the question of whether mock beer that several Omaha breweries are making and selling come under the definition of the prohibited liquids of the law. Leonard A. Flansburg, one of the authors of the prohibitory law, has been retained to assist the attorney general in the matter. No compensation has been fixed in advance for his services.

### Government to Aid Nebraska Farmers.

A special agent for the United States government, representing the department of agriculture, will hereafter be stationed permanently in Lincoln to assist the farmers of Nebraska in securing labor needed for planting, cultivating and harvesting crops. This line of work is being undertaken in all the agricultural states as part of the national campaign for maximum food production.

Mr. Williams, the government's representative, will have his headquarters at the office of State Labor Commissioner Norman in the capitol. He will visit different sections of the state and help to organize farm communities to make intelligent use of labor as it may be supplied.

The office force in Land Commissioner Beckman's department are preparing an index to the sale contracts for state school lands, which will show at any time the amount yet due on any particular tract. Balances due draw 5 per cent interest.

Loyalty of foreign-born citizens of Nebraska of German descent to their adopted land is being shown in the voluntary service, without pay, for registration under the conscription law. Thayer county, which has an exceptionally large number of German citizens, is the first county to send in its completed list of volunteers for registration duty under the draft law. Its complete list has been received by Governor Neville. Among those who have volunteered their services are a large number of well known German residents.

## ANSWERS MANY QUESTIONS

Attorney General Reed Discusses Workings of Prohibitory Law. Attorney General Willis E. Reed has given out a written opinion for the benefit of Nebraska druggists who submitted a list of questions to him for information relative to the working of the prohibitory law and the steps necessary for druggists to observe all provisions of the act.

Mr. Reed holds, in the first place, that no registered pharmacist or corporation nor any member of a corporation can legally purchase or obtain alcohol for manufacturing purposes without first securing a permit from the governor. Several sections of the prohibitory law are quoted for the information of the druggists.

Relative to the handling of biters under proprietary names it is his opinion that anything which the federal law allows to be sold without a government liquor permit and the payment of internal revenue tax may be handled without violating the state law. As to whether particular brands conform to the federal requirements, he does not attempt to decide.

"Is there any possible way for a doctor to procure pure alcohol on a prescription, or otherwise, for personal use?" is another question which was put up to the attorney general. He answers by saying that if the doctor desires it as a beverage, the purchase would be unlawful, but if used for medicinal, mechanical or scientific purposes, it would not violate the statute.

Attorney General Reed refuses to advise the druggists on how denatured alcohol should be labeled, that being a legal question but merely calling for the exercise of good judgment and the avoidance of misrepresentation.

In regard to the selling of essence of Jamaica ginger, he says that the same rule should govern as in the case of "biters."

As to whether or not a druggist should take out a government permit for handling alcohol, Mr. Reed says that it is not for him to determine. He suggests that Internal Revenue Collector Loomis of Fremont is the proper man to answer this query.

Other questions as answered by Mr. Reed are:

There is nothing in the state law to prevent a druggist from taking out a federal permit.

Possession of a receipt for internal revenue tax paid the United States is prima facie evidence of unlawful sale or furnishing of liquor in any prosecution that might be brought but would not be conclusive evidence.

Malt extract, being a heavy beer preparation prescribed by some physicians as a tonic, comes under the same classification as "biters" and Jamaica ginger.

### New Law Regarding Auto Plates

Secretary of State Pool has written all county treasurers, calling their attention to the new law that provides a special type of number plate for automobile manufacturers and dealers. The law permits a manufacturer or dealer to use duplicates of this number on machines which are employed for demonstration purposes in making sales. He must secure his duplicates, however, from the secretary of state, and must pay the county treasurer 35 cents extra for each one. The county treasurer will remit the money to the secretary of state in payment, as he does for ordinary automobile licenses.

Any firm or person dealing in automobiles at more than one city or town must obtain a separate and distinct certificate of registration, and a different number, for each place of business.

As the new laws goes into effect in July, and as it will take four to six weeks to have the duplicates manufactured, Secretary Pool is asking county treasurers to see that dealers in each county are properly notified so that they will file their applications in plenty of time.

The penalty for violation of the act is a fine not exceeding \$50.

### Legislators Tender Resignation.

Henry C. Richmond of Omaha, a member of the Douglas county delegation in the last legislature, has tendered Governor Neville his resignation to accept the appointment of secretary of the state council for defense. Mr. Richmond is the second legislator to resign. W. C. Dorsey, who was recently appointed district judge, having given up his seat some time ago.

### SEEDS TESTED FREE

Samples May Be Submitted to the State Food Commissioner

It is doubtful whether there has ever been a time when it was of greater importance that every person sowing seeds of any kind should know the quality of the seed used, says a bulletin issued by the Nebraska state board of agriculture. All kinds of seeds are high in price and it is very desirable that every one produce.

The new seed law, passed by the 1917 legislature, is already in force. In general it is not very different from the old law. One of the important changes is that the seed testing is now to be done without charge. Section 4 says, "Any resident of the state may submit fair samples of seeds to the state food, drug, dairy and oil commissioner, who shall, without charge cause an analysis of the same to be made." Samples should be taken so as to be representative of the lot of seeds from which they are drawn and mailed with the name and address of the sender to the state food, drug, dairy and oil commissioner, Lincoln, Neb. A half cup is sufficient.

## MINOR NOTES FROM ALL PARTS OF NEBRASKA

### DATES FOR COMING EVENTS.

June 4 to 7—Nebraska State Dental Society Meeting at Omaha.  
June 5 to 7—Nebraska-Iowa Funeral Directors Joint Meeting at Omaha.  
June 5-6-7—State Association of Postmasters' Meeting at Lincoln.  
June 12, 13 and 14—Semi-Centennial celebration at Lincoln.  
June 15 to 24—Nebraska State Holiness Association camp meeting at Lincoln.  
June 18-20—Nebraska Press Association Annual Convention at Omaha.  
June 19—Annual Meeting State Pharmaceutical Association Meeting at North Platte.  
June 19-20—Nebraska State Sunday School Convention at Omaha.  
June 25 to 27—International Ass'n. of Railway Special Agents and Police Meeting at Omaha.  
June 25 to 30—State Golf Tournament at Lincoln.

The government should take over the country's wheat supply and set the price at \$1.50 a bushel, declared Paul F. Skinner, president of the Skinner Manufacturing company of Omaha in a public statement. He said the wheat prices are being kept high by speculators.

Praise for the federal reserve bank system and a pledge to aid the government in any possible way were the dominant features of the meeting of group No. 1 of the Nebraska Bankers' association, comprising fourteen southeastern Nebraska counties at Lincoln.

The Burlington railroad company announces that all employees receiving less than \$250 a month, excepting those whose wages are fixed by agreement, and laborers whose wages recently were raised, will receive a 10 per cent advance.

First of any customers outside of the banks announced to buy war bonds, the "Liberty Loan," is the Omaha Commercial club. It has authorized its treasurer, to take \$2,000 from its treasury and invest in these securities.

Teaching of the German language in the public schools of Nebraska, made possible by the passage a few years ago of the Mockett law, will probably be abandoned next year in all schools, according to reports.

Two barrels and two kegs of high-proof whisky and fifteen barrels of bottled beer were found in the cellar of a Pender resident. The man was arrested on a charge of having liquor in his possession illegally.

Fred Fuller of Hazard scored a new mark for clipped lambs, on the South Omaha market when he sold a batch for \$16.45, or 60 cents better than the best price ever paid before.

Orleans is soon to have a new public library, the cornerstone for the structure having been laid a few days. Nebraska Masons were in charge of the ceremony.

It is announced that the Ak-Sar-Ben festival held in Omaha yearly will neither be abandoned nor curtailed because of the war.

Members of the Fremont branch of the Navy league have undertaken to knit a packet for each sailor on the battleship Nebraska.

The Lincoln Drug company, of Lincoln, is the first drug firm in Nebraska to secure a permit to sell liquor under the prohibitory law.

The Union Pacific conservation special, which toured the state just recently visited fifty-six towns, traveled 850 miles and 22,000 persons attended the meetings.

It is announced that the annual Nebraska tennis tournament will be held at Superior July 23 to 28, as sanctioned by the United States National Lawn Tennis association.

An unknown supporter of the Grand Island chapter of the Red Cross has offered \$100 in prizes for the best potatoes grown this season. Twenty-five dollars is offered for the best bushel, \$20 for the next best, \$15 for the next, \$10 for the next and then six \$5 prizes.

Organization of a nation-wide "Barefoot Brigade" to save shoe leather is being advocated by Omaha's city garden supervisor. Every boy and girl in the United States would become a member by going barefoot in the summer.

The skeleton of a man was plowed up by a farmer at his place near Winnebago while breaking sod in the field. His plowshare struck the skull at a depth of about four inches. To all appearance the body must have been buried more than fifty years.

The Boy Scout movement in Omaha is growing rapidly. It is now made up of thirty-three troops, 675 Scouts, while nearly twenty new troops are in the process of organization. Four months ago there were eight troops and 160 Scouts.

The Burlington railroad has a force of men at work grading a new right of way for the Columbus branch as it enters the city from the east, the aim being to straighten the curve and make the signal lights visible.

Farmers of Seward county have a well developed organization to combat the gopher pest, and it is believed the campaign will stop a loss of more than \$60,000 a year.

A force of men is at work on the foundation of the shirt factory at Beatrice which M. E. Smith & Co. of Omaha will soon establish.

The Nebraska Grand Lodge A. O. U. W. of Nebraska failed to reach an agreement during the recent session at Omaha and adjourned with both insurgents and regulars claiming a rate victory. The insurgents claim the adoption of the Sunbeam rates, which is about 25 per cent below the N. F. C. schedule adopted last January. Regulars claim the resolution, which received a majority vote, required a two-thirds vote; therefore, did not pass. The court may be called upon to decide the controversy. John Stevens of Beaver City was elected grand master workman. Lincoln was chosen for the 1919 session.

Nebraska faces the prospects of a lumber famine during the next six months, according to prominent dealers over the state. It is said that the mills have tightened up on shipment because of prospects of large demands by the government for ship building. One Omaha firm has been forced to lay off 100 salesmen, because of the uncertainty of filling orders.

Nels Merryman, proprietor of one of the biggest wheat farms of Nebraska, located near Kearney, owns more than 25,000 bushels of wheat—all he has produced in the last two years. "I haven't sold a bushel in two years," he said. "The price is satisfactory, but I am going to look out for my neighbors who haven't got enough wheat for seed."

The first test case of Nebraska's dry law was held in the district court at Omaha a few days ago, when an Omaha druggist who was fined \$100 and costs in police court for having a barrel of alcohol in his cellar, appealed to the higher tribunal. The lower court's decision was upheld. The case may be appealed to the supreme court.

The biggest man in the United States army—in weight—is reputed to be Roy L. Stone of David City. He enlisted in the field artillery. He weighs 250 pounds. The maximum weight under the rules is 190 pounds. His surplus was waived by the recruiting office, because he was physically perfect otherwise.

A government army balloon en route from Fort Omaha to Junction City was fired upon near Liberty, by a farmer, one of the bullets piercing the big air bag. The balloon landed near Odell, south of Beatrice, and the men in charge secured the farmer's name. He offers no explanation for the shooting.

The South Omaha market is tightening its hold on second place for the big markets, and is now far ahead of Kansas City, which nosed out about two years ago. The Omaha market leads the Missouri city by well over 600,000 head, with prospects of a lead twice this size by the end of the year.

Trading in futures has been discontinued on the Omaha grain exchange. The grain business, resultingly, has resolved itself into purely a supply and demand proposition. The man who has grain to sell hunts a customer, and the man who desires to buy finds one who has grain to sell.

C. R. Lamm of Gering sold a shipment of lambs on the South Omaha stock market last week which netted him \$20 per hundred pounds. It was not only the highest price ever paid for fed lambs on the Omaha market, but the highest ever heard of before on any market in the country.

The Alliance chapter of the Red Cross society has been active, raising \$200 recently by a tag day. The chapter's membership is growing rapidly.

Dogs and chickens are causing so much trouble in Fremont that a campaign of enforcement of the dog and chicken ordinance is now under way.

The Fremont gun club has leased its grounds to a farmer who will plant the ground to beans and corn. The tract comprises ten acres recently purchased by the club.

A Grand Island merchant offered the kids of the town the other day the weight in oranges for all the dandelions brought to the store. Within the time set for delivery over 5,500 pounds of dandelions were delivered. Eighty boxes of oranges were carried away by the kiddies.

Nebraska is included in a list of states given out by Postmaster General Burleson in which it will be unlawful to mail letters, postal cards or publications containing liquor advertisements under the Reed law. The act is effective July 1.

It is reported that more than \$1,500 worth of automobile tires and accessories have been stolen from cars on Omaha streets during the past month. The method employed by the thieves, is to carry jacks and pry up the wheels so that the tires can be removed.

A. C. Watson of Plainview continues to top the South Omaha market with his cattle. Just the other day he sold a shipment for \$18.10 per hundredweight, the highest price ever recorded up to that day.

Women voters in Douglas county under the new suffrage law will not be compelled to tell their exact ages. Election Commissioner Moorhead announced. All they will have to say when registering will be "over 21."

C. E. Gunnels, who has been the county agricultural agent of Seward for the past year, will leave June 1 to take up the management of all the farm extension work in Nebraska.

The first municipal Boy Scout troop established in the United States was organized at Ralston an Omaha suburb.

# In the PUBLIC EYE

## HIGH IN DEFENSE COUNCILS



One of the busiest men in all the United States is Walter S. Gifford. Before the war broke out he was merely a graduate of Harvard and one of those creatures called "statisticians." If you can imagine a dryer, more unattractive thing than a statistician let's hear it.

But the training in that line put him in position to take a job for Uncle Sam, a job of utmost importance, a recruiting, mobilizing job which knows neither bugle nor drum, neither parade nor brass buttons. Yet it is as important a feature of recruiting as any at this time of national peril. He is the big recruiting sergeant of the industries of the nation. Officially he is director of the Council of National Defense.

We used to think, before Germany broke out in this conflict, that war was a big shooting match; that you could hire an army, put on its fine uniforms, give it guns and ammunition, raise the flag, get a band to play a few patriotic airs and let the army do the fighting for us, while the rest of the country went about its business with more or less bated breath.

But modern war, we have seen, mobilizes every atom of strength a nation possesses. Here is where the Council of National Defense came in. To use Mr. Gifford's words: "The Council of National Defense created by act of congress the latter part of August, 1916, consists of the secretaries of war, navy, agriculture, interior, commerce and labor. The act declares the duties of the council to be 'the co-ordination of industries and resources for the national security and welfare.'"

## WOULD GIVE UP GREAT ESTATE

The countess of Warwick, owner of 23,000 acres, has issued a stirring appeal to the landed aristocracy of Great Britain to follow the example of the Russian grand dukes and turn over all their feudal properties to the state.

"We must go," she says. "The aristocracy of England in its position of hereditary landowners must go. The country rings with suggestions for the betterment of the conditions under which land is cultivated, but as I see things the suggestions are in no instance drastic enough. The only cure for the present evils seems to me to be state ownership, the abolition of all private property in the earth that was given to all of us in common."

"For the betterment of social conditions in England a supreme sacrifice is required. It is no more than justice that the men who have offered their lives in this war for Britain should have the freedom of Britain for their reward. It is an injustice that kills men to fight for the land and leaves it in the hands of a fraction of those who fought. To me it is impossible that in the future 'his grace' or 'my lord' should own square miles of the mother earth for which Tom died and Dick was sorely wounded and Harry fought unscathed. We who are in the high places should retire from them in the real halo of renunciation, and our act of sacrifice would be a better memorial than the best of us could have hoped to gain."



## WORKS FOR FRENCH WAR ORPHANS



Miss Florence Schofield was in Paris when the German army threatened its destruction in 1914. She beheld the spirit of the men who saved their capital and its inhabitants from peril, and as some return for her own safety and that of others who were, with her, she turned to work for the widows and children of the 25,000 young men who died at the battle of the Marne and elsewhere. Allying herself with a committee of Frenchwomen, she went about among the bereaved families and learned their needs. Finding means inadequate at home, she was asked by the French committee, which had expanded with the months to the scope of a national organization, to come to America and plead their cause.

Before beginning her special work of mercy, Miss Schofield went to England and persuaded her friend, Miss Fell, to aid her in her mission. On coming to this country late in 1915, the two women delegates of the Fatherless Children of France allied themselves and their work with the American Society for the Relief of French War Orphans, with headquarters in New York, in the membership of whose national committee are several prominent Americans, including Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Elihu Root, Robert Bacon and Joseph H. Choate.

## CONTROLS FUEL OF NATION

Francis S. Peabody of Chicago, head of large Illinois coal interests, has been selected by the Council of National Defense as chairman of its sub-committee on coal. Mr. Peabody will assume supervision of the production, distribution and consumption of coal throughout the country. For the present he will act in an advisory capacity.

He will see that no producer holds back a needed supply, that the railroads carry coal promptly to vital points and that no consumer uses more than the situation justifies. In a sense he will be the nation's fuel controller.

The government is determined to avoid a coal shortage that would not only embarrass military operations, but would cause suffering to the civilian population. The needs of the allies must also be considered. Already every railroad in the country has been ordered to give traffic preference to coal and iron ore. Although the federal trade commission will soon report to congress the result of its coal investigation, Senator Calder a few days ago asked an inquiry into the anthracite industry. He said: "There is not enough coal in New York to supply the people for thirty days."

