

PARISH SCHOOL IS PARAMOUNT ISSUE

MOST DEBATED SUBJECT BEFORE THE LAWMAKERS

OTHER LEGISLATIVE DOINGS

A Brief Digest of Other Important Legislation Being Considered by the Nebraska Legislature

Lincoln.—The future of parochial and private schools in Nebraska was discussed for three hours before a joint session of the committees on education of the two houses of the legislature. Nearly 400 people attended the hearing, and there were thirty speakers. Friends and opponents of the Burney bill, with opponents greatly in the majority, had crowded into the hall at the invitation of the committee to hear of the relation of the parochial, the private and the denominational school to home life, to religious life, to efficiency and to Americanism. There were men and women of many different nationalities and religious faith present. The speakers in general were accorded respectful attention by the crowd which apparently was pro-parochial even though the sentiments were against the parochial system.

The Burney bill amends the compulsory school attendance law by eliminating portions permitting children to attend private or parochial schools in lieu of public schools. The majority of the parochial schools representatives asked freedom from legislation in just one respect. Religious instruction. There were quotations from the Bible and from the constitution introduced in attempt to prove that it is not the right of the state to interfere with religious teaching. Every speaker urged a stronger Americanization but urged also against discrimination. For the legislature to attempt to interfere with the choice as between the public and parochial school, would mean the sanction of religious persecution in a land of democracy, according to some of the speakers.

Finally and with but one dissenting vote, the Nebraska house of representatives approved, in committee of the whole, the Tracewell-Mears bill for a new state capitol. The bill provides for a levy of 1 1/2 mills for six years, designed to raise \$5,000,000. The fund is to be handled by a commission consisting of the governor, the state engineer and three citizens appointed by the governor, who are authorized to secure and select plans, let contracts and supervise the work. The building is to be erected upon the present capitol site in Lincoln.

The only amendment approved, other than amendments recommended by the finance committee, was one offered by Representative Anderson of Butler county. It provides that a memorial tablet shall be placed in an appropriate place in the building in honor of Nebraska boys who died in the country's service during the recent war. Their names are to appear on the tablet.

An amendment offered during the afternoon by Jacobs of Custer, and which introduced a favor, was incorporated in the bill. This provides that no contract for purchase of material for construction of the capitol shall be entered into by members of the commission until one year after the passage of the bill. This was offered as a safety valve. Introducers agreed that it will take fully this long a time before plans are secured and money is available. Purcell, Miller and others favored the amendment because of the expected decline in cost of materials.

The house rejected a proposal by Representative McLellan of Hall county to submit the question of location to a referendum on the vote on this amendment being 78 to 18.

As the committee of three to investigate the railway commission's enforcement of the blue sky law, and the results of such enforcement and the cost to the state, Messrs. Purdy Frantz and Rodman were appointed by Speaker Dalbey, in accordance with the Purdy resolution adopted the preceding day. Mr. Purdy is the first minority member to be recognized with a chairmanship. He presented the resolution, and according to unwritten parliamentary law it was up to the speaker to name him as the special committee's head.

C. A. Sommer of the state library commission asked the finance committee to recommend increased salaries for commission employees. He pointed out that the governor had not included this department in his recommendations. He presented figures from other states showing that Nebraska is far behind in salaries.

The senate judiciary committee by a vote of six to three decided to recommend the indefinite postponement of S. F. 62, a bill by Cooper, known as the boxing and wrestling bill. It is a measure similar to one in the house, but the house bill does not include the subject of wrestling. No action has been taken in the house on the boxing bill introduced in that body.

A change in the primary law designed to prevent filing by "freak" candidates, is proposed in a bill introduced in the lower legislative house by Representative J. Reid Green. It would require candidates who file for a primary nomination to pay a filing fee equal to 5 per cent of the annual salary of the office which they seek. If the candidate should receive 20 per cent of the party vote in the primary, this fee will be refunded.

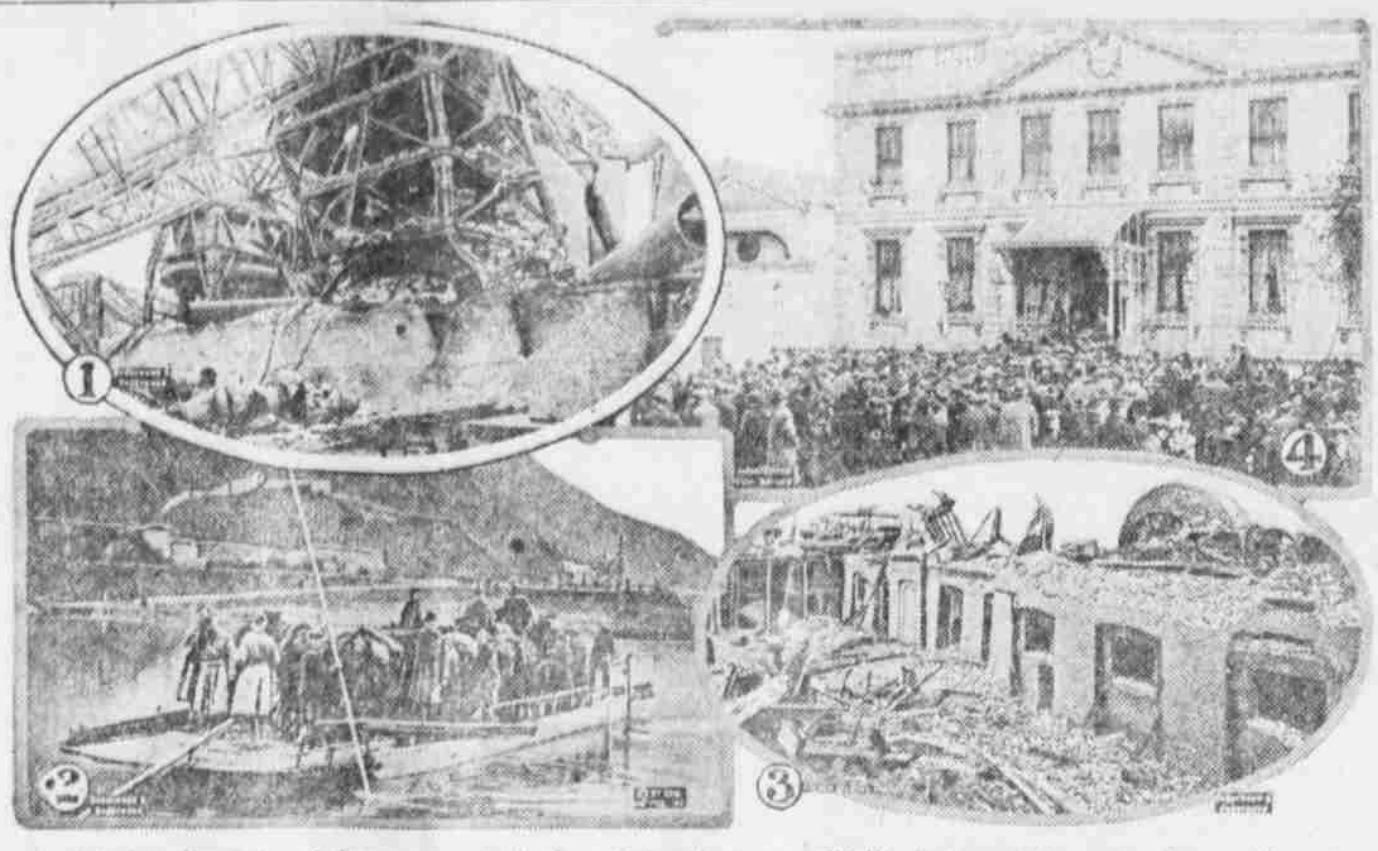
The senate, sitting as a committee of the whole, recommended for third reading Senate File No. 43, by Senator Weaverling of Dodge county, continuing the supreme court commission of three members to clear the dockets of the court. Favorable action by the senators followed the explanation that the supreme court docket should be cleared as nearly as possible before the calling of the constitutional convention.

The uniform right-of-way bill, seeking to restore to land owners along the Union Pacific railroad a 100-foot strip which they claim to be justly theirs, but which the courts have awarded to the company, was passed by the lower legislative house 96 to 0. This matter has been the center of bitter legislative contests in the past sessions and passed the house in 1915 only to fail in the senate. Representatives from counties along the Union Pacific are backing it.

The judiciary committee decided to recommend S. F. 35, by Sears, for the general file with a slight amendment. The bill makes it unlawful for anyone except guardians, parents or someone employed by them to impart sex information or information relating to venereal diseases to persons under sixteen years of age. The committee changed the word "employed" to "authorized." Peterson of Lancaster endeavored to insert an amendment to exempt pastors and teachers.

Mr. Mathewson proposes to bring under the anti-lobby law all legislative agents, whether they are paid or not. At present, none but paid agents are required to register in the secretary of state's office.

If a bill introduced by Senator Cordeal passes, the state railway commission will be granted increased powers in enforcing the blue sky law in legislation. The railway commission under the proposed Cordeal law will be empowered to institute and prosecute in its own name all civil actions, both legal and equitable, in any court mandamus or quo warranto proceedings and are authorized to hire any assistance they see fit. Previously the attorney general and the county attorneys of the state were charged with the enforcement of the law.



1 and 3—Examples of the way in which the retiring Germans willfully destroyed the coal mine workings in northern France. 2—Battery F, Seventh field artillery, of the American army of occupation having a boat ride on the Rhine. 4—The Mansion house, Dublin, where the Sinn Fein "Irish parliament" meets.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Captured German Colonies Are to Be Placed Under International Control.

WILSON'S PLAN IS ADOPTED

British Dominions Protest in Vain—Mandatories of League of Nations Will Rule the Territories—Little Progress With Russian Problem.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Germany's lost colonies occupied much of the time and attention of the peace delegates last week, and the result of their deliberations apparently was that those colonies, and probably some of the territories that are to be lopped off the Turkish empire, are to be internationalized by being entrusted to governments designated as "mandatories" by the league of nations. These mandatories presumably will have a certain liberty of action in executing their control of the colonies, and the league, it is supposed, will enforce, by safeguards, a system very similar in effect to the British colonial administration.

This disposition of the former German possessions, if it is finally accepted by the peace conference, will prove another triumph for President Wilson, for while he has yielded somewhat in compromise, it is mainly his idea. The British imperial cabinet accepted his theory, despite the strenuous objections of the representatives of the British dominions, and the adhesion of France also was announced. Japan was not very well pleased, and neither was Italy.

In another way this decision, if made, vindicates Mr. Wilson's ideas, for it is admitted that the creation and maintenance of the league of nations is necessary to carry out the colonial plan, and the president asserts that, inasmuch as the league was unanimously agreed to, it is necessary to turn the colonies over to the league under the protectorate of the nations best fitted to hold them.

The question of the German colonies developed the most serious diplomatic contest the conference has engaged in, and at the time of writing the end of the fight was not in sight. Those colonies were Germany's greatest asset, and some of the allied nations had counted on them to make up in part their immense financial expenditures in the war. Secret agreements had been entered into giving Australia and New Zealand the German possessions south of the equator and giving Japan the Caroline and Marshall Islands. Despite the action of the British imperial war cabinet in London, the British delegates to the conference were disposed to stand by these agreements.

The representatives of Australia and New Zealand were especially insistent on their claims, and were supported by the Japanese, who expected in return the support of Great Britain for positions in the Shantung peninsula and Manchuria. The South African representatives, also, were displeased, believing the plan would encourage the rebellious elements there that are still agitating for an independent South Africa.

Assuming that the internationalization plan is adopted, it is likely the control of the lands in question would be about as follows: German West Africa to France; the Kamerun to French Congo; German Southwest Africa to the South African Union; German East Africa mainly to Great Britain, a small part going to Belgium Congo; the Carolines and Marshall Islands to Japan; New Guinea to Australia; Samoa to New Zealand. Japan expresses willingness to give Kiaochow back to China, under conditions that have not yet developed. These are in the main the claims that were made by the allied nations; but President Wilson and his American colleagues made it clear they would not agree to the plan by which absolute possession of the German colonies

would be granted as a means of recouping war losses. The dividing up of the spoils of victory, they held, would be in absolute violation of the promises that the rights of communities and small nations shall be protected. It was understood that if Italy agreed to the internationalization plan she would surrender her claim to Fiume and the Dalmatian coast as absolute possessions, perhaps being given control of the latter until the territory is ready to assert the principle of self-determination.

The supreme war council tentatively decided that the spread of lawlessness in Turkey made it necessary that allied troops should be sent there, and the military representatives were directed to prepare a report on the most equitable distribution of this military burden among the allies. The occupation of Turkey will continue until the peace conference has determined on the future government of the Turkish territories. It is understood that Palestine, Armenia, Syria and Mesopotamia will come within the scope of the plan of dealing with colonies by the mandatory system.

The labor question bulks big in the doings of the peace-makers at Paris, and their international commission on labor regulation is now considering an elaborate scheme for the international regulation of conditions of employment drafted by Mr. Barnes, British minister without portfolio, in conference with British trade unionists and representatives of India and the dominions.

The Polish commission of the supreme council, made up of representatives of America, Great Britain, France and Italy, prepared to depart for Warsaw. It would seem that this commission has a big job before it, for while the Poles themselves are working fairly harmoniously under the leadership of Paderewski, they are beset by enemies on three sides and are engaged in continual warfare. The Russian bolsheviks and the Ukrainians are unremitting in their attacks, and now the Czechs are assailing the Poles along their southern border. The former have captured a number of towns which they claim are properly within the boundaries of Czechoslovakia, and they also have seized the mining regions of Karvin, upon which the Polish state relies largely for its mineral supplies.

This fighting, of course, is in direct disobedience of the recent order of the great powers that all hostilities must cease everywhere, but the Polish representatives in Paris say their country cannot stop fighting when it is under constant military attack.

Diplomatically, Russian matters were at a standstill, awaiting replies to the invitation to a conference of all factions on the Princes' Islands in the Sea of Marmora. The bolsheviks were gaining victories in the field that entitled them to more recognition. The representatives in Paris of the other factions continued in their attitude of passive opposition to the conference, and General Miller, head of the north Russia government, stated that it is not only inadvisable to hold any parley with the bolsheviks, but it would be physically impossible for the representatives of north Russia to reach the Princes' Islands by February 15 without passing through bolshevik territory, which he considered impossible. The Omsk government insisted that the campaign against the bolsheviks must be pushed vigorously.

The claims of the bolsheviks to victory in the field were not without foundation. In the Archaengel region they have forced the American and allied troops to withdraw quite a distance from their advanced positions, and they have driven General Duffout of the important city of Orenburg on the Ural river. On the other hand, they lost Saranpol, province of Tobolsk, and the Siberians and are reported to have been overthrown in Tashkent, capital of Russian Turkestan. In the Ukraine the soviet forces inflicted a severe defeat on the army of General Petlura and occupied Ekaterinoslav. There is little to choose between the contenders there.

Just why the allied forces are in north Russia and what they are expected to do there is still much of a mystery and it engaged the attention of the American senate last week when Senator Johnson of California vigorously attacked the policy, or lack of policy, of the administration in this matter. The course that is being pursued is equally displeasing to many Britishers, and the French never did approve of it.

One important point concerning payment by Germany is reported to have been settled by the peace conference. It was decided that while Germany must make full reparation for unjustifiable damage done, she and her associates will not be called on to pay heavy indemnities to reimburse the victorious nations for their war expenses. Nor will Germany be compelled to relinquish the indemnity she took from France in 1871. Belgium's reparation claims will have first consideration and perhaps those of Serbia will come next.

On the eve of the assembling of the German national convention in Weimar, the Ebert government seemed firmly seated in the place of power, though there was a possibility of combinations that would dominate it. The Spartacists were in a hopeless minority, however, and there was every reason to believe the "revolution" would run the course laid out for it by the old-time leaders, who never have relinquished control actually. That the change of form of government has not wrought a miraculous change of the German heart or the German intention to rule is the opinion of General Gouffand, the French commander, as it is of many less well informed persons. This view is borne out by the increasingly insolent attitude of the conquered Hunns, and by their naive surprise and indignation when they realized that they might not be admitted to membership in the league of nations immediately and on an equality with the nations that saved civilization from their criminal assault.

A French expert has summarized the policies of the present German government as follows: Interior—1. Complete unity. 2. Redivision of the nation for administrative purposes into a number of departments approximately of equal size without taking account of the present divisions.

Exterior—1. The annexation of German Austria. 2. Opposition to the formation of a strong Poland. The annexation of German Austria may be balked by the formation of the proposed Danube confederation of all the states along the Danube, including German Austria and Bulgaria, for it is figured that if Germany is permitted to annex the part of Austria she covets she would be stronger than ever in territory and population.

A good deal of excitement and some resentment were stirred up in America by the announcement of a British embargo on many imports, effective March 1. Among the commodities named are numerous American products, and those who seek to arouse antagonism between the United States and Great Britain were quick to accuse the British of starting a trade war. More reasonable persons recognize that the embargo is an emergency measure to help England in the rehabilitation of her industries and that it is undoubtedly only temporary. At the same time, American business men were aroused by it to the necessity of looking after our own place in world trade.

Great Britain is having a serious time with the labor problem. Several thousand workers in England, Wales and Ireland have quit, either for more pay or for shorter hours without reduction of wages. Belfast seems to be in the worst predicament, for business and transportation are virtually suspended, riots are frequent, shops are being looted every night and the city is in darkness.

In the United States unpreparedness for peace is at the bottom of a great deal of unrest concerning the employment of returning soldiers. State and communities are getting busy however, and it is hoped that soon there will be positions for all, at least as good as those they left to serve their country.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 4.—The most sweeping removal of restrictions upon the exportation of foodstuffs made since the signing of the armistice has just been announced by the war trade board.

Commodities removed from the export conservation list were barley, corn and rye, including flour and meal made from these grains, oats and oat products, brewers' grains, bran and middlings, beans, dried and split peas, sugar and hydrogenated cottonseed oil.

These articles constituted a majority of the food items on the restricted list and their removal is effective immediately.

GRAIN EMBARGO OFF

WAR TRADE BOARD REMOVES EXPORT RESTRICTIONS.

HOPE TO STABILIZE PRICES

Wheat and Its Products Not Touched By Sweeping Order.—Licenses Are to Be Granted.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 4.—The most sweeping removal of restrictions upon the exportation of foodstuffs made since the signing of the armistice has just been announced by the war trade board.

Licenses to export them will be granted freely to all destinations, including Great Britain, France, Italy and Belgium. Heretofore such exports to these allied countries were made exclusively by the food administration's grain corporation and the wheat export company.

Attention was called to the fact that wheat and flour remain on the restricted list. There was no indication when the embargo on these commodities would be removed, but it was said that it probably would remain in force until the government's agreement with the farmers for a maximum price on the 1919 wheat crop had expired.

Removal of the embargo on the other grains was expected by some officials to stabilize prices and relieve what was described as a congested market. An advance in the price of corn was looked for by reason of the fact that prices fell sharply several weeks ago, when removal of the embargo against the importation of Argentine corn was announced.

It was said that there was a heavy demand in foreign countries for some of the grain now placed on the free list and particularly for rye. Removal of the restrictions on barleys opens the way for the disposal of the 400,000 tons surplus of barley now held by California growers.

Gas Regiments Suffered Heavily. New York, Feb. 4.—The White Star liner Celtic, which arrived Sunday, brought 4,114 American officers and men from overseas. On board the Celtic was the entire personnel of the First gas regiment, the only offensive gas troops employed by the American expeditionary forces. The remainder of the passenger list was made up of casualties from all parts of the country.

Major John B. Garlock of San Francisco, commander of the gas regiment, declared that the regiment fought successfully on every American front, suffered casualties of half its enlisted strength of 1,500 men and returned with eight of its members wearing the Croix de Guerre, twenty wearing the distinguished service cross and twelve of its officers recommended for distinguished service medals.

Allies in Russia Face Peril. Washington, D. C., Feb. 4.—The situation in the Archangel district is regarded by military officers in northern Russia as extremely critical. Reports that the bolshevik forces were using gas shells was taken here by some officers to mean that this equipment had been supplied through German sources, notwithstanding the terms of the armistice, and if this was established as a fact it was intimated that drastic action against the Germans would be taken by Marshal Foch.

Available figures obtained by War department officials show that the British force in the region of the north is approximately 6,000; American, 4,500; French, 1,500; total Russians, under British officers, 1,200, and there are 1,000 other soldiers of one of the smaller allied countries.

U. S. Labor Head Won't Meet Enemy. Paris, Feb. 4.—The American Federation of Labor delegation, headed by Samuel Gompers, supported the Belgian socialists and trade unionists who refused to meet the Germans at either the socialist or trade union congresses at Berne.

Many Killed in Petrograd. Stockholm, Feb. 4.—Petrograd has been bombarded by Kronstadt artillery and many people have been killed, according to travelers who are quoted to this effect by the Finnish papers.

Food to Belgians By Airplane. London, Feb. 4.—The government has allotted a squadron of military airplanes to convey foodstuffs to Belgium for the relief of the population.

Retaliatory Measures Unlikely. Washington, D. C., Feb. 4.—The war trade board will not take retaliatory measures on account of import restrictions pronounced by the British government. This statement was authorized by a member of the board.



J. W. HAMMOND.

Mr. Hammond has been editor of the Cambridge Clarion fifteen years. He is now serving his second term in the State Senate, where he is the chairman of the Committee on Miscellaneous Subjects; also chairman of special Committee of Fees and Salaries. He is very much interested in farming and live stock.

The senate judiciary committee found it could not favor a law which proposes to require individual employers to give the preference to soldiers when men apply for jobs. The bill is S. F. 69, by Hall of Butler. It provides that returned soldiers shall be given the preference on public works and also in private employment. The committee decided to recommend that it be indefinitely postponed. The committee will have to do the same with Senator Sturm's bill which provides that the property of soldiers shall be exempt from taxation. Under the constitution this cannot be done. The constitution provides what property shall be exempt from taxation, and property of soldiers is not in the list.

State Engineer Johnson's group of road bills, three in number, carrying out the plan endorsed by federal highway officials and the national highways association, was introduced in the house by the committee on roads and bridges, of which Mr. McLaughlin is chairman. One important change has been made in the measure creating the system of state roads. Instead of the state doing all the work upon them and also maintaining them afterward, independently of county control, the maintenance will be looked after by county officials, subject to the general supervision and direction of the state highways department.

In executive session the state senate considered the appointment of A. E. Allyn of Hastings for member of the state board of control. Senator Bradstreet of Hall was one of several who said he was not prepared to vote on confirmation of the governor's appointment. He, like several other, did not know Mr. Allyn. He said he knew nothing against him, but he simply did not know the appointee and had never seen him. He desired to see the man for whom he was asked to cast his vote. A committee was appointed to report on the appointee.