

# WILSON'S MESSAGE TO THE 66TH CONGRESS READ TO LAWMAKERS

## Recommends Early Return of Railroads, Telegraph and Telephone Lines. Favors Woman Suffrage and Laws to Protect Dye Industry. Urges Repeal of Dry Law.

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson's message to the extraordinary session of congress was read in the house and senate with most members in their seats. This is the first time since President Wilson was inaugurated that he had not appeared in person to deliver his message.

Following is the full text of the message:

"Gentlemen of the congress: I deeply regret my inability to be present at the opening of the extraordinary session of congress. It still seems to me my duty to take part in the councils of the peace conference and contribute what I can to the solution of the innumerable questions to whose settlement it has had to address itself; for they are questions which affect the peace of the whole world, and from them, therefore, the United States cannot stand apart.

"I deemed it my duty to call congress together at this time because it was not wise to postpone longer the provisions which must be made for the support of the government. Many of the appropriations which are absolutely necessary for the maintenance of the government and the fulfillment of its various obligations for the fiscal year 1919-1920 have not yet been made; the end of the present fiscal year is at hand; and action upon these appropriations can no longer be prudently delayed. It is necessary, therefore, that I should immediately call your attention to this critical need. It is hardly necessary for me to urge that it may require your prompt attention.

"I shall take the liberty of addressing you on my return on these subjects which have engrossed our attention and the attention of the world during these last anxious months, since the armistice of last November was signed, the international settlements which must form the subject matter of the present treaties of peace and of our national action in the immediate future. It would be premature to discuss them or to express a judgment about them before they are brought to their complete formulation by the agreements which are now being sought at the table of the conference. I shall hope to lay them before you in their many aspects so soon as arrangements have been referred.

"I hesitate to venture any opinion or press any recommendation with regard to domestic legislation while absent from the United States and out of daily touch with intimate sources of information and counsel. I am conscious that I need, after so long an absence from Washington, to seek the advice of those who have remained in constant contact with domestic problems and who have known them close at hand from day to day; and I trust that it will soon be possible for me to do so. But there are several questions pressing for consideration to which, even now, I direct your attention, if only in general terms. In speaking of them I shall, I dare say, be doing little more than speak your own thoughts. I hope that I shall speak your own judgment also.

"The question which stands at the front of all others in every country amidst the present great awakening is the question of labor; and perhaps I can speak of it with as great advantage while engrossed in the consideration of interests which affect all countries alike as I could at home and amidst the interests which naturally most affect my thought because they are the interests of our own people.

"By the question of labor, I do not mean the question of efficient industrial production; the question of how labor is to be obtained and made effective in the great process of sustaining populations and winning success amidst commercial and industrial rivalries.

"I mean that much greater and more vital questions. How are the men and women who do the daily labor of the world to obtain progressive improvement in the conditions of their labor, to be made happier and to be served better by the communities and the industries which their labor sustains and advances? How are they to be given their right advantage as citizens and human beings?

"We cannot go any further in our present direction. We have already gone too far.

"We cannot live our right life as a nation or achieve our proper success as an industrial community if capital and labor are to continue to be antagonistic instead of being partners; if they are to continue to distrust one another and contrive how they can get the better of one another.

"Or, what perhaps amounts to the same thing, calculate by what form and degree of coercion they can manage to extort on the one hand enough to make enterprise profitable, on the other justice and fair treatment enough to make life tolerable.

"That bad road has turned out a

Raynham Still to Fly.

St. Johns, Newfoundland.—Frederick P. Raynham, the British aviator, whose intention to attempt the ocean flight simultaneously with H. G. Hawker, came to grief when his Martin-Skyer plane was wrecked while running to the "take-off," announced that he was in the race again for the first non-stop ocean air cruise. Recovered sufficiently from injuries received when his plane collapsed, to leave his bed, Raynham said that the machine could be rebuilt with spare parts at

### HIGH POINTS OF THE MESSAGE

Repeal or amendment of the war-time prohibition act in so far as it applies to wine or beer.

Creation of a federal agency of advice and information as a clearing house for suggested improvement in industrial conditions.

Reorganization of industry along lines of democracy.

Maintenance of the United States employment service.

Adoption of the land-for-soldiers bill sponsored by Secretary Lane.

Legislation to facilitate American enterprise in foreign trade.

Reconsideration of federal taxes to relieve the burden, particularly on productive resources, making incomes, excess profits and estimates the mainstays of steady taxation.

Repeal of the so-called luxury taxes.

Against general revision of import duties, but for protection of the American dye industry.

Adoption of the suffrage amendment.

Return of the railroads, telegraph and telephone lines to their owners, under more coordinated system.

Blind alley. It is no thoroughfare to real prosperity.

"We must find another, leading in another direction and to a very different destination. It must lead not merely to accommodation, but also to a genuine co-operation and partnership, based upon a real community of interest and participation in control.

"There is now in fact a real community of interest between capital and labor, but it has never been made evident in action. It can be made operative and manifest only in a new organization of industry. The genius of our business men and the sound practical sense of our workers can certainly work such a partnership out when once they realize exactly what it is that they seek, and sincerely adopt a common purpose with regard to it.

"Labor legislation lies, of course, chiefly with the states; but the new spirit and method or organization which must be effected are not to be brought about by legislation so much as by the common counsel and voluntary co-operation of capitalists, managers and workmen. Legislation can go only a very little way in commanding what shall be done.

"The organization of industry is a matter of corporate and individual initiative and of practical business arrangement. Those who really desire a new relationship between capital and labor can readily find a way to bring it about; and perhaps federal legislation can help more than state legislation could.

"The object of all reform in this essential matter must be the genuine democratization of industry, based upon a full recognition of the right of those who work, in whatever rank, to participate in some organic way in every decision which directly affects the welfare of the part that are to play in industry. Some positive legislation is practicable.

"The congress has already shown the way to one reform which should be world-wide, by establishing the eight-hour day as the standard day in every field of labor over which it can exercise control. It has sought to find the way to prevent child labor, and will, I hope and believe, presently find it. It has served the whole country by lending the way in developing the means of preserving and safeguarding life and health in dangerous industries.

"It can now help in the difficult task of giving a new form and spirit to industrial organization by coordinating the several agencies of conciliation and adjustment which have been brought into existence by the difficulties and mistaken policies of the present managements of industry, and by setting up and developing new federal agencies of advice and information which may serve as a clearing house for the best experiments and the best thoughts on this great matter, upon which every thinking man must be aware that the future development of society directly depends.

"Agencies of international counsel and suggestions are to be created in connection with the league of nations in this field; but the national action and the enlightened policy of individuals, corporations and societies within each nation must bring about actual reforms.

"The committee on labor in the two houses will hardly need suggestions from me as to what means they shall seek to make the federal government

hand here, provided the motor was in working condition.

San Francisco Jubilant.

San Francisco, Cal.—Word of President Wilson's recommendation to congress that wartime prohibition be suspended insofar as wine and beer are concerned was the signal for a city-wide outburst of joy by those interested, led by representatives of the San Francisco brewers and dispensers. Brewery whistles, including a large siren on one of them, were blown when

the agent of the whole nation in pointing out and, if need be, guiding the process of reorganization and reform.

"We must see to it that our returning soldiers are assisted in every practical way to find the place for which they are fitted in the daily work of the country. This can be done by developing and maintaining upon an adequate scale the admirable organization created by the department of labor for placing men seeking work. The secretary of the interior has pointed out the way by which returning soldiers may be helped to find and take up land in hitherto undeveloped regions which the federal government has prepared or can prepare for cultivation and, also on many of cut-over or neglected areas in the older states; and I receive the assurance that his plans receive the immediate and substantial support of the congress.

"Unusual opportunities will presently present themselves to our merchants and producers in foreign markets and large fields for profitable investment will be open to our free capital. But it is not chiefly of that that I am thinking. Many great industries, prostrated by the war, wait to be rehabilitated in many parts of the world where what will be lacking is machinery, raw material and capital. I believe our business men, merchants, manufacturers, and capitalists will see that prosperity in one part of the world ministers to prosperity everywhere; that there is a solidarity of interest throughout the world of enterprise, and that our dealings with countries that need our products and money will teach them to deem us friends whose necessities we seek in the right way to serve.

"Our new merchant ships, which have in some quarters been feared as destructive rivals, may prove helpful rivals, rather, and common servants very much needed and very welcome. Our great shipyards will be opened to the use of the world, so that they will prove immensely serviceable to every maritime people in restoring tonnage wantonly destroyed in the war.

"There are many places at which we can facilitate American enterprise in foreign trade by opportune legislation, and make it easy for American merchants to go where they will be welcome as friends, rather than as dreaded antagonists.

"America has a great and honorable service to perform in bringing the commercial and industrial undertakings of the world back to their old scope and swing again, and putting a solid structure of credit under them. All our legislation should be friendly to such plans and purposes.

"Credit and enterprise will be quickened by timely, helpful legislation with regard to taxation. I hope congress will undertake early reconsideration of federal taxes, to make our system of taxation more simple and easy of administration, and the taxes, themselves as little burdensome as they can be made and yet support the government and meet all its obligations. The figures to which those obligations have risen are very great, but not so great as to make it difficult for the nation to meet them, perhaps, in a single generation, by taxes which will neither crush nor discourage.

"These are not so great as the immense sums we have had to borrow, added to the immense sums we have to raise by taxation, would seem to indicate; for a very large proportion of those sums were loaned to governments with which we are associated in the war, and those loans constitute assets, not liabilities, and will not have to be taken care of by our taxpayers.

"The main thing we shall have to care for is that our taxation shall rest as lightly as possible on the productive resources of the country, that its rates shall be stable and that it shall be constant in its revenue-yielding power.

"We have found the main sources from which it must be drawn. I take it for granted that its mainstays will henceforth be the income tax, the excess profits tax, and the estate tax. All these can be so adjusted as to yield constant and adequate returns, and yet not constitute a too grievous burden on the taxpayer.

"A revision of the income tax has already been provided for by the act of 1918, but further changes can be made to advantage both in the rates of the tax and in the method of its collection.

"The excess profits tax need not long be maintained at the rates necessary while enormous expenses of the war had to be borne; but it should be made the basis of a permanent system which will reach undue profits without discouraging the enterprise and activity of our business men.

"The tax on inheritance ought to be reconsidered in its relation to the fiscal systems of the several states, but it certainly ought to remain a permanent part of the fiscal system of the federal government also.

"Many minor taxes provided for in revenue legislation of 1917 and 1918 can now happily be gotten rid of. Among these are excises upon manufacturers and taxes upon retail sales. They are unequal and expensive. Those levied upon articles sold at retail are largely evaded by readjustment of retail prices.

"I assume it is expedient to maintain a considerable range of indirect taxes; and the fact that alcoholic liquors presently will no longer afford a source of revenue, makes it more necessary that equivalent sources of revenue be found. You have at hand in the treasury department, many experts who can advise you upon the matters much better than I can. I can only suggest the lines of a permanent, workable sys-

tem, and the placing of the taxes where they will least hamper the life of the people.

Luxury Tax May End.

Washington, D. C.—In the class of special war taxes which the president in his message to congress suggested should be eliminated, are those on soda water and so-called luxuries, such as expensive articles of clothing and personal equipment; on proprietary medicine and toilet preparations; and on such manufacturers' products as automobile trucks and accessor-

ies, pianos, sporting goods, candy, cameras, electric fans, thermos bottles and motor boats.

"There is, fortunately, no occasion for undertaking in the immediate future any general revision of our system of import duties. No serious danger of foreign competition now threatens American industries. Our country has emerged from the war less disturbed and less weakened than any of the European countries which are our competitors in manufacture. Their industrial establishments have been subjected to a greater strain than ours, their labor forced to a more serious disorganization, and this is not the time to seek organized advantage.

"The work of mere reconstruction will, I am afraid, tax the capacity and the resources of their people for years to come. So far from being a danger or a need of accentuated foreign competition, it is likely that the conditions of the next few years will greatly facilitate the marketing of American manufactures abroad.

"Least of all should we depart from the policy adopted in the tariff act of 1913, of permitting the free entry into the United States of the raw materials needed to supplement and enrich our own abundant supplies. Nevertheless, there are parts of our tariff system which need prompt attention. In some cases too great reliance of foreign supply is dangerous and domestic considerations must be borne in mind which are political as well as economic. Among industries to which special consideration should be given is that of the manufacture of dyes and related chemicals. Our complete dependence upon German supplies before the war made the interruption of trade a cause of exceptional economic disturbance. The close relation between the manufacturer of dyes and of explosives and poisonous gases, moreover, has given the industry an exceptional significance and value.

"Although the United States will gladly join in the program of international disarmament, it will be a policy of prudence to make certain that the successful maintenance of many strong and well-equipped chemical plants, the German chemical industry, with which we will be brought into competition, was and may well be again, a thoroughly-knit monopoly capable of exercising a competition of a peculiarly insidious and dangerous kind.

"The United States should have the means of peering protecting itself whenever our trade is discriminated against by foreign nations, that we may be assured of that equality of treatment which we hope to promote for the world over. Our tariff laws provide no weapon of retaliation in case other governments enact legislation unequal in its bearing on our products as compared with the products of other countries. Hostile legislation by other nations may have to be met by counter legislation. The United States tariff commission's recent report has shown very clearly that we ought to have the instruments necessary for the assurance of equal and equitable treatment. I recommend that this phase of the tariff question receive early attention.

"Will you not permit me to speak once more and very earnestly of the proposed amendment to the constitution which would extend the suffrage to women and which passed the house of representatives at the last session of congress? Every consideration of justice and of public advantage calls for immediate adoption of that amendment and its submission forthwith to the legislatures of the several states. Throughout all the world this long-delayed extension of the suffrage is looked for; in the United States longer. I believe, I think, anywhere else, the necessity for it and the immense advantage of it to the national life, has been urged and debated by women and men who saw the need for it and urged the policy of it when it required steadfast courage to be so much beforehand with the common conviction, and I, for one, covet for our country the distinction of being among the first to act in a great reform.

"The telegraph and telephone lines will be returned to their owners so soon as the retransfer can be effected with least possible inconvenience to the public. The railroads will be handed over to their owners at the end of the calendar year. In the case of the telegraphs and telephones, as in the case of the railroads, it is clearly desirable to make of these instrumentalities of our modern life a uniform and co-ordinated system, which will afford those who use them as complete and certain means of communication with all parts of the country as has so long been afforded by the postal system of the government, and at rates as uniform and intelligible.

"Exhaustive study of electrical communication and of means by which the nation can unify and improve it, if undertaken by congress, would result in a great public benefit.

"Demobilization of the military forces of the country has progressed to such a point that it seems to me entirely safe now to remove the ban upon the manufacture and sale of wines and beers, but I am advised that without further legislation I have not the legal authority to remove the present restrictions. I, therefore, recommend that the act be amended or repealed in so far as it applies to wines and beers.

"I sincerely trust that I shall very soon be at my post in Washington again to report upon the matters which made my presence at the peace table apparently imperative, and to put myself at the service of the congress in every matter of administration or counsel that may seem to demand executive action or advice."

Criticized by Presbyterians.

St. Louis, May 21.—President Wilson was criticized by commissioners to the 131st general assembly of the Presbyterian church, U. S. A., for requesting congress to repeal or amend the wartime prohibition act, and a resolution was adopted urging congress to sustain the law.

## FROM ALL SECTIONS OF THIS MAJESTIC STATE

### Reports of Interesting Happenings Throughout Nebraska Condensed to a Few Lines for Quick Perusal.

Highest honors in the twelfth annual debate of the State High School Debating League, held at the State University, at Lincoln, went to Howard Vose of the South Omaha High School. George Turner of Fairbury won second place. Ernest Bean of Beatrice took third place. Miss Vere Baker of Broken Bow and Miss Helen Holliday of McCook, William Contant of Alliance, Ambrose McGannon of Albia and Miss Vera Fetteroff of Wayne were the other contestants, each representing one of the eight districts to decide the state championship.

Dry forces of Nebraska are planning to besiege representatives of congress from this state with protests against any action looking toward the repeal of the war-time prohibition act as recommended in President Wilson's message.

Another Nebraska soldier, Emil Buckendahl of Pierce, has been decorated for extraordinary heroism in the war. He is now with the A. E. F., and has just been presented with a distinguished service cross by General Pershing.

The first welcome home accorded Nebraska soldiers of the 89th division at New York by Governor McKelvie and a large delegation of home folks was superior in many ways to the reception given other home-coming soldiers.

Two Episcopal clergymen from this state lost their lives in the war, or more proportionately than any other diocese in the United States. This fact was made known at the recent Episcopal conference at Omaha.

Ole Hansen, a Dodge county farmer, has decided to retire and will move his farm home to Fremont, a distance of ten miles. He says houses are scarce and it is cheaper to move one than to build.

Suffrage leaders at Washington count only three U. S. senators west of the Mississippi as being opposed to the Anthony amendment. They are Hitchcock of this state, Reed of Missouri and Borah of Idaho.

The attorney general of Nebraska has ruled that members of the state legislature are not eligible to seats in the constitutional convention unless they resign their membership in the former body.

The actual value of railroad property in Nebraska, for taxation purposes, has been fixed by the state board of equalization at \$284,159,985, which is the same as a year ago.

The state highways commissioner has sent out notices to the sheriffs of every Nebraska county, requesting them to round up automobile drivers still using a 1918 license tag.

As the result of an increase in rate granted the telephone company at Fremont by the state railway commission, many citizens are talking of having their phones removed.

Citizens of Burwell are not waiting for cheaper building material to begin construction work. Already permits have been issued this spring for projects costing around \$50,000.

The Omaha Flying company, the second aerial navigation firm to be organized in Nebraska since the war, has filed articles of incorporation with the secretary of state.

A detailed roll call on the adoption of the woman suffrage resolution in the lower house of congress last week showed every Nebraska member voted in favor of it.

The names of about 150 wealthy Platte county men who failed to take their quotas of victory bonds are to be furnished the government.

A community club has been organized at Wahoo. Any resident of Saunders county is eligible to join the new organization.

A special election for a \$3,000,000 good roads bond issue will be held in Douglas county June 24.

Plans are being perfected for paying approximately fifty miles of the Lincoln Highway in eastern Nebraska.

Supervisors of Gage county are considering a proposition to construct a new county hospital.

Columbus has decided to pave the Lincoln Highway eight miles east of the city limits.

Schuyler city dads have decided to purchase a new motor-driven fire truck.

The state Sunday school convention will meet in York June 10-12.

Two United States army officers, Lt. McKay and Sgt. Benson, flew from Belleville, Ill., to the G. A. R. encampment at York, a distance of 550 miles, in a Curtis airplane.

The landing of the aviators created quite a sensation among the veterans.

Citizens of Franklin are up in arms over the refusal of the Burlington railroad to comply with the State Railway Commission's order for the building of a better depot, which was made in 1916 and afterward suspended by agreement during the war.

Automobiles seem to cut no figure with the high price of horses. A team sold at a farm sale in Cuming county a few days ago for \$675.

Farmers of this state will harvest 4,490,000 acres of wild and tame hay combined this year. The crop is expected to be the greatest in the history of Nebraska.

All members of the Nebraska delegation were in their seats when congress met in extraordinary session. Senator Hitchcock, a hold-over, being the only democrat among the eight members from this state.

Literature is being sent over the state advocating the formation of a new Nebraska federation to take part in the campaign for the election of delegates to the forthcoming constitutional convention. The nucleus of the federation is understood to be in the central part of the state, but those who are interested in the purposes set forth in literature, are invited to join regardless of where they may live.

Judge Strode of Lincoln was elected commander of the G. A. R. at the annual encampment at York. The Grand Army and auxiliaries adopted resolutions expressing appreciation of the treatment received at the hands of the citizens of York. All 1920 encampments will be held at Broken Bow, except the Spanish War Veterans, which will go to Grand Island.

Land Commissioner Swanson has started a campaign in northern and western Nebraska for the reappraisal of state school lands. There are about 2,000,000 acres of school land in the state. Cherry county alone has 235,000, Wheeler county 17,800, Greeley, 8,400, Pierce 6,000, Dawson 7,600, Chase 3,100, Boone 2,700 and many other counties from 2,000 down to a few hundred.

Word has reached relatives of Private L. C. Gibson at Anstey that he will be returned to the United States at once and given an honorable discharge. The state wide protest over his imprisonment for sleeping at his post, after several days of continuous duty, is thought to have had much to do in bringing about his release.

A movement is on foot by a private firm to build and operate an auditorium at Hastings to cost around \$50,000. There is a possibility that the city will submit a bond proposition to make the auditorium a municipal affair.

At a special election at Grand Island a proposition to issue \$298,000 of bonds for two new junior high schools, an addition to the present high school, a new ward building and additions to two other ward buildings, carried by a large majority.

Delegates attending the Episcopalian conference at Omaha last week named Father Ernest V. Shaler of Seattle, Wash., as bishop of the Nebraska diocese to succeed Bishop Williams, who died several months ago.

Despite the fact that a number of wealthy Gage county citizens failed to take their quota of victory notes the county went "over the top." The quota was \$1,015,450, and subscriptions were \$1,075,000.

The Aurora Board of Education has decided to install a course in vocational agriculture, under the Smith-Hughes law, by which federal and state aid are given.