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CONGRESS TO RUSH ALL FISCAL BILLS

MEMBERS RETURN FROM CHRISTMAS VACATION PREPARED FOR RUSH.

WILLING TO WORK OVERTIME

Railroad Legislation and Revenue Deficit Are Unusual Issues—Army and Navy Supply Bills and Military Training Demand Attention.

Washington.—Members of Congress returned to Washington from their Christmas holiday, prepared to get down to hard work on the accumulation of legislation that must be dealt with before adjournment on March 4.

With railroad legislation and revenue deficits confronting them as unusual issues, the rank and file determined to labor with a will to clear the way of routine business, particularly the appropriation bills, which must be completed before the actual revenue needs can be definitely established. Estimates on all these measures, including especially the extra heavy army and navy supply bills, are in hand giving the House ways and means committee enough information upon which to frame revenue legislation at once.

Appropriation measures will be considered in the Senate, immediately, the Indian bill probably being the first taken up, while various committees are engaged in paving the way for consideration of railroad measures, a corrupt practices bill and other general legislation. The House, which already has passed five appropriation bills, still has nine more to work out, and will approach that task vigorously with night sessions in prospect for the near future.

Returning members who were re-elected do not look on the talk of an extra session and declare they are willing to work night and day to avert one. They insist that none will be necessary unless action by Congress on the railroad legislation proposed by the president should be held up. Even in that event all are not satisfied that the president would call an extra session for this purpose.

THOUSANDS OF GUNS NOW BEING MADE BY TEUTONS.

Every Available Skilled Mechanic Taken From Trenches—Prepare Big Campaign.

Berlin, via Sayville.—Many thousand guns per week is reported to be the measure of the mighty manufacturing effort which Germany is now making for the campaign of 1917—an effort upon which the entire manhood force of the nation which can be spared from the front and their regular occupation is being concentrated under First Quartermaster von Ludendorff universal labor service law.

Counting four months before the probable renewal of the world war in full vigor on all fronts, these figures mean a new immense supply of cannon of all calibers from field guns up to the gigantic howitzers, to meet the admittedly gigantic effort which the Entente Allies are expected to make in this the third year of Kitchener's prophecy, to turn the scale of the war.

Along with these guns the German factories are turning out correspondingly stupendous quantities of ammunition and the production of machine guns, each of which virtually replaces a platoon of men, has been placed on a scale far beyond that of the past year.

The campaign of 1917 will, it is already evident, be fought as a wide extension and development of the Somme battle, with even a heavier conception of artillery over a far wider front and with lines literally bristling with machine guns. Confidence that their opponents will be unable to break through this wall of steel and fire is not only expressed by the higher commanders, but also is manifested right down into the ranks of the common people.

Gypsy Plum Brown Bread.

One cupful granulated cornmeal, one cupful graham, one cupful flour, one cupful rye meal, half cupful molasses, one cupful or little more of sour milk, one and a half teaspoonfuls saleratus, heaping teaspoonful salt, one cupful of 40-50 prunes, pitted and cut in halves, boil three hours.

On Toast.

If you wish to piece out a dish of vegetables, serve it on toast. Any vegetable except potatoes will be improved if served on buttered toast.

JOSIAH O. WOLCOTT



To Josiah O. Wolcott of Delaware, a Democrat, goes the title of "Baby of the Senate." He is thirty-nine years old and has just been elected a member of the upper house of congress. He practices law in Wilmington and is rated as one of the leaders of the bar in the state.

TERMS GIVEN FIRST DAY

CENTRAL POWERS WILL HAVE PEACE OFFER READY WHEN CONFERENCE CONVENES.

Count Von Bernstorff in Statement Says He Considers Answer to Wilson's Proposal as Acceptance By Teutons of All Suggestions.

Washington.—In spite of the wide gulf between the insistence of the Central Powers for an immediate peace conference and the forecast of a unanimous refusal by the Entente Allies to enter such a conference without knowing Germany's terms in advance, the American Government believes that the negotiations in progress are resulting in good. It was said with authority that until the door to peace actually closed by one side or the other, President Wilson will continue to hope that any discussion of the subject will tend to hasten the end of the war.

Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, returning unexpectedly from New York, authorized the Associated Press to make the following statement: "I regard the note of my government as constituting an acceptance of everything suggested by President Wilson in his note to the belligerent nations of Europe."

It was made clear at the Embassy that Germany stands ready to make known her terms on the first day of any conference that may be held, and officials expressed themselves as being greatly surprised at the view prevailing in some quarters here that the Berlin government had failed to meet the President's suggestions by note, setting down in the reply the terms upon which it is willing to make peace. The German diplomats say President Wilson has no intention of drawing a public declaration concerning terms from the Central Powers. On the contrary they think the President's suggestion "that an early occasion be sought to call out from all the nations now at war such an avowal of their respective views as to the terms upon which the war might be concluded," has been fully met by Germany in seeking an immediate conference with her enemies.

RESOURCES OF NATIONAL BANKS SHOW BIG INCREASE.

Gain of Four Billions Made in Past Two Years, Making Gigantic Total of \$15,520,000,000.

Washington.—Resources of National banks of the United States, Comptroller Williams announced, have increased more than \$4,000,000,000 during the last two years and now aggregate \$15,520,000,000 exceeding by about \$1,000,000,000 the total resources of the Bank of England, the Bank of France, the Bank of Russia, the German Reichsbank, the Bank of Italy, the Bank of Spain, the Bank of The Netherlands, the Bank of Denmark, the Swiss National Bank and the Imperial Bank of Japan combined.

ALLIES MAKE KNOWN THEIR PEACE TERMS

SPECTATOR OUTLINES DEMANDS ON CENTRAL POWERS BY ENTENTE ALLIES.

ARE BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED

Peace Terms Are to Start From Status Quo Before the War.—Must Give Up Much Possessions and Change Government.

London.—The Spectator devotes the greater part of its issue to answering President Wilson's question as to what are the peace terms of the entente allies. Briefly summarized the principal demands as outlined by the Spectator follow:

"The peace terms are to start from the status quo before the war, thus including the evacuation of the whole of northern France, Belgium and Luxembourg, and of all lands taken from Serbia, Rumania, Russia and Montenegro. "Alsace-Lorraine is to be restored to France. The Danish portion of Schleswig-Holstein is to go to Denmark and Posen, Polish Prussia and Austrian Poland are to be added to the new subkingdom of Poland which the Czar has pledged to create.

"The Slavs of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Delmatia, Croatia, etc., are to be created into a new kingdom.

"Bohemia is to be an independent state.

"The Rumanian section of Transylvania to be added to Rumania.

"The whole Austrian Tyrol, plus Trieste, Istria, and the other portions of Austria which are Italian in blood or feeling, to be added to Italy.

"Turkey to yield Constantinople and the straits to Russia.

"The Armenians to be put under Russian tutelage.

"The Arabs to be freed, while Syria, Asia Minor and Mesopotamia are to be under external protection guaranteeing tranquility.

"The German colonies to remain in the hands of the entente. Moreover, a money indemnity for the ruin Germany has done in Belgium, France, Serbia, Montenegro, etc.

"As regarding shipping, Germany to make reparation in kind for all ships of commerce destroyed ton for ton, neutral shipping to be replaced only after all the demands of the allies have been satisfied.

"The German navy to be handed over and distributed among entente nations.

"As a guarantee against future war, the allies are to insist upon the demoralization of the German government.

"The Kiel canal to be neutralized under an international non-German commission including the entente countries, the United States and other neutrals."

REFUSAL OF MAKERS TO TALK STOPS PAPER PROBE.

Department of Justice May Be Asked to Take Hand in Investigation.

Washington.—Hearings reopened here by the Federal Trade Commission in its news print paper investigation came to a sudden end when paper manufacturers refused to discuss the reasonableness of news print prices. Both publishers and jobbers had been heard.

The manufacturers declared that they had not had time to study tables prepared by the commission's investigators purporting to show huge profits. Members of the Trade Commission announced that despite an apparent unwillingness by the manufacturers to co-operate in the investigation, the commission's report would be issued probably in about 19 days and that such recommendations to Congress would be made as were thought necessary. At the same time it was said the commission would soon be in position to announce whether its consideration of a paper distribution plan showed an actual paper shortage and a need for distribution under supervision of the commission.

FOREIGNERS IN MEXICO MUST RESIGN RIGHTS.

Mexico City.—A decree has been issued giving foreigners holding title to real estate, mining and oil properties and timber lands until April 15 to resign their treaty rights in so far as the properties in question are concerned. Formal renunciation of such rights must be made in accordance with the decree issued more than four months ago which provided that such foreigners must become citizens in so far as their property was concerned.

ATLEE POMERENE



New photograph of Atlee Pomerene, who was re-elected United States senator from Ohio.

CENTRAL POWERS REPLY

SUGGEST THAT CONFERENCE BE HELD TO DISCUSS BASIS OF PEACE TERMS.

In Washington, Action is Looked Upon as Advancing Cause, Although There is Disappointment Because No Terms Are Set Forth.

Washington.—Germany's reply to President Wilson's note is regarded here as having advanced the peace movement another step despite the fact that it disappoints in not meeting his suggestion for an avowal of terms.

The reception German's reply receives among the Entente Allies, whose statesmen have publicly declared against such a program, now becomes the point upon which a further move hinges. The German note probably is the prelude to a series of carefully considered delicate moves in the great game of world diplomacy all possibly leading to an approach for a real discussion of peace terms on grounds which all the belligerents can place them at no disadvantage.

This is the official view of Germany's reply, so far as it has been formulated on the basis of the unofficial text. The official copy had not been received and President Wilson was keeping his mind open.

Neutral diplomatic quarters, too, regarded the note as a step toward peace and rather leaned to the view that Germany might follow it with a confidential communication of some sort outlining her terms.

The reply of the Central Powers as given out at Berlin, says:

"The high-minded suggestion made by the President of the United States of America in order to create a basis for the establishment of a lasting peace has been received and considered by the Imperial Government in the friendly spirit which was expressed in the President's communication.

"The President points out that which he has at heart and leaves open the choice of roads.

"To the Imperial Government an immediate exchange of views seems to be the most appropriate road in order to reach the desired result.

"It begs, therefore, in the sense of the declaration made on December 12 which offered a hand for peace negotiations to propose an immediate meeting of delegates of the belligerent States at a neutral place.

"The Imperial Government is also of the opinion that the great work of reventing future wars can be begun only after the end of the present struggle of the nations.

LUIS CABRERA DENIES ANY TIME LIMIT FOR SIGNING.

New York.—Luis Cabrera, chairman of the Mexican delegation on the Mexican-American point commission said here that no time limit had been fixed for General Carranza either to accept or reject the protocol proposed by the Mexican-American conference at Atlantic City. There was no understanding during the sessions of the joint commission he added, which gave the American commission's authority to impose such a time limit.

CARRANZA APPEALS FOR CHANGE IN PLAN

FIRST CHIEF SENDS OBJECTIONS TO PLAN FOR MEXICAN BORDER CONTROL.

NOTE IS NOT MADE PUBLIC

Latest Suggestions For Changes In Agreement Will Be Considered by The Three American Representatives, Lane, Mott and Gray.

Washington.—One more appeal for modification of the protocol providing for the withdrawal of American troops from Mexico is made by General Carranza in a message delivered to Secretary Lane by Luis Cabrera, chairman of the Mexican members of the joint commission. The Mexican first chief replied to the insistent American demand that the protocol signed by his spokesman at Atlantic City be ratified with an eight hundred word document in which he failed to accede to the demand, but refrained from writing anything that could be construed as a flat repudiation.

The latest suggestions for changes in the agreement now will be considered by the three American representatives—Secretary Lane, J. R. Mott and Judge Gray. Secretary Lane advised his colleagues of the character of the reply and asked them to meet him here as soon as they conveniently could.

A joint session of the Mexican-American commission will be held at which the Americans will give the Mexicans their answer and on its nature depends the future course of the commissioners.

It was learned that the Mexican commissioners were confident that no insuperable barrier had been raised by Carranza.

The chief insistence of Carranza has been that the American troops should be withdrawn unconditionally which the American commissioners would not consider. It was indicated that Carranza's insistence on that point was less pronounced now and that the change in his attitude had been wrought largely by the altered military situation in northern Mexico.

ADAMSON ACT CONFERENCE SPLITS OVER WAGE ISSUE

End Comes Abruptly—No More Meetings Until Supreme Court Pauses On Law

New York.—Conferences between representatives of the railroad and the four brotherhoods of railroad employes at which were discussed possibilities of a settlement of the eight-hour controversy, were terminated abruptly today when it became apparent an agreement could not be reached.

It was announced by both sides that there would be no more meetings until after the United States Supreme Court hands down its decision on the constitutionality of the Adamson act.

The break came, it was learned, when the railroad representatives refused to concede the demands of the new wage schedule fixed by the Adamson law, which goes into effect January 1st.

The brotherhood chiefs held, it was said, that their men had the right to begin drawing wages according to the scale provided by the Adamson law immediately after the law became effective, irrespective of the suits brought by the railroads to test its validity.

CALIFORNIA PRESS TO INCREASE RATES

Sacramento, Cal.—An increase in subscription and advertising rates as a means of fighting the high cost of newspaper paper is favored by members of the California Press Association, according to a report made by a special committee of the association.

PRESIDENT WILL VETO PUBLIC BUILDINGS BILL

Washington.—President Wilson told callers that he would veto the \$25,000,000 public buildings bill if it comes to him in the form in which it is now pending in the house. Its advocates plan to seek to obtain a rule for consideration of the measure by the house soon after the Christmas recess. The president has reached no decision on the rivers and harbors bill laid before him recently by Chairman Sparkman of the Rivers and Harbors Committee

WILL ASK LAW FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE

WITHOUT IT STATE CANNOT CLAIM \$114,000 FEDERAL ROAD APPROPRIATION.

COMMISSIONERS MEET JAN 8

State Highway Commission Will Consider Plans For New Years Work and Report to Legislature.

Raleigh.—Unless the State Highway Commission can get from the General Assembly legislation providing for the maintenance of roads constructed, the state cannot claim \$114,000 of the Federal road fund already apportioned among the counties of the state. The commission will meet here on January 8, when it will consider plans for the new year's work, and also settle upon the requests it will make of the legislature.

For one thing, the commission wants its appropriation increased from ten thousand dollars to fifty thousand dollars. Already its work has extended to more than three-fourths of the counties of the state, and the possibilities of further extension are only limited by the finances.

Mr. W. S. Fallis, state highway engineer, stated that the commission's work has succeeded thus far in every instance where the commission has supervised county work, in saving between 25 and 30 per cent of the cost as estimated by the lowest bidder. And with the road work in North Carolina aggregating five million dollars annually, he declares he is perfectly safe in estimating the saving of one million dollars annually on highway construction, if the commission were put in charge of all this work.

As to the federal aid, the stipulation which now holds North Carolina from its benefits is the one requiring maintenance provisions in the state. Under present conditions, the county commissioners in the various counties have maintenance authority for only two years. The federal law requires something permanent. And that \$114,000, which is due to increase from year to year, will remain idle, so far as this state is concerned, until that maintenance provision is secured.

The highway engineer hopes it will come through the use of the entire automobile license tax for maintenance purposes. This will be one of the things the commission will ask of the general assembly. It will ask that 60 per cent of the tax be turned back to the counties in proportion to the taxes paid in that county, to be used by the county authorities under supervision of the Highway Commission for maintenance. The other 40 per cent the commission wants turned over to it for use in its discretion whenever it is needed over the state for highway upkeep.

Big Hotel For Greensboro.

Greensboro.—The long-hoped-for "big hotel" for Greensboro will probably be a fact before Christmas, 1917. When the needed \$75,000 in common stock was all subscribed at a meeting in the Chamber of Commerce rooms a sigh of relief went up from those who have been working on the proposition for some time. The site is to cost \$20,000 and the building \$300,000. First mortgage bonds to the amount of \$160,000 will be issued, and second mortgage bonds will be in the amount of \$85,000. The first bonds and \$65,000 of the second class bonds have virtually been placed, so that of all the stock and bonds, only \$20,000 yet remain to be placed.

Another Dam at Badin.

Albemarle.—That work on the second big dam to be built by the American Aluminum Company at the falls of the Yadkin about three miles below Badin is to commence upon a big scale is evidenced by the fact that a double track of railway is to be continued down the river from Badin to the falls. It is reported upon good authority that the final survey for this road is now being made and that states are being driven preparatory to active construction work of the road.

Craig Issues Election Papers.

Raleigh.—Governor Craig has made out and delivered the certificates of election to the federal and state officers elected in this state at the November election and notifications for the presidential electors to meet in Raleigh January 8 to elect from their number the messengers who shall go to Washington at the appointed time and cast the North Carolina vote for Woodrow Wilson for President. The utmost care is being exercised to rigidly conform with every detail of the election laws.