WEEK'S REVIEW OF THE LEGISLATURE

BILLS TO CURE EVERY ILL ARE BEING OFFERED

CAPITOL BILL NEARING GOAL

Many Other Bills Are Introduced By Members of Both Houses of State Legislature

Lincoln.—Several bills introduced in the legislature will precipitate bitter fights if they ever reach the floor. Representative Maurer, author of several bills to regulate parochial schools, introduced house roll 202, which prohibits "involuntary servitude and forcible detention in houses of the good shepherd or like privately owned institutions," and provides for inspection of all such institutions by the sheriff, grand jury, judge or persons designated by a judge.

House roll 214, by Morrison, prohibits court reporters from doing any work outside of their court duties. Another bill by Morrison forbids any alien from acquiring title to real estate in Nebraska. The present law applies only to non-resident aliens.

Representative Burney proposes to extend the terms of county commissioners, county assessors and district court clerks to 1922 and elect their successors in that year and every fourth year thereafter. The purpose is to complete the removal of county elections from presidential election years.

THEO. M. OSTERMAN

Mr. Osterman is a member of the lower house, and comes from Merrick County. He was the choice of the minority for speaker of the house, and is father of the state hail insurance law. He is now serving his third term.

Hopes of some legislators to be members of the state capitol commission were dashed when the house finance committee reported Representative Mears' new capitol bill for passage with an amendment excluding legislators from appointment on the commission. The bill provides for an annual levy of 1½ mills for six years, expected to raise $5,000,000. The capitol is to be built under direction of a commission composed of the governor, the state engineer and three others appointed by the governor. Thus the capitol bill is to be brought out as the first big appropriation measure to come before the house at this session. The unanimous action of the committee in favor of a new state house shows that the time has at last arrived when the people of Nebraska and their representatives are determined to get rid of the old structure that has stood for decades as a monumental disgrace to the commonwealth.

Senator Chappells' bill which gives towns and counties the right to erect memorials for soldiers who fell on the field of battle, was the subject of a lengthy debate. Senator Hoagland stated that he believed it far more fitting to erect a new capitol and dedicate it to the departed soldiers than to have small monumeuts scattered all over the state, which would endure for perhaps only a few years. The bill was ordered engrossed for third reading.

The judiciary committee considered briefly the Kenagy bill that makes 25 per cent of the wages of a worker with a family open to garnishment instead of 10 per cent. Mr. Porter objected on the ground that it would mean a lot of additions to deserted families.

Representative McLeod is the author of a bill to permit school boards in the state to levy as high as 55 mills instead of 45, as at present, this is made necessary by the increase in cost of operation of schools.

The Farmers' Union is preparing to support a legislative bill for the establishment of co-operative banks. Details of the bill are not yet worked out, but it will permit the organization of co-operative banks for a general banking business, the profits to be distributed not to shareholders, but to patrons in proportion to the amount of business each does with the bank.

One of the most important bills introduced so far in the legislative session was proposed by Representative Fults. It provides that insurance policies having a cash surrender value shall be taxed at such value.

Representative Osterman of Merrick county, author of the state hail insurance law passed in 1917, has a bill this year to extend its scope and offer further inducement to the farmers to take advantage of the law. The principal change will be a provision to relieve the crop owner of the necessity of paying the premium in advance to the assessor, and allowing it to be added to his personal taxes, payable in the fall after he has harvested and sold his grain. Another change made by the bill is an increase of the maximum loss per acre from $10 to $15, but in order to get the higher amount the crop owner must agree to pay 50 per cent extra premium. He can insure for $10 an acre at the old rates if he prefers.

Last week Representative John Larsen of Douglas county introduced a couple of bills affecting working men and women. One, House Roll No. 139, provides for the establishment of a state minimum wage commission, modeled somewhat after the Massachusetts law. The commission would include the state labor commissioner and two members appointed by the governor, one a man and one a woman. The commission would be empowered to investigate conditions in any industry and to establish a minimum wage in that industry for women and minors, the minimum being limited, at its discretion, to certain sections of the state or extended to all districts.

Representative Larsen also introduced House Roll No. 142, establishing an eight-hour day on all public work, whether done by governmental subdivisions direct or by contractors. He further proposed an amendment to the state mediation board law, requiring the board to act when requested to do so by either party to a labor dispute, instead of awaiting the call of the governor.

A bill establishing a 5,000-mile system of concrete state highways will be introduced into the lower house of the state legislature. The bill has been prepared and discussed by a committee from each house and the state engineer. The complete highways will cost in the neighborhood of $70,000,000, the cost and maintenance of which will be met by the board of irrigation, highways and drainage, the state automobile fund and the federal government, which co-operates with all states making highways improvements, and it is also probable that a small tax levy will be imposed upon the property owners living along the various lines.

"That good roads bill is one of the most constructive pieces of legislation ever to come before the Nebraska general assembly," said Clarke G. Powell, secretary of the Omaha Automobile Trade association, and one of the state's leading good roads enthusiasts. "If the legislature passed this bill and then adjourned, it will have done a good years' work. It is the most comprehensive good roads plan ever considered. In the past all development has been more or less local—by communities or counties."

The bill introduced by Senator Reed of York, providing that no decree of divorce shall become final or operative until two years after the decree is granted, was almost killed in the senate when Senators Cooper and Hoagland declared that to their knowledge such a law would increase immorality instead of decreasing it, and that the best thing for young people who had been mismated would not be to keep them from finding the proper mates. Senator Cordeal was of the opinion that the time might be longer, and cited several states which had still severer laws to that effect. The bill was finally ordered engrossed for third reading.

Representative Byrum, Franklin, proposed that the legislature declare its belief in the continuance of the Nebraska National Guard along the lines followed before the war and that it favor the giving of preference in the reorganization to former members of the Fourth and Fifth Nebraska regiments who have served abroad. The resolution was defeated.

Representatives Foster and Berka, both of Omaha, proposed to make the terms of Omaha municipal judges four instead of two years and to extend the present judge' terms to 1923.

Governor McKelvie has appointed Lieutenant Colonel Joseph A. Storch of Fullerton to serve as adjutant general until the return of Colonel Paul from France.

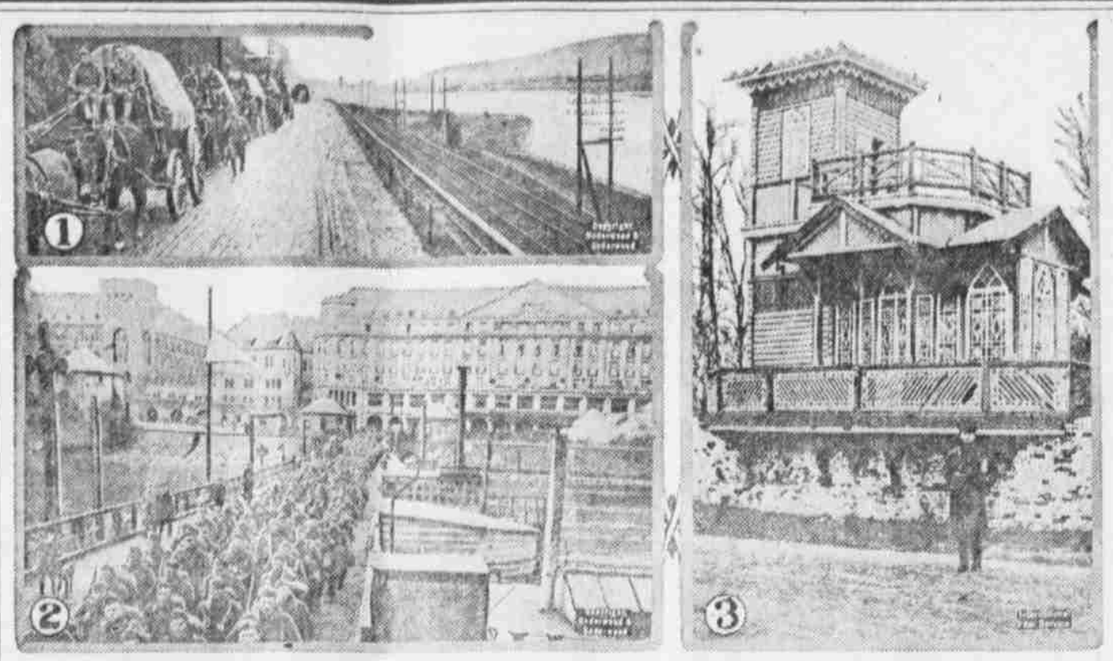
The Methodist ministers of Douglas county and the W. C. T. U. of Omaha have sent votes of thanks to the senate for the ratification of the prohibitory amendment.

Senator Taylor proposed a returr of the "open primary" election, when a voter would be privileged to take the ballots of all parties into the booth and vote which ever ticket he preferred. This would be substantially the law as it prevailed in 1910.

State house stenographers, who have been drawing $70 per month will be advanced to $75 per month. Some members of the house finance committee favored greater increase, but the majority voted for that figure.

Sergeant-at-arms J. O. Moore of the house is expected to be a very busy man during the rest of the legislative session. In addition to his other duties, he was delegated by the house to see that all lobbyists, whether paid or unpaid, male or female, are excluded from the floor of the chamber at all times when it is in session.

After much discussion the lower legislative house recommended passage of a bill appropriating $2,800 for the purchase of thirteen acres adjoining the Grand Island Soldiers' home, for use as a cemetery. A similar bill was defeated two years ago.



1—American army trucks on the road between Coblenz and Bonn on the left bank of the Rhine. 2—Vanguard of the American army of occupation crossing the Rhine at Coblenz, one of the gateways to Germany. 3—Garden house of the governor's mansion at Archangel, Russia, used by the American Red Cross as part of its headquarters.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Russian Factions Are Invited to Confer With Commission From the Allies.

ON SEA OF MARMORA ISLAND

Must First Cease Military Operations —Majority Socialists Victors In German Elections — British Plan for League of Nations Presented—Irish Parliament Meets.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Realizing that they cannot establish peace in the world while Russia is at war with herself and her neighbors, the supreme council of the peace congress has invited all Russian factions to send representatives to the Princes' islands in the sea of Marmora, that they may there confer with representatives of the associated powers with a view to bringing about an understanding by which Russia may work out her own purposes in peaceful ways. It was stipulated that the Russian factions must first cease all military action, and the invitation made plain that the allied powers had no intention or desire of interfering with the right of the Russians to settle their differences in their own way. February 15 was set as the date of the opening of the conference.

This solution of the Russian problem was presented to the supreme council by President Wilson and in the main is on the lines of the action proposed by Premier Lloyd George. At first the French, who admittedly are afraid of the spread of bolshevism in their own country, were opposed to treating in any way with the Russian bolshevists, but they yielded to the opinion of the majority. It was believed that the contending factions would accept the invitation, since their resources are nearly exhausted. The bolsheviki were severely defeated very recently in northern Russia, and there are numerous and extensive peasant risings against their rule in the territory they have controlled.

It is understood that the allied commissioners who will meet the Russians will state these four conditions as being indispensable in bringing about an adjustment:

First—Peace at all points.

Second—Removal of all economic barriers which restrain the free circulation or exchange of food and commodities between the factional zones and the outside world.

Third—General elections on a representative basis.

Fourth—Some adequate arrangement for the payment of debts.

The plan of the supreme council was very badly received by the anti-bolshevik Russian leaders now in Paris. Their comments were bitter in the extreme and Sergius Sazanoff, representative of the governments of Ekaterinodar and Omsk, declared he would not sit in conference with the traitors who had betrayed his country.

Decision was reached by the supreme council last week on another very troublesome matter—the Polish question. It was determined to send at once to study this problem a mission composed of a military and a civil delegate from the United States, Great Britain, France and Italy. Probably, if the Russian bolsheviki remain recalcitrant, the Polish state will be set up as a strong barrier between them and western Europe.

The Temps of Paris said last week that the peace congress is likely to create two commissions, one on the league of nations and one on the compensation Germany must pay. It added that the American delegates also proposed commissions on territorial questions, on overseas territories and on responsibilities. It is said in Paris that the American delegates are not yet satisfied as to the responsibility of the former kaiser and his chiefs for the war. In this matter they are likely to find themselves opposed to the firm, even passionate, opinion of the British, French and Italians, to say nothing of the Belgians and Serbians.

Prince Lichnowsky, whose record entitles him to respectful hearing, urges a peace that will not grind the Germans in the dust. But it is only disgusting to read the plea of Bethmann Hollweg, who was imperial chancellor at the outbreak of the war. He begs for a peace of justice based on President Wilson's program, and says Justice will veil her head if the victor exploits the distressed conditions of the conquered. This would sound better if it did not come from one who is held largely to blame for the crime of the centuries. Such men as Bethmann Hollweg and Bernstorff will help their countrymen more by keeping silent.

Despite many riotous demonstrations by the Spartacans and Independent Socialists, the German elections for the constitutent assembly were held and resulted in a substantial victory for the Ebert faction. The Majority Socialists elected more representatives than any other group. The former Liberals, now called the German Democrats, were second, and the Spartacans and Independents were snowed under, winning only in Frankfort-on-the-Main and Brunswick. It was estimated the Majority Socialists would hold 65 per cent of the seats. The national assembly is to meet on February 6 in Weimar, capital of the grand duchy of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, in deference to the demand of the south German states, which wished to have the convention as far as possible removed from the influence of Prussia. Kurt Eisner, the Bavarian premier, failed of election to the convention.

The most radical elements in Germany are making capital out of the brutal murder of Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, the Spartacan leaders, and in many places general strikes were started in protest. Bremen was reported to be in the hands of the workingmen, who had seized the barracks, the banks and public buildings and disarmed the garrison. At Remscheid all work was stopped. There were serious riots in Leipsic and other cities, but in Berlin the disturbers were scattered by the firm measures adopted by Gustav Noske, head of the government police.

One of the worst beatings the bolsheviki of Russia have received was after the capture of Narva by the Esthonians, and the victors declare it amounted to a complete rout. The Esthonian army at once moved on Petrograd, taking many prisoners and guns. London heard that Trotzky ordered the governor of Petrograd to surrender the city without a struggle. In the Archangel region the bolsheviki kept up a vigorous attack on the advanced positions of the Americans and loyal Russians and were boasting that in the Kadish vicinity they would drive the allies into the White sea in March. They seem to be well supplied with artillery and shells, but are gaining no material advantages.

In addition to settling the dispute between the Italians and the Jugo-Slavs concerning Dalmatia and Fiume the peace congress has another conflict of claims to adjudicate. The secret treaty between the entente allies gave to France the control of Syria and Armenia and now comes the king of the Hedjas, represented at Paris by his son, Prince Feisal, asking complete independence and autonomy for the Arabian state of the Hedjas to consist of Syria, upper and lower Mesopotamia, Yemen and Nejd. The conference is asked to send a commission to learn the desires of the peoples involved. The king of the Hedjas and his troops gave the British very considerable aid in the conquest of Palestine.

The British draft of a league of nations was submitted to the peace delegates last week by Lord Robert Cecil, who said it was his opinion that an international tribunal with absolutely binding powers is not practical at the present time. The British plan follows the ideas of General Smuts, the South African leader, and contemplates a league relying largely on public opinion and having the power to impose delay on disputants before resort to arms. The French plan for a league was the next scheduled for presentation. It was said President Wilson would not submit his scheme until all others had been heard, not only out of deference to the European nations but in the belief that when the others have been discussed, his plan may serve to reconcile the differences that will have developed. That these differences will not be great is the belief of Lord Cecil, who says he found in conversations with the delegates that there was in very large measure an agreement on the principles he outlined.

The opening of the Sinn Fein parliament in Dublin, with its formal proclamation of the independence of Ireland, was perilously near to being a comedy, but may well develop into tragedy later. Only 25 members were present, the others being in jail. They elected Charles Burgess speaker and appointed Count Plunkett, Arthur Griffiths and Prof. Edward De Valera a committee to present to the peace conference at Paris the claims of Ireland to self-determination. The last two named are in English prisons. The proceedings of the "parliament" were conducted so far as possible in the Irish Celtic language, with lapses into English when the former failed.

The government took absolutely no notice of the meeting of the "Dail Eireann," as the Irish call their assembly, although it was in the Mansion house, under the very shadow of Dublin castle. Loyal citizens hung out an unusual number of union jacks and some returned soldiers growled a bit, but there was no disorder. The British government apparently intends to ignore the Sinn Fein republic until it undertakes to enforce laws that are in conflict with those estblished by the British; then the trouble is likely to begin. In the opinion of the loyal Irish press, the purpose of the "parliament" is to attract the attention of the world, especially the peace conference, to the case of the Sinn Feiners, and the latter expected and hoped the assembly would be suppressed by the police. In this the British fooled them, not desiring to create any more Irish martyrs than necessity compels. If Count Plunkett takes the Sinn Fein declaration to the peace conference it is likely to be quietly pigeon-holed.

One result of the Irish matter was the killing of two policemen who were guarding a quantity of explosives in Tipperary and the theft of the explosives. Tipperary was at once placed under the crimes act, which means its inhabitants are under much the same restraint as the people in the occupied parts of Germany. The murder may be the beginning of a new period of terrorism and assassinations.

While new republics are springing up overnight in Europe, the reactionaries of Portugal have broken out and proclaimed the restoration of the monarchy. The movement is especially strong in the northern part of the country. The revolutionists have offered the throne to the former king, Manuel, and though he is absolved officially of any connection with the uprising, it is reported he is on a vessel off Oporto awaiting developments. His lord in waiting at London said Manuel would return to his country if it wished him to do so. There is a report that, in case Manuel does not accept the invitation of the royalists, they will offer the throne to Dom Miguel of Braganza, who married Anita Stewart of New Jersey.

It may be the "Yellow Peril" alarmists in America will be somewhat silenced by the statement of Viscount Uchida, minister for foreign affairs, at the opening of the Japanese parliament. He declared that Japan had "no aspiration but to seek the consummation of a free and unfettered development of her national life along the highway of justice and peace," and that she was "determined to pursue a fair and clean policy in all international relations." He especially emphasized his country's friendship for China and Russia and denied that it would be Japan's policy to take advantage of the domestic troubles of Russia to promote selfish aims of territorial or economic aggression. The Japanese foreign office also issued denials of "mischievous reports" of Japanese activities in China, particularly in regard to the granting of loans.

ADOPT LEAGUE PLAN

PEACE CONGRESS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES PROJECT.

WILSON CHAIRMAN OF BODY

Association of Nations to Guard World to Be Part of Peace Treaty. Little Nations Protest.

Paris, Jan. 28.—The peace conference on Saturday weathered its first storm, and under the inspiration of a speech by President Wilson and skillfully guided by M. Clemenceau, the chairman, unanimously adopted resolutions declaring for a league of nations. The conference also went on record in favor of incorporating the league as an integral part of the general treaty of peace and admitting to the league "every civilized nation which can be relied on to promote its objects."

Belgium, Serbia, Roumania, Portugal, Brazil, Siam, China and Czecho-Slovakia protested against the various committees being largely restricted to the great powers, and asked for proportionate representation privileges, particularly on bodies dealing with the league of nations, labor and reparation for war damages.

Although this was a cloud no bigger than a man's hand, it threatened at one time to grow into a general alignment of the small powers against the five great powers. This, however, was averted by M. Clemenceau's good-tempered and skillful direction.

Although it had been expected that Lloyd George would open the discussion on the league of nations, President Wilson has this honor. The president was followed by Mr. Lloyd George in a brief address and the resolution favoring the league was adopted without dissent after the proposal had been seconded by Premier Orlando for Italy, Paul Hymans for Belgium and Mr. Lu for China.

President Wilson and Colonel House will represent the United States on the league of nations committee, the president being made chairman.

Another committee will fix upon "the amount of reparation the enemy countries ought to pay; what they are capable of paying, and the method, form and time within which payment should be made."

The congress also appointed committees to determine the degree of responsibility for the war and its conduct. Robert Lansing, secretary of state, will be one of the American members of this committee.

Other committees were authorised to take up international labor legislation and consider details of internationalization of certain transportation facilities.

The committee to investigate responsibility for the war will include two representatives each of the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan, and five representatives of the other allied powers.

The belief is expressed in French official circles that the preliminaries for peace will be finished and ready for submission to the French chamber between March 15 and March 31.

Extra Session of Congress Certain.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 28.—An extra session of congress next spring now seems certain in the opinion of democratic and republican leaders.

With but five weeks of the present session remaining, appropriation bills are to be rushed. Only six of the sixteen regular supply bills have been passed by the house and none by the senate. Besides the regular appropriation measures several special money bills, including the new deficiency measure and the $750,000,000 request of the railroad administration await action.

Much general legislation also is on the calendars with the railroads, unemployment, naval program an other questions being pressed for solution.

Suffrage for Nebraska Women.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 28.—Fraud, forgery and false certification, so extensive as to invalidate more than 4,000 signatures on the antisuffrage referendum, were found by District Judge Flansburg in his written opinion handed down Saturday, which formally gave Nebraska women the right to vote. Judge Flansburg held the referendum petition, was, because of these frauds, invalid and perpetually enjoined the secretary of state from submitting the partial suffrage bill to the voters. The effect of the decision is to make house roll No. 222, passed in the 1917 legislative session, operative until such time as the Nebraska supreme court will pass upon the appeal to be taken by the anti-suffrage forces. Judge Flansburg's decision gives the attorneys for the antis the customary forty days in which to file their bill of exceptions.

Soldiers Can Stay In Army.

Washington, Jan. 28.—To solve the problem of unemployed discharged soldiers, the War department has ordered that no man be discharged from the army against his desire until such time as he can obtain employment in civil life. These orders have been sent to all department and division commanders, at Secretary Baker's direction. All men who desire to remain temporarily in the service are to be retained without prejudice to their subsequent discharge to take employment.