

# LEGISLATION GOVERNING NEW BILLS NEEDED

## Huge Amount of Unnecessary Work Handled in Legislature Each Session; Last Days Always Crowded.

By P. A. BARROWS.

Lincoln, Dec. 22.—(Special)—The agitation started for a new method of introducing bills in the legislature with the view of keeping down the number, appears to be meeting with a great deal of encouragement and letters from members of the next session indicate that there may be something done.

However, this is not a new condition. For the past several sessions members have come to Lincoln with a determination to do something to prevent the introduction of so many bills, but when the time comes to adopt some method, they have generally contracted a heavy infliction of "cold feet" and nothing has ever come of it.

The present system used is obsolete and out of date, no one attempts to remedy it. Four years ago the legislature started the state legislative reference bureau along the line of trying to discover what other states were doing.

### Endurance Records.

The man who comes to the legislature ought to be something of a patriot, when it comes to introduction of bills. Some members appear to have a mania to exceed the speed limit and the number of bills introduced by some members is simply wonderful. As an indication of this a certain senator from Douglas county in the last session introduced in the senate 36 bills, of which ten were passed. Another senator on the same delegation introduced 22 bills of which none were passed.

### Record from Lancaster.

In the house a representative from Lancaster county introduced 25 bills while a representative from Douglas county introduced 24 bills and several others did nearly as well. A large number of these bills could just as well have been consolidated with others and saved the expense of printing and much time wasted in consideration.

Going back to the 1913 legislature, one senator introduced 43 bills and another 38, and another 39. The number as far as the number of bills was concerned the senate that session broke the record, there being 457 bills introduced in that body alone, these three men introduced 120 of them, nearly one-fourth of the entire number.

### Rush at Close.

With a multiplicity of bills it simply means that in the "hurry-up" days of the closing of the session, bills are rushed through with little consideration. For instance, after the sifting committee of the senate had been appointed in the 1917 session, 277 bills were considered in the senate on third reading. Some passed and some did not, but most of them did. Of this number just exactly 50 were considered on the 75th day and every one of them passed. Of course they had been considered in committee of the whole and recommended for passage, but nobody appeared to be especially interested, except to grind out as many as possible and then adjourn and go home.

### Sifting Committee Power.

The large number introduced simply means but one thing and that is little consideration of the merits of a bill if it is left until the closing days of the session, when sifting committee and conference committee play a vital part in legislation.

The solution of the matter appears to be that the different committees of both houses should meet jointly and consider bills in similar subjects and consolidate them into one bill, thus saving the cost of printing half a dozen when one could properly be made. Another remedy might be for the legislature to take a recess of two weeks after the 20-day limit for introduction of bills and let the committees get them in shape and when the recess period was up, get down to business.

## Nebraska Division Leads Enrollment in Red Cross Call

Washington, Dec. 22.—Scattering returns received up to noon today at national headquarters showed an enrollment of 13,000,000 persons in the Christmas Red Cross. This represented reports in 12 divisions, with no reports from any chapters in one division.

When the campaign ends at midnight tomorrow night, Red Cross officials believe that the total enrollment will equal the 22,000,000 which was set as the goal last year. The roll call had been handicapped by influenza and had been devoted to rounding up all persons who are not wearing the 1919 Red Cross button.

## Largest Yank Rest Camp at Winchester, England

### Omaha Man Writes Interesting Letter Telling of Rest Camp of American Soldiers Overseas.

C. E. Hochstetler writes the following interesting letter to The Bee from Maeswyn, Winchester, England, where the largest rest camp in the world is located. He has been in England for a year and says he has entertained a number of prominent American soldiers, including the late Lt. Jarvis O. Offutt, General Biddle and Colonel Jones. "Fine sunrise this morning, sergeant," "Yes, corporal, they are grand, seen from the eminence of these beautiful Hampshire downs; that is one of the reasons why Lord Kitchener selected the sites for his permanent army camps. Look in any direction you please, on either side of the Itchen valley, and behold the white tents on the green summits, generously loaned to the American army by the young boys a few days' rest after your long voyage across the Atlantic before leaving for the fighting front in France. Make the best of your holidays, down in the valley you will find the ancient city of Winchester, nearly 3,000 years old, and earlier a camping place for prehistoric man. You will fall in love with the historical places of the old town.

### Large Rest Camp.

"As many as 1,000,000 Sammies have found rest and amusement in these rest camps and an equal number will visit them during the period of demobilization enroute home."

Up to the date of the signing of the armistice, the hostels for four years and 100 days. The troops of the allies will remain in the battle zones for many months after peace is signed on garrison duty, collecting and shipping army equipment, supplies, etc. The greater task will fall on the British and American armies; ships must be employed for overseas transport.

### Camp Modern.

"The camps are well planned and permanently built. Gas, water, electric light and sewerage were installed, streets paved and curbed, the buildings and hutments are of wood and painted white; some are graced by a small flower garden. The army and Y. M. C. A. centers and amusement hall are splendid. Each one of the many camp departments is in phone touch with the headquarters. Every sanitary and hygienic means has been installed for the health and comfort of the troops. On the sports fields base ball, foot ball and tennis are indulged in. The British youth has taken to base ball and it likely will become a permanent fixture in the universities, colleges and schools."

### Distinctive Uniforms.

"Each organization provides its distinctive uniform, smartly designed in khaki, blue and grey, coats, shirts, hats and caps. The uniforms are made of washable corduroy breeches, gaiters, hobnailed boots and a brown soft felt that cocked on one side. They are a saucy looking lot, healthy and strong, and splendid workers in forage and forestry. In hours of diversion they go about in pairs arm in arm, when not arm linked with a Tommy or Sammie."

### Home of Royalty.

"Imagine for a moment, how well known to the world is this little town of Winchester, with a civilian population now of only 23,000. One of the capital of England and the home of royalty, where Charles I, Charles II, and King James II, spent much time, and where I believe, our troops learned more English history in a few days than ever before. On some days the narrow streets have been crowded with American soldiers, as many as 14,000, at a time. On these occasions, civilians did not attempt to do any shopping. The Sammies filled the shops, spent their money freely, and many souvenirs in gold, silver, bronze and china, were purchased and sent home to their dear one, or ones. The sweet shops, where the attendants quickly learned the meaning of the word "candy."

### General Griffith Home.

"Near the eminence of Olivers Battery, where Cromwell mounted his guns to destroy the city of Winchester, stands Maeswyn, with its gardens, tennis lawns, croquet court, conservatory, green houses, potting sheds, shepherds hut, etc. Fields, wood and terraces surrounded by hedge, the spacious home of the late Maj. Gen. Charles Matthew Griffith, Bombay staff corps. Beneath its red tiled roof at the home members of the family have been kept in a constant state of restlessness and have suffered the terrors of the war for over four years. My five brothers-in-law, one lieutenant-colonel, three majors and one captain, graduates of military schools, were commissioned and in service before the war. One was killed, and three have been in hospital. I greatly admire the beautiful, refined and courageous qualities of my mother-in-law, Mrs. Griffith, who, as a bride accompanied her husband to the Abyssinian, the Afghan and other wars in which her husband took part receiving medals and honorable mentions."

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receptions have been a great source of pleasure. This city is one of the most ancient in all England, its first settlement was B. C. 900. Julius Caesar visited the city with his army in B. C. 54.

Destroyed by Cromwell. "Many years after Cromwell blew up the greater part of the castle, that it might not again be the retreat for royalists, the spacious Hampshire barracks were built on this site and land adjacent—the home of the famous Hampshire regiments. This city has been a military post, in one way and another, for more than 1000 years. Within the walled enclosure of the barracks is the palace, built by Charles II, in which he built a secret entrance for his favorite, Nell Gwynne (who was originally, it is said, an orange girl of provincial birth, and afterwards a sprightly London dancer and actress), who became mistress to Charles II. Her eldest son was made Duke of St. Albans.

"On a recent Sunday, by the king's proclamation, thanksgiving to the almighty God was observed in the churches throughout the land. In the great nave of the Winchester cathedral were packed 8,000 people, mostly soldiers. It was a beautiful and impressive service, and one that will be handed down in history.

"This old and magnificent cathedral, towering in the midst of its walled-in close, has been the scene of many wonderful ceremonies, including the crowning of kings, and the marriages and funerals of royalty. Beneath its walls, cold, pure waters from the River Itchen passed through the subterranean passages and out again to the river currents, for nearly 1000 years. Long ago a sluice inlet of one of the streams was closed permanently, diverting the water for a commercial purpose, by order of the corporation. This act cost the cathedral £300,000 within the last decade to save the great supporting wall on one side from falling out and preventing the collapse of the entire edifice. The best hard-water supplies that had been known began to decay, settling the foundation. A diver, in diving suit and helmet, spent five years in removing the decayed piling and reinforcing with solid concrete.

### The Fiery Ordeal.

"Early in the 11th century, the mother of Edward the Confessor, to prove her innocence, walked bare footed over nine red-hot ploughshares placed in the nave of the cathedral, without suffering injury. An immense concourse witnessed her triumph."

"The women of England are to be greatly admired, from the uninformed children of the girl's guides to the dowagers, all doing their bit and doing it well. The best known women's war organization are known by an abbreviated name: Waacs, Women's Army Auxiliary Corp.; Wrens, Women's Royal Navy Service; Wrafs, Women's Royal Air Force; Vads, Voluntary Aid detachments; Land Girls, Women's Land army; and the Women's League representing a total membership of about 500,000.

"Each organization provides its distinctive uniform, smartly designed in khaki, blue and grey, coats, shirts, hats and caps. The uniforms are made of washable corduroy breeches, gaiters, hobnailed boots and a brown soft felt that cocked on one side. They are a saucy looking lot, healthy and strong, and splendid workers in forage and forestry. In hours of diversion they go about in pairs arm in arm, when not arm linked with a Tommy or Sammie."

### Two Destroyers Launched.

Newport News, Dec. 22.—Two destroyers, the Semmes and the Satterlee, were launched yesterday at the yards of the Newport News ship building and Dry Dock company. The Semmes was named for Admiral Raphael Semmes, commander of the Alabama, famous as a confederate cruiser and the Satterlee for Capt. Satterlee, of the U. S. S. Tampa, who perished with his crew in Bristol Channel some months ago.

was oversea, stationed at Bermuda, South Africa, Egypt, Mauritius and India. Mrs. Griffith's three sons came back from India, Siam and Canada, and one son-in-law from South Africa to fight for their country with troops less than 300,000 against the strongest military nation with its millions. The family reunion in honor of the five army members was a memorable event. With affectionate adieu, love, luck and good wishes, they went to the front gallantly, fought and suffered. All are alive and on active duty but one—Maj. H. F. Lewis, who was reported wounded and missing October 19, 1914 near Ypres, at the time the British were pushed back from that sector. The recent advance of the British over that sector brought him back to the States. I greatly admire the beautiful, refined and courageous qualities of my mother-in-law, Mrs. Griffith, who, as a bride accompanied her husband to the Abyssinian, the Afghan and other wars in which her husband took part receiving medals and honorable mentions."

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## STATE HEALTH BOARD GIVES RULES FOR FLU

### Issues Orders to Local Authorities to Enforce Quarantine Regulations in All Cases.

From a Staff Correspondent.

Lincoln, Dec. 22.—(Special)—Rigid regulations for the purpose of handling the influenza epidemic are being sent out to local authorities by the state board of health. No one except nurses and doctors had been expected to be permitted to enter or leave houses under quarantine, but the board has included clergymen in the list also.

Fraternity houses inhabited by college students and just a few days prior to the signing of the armistice she received notice to be in readiness to sail for France, there to take up the work that would be assigned upon her arrival.

### Penalty of Breaking Rules.

The penalty for breaking quarantine rules is a fine of from \$15 to \$100. The period for the incubation of the disease is given as from a few hours to four days. It is believed that the source of the infection is carried in the virus contained in the respiratory secretions. Transmission is made directly by personal contact or by articles freshly soiled with discharges of an infected person.

### Go To Bed."

In closing the matter the board offers the best advice it can give in three words: "Go to bed."

"This disease cannot be fought standing up," says the board. "Immediately upon showing symptoms of the disease, go to bed and stay there until the doctor says it is safe to get up. There is no use for an individual to stay up for a day or even for an hour, after they begin to feel sick. It has been discovered that in the great majority of cases that those who go to bed are usually up in a week, while those who delay because of some needed work to be done, usually stay in bed for weeks, and many of them never arise."

### Greeks Appeal for Freedom for Their Race Everywhere

Philadelphia, Dec. 22.—President Wilson and the allied leaders have been appealed to in a cablegram to them at Paris by representatives of 400,000 Greeks in this country to insist at the peace conference upon the freedom of the Greeks everywhere.

### Police Looking for Former Inmate of Insane Asylum

Fifty inmates of California insane asylums were put on the train some time ago to be distributed in towns and cities along the route. Thomas Godd, 38 years old, was dropped off in Omaha, with a ticket to St. Louis. Nothing has been heard from him since. A letter from his sister, Mrs. Myrtle Guilan of Los Angeles, was received recently by the local police asking them to help locate him, as his mother is said to be dying in Los Angeles.

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## OMAHA GIRL READY TO GO OVERSEAS WHEN HUN ARMISTICE SIGNED



While Miss Edith Peterson, an Omaha girl employed in the auditing department of the Burgess-Nash company, did not get a chance to go to France to aid in winning the war and at the same time assist in relieving the sufferings of the wounded soldier-boys, she showed her good intentions and would have been on the battlefields had hostilities continued much longer.

### Have Big Problem to Find Place for Draft Records

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### Help Needed Now

Replying to a question as to how order could be restored, Professor Milukoff said: "The opening of the Black sea makes it much easier for the entente powers to check anarchy in the Ukraine and soviet Russia. The presence of the allied navies has steadied the situation, but allied troops are necessary to check the movement of bolshevism southward and to relieve the appalling famine in bolshevik territory. Help should be immediate. If it is delayed until spring hundreds of thousands of persons will perish and greater disorderization ensue."

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## Brief City News

Have Root Print It—Beacon Press. Carey Cleaning Co.—Web. 392. 25 Per Cent Discount on electric table lamps.—Burgess, Granden Co. Fred Krug, Pioneer, Ill.—Fred Krug, pioneer business man of Omaha, who was ill last week, is now reported considerably improved in health.

### Greek Soldier Gassed at Roll Call; It's No Wonder

Anastacia Goe, Honchophtheodoroukoumoutourouchopoulos is the name of a returned overseas soldier in Ward 4 at Fort Des Moines hospital, one of the Red Cross men at the army hospital there according to the Des Moines Register. Hon. etc., was a Greek soldier of the American expeditionary forces.

### Schwab Chicago Club's Choice for President of Country

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Choice of Charles M. Schwab for next president of the United States was voiced at a banquet given by the Chicago Machinery club to 750 plant superintendents and other representatives of 750 machinery construction and metal working concerns. Partisanship was not mentioned.

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## PEACE PRINCE RULES ON EARTH AS WAR IS ENDED

### "Day of the War Lords is Over" Said Rev. A. R. Vaill at Unitarian Church.

The day of the prince of war is ended and the day of the Prince of Peace is here, according to the Christmas sermon delivered Sunday at the Unitarian church, Thirty-first and Harney streets, by Rev. Albert R. Vaill of Chicago.

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**HOTEL FONTENELLE**  
TEA DANCES  
Saturday Afternoons, 4 to 6  
SUPPER DANCES  
Monday and Saturday Evenings, 11 to 12:30