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NEBRASKA GETS MEDE OF PRAISE ON ITS BIRTHDAY

Notable Men of State Listen to Addresses Honoring Memory of Those Who Built Commonwealth.

HISTORIC GAVEL IS USED

S. C. Bassett Presents One That Rapped Pioneers to Order.

ADDRESS BY J. L. WEBSTER

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

Lincoln, March 1.—(Special Telegram.)—With the singing of "America," led by the legislative male quartet, the exercises commemorative of the fiftieth anniversary of the admission of Nebraska as a state were opened at 10:45 this morning before the joint session of the Nebraska legislature, with Lieutenant Governor Edgar Howard presiding. Prayer was offered by the house chaplain, Mr. Davis.

Governor Neville in a short address said it was useless to deplore the passing of so many things so intimately associated with the early history of the state, but it was the price of advancement and civilization.

The quartet, composed of Senators McAllister and Oberlies and Speaker Jackson and Representative Shannon was repeatedly called back after singing a song especially dedicated to the legislature and the old state house.

S. C. Bassett, president of the Historical society, presented the lieutenant governor with a gavel used by the first territorial legislature.

General John Lee Webster of Omaha was the principal speaker. He reviewed the early history of the state in an entertaining manner and its advancement to the present time. The house chamber was comfortably filled and the desks of the members were decorated with flags. Motion pictures of the ceremonies were taken by Dr. Condra and his assistant.

Historic Gavel. In presenting the gavel to the presiding officer, Mr. Bassett gave the following history of the bit of historic hammer.

"In all legislative bodies a gavel is the emblem of authority.

"In the archives of the Nebraska State Historical society was this gavel used at the first session of the Nebraska Territorial legislature and preserved as a historic relic by the late Robert W. Furnas, and by him presented to the society.

"This gavel is of hickory, about one and one-half inches in diameter, two and one-half inches long and with the bark on. The handle is a small hickory limb with the bark on and whittled with a knife where it enters the gavel.

"This gavel very fittingly illustrates the primitive condition of the time in Nebraska when there were no turning lathes and little of ornamentation in the erection of buildings or of tools or implements in daily use."

Governor's Address. Following the presentation of the gavel, Governor Neville addressed the session as follows:

"We are gathered here in joint session to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Nebraska's statehood. Today marks the transition, as it were, from childhood, the most important stage in the existence of state and man, to a period of youth and vigorous manhood. The hardy pioneers, who shaped the destinies of our early state life when they contemplated the results made possible by their sacrifices and labors.

"Not many states, in the first fifty years of their existence, have progressed as has Nebraska. Few rival us in productiveness or in the industry of their citizenship; few have less of

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The Weather

Table with columns for High, Low, and Precipitation for various locations including Omaha, Lincoln, and St. Paul.

Table with columns for Station and State, Temp. High, Temp. Low, and Rain-fall for various locations including Omaha, Lincoln, and St. Paul.

Mann Makes Strong Speech In Support of the Flood Bill

Republican Leader Arouses Arouses Enthusiasm When Says It Should Be Passed.

FLOOD SUPPORTS MEASURE

Washington, March 1.—Representative Flood, continuing his address in the house in support of the armed neutrality bill, said: "By this act we may not be able to avert war. If we should become involved in war, however, the passage of this bill would be one of the minor causes of that direful result. It may be necessary only to arm ships, but if we must do more, the fault is not ours. Give the president this power asked and the question of war will be with Germany. There is no doubt of the right of Americans to travel and we should uphold this right peacefully. If that cannot be done, then we will do it with arms."

Applause even greater than that which greeted Representative Flood's opening statement met Republican Leader Mann's rousing speech in favor of the bill. Few men on either side of the chamber failed to respond by hand-clapping or cheers.

"It is well known," Representative Mann said, "that I have done and will do everything in my power to keep this country out of the European war and the peace settlement that is certain to follow its end. But I do not see how it is possible for a patriotic nation to refuse to give the president at the time of this crisis power which he asks and which is provided for in the pending bill."

"I recognize that those opposing this proposition are filled with devotion to the country as the rest of us are," he continued, "but I am not willing to cavil over the terms of power conferred on the president. When the time comes that our ships

shall be assaulted and the limit of our patient bearing for insults or destruction that may be heaped upon us is passed, it becomes the duty of a great or small government to defend its rights upon the sea.

"I long ago would have given the president power to protect against attack American citizens engaged in peaceful pursuits in Mexico, and think that we should now give him the power to save our rights, our patriotism, our people and our nation. I hope and believe that by giving this power to the president we shall be more apt to keep out than to get into war."

Democratic Leader Kitchin, one of the so-called pacifist group, announced amid great applause that he would vote for the bill.

"I shall vote for this bill, but not without hesitation and misgiving," said Kitchin. "The nation confronts the gravest crisis. It faces the supreme responsibility to itself and to the world. Already the European catastrophe threatens the faith of mankind in Christianity, in civilization. The widening of that catastrophe by a great, powerful nation like ours would seem to challenge the rights of Christianity to exist. It calls to the test the potency of civilization itself. The world holds its breath at every utterance the president makes."

"Clothed with the powers given by the constitution, a president of the United States can, at his will, without the hindrance of congress, create a situation which makes the war the only alternative of this nation."

"In reassertion of my confidence in the sincerity of the earnest desire but recently reiterated by the president to avoid war, and in the hope that he may use the confidence of congress in him, which finds its undoubting expression in the passage of this bill, to maintain peace, I give to this measure my support."

VOICES OBJECTION TO MINIMUM WAGE

W. F. Baxter Says it Is Merely Temporary and Shouldn't Be Fixed Law.

EQUAL FRANCHISE MEET

"I am opposed to the minimum wage in principle," said W. F. Baxter, as a preface to his talk on that subject before the Equal Franchise society at the home of Mrs. J. T. Stewart II, Thursday afternoon. "It is merely a temporary measure and should not be made fixed law. It seeks to establish and impose on other men a law of conduct not dictated by themselves. We speak of the constitution of the United States with bated breath, but it is merely a set of laws made with the same wire pulling and legislating as your suffrage bill will have when it is passed, provided, of course, that it does pass.

"Laws should be imposed as little as possible, and then only temporarily, pending man's acquisition of fuller self-control. The progress of the world depends on the progress toward complete co-operation."

Mr. Baxter hinted that there is a solution of the wage question dealing with the land, the source of all supply, which he could explain to the organization should they desire it. The committee in charge of programs immediately suggested a possible date for the continuation of the discussion.

Preliminary to the talk of the afternoon, Mrs. J. M. Metcalf, president of the Equal Franchise society, urged the attendance of the members upon the suffrage school, which is being brought to Nebraska at a cost of \$1,500 to the National Suffrage organization. Mrs. E. M. Fairfield repeated the action taken last Sunday afternoon by the Washington suffragists in offering the services of the National union to the president in the event of war.

Nebraskan's Proposals Are Defeated in House

Washington, March 1.—Representative Sloan's proposal to provide that "in granting protection to American ships no distinction shall be made on account of the ports or countries to which they may be bound, was rejected by the house, 196 to 103. Mr. Sloan also offered an amendment providing that "no passports shall be granted any American citizen intending to take passage on any ship bound for a foreign port and carrying munitions of war." That was voted down, 190 to 57.

Paris Reports Sinking Of Four More Ships

Paris, March 1.—The sinking of the following vessels was announced officially here today: Clan Farquhar, British steamship, 5,853 tons gross; February 26. Galgorm Castle, British sailing ship, 1,596 tons; February 27. Marie Joseph, French schooner of 120 tons; February 28. Sjostao, Norwegian steamship, 1,155 tons; February 28.

Senate Strikes \$400,000 Food Probe Item Out

Washington, March 1.—Provision for \$400,000 for the federal trade commission's investigation of the food crisis was stricken from the sundry civil bill by the senate appropriations committee today. As ordered reported, the bill carries \$139,028,513.

HOUSE GIVES MORE TO RAILWAY BOARD

Warm Contest Before Lower Body Over the Maintenance Bill.

FEW CHANGES ARE MADE

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

Lincoln, Neb., March 1.—(Special Telegram.)—Late this afternoon the house finished its consideration of the items in the maintenance bill and sent it to third reading. A great deal of discussion took place over an item to raise the appropriation of the state railway commission from \$60,000 to \$119,000.

Reischick, chairman of the finance committee, made a gallant fight to keep the amount down to the sum recommended by the committee, which is a gallant fight to keep the amount down to the sum recommended by the committee, which he said was a raise of \$20,000 more than the appropriation of two years ago. Thomas, Peterson, Nielsen, Good and several others spoke in favor of the increase, the former saying that the commission had saved the state thousands of dollars in freight rates and now that over \$2,000,000 was at stake in the two-cent fare controversy, he believed the house should give the amount requested.

Nielsen said his bill giving the metropolitan cities, the right to regulate telephone rates was killed because the constitution gave the commission the power to regulate corporations and he believed if they were given the power they should be given sufficient funds to enable them to do the work as it should be done.

"Give them the appropriation asked for and if they don't produce results, abolish the commission," said he.

Outside of this item there was very little change in the bill as reported out by the committee.

Stone Hints Wilson Trying to Influence Sentiment of Public

Washington, March 1.—Senator Stone, chairman of the foreign relations committee, asserted in the senate today that "Zimmerman letter" must have been obtained from executive officials of the United States government and that it was given publication to "affect public opinion or official opinion, or both, in the United States."

"Reading the newspaper accounts of the sources of the information they had," said Senator Stone, "the inference is inevitable that the Zimmerman letter was obtained from the executive officers of this country. It was published for some purpose. I cannot and will not undertake to say what that purpose was other than to affect the opinion that it was given publication to affect the public opinion, or official, or both, in the United States."

Mrs. Tuttle Held Guilty On Manslaughter Charge

Gering, Neb., March 1.—(Special Telegram.)—The jury in the Tuttle murder trial brought in a verdict today of manslaughter against Mrs. Tuttle, who was charged with the murder of her divorced husband, Clifford Tuttle, at Scott's bluff last July.

The Lion or the Lamb?



HOUSE DEBATING ARMED NEUTRALITY

Flood Measure Taken Up, With Agreement to Vote After a Three-Hour Discussion.

WILSON FOR SENATE BILL

Washington, March 1.—An amendment by Representative Cooper of Wisconsin to prohibit the arming of munitions ships under the armed neutrality bill was rejected by the house tonight, 197 to 100.

Washington, March 1.—Spurred by the developments of the international situation, the house today took up the bill to clothe the president with authority to deal with the German submarine menace under an agreement to vote after three hours' debate.

The statement was made officially that the White House stands behind the bill as drawn in the senate "first, last and all the time," and does not approve the house bill in its entirety because it does not provide the "other instrumentalities" which the president desires, and proposes to refuse war insurance to ships which carry munitions.

The portions the administration wants may be inserted on the floor of the house or after the bill gets to the senate.

At the outset of the house debate Chairman Flood aroused intense enthusiasm on both sides. Every reference to America's willingness to protect the rights of citizens wherever they had a right to travel was met with a volley of applause.

He cited that authority for the president to act as suggested in the bill had been granted to other executives in 1794, 1798, 1805, 1815, 1839 and 1856, and incidentally attacked the pacifists protesting against the bill.

Break Between U. S. and Austria Seems Less Likely Now

Vienna, Feb. 28.—(Via Berlin and Wireless to the Associated Press to Sayville, March 1.)—The American ambassador, Frederick C. Penfield, informed the Associated Press today that he expected the reply of the Austrian government to the American memorandum concerning the new submarine warfare regulations in about one week.

The statement is made here that a break between the two countries is now less probable. The correspondent is informed that the reply of the Austro-Hungarian government will be extremely conciliatory and while it may not dispose definitely of all pending questions it will leave the way open for further discussion between Washington and Vienna.

British Firm May Make Shells for U. S.

Washington, March 1.—Great Britain has withdrawn its objection and made known its permission for Hadfields, Ltd., an English munitions concern, to contract with the United States navy for armor-piercing shells of the 14 and 16-inch type.

U. S. SUBSCRIPTION TO LAND BANK STOCK

Omaha Gets Least From Government Owing to Having Contributed Most.

McADOO IS NOT SURPRISED

Washington, March 1.—Subscription on behalf of the government to \$8,799,905 of the \$9,000,000 capital stock of the new federal land banks was announced tonight by Secretary McAdoo. The small public subscriptions to the stock, \$120,095 for all twelve banks, the secretary said, was neither a surprise nor a disappointment.

"No special effort was made to secure public subscriptions," he explained, "the taking of the full amount of stock being assured by the government underwriting. The fact that the banks were unlikely to pay any dividends on this stock during the first year and that it ultimately will be retired at par naturally made it unattractive to investors. As far as the interest of the banks is concerned, it is to their advantage that the stock should be held by the government, as individual stockholders are entitled to participate in dividends, while the government is excluded by the terms of the act from the receipt of dividends on its stock."

The government's share of the \$7,500,000 capital stock of each district follows, the balance having been subscribed by the various towns:

- Springfield, Mass., \$739,725. Baltimore, \$746,320. Columbia, S. C., \$749,320. Louisville, \$749,320. New Orleans, \$749,320. St. Louis, \$749,320. St. Paul, \$744,640. Omaha, \$708,266. Wichita, Kans., \$743,666. Houston, Tex., \$748,288. Berkeley, Cal., \$745,690. Spokane, \$744,640.

Office of German Consul at Juarez Reported Robbed

Juarez, Mexico, March 1.—The German consulate here was robbed late last night and a number of important official papers were reported to have been taken from the files of Consul Max Weber, who has been in charge of consular and diplomatic affairs for the German government in northern Mexico.

A typewriter and other office supplies were also taken. The office of the American Smelting and Refining company, across the hall from the German consulate, was robbed also, two boxes opened, but nothing taken. Consul Weber is ill at his home.

Two Days' Vacation Ahead Of the House and Senate

(From a Staff Correspondent.) Lincoln, March 1.—(Special.)—Friday and Saturday will be vacation days for both branches of the legislature. Friday the members will go to Omaha to attend the automobile show, returning to Lincoln as the spirit may move and getting back to town Monday morning.

Denmark Prohibits Sale Of Alcoholic Liquors

London, March 1.—The sale of all spirits and other alcoholic liquors has been prohibited in Denmark, according to a Reuter dispatch from Copenhagen. The order is temporary and calls for returns to be made on all stocks of spirits in the country.

GERMANS RETREAT BEHIND BAPAUME

Berlin Announces Abandonment of Positions On Both Sides of River Ancre.

NEW LINE BACK OF CITY

Paris, March 1.—The Germans have already fallen back behind Bapaume and the fall of that town is imminent, according to information from the front, which has reached military circles here. The new German line is said to run along the road from Bapaume to Peronne and some distance in the rear of the former town.

During their retreat the Germans have systematically destroyed their dugouts and provision depots and rendered their trenches useless. Berlin (By Wireless to Sayville), March 1.—German army headquarters today announce a voluntary and systematic withdrawal of parts of the German advance positions on both banks of the Ancre, on the Franco-Belgian front.

The statement reads: "On both banks of the Ancre several days ago, for special reasons, a part of our advance positions was voluntarily and systematically evacuated and the defense has been placed in another prepared line. Our movement remained concealed from the enemy. Rear guard posts, acting carefully, hampered his troops, which only with hesitation groped forward, occupying without fighting the strip of land which was abandoned by us and which is lying in ruins. Yielding in the face of a numerically superior attack, as had been ordered, these minor detachments inflicted considerable sanguinary losses upon the enemy and up to now have captured eleven officers and 174 men and four machine guns and still today dominate the field in front of our positions."

British Town Bombarded

London, March 1.—A hostile airplane dropped bombs today on Broadstairs, it is announced officially. One woman was slightly injured.

Broadstairs is a water place on the Island of Thanet off the Kentish coast. It is one of the towns shelled by German destroyers Monday.

"Wild Horse" Man Gets Term in "Pen" And \$10,000 Fine

Two years' imprisonment in the federal prison at Fort Leavenworth and a fine of \$10,000 was the sentence given J. Sidney Smith, leader of the United States Live Stock company, who was recently convicted in federal court here on charges of using the mails to defraud in the sale of wild horses. The sentence was the maximum under the law.

Immediately after pronouncing it Thursday morning, Judge J. W. Woodruff was informed of Smith's intention to appeal the case. His supersedeas bond was fixed at \$7,000. Most of the other defendants have already been sentenced. Smith formerly lived at Newcastle, Neb., but recently made his home in Omaha.

Mexican Officials Refuse to Talk of Zimmerman Note

Mexico City, March 1.—Most of the Mexican officials here declined today to discuss the effort of Germany to involve Mexico in a war with the United States except to say that they thought such efforts were vain and that Mexico would be neutral.

SENATE ASKS FOR DATA ON GERMAN CONSPIRACY NOTE

Votes Resolution Requesting Wilson to Furnish Information Concerning Zimmermann Order.

CONGRESS IS STARTLED

Report of Intrigue for Alliance With Carranza and Mikado Confirmed.

STATEMENT BY LANSING

Washington, March 1.—In response to a request from the senate President Wilson transmitted a report from Secretary Lansing saying the published text of the German foreign minister's note to the German minister at Mexico City directing an attempt to ally Japan and Mexico against the United States in case of war, was authentic, that it came into possession of the government during the present week and that in his opinion it was incompatible with public interest to send any further information to the senate for the present.

Washington, March 1.—Without a record vote the senate tonight adopted a resolution requesting the president to furnish "whatever information he has concerning the 'Zimmermann note' which in his opinion is not incompatible with the public interest." The resolution was Senator Hoke Smith's substitute for one offered by Senator Lodge and an amendment by Senator Stone.

There was no separate vote on Senator Lodge's resolution which would have inquired as to the authenticity of the Zimmermann note, or the Stone amendment asking whether information about the German move came from any European belligerent.

Comes After Long Debate. The senate's action came after a long debate during which some senators voiced the opinion that the administration armed neutrality bill should not be passed until further information had been supplied regarding the Zimmermann note.

The Smith resolution reads: "Resolved that the president be requested to furnish to the senate whatever information he has concerning the note published in the press of this date purporting to have been sent January 19, 1917, by the German secretary for foreign affairs, to the German ambassador at Mexico, which in his opinion is not incompatible with the public interest."

Washington, March 1.—Senator Hitchcock reported the resolution as amended by the foreign relations committee to the senate at 3 o'clock and asked unanimous consent for its immediate consideration. There was no objection.

Washington, March 1.—The senate foreign relations committee this afternoon ordered a favorable report on the Lodge resolution after changing only a few words. The committee struck out the provision asking the president for information as to when the "Zimmermann letter" came into possession of the United States.

The senate committee's action was not unanimous on the resolution as finally framed. Senator Stone, chairman of the committee, planned to offer an amendment on the senate floor.

"I don't care to outline the amendment until I propose it," said he. Senator Stone's amendment would add to the end of the resolution these words:

"And also to inform the senate as to whether the information in his possession respecting the letter signed 'Zimmermann' originated with any government or the official of any government engaged in the present war, and if so to inform the senate of the facts."

Washington, March 1.—Full official confirmation of Germany's intrigue to ally Mexico and Japan with it to make war on the United States, as revealed last night by The Associated Press, was given today at the White House, the State department and in the senate.

On the floor of the senate it was announced that democratic renegades had been authorized to state that the revelations, including the text of the instrument from German Foreign Minister Zimmermann to German Minister von Eckhart at Mexico City were correct.

On notice of Senator Lodge the senate at once took up a proposal to ask the president to communicate the facts to congress officially.

After considerable discussion Senator Hardwick insisted upon an objection to immediate consideration of the Lodge resolution in order that there might be time for deliberation by the foreign relations committee.

Statement by Lansing. Secretary Lansing authorized this statement: "We do not believe that Japan has had any knowledge of this or that it

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