

NEBRASKA IN BRIEF

Timely News Culled From All Parts of the State, Reduced for the Busy.

SCORES OF EVENTS COVERED

It is announced that any American Legion post in Nebraska can now have a women's auxiliary. State Commander Earl Cline in making this announcement stated that anyone desiring to organize an auxiliary should obtain blanks from our state headquarters at Lincoln. Membership will be limited to mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of members of the Legion, and mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of men and women who were in the service during the war.

Reports from Lincoln indicate that the closing of the Farmers' State bank of Halsey by the state banking bureau gives promise of disclosing some high financing, particularly for a country bank, and possibly some connection with the Scandinavian-American Bank of Fargo, N. D., which has been the source of bitter contentions in that state during the past few months.

It is reported at the state house at Lincoln that a prominent member of the Bryan wing of Nebraska democracy has protested to United States Attorney General Palmer the suggested appointment by Governor McKelvie of Robert W. DeVoe, chairman of the republican state committee, for fair price administrator of Nebraska.

While working about a corn sheller in a sweater at his home near De Witt, Norman Schumann, 16, was killed when the garment became fastened to a bolt on the fly wheel. He made several revolutions with the wheel and was thrown violently to the ground. He died before medical aid could reach him.

The sudden death of Supreme Judge Samuel H. Sedgwick at Lincoln was a shock to his many friends of the state. The end came while he was apparently in the best of health. For fifteen years he was justice of the Nebraska supreme court and was a pioneer lawyer of this state. He was 71 years old.

Nearly a thousand automobiles, decorated with Pershing's picture, escorted the A. E. F. commander from the Burlington depot to the family home, when he reached Lincoln last Thursday. The welcome given the general to the Capital City was the greatest accorded an international figure in many years.

Neighbors of Wensel Copek, aged hermit, who lived near Ansley, not seeing any signs of life around the place, investigated and found the old man dead and all his stock, a few horses and cattle, frozen to death.

Manufacturers and merchants in the larger cities of Nebraska were more liberal with Christmas bonuses to their employees this season than ever before, reports indicate. Excess profit taxes undoubtedly had some influence.

Governor Samuel McKelvie has informed Attorney General Palmer, in answer to an inquiry, that there are twelve I. W. W. in custody in Nebraska, and that they will be prosecuted in due time.

While in Lincoln a few days ago Judge A. L. Sutton of Omaha indicated that he was thinking some of again entering the race for governor at the next election on the republican ticket.

Fire of unknown source destroyed two big business blocks at Falls City, causing a loss estimated at \$80,000. All Y. W. C. A. belongings, housed in one of the structures, were lost.

Many shipments of live stock are being received at the South Omaha market in box cars, due, it is said, to the shortage of stock cars.

The annual meeting of the Farmers' Education and Co-Operative Union of Nebraska will be held at Omaha January 13, 14 and 15.

McCook citizens will vote on a \$150,000 bond proposition January 6 for the purpose of erecting a junior high school building.

Horace F. Carson, for the past eight years superintendent of the Nebraska Anti-Saloon League, died at his home in Lincoln.

The State Railway Commission has permitted the Lincoln Street Car company to increase its fares to 7 cents.

William Watt sold his eighty-acre farm north of North Bend the other day for \$375 an acre.

A Catholic bazaar at West Point netted the neat sum of \$1,300.

Work has begun on the construction of the new \$150,000 Keystone hotel at McCook. A Kansas City firm has the contract.

J. C. Cook, county attorney of Dodge county, has sent a vigorous protest to the state attorney general at Lincoln over the action of the pardon board in approving the release of Tom Calcord, Winstow bank robber, from the state penitentiary. The county attorney says that not a single Dodge county resident was consulted about the matter, and the people are highly incensed over the affair.

January 7 to 9 are the dates set for the annual meeting of the county assessors of Nebraska. Lincoln is the lucky city to entertain the tax makers.

Delegates from all parts of the state are expected to attend the annual convention of the Nebraska Retail Clothiers' Association at Omaha February 4 and 5.

Athletic authorities at the University of Nebraska have already arranged football games for the following colleges for next year: Washburn, Notre Dame, Penn State, Kansas University and Michigan Aggies.

The Nebraska foreign language law, passed by the last legislature, which prohibits the teaching of any foreign language in grade schools, was upheld in a decision handed down by the state supreme court at Lincoln. The court held that the law does not interfere with religious liberty or right of property, as claimed by a number of German, Polish, Bohemian and Swedish Lutheran churches.

Women voters of Nebraska may vote for delegates to the national party convention, according to an opinion rendered by Attorney General Davis, in response to an inquiry sent to his office at Lincoln by Mrs. W. E. Barkley, president of the State Suffrage association. The opinion also says that women may be candidates for delegate.

Shows of the past few weeks have proven the value of the new graveled roads, there being fewer drifts on the Fremont-Ceresco road than on the other roads in vicinities, and also the fact that the road seemed to become passable for both teams and automobiles much more quickly than the other roads.

Attorney General Davis has asked the state supreme court to extend the hearing of the code law referendum case, January 9 had been set for the hearing. The attorney general says the work in his office has been so heavy that they have not been able to prepare for the early date.

Twenty or more organizations, with a combined membership of many thousands of those who have to do with the raising of farm products and live stock, will hold their annual convention at Lincoln between January 19 and 24, the dates set for Organized Agriculture meetings.

The Pawnee County Fair association will enter the New Year free of debt. At a meeting of stockholders at Table Rock all the old directors were re-elected and the debt which has been carried for seventeen years was wiped out.

Alison B. Cole, sentenced to execution for murder, January 9, at the state prison at Lincoln, lost his last chance for a rehearing when the state supreme court turned down his second motion to reopen the case.

The Auburn, N. Y., official who is to officiate at the electrocution of Cole and Grammer at the state prison at Lincoln January 9 has notified Warden Fenton that he will not be able to be there on that date.

W. E. Weidburg, Lincoln, member of the University of Nebraska stock-judging team at the International Live Stock show in Chicago, with a score of 889 in a possible 1,000 points, headed all contestants.

The Nebraska College of Agriculture at Lincoln estimates that at least 25,000 farmers of this state will keep an accurate account of expenditures and income by using the college's farm record books this year.

All civic organizations of Hebron united in holding a Community Christmas. A huge Christmas tree was placed in the center of the town and hundreds of children were treated with candy and nuts.

General Pershing caused the Boy Scouts of Lincoln to swell with pride when he declared upon his arrival there that they were the finest bunch of Scouts he had seen anywhere.

Rev. N. L. Packard, pastor of the Congregational church at Wahoo, has accepted a call to Alma, this state, and tendered his resignation to become effective March 1.

Headquarters for "Pershing for President" have been established at Lincoln with K. W. Woods at the head, surrounded by a corps of clerks and secretaries.

Success of the Lincoln Woman's club in reducing the price of eggs, by the boycott process, may result in a similar effort by women's organizations in other cities of Nebraska.

Members of the Omaha Woman's club have decided to follow their Lincoln sisters in boycotting certain high-priced foodstuffs.

Fire of unknown origin destroyed two buildings in the business district of Wood River, causing a loss estimated at \$15,000.

Price of eggs has soared again at Lincoln and the Woman's club of the city has again boycotted the commodity.

Ex-service men of Cedar Bluffs are backing a movement to organize a post of the American Legion.

North Bend's new post of the American Legion started off with a membership of thirty.

An epidemic of smallpox has caused the closing of schools at Oakdale.

A number of extensive improvements are to be made in the Y. M. C. A. headquarters at Beatrice.

Thrashing small grain has been resumed with the moderation of the weather in the vicinity of Surprise where there is considerable of that kind of work yet to be done.

Mayors of all cities in Nebraska and all organizations interested in child welfare and other social problems, are asked to send delegates to the State Conference of Social Workers, to be held at York, January 18, 19 and 20.

The Douglas county fair, which is usually held at Omaha, will be transferred to Waterloo next year.

Several hundreds of dollars in prizes were distributed among members of the Webster county boys' and girls' club, at the annual show and sale at Red Cloud.

A report issued by I. I. Frisbie, leader of state junior work in this state shows that 412 members of Nebraska Boys and Girls clubs, raised poultry valued at \$11,611.35 this year. The net profit was \$6,278.00. The total number of chickens raised was 12,000.



1—Radicals boarding the "soviet ark," otherwise the transport Buford, for deportation to Russia. 2—General Pershing with some of the wounded Yanks on whom he called while in Chicago. 3—The Alejandrina, which lay on a reef in the Straits of Magellan for twenty years and recently arrived at New York from Patagonia with a cargo of wool worth \$1,500,000.



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NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

President Proclaims Return of the Railroads to Their Owners on March 1.

GOOD PROSPECTS FOR BILL

First Shipment of Deported Reds on Its Way to Russia—Admiral Sims Refuses Medal and Accuses Secretary Daniels of Injustice.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

President Wilson, having been convinced of the dangers that would be incurred if he carried out his announced intention to return the railroads to their owners on January 1, since congress could not or would not pass the necessary legislation by that time, yielded to the situation and on Wednesday issued a proclamation setting the date for the return as March 1. In the intervening two months, he believes, the railroads and express companies should be able to prepare adequately for the resumption of their business under their ownership and control. This action pleased such congressmen and railway officials as were interviewed, and the latter expressed the belief that the roads would be ready by March 1, to carry on. Of course they expect congress to enact suitable legislation and the interstate commerce bill to permit such rate increases as will make it possible for them to borrow the money for needed equipment, extensions and improvements.

Immediately after the issuance of the president's proclamation Director General Hines made an appeal to all officers and employees of railroads to redouble their efforts to produce the best and most economical railroad service possible during the remaining period of federal control. This really was directed especially to the railway brotherhoods, which have been holding in abeyance their demands for wage increases amounting to nearly a billion a year to see whether the government's efforts to bring down the cost of living would have any marked effect. They do not seem impressed by the present success of those efforts and are growing restless. It remains to be seen whether they will now wait much longer for the decrease in prices, which the attorney general has said are likely to begin to appear next month.

The prospects for early legislation for the return of the railroads to their owners have brightened very considerably. The senate having passed the Cummins bill, conferences began to adjust the differences between that and the Esch bill passed by the house. The clauses concerning wage adjustment, the forbidding of strikes and voluntary or compulsory arbitration presented the greatest difficulties. The conferees said they hoped to make considerable progress before congress reconvenes on January 5.

Loud cheers, metaphorically speaking, sped on its way the departing transport Buford when at the beginning of the week it started for Europe. No one wanted ever to see any part of the cargo come back, for that cargo consisted of 249 rabid and dangerous "reds" who were being deported by Uncle Sam for his own sake. True to type, the radicals cursed the United States venomously as they were herded onto the vessel, and threatened awful deeds when they return. They were headed by Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman, who for many years have preached their poisonous doctrine in America almost unhindered. The delectable Emma shouted, as she passed up the gangplank: "This is the beginning of the end of the United States." Just where the unsavory gang is to be landed was unknown even to the captain of the transport until he opened his orders at sea. It was presumed, however, that they would be put ashore at a Finnish port and sent thence by rail to Russia.

If the Chicago Federation of Labor was seeking a way to "get in bad" it could not have found a better one than in its action endorsing the work of Emma Goldman and Berkman and announcing its opposition to the deportation of aliens who are members of any union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. No such brazen demand for the exemption of any "class" from punishment for crime was ever heard, at least in America. The decent citizens of America, who after all form the vast majority in the country, have shown plainly that they are tired of the alien radicals and their vicious activities, and the sooner union labor recognizes that fact, the better for it. As might have been expected, William Z. Foster, erstwhile apostle of syndicalism and sabotage and organizer of the fabled steel strike, supported the anti-deportation movement in the Chicago meeting. It is planned to extend throughout the land the plan to save union men from "banishment and exile."

A recent example of the work of the radicals was revealed when the army transport America bringing the peace commission from France, docked at Hoboken with 11 members of the crew in irons charged with mutiny and other crimes. The troubles, which broke out on the eastward trip, were instigated by bolshevik and I. W. W. agitators.

Admiral Sims, who commanded America's naval fighting forces in the war, started what may develop into a real navy scandal when he declined to accept the Distinguished Service medal awarded him by Secretary of the Navy Daniels. The admiral, in his letter to the secretary, accused the latter of injustice and discrimination in making up the list of those to receive medals and navy crosses, and expressed his indignation at the giving of the medal to swivel chair officers and to officers who lost their vessels at sea under circumstances that might not be to their credit, while it was refused to others who displayed great bravery and gallantry in combat. Many of the latter, recommended for the decoration by Admiral Sims and approved by the board of awards, were cut from the list by Mr. Daniels. The admiral said such injustice would go far toward destroying the morale of the navy and he did not wish to countenance it by accepting the medal awarded to him.

Secretary Daniels said there was no basis for the charge of favoritism, that he was determined to decorate every commander of a torpedoed ship—his son-in-law, Commander Bagley, is in that category—and that the list is not yet closed. It was said in Washington that the admiral's action was very likely to bring about a congressional investigation of the whole matter.

Great Britain will never consent to separation of Ireland from the empire, but is willing to give it the largest possible measure of self-government and to give this at once. Such was the statement of premier Lloyd George to parliament, and he then proceeded to give an outline of the home rule bill which the government will introduce when parliament reassembles. The measure will create two legislatures somewhat on the American model, one for the southern part of Ireland and the Roman Catholic part of Ulster, and the other for Protestant Ulster. Above them will be the council of Ireland, elected by the two legislatures. The latter bodies have the power to combine at any time without the consent of the British parliament. All powers not reserved to the imperial British parliament are given to the legislatures. These reserved powers include peace and war, foreign affairs, the army and navy, defense, treasury, trade outside of Ireland, navigation, wireless and cable, coinage, trade marks, light-houses, and the appointment of the higher judiciary until the legislatures agree on a plan for the appointment of judges. Also reserved are the income tax, customs and excise, but the excise may be reclaimed by Ireland by agreement of the legislatures. Ireland is to collect all of the taxes and retain all but a fair contribution to the imperial expenses.

The house of commons as a whole received the scheme with approval, but there is little hope that it will please any of the Irish factions. In that fact, it is said, lies the best chance of its success. Lloyd George took occasion to say what he thought of the recent attempt to assassinate Viscount French, lord lieutenant of Ireland. He declared it was not only despicable and dastardly, but one of the most foolhardy political crimes in history.

Delay of the Germans in signing the protocol rendered futile the hopes of the supreme council that peace would be proclaimed by Christmas. Though the council had indicated that it would lessen its demands for reparation for the scuttling of the interned German war vessels if the Germans could prove that they could not turn over the material required, Von Lersner, chief of the German delegation, felt it necessary to carry the amended terms to Berlin for submission to the government. It was announced in London that Premier Lloyd George would go to Paris this week to confer with Clemenceau.

Addressing the chamber of deputies, the French premier made the first authoritative statement concerning the conference in London. The two principal decisions made, he said, were not to make peace and not to compromise with the soviet government of Russia. The allies were determined, he added to be the allies of all peoples attacked by bolshevism and would maintain a barbed wire around Russia, notably by aiding the Poles, Roumanians and others along the frontiers. He expressed full confidence in the Anglo-Franco-American pact and predicted a solution of the Fiume difficulty. The chamber thereupon gave the government a vote of confidence, 158 to 71.

Really, the Fiume dispute seems at this writing to be on the eve of settlement. The Italian cabinet has approved an agreement with D'Annunzio on the basis of proposals made by the government. This, it was reported, was that Italy should keep in its possession the whole of the armistice line, reaffirming the right of Fiume to decide its own fate and assisting it financially to resume its activities under the regime of a free port. The recent plebiscite in Fiume resulted in 75 per cent of the votes being cast in favor of the Italian government's plan for the future occupation of the city. It was said that Captain D'Annunzio declared he would not accept this result and that he departed from the city.

As for Russia, the bolshevik seem to be getting along very well in a military way. They have beaten Petura and his Ukrainian army, and are said to have cut off the retreat of Denikine's volunteers so that their only way of escape is into Roumania. The Estonians and the bolshevik, it is announced, agreed on the questions of frontiers and military guarantees.

A compromise proposal concerning the peace treaty was formulated last week by Senator King of Utah, a Democrat who supported most of the Lodge reservations. Taking these as a basis, he so modified the wording that he hoped it would be acceptable to all the senators who favor the ratification of the treaty. Senator Hitchcock was not so sanguine that the King plan would solve the tangle.

The bituminous coal operators, after registering an objection to the statement that they had agreed to the terms of the settlement with the strikers, have accepted the agreement, at least in the central competitive field. The president named the commission that is to inquire into the situation and determine wages and conditions. He appointed Henry M. Robinson, John P. White and Rembrandt Peale, representing respectively the public, the miners and the operators. Already some of the larger operators have let it be known that they intend to pass on to their customers the 14 per cent advance in wages, but the federal department of justice officials say such action will result in prosecutions if the consumer is asked to pay more.

EXCHANGE DATE SET

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF RAILROADS ENDS MARCH 1.

HINES APPEALS TO WORKERS

Urges Best Efforts Be Put Forward in Next Two Months—Release Telephone and Express.

Washington, D. C.—The United States government will transfer the railroads back to private ownership and control March 1, 1920, at 12:01 a. m., says a proclamation issued by President Wilson.

Director General Hines issued an appeal to every officer and employee of railroads under federal control to "redouble his efforts to produce the best and most economical railroad service possible during the remaining period of federal control."

President Wilson acted under authority of the railroad control law, passed in March, 1918, which authorized him to return the railroads at any time within twenty-one months after peace.

The government contracted with the railroads for the payment of an annual rental, based on average incomes for three years. Under this contract, the government has borne a deficit continually until the last several months.

The railroad administration will continue to function for several months after control ends, it is predicted by officials. The task of "unscrambling" lines and equipment and businesses which were consolidated, will require government assistance for many months, it was said.

The government took over the railroads December 27, 1917, as a war measure.

President Wilson originally planned to hand over the railroads December 31. But because the two houses of congress had not passed legislation on the subject, he considered it necessary to advance the date.

The express companies and other businesses under federal control will likewise revert to their private owners. These include coastwise and inland water transportation systems, terminal facilities, sleeping and parlor cars, elevators, warehouses and telegraph and telephone lines.

The operation of the railroads by the government for twenty-six months will cost approximately \$480,000,000, officials estimated. The losses are the differences between the income of the roads and the operating expenses and annual rentals, amounting to about \$300,000,000 a year, which was guaranteed by the government. Congress has voted during federal control \$1,250,000,000 for the railroads.

The railroads owe the government \$750,000,000, it was estimated. Half of this is for equipment, payment of which is to be funded over a period of ten years by private bankers under a recently enacted law.

MEANS TO AVERT STRIKE.

Wilson's Industrial Board Suggests a Tentative Program.

Washington, D. C.—Tentative recommendations for the establishment of machinery to prevent or retard labor conflicts in private industry were announced by the president's industrial conference with a view to obtaining constructive criticism before a final plan is adopted. The plan as outlined now contemplates the creation of a national industrial tribunal and regional boards of inquiry and adjustment, which would move to the settlement of disputes before there was any stoppage of production.

Pershing at Leclde.

Leclde, Mo.—Gen. John J. Pershing spent Tuesday, December 23rd in this city, his boyhood home, and was presented with a medal and a loving cup. He visited relatives and cronies of long ago, explored anew the old Pershing house, and made several speeches. In the words of Miss May Pershing, his sister, also a guest at the homecoming celebration, it was "a lovely day, quite beyond description." And the general seemed to enjoy every minute, from the time he stepped from his private car to grasp the outstretched hand of Al Warfield, aged negro, once a servant in the Pershing household, who was the first to greet him, until he departed for Lincoln.

To Revise Award List.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary Daniels has ordered the navy department's board of awards reconvened Monday, January 5, to revise the recent recommendations as to naval awards, which have been the source of a controversy brought to a head a few days ago by the declination of Admiral Sims to accept the distinguished service medal, while the awards remained as at present.

Predicts Coal Famine.

Kansas City, Mo.—A coal shortage more acute than at any time since the settlement of the bituminous coal strike was predicted for January by W. M. Corbett, subregional coal director for this district.

\$1,000 an Acre for Land.

Charlinda, Ill.—The Colonel E. Stok, claim house, just north of town, was sold last week for \$20,000. This price of \$1,000 an acre for the twenty-acre tract is the highest ever paid for land in Page county.