

# COL. HOUSE HAS EXALTED MISSION

Directed by President to Collect Material to Be Used at Peace Conference.

## WAR'S END NOT IN SIGHT

United States to Be Equipped With Full Information on All Matters That Are Vital to Its Interests.

New York.—President Wilson, being fully advised of the fact that the European governments have for nearly three years been gathering and collecting data, which would be indispensable at the now unknowable but yet inevitable date, when the warring nations meet to settle peace terms, has asked Col. E. M. House, his intimate friend and unofficial counselor, to assume this complex and gigantic task.

Colonel House has accepted the undertaking, and with characteristic promptitude and thoroughness has already made groundwork plans for assembling all pertinent information, historical, geographical, and ethnological. His initial move was the selection as his chief lieutenant of Dr. John H. Finley, New York state commissioner of education, who has just returned from Europe, where he made an exhaustive study of conditions.

The selection of Doctor Finley is indicative of the sort of experts with whom Colonel House will confer. No man or woman with a preconceived opinion which might tempt one to color circumstances so as to prove the correctness of a personal point of view will be permitted to participate in a work where open-mindedness is a prerequisite to the arrival at conclusions that will enable the government to determine upon a correct policy.

**Prejudice to Be Barred.**

Emphasis is put upon the unalterable determination that neither professional pacifists nor confirmed militarists can be in the slightest degree useful in preparing statistics for governmental guidance, which must be without taint of bias.

In an interview Colonel House made it plain that his appointment does not indicate any thought of immediate peace is now being entertained by the United States government. He agrees with Lord Northcliffe in his message delivered before the American Bankers' association in Atlantic City that peace seems far off and America should beware the trickery and treachery of such propaganda. The truth is that this effort on the part of the United States to analyze war conditions and evolve a plan of procedure when hostilities end is a belated one, just as our military preparations lagged for a period. But now it is "full steam ahead and dam the torpedoes" with our army and navy with not a thought of let-up in mind, so from now on there will be urgent prosecution of search for material, historical and informative, concerning the world war.

This quest of data will keep pace with an energetic prosecution of the contest, but will not halt it in any way. To pause now in any phase of belligerent endeavor might make the prospect of peace even more remote than it seems at present.

**No Sign of Early Peace.**

The government sees nothing whatever to indicate the early approach of peace, nor will Colonel House have anything to do with ascertaining the point of view of either the Entente belligerents or the central powers, or possible terms upon the basis of which they might be willing to enter into negotiations. He will remain in the United States. It is possible that the state department will be able to afford him aid in the work he has undertaken, but he will not work with the department nor in a diplomatic capacity, formal or informal. He will have no title and will receive no salary.

The appointment of Colonel House affords another illustration of the expanding position of the United States in world affairs. Heretofore the state department has been equipped with virtually all the information that was necessary to the solution of international problems in which the United States has taken a direct interest. The war has brought new problems and projected this country into a field of international activity which it has seldom entered before.

**Information Must Be Ready.**

The questions which will come before the peace conference at the end of the war will be multitudinous. The freedom of the seas, the neutralization of seaways, the political homogeneity of peoples who claim the right of self-government and the disposition of territorial possessions involving economic, historical and political questions, will be some of the many subjects to be considered, and the information upon which conclusions may be based and policies decided must be at hand. It will be Colonel House's function to gather a corps of experts to get this material in form for use. Others, however, will prepare the brief.

With exclusive European problems, it is not expected that the representatives of the United States at the peace council will be concerned. But in the disposition of general questions, relating to economic intercourse and political development which will affect virtually all the nations of the world, the United States will have a potent

voice. In accordance with the policy that has been consistently followed since the outbreak of the war of holding aloof from European combinations except in the prosecution of the war, this government probably will not attempt to aid in the settlement of traditional European quarrels, except possibly as a matter of friendly interest if opportunity arises.

**House Likely to Be Delegate.**

It was said unofficially that when the time comes to organize a peace conference, Colonel House, by virtue of his present assignment, would in all probability be selected as one of the delegates from the United States.

It will be a part of Colonel House's task to gather intelligence relating to commercial, economic and political situations abroad. He will keep abreast of developments in all non-military affairs.

Colonel House will have associated with him, as has been stated, several experts, probably college professors, economists and specialists in commercial and financial affairs. The work he is to perform will not be connected with similar undertakings in any of the countries with which the United States is associated in the war.

State department officials, when reminded of the statement that the United States would be interested in purely European territorial questions, answered that the American army was in France, and that the United States would, of course, have delegates at the peace conference. Colonel House will be expected to gather specific information by which American peace delegates can follow the conference intelligently.

These data will be compiled primarily to assist American representatives at the peace conference after the war, but may also be used in the meantime to help guide the government in formulating policies. It has no bearing on peace negotiations or negotiations of any kind with foreign governments, which, of course, come within the province of the president and the state department.

The United States government isn't getting ready to enter into peace negotiations with Germany, isn't going to meddle in strictly European questions relating to the war, and isn't negotiating just yet on the problems of peace with the Entente, as has frequently been surmised.

**Must Have Data in Advance.**

It is important for the United States government now and will be even more important later on to have a so-called "who's who and what's what" in the war in order that all phases involved may be properly understood by reference to data compiled in advance.

In time of war the government that fails to prepare for peace will ultimately be at a disadvantage, says the Philadelphia Public Ledger in an editorial. The representatives of Great Britain, Austria, Russia and Prussia, found this out after the fall of Napoleon when they met Prince Talleyrand at Vienna. Talleyrand, sent by France, had learned enough of the situation as it concerned all of the smaller European powers and as it concerned much of the opinion of Europe to turn the tables upon the four great powers and to stand as the champion of the public rights of Europe.

Prince Talleyrand maneuvered, and successfully, according to the rules of a secret diplomacy. He really worked in behalf of selfish and nationalistic interests. The partitioning of Europe by the congress of Vienna was the outcome of arbitrary compromise; it was profligate of future wars. The knowledge which the great diplomatic exponent of France displayed was more comprehensive than that of his foes, that is all. Excepting that he recognizes the need of precise information, President Wilson acts up on a principle different from that which guided Talleyrand. He will urge this nation into no alliance, even with the nations with whom it is associated in the common war against the Teutonic powers. He proposes simply to equip himself with knowledge pertinent to the rights of all nations in common with America as they may be concerned by the proceedings of the peace conference.

**To Show War Aims.**

In this spirit the president has asked Colonel House to survey the field of military, naval and political conditions in the countries of our enemies and our friends; to get at the economic, political and emotional state of things in every country, and to tell frankly to Great Britain, Russia, France, Italy and the neutral powers the things that we are doing and that we intend to do in the war. Moreover, an attempt will be made to lift the heavy curtain of censorship in Germany and Austria-Hungary, in order to spread among their peoples a comprehension of American war aims and potentialities.

Officials are anxious that no impression should be created, as a result of Colonel House's appointment, of any intention to start peace negotiations in the near future. So far as the attitude of the United States is concerned, the president's reply to the pope still remains the unaltered view of the government here.

The appointment of Colonel House is recognition by the government of the fact that the adjustment of peace terms will be a very complicated proceeding. Many points of dispute must be settled. Questions of all sorts, economic, political, and historical, will come up for discussion, and the American delegates must be forearmed with a mass of information and statistical data to meet every situation.

No data concerning present conditions in Germany or Austria will come within the scope of Colonel House's work, as this would come under "military information."

# FOOD PROCLAMATION

WHEATLESS AND BREADLESS DAYS

## NEWS FROM STATE CAPITAL

Items of Varied Interest Gathered from Reliable Sources at the State House

No wheat foods on Tuesdays and no meat on Fridays is the program laid down for Nebraska people to follow during the war in a proclamation issued Saturday afternoon by Acting Governor Howard.

The proclamation came in response to a request from National Food Director Herbert Hoover as America's part in the conservation of food supplies. It reads:

"In his wisdom the president of the United States has on divers occasions directed the attention of the American people to the instant need of every possible effort for the conservation of the food supply of the nation during these days of war, to the end that our splendid men at arms now or soon to be in service in foreign fields shall not lack in food necessary to their highest efficiency.

"Added to the plea of our president comes the request of Hon. Herbert Hoover, national food administrator, that the governors of the several states shall establish and proclaim certain days to be designated as 'wheatless' and 'meatless' days. Supporting the plea of our president and the request of Hon. Gordon Wattles, federal food administrator for Nebraska, for the issuance of such a proclamation to all the people of this commonwealth.

"In obedience to the wish of our president and to the request of the chief federal food administrator and his representative in Nebraska, I do hereby proclaim that each Friday during the term of the present war shall be designated and observed as 'meatless' day, during the hours of which the people shall refrain from the eating of any meats, and that for like period each Tuesday be designated and observed as 'wheatless' days, during the hours of which the people shall refrain from the eating of any food containing wheat or any product thereof.

"And all in obedience to the admonition of one who proclaimed that the only perfect and acceptable service is the service of sacrifice.

"EDGAR HOWARD,  
"Acting Governor."

### Football to Aid Red Cross

The offer of Chancellor Avery and the state university athletic department to turn football profits over to the Red Cross this year has been taken up in earnest by the Red Cross workers here. Chairman W. E. Hardy has been working during the past week lining up the organization which will make certain a good addition to the city's Red Cross allotment.

In the past few years the athletic department has been running up a surplus of about \$10,000 each year. That profit has been eaten up in caring for the expenses of other sports, paying some large salaries and making some expensive improvements. This year the overhead has been cut to the limit and Chancellor Avery has decreed that sports which cannot be made self sustaining will be abandoned or cared for in some other way.

As an instance of the economy now in effect it can be stated that two salaries paid last year will not eat into the surplus this season. Those two salaries amounted to \$4,300 per year. Other expenses are being cut as far as possible. That means that with the usual crowds at Nebraska field the surplus should be larger than ever. If this were an ordinary year it is certain the program about to start would attract thousands more than ever followed a Nebraska football campaign.

Every registered man under the draft will get his examination, have his exemption claims passed upon and be placed in classes in the immediate future. Then each class will be called out as a unit, in the order of their need by the war department. This is the tentative plan being worked out in Washington at the present time, according to Governor Keith Neville.

### To Aid in Harvesting Corn Crop

State Superintendent Clemmons has tendered the suggestion to every county superintendent in Nebraska to group the holidays to enable the school children to help harvest Nebraska's corn crop. In the holidays for the school year the children will have a month's time in which to assist, Mr. Clemmons points out. The matter has also been taken up with the University of Nebraska authorities and will also be taken up with all of the smaller colleges of Nebraska.

### No Tourist Sleepers to Vicksburg

For the carrying of 583 Nebraska veterans of the civil war to the reunion at Vicksburg no tourist sleepers are available, according to word received by J. H. Presson, secretary of the Vicksburg commission which is arranging for the trip. The railroads have informed Mr. Presson that the government has taken over all tourist sleepers, and that none can be had by October 14, the day the movement of veterans toward the south is expected to commence.

### The Nebraska Building of the Y. M. C. A.

at Camp Cody was opened with a stunt night program for the troops of the Fifth and Sixth regiments. The entertainment was in charge of Lieutenant Cobbley of Omaha, chaplain of the Fifth Nebraska, and consisted of a band concert, vocal numbers by the men and several readings and instrumental solos. During the course of the evening L. R. Smith, secretary of the building on behalf of the Omaha branch of the National League for Women's Service, presented seven pictures for the building.

### TO REGISTER ALL WOMEN

State Chairman Says There Will Be No Let Up

"Registration of Nebraska women for patriotic service will not end until every loyal woman citizen over sixteen years of age is registered," says Mrs. A. E. Sheldon, state chairman of the women's registration for national service. Registration September 12 was heavy, considering that the organization of the nation-wide movement had been under way for only six weeks. October 17 is the day set for completed returns from each county. The time has been so short for perfecting plans that the Nebraska state council of defense has no organization as yet in six of the ninety-three counties. In at least eight other counties, registration was not held on Wednesday because the organizations in the county has not been completed. No other day is to be set apart for state registration but the work is to be carried on through precinct organization in each county, the method to be determined by the county organization, since the polling places were given to the women for September 12 only. Registration for national service of women has been held in Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri and Wyoming. The work of tabulation is so heavy that Mrs. Sheldon has been notified of the numbers registered in several counties and in each the proportion was a large one. Complete returns from none of these states has been received at Washington headquarters of the national council of defense.

### State Realty Values Increase

Without a general revaluation of Nebraska real estate, the total assessment of the state on lands and the improvements thereon shows an increase of \$3,500,000 over 1916. Town lots and their improvements are assessed at \$2,500,000 higher than last year.

The actual valuation, five times the assessed, shows Nebraska realty has jumped skyward during the last twelve months.

At the same time, a greater acreage of farm land subject to taxation, due to final patents issued on homesteads heretofore exempt as government holdings, account for a large portion of the increase in farm lands. The acreage is about 1,000,000 above the 1916 figures.

There are also 9,000 more lots in cities and towns assessed than in 1916, and a vast amount of new building.

### Offers Reward for Slackers

Additional instructions for the apprehension of slackers in Nebraska, under the recent order of the war department offering \$50 reward, have reached the office of Governor Neville. Names of men who have not responded to the draft are to be furnished by local exemption boards, the government bulletin states. Anyone who locates a slacker has a right to take him in charge and turn him over to the nearest recruiting officer, who will make a record of the case and issue an order for the reward.

Even though a man may be arrested and afterward be found not guilty of desertion through ignorance or for any other reason, the reward will be paid, the bulletin to the governor states.

### Will Trade School Lands

Land Commissioner G. L. Shumway has gone to Halsey, Neb., to effect an exchange of school lands for lands in government reservations already arranged through State Representative F. A. Reinsner and the supervisor of the forest reserve in the state. Every sixth and thirty-sixth section of these reservations belong to the state under an early land grant, and the change will consolidate those of the state along the edge of the reservation where they will be accessible. Land involved includes six sections of the Bessey reservation at Halsey, six sections of the Niobrara reservation at Valentine and one section of the Bird reservation at Valentine. The last legislature sanctioned this exchange.

### Nebraska's Big Auto Showing

Nebraska now has over 142,000 automobiles, according to the monthly report of Secretary of State Pool. During September the secretary of state's office issued 4,150 licenses. The latest figures show there is a car for every eight men, women and children in the state. Secretary Pool says the number of cars for the year will amount to well over 450,000, leaving Nebraska far ahead of any other state in the union in per capita ownership of automobiles, the number last year being 100,500 when the state stood second in the list.

# GOVERNOR NEVILLE BECOMES COLONEL

ACCEPTS COMMAND OF THE NEW SEVENTH REGIMENT

## WILL RESIGN AS GOVERNOR

Lieut. Governor Edgar Howard Will Automatically Assume Executive Charge on His Retirement

Governor Keith Neville has accepted the colonelcy of the Seventh Nebraska national guard regiment now nearly organized and will resign the office of the governor of Nebraska whenever the regiment is mustered into the government service. This may be within a short time or it may not be until toward the close of the year or some time next spring.

The appointment to the office of colonel of the Seventh regiment was conferred upon Governor Neville by Lieutenant Governor Edgar Howard, acting governor, while the former was at Washington, and the appointment was announced Tuesday.

When the Sixth regiment, Nebraska national guard, was in formation, it was rumored that Governor Neville might be its colonel, but at the last moment the governor appointed T. L. Hall, Jr. The Sixth regiment has been split up and merged with other troops.

Lieutenant Governor Howard, in a statement, says he is acting on the principle of majority rule, that the officers of the regiment want Governor Neville for their colonel.

The army headquarters officers have decided to accept the new Seventh Nebraska reserve regiment in time, and Governor Neville's resignation as chief executive of this state will become effective immediately the Seventh is mustered in.

Lieutenant Governor Edgar Howard will then become governor, immediately, and will take up the duties of state.

Acting Governor Howard issued a short statement also, saying that he has appointed Governor Neville colonel of the Seventh at the unanimous request of all officers of that regiment, without knowing whether or not Governor Neville would accept.

Following is the statement issued by Lieutenant Governor Howard:

"Yes, it is true that Governor Neville is now the colonel of the Seventh regiment, Nebraska National



LIEUT.-GOV. EDGAR HOWARD

guard, I issued a commission to him last Saturday. The commission was issued following presentation to me of the written desire of practically all the officers of the new regiment. At no time has Governor Neville ever spoken to me on the subject of a commission. I acted in harmony with my well known advocacy of an allegiance to the plain principle of majority rule. The officers of the new regiment wanted Governor Neville as their colonel. I granted their request.

"I did not know that he would accept the commission, but now I am glad to know that he is not annoyed by my action, and that he feels highly honored by the call of the men of the regiment to lead it wherever duty or honor may direct the way.

"Of course, the acceptance of the commission by our governor will be a call to me to occupy the high office he now occupies. I shall obey the call, although none who have been near me can doubt that I shall do so reluctantly. It is a position of great dignity and abundant opportunity, but also a post of immense responsibility. I have never felt myself quite qualified to do full justice to that exalted position, but firm in the faith of those political and governmental principles which I have so long advocated, and confident that the people of Nebraska will be kind to cover with the white mantle of charity my every fault or foible so long as I shall not swerve from the pathways of rectitude, I shall approach the high responsibilities of the position always in humility and always unafraid.

"It is not for me to know the date of the retirement of Governor Neville. He will announce the date at his pleasure.

"My one best hope is that I may be able to so act under the impending responsibility as to leave a record which may even in small measure approach the general excellence of the record achieved by the splendid young Nebraskan who has borne gubernatorial honors with rare grace and instant probity."

Within the memory of the oldest inhabitant no governor of Nebraska, except Dietrich, ever resigned his office. Governor Dietrich did so to accept the election of United States senator tendered him by the legislature at a time before senators were elected by direct vote of the people. There is an unpublished legend that Governor Crouse resigned because he was not elected United States senator, but that his resignation was withdrawn before it was filed.

Peking.—The city of Tien Tsin is threatened with destruction by flood. The Chinese city and portions of all the foreign concessions are under water which is rapidly rising and which covers the great plain to the south-east of Peking. It is estimated that 1,000,000 Chinese are homeless.

New York.—A roundup of Germans in New York who have violated the terms of permits granted them to enter zones barred to enemy aliens or who have gone into these districts without permits, has begun.

### Neville's Statement.

"Responding to wishes, expressed by letter, of a majority of the total number of officers of the Seventh regiment that I accept the colonelcy, Governor Howard, during my absence from the state, issued me a commission as such.

"I believe that the government should, in this emergency, realize 100 per cent on the expenditures of past years for the training of men at military colleges and similar institutions maintained wholly or in part by the government, as well as at the various service schools, and since the written requests of a majority of the officers is equivalent to an election, I have no hesitation in accepting the honor.

"I have been assured by the department officials at Washington that they will gladly recognize an addi-



GOVERNOR KEITH NEVILLE Who Has Accepted a Colonelcy in the New N. N. G. Regiment.

tional regiment of infantry or field artillery qualifying as prescribed by law.

"This does not mean that the Seventh will be immediately called into federal service.

"It may be some time before the national guard units, now being organized in many states, are federalized.

"With a sincere appreciation of the trust imposed and the honor conferred upon me by the people of my state, I believe that I should not be worthy of that trust and honor should I continue to urge Nebraskans into the service of their country without manifesting my willingness to accompany them.

"We are fighting not only that democracy may live, but that we may continue to exist as a free and independent nation.

"Our country is facing the most serious crisis in its history.

"It is the duty of every man, physically fit, of military age, to place his services at the disposal of the government.

"In this spirit, and after mature deliberation, I have reached my conclusion, and act accordingly.

"KEITH NEVILLE."

When the time comes for Governor Neville to resign, if that time does come, he will file his resignation with Secretary of State Pool as provided by statute. The constitution authorizes the legislature to pass laws governing such resignations. The law says such a resignation shall be made to the legislature, if in session; if not, to the secretary of state. The same statute carries with it a provision that might not be upheld by the courts. It is a provision that such resignations shall not take effect until accepted by the board or officer to whom the same is made.