

CONGRESS WILL FIGHT REPEAL OF EIGHT-HOUR BILL

Adamson Says Legislature Will 'Spank' Both Men and Roads if They Try to Take His Measure Off Books.

HEARS OF SUCH ATTEMPT

Plan for Investigation of Threatened Strikes Will Result From Conference.

FINAL AGREEMENT IS SEEN

Washington, Dec. 17.—Reports that railroad and brotherhood heads in peace conferences have planned to propose the repeal of the Adamson act and the submission of a working agreement of their own making for it, today aroused Representative Adamson, author of the law, to declare that congress would "spank both sides to the controversy if necessary."

The measure was passed in good faith and it is a constitutional enactment regulating hours of labor and not wages," he said. "Let the roads and their men settle their wage disputes."

"Congress will see that the public gets a fair deal. If it becomes necessary to spank both sides we'll spank 'em, though I hope that won't be necessary."

More Eager for Peace.

Representative Adamson says the result of the presidential election made the employers more eager for peace than they were last fall and that the growing belief that the president stands for a compulsory arbitration law has put the brotherhood leaders in a conciliatory frame of mind.

Neither labor nor congressional leaders here have official reports as to just what phases of the railway situation the conferees have taken up. Belief is current, however, in congressional circles that the foremost feature of the final agreement will be an interpretation of the Adamson law so satisfactory to both sides that the suit to test the act's constitutionality now before the supreme court made be withdrawn.

A plan for the investigation of threatened strikes also is expected to result from the deliberations. Labor is determined that no compulsory arbitration law shall go on the statute books, but realizing that the president determined to prevent strike crises without investigation, they will exert every effort to draft a compromise plan that will have his endorsement.

Will Seek Full Consent.

Mr. Adamson will make an attempt in the house tomorrow to get unanimous consent for action on his resolution designed to provide for a continuation of the life of the Newlands commission investigating all phases of the transportation problem until January 1, 1918. Friends of the state regulation of railroads are expected to oppose the resolution vigorously. Assurance of the president's desire to have the resolution adopted is expected to be sufficient to carry it through the house.

Fremont Young Man Accidentally Shot

Fremont, Neb., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—The body of James Keeler, a Fremont boy, was found on a sandbar in the Platte river near Ames by his brother, Henry, and a cousin, Irving, Keeler who had searched for him for several hours. Mr. Keeler had evidently met his death through the accidental discharge of his shotgun. He left the camp Friday morning and when he failed to return late in the afternoon the search was instituted, which was terminated by darkness. It was resumed Saturday morning and the body found about 10 o'clock. Coroner E. E. Van Metre and officers brought the body to Fremont. Mr. Keeler is survived by his parents, three brothers and three sisters. He was 25 years old.

Friedrich Wilhelm Breaks the Blockade

Berlin, Dec. 17.—By Wireless to Sayville.—The German steamship Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm, which had been anchored at Odde, near Bergen, Norway, since the beginning of the war, has arrived at Stavanger, according to a dispatch from Christiania, "after having broken the British blockade outside Bergen."

The Weather

Table with columns for High, Low, Mean, and Precipitation for various locations and dates.

ARCHDUKE CHARLES BECOMES REGENT OF POLAND.



Archduke Charles of Austria, who has been selected as regent of the newly formed kingdom of Poland, with the possibility of later election as king. The archduke has possibly more claim to the honor than any other Teuton royalty, in view of the fact that his two daughters are married to members of the Polish aristocracy, Prince Radziwill and Prince Czartoryski.

GREAT LIBRARY VAST STOREHOUSE

Thousands of Volumes Being Added to Congressional Collection.

MANY TREASURES THERE

Washington, Dec. 17.—Gifts from many sources have brought more than 28,000 volumes to the library of congress during the year, and comprised more than one-fourth of the additions to its shelves. Retaining its place as the third greatest library in the world, and the greatest in the western world, the library now contains 2,451,974 books, 154,200 maps and charts, 770,248 volumes and pieces of music and 392,905 prints.

For large additions to the Chinese, Japanese and Korean collections the library acknowledges debt to Dr. Walter T. Swingle of the Bureau of Plant Industry, who visited the far east in 1915 and purchased on behalf of the library a total of 5,892 volumes, including early Chinese books printed from blocks; Chinese historical and descriptive works covering the period of first contact with Europeans; early Chinese dictionaries and encyclopedias; Chinese works on natural history and pharmacopoeias; geographical works; the writings of Confucius and the works of famous scholars; Japanese printed work extant, probably dating from the beginning of the thirteenth century; and a large collection of the writings of Kaibara, the Benjamin Franklin of Japan.

The Lincoln documents which have been presented to the library are of exceptional interest. These consist of the original draft of Lincoln's second inaugural address, and his two drafts of the Gettysburg address prepared by Clarence L. Hay, who had them from his father, the late John Hay; and a memorandum as to the improbability of his re-election, presented by Miss Helen Nicolay.

As a rule the American composer and the American music publisher are beginning to prefer the national to a local library as the permanent custodian of manuscript scores. The chief of the music division records not only gifts of autograph scores of American composers, but promises of gifts to come.

In the document division an effort was made to complete the files of official publications of the Latin-American countries, and it was exceptionally fruitful through a visit to these countries by the law librarian, Dr. E. M. Borchard. The library's collection of Latin-American documents may now be considered one of its important features.

A number of Yiddish books came to the library in the two Deindard collections. The Yiddish literature in the United States assumes a respectable place as compared to other literature; and even if the predictions of some come true that the Yiddish tongue will be dead before long, the Yiddish literature will still offer a wide and interesting field for historians, philologists, and students of comparative literature.

The portion of the library now classified under the new classification contains 1,548,500 volumes. Great progress has been made in eliminating remnants of the old classification. Depository libraries containing complete sets of the Library of Congress catalogue cards now number forty-eight, while forty libraries of the United States government have partial depository sets.

The adoption of a uniform type for the use of the blind seems imminent to the assistant in charge of the reading room for the blind. It is anticipated that an agreement may be arrived at between the British and American co-workers which will result in the solution of this problem.

FRENCH REPLY TO KAISER WITH GUNS

London Press Publishes Gallic Victory at Verdun in Answer to Wilhelmitic Peace Offer

NOTE YET RECEIVED

London, Dec. 17.—The foreign office announced before closing today that it had not yet received the peace note and the prominent officials disclaimed knowledge of its contents beyond what the newspapers had published.

The French victory at Verdun is acclaimed by all the London papers as the French reply to the German emperor's speech to his troops in Alsace and Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg's claim of the invincibility of German arms.

The opinion in the British press as reflected in the latest editorials are almost unanimous that the least the government can do is to make a statement on the allies' aims and objects or ask for the presentation of the German terms.

The weekly reviews, including the financial organs, take the same line as do the provincial papers. The only notable exception has been the Northcliffe group, which immediately urged that Great Britain should ignore the proposition.

It appears to be the consensus of opinion that the allies should not consider entering into a conference until they know approximately the central powers' policy and unless they consider that that policy contains the seeds for agreement. The Russian rejection of the overtures was published too late for comment by the morning papers. All the afternoon papers refrain from expressing their opinion thereon.

Premier Lloyd George's first appearance in the House of Commons in his new capacity as prime minister may be delayed until the government is in a position to pronounce a definite statement of its policy toward the negotiations.

Heirs of McLean Agree on Division of Great Estate

Washington, Dec. 17.—Edward B. McLean, son of the late John R. McLean, Washington, and Cincinnati publisher, and the executors of the McLean estate today asked the local supreme court to ratify an agreement which would end the suit brought by young McLean to break the terms of his father's will.

The agreement proposes that Mr. McLean shall have complete control of the income from the McLean fortune and be recognized as the head of the Cincinnati Enquirer and the Washington Post.

Under the terms of the will McLean was to have received a minimum of \$25,000 a year from his father's estate and the management of the properties was left almost entirely to trustees.

Under the agreement which the court was asked to ratify today, McLean would receive an income estimated at ranging from \$700,000 to \$1,000,000 a year and stipulates that the executor and trustees will at all times consult with him on the management of the estate and afford him freest access to its books.

Tractors, Trucks or Mules, Which Best? Funston Will Learn

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 17.—Major General Funston has ordered a test of pontoon transportation to decide whether the best method is mules, motor trucks or caterpillar tractors.

The test will be made first at Fort Sam Houston and vicinity and later further west where the roads through the unsettled districts are almost impassable.

Hitherto the only method of the United States army for pontoon transportation was by mule and it was requisites usually fourteen wagons drawn by fifty-six mules to carry a division unit.

Dr. Clark, Pioneer Dentist, Is Dead

Dr. F. C. Clark died Sunday morning at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. F. J. Despecher, 3872 Franklin street, where he had made his home for many years.

Dr. Clark was 88 years old and had been a resident of Council Bluffs, where he practiced dentistry from 1866 until 1907, when he retired from active practice. He was a son of a revolutionary war soldier, a native of Maine and a descendant of the Clark who came to this country on the Mayflower. He went to California in 1849, where he practiced his profession in the late '50s.

Dr. Clark is survived by three daughters, Mrs. F. J. Despecher, Omaha; Mrs. H. A. Wedge, Cozad, Neb.; and Mrs. Paul Sauer, jr., Kansas City, Mo., and a son, W. N. Babbitt, Council Bluffs.

GERMANY WANTS NO TRUCE DURING PEACE PARLEYING

Kaiser Does Not Favor Cessation of Fighting, But Conference at Which Belligerents Will State Terms.

STATEMENT OF JOURNAL

Meeting Will Be Held at Hague Middle of January, Says Frankfurter Zeitung.

NOT TO DESTROY ANYBODY

London, Dec. 17.—Telegraphing from Copenhagen, the correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph company quotes the Frankfurter Zeitung as saying:

"Germany does not want a cessation of fighting, but merely a conference at which all the belligerents shall openly state their peace proposals."

"A conference will be held at The Hague about January 15. While the conference is in session all the belligerents will be allowed to continue military operations."

Definite Communication.

Berlin, Dec. 17.—(By Wireless to Sayville.)—"Some sections of the foreign press and especially newspapers in hostile countries," says the Overseas News agency, "having declared that the central powers ought to have added definite peace proposals to their peace offer, the Overseas News agency asked a distinguished German diplomatist for his opinion on this point. His answer was:

"The German note to the entente governments contains a very definite communication as to the spirit of the peace conditions which the central powers would bring to the proposed negotiations."

Would Destroy No One.

"The central powers base these proposals on the conviction that their own rights and just claims today are not in contradiction to the rights of other nations. In addition, the central powers declare they do not want to annihilate or destroy anybody and that the peace proposals will be of such a nature as to guarantee the establishment of a lasting peace."

"To go farther in outlining the peace conditions would have meant a handicap to the central powers in case (contrary to what some newspapers in hostile countries have declared) the hostile governments decided to enter into negotiations or discussions. It is a self-evident truth that nobody could come to such negotiations with tied hands while the hands of the other party were completely free."

Roumania Not to Rise Again.

Amsterdam (Via London), Dec. 17.—The Vossische Zeitung says that a territorial rearrangement based upon the idea of the independence of Roumania is no longer to be considered. This statement is followed by a declaration that Russia will receive Moldavia as an equivalent for a considerable territorial sacrifice, which is to be demanded of it.

Land, the article adds, is to be made into an independent kingdom. Courland is to become a German federal state, Lithuania is to be incorporated in Prussia, Dobruja is to be returned to Bulgaria and Wallachia is to be divided between Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria.

Bandits Rob Victim And Then Make Him Give Them Joy Ride

To be robbed of \$42 in cash at the point of a gun and then compelled to give the two bandits a joy ride of several blocks and abandon his car, was the experience Saturday night of Mack McAshen, 3830 North seventh street, a driver for Burgess-Nash.

McAshen was ordered to stop his car by two masked men at Sixteenth and Pratt streets. He was covered with a gun by one of the men, while the other searched his pockets. Then both the men jumped into the auto and forced their victim to drive them around. When they reached Seventh and Emmett streets, McAshen was forced to abandon the car.

C. H. Curtin, 2107 North Twenty-eighth street, reported to the police that he was strong-armed on Capitol avenue between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets and robbed of \$22. Leroy Mitchell, colored, was arrested as a suspect.

F. C. Scheffer of Bentley, Ia., lost \$60 or \$65 to a pickpocket at Fourteenth and Douglas streets.

Three Autos Stolen By "Joy Riders"

Three automobiles were stolen in Omaha Saturday night. Joyriders took a number owned by G. G. Rogers, 5419 Florence boulevard, to that address and left it at Thirtieth and Kansas streets. A. P. Trussell, Fort Crook boulevard, reported that his car was stolen from Sixteenth and Douglas streets by J. Jensen, 4202 Valley street, reported the theft of his machine from the same place.

Mullen Stays Over To See President

Washington, Dec. 17.—(Special Telegram.)—National Committeeman Mullen, the democratic "boss" of Nebraska, had expected to go home tomorrow with Governor-elect Neville, but President Wilson indicated a wish to see Mr. Mullen on Monday, therefore, the "killing" having commanded, Mr. Mullen will not leave for Omaha until Monday night or Tuesday.

FINISHED HIS WORK AT VERDUN—General Robert Nivelle, who has been transferred from command at Verdun to succeed Joffre in command of the French armies of the west. He concluded his work at Verdun by a brilliant victory over the Germans on Friday and Saturday.



HOMESTEAD LANDS NEARLY ALL TAKEN

Reclamation Service Adds Five Thousand Farms to Available List During Year.

INDIAN DEATHS INCREASE

Washington, Dec. 17.—Public lands in the United States are being taken up by homesteaders in rapidly increasing quantities as shown in the annual report of Secretary of the Interior Lane made public today. Twenty million acres were claimed by private owners in the year ending with June 30, as against 17,000,000 for each of the preceding two years and a still smaller average for previous years.

Of the 250,000,000 acres of public land still left in the United States much is in the arid region. The reclamation service carried on construction work on twenty-four irrigation projects, completing ten and adding 5,000 farms to territory for which irrigation water is available. Irrigation water is actually going now to nearly 20,000 farms.

The report emphasizes the work of the Indian bureau, whose health campaign, it is declared, has cut the death rate among Indians seven in one thousand. The bureau has conducted a campaign to save Indian babies by giving Indian mothers proper care. Hospitals were constructed and additional physicians were employed in the health campaigns.

Work of Indian Schools.

Work in the Indian schools was revised to reduce the hours of academic work and to increase the number given to vocational training. Indian moneys carried on deposit in state and national banks during the year, the report says, amounted to \$22,000,000; new regulations were made for leasing oil lands of the Osage nation at a high rate, which, the report estimates, in the first year will pay \$200,000 in royalties; 90,000 acres of Indian lands were sold for \$1,666,000 and 16,000 acres were purchased for landless Indians.

A section of the report dealing with the pension office shows 709,572 names on the pension rolls at the end of the year, a decrease of 38,575 for twelve months. Civil war soldiers on the rolls numbered 362,277. Deaths of civil war soldiers during the year numbered 34,252. The amount paid for pensions for the year was \$139,155,000 against \$165,518,000 for the previous year.

A patent office report gives the number of applications for patents during the year as 70,000. Forty-eight thousand were granted.

Bureau of Education.

The Bureau of Education report recommends formation of a division of commercial education and a division for the education of exceptional children. Investigations are urged looking to the education of the adult illiterate, and better education for the children in the home.

Commendation is bestowed on the work of the Bureau of Mines in developing methods of testing low grade complex gold, silver, lead and zinc ores which, it is claimed, promise to rejuvenate mining in certain parts of the country and make valuable millions of tons of ore that now cannot be treated. The bureau since its organization has trained 41,000 miners in mine rescue work.

Agricultural possibilities of Alaska still are a matter of conjecture, although in some parts of the territory the haidier cereals and vegetables are being grown. Completion of the railroad now being constructed from Seward to Fairbanks will do much for the development of Alaska, the report says.

YODER IS GIVEN BAG BY TEACHERS

County Superintendent for Decade Makes His Last Appearance.

PROF. CALDWELL SPEAKS

W. A. Yoder, who will step out of the county superintendent of schools' shoes in January, 1917, after having served in the office for a decade, was presented with a traveling bag by the county teachers at the semi-annual meeting at the court house yesterday. It was Mr. Yoder's last appearance before the county teachers' body before he steps out of office.

Superintendent Yoder in his farewell speech reviewed the progress of the county school system during the last ten years and spoke of the many improvements which have been made along educational lines during his term of office. He mentioned the pleasant associations of the time he has been in office and thanked the teachers for their co-operation.

Thomas C. Crogan, president of the County Teachers' association, made the presentation speech when the traveling bag was handed over to the retiring superintendent. He referred to Superintendent Yoder as a friend of the teachers above all and spoke of his efforts to constantly better educational conditions in Douglas county.

A paper was read by Prof. H. W. Caldwell of Lincoln, head of the American history department at the University of Nebraska, on the subject, "Educational Problems."

Prof. Caldwell said that new problems are to be met with constantly because of the scientific and educational progress of the world, pointing out that the advantages of today are way ahead of what they used to be, by reason of the telegraph and telephone, automobiles, good roads, daily newspapers and other things in modern day life.

Short talks on the general subject, "Relation of the School to the Community," were made by M. A. Sams, superintendent of schools at Valley, and Anna E. Meyer and Bird Claybaugh, teachers.

Thomas J. Keenan, who will succeed Mr. Yoder as county superintendent of schools, was introduced. He made a short talk.

Will Dedicate Dairy Building

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—The State Dairymen's association will hold the most important meeting of their history in the new dairy building on the state university farm, Lincoln, on January 17, 18 and 19, 1917. On Wednesday evening will be held the dedicatory services of the new \$200,000 building at which Chancellor Avery will preside. A splendid program of addresses will be provided by Hon. B. H. Rawls, chief of the United States dairy division; the University Regents, A. L. Haeccker, former professor of dairy husbandry and Prof. J. H. Frandsen, now in charge. Music will be furnished by the University Glee club. Every person interested in dairying should be present at these meetings and survey the opportunities offered for scientific dairy education by the state of Nebraska.

TRICOLOR WAVES IN TRIUMPH OVER FIELD OF VERDUN

Victory of French Complete and Crushing, Germans Smashed Back Almost to Where Their Great Drive Began.

DEFENDERS ARE SURPRISED

Teuton Legions Battle Desperately, But Are Unable to Stem Tide.

NIVELLE HERO OF THE DAY

Paris, Dec. 17.—As his last act before assuming the chief command of the French armies on the western front General Nivelle today smashed the German line east of the Meuse along a front of six miles. The victory has advanced the French positions two miles and they are now within a short distance of where the Germans stood at the outset of the great Verdun drive. The military authorities describe the victory as complete and crushing and carried out without a hitch. Nearly 9,000 prisoners were taken.

Since his last great stroke when the blood-soaked ruins of Fort Vaux and Douaumont fell once more into the hands of Verdun's defenders General Nivelle has been quietly preparing to push his advantage by an attack on a larger scale. Men and guns had been assembled, shells piled and everything was in readiness for the moment he should see his opportunity. Then the blow fell like a thunderbolt.

Curtain of Steel Hurlled.

A terrific artillery fire flattened the German defenses, then the guns were elevated and threw a curtain of steel behind which the infantry from every trench from Pepper Hill to beyond Damloup dashed forward on an enemy still stunned by the bombardment.

In places the Germans gallantly strove to hold their ground, but General Nivelle's dispositions were so well made that they were generally powerless to stem even momentarily the tide. One after another Vacheranville and Louvremont villages, Chambrette farm and the Hardaumont and Besonvaux works fell without the defenders having time to carry away either guns or material and prisoners began to stream steadily rearward to pens prepared for their recapture.

Germans Beaten.

Pepper Hill, Verdun Front, Friday Dec. 15, Via Chantilly, Dec. 16.—(From a Staff Correspondent of The Associated Press.)—A short sharp battle brought to the French today their third smashing victory, within two months in the vicinity of Verdun. Every objective of the French commanders was obtained.

Although the Germans offered a desperate defense, they were like clay in the hands of the French troops, who smashed them into any shape they liked.

Thousands of German prisoners poured into the French lines during the day, including 200 officers, and are still arriving. The total count already is 7,500. One division alone captured more than 1,200 Germans within an hour. More than eighty cannons were captured or destroyed.

Three Villages Taken.

The villages of Vacheranville, Louvremont and Besonvaux and Hardaumont wood now are in French hands.

The front was ten kilometers long. When the fighting ceased, owing to the darkness, the French advance had exceeded an average of three kilometers along the whole front, at various points reaching further out.

The battle began at 10 o'clock in the morning, with the left flank of the French opposite Vacheranville and the right flank on Fort Vaux.

As the church clock struck the hour every French gun opened a storm of steel, placing every shot immediately behind the German front line. Meanwhile the French infantry made one of its characteristic dashes and reached Vacheranville, where they drove the Germans from house to house until the village was entirely in their hands.

"Bethmann's Bowl" Pierced.

Advancing beyond the village, the French attacked a German trench known as "Bethmann's Bowl," which was pierced, after a hard fight, and its occupants made prisoners. Then, up the slopes of Pepper Hill the infantrymen could be seen making methodical progress, until at exactly an hour from the start the two crests of this height had been swept clear of the Germans and the rockers announced the French were established there. In the meantime the

(Continued on Page Two, Column Three.)

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