

# GOVERNOR SIGNED NEW CAPITOL BILL

AND NAMES COMMISSION TO PUT UP THE BUILDING

## OTHER LEGISLATIVE DOINGS

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

Lincoln.—Governor McKelvie has signed the bill ordering the erection of a new state capitol on the present site in Lincoln. The bill authorizes a tax levy of 1 1/2 mills for six years. It appropriates \$5,000,000 from the fund so raised, to be expended under the direction of a commission composed of the governor, the state engineer and three others appointed by the governor. The only restriction upon the governor's selection is that no member of the legislature be named. Soon after signing the bill he announced that W. E. Hardy of Lincoln, Walter W. Head of Omaha, and William H. Thompson of Grand Island had been chosen. These three men, with Governor McKelvie and State Engineer Geo. E. Johnson, will have entire charge of the undertaking. Mr. Hardy is chosen because of his business reputation and his interest in public affairs. Mr. Head is a young banker of Omaha, with special qualifications for looking after the financial details of the enterprise. Mr. Thompson is chosen because a lawyer of his standing and temperament is needed on the commission.

In committee of the whole the senate recommended for passage the bills intended to aid the farmers, S. F. 151, for the eradication of grasshoppers, rodents of different kinds and weeds or plant pests, and S. F. 172, a revision of the law for the organization of county farm bureaus, and making it compulsory for county boards to make a levy for expenses of such bureaus, including a county agricultural agent, when a bureau has prepared an estimate of necessary expenses. Barr of Gage and Watson of Fillmore, both farmers, introduced both bills. Both introducers spoke on behalf of the pest eradication bill, and Good of Dawes earnestly championed the county agricultural agent bill. The bill for the eradication of pests provides that 20 per cent of the land owners of a proposed district may organize for the destruction of pests, including grasshoppers, gophers, prairie dogs, insects or weeds, or plants, under direction of the state entomologist. The latter is given power to direct farmers of such districts to do certain things for eradication and if they do not comply he may have the work done and the cost be taxed against the property of the land owner refusing to act.

Senate Files No. 198, providing gates or other obstructions across highways to catch liquor violators, No. 195, forbidding liquor violators from carrying firearms, and No. 194, requiring court officials to report to the governor the names of liquor violators, all introduced by the judiciary committee at the request of the governor, were placed on general file. The committee on cities and towns recommended out for passage H. R. 450, the bill empowering the Omaha water board to construct and operate an electric light plant. The vote was unanimous.

J. Held Greens' bill, H. R. 292, was recommended for passage. It provides that when an employer discharges or lays off men he shall pay them what is due when they demand it. If he doesn't their salary goes marching on until he does pay, but after thirty days the workers must put it in judgment. The bill also requires employers to give forty-eight hours' notice of intention to quit. Reynolds thought this wasn't sufficient protection in cases of strikes, but he was overruled by the house.

The lower house approved Representative Sandquist's bill amending the non-partisan election law to limit the possibilities of "written in" candidates. It provides that no candidate shall receive a non-partisan primary nomination for county judge or county superintendent unless he shall have filed as a candidate or unless his name be written in by 10 per cent of the total vote cast in the county for governor at the last election. Senator Sears' sex bill, Senate File No. 36, reappeared in the state senate committee of the whole. The bill has been considerably amended from the original draft, and was recommended for passage, as amended. The bill in its amended form, permits the government, through consent of the school board, to carry out its plan of sex instruction. It also permits persons bearing the fixed relation of priest, pastor or physician to give sex instruction when authorized to do so by parents or guardian.

Senate File 128 by Peterson of Lancaster, which provides a legal status for the organization of co-operative associations of which the members share profits according to individual patronage, and which also exempts such organizations from the operation of the "blue sky" law, passed the senate by a vote of 39 to 1. The committee killed H. R. 502, which Chairman Fultz declared to be a bill that would lead to blackmail. It gave a married woman a right of action against a person other than her husband whom she claimed to be the father of her child.

Attempt to repeal the present non-partisan election law for superintendents and judges met with flat failure in house committee of the whole and H. R. 124 providing for such repeal, was indefinitely postponed by a top-heavy vote. Downing, introducer of the bill, declared that the present law is a dead letter. He complained that it permits men who have been thrown over by the democrats and republicans to sneak into office. He challenged any man to show an instance at any election where more than four-fifths as many votes had been voted for the candidates on the non-partisan ballot as had voted on the straight ballot.

A dozen members rushed to the rescue of the existing law. Tracewell declared that the law is intended to place the best men in office without fear of party prejudice. It is a good law he said, in that it gets away from the narrowness of party lines. Rodman declared that the attempt to repeal was neither good horse sense nor good legislative sense nor good political sense. Reynolds said he would not care to go home to his constituents with the confession that he had helped to support a bill repealing the present law. Purcell and Miller warned against a backward step.

When the Byrum-Hardin bill, changing the present primary law, was before the committee, the question was raised as to what effect repeal of the non-partisan election law would have, since the measure before committee made no provision in case of such repeal. The attitude of committeemen was that the non-partisan law would stand. The action in committee of the whole, however, removes the possibility of special request of the governor to introduce a related bill dealing with the subject of election of non-partisan officers.

House standing committees have recommended for passage bills appropriating \$100,000 for vocational education, appropriating \$500,000 for construction of new roads in co-operation with the federal government, providing for a state motor-vehicle registration to raise funds for maintenance of roads, and requiring corporations to file a list of all stockholders with the state railway commission.

The bills in both houses providing increased salaries for public officers not named in the constitution have probably struck a snag so far as benefiting the officials now in office during their present terms. Senators have noted the constitutional provision forbidding the increase of official salaries during the term for which an officer is chosen and have doubts that an enactment by this session will benefit any of the present elective county or city officials.

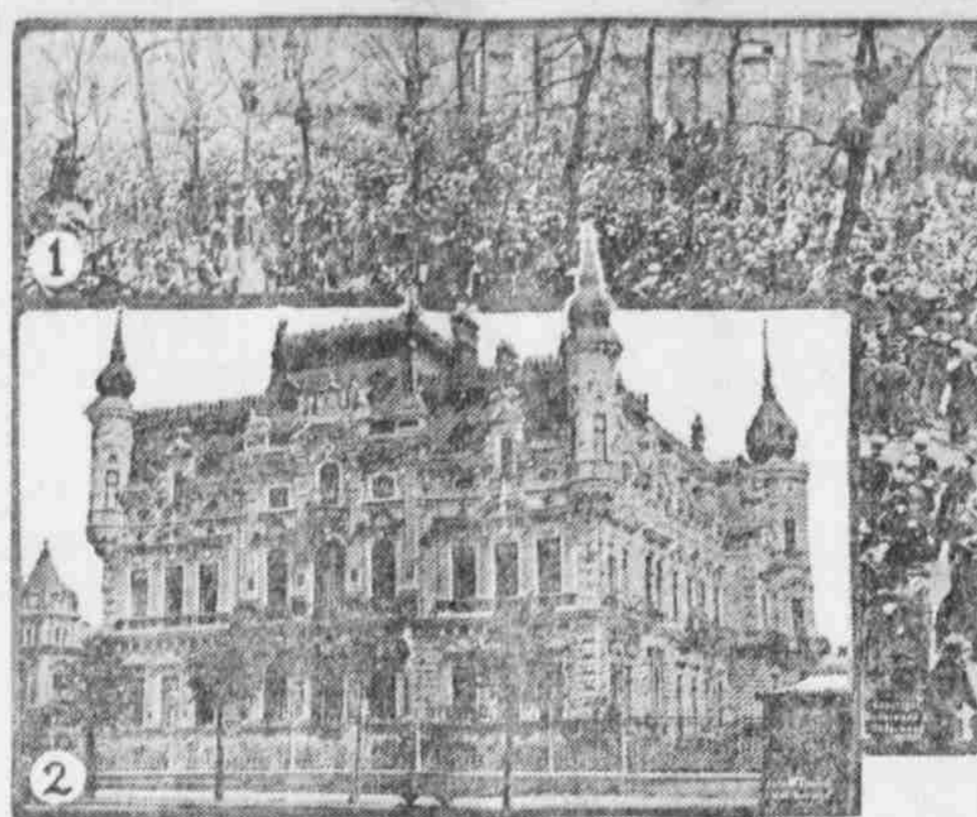
Senate File No. 238, by Siman of Wayne, was advanced in the state senate to third reading, and recommended for passage. This bill provides that females may work a total of fifty-four hours per week, as the present law, but eliminates the clause prohibiting their working between 10:00 p. m. and 6:00 p. m. No day's work shall be longer than ten hours. The new law also proposes to make the minimum wage for woman, unskilled, 15 cents per hour, skilled, 17 1/2 cents per hour, with one and one-half pay for overtime.

The house committee on education heard arguments for and against H. R. 355, a bill providing for a state censorship of moving pictures. A board of seven persons, at least three of whom shall be women, is created by this bill. Its job will be, if it becomes a law, to pass on all pictures shown in the state before they are shown, to refuse permission altogether and confiscate film it thinks utterly bad or cut out parts they think are immoral or suggestive. Each member is to draw a salary of \$1,800 a year, to be paid, together with the expenses of the commission, out of a fund created by taxing each reel censored \$2. No other reels can be shown. The committee deferred action on the bill.

The practice of Christian Science will not be legalized by the present legislature. Although the house committee on medical societies recommended passage of Representative Berka's bill to this effect, 3 to 2, the minority members brought in a separate report, recommending the bill be postponed indefinitely. The house adopted the minority report, 43 to 28.

The medical societies committee of the lower house has recommended for indefinite postponement Senator Sturms' bill, already passed by the senate, directed at the control of venereal diseases and authorizes local boards of health to examine persons "reasonably suspected" of having such diseases and quarantine those afflicted. The senate placed its stamp of approval upon a bill giving the state banking board authority to refuse to grant a charter to a bank when the board is satisfied the community where the bank is to be started has adequate banking facilities and that the establishment of another bank will tend to jeopardize the depositors' guaranty fund. The committee of the whole recommended the bill for passage.

Resolutely rejecting every proposed amendment save one, the lower legislative house approved the recommendation of its educational committee for legislation regulating private and parochial schools. It advanced House Roll No. 64 to third reading by a vote which makes certain its final passage by more than seventy affirmative votes. The one amendment adopted was proposed by friends of the bill, it giving parochial and private school teachers until September 1, this year, to complete the certification required by the bill. Every other amendment was voted down overwhelmingly.



1—Scenes in Unter den Linden, Berlin, as crowds hailed the returning troops as unconquered warriors. 2—Palace of the ministry of foreign affairs in Bucharest which was reported besieged by the Roumanian republican revolutionists. 3—An American fire company fighting a blaze on the docks at Bassene, a suburb of Bordeaux.



## NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Allies Propose to Maintain a Watch on the Rhine for a Long Time to Come.

### MAKE HUNS REALIZE DEFEAT

New Armistice Terms Bring Forth Walls—Fight on the Projected League of Nations Opened in Congress Without Awaiting President Wilson's Promised Explication.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Emile Cottin, the anarchist who tried to murder Premier Clemenceau in Paris, could not have done his cause a greater disservice. If he recovers from the wound in his shoulder, as seems probable at this writing, the "Tiger" will be stronger than ever in France and the people of his country will give support more united than ever to his plans and demands for the restoration and the safeguarding of France, even though he may be "preparing for another war" as the assassin asserts. Clemenceau, by his courage and robust patriotism has won the esteem of all his fellow citizens except the rabid anarchists, who always have hated him. His influence in the deliberations of the peace delegates has been powerful and his statesmanship has been demonstrated at every turn.

It is becoming more evident daily that the entente allies have no intention of yielding too far to maudlin sentiment where Germany is concerned, and that the Huns are to be properly restrained, with just enough economic freedom to enable them to work hard and pay for the tremendous damage they have done the world. They may wall and squirm, but they will not be permitted to organize their forces for the armed resistance against the terms imposed on them by their conquerors. At least during the present generation the allies intend to keep a watch on the Rhine that, in the words of Winston Churchill, British war secretary, will "make it physically impossible for Germany to begin a war of revenge, at any rate in our lifetime." The effectiveness of the league of nations, he said, depends upon the allies having a trustworthy military force in close proximity to Germany, and he explained that the British government therefore would retain about one-fourth of the men now in the service and also is already raising a volunteer army for garrisoning the empire. During 1919 the British army will number 600,000 men. Presumably the other allied nations will do their part in this respect. America's selective service act army must be demobilized within four months after the formal proclaiming of peace. The army bill as passed by the house last week provides for the regular peace-time army of 175,000 to be obtained by voluntary enlistments. As the enlistment period is reduced to one year and the four-year period in the reserve is done away with, it is believed that whatever army is needed abroad can be recruited from the ranks of the soldiers now here.

Since this bill is regarded as totally inadequate by a great many senators it has small chance of becoming law, and it is believed an extra session of the new congress will be called to pass both army and navy appropriation bills, which, it is taken for granted, will permit America to do her part in guarding the peace of the world.

In the new armistice terms imposed on them the Huns are getting a slight forecast of what they may expect when the military peace treaty is made. Not many radical changes were made, but these include the cessation of all hostilities against the Poles and the removal of German troops from the Posen and Thorn districts; also the Germans were peremptorily ordered to put in good condition all the artillery, airplanes, motortrucks and rolling stock which are to be turned

over. Nothing was included about demobilization because it was ascertained that less than 200,000 Germans are now under arms. Erzberger signed the new terms under protest, and when he returned to Weimar he explained to the national assembly that he had no recourse. He was violently attacked by a delegate of the People's party but was sustained by the majority.

What seems to be worrying Erzberger most is the prospect that the peace treaty will give to France the Saar valley, where the best of the German coal deposits are located. The French claim this basin should be theirs in conjunction with the nearby Briley iron region, but Erzberger predicts that it will be given them Germany some day will recover it by force. In this, and in his repeated protest against the "harshness" of the treatment the Germans are receiving or are about to receive, Erzberger is speaking for a large part of the German nation, which seems incapable of realizing that it has been whipped and must pay fully for its crimes.

The arrogance of the Huns has reached a high point in loud objections to the league of nations, in the German press. Some newspapers even urge that Germany should have nothing to do with the league, but others, while severely criticizing some of the proposed statutes, demand that Germany be permitted to join the league simultaneously with the other powers. It is taken for granted by the allied nations that Germany will be admitted to the league at some future date, but only after she has given sufficient guaranty of her sincerity. As Professor Larnaude, dean of the Paris law faculty, says: "Surely when Germany enters a league of nations she will agree to sign every undertaking we desire; but we know what undertakings mean to the Germans. Did they not sign a treaty guaranteeing the neutrality of Belgium?"

This attitude of distrust, which is shared by all the allied nations, is recognized as justifiable by one Tanton, at least, Kurt Eisner, premier of Bavaria. The Germans, he says, did not realize to what extent the allies considered the German revolution a pure comedy, and he said that it will be thus while the German leaders remain the same as those who conducted Germany's odious war policy.

The constitution of the league of nations, as drafted, has been received with general approval in England and Italy, while in France the prevalent feeling is that it is a good beginning for a project by which there is hope of establishing world peace. In America opinion is widely divergent, and adverse criticism is based on the fear that the United States is about to surrender the Monroe Doctrine. President Wilson, by wireless, asked that there be no discussion of the league, in congress or elsewhere, until he could explain it fully in the public speeches he was planning to make in various cities. Some of the more impatient in congress, however, declined to wait, and started the music last Wednesday. In the senate the league was attacked strongly by Poladexter, Eorah, Reed, Vardaman, Lodge and others, and was defended by Shafroth and Hitchcock. In the house Fess of Ohio opened the fight on the league, declaring it "monstrous" and filled with vicious possibilities.

As can be seen, the league of nations is not a party question, but many astute leaders of the Republican party are urging that criticism of the plan be suppressed until the attitude of the country is ascertained from the reception given the president's explanations. Mr. Taft, who has not ceased to be one of that party's chiefs, denounces the opponents of the league for another reason—because he already ardently believes in the efficacy of the proposed society of nations. It is easy to predict that, after a deal of palaver, the senate will give its approval to the league plan, probably with formal reservations that will protect the Monroe Doctrine.

Of those peoples who still are fighting in Europe and Asia there is not much to write this week. The Poles are being hard pressed by the Ukrainians in the Lemberg region, and in East Prussia the German troops were said to be fighting them under the old imperial standard. The Junke's, ac-

ording to report, were striving to retain their old military jobs by organizing a strong movement against Poland.

General Denikine and his anti-soviet army, it was announced, had reached the Caspian, having scattered a great body of anarchist troops and captured 31,000 prisoners and large quantities of material. In Estonia, however, the soviet armies, which had resumed their activities with a general attack, were said to be making considerable progress, especially in the region of Pskov. This continuation of hostilities by the Lenin-Trotsky forces again makes doubtful the holding of the proposed conference at Princes' Island. Moreover, three of the Russian governments, those of Siberia, Archangel and southern Russia, have formally declined to take part in the conference, stating that there can be no conciliation between them and the bolsheviks, who are denounced as traitors and fomenters of anarchy.

Information from Petrograd shows that opposition to the rule of the Lenin anarchists is increasing among the more intelligent workers. Sixty thousand workmen in that city are on strike, demanding the end of civil war and the establishment of free trade.

The United States and Great Britain have announced that their forces in northern Russia are to be withdrawn when weather conditions permit, and will be re-enforced to facilitate this movement. Meanwhile those who have been worried by alarmist stories of the distressing conditions under which our boys there are existing may be relieved by the cablegram from Col. George F. Stewart, commanding the Americans. He says the reports are not warranted by the facts; that the health of the entire command is excellent, the sick and wounded are well cared for and the entire allied expedition is capable of taking care of itself against the whole bolshevik army.

The Spartacan anarchists of Germany were extremely busy throughout the week, organizing here and there and in Westphalia going so far as to start a bombardment of the town of Rotterdam. In the Ruhr industrial region along the Rhine the Spartacans occupied several towns and declared a general strike, fortifying the waterworks and powerhouses and preparing to resist the government troops. Muhlheim is the center of the movement and the anarchists have gathered there in large numbers.

Congressman-elect Victor L. Berger of Wisconsin and his fellow defendants, Engdahl, Germer, Tucker and Kruse, convicted of violating the espionage act and conspiring to obstruct the United States' war program, were sentenced by Judge Landis to twenty years' imprisonment each at Leavenworth. Appealing to the federal circuit court of appeals, they were released on bonds, but only after giving their solemn pledges that they would neither by word nor act do any of the things for which they were convicted pending final decision of their cases.

The senate judiciary committee took a step toward curbing the activities of the anarchists when it unanimously approved a bill to punish such activities and to prohibit the display of red flags or other emblems of violence.

There were interesting developments in the "scandals" and charges that inevitably follow a war. Governor Allen of Kansas, supporting a motion of Representative Campbell for an investigation of the story that the casualties of the Thirty-sixth division were needlessly large, told the house committee on rules a shocking story of inefficiency and blunders and lack of artillery and equipment. Spinning up in a sentence the record of the American army in France, he said everything fell down except the raw man material. The inquiry into these conditions will not be made by congress until the next session, when the entire conduct of the war will be sifted.

Following an investigation ordered by Secretary Daniels, seven naval officers and 40 yeomen were arrested in the Third naval district, which includes New York, on charges of grafting. It is asserted that a great many sons of wealthy families paid largess for special favors, easy resignments and promotions.

# WILSON BACK IN U. S.

STAY IN WASHINGTON TO BE BRIEF.—TO RETURN SOON.

## HOMeward JOURNEY ROUGH

Encountered Heavy Seas and Liner Barely Escaped Grounding Before Reaching Boston Harbor.

Washington, Febr. 25.—President Wilson has returned to U. S. after a visit of two months in Europe. The president and party arrived at Boston aboard the George Washington Sunday afternoon.

President Wilson had a much rougher trip coming home than he did going over. Some of the days half the party was confined to cabins, but the president proved himself an excellent sailor and surrendered only once, when the waves and spray were dashing over the bridge and he got a wetting while the destroyer escort buried itself, plunging about in the heavy seas. There was a lively epidemic of grippe and Spanish influenza on the ship, many of the attaches of the party being confined to their staterooms or the ship's hospital for the entire voyage.

The president's ship and its destroyer escort, the Harding, lost their bearings in the heavy fog and rain off the Massachusetts coast while running for Boston light and came within perhaps 1,000 yards of grounding off the beach of Thatchers Island, Cape Ann.

The president plans to return to France on the George Washington, sailing from Hoboken about March 5, unless something unforeseen occurs. The condition of the French premier, Mr. Clemenceau, may prove to be a large factor.

Although the president held several conferences during the return voyage he did not give any explanations on the work or prospects of peace conference further than to indicate he feels justification of his position in insisting that the making of peace and the creation of a league of nations are inseparable propositions, not to be dissociated.

Mr. Wilson has told friends and advisers that with the draft of the league constitution on the table before the conference, he considers the first great step an accomplished fact.

The president is known to feel that in the end the underlying principles he has proposed will be accepted in the conference.

The ratification of the document in other countries and in the United States, the president considers as another step to be dealt with after the league of nations plan is perfected.

While he has been following keenly the opposition and adverse criticism of the plan in congress, the president has said that he was sure he could convince congressional leaders that there were no fundamental objections.

### Demand Freedom for Ireland.

Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 25.—A resolution presented by Cardinal Gibbons calling on President Wilson and congress to urge the peace congress to apply to Ireland the doctrine of national self-determination and a declaration of principles demanding that if any league of nations be created, all features which may infringe on the traditional American policy, including the Monroe doctrine, shall be eliminated, were adopted unanimously at the closing session of the convention of the Irish race in America. The declaration says a state of war exists between England and Ireland "Which in the interest of the peace of the world, the peace conference cannot ignore."

In support of the movement to bring freedom to Ireland the convention pledged to raise within six months \$1,000,000, but before Justice Daniel F. Cohalan of New York supreme court, chairman of the convention, completed the calling of a list of states and cities, more than \$1,250,000 had been pledged to the cause.

### Unearth Terrorist Plot.

New York, Feb. 25.—Fourteen members of the Spanish branch of the I. W. W. were arrested by secret service men and members of the police bomb squad in two raids here late Sunday afternoon.

While they are charged formally with having seditious literature in their possession government agents claimed to have evidence they were hatching a terrorist plot.

### Liquor Dropped From Building.

Sioux City, Ia., Feb. 25.—Sixty thousand dollars' worth of liquor was bounced off the sidewalk of the city building and permitted to run into the sewer here. The liquor was confiscated in raids.

### Famous Suffragist Succumbs.

Watertown, N. Y., Feb. 25.—Dr. Mary Walker, aged 87 years, died at her home on Bunker Hill, near Oswego, last Friday night, after a long illness. She was a surgeon in the civil war and was awarded a congressional medal of honor. She gained considerable fame by being the only woman allowed to appear in male attire by an act of congress. She led a picturesque career, most of which was spent in fighting for feminine dress reform and woman's right to political suffrage.