



W. R. Jackson, state food commissioner for Nebraska, died at his home in University Place.

The Wisconsin supreme court has sustained the constitutionality of the income tax law.

The Nebraska Telephone company (Bell) and the Automatic company (Independent) in the southern half of Nebraska have merged and the Automatic will control. The Bell will control the business in the north half of the state.

Governor Stubbs of Kansas favors Roosevelt for president.

The Ohio constitutional convention is in session and the Buckeye state will have a new organic law.

Richard T. Crane, who at one time was appointed minister to China and then recalled just as he was about to leave for his post, died at his home in Chicago.

Herbert S. Bigelow was elected president of Ohio's constitutional convention.

Commoner readers will be interested in the details of the Wisconsin income tax law that has just been upheld by the Wisconsin supreme court. In its decision the court says that the income tax law does not violate the provision of the state constitution requiring uniformity of taxation, because incomes are not property and can be taxed as the legislature may direct.

For the same reason this law does not violate the fourteenth amendment to the federal constitution, which, the Wisconsin court concludes, never was intended to lay upon states an unbending rule of equal taxation.

The court also finds that the income tax law does not violate the provision of the state constitution guaranteeing local self-government, and is not discriminatory or unreasonable in its rates of taxation and exemptions.

"With the political or economic policy or expediency of the law," the court says, "we have nothing to do, if it be within constitutional licenses and embodying public policy, because it is enacted by that branch of the government which determines public policy.

"By this act the legislature has in substance declared that the state's system of taxation has been changed from a system of uniform taxation of property (which so far as personal property is concerned has proved a failure) to a system which shall be a combination of two ideas—namely, taxation of personal property, progressive according to the ability to pay, and taxation of real property uniformly according to value."

"Income," in the new law includes all rent of real estate, including the estimated rental of residence property occupied by the owner; interest from money lent or invested; wages, salaries or fees derived from services, except of public officials; dividends or profits derived from stocks; royalties from franchises or legalized privileges of any kind, and all other incomes not exempted."

Pensions and postmasters' salaries are not taxable. Incomes of corporations are assessed by the state tax commission; of individuals by the county assessors of incomes.

The exemptions include individual incomes up to \$800. A husband and wife are allowed \$1,200, and for each child under 18 years of age and for legal dependent an additional \$200 is allowed.

The rates of income taxation are graduated. For instance, the first \$1,000 or part thereof, 1 per cent; the second \$1,000 or part, 1 1/4 per cent; the twelfth \$1,000 or part, 5 1/2 per cent, and over \$12,000, 6 per cent.

The section providing for the taxation of the incomes of non-residents derived from a source within the state, as well as a number of other questions, were not passed upon, and are left for future consideration.

The enforcement of the law is vested in the state tax commission.

The United States Steel corporation, under its profit-sharing plan will allow officers and employees to subscribe for stock this year at \$110 for preferred and \$65 for common stock. Payment is to be made in monthly installments.

Russia demanded that China recognize the independence of Outer Mongolia. The note adds that Russia will assist the Mongolians in maintaining order. To this note China has made no reply.

Alleging that eighteen individuals and six corporations form a trust to control the manufacturing of bicycle accessories, the federal grand jury at Buffalo returned indictments containing eighteen counts.

The income of the American Federation of Labor for the last quarter of 1911, according to Secretary Morrison, was \$42,634.90, making a total with the balance in hand of \$232,214.46.

A letter showing alleged collusion between Swift & Co. and Armour & Co in bidding for a soldiers' home contract was introduced in evidence in the packers' trial at Chicago.

Ortie E. McManigal, the confessed dynamiter, was taken to Indianapolis secretly and placed in a cell in the federal building. He was taken before the federal grand jury.

At the annual meeting of the Evangelical alliance of Greater Boston a protest was made against the escort of Cardinal Farley by the Ninth regiment at his home coming.

Certain high officials in Turkey desire to end the war with Italy and there is a powerful element among the people who are anxious to continue the fight for Tripoli.

Portuguese peasants when informed they must pay rent for lands claimed by the government attacked troops and four peasants were killed and twenty wounded.

Dunfermline, Andrew Carnegie's native city, will erect a statue of him in honor of his benefactions.

John McNamara, of San Francisco, was arrested in New York on the charge of robbing the Bank of Montreal at New Westminster, B. C., of \$375,000.

The pig iron production of Germany during 1911 amounted to 15,-

534,223 tons, an increase of 740,808 tons over the total of the year before.

The Nicaraguan government has defaulted the January interest on its 1909 bonds, the issue of which is £1,250,000.

John Grier Hibben was chosen president of Princeton university succeeding Woodrow Wilson.

#### WILL INVESTIGATE THE MONEY TRUST

A special dispatch from Washington to the New York Sun says: A comprehensive inquiry into the affairs of the so-called "money-trust," as proposed in resolutions presented by Representatives Lindbergh of Minnesota and Humphrey of Washington, republicans, will be authorized by the democratic house of representatives. A tentative agreement to this effect has been reached by the democratic house leaders, and Representative Henry of Texas, chairman of the committee on rules, is firmly of the opinion that a plan will be ratified immediately after the holidays and carried into effect as soon thereafter as possible.

It is possible the investigation will be conducted by a joint committee of the house and senate. Conservative democrats have suggested that the question is too big to be treated in a partisan way and that whether a joint committee or merely a committee of the house is empowered to make the inquiry, it should be understood at the outset that the investigation is not to be for partisan purposes but solely to ascertain if there is a "money trust" which supplies the motive power for most of the other trusts.

Hearings already have been held on the Lindbergh resolution, which provides in brief for the creation of a committee of five to ascertain "Whether there are combinations of financiers or financial institutions or corporate or other concerns who control the money and credits and through that control operate in restraint of trade and in violation of law."

The Humphrey resolution proposes the creation of a committee to inquire into the operations of the so-called Atlantic pool, a combination of foreign steamship lines which, Mr. Humphrey charges, violate the Sherman anti-trust law.

In his statement before the rules committee Mr. Humphrey, according to Chairman Henry, presented facts intended to show an affiliation of interests between the "money trust," and the Atlantic pool. So close, indeed is this association, Mr. Henry thinks, that it warrants the two resolutions being merged into one broad enough to bring both subjects within the scope of a single investigation.

A further hearing on the Lindbergh and Humphrey resolutions will be held before the committee on rules on January 15. Samuel Untermyer of New York, who addressed a letter to Representative Lindbergh strongly urging that he continue to press for action in congress against the "money trust;" Attorney General Wickersham and the secretary of commerce and labor will be asked to appear and give the committee the benefit of their information and advice.

If present plans are carried out the committee thereupon will draft a substitute for the Lindbergh and Humphrey resolutions and recommend its passage to the house. Democratic leaders say the advice of the rules committee will be followed. In discussing the subject Representative Henry, chairman of the rules committee, said:

"In my judgment Representative

Lindbergh made a strong showing against the money trust in the presentation of the case to the rules committee. The case of Mr. Humphrey against the shipping combine was equally strong. Their statements disclosed facts that the money trust, the shipping trust and other large interests are so related to one another that the resolutions offered by the two gentlemen might be merged so as to reach all interests involved.

"While I can not speak for the whole committee on rules, I am heartily in favor of an investigation along the line indicated. The people are entitled to know the facts; if there is a money trust, organized or unorganized, we should find it out. If there is not it is just as important to learn the truth.

The Lindbergh money trust resolution heretofore has been largely treated as a joke in Washington. When it first was presented, the general expectation was that the measure would be pigeonholed, but taken in connection with the Humphrey resolution the proposal of Mr. Lindbergh now is beginning to be regarded seriously as affording the possibility of further agitation against big business. In its preamble the Lindbergh resolution sets forth that "money, exchange, deposit, reserve and credit systems are essential to the business relations of the people with each other, requiring that they should be administered on a commercial and not a speculative basis." It adds that the present system of money, exchange and credit entails on the people enormous losses, "due presumably to speculation, gambling and manipulation." The resolution goes on to say, "That it appears that these practices are directed through well defined centres the greatest of which it is believed does now actually have the power of controlling credit, exchanges and deposits to the extent of being able actually to bring on business depression and even business disaster."

The resolution further charges that "There appears to be a constantly increasing power in certain individuals and corporate concerns to concentrate and control, for selfish purposes, the moneys, finances and credits of the people."

The measure provides for an investigation to determine among other things whether there is a money trust as alleged and whether there are practices by which the spirit of the national banking laws is being violated in the organization of banks by the use of the note kiting system. Representative Lindbergh also would inquire into the uses to which reserves and deposits are put by banks.

Specific charges are made against the shipping combine in the Humphrey resolution. It alleges among other things that this combine controls the rates of the transatlantic business; that the combine between here and South America is a complete monopoly; that advantages are given to the Steel, Standard Oil and Harvester companies by the shipping combine sufficient to prevent competitors from opposing these companies in foreign markets; that the combine dictates through what American ports, passengers and freight shall pass and that there is a union of interest between American railroads and the shipping combine.

#### COMMON KIND

"What has become of that man who used to say he was a servant of the people?"

"The people had to let him go," replied Farmer Cornassel. "He got to be one of these hired men who stand around talkin' when they ought to be at work."—Washington Star.