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## Legislators Gather At State Capital

Contest for Speakership Most Interesting Preliminary Be Settled in  
Caucus.—Applicants for Speakership and Other Jobs  
Beset the Law-Makers

### A STRONG BODY OF TARHEELS

(Special to The Commonwealth)  
RALEIGH, Jan. 1.—With the New Year today ushered into the hotel and boarding houses of Raleigh the advance guard of the General Assembly of 1917, and they constitute "quite a few," only, not so many as have been seen and sounded on previous legislative-ve-years.

One reason for this is the early date of the opening session, "the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January" this year coming on the farthest schedule possible. For had New Year day appeared on Tuesday instead of Monday the assembling of the lawmakers would have been in the night instead of the third of the month—and six days means something to many of them when they immediately follow the holiday season.

Contest For Speakership  
Page and Murphy are making a warm contest for the speakership of the House, with the far west candidate backed by many adherents also. Of course the many friends of each of them are claiming the earth and the fullness thereof in the way of votes in the caucus tomorrow night. But as it is today, nothing is positive, settled, for there are not enough of the "electors" here to figure out a victory for either candidate. But if optimistic talk and smiling countenances of the Page boosters are indicative of anything usual, it is plain they have hope, at least, of pulling their candidate through.

Fourth District Senators  
Senators Long and Holderess of Halifax and Edgecombe respectively, who represent the fourth Senatorial district, are lucky in drawing splendid seats in the Senate chamber. They have been assigned desks 34 and 35 on the first row, to the right of the President of the Senate.

Halifax Representatives  
Messrs. F. M. Taylor and J. H. Darden, members of the House from Halifax, draw seats number 83 and 84, respectively, side by side. They will be found in the fourth row, next to second aisle, to the right of the speaker, easily accessible to those having business "down home" who call on them while in the capital city this winter.

Spring Body of Law Makers  
There are not as many "old timers" in this legislature as usual. Former Senator, and lieutenant-governor Wilford D. Turner, of Iredell, A. M. Seales of Guilford, J. A. Oates of Cumberland, Benham Cameron of Durham, among the prominent of the Senators who have served in that body—which does not mean that they were all here last session, for they were not. Most of the senators are new men in the Senate, though some of them have served in the House, and will get their first "try-outs" here this winter. There is always room on top for strong men and if they are here the opportunity to make their mark will not be lacking, for this will be an important legislature in more ways than one, as will be recited in this correspondence as the session advances.

In The House  
Daughton of Alleghany is a conspicuous veteran of promising and real ability in the House. Had the House would hardly look natural without the presence of R. Daughton—he has been coming here since many grey-bearded men were boys and that was several years ago. The newspapers printed him as the defeated just after the election but no one who was in support of Colonel Rufus and the votes of his party ever believed the false alarm. Frank Ray of Franklin is next in rank as the veteran old-timer, while Stubbs of Martin "of course" is again, either in House or Senate, this time in the House. As in the Senate, most of the "over House" (which sometimes goes to have stronger men than the "lower House") as in the "upper branch" is made up of new men, who are yet to

### TEUTONIC SUBMARINE BLOCKADE OF GREAT BRITAIN SUPPOSED TO BE ON TODAY

(BY UNITED PRESS)  
LONDON, Jan. 2.—"Although it may seem the limit of preposterousness," to quote the words of Routledge Rutherford, who started the rumor in Berlin, a submarine and Zeppelin blockade of England is supposed to be established to offset England's blockade of Germany, some day this week. Quoting Rutherford: "I know a powerful fleet of submarines is being completed for this purpose. It is said the movements of the U-Boats will be guided by high flying Zeppelins, both having extra sensitive wireless. It is reported that the Germans will have 300 submarines in the blockade under command of Walter Forstmann, a German submarine commander who has been decorated with the order Pour le Merito for sinking more than 100 enemy vessels."

### ARTIST "COMES BACK" AFTER 34 YEARS WITH BUST OF KITCHENER

(BY UNITED PRESS)  
LONDON, Dec. 19. (By Mail)—Richard Belt, artist, came back after a 34 years of retirement due to illness and modeled a bust of Lord Kitchener, so lifelike that he was offered \$50,000 for it. Art is priceless to Belt, however and his masterpiece has been claimed by the government. A cannon from the British artillery has been set aside to make the casting. Belt's last previous work was a bust of Sir Richard Burbridge which the Academy refused to accept. Shortly after the refusal he lost the power of one arm and gave up his work. The artist was one of Kitchener's wardlappers and studied the great soldier's moods. When England was stunned by Kitchener's loss Belt and his wife improvised a secret studio in their home and the sculptor began work anew to express in clay what was in his fingers-tips. "I had never spoken to Lord Kitchener," said Belt today, "but I observed him many times, noting his features keenly and to the minutest detail of every mood. I could not rest until I had put the knowledge to expression. The bust is the result." Critical art committees judged the model to be a faithful and lifelike representation of Kitchener contemplative, combining his severe facial lines with some hint of his genial nature.

### NO EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS

(BY UNITED PRESS)  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 2.—It is learned that there will be no extra session of Congress in order to put through railroad legislation as formulated by the president. This was determined today after an interview between the president and Senator Newlands, chairman of the Senate railroad committee.

### TROOPS WITHDRAWING FROM MEXICO

(BY UNITED PRESS)  
El PASO, Texas, Jan. 2.—That preparations are already under way for the withdrawal of General Pershing's expeditionary forces from Mexico are indicated from certain moves in the supply department, state army officers. All property clerks at every point along the border have been ordered to Columbus, Mexico.

### SPAIN TO BE PEACEMAKER

(BY UNITED PRESS)  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 2.—The King of Spain by flatly refusing to participate in the Wilson peace note to the zelligents will, it is believed by diplomats, become the peacemaker. It is further stated that King Alfonso informed the Allies not to regard the peace move favorably at this time.

### OVERLAND HELPS HISTORIAN ON INDIAN TOUR

(By United Press)  
Somerset Payne, F. R. G. S., prominent historian and compiler of standard works of records is touring through India collecting data in an Overland tour. Here is an excerpt from a recent letter to the Willys-Overland factory: "Have just completed a trip from Calcutta to Lucknow, Benares, Allahabad and Cawnpore, and this on top of a 10,000-mile tour over the byways of India. I did not have one minute's trouble from start to finish; have not even had occasion to remove the cylinder head from my motor during all these travels." In the accompanying photograph

### CHARLES EVANS HUGHES REJOINS OLD LAW FIRM IN NEW YORK TODAY

(BY UNITED PRESS)  
NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Back at the fat top desk he occupied when he made his big reputation in the insurance investigation cases years ago, long before he was even Governor, Charles E. Hughes today once more took up the practice of law. Since he left the desk and the old office at 96 Broadway Mr. Hughes has been Governor of New York, Justice of the United States Supreme Court and Republican candidate for President of the United States. He is nevertheless understood to be glad to get back into private practice. His personal fortunes are said to have suffered as a result of his office holding.

### \$1,500,000 WORTH OF VAN DYCK PAINTING ON EXHIBITION IN NEW YORK

(BY UNITED PRESS)  
NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Forced by the fortunes of war to sell the \$1,500,000 worth of Van Dyck paintings that have hung for centuries in the halls of Newman Padox, Leicestershire, the Earl of Denbigh has sent the five pictures here, where they are being prepared for exhibition and sale on Fifth Ave. One of the five \$500,000 paintings shows James Stuart, Duke of Richmond, the cousin of Charles I who vainly offered his life to ransom the King, in black dress and cloak, with star, blue stockings, black shoes with enormous ruffles and wide lace collar standing with the greyhound, that saved his life by arousing him from sleep. Two other of the portraits are of Charles I and Queen Maria. They are full lengths.

### FORCE OF ARMS ONLY ALTERNATIVE

(By United Press)  
By Carl Ackerman  
(United Press Staff Correspondent)  
BERLIN, Jan. 2.—The vague hopes of the Prussians have sunk into oblivion since the receipt of the Allies' reply. The opinion of the press, and the men of the streets of Berlin is apparently unanimous that Germany's only answer to the Allies peace rejection must be by force of arms under Field Marshal Hindenburg. "The war must last now," said a diplomat today "to the last ounce of blood."

### OVERLAND HELPS HISTORIAN ON CREEP INTO THE NEWS TODAY

(By United Press)  
INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 2.—It becomes the duty of purveyors of news to announce that State Entomologist Frank N. Wallace today sounded the deathknell of all Hoosier bed bugs and cockroaches. He did it in an official bulletin declaring that 3 parts flour and one part plaster of paris, with a dish of water nearby, will make stones in the cockroaches, tummies and end them, while you may gas the bedbugs with gasoline.

### RAILROAD FARES GO UP 50 PER CENT IN ENGLAND TODAY

(By HENRY WOOD)  
LONDON, Jan. 2.—Railroad fares went up fifty per cent in England today. If the same thing had been done in the United States it would mean that a ticket from Indianapolis to New York would cost \$31.50 instead of \$21. The government has taken over the railroads in England and its reason for increasing the fares is twofold: First to discourage unnecessary travel; second to keep the railroad passenger revenue at the same level.

### DONALD McCLUER ARRIVED

The new agricultural demonstration agent, Mr. Donald McCluer of Jackson, Miss., who comes to take the place of Mr. McMurray arrived in town yesterday, and is fitting himself to take up his work in earnest. Mr. McCluer is a graduate of the Mississippi A. & M. college, and of the University of Illinois. In the latter institution he has for the past two years been studying the special branch of animal husbandry, and is especially fitted to be of assistance to the farmers of this section who are making a feature of stock raising. Mr. McCluer will make Scotland Neck his headquarters and will locate will be announced.

Mr. Payne is shown superintending a change of tires on one of the Indian roads.

## Baltimore Concern Praises Merchants

The Special Issue of The Commonwealth Sent By Mr. R. J. Madry Coused This Concern to Comment Upon the Progressiveness Of Scotland Neck Merchants

### LIKE A NEW YORK PUBLICATION

### MRS. SANGER TO BE TRIED ON BIRTH CONTROL CHARGE

(BY UNITED PRESS)  
NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—What Mrs. Margaret Sanger declared will be "a decisive battle between the friends and enemies of birth control" is expected to begin when the little red headed, fire eating birth control advocate who has preached her doctrine throughout the country and gone to jail therefore many times, comes to trial in Special Sessions court here today. The specific charge against Mrs. Sanger is "maintaining a public nuisance" in her birth control clinic in Brooklyn. This case is the outcome of Mrs. Sanger's campaign to establish birth control clinics first all over New York and later during 1917 in every large city in the United States. The first time she was arrested after the clinic opened she fought the police and had to be carried to the patrol wagon. At that time a sympathetic parade of mothers and baby carriages in the neighborhood of the clinic was staged.

### CELL PIC RAISER IN MINNESOTA

(BY UNITED PRESS)  
ST. PAUL, Jan. 2.—Because she stayed home from parties and cared for her pigs, Miss Ruth Gunderson, 34, is champion pig raiser of Minn. said today. The award was made by the University of Minnesota agricultural school here. Both raised high brown pigs. Each day she scrubbed her pigs by hand, and followed that by giving them a shower bath. Then she massaged each pig with oil daily. Comfortable couches were arranged for the pigs in the shade of trees on her father's farm. Her pig menu consisted of milk, clover, clover, salt lime, and green vegetables—and all were served in individual troughs.

### By Carl Vrooman (Assistant Secretary of Agriculture) (Written for The United Press)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—A popular magazine some months ago sent a letter to all our Senators and Congressmen asking them what, in their opinion, would help most to keep the boys on the farm. A certain Senator noted for terseness of speech and horse sense wrote at the bottom of the card an answer of five words, which I comment to all American citizens as being adapted to solve more agricultural problems than this one. The Senator's reply was: "Make farming more profitable, by—"

The prosperity of the farmer is to the business world what soil fertility is to the agricultural world, the fundamental basis of all permanent success. Many farmers in the past have made a mistake of thinking that they could get rich by skinning the soil, and many business men likewise have made the mistake of thinking that they could get rich by skinning the farmer. The only way that the farmer can make a permanent success of farming is to keep on the fertility of the soil, and the only way that the business world can be permanently successful is to insure the continued prosperity of the farmer.

The use of legume crops has been ever since the days of the Roman Empire and probably long before that because they not only were paying crops, but had the added advantage of gathering from the air and depositing in the soil more nitrogen than they expected. The legume should be the model for every intelligent business man in his dealings with the farmer.

CHICAGO, Jan. 1.—Burglars did fewer jobs, but got more loot than in former years, the 1916 report submitted by Chief of Police Healey here today showed.

It is not the custom of The Commonwealth to quote what the outside interests say about the newspaper of this town, and the letter received by Mr. Madry would not have appeared except that it speaks favorably of the enterprise of the citizens. The thirty six page special issue of The Commonwealth sent out as a Christmas number on December 12th, met the commendation of R. J. Madry, the leading wholesale grocer of this community and he obtained one hundred and fifty copies for distribution. One of these copies reached the Blue Ribbon Candy Company of Baltimore, Md. and under date of Dec. 18th, the following letter was received by Mr. Madry:

Dear Sir: We thank you for the Scotland Neck paper just received. It is almost as big as a New York publication. A liberal distribution of a newspaper like that will make people take notice. We are glad to note the Scotland Neckers are entertaining, and we wish you all a very Merry Xmas and happy and prosperous New Year. Yours truly,  
THE BLUE RIBBON CANDY CO.  
G. HENRY FULFORD, Pres.

### WHAT CONGRESS HAS DONE AND HOPES TO DO AT SHORT SESSION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—The short session of the Sixty Fourth Congress is on the last lap of a whirlwind race. Following is a summary of what has been accomplished and something of what is to be done.

Those mentioned by public interest, are the most important legislative attacks accomplished by the Sixty Fourth Congress:

The Army and Navy bills carrying appropriations of sixteenth and a half billion dollars respectively.

Establishment of Federal Reserve Bank's to stabilize the danger of financial panic.

Purchase of British West Indies at a cost of \$5,000,000 another stride toward preparedness.

Federal Farm Loan Act of great interest to farmers and intended to aid them in securing necessary capital at a fair rate of interest.

Federal Good Roads Law, provides \$75,000,000 to be used in improving National Highways.

Federal Trade Commission, a "go-between" in matters between the Public and corporations.

Workmen's Compensation Ship purchase Act a movement toward a real merchant marine, Child labor law.

Railway legislation loans us as the biggest piece of unfinished business. Strenuous efforts are being made to rush the railway program through during the present short session of Congress.

The corrupt practice bill, providing for publicity of campaign funds, is another bill up for speedy consideration.

The Judas-like bill, which would release from service Judges reaching the age of 70 after ten years' service and who by reason of physical disability are unable properly to discharge their duties, also is set for early hearing.

The fate of the immigration bill, with the literacy test attached, which was recently passed by the Senate is hard to predict. President Wilson vetoed a similar bill. It is rumored an effort will be made to pass the bill over any possible veto.

Woman suffrage and national prohibition have been reported by the House committee but it is impossible to say when either bill will reach a vote.

Other important measures due for early consideration are: the water power bill, having to do with the leasing of power-sites on inland waterways; the flood-prevention bill carrying millions for flood prevention along the Mississippi and Sacramento rivers; and the Webb export bill, which would permit combination of American exporters for participation in foreign trade.

(Continued on Page Four)