

constitution and the laws by giving our wealth, our labor and our energy to one end. We feel constrained in the discharge of this supreme duty to call the attention of the people to certain facts of record.

"When the resolution was introduced in congress authorizing the President to arm our merchant ships to defend American lives, American property and the American flag against German piracy, it was a republican senator from Nebraska who led the fight for its adoption. Again, when Germany's brutal and lawless aggressions reached the stage of war, and resolutions were introduced in congress recognizing and declaring a state of war to exist, it was the democrats in congress from Nebraska who led the fight for America, and it was the republicans from Nebraska who unanimously opposed it. The democracy of Nebraska proudly and confidently accepts the issue thus joined. It commends the democratic delegation for its uncompromising support of these measures and it condemns the republican delegation for its solid opposition. We call on the liberty loving, justice loving and decency loving electorate of our great commonwealth to decide the issue thus joined, in the fullest confidence that their verdict will be one of which Nebraska forever after may be proud and not forever ashamed.

WE SHALL WIN WITH WILSON.

"To the boys in the trenches and camps and at sea who are offering their lives in their country's cause we send loving greetings. While we remain safely at home they are fighting our battles. They are suffering untold hardships and making the greatest sacrifices it is possible for men to make. Their cause shall be ever our cause, and in pledging our support to their commander-in-chief, we pledge it alike to them. And such a commander-in-chief! Never in history has there been a time when the straining eyes and throbbing hopes of civilized mankind turned to one man as they turn today to Woodrow Wilson! Serene, strong, patient, firm. He towers above the statesmanship of the world. In his wisdom, in his devotion, in his superb moral courage, in his fervor for democracy and human rights he stands matchless and thorough; all time, all ages shall call him blessed. To his support to the end of his great task, we pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor. We will win with Wilson.

"We commend the record of our democratic state administration and are proud of it. It has kept its promises and pledges with scrupulous fidelity. It has been clean, courageous and splendidly patriotic. It has enforced the laws. It has been efficient, businesslike and strong in building for Nebraska's prosperity and credit at home and abroad.

"We favor the proposed calling of a constitutional convention, equal political rights for women and legislative action consistent with the people's will on the proposed prohibitory amendment to the federal constitution."

A WAR PROHIBITION PETITION

[Sent from Colfax, California.]

The undersigned citizens of Colfax, California, each and severally request your honorable body to enact a bill providing for immediate prohibition of the beverage liquor traffic as a war measure.

We desire to set forth and emphasize as unfair and undemocratic, the continuance in this nation of the beverage liquor traffic as a governmental policy, or at all, whereby the young men who withstand the temptation of this policy and attain efficiency for war service are hailed to the trenches for the supreme sacrifice, while those made unfit by it and kindred vice are permitted to remain at home and enjoy the blessings and comforts of the valor and blood of their warring brothers.

Such course is offering a sweepstakes prize for inefficiency.

We desire to be specific and state that we know of instances where the fit boys have been drafted to take the place of those who, but for the beverage liquor traffic, would have been found fit for service.

Further, we desire to state that the kaiser's greatest ally in this nation, the beverage liquor traffic, actually murdered a fine young man in this town just prior to his examination for the draft. This is only one case of many thousand.

Without question, war time prohibition would place the nation on the best possible basis for successful warfare and hasten the day of victory and peace.

Government Control of Wire Service

A Washington dispatch, dated July 23, says: Acting under authority recently conferred by congress, President Wilson today issued a proclamation taking all telephone and telegraph lines under government operation and control at midnight, Wednesday, July 31.

Although congress empowered him to do so, the President did not include wireless systems, because the navy already is in control of them, and he did not include ocean cables, presumably because contracts the cable companies have with foreign governments, on whose shores they land, contain clauses respecting government operation which raised involved questions. The navy already is in practical control of the cables through its censorship.

The President's proclamation placed administration of the wire systems with Postmaster General Burleson and provided that until otherwise decided the present management and employes will continue. Present financial arrangements also will continue with the approval of the postmaster general.

LEAST POSSIBLE INTERFERENCE.

In a statement accompanying the proclamation, Postmaster General Burleson announced that his policy would be one of the least possible interference with the wire communication systems consistent with the interests and needs of the government.

Press wire service, Burleson said, would be interfered with only to improve its facilities, and farmers' telephones would be interfered with only to facilitate their connection with the larger lines. No general policy has been decided upon, the postmaster general announced, and public notice will be given of any plans to change present arrangements.

Pledging to the public his best efforts for the most efficient service at the least cost, the postmaster general said he welcomed the suggestions and co-operation of the men who have built up the systems.

Postmaster General Burleson personally will take charge of the administration of the wire communication and will be assisted by a committee of three composed of John L. Koons, first assistant postmaster general, in subjects of organization and administration; David J. Lewis, former congressman from Maryland, now a member of the tariff commission, on subjects of operation, and William H. Lamar, solicitor for the postoffice department, on matters of finance.

MAY ACT THROUGH OWNERS.

The President's proclamation provides that the postmaster general, if he so elects, may administer the lines through the general managers, boards of directors or receivers. It provides further that until the postmaster general directs otherwise, the present managements shall continue.

Regular dividends previously declared and interest on maturing obligations shall continue to be paid until the postmaster general directs otherwise; and subject to his approval, the companies may arrange renewal and extension of maturing obligations.

The Postmaster General, in his discretion, may hereafter relinquish, in whole or in part, to the owners any telegraph or telephone system over which he has assumed control.

PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION.

President Wilson's proclamation, after quoting the law by which congress authorized him to take over the telephone and telegraph lines, says:

"Whereas, It is deemed necessary for the national security and defense to supervise and to take possession and assume control of all telegraph and telephone systems and to operate the same in such manner as may be needful or desirable:

"Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, under and by virtue of the powers vested in me by the foregoing resolution and by virtue of all other powers thereto me enabling, do hereby take possession and assume control and supervision of each and every telegraph and telephone system, and every part thereof within the jurisdiction of the United States, including all equipment thereof

and appurtenances thereto whatsoever and all materials and supplies.

"It is hereby directed that the supervision, possession, control and operation of such telegraph and telephone system hereby by me undertaken shall be exercised by the postmaster general, Elbert S. Burleson. Said postmaster general may perform the duties hereby and hereunder imposed upon him, so long and to such extent and in such manner as he shall determine, through the owners, managers, boards of directors, receivers, officers and employes of said telegraph and telephone systems.

PROVISION FOR DIVIDEND.

"Until and except so far as said postmaster general shall from time to time by general or special orders otherwise provide, the owners, managers, boards of directors, receivers, officers, and employes of the various telegraph and telephone systems shall continue the operation thereof in the usual and ordinary course of business of said systems, in the names of their respective companies, associations, organizations, owners, or managers, as the case may be.

"Regular dividends thereto directed and maturing interest upon bonds, debentures and other obligations may be paid in due course; and such regular dividends and interest may continue to be paid until and unless the said postmaster general shall from time to time, otherwise by general or special orders determine; and, subject to the approval of said postmaster general the various telegraph and telephone systems may determine upon and arrange for the renewal and extension of maturing obligations."

BURLESON'S STATEMENT.

Postmaster General Burleson made this statement:

"I realize the immensity of the task which has been intrusted to me by the President's order. The telegraph and telephone service as conducted by those who have had the responsibility under conditions heretofore existing, has been remarkably successful, considering the unusual additions to their task and the unprecedented difficulties in the way of its full performance which have arisen out of the war—difficulties which could be overcome only by a unity of administration, particularly a unification of the use of the telephone and telegraph lines, which could not be realized without the aid of the government.

"Under the President's order conditions are changed and greater opportunity afforded to effect improvements and economies, and a larger use by the people of these facilities which have become an imperative need in their every-day life.

"Whether advantage can be taken of these opportunities to improve this service to the public remains to be disclosed by experience. Every effort of the department will be directed to the accomplishment of this end. It will be the purpose of the postoffice department to broaden the use of the service at the least cost to the people, keeping in mind that a high standard of efficiency must be maintained. I shall avail myself of an early opportunity to consult with those who have heretofore had the responsibility of directing the various wire systems, and I doubt not, will be greatly benefited by suggestions they may be kind enough to offer me.

"The operation or control of what are commonly called farmers' telephone lines will be interfered with only for the purpose of facilitating their connections with the longer lines. There will be no change affecting the press wires service, except to improve it wherever possible. Of course, no general policy has been decided upon, and will not be until a most careful survey of the whole situation is had and a grasp of conditions as they now exist secured. I shall freely avail myself of all advice and suggestions which those in a position to make same valuable may be good enough to offer me.

"Whenever it is necessary to inaugurate any changes of policy, announcement of such will be made through the postmaster general."

The government has told the professional baseball men of the country that they must either work or fight, and the league owners who have been digging deep into their pockets to keep the teams running seem to feel rather cheerful about it. Following so closely on the collapse of the pugilistic industry, whose chief stars neither work nor fight, it may well be concluded that sport has also been adjourned for the war.