

NEBRASKA IN BRIEF

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

SCORES OF EVENTS COVERED

North Platte was stirred by a most fearful tragedy last Thursday when Chief of Police C. Meemonger and Patrolman G. W. Rogers were shot and almost instantly killed by two Mexicans whom they attempted to arrest. The tragedy occurred in Nick Chiles pool hall, where the men had been traced by the officers whom they resisted and opened fire on before other occupants of the place were aware of any trouble. One of the murderers was captured.

Platte county supervisors have been informed by the architect and engineer having in charge plans and specifications for the new county court house that if the structure is erected on the North street site at Columbus, a sub-foundation of costly piling will be necessary because of the quick sand conditions beneath the surface. This condition, it is said, is typical of the Platte river valley, and a change in location would be no improvement.

Allen V. Grammer and Alton B. Cole, who were sentenced to be electrocuted at the state penitentiary at Lincoln January 16 for the murder of Mrs. Lulu Vogt in Howard county in 1917, were granted a stay until January 30, following the granting of an appeal to the circuit court by Federal Judge Munger. Attorneys for the condemned men expressed the belief that many months would elapse before they would be executed, if at all.

Alleged high-handed methods of the federal reserve bank in dealing with non-member state banks were condemned in resolution adopted by the Nebraska Bankers' association in convention at Omaha. A committee was appointed to resist alleged attempts to force state banks into membership in the reserve bank system.

That the minimum salary for Nebraska school teachers should be \$1,000 was the conclusion drawn from the data tabulated by Lulu E. Wirt, dean of women of the normal school at Kearney, following an extensive investigation of living conditions in 10 counties in Nebraska.

The state banking board has closed the State bank at Valparaiso because of a shortage of between \$150,000 and \$200,000, due, it is said, to the institution through its former cashier, R. A. Lower, loaning large sums of money for deals in unsound land and oil stock.

During the last month feeder cattle have gained in price from \$1.50 to \$2 per hundred at the South Omaha market. During the early part of December quotations on choice prime feeders were \$10.50 and \$12.50, as compared with \$12 to \$13.50 now.

The broom factory at the state penitentiary at Lincoln, which has been the means of employing convict labor in the institution for many years, will be discontinued February 15, the board of control announced.

The educational committee of the Lincoln Commercial club asked the board of education to incur a \$100,000 deficit to give a \$300 bonus to each of the 300 teachers in the Lincoln public schools.

Rentals to farm tenants in Holt county will be generally increased this year, owing to the increased value of lands. A like condition is general in virtually all counties of the state.

As soon as the weather permits, work on the new \$100,000 water works at Chadron will be started, since a settlement has been effected for the purchase of all needed land.

Expenditure of more than \$200,000 for a new municipal light plant and extension of the sewer water plant, a sewer system and paved streets is planned for Spencer this year.

Victor Rosewater, for many years editor of the Omaha Bee, has sold his interest in the paper to Nelson B. Updike, prominent grain man of Omaha.

Stockholders of the Nebraska State Farmers' exchange in convention at Omaha voted to establish a \$2,000,000 co-operative sugar factory at Minitare.

The board of education at Beatrice has raised the salaries of school teachers 20 to 25 per cent for the remainder of the school year.

North Platte Methodists are laying plans for the erection of a \$35,000 community house in the near future.

It is reported that improvements costing above \$1,000,000 will be made on the Union Pacific roadbed and yards at Valley this year.

The Aurora city council has awarded a big paving contract, the aggregate cost being about \$340,000. It looks as though Aurora will be fully paved inside of two years.

Richardson county's new court house will be built in Falls City, according to an agreement between representatives of Falls City, Humboldt and the county board. The building cost \$350,000.

A rotary club has been organized at Aurora. It started off with a membership of twenty.

Nebraska suffragists are rejoicing over the refund by the state of the \$1,880.70 contributed for the court expenses of their fight against fraudulent referendum petitions gotten out by anti-suffragists two years ago.

The winter short course in agriculture, for men eighteen or more years old with an eighth grade education, will open at the University farm at Lincoln January 26 and continue four weeks.

Attorney General Davis has started proceedings for an application for the appointment of a receiver for the Farmers and Merchants bank at Halsey, which was closed recently by the state banking board. It is reported that the Scandinavian bank at Fargo, N. D., has secured judgment against nearly every man interested in the Halsey bank. The Halsey bank has been in trouble for some time because the cashier had been issuing certificates of deposit in favor of the president of the bank.

Business was virtually suspended at Alliance during the two days preliminary trial of Lawrence Lackey, charged with causing the death of his eight year old daughter by giving her poisoned candy. The trial was one of the most sensational in the history of Alliance and people from miles around attended. Lackey will remain in the Alliance jail until the next term of district court, May 4, bail having been forbidden by the court.

Mrs. Charles G. Ryan of Grand Island, state director of the Nebraska economic campaign, plans to ask 250,000 housewives in this state to sign the following pledge: To purchase nothing at excessive prices. To keep a careful budget of household expenses. To buy only when necessary for service and economy. To aid other women in setting standards for careful conservation and economical buying.

The state board of control has located a state custodial farm at York, comprised of 80 acres and a 10-room modern house. The state will take possession March 1. The last legislature appropriated \$50,000 for the establishment of such a farm for female offenders.

The aged mother of Guy Cornelius Nowlin of Lincoln, who suffered the fate of his ship, the Cyclops, which mysteriously disappeared during the war, will be paid a \$5,000 government indemnity, according to the provisions of a bill now pending in congress.

Lincoln has been chosen for the 1920 national convention of the prohibition party. The executive committee of the party voted unanimously in favor of the Nebraska capital at a recent meeting at Washington and named July 21 as the time.

Governor McKelvie has appointed John M. Matzen, Fremont, state superintendent of schools to fill the unexpired term of W. A. Clemmons, who died January 8. Matzen was formerly superintendent of Dodge county schools.

With the inauguration of constitutional prohibition over the country January 17, James H. Hanley, Omaha attorney, assumed the office of superintendent of the prohibition enforcement organization for Nebraska.

Chris Keuch was burned to death and two other men were injured at Norfolk, when fire, which followed the explosion of an oil tank, destroyed the city gas plant, cutting off the gas supply in the city.

The Commercial club of Hebron is back of a project to establish a sorghum mill near the city. It has also promised to support the band and a lecture course for next winter.

The Christian church of Hebron recently celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. The church was chartered in 1860 with 20 members. It now has a membership of 243.

Thirty-one head of pure-bred Poland China sows sold for \$35,825, an average of \$1,155, at the William Ferguson auction sale at Fremont. This is believed to be a world's record sale.

On February 3 voters of Aurora will pass on a bond proposition to raise funds to erect an athletic building in conjunction with the public schools.

Joe Stecher of Dodge, this state, and Earl Caddock will wrestle for the championship of the world at Madison Square Garden, New York, January 30.

J. B. Evans, 33 years old, son of Congressman Robert E. Evans of Dakota City, was crushed to death in an automobile accident at Colton, S. D.

The First Presbyterian church of Madison will celebrate its golden anniversary February 12 with a jubilee and homecoming.

Preliminary moves are being made at Alliance to construct a new \$100,000 senior high school building the coming summer.

Contract has been awarded for \$400,000 worth of paving to be laid at Wayne. Work will begin April 1.

Fifty ex-service men met at Milford the other evening and organized Post No. 171 of the American Legion.

A movement is on foot to organize a post of the American Legion at Sutherland.

Physicians report that Nellie Buchholz, 16, of Silver Creek, who has been in a state of coma for several days, is afflicted with sleeping sickness.

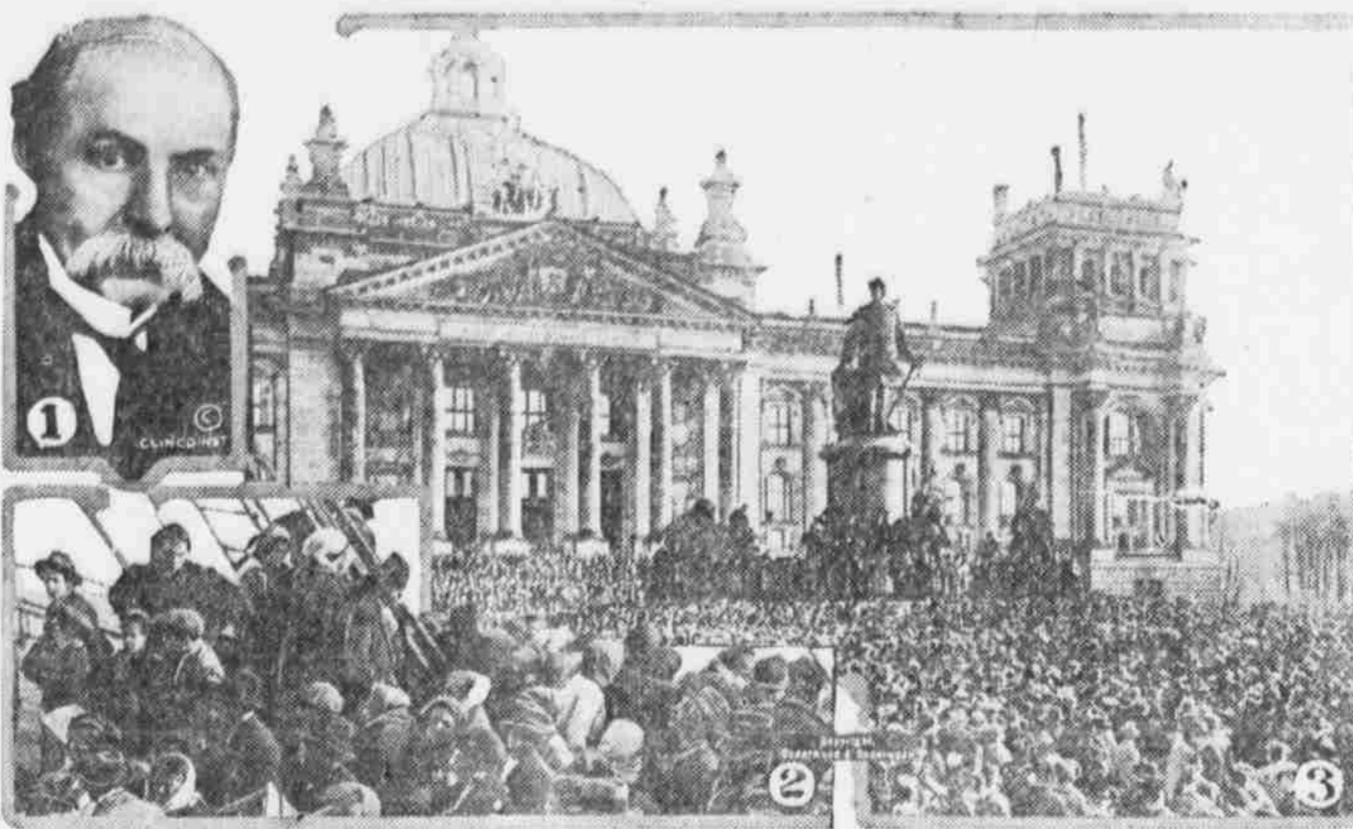
D. M. Amsherry secretary of state, George Marsh, state auditor, and Lieutenant Governor Barrows have filed to enter the republican primaries as candidates to succeed themselves.

A book showing the achievements of Americans in the great war, published by a firm at Washington, shows that forty-one Nebraska boys received the Distinguished Service Cross citation.

Provisions have been made by the city council of Valentine to pave Main street.

At a special election at Schuyler a bond issue of \$55,000 for the purpose of rebuilding the electric light plant was passed. At the same time voters favored the issuance of \$20,000 water bonds to lay new water mains.

Ezra Perin Savage former governor Nebraska, and associate of Buffalo Bill, died at Tacoma, Wash., at the age of 77. He was known during his administration as Nebraska's cowboy governor.



1—Recent photograph of Anthony Connetti, commissioner general of immigration, who signs the deportation orders of the reds. 2—Throng of Italians arriving at Boston on the steamer Cretic, showing the tide of immigration has turned again. 3—The rioting in Berlin, scene of the bloody riots that were said to be part of a revolutionary plot.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

League of Nations Is Born but United States and Other Nations Are Absent.

BLOODY RIOTS IN BERLIN

Communists Attempt to Start a Revolution—Poland Needs Help to Repel Bolshevists—Settlement of Adriatic Trouble—Constitutional Prohibition in Effect.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

The League of Nations came into being last Friday, the first meeting of its council being held in Paris pursuant to a call issued by President Wilson. At present it is admittedly somewhat of a weakling, since the United States is not a member and Russia, Germany and some other powers have not been admitted. But America doubtless will adhere to the covenant before long, and the league will then proceed to fulfill, or not fulfill, the rosy predictions of its creators. Most of the world wishes it well and hopes it will prove to be the beneficent institution that its ardent supporters believe it will be.

The nations participating in the opening meeting of the league council and their representatives were:

- France—Leon Bourgeois, former premier.
- Great Britain—Earl Curzon of Kedleston, foreign secretary.
- Italy—Signor Scialoja, foreign minister.
- Belgium—Paul Hymans, foreign minister.
- Spain—Count Quinones De Leon, ambassador to France.
- Greece—Eliphtherios Venizelos, premier.
- Japan—Viscount Chinda, ambassador to Great Britain.
- Brazil—Dr. Gastao Da Cunha, ambassador to France.

The people of the United States, especially, perhaps, the business men, do not at all relish the fact that this country alone is now technically at war with Germany. They are letting the senate know how they feel, and thus the pressure on that august body to reach a compromise on the treaty has been increasing daily. The people do not wish the matter put up to them as a political issue in the presidential campaign, for they do not claim to be experts at treaty-making and feel that the senate should attend to its own business. All last week the compromisers were busy trying to reach a common base, assuming that President Wilson would not reject moderate reservations despite his repeated assertions to the contrary. But article 10 was, as ever, the sticking point, and at this writing a settlement was not in sight. Meanwhile, immediately following the promulgation of the peace treaty, the other nations are sending their representatives to Germany and pushing their campaigns to secure trade.

Plans are being laid for a great educational, financial and industrial conference for the purpose of restoring normal conditions throughout the world. Support for the scheme has been asked of the governments of the entente and neutral nations of Europe and the Chamber of Commerce of the United States by a large number of leading men of this country and Europe. The original call does not include Germany and Austria, but it is stated that these countries as well as Japan and the Latin-American republics will be asked to send delegates.

The communists of Germany, who take advantage of every excuse to start trouble, staged a great demonstration in Berlin against the government's measure putting the workmen's councils on a legal basis. Thousands of them undertook to force their way into the reichstag and Noske's

police, patiently resisting for a time, finally opened fire with machine guns and rifles. About forty of the rioters were killed and scores wounded. The government openly accused the Independent members of the reichstag with aiding in the attack, asserting some of them went to the windows of the building and motioned the mob on. Next day it was officially announced that the demonstration was the beginning of an attempt to start a general revolution which was to be led by radical government officials.

Ever since the signing of the armistice Germany has fostered the idea that the reds were likely to get control of that country unless it were given milder terms by the allies, and some correspondents have insisted that such reports could not be believed. This latest apparent revolt will give some support to the German appeals for leniency and to the insidious, cleverly worded editorials of certain American metropolitan papers which argue that the reparations commission must treat Germany gently and permit her to regain her old strength in order that she may successfully stand between the bolshevists of Russia and western Europe. If the German press represents the German nation, what it would do with its regained strength is made very clear by the articles published after the exchange of ratifications of the treaty. The burden of them was recovery of all the nation had lost, and revenge with a big R.

The allied nations have been disposed to regard Poland as the real bulwark against the bolshevist flood, and Poland so considers herself. Last week Secretary of War Baker recommended to the state department that the United States furnish surplus military supplies to Poland to help her in repelling the bolshevists. General Bliss appeared before the house ways and means committee to discuss a proposed loan of \$150,000,000 for food relief for Europe, and declared that if the loan were made this country should call on the allied governments to contribute their surplus military supplies to Poland because that nation alone could prevent the bolshevist from swamping western Europe. The Poles, he added, are poorly equipped as to everything, while the soviet armies are well trained, well equipped and well led, and outnumber the Poles.

The imminent return of the 8,000 Americans in Siberia is again promised and apparently it is high time. A correspondent at Harbin says an American detachment in Trans-Balkania recently fought with troops of General Semenov, commander of the all-Russian army, and took an armored train from them. Two of the Americans were killed. The Czechoslovaks, to aid whom the Yanks went to Siberia, have had frequent clashes with Semenov's men.

The bolsheviki have continued their forward movement in the Caucasus and along the Black sea, and now comes news of a new movement in that part of the world which they are said to be supporting. Enver Pasha, who formerly was minister of war of Turkey and was elected king of Kurdistan, has started what is called a bolshevist revolt in Turkistan, Afghanistan and Baluchistan and for which the government at Moscow has contributed large sums of money. Enver's ultimate aim, it is said, is India. Those who understand conditions in the countries mentioned assert this is not a genuine bolshevist movement, but is directed against Great Britain. However that may be, it is likely to cause the British considerable trouble.

The Adriatic problem seems about to be solved, and in a way quite opposite to that on which President Wilson insisted. Mutual concessions have been agreed upon, and though neither Italy nor Jugoslavia is wholly satisfied, probably both will yield. By the arrangement, Fiume is to be governed by a municipal council under the advice of an Italian high commissioner and a small independent state will surround the city. Italy is given control over the city of Zara but abandons her demand for the neutralization of the Dalmatian coast. She is granted a mandate over Albania, but

will modify her boundary claims in favor of Serbia. The Slovenes of Jugoslavia so strongly opposed some features of the settlement that the country's delegation felt inclined to reject the proposal, whereupon Lloyd George and Clemenceau told the government at Belgrade that it must say yes or no to the Italian offer at once.

The French, British and Italian premiers on Thursday handed the conditions of peace to the Hungarian delegation in Paris. There was no ceremony. Ambassador Wallace and the Japanese ambassador were present.

Secretary of Labor Wilson says that every alien who advocates the overthrow of the American government by force or who belongs to an organization holding such views will be deported "as fast as we can get the ships." But each of them will be given a fair hearing, he added. In New York Federal Judge Knox has caused the federal officials some worry by ruling that those held in deportation proceedings must be released on bail immediately. Immigration authorities say this would make it almost impossible to get cases against many of the radicals. The government officials are now eager for legislation that will permit them to handle properly those reds who are citizens. The senate passed the Sterling sedition bill for this purpose, but the house considers it too stringent in some particulars and is formulating one of its own. The chief objection to the Sterling measure was it put too much power in the hands of the postmaster general, virtually re-establishing war-time censorship of publications.

John Barleycorn turned up his toes on Friday. At eight o'clock that morning the forces of the directors of federal prohibition were afield all over the country looking for violators of the constitutional amendment which went into effect. The day dreaded by so many Americans was preceded by several events that caused vast preliminary distress. The Supreme court destroyed one of their hopes by refusing to permit the New Jersey liquor dealers to institute original proceedings in that court to test the constitutionality of the prohibition amendment. The court decided it had no jurisdiction. Next the internal revenue office announced that after Friday no liquor might be kept except in government bonded warehouses or in homes. A general movement of bottles and jugs from club lockers and hotels to residences began forthwith, and the officials were kind enough not to enforce the provisions against the transportation of intoxicants while it was in progress. Then along came Prohibition Commissioner Kremer with a ruling that fruit juices and ciders came under the dry ban if they contain more than one-half of 1 per cent of alcohol and that the penalties are the same as in the case of stronger liquors.

Presidential politics is humming these days, and the contest among the candidates for the head of the ticket, especially the Republican ticket, is growing mighty lively. The managers and scouts of each of the chief contenders are hustling around after delegations and the headquarters are the scenes of almost continuous conferences. General Wood, Governor Lowden and Senator Harding seem to be leading the field, but the others are not idle or hopeless by any means. It is a notable fact that women are taking a prominent part in the campaign. The Democrats are still resting under the shadow of the third-term possibility.

Herbert Hoover is looked at with the appraising eyes of the Warwick of both parties, for his political affiliation has been uncertain. Now Julius Barnes, his close friend, declares Mr. Hoover is a "progressive Republican" who "will never allow himself to be a candidate for high office nor allow his friends to make an effort in his behalf, unless there shall come such indisputable evidence of such spontaneous and universal popular demand that it will overwhelm his present resolution not to enter politics." From which it may be deduced that Mr. Hoover is almost in the conventional receptive mood.

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MEASURES AMENACE

GOMPERS SAYS BILLS AIMED AT SEDITION DANGEROUS.

MEAN AUTOCRATIC CENSORSHIP

Would Perpetuate Crushing of Free Speech and Free Assemblage, A. F. of L. Will Combat Proposals.

Washington, D. C.—Formal announcement that the American Federation of Labor would oppose "with whatever power it may possess" the enactment of the anti-sedition bills now pending in congress, was made in a statement issued by Samuel Gompers, president of the federation.

The attack of organized labor, its chief aim indicated, will be directed impartially against the Sterling bill, recently passed by the senate, and against the Graham measure, based on suggestions of Attorney General Palmer and awaiting action by the house rules committee for a special rule to expedite consideration.

Referring to the two measures as one bill, President Gompers declared its enactment "would violate the constitution and rob the whole American people of their most cherished and basic guarantees of free government."

"If the American people, and in fact a majority of the members of congress," Mr. Gompers asserted, "were awake to the dangers concealed in this bill, a storm of indignation would sweep the nation."

Continuing he said: "It has been widely advertised that this measure protects free speech fully, but prevents advocacy of forcible revolution, bolshevism and anarchy. In fact, it would perpetrate an autocratic censorship over the entire American press. It can be used to kill free speech and free assemblage. It strikes a deadly blow at legitimate organizations of labor or any other progressive movement for the betterment of the masses, which may be opposed by the advocates of privilege and reaction."

SACRED PAPERS EXPOSED.

Declaration of Independence Brought to Light for Anti-Red Drive.

Washington, D. C.—Recent activities of radical propagandists led Secretary Lansing last week to display for the first time in eighteen years the original parchment of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

In the presence of a group of officials, the parchments were removed from the protecting walls of a steel safe enclosing them and placed on view in the state department for an hour, while motion picture cameras recorded their appearance for the benefit of the 10,000,000 persons living under the principles enunciated by them.

Theaters from Maine to California and from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada will exhibit the films in an effort "to remove from the public mind its every city, town and village any possible effect of recent 'red' activities."

Corn Theatre Sold.

Mitchell, S. D.—Mitchell's corn palace, known for the past 27 years as the "world's only theater built of corn," was sold to a local wrecking firm for \$2,200 and will be junked before March 1. The first frame of the palace was built in 1893 at a cost approximately \$15,000. The city will erect a \$200,000 auditorium next spring which will also house the annual corn festival. The wood frame of the palace has been enlarged several times and has been decorated annually with vari-colored corn.

Non-Partisan Laws Illegal.

Bismarck, N. D.—The state supreme court, by a vote of 4 to 1, declared ineffective at this time house bill No. 69 of the recent special session of the North Dakota legislature. The measure provided that all acts of special sessions should be effective within ten days after adjournment of such assemblies. Justice J. E. Robinson dissented. The decision affects approximately half of the seventy-two measures enacted at the recent special session.

May Have Municipal Band.

Aberdeen, S. D.—Aberdeen may have a municipal band maintained by a tax levy if a movement now on foot to put the matter to a vote of the people succeeds. It is proposed that the band furnish music at no cost during the summer and fall months.

Permits Trade With Russia.

Washington, D. C.—Reciprocal interchange of certain commodities, including foodstuffs, between the Russian people and allied and neutral countries has been decided upon by the supreme council.

Fruit Juice and Cider Illegal.

Washington, D. C.—In one of the broadest constructions yet placed on provisions of the act for enforcement of constitutional prohibition, Prohibition Commissioner Kremer has ruled that fruit juices and ciders come within the dry ban if they contain more than one-half of 1 per cent alcohol.

The drastic regulation went into effect with constitutional prohibition, January 16. Violation of it carries the same penalty as for the manufacture or sale of stronger liquors.