

REMIT HALF MILLION

DECEMBER RETURNS SWELL
TREASURY'S GENERAL FUND

PROBLEM OF EMPLOYMENT

Items of General Interest Gathered
From Reliable Sources Around
the State House.

Western Newspaper Union News Service. Unexpectedly large remittances from county treasurers, which have been coming in to State Treasurer Hall since December 1, are again building up the state general fund and other funds at a rapid rate. The money has literally been pouring in, indicating that the people of Nebraska have plenty of money to pay their taxes and are doing so earlier than usual.

The total amount received by the state treasurer from sixty-five county treasurers so far heard from in December is \$449,350, of which \$242,906 is for the general fund. As the general fund contained \$247,000 on November 30, and as not to exceed \$100,000 has been paid out of it this month, the balance on hand in that fund is now about \$350,000.

This will be depleted to some extent by the first of the year, as the quarterly payroll of state officers will have to be met, besides other unusual expenses. It is probable, however, that Treasurer Hall will get through and start the new year with at least \$300,000 to go on in the general fund.

State Engineer to Be Reappointed.
State Engineer George E. Johnson will be reappointed for two years, under the incoming state administration and Roy L. Cochran, of North Platte, will be his deputy. All three members of the new state board of irrigation—Governor-elect Neville, Attorney General Reed and Land Commissioner Shumway—have indicated that they are agreed to make these appointments.

The state irrigation association, which held its annual convention at Bridgeport last week, passed resolutions asking the reappointment of State Engineer Johnson and also requesting that Cochran be made his deputy. Governor-elect Neville and Land Commissioner Shumway, who were present, stated that they would be guided by the recommendations of Mr. Neville and also that they would abide by them.

Problem of Employment

The problem of employment for many members of the Nebraska national guard, who will be here before long, according to authentic reports here, will be a keen one. General Hall has endeavored to start its solution by enlisting the aid of the labor commission in finding places for a portion of the men. It is said that many will step into places which they left nearly six months ago to respond to their country's call. But that number is small compared to the number of men enlisted from this state, and it will be up to most of them to find work after they arrive home.

Will Reorganize Department

Announcement regarding the reorganization of his office work was made by State Superintendent W. H. Clemmons of Fremont, during a short visit in Lincoln last week. Mr. Clemmons stated that Miss Cora A. Thompson of Bridgeport, superintendent of schools for Morrill county, is to be one of his assistants. He has tendered her a place and she has accepted. The superintendent-elect also told that he plans to organize the department of education on a somewhat different basis than heretofore. At the same time, he said that some of the people now employed in the office will be retained. This will include most of those filling clerical and stenographical positions.

Nebraska legislators get \$500 for their session's work. That is their pay, no matter whether they stay at Lincoln sixty days or a hundred and sixty or even if they have to sandwich a special session in during their tenure of office.

Apportioning New State House

It begins to look as though some decisive action will be taken by the incoming legislature with reference to a new state capitol building. There are a few who would "pitch up" the old state house and run along a few years. Then there are many more who believe that the great development of the state and its rapidly growing interests demand immediate relief in the construction of a modern, commodious and sanitary capitol building, capable of accommodating a great commonwealth.

Acting upon the recommendation of Land Commissioner Beckmann, who recently viewed several tracts of state school land in Morrill, Banner and Cedar counties, the board of educational lands and funds has voted to raise the valuations materially over the appraisements made by county boards. The increase amounts to \$5.75 on all these lands, aggregating about two sections. The valuations so fixed are the prices at which the lands will be sold by the state to those having contracts for them.

Cornhusker Will Join Navy

"Tim" Corey, retiring captain of the Nebraska university football team, may be a member of the navy squad at Annapolis next year, according to statements made in university athletic circles. Corey, it was said, had received assurances he could receive an appointment as cadet if he cared to accept. The retiring Cornhusker captain said he had not decided what he will do. If he remains in Nebraska university he will graduate and receive his degree next June.

OFFERS A SUGGESTION

Superintendent Thomas Is Strong for
Consolidation.

There are 857 school districts in the state with a census of one to twelve children of school age; fifteen of them with one child each, twenty-two with two, twenty-seven with three, forty-five with four, sixty with five and the balance with between six and twelve children of school age.

This, according to an educational survey, by State Superintendent Thomas, shows that consolidation is to be desired, for operation of schools with a small number not nearly as productive as larger schools.

The state officer continues by showing that of 6,571 schools operated in the state during the past school year there were 3,390 operated with one to twelve pupils each. Thirty schools had but one pupil each. One hundred and one schools had two pupils each, 151 schools had only three pupils each. A total of 220 schools had but four pupils each and 299 schools had five pupils each. Of six-pupil schools there were 319 and of seven-pupil schools 363. The balance of the schools up to 3,390 had between seven and twelve pupils each.

Plan to Cure Defects

A meeting of the joint committee of the legislature and state bar association was held at the legislative reference bureau rooms last week. Those present were J. J. Thomas, Seward, Bayard H. Paine, Grand Island; John Mattes, Nebraska City; C. E. Sandall, York; J. N. Norton, Polk; J. P. Palmer, Omaha; J. H. Broadly, A. E. Sheldon and C. E. Sorenson, Lincoln.

The plans for securing improvement in legislative methods were discussed and an agreement reached for a report which will be submitted to the state bar association on December 23, and the state legislature when it convenes. The points covered include appointment of a committee of three from the senate and three from the house to be called a revision committee to work in connection with the legislative reference bureau in revising bills before their introduction in either house and the purpose of securing the correction of obvious errors in form. This revision will be advisory only and the member who desires to introduce a bill may disregard it if he chooses.

Discusses State's Oil Prospects

Whether there is oil and gas down near Table Rock, or whether there is not, is discussed in an article just written by G. E. Condra, director of the Nebraska conservation and soil survey. After showing that a great anticline exists in Nebraska similar to the one in Kansas where oil and gas have been found in immense quantities and this Nebraska anticline is really an extension of the Kansas formation, Doctor Condra in a recent newspaper story, tells of a trip he, in connection with C. J. Hurst, an oil operator, made through southern Nebraska and down into Kansas, where he proved to the satisfaction of Mr. Hurst that the geological formation of the two states is similar in this respect.

Deplores Educational Situation

Nebraska's fortune is to have some excellent teachers in the normal schools.

But Nebraska's misfortune is to lose them too often to states which pay more money—so states the normal board report given at a recent meeting of that body. In addition to making this interesting observation the board says that it will need more money for the future than it has during the past year. The state levy need not be changed, however, the board says, but may remain at five-eighths of a mill. The increase in valuation will take care of the greater sums needed for this work.

Dr. G. E. Condra, director of the state conservation and soil survey, has gone to Washington, where he will check up the soil survey work done in co-operation with the United States bureau of soils. The survey of five Nebraska counties has been completed this year. He will also be in conference with federal roads department and with the national committee on topographic mapping, of which he is a member.

Commission Needs More Money

If the railway commission wants to serve the people to the utmost it will have to have more money. The \$93,000 which it has had for the past biennial period will have to be increased by at least \$9,000—and the commission could use \$20,000 more if the legislature would vote it. That is the statement which Retiring Commissioner Henry T. Clarke makes to Governor Morehead as the latter in fulfilling his duties as budget officer, casts about to make the expense list for the coming biennial period.

Will Prosecute Raffle Cases

Since Attorney General Reed announced that raffling automobiles to stimulate trade constitutes a violation of the state law, numerous calls have come in to him from out in the state asking "if he meant it," and "if such and such a proposition" would come under that head. To practically all of which he has responded that he meant just what he said and that prosecutions would follow fractures of the law.

Earnings of Nebraska Railroads

Revenue earned in this state by the railroads operating here totaled \$59,204,518 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916, according to a report of the state railway commission.

This huge sum represents a gain of nearly \$10,000,000 since 1912 for the annual revenue of that year barely reached \$50,000,000.

In the meantime the same report shows that the operating expenses of the roads allocated to Nebraska, have increased only from \$38,048,000 to \$34,841,000.

CONDENSED NEWS

OF INTEREST TO ALL.

DATES FOR COMING EVENTS.

January 1 to 6—State Poultry Show at Kearney.
Jan. 10-11—Odd Fellows' District Convention at Alliance.
January 15-20—State Improved Live Stock association meeting at Lincoln.
Jan. 15 to 20—Organized Agriculture Annual Meeting at Lincoln.
January 16—Nebraska Association of Fair Managers' Meeting at Lincoln.
January 16-17-18—Annual convention of Nebraska Volunteer Firemen at Auburn.
January 16-19—Winter Apple, Floral and Potato Show at Lincoln.
Jan. 19—Northeast Nebraska Editorial Meeting at Norfolk.
Feb. 7-9—Nebraska Retail Lumber Dealers' Association Convention at Omaha.
February 15—State Volleyball Contest at York.

North Platte is laying plans for a semi-centennial celebration to be held June 26 to 30, that promises to outdo anything in the line of municipal celebrations ever held in western Nebraska. No program as yet has been outlined other than to live over again the days of fifty years ago, when the west was "wild and woolly."

Three hundred and fifty thousand bushels of grain, mostly wheat and corn, were lost in a fire which destroyed Elevator B of the Nye-Schneider-Powder company at Fremont. The loss was estimated at \$500,000, practically covered by insurance.

Eight banks of Harlan county have per capita bank deposits of \$172.19, according to an official statement issued recently. The total bank deposits is \$1,721,954.19. Every bank in the county has over \$100,000 on deposit.

Milk stations, where milk will be sold as drinks and tables with reading matter furnished, to take the place of the saloons after May 1, were suggested at a meeting of the Omaha Epworth League union.

The Barnston Mutual Telephone company had an unusually prosperous year, according to the report of the secretary-treasurer, just issued. The company has installed a new switch board and other improvements at the plant during the year.

The Fourteenth district bar association, comprising nine counties in southwest Nebraska, went on record favoring the calling of a constitutional convention during the annual meeting at Cambridge.

Christmas boxes weighing 283 pounds were sent to members of Company G, Nebraska National Guards on the Mexican border by the people of Hastings. Delicacies of all kinds were included in the shipment.

Lieutenant Governor-elect Edgar Howard was tendered a complimentary banquet by men of Columbus last Monday. A number of guests from outside the city were in attendance.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Pont of Shubert recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. The aged couple have lived in the town nearly fifty years.

Three dozen fancy chickens were sent to the National Poultry show at Chicago from the 1733 Poultry Ranch near Kearney. This ranch has fowls that are valued at \$250 each.

Fire of an unknown origin destroyed the big flouring mill at Dodge, with a loss estimated at \$12,000. The mill was insured for \$10,000 and will probably be rebuilt.

Superior is to have a new hotel which will cost in the neighborhood of \$50,000.

After nearly forty-six years of continuous service with the Burlington railroad and after rising from the position of chairman with a surveying party, out near Kearney, to that of chief engineer, Thomas E. Calvert died of heart failure at his home in Lincoln.

The Grand Island Horse and Mule company closed a new contract with the British government for an indefinite number of horses. It is expected that between 10,000 and 15,000 horses will be delivered under this contract.

Citizens of Greater Omaha are planning to make the city still greater by annexing two more suburbs, Florence and Benson. A bill to permit the merger will be presented to the state legislature the coming session.

Frank Howard, of Pawnee City, purchased eighty-five head of horses in Beatrice. He said that the horses were purchased for use in England, France and Italy, and that they will be shipped to Europe as soon as possible.

The American Beet Sugar company employees at Grand Island will receive at the close of the campaign, which will last 100 days, a bonus of 40c a day or \$40, officials of the firm announced.

Ashland voted bonds to the sum of \$60,000 for the purpose of erecting a new high school building. It will occupy the site of the present structure, which was erected fifty years ago and has been condemned.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Young, of Brock, recently celebrated their sixty-first wedding anniversary.

Omaha was the scene of nearly seventy conventions during the past year. Twenty-four conventions have already been booked for the metropolitan by the bureau of publicity for 1917.

The David City Congregational church was damaged to the extent of one thousand dollars a few days ago by fire. It was the third fire in the town within ten days.

The summer convention of the Nebraska Press association will be held in Omaha, June 18, 19 and 20. It will be largely a social gathering.

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SANCTIONED BY THE PEOPLE

Additional Legislation Concerning
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Some Concern—Clark and Mann
Not Distressed About Next Congress.

By GEORGE CLINTON.

Washington.—Congress is quickstepping along on the first lap of the track which by time's measure runs three months. The representatives of the people show no particular concern because they face appropriation estimates that reach the ought-to-be staggering total of one and three-quarter billions.

"The country's necessity" is the salve which keeps down the fever of resentment and protest. As a matter of fact the congressmen seem to believe sincerely that the huge amounts to be expended are, under existing conditions, rather modest in their proportions. Preparedness costs much, but they look upon preparedness as insurance. The country, it is known, to a considerable extent is divided on this issue, but it is held that the election returns show that sanction has been given to the appropriations program presented to congress last year and continuing this year, and so signs of worry are conspicuous by their absence at the capitol.

Just now the legislation which in a sense is an offset to the so-called eight-hour legislation is engaging the attention of the members of both houses and moreover is somewhat troubling the men who must frame the acts which are to become law. The president has urged that this legislation take specific form, and as the administration's party holds control of both houses at present by a big majority, the president's will in the matter probably will be done.

Labor Law Troubles.
The eight-hour law, as it has come to be called, and which was read into the statute books within the span of 48 hours near the close of the last session, is variously spoken of here as an act of justice, an act of injustice, an act brought into being by coercion and an act which went through because of its manifest righteousness.

However it is viewed, no member of congress denies that labor scored a victory. Now there seems to be a desire to do something in behalf of capital if one may speak of the employers as capital. The legislation which is causing most trouble for the lawmakers is that which proposes an amendment to the existing statute which provides for arbitration, so that a full public investigation of the merits of any dispute shall be instituted before a strike or a lockout lawfully may be attempted.

This proposed amendment is similar to a law which they have in Canada. It is objected to by many representatives of labor and it seems likely that there will be a hard fight on it before it finally is passed, although the outlook apparently is that it passed it will be.

Although the next speaker is at stake, the two most unconcerned men in the house of representatives today seemingly are Champ Clark, the Democratic speaker, and Representative James R. Mann, the Republican floor leader. No one knows definitely yet how the next house is to stand. It may be a tie between the Democrats and the Republicans with half a dozen men of other parties or no parties holding the balance of power. Mr. Clark naturally wants to succeed himself as speaker. Mr. Mann unquestionably would hail the opportunity to be speaker in his own behalf. Any day may bring a change in the membership of the next house of representatives for several seats are in dispute. If the Democrats secure a majority, of course Clark will be re-elected speaker. Mann perhaps gets the job if the balance goes the other way.

These two party leaders, rivals for the highest office in the gift of the house, and in power the second highest office in the government, are exceeding friendly, even though they "row it" a good deal on the floor. The friends of both seemingly are much more concerned over the future than is either one of the men who have most at stake.

Wilson Faces Another Ordeal.
President Wilson is facing the ordeal of another inauguration. Why ordeal? Because, despite the pomp and glory of the thing, presidents time out of mind have imported to their personal friends in advance of the swearing-in process that they rather dreaded the turmoil and the toll of it all.

Every four years the good people of this city are torn up, while the city itself also is more or less torn up, in the apt-to-be stormy month of February. There are signs of the tearing up of the residents of this town already, for they are bent on having an in-

very large amount of nourishment in one's daily diet. Strange as it may seem to the average individual, almost any one of these fruits, lemons excepted, would fully and completely nourish the body for a prolonged and even an extended period if one were for any reason compelled to secure nourishment entirely from food of this character, although, of course, it would require a considerable period for the organs of assimilation to acquire the habit of absorbing all needed nourishment if a radical dietetic change of this nature was made.

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APPEALS FOR PEACE

WILSON ASKS ALL NATIONS AT
WAR TO DISCUSS TERMS.

WASHINGTON AMAZED BY ACT

Proposition Put Forth By President
Wholly Without Notice and Con-
trary to All Expectations.

Washington.—President Wilson has appealed to all the belligerents to discuss terms of peace. Without actually proposing peace or offering mediation, the president has sent formal notes to the governments of all the warring nations, suggesting that "an early occasion be sought to call out from the nations now at war such an avowal of their respective views as to the terms upon which the war might be concluded and the arrangements which would be deemed satisfactory as a guaranty against its renewal or the kindling of any similar conflict in the future, as would make it wholly frankly to compare them."

Probably without notice and entirely contrary to what administration officials have described as his course, the president dispatched the notes to all the belligerents, and to all the neutrals for their information. Summarized in the president's own words, as contained in the notes, his attitude is as follows:

"The president is not proposing peace; he is not even offering mediation. He is merely proposing that soundings be taken in order that we may learn, the neutral nations with the belligerents, how near the haven of peace may be for which all mankind longs with an intense and increasing longing. He believes that the spirit in which he speaks and the objects which he seeks will be understood by all concerned, and he confidently hopes for a response which will bring a new light into the affairs of the world."

It was a most distinct surprise to all official Washington, which had been led to believe that with the formal transmission of the proposals of the central powers the offices of the United States would await further moves between the belligerents themselves and that certainly, in view of the speech of Premier Lloyd George and the announcements in Russia, France and Italy, further action by neutrals would depend upon the next careful and delicate moves of the belligerents.

The whole tenor of official opinion throughout Washington when the president's action became known was that it immeasurably improved the prospects for some sort of exchanges looking toward an approach to peace discussions between the belligerents, without impairing the position of the United States should they finally be unable to find a ground on which to approach one another.

Nowhere on the surface appears any indication of the history-making events, which diplomatists generally are convinced must have transpired since the German allies brought forth their proposals, to dispel the general prevalent belief that such an action on the part of President Wilson would be unacceptable to the entente powers. British embassy officials declared they were utterly taken by surprise, were wholly unable to explain it and were emphatic in their statement that no exchanges whatever had passed through the embassy here as a preliminary.

The wish and hope of the German powers that President Wilson would intercede in some way has long been well known and has been conveyed in different ways to the White House. The attitude of the entente allies, as expressed by their statesmen and certainly until recently in official advice to the American government, has been that a peace offer by the United States would be considered almost the next thing to unfriendly.

The nearest parallel in world history for President Wilson's action was President Roosevelt's move in 1905 to end the war between Russia and Japan. But in that case the president had been assured his proposal would not be disagreeable to either of the belligerents, and, curiously enough, it was through Emperor William of Germany that the preliminary soundings crystallized into the suggestion that President Roosevelt take the steps.

Cold Weather Record Broken.
Pierre, S. D.—On the 20th day of December the government record showed 24 degrees below zero, the coldest December weather that has been experienced here in 25 years.

Oklahoma Bank Robbed.
Tulsa, Okl.—Oklahoma bank robbers made a large haul the other day when they entered the Oklahoma National bank at Skiatook, near here, blew open the safe and escaped in an automobile with \$20,000 in currency and silver.

Huge Sum for Breach of Promise.
Pittsburg, Pa.—Miss Nettie Richardson, aged 40, former cashier in a hotel, was awarded a verdict of \$170,000 in her suit for \$500,000 for breach of promise against Henry Deniston.

Bank Resources Grow.
Pierre, S. D.—An increase of nearly five and a half million dollars in state bank deposits for the two months from September 12 to November 17 is shown in the report of state bank examiners. The state banks show total resources of \$98,200,273.11.

May Close Paris Theaters.
Paris.—The Association of Paris Theater managers has notified the government that if the proposed new tax on theaters is imposed all the theaters will be closed.