

## THE 1917 STATE LEVY

\$4,500,000 TO PROVIDE FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

Many Items of Interest Gathered from Reliable Sources at the State House.

Western Newspaper Union News Service. Nebraska's state tax rate for the year 1917 was fixed by the state board of assessment at 8.48 mills, after formally approving all valuations as reported by county assessors and overruling the protest from Douglas county asking to have merchandise and other items reduced.

The total levy is an increase of 2.38 mills over 1916, but of this amount only .4 of a mill has been added by the state board, the remaining 1.98 mills of increase being due to special levies which the legislature provided for by statute. The general fund levy was raised from 3.4 to 3.8 mills, in order to take care of the heavy appropriations which the legislature made to come out of it.

The total state tax levy of 8.48 mills, as fixed by the board, is estimated to produce in the neighborhood of \$4,500,000 of revenue. Based on a total valuation of \$529,139,000, it would yield \$4,487,099 if all the taxes were collected. As a small percentage of taxes each year is not collected and becomes delinquent, there will be a slight reduction on that account. On the other hand, delinquent taxes and interest, paid in for former years, will come in. It has also been found from past experience that the actual taxes paid in by most counties exceed advance estimates, as more property is added to the tax lists after the returns are made to the state board.

### Are Buying No German Books.

Christian A. Sommer, member of the state library commission, says no German books have been bought by the commission since he became a member of the commission. This statement he made as a result of inquiry as to the kind of literature the commission is sending out over the state. The commission has charge of the state traveling library, an institution supported by legislative appropriations. Mr. Sommer was appointed on the commission by Governor Morehead. He succeeded F. L. Haller of Omaha as a member. The other members of the commission are Chancellor Avery, Librarian M. C. Wyer of the university and H. C. Lindsay, state librarian. The commission has 18,000 books subject to circulation among the people of Nebraska. More than one hundred of the books are printed in the German language. Some of these were purchased at the request of Mr. Haller.

### Must Prepare for Car Shortage.

Lincoln.—The national association of manufacturers is sending out warnings to Nebraska manufacturers that they must prepare for a car shortage that will come along in thirty days when the railroads begin the movement of troops and supplies to the cantonments.

In the east, according to advices, big shippers are collecting funds with which to provide space for storage of government materials at shipment destinations in order to release thousands of cars which would otherwise be taken out of circulation. A year ago during the first rush of export business to Europe hundreds of thousands of cars were lying in terminal yards on the Atlantic seaboard and a nationwide shortage resulted.

It is planned now to prevent a similar toup as a result of the cantonment business by providing warehouses and keeping cars moving. Shipment will be in all directions and there will be little hauling of empty cars.

### Honor System Pictures at Lincoln.

Pictures of the honor system for inmates of the penitentiary were shown at Lancaster last week by courtesy of the Fox Film corporation. Warden W. T. Fenton of the Nebraska penitentiary says he believes these pictures should be shown wherever possible, as they handle the problems of interest to everyone concerned in prison welfare. He declared the pictures were handled in an excellent manner, and that they show up the advantages of the honor system in their true light.

### May Adopt New Rules.

A new rule requiring all municipalities and private corporations operating waterworks or sewerage systems in Nebraska to file with the state health department plans for extensions or new plans, which must be approved by it before work begins thereon, will be submitted to the state board of health, comprising Governor Neville, Attorney General Reed, and State Superintendent Clemons for its adoption. The proposal is made by H. P. Letton, sanitary engineer for the reorganized health department.

### County Agent Medium of Defense

Under the provisions of administration's food control bill the sum of \$115,000 has been set aside for county agent work in Nebraska. This will be sufficient to put a county agent in every county in the state, and provide a food emergency agent for each district where regular county agents are not employed. County agents and food emergency agents will be put to work organizing and mobilizing agricultural Nebraska for maximum production.

## REGISTRATION DAY FOR WOMEN

Nebraska Women Urged to Sign Up for War Service.

September 12, has been officially designated as registration day for the women of Nebraska, in a proclamation issued Saturday by Governor Neville directing attention to the many avenues of work which the sex has taken up throughout the country assisting in the conduct of the war. The governor says:

"We are engaged in the greatest war of all time. The outcome virtually depends upon the effectiveness of the participation of our country, and upon the effectiveness of that participation rests our future as a nation.

"It will not suffice that we merely send an army to fight side by side with the armies of our allies. We must mobilize the millions of people who remain behind for such service as they can best render. Nebraska has set an enviable example in effective co-operation with the federal government in all things calculated to further our country's interest in the great struggle, and no class of people is sacrificing more unselfishly than the noble women of the state.

"In a brief period of time thousands of the finest and most stalwart young men to be found in any nation will represent Nebraska in the army of our country. Nothing must be left undone that comfort or conserve their lives and energies.

"In order that this end may be accomplished and the efforts of the thousands of women, many of them the mothers and sisters of our soldiers, be effectively co-ordinated, I, Keith Neville, governor of Nebraska, at the solicitation of the patriotic women of Nebraska, designate Wednesday, September 12, as registration day for women, upon which day and date they may register for such service as they are willing and able to render throughout the present emergency."

### Corn Crop a Record Breaker.

Nebraska's corn crop for 1917 will approximate 228,000,000 bushels, exceeding the production of last year by 35,600,000 bushels, according to the government crop report for August 1. This increase in corn makes up in some degree for the loss of winter wheat. The crop of the latter grain for this year is estimated at 10,900,000 bushels, as compared with 64,000,000 last year.

A good increase in total production of oats is also noted in the forecast. This year's production is estimated at 97,300,000; last year's was 70,875,000.

Spring wheat will make a better showing than last year, the forecast being 6,270,000, while the production last year was 3,750,000. Barley shows a slight gain, from 3,620,000 bushels this year to 3,080,000 last year. Rye production is less, the crop of this year, 2,700,000, falling under last year's yield of 3,072,000.

A big increase is noted in both potatoes and apples, in Nebraska. The August forecast for spuds is 12,500,000 bushels, when last year the crop was 7,665,000. Of apples a crop of 812,000 barrels of three bushels is expected while last year the production was 567,000 barrels.

Hay production was about at a standstill, the yield of all kinds this year being 7,130,000 tons and last year, 7,200,000 tons.

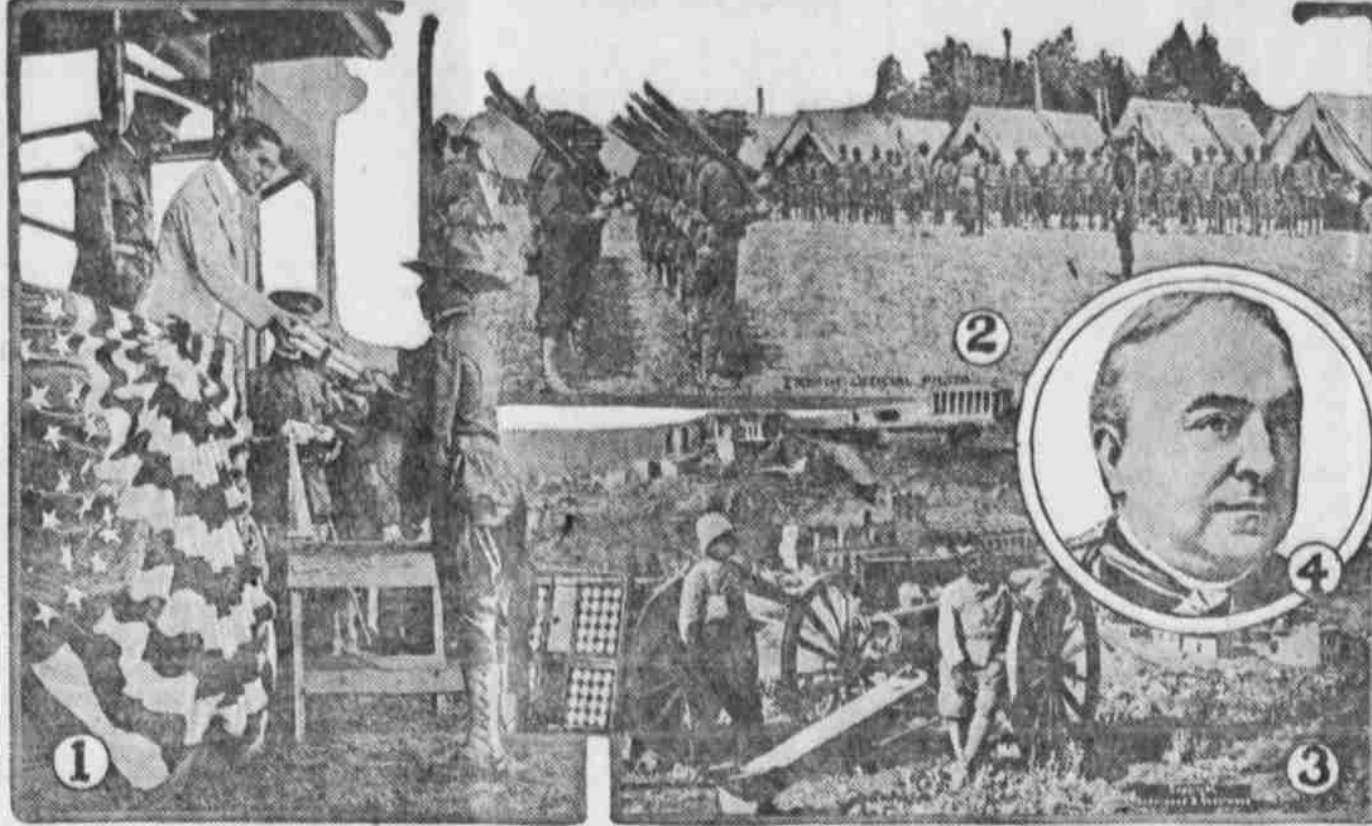
### Verdon Citizens File Protest.

A big delegation from Verdon called on Governor Neville to file a protest against the plans of State Engineer Johnson and the county board of Richardson county for laying the state aid road in that county. Governor Neville was in Omaha and the visitors did not get to file their complaint. The present plan of officials is to lay the road from Falls City to Stella. The proposed road runs two miles east of Verdon and residents of that town want it to be recognized by the highway. The Washington highway and Kansas City & Omaha road run through Verdon and residents of that town believe the state road should adopt the same route. Engineer Johnson has been over the territory and believes the proposed road for the state highway is better and that it would cost several thousand dollars more to build up the road through Verdon. The road two miles east has practically no culverts or bridges. If the county board changes its plans the state engineer said he would consent.

### Are Looking for Irregularities.

No Employees of Draft Age. Federal District Attorney Allen has been appointed by the United States attorney general to act as "official" in the district of Nebraska in approving or disapproving affidavits filed for draft exemption by employes in the department of justice. Included in this department are employes of the district attorney's office, marshals, and secret service agents in the state. No employes in these departments in Lincoln are in the draft age.

Recruiting for the Nebraska national guard has again been started. Major Heidt, U. S. A. mustering officer, received notice from headquarters that enlistments for the national guard can now be accepted and that an effort will be made to recruit the guard to maximum war strength. Colonel Hall of the Sixth regiment has announced that another big drive will be made to recruit the Sixth regiment up to war strength. Several of the companies are already filled but a majority of the units lack fifteen or twenty men to complete their war strength.



1—Secretary of War Baker giving commissions to 1,800 new officers from the training camp at Fort Myer. 2—American troops undergoing morning inspection in their camp in France. 3—Greek battery guarding the Acropolis at Athens. 4—Cardinal Gasparr, papal secretary, who helped Pope Benedict formulate his peace proposals.

## NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

### British and French Give Enemy Another Smashing Blow in West Flanders.

### CANADIANS STORM HILL 70

Peace Proposals From the Pope Are Coldly Received by the Allies—Hoover Takes Control of American Wheat—Training Camp Men Get Commissions.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Another smashing blow at the Germans in Flanders was given last week by the British and French. General Haig first sent his hard-fighting Canadian troops after the defenses of Lens and in an irresistible charge they quickly captured Hill 70, the eminence that dominates that center of the coal region and the Loos salient and which the allied forces had been aiming at for two years. The men from the Dominion pushed on into Lens itself, but as this is written the Germans are still clinging desperately to the center of the city, though every movement of the troops there is covered by the guns of the British. As usual, the Germans at once began a series of counter-attacks on Hill 70, but these were repulsed in every instance by the Canadians, with severe losses to Prince Ruprecht's forces.

Meanwhile Haig directed another great attack on a nine-mile front east and north of Ypres, with the efficient co-operation of the French on their left. The latter occupied Dredgraachten and shoved their positions forward to the edge of the flooded area, and then forced the crossing of the Steenbeke and took German positions to an extreme depth of 1,000 yards. The British took the village of Langemarck and occupied much territory there and about St. Julien.

Increasing resistance by the Russians and hard fighting by the Rumanians slowed up somewhat the progress of the Teutonic forces through Moldavia toward southern Russia, but the advance of the enemy continued, nevertheless. Von Mackensen's most important victory of the week was the capture of Pancy, a big railway junction. Unless there should be another collapse, the further east the Germans go, the harder they will find the going.

Fearing that enemies of the new republic would attempt to liberate the ex-czar, the government had Nicholas and his family removed secretly and swiftly from Tsarko-Selo and sent them to Tobolsk, a Siberian town that isn't even on a railroad.

### Peace Proposals From the Pope.

Pope Benedict last week submitted to the warring nations a definite proposal for peace. In all the capitals it was received with the serious consideration due it because of its impressiveness and its distinguished source, but the general trend of opinion among diplomats was that it would result in nothing. "Despite the evident sincerity of the pope's plan, the peace he proposes is too much of a 'German peace' to suit Great Britain, France and Italy, and it is not conceivable that President Wilson and the United States would accept it as stated. Germany and her allies doubtless would be only too pleased to end the war on the terms suggested; indeed, the pope's appeal at this time is considered by many to have been inspired by Austria.

Briefly, his holiness would have all conquered territories restored, including Germany's colonies, and the peaceful settlement of the questions of Alsace-Lorraine and Italia Irredenta left to the future; he thinks there must be no reparation for losses sustained, and no continuation of the war by an economic struggle thereafter; and for the avoidance of future wars he indorses President Wilson's plan of international agreement to reduce armaments, enforce peace and obtain recognition of the national aspirations of the smaller peoples.

Do Not Seem Reasonable. Unless the utterances of their lead-

ers do not represent fairly the sentiment of the Americans, the British, the French and the Italians, those peoples firmly believe the defeat of the central powers is certain and will not be satisfied with the restoration of the "status quo ante," leaving Germany unpenalized for the tremendous losses and suffering she has inflicted. One other thing, which may sound more unimportant than it really is—the British have sworn that justice shall be administered to those individuals who were responsible for the murder of the Lusitania victims, Nurse Cavell, Captain Fryatt, the women and children slaughtered in the air raids on England, and the others in the long list of those noncombatants slain in cold blood by the Teutons. The English are not a revengeful people, but their cry is "lest we forget," and they are not going to forget.

The pope's peace proposals have many good points, but they seem impossible. Not so impossible, however, as the plan presented by Senator La Follette in a resolution submitted to congress that the American government should declare that all the nations at war should "chip in" and pay for all the damage done by the conflict. This, of course, implies that all the belligerents are equally guilty, which is going rather far even for the pro-German La Follette.

### Hoover Gets Busy.

Herbert C. Hoover is 'wasting no time in taking up his duties as food administrator. Most of his plans were made in advance and are now being put into action as rapidly as possible. Some of them are proving very painful to the speculators in foodstuffs, but they are reassuring for the consumer. Among the first things Mr. Hoover did was to form a corporation to take over the control of the country's grain supply. The same day a committee was appointed to negotiate the voluntary regulation of the milling industry. On September 1 the food administration will undertake the purchase of wheat for the government at interior terminals, and at the request of Mr. Hoover the grain exchanges ordered the discontinuance of all future trading in wheat after August 25, in order not to interfere with the government's efforts to stabilize prices.

On Thursday Mr. Hoover announced that all processes in the production of distilled spirits for beverage purposes must cease at 11 o'clock p. m., September 8.

### Guardsmen Going to France.

The next American expeditionary force to be sent to France will be the "Rainbow division"—officially the Forty-second—and will include National Guard troops from 25 states and the District of Columbia. The war department plans to assemble these men very soon and ship them across for intensive training.

Some of the troops already overseas were marched through London the other day, in response to the demands of the English, and were greeted with wild enthusiasm. The cabinet adjourned to watch them pass by, and at Buckingham palace they were reviewed by King George and Ambassador Page. Meanwhile the boys in France are continuing their closeup training and now and then even getting a shot at the enemy. The safe arrival of the engineer regiment of railway men was announced, giving the lie to another of the many pro-German rumors of disaster.

Thousands of young Americans last week received the commissions they have earned in the officers' reserve training camps and are ready now to help make the national army out of the drafted men in the cantonment camps. The first 200,000 of the latter will be mobilized in a few days, and the work of examining the others will be continued. In the main this great task is proceeding smoothly, though in New York at least one board was accused of corruption.

### China at War With Teutons.

China formally declared war on Germany and Austria-Hungary on Tuesday, making 17 nations now actively against the central powers. In return for her action, it is understood, the entente powers will grant a suspension of payment of the Boxer indemnities and will help China in her preparations to make her participation in the war of full value. Duties on Chinese imports are to be raised about 5 per cent. Japan's mission to the United States, headed by Viscount K. Ishii, landed safely in America, and its members

lost no time in assuring Americans that their country is firm in its determination to stand by its allies until Germany is brought to its knees. The conference of these commissioners with the officials of the United States in Washington is recognized as being of the utmost importance, both in regard to the war and in regard to the relations between America and Japan.

### That Stockholm Conference.

The Socialist conference at Stockholm is causing trouble out of proportion to the probable importance of its deliberations and conclusions. In the different countries the Socialists themselves are split over the advisability of attending it, and the governments of the entente allies and of the United States, recognizing that it is pro-German in its inception, have refused passports to would-be delegates. The English Labor party decided to send representatives, whereupon Arthur Henderson, Labor member of the war cabinet, was accused by Premier Lloyd-George of double dealing and resigned. His place was promptly filled by George Nicoll Barnes, minister of pensions, and the crisis was passed, at least for the time, although a general election may be called if the Laborites insist on sending delegates to Stockholm.

Marked reduction in the number of vessels sunk by German submarines is shown in the British admiralty's weekly statement, while the number of vessels unsuccessfully attacked increased. A story from Copenhagen says the big commercial submarine Deutschland has been converted into a war U-boat and may soon be operating in the Pacific against ships from San Francisco. The same dispatch says the Germans have lost about 26 submarines and now have nearly 300, these however, including many surplus ones built for passage through the Belgian canal. The newest and largest carry six-inch guns.

Premier Lloyd George made two speeches last week that heartened the British people immensely. Declaring that the high point of Germany's strength had passed, he said the difficulties of the allies from now on would grow less and their power increase steadily, and that with patience, courage and endurance the foes of the great military despotism could not fail to win. He called attention to the waning efficiency of the submarine campaign, that though the U-boat losses in April were 500,000 tons, in July and August the average was only 175,000 tons a month. So far from being reduced to starvation, he said, Great Britain is now in better position so far as food is concerned than for years past. The premier admitted that the Russian collapse upset some of the plans of the allies for this year, but called attention to the fact that Germany, even with one of her most powerful opponents paralyzed by internal troubles, is failing to hold her own on the west front.

### Tired of Spies and Traitors.

Throughout the country the demand is becoming insistent that the authorities put an end to the almost unnumbered activities of the pro-German propagandists, the traitorous I. W. W. leaders and pacifists and the cowardly draft-dodgers who are making the conduct of the war as hard as possible. The demand was voiced by Elihu Root in an address at the Union League club in New York. The spies and traitors, he said, should be shot down without mercy, and he included among them, as worthy of death, the editors of certain papers. In some states the councils of defense are organizing campaigns of education so that the people may learn what the war means to us and why we are in it and must win it; but this is not enough—the snakes must be crushed.

The Industrial Workers of the World, it seems, are about to be made to realize that Uncle Sam is awake. They made several broad demands in the West and Northwest and declared that they would bring on a general strike if these were not granted. Such a strike would seriously retard the harvesting of crops and the production of the spruce lumber necessary in the building of airplanes, and while the I. W. W. leaders cannot be prosecuted merely for strike activities, they can be dealt with swiftly and severely for interfering with the government's prosecution of the war. That, according to advices from Washington, is just what is going to happen to those disreputable and disloyal agitators.

## URGED TO BE LOYAL

LABOR SHOULD PAY ITS PART IN THE WAR.

### ADMINISTER FOOD CONTROL

Selection of Men Meets Approval of President Wilson—Will Learn War Game in France.

Western Newspaper Union News Service. Indianapolis, Ind.—A call to laboring men to "play our part in the war manfully," with "unstinted loyalty to the United States," has been issued here by John P. White, international president of the United Mine Workers of America.

"The government is demanding co-operation—organized effort between employer and employe—to meet the country's war requirements," Mr. White said. "The eyes of the world are focused to see how quickly and efficiently the government's demands will be met. In the anthracite coal fields, where recognition of the union was gained in 1916, and the eight-hour day was substituted for the nine, with a shortage of upward of 20,000 miners who have gone to the munition plants, to subway work in New York, and others called to the colors, coal production increased 6,000,000 tons for the first seven months of the year. In the organized bituminous coal regions and in all other well-organized industries where employer and employe are possessed of each other's confidence, like increases have resulted.

"This efficiency result is a complete answer to those who would destroy without reason the ideal conditions and working agreements of labor."

### Will Learn War Game in France.

Washington.—From the 27,000 officers taken from the training camps just closed a considerable number are being selected to begin immediately intensive training in France under direction of Major General Pershing. The plan provides for establishing an officers' school in the American army, where they will be given intensive instruction similar to that now given to the regular army contingent already on the ground. In addition some of the young officers may be sent to French and British officers' schools, as both governments have expressed their willingness to undertake post-graduate work of that nature in order to aid in the task of expanding the American army.

Some of the young officers also will be attached to the regular regiments now in France. When they have received sufficient training they may replace regular officers now in charge of the American units and whose experience would be of value in the training of the new armies at home. It is proposed also that many of the new officers will be sent home as instructors as soon as they have completed a training course in France.

### TO ADMINISTER FOOD CONTROL

Selection of Twenty-eight Men Meets Approval.

Washington.—Appointment of twenty-eight men as federal food commissioners in as many states has been approved by President Wilson. Commissioners for the other states will be selected by the food administration within a few days. The state commissioners will administer the food control bill insofar as it applies to state matters and will co-ordinate state food activities with those of the food administration. All of the men will serve without pay. Among the commissioners announced are:

- Arizona—Timothy A. RJordan, Flagstaff.
- California—Ralph P. Merritt, San Francisco.
- Iowa—J. F. Deems, Burlington.
- Montana—Prof. Alfred Atkinson, Bozeman.
- Nebraska—Gordon W. Wattles, Omaha.
- Nevada—Henry M. Hoyt, Reno.
- New Mexico—Ralph C. Ely, Santa Fe.
- Oregon—W. E. Ayer, Portland.
- Utah—W. W. Armstrong, Salt Lake City.
- Washington—Charles Hebbard, Spokane.
- Wyoming—Theodore C. Diers, Sheridan.

### Sees a Long War Ahead

Chicago.—The war will last from four to five years, in the opinion of Dr. J. M. Neff, former associate of the late Dr. John H. Murphy, who is back in Chicago after two years at a British base hospital near Boulogne. It will be won on economic rather than military lines, he added.

Kansas City.—Four carloads of hogs sold at \$18.00 on the local market here, 40 to 50 cents above the highest former top price. Sheep also went up 50 cents to \$16.50 per hundred.

### London Grooms Sammies.

London.—Enthusiasm aroused by the appearance of American troops marching thru the streets, blew the lid off London Wednesday. Ambassador Page reviewed the sammies as they swung past the embassy. King George reviewed them from Buckingham palace. The Americans marched thru the principal streets of London, which were thronged with enthusiastic, cheering thousands. Not since the return of British troops from South Africa has such enthusiasm been displayed by London crowds.