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OUR FIRST DUTY IS TO THE HOME

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AUSTRALIAN BALLOT SYSTEM FOR STATE

BRENIZER BILL WOULD PROVIDE A MODERN ACCOUNTING SYSTEM.

UNDER THE CAPITAL DOME

Interesting Review of the Doings of the General Assembly During the Past Week—Many Important Bills Are Introduced in Both Houses.

Raleigh. North Carolina would have Australian ballot system if a bill offered in the Senate by Senator Thomas A. Jones, of Asheville, should become a law. It is a measure for which there are hosts of advocates in every quarter of the state, and Senator Jones says the bill shall have his best service in effort for its enactment into law.

The bill is the regulation Australian ballot sort, and was referred to the committee on elections. A date for hearing will be agreed on later.

An especially notable bill introduced was that in the Senate, by Senator Brenizer to provide a change in the accounting systems of the state departments, state institutions and in counties, and also to provide a special system for municipalities, where the authorities of the municipalities decide to adopt such a system.

The bill would create a special board, one member named by the Senate, one by the House, and one appointed by the Governor, by March 1, the members to receive \$10 a day and expenses while at work, subject to approval by the Governor. The work would begin April 1 and be completed by next January. The board would investigate the present systems in the state departments and institutions, to ascertain the needs, the new system to be devised being required to make complete and accurate showing of the full effect of all transactions on state finance, a modern and complete accounting in every respect. Also uniform accounting for the counties, and a system for municipalities the adoption of which would be optional with the municipal authorities, in which event the city would pay its pro-rata part of the cost of the system. The state departments and institutions would be required to put in operation the new system by January 1, 1918.

House bills passed final reading as follows: Abolish treasurer's office in Cherokee, relating to automobile tax and applying 90 per cent to the county in which the tax originates; repeal a road law for Marsh Township, Surry county; amend the Pender road law.

The House spent a couple of hours arguing and cross firing over the substitute House bill to provide "absentee voting" in this state and finally passed it without amendment by a vote of 62 to 19, in which the Republicans voted practically to a man against the bill. Minority Leader McCary offered an amendment to strike out the words "entitled to vote" as giving too wide discretion to one man, but the majority disapproved and the amendment met defeat along with one by Haymore, Republican, to require that the prospective absent voter must specify the reason for his absence when he registers. Under the bill this registration can be made at any time of the year except during the twenty days prior to the election.

The Senate voted down the Pender county free range bill when it came up on a minority favorable report signed only by Senator Burnett, of Pender. He made a stand for the measure on the floor, speaking strenuously in its favor but "the cards were stacked" against him in the conviction of Senators that the free range is a menace to the whole cattle and hog raising industry and that Pender is not an exception to this rule.

Judiciary committee No. 1 gave a hearing to a bill designed to give any citizen in the state a right to appeal from a ruling of the Corporation Commission and voted more than two to one against the measure. It was denominated an effort to write into law the dissenting opinion of Chief Justice Clark of the Supreme Court in the noted Anson case growing out of the contest over the passenger station of the Winston-Salem South-bound, the commission ruling for the location, the railroad company insisting was necessary and the Supreme Court holding that the ruling of the commission was final, the party desiring to appeal having no more interest in the case than any other citizen.

The House and Senate are both getting ready to move along the legislative road with a number of bills and resolutions. The House is particularly busy with resolutions for a 2 1/2 day session to get busy on these bills.

The joint committee on health has voted for an unfavorable report on the State Board of Health bill for open formula on the labels of proprietary medicines for which there was a most strenuous hearing some days ago and then decided to return to the House without prejudice. Representative Page served notice on the House that he would claim the right to submit a minority report in support of the measure preferring to bring up the fight on the floor in the argument and vote on passage.

Representative Perry Stubbs who has offered a constitutional convention bill in at least three sessions past turned in such a measure for this Legislature. It would have delegates to a constitutional convention elected at the next state election and he would bar all discussion of prohibition from the convention if called. Representative Roberts of Buncombe proposed the setting of his bill to give municipalities woman suffrage when so voted by the majority of the qualified voters as a special order for February 4. The bill will likely have sharp opposition and its adoption is by no means certain.

Both houses have now duplicate bills through Senator Scales and Representative Dalton for creating a board of three examiners to examine applicants for law licenses, the examiners to pass on the examination papers and the Supreme Court to issue the licenses as at present. President Brooks, of the bar association, said that he feels sure the bill will pass. No committee hearing is yet set.

Bills by Harding in the Senate and Pearson in the House would increase the annual appropriation for the State Geological Survey from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Senator Justice put in a bill to authorize special contracts for the payment of 8 per cent interest but leaving 6 per cent the legal rate. Senator Oates offered a bill to appropriate \$50,000 for a woman's building at the A. & M. College for women and girls taking special courses and taking advantage of extension work.

Senator Oates introduced a bill designed to solve the knotty problem of meeting the demand of so many counties to elect their boards of education. It would have the majority party in the state nominate in all the counties in 1918 and the minority party in each county in 1920 and the minority party in the state again for each county in the next biennial election. These nominees would all be appointed by the Governor under the bill. In this way the people would nominate and the Governor appoint and the minority party would have representation in their counties, but the dominant factor on all boards would be Democratic as long as the state is Democratic. Senator Oates is chairman of the committee on education and it is the bill that the Administration will hold out for, if the bill for a state commission to appoint should fail.

The Senate passed the bill by Senator Jones, of Buncombe, to raise the age of consent from 14 to 16 years after much discussion and rejection of a number of amendments. The House spent much time discussing a bill by Clarke, of Pitt, to amend the law as to appeals, being a change proposed by the special commission and guards are cruel and on judicial reform, the vote being 71 to 23 against the measure.

Senate bills passed final reading as follows: Authorize special appropriations for Confederate veterans in Durham county.

Amend the usury law of 1915 relating to insurance company exemptions. Regulate the fees of the prosecuting attorneys in recorder's court in Robeson county.

A bill providing for service of summons in certain cases was tabled after number of counties asked to be exempted.

Investigate State Farm.

The joint committee on penal institutions, Senator Turner presiding, heard a remarkable series of charges and comments on the conditions at the state farm, and arrangement of the management of the convicts there, by Roy Traywick, of Union county, presented through Representative Beasley of Union. It was a manuscript of 35 pages and was to the general effect that the convict quarters are unfit for human habitation; that the white prisoners are made to use a water pail in common with negroes, eat in the same room, and that the whole atmosphere of the place hardens the convicts and intensifies their hatred of society, making them worse than when they were sent to the farm.

THEORIES AT FAULT UNRESTRICTED

WHY DEMOCRATS BELIEVE IS ALL WAYS A FAILURE

Party Has Done in the Past as It Is Doing Today People's Money Wasted and Bonds Forced on the Country

About the only way to minimize Democratic losses at Washington is doing more for the people in the North and West. The party's national platform and the whole itself (except side for peace) is abandoned while in the government. The past month's breakfast table, at which Democratic orators talked so eloquently during the night and night, is now to be the "the effects of 1917 budgeted surplus. Money is being pulled back on the strength of it, but is scheduled to pay the budget deficit. Coffee, too, has a trade duty.

Perhaps this Democratic congress, assuming that higher wages have made past budget a failure of the past, assumes that there is no longer any need to consider the subject. Then, again, it may be that the Democrats, facing stern realities now about which they cared little while not responsible for government revenues are ready to concede that all their talk about budgeting the poor man's breakfast table was just talk, nothing more.

When a government is faced with big expenditures it must have big revenues. Democrats like spending money so well that their appropriations have been running into an amount of figures lately. In itself that is bad enough, but when there is a failure to accompany big expenditures with adequate revenue measures the result to the national treasury is precisely the same as it would be in private business. A deficit stares you in the face. No Democratic congress has ever seemed to comprehend that fact. There is nothing in the record of the several congresses that Democrats have controlled the past quarter of a century to show that they realize that a deficit must be met. When they have found it impossible longer to ignore one, they have resorted to bond issues, rather than to revenue measures. They have preferred giving the government's note of hand to the good old-fashioned way of seeing to it that enough revenue is coming in to pay the bills as they fall due. Such a policy is much too practical for a political party whose traditions are rooted in theories.

"Pork" Before Preparedness.

The Democratic administration is facing a deficit. Either more revenue must be raised or great economies must be practiced. Claude Kitchen, Democratic leader in the house of representatives, advocates the reduction of appropriations for the army, the navy and measures of national defense. We thought so. Preparedness is beginning to assume its true position among Democratic policies. Its necessities are to serve the purposes of economy when Democratic simplicity has got us into financial plights. Preparedness is to be sacrificed on the altar on which the holy pork is first and from which the slices are distributed, and the drippings caught. Cincinnati Times-Star.

President Wilson's Opportunity.

For nearly four years the president has had the opportunity to get behind the movement to do away with the omnibus method of appropriation—the bulwark of the "pork barrel." For nearly four years he has been in a position to defend the treasury against political raids, to place appropriations for public works upon a scientific and economical basis.

But he has done neither the one nor the other.

President Wilson, elected for a second term, should feel superior to the necessity of that political maneuvering which so seriously marred his first administration.

Spoke Without Warrant.

It is well to keep clearly in mind the fact that in volunteering the participation of the United States in an international league to enforce peace on earth, the president spoke without warrant from the only body which can constitutionally involve us in such an arrangement—the senate, with its sole power to ratify treaties.

It is also well to remember that Mr. Wilson spoke without warrant from the party of which he is the leader. In the platform on which he was elected three months ago occurs this declaration: "The Monroe doctrine is reasserted as a principal of Democratic faith."—New York Sun.

It Was "Dynamite."

There is now some room for the suspicion that the railroad strike President Wilson sent on its way may have a return ticket.

UNRESTRICTED

NAVAL WARFARE ARE TO BE RESUMED

GERMANY GIVES WARNING OF RENEWAL AND EXTENSION OF SUBMARINE BLOCKADE

CRISIS CONFRONTS U. S.

Peace and Means of Peace Go Climaxing With Announcement of Central Powers of Proposed Naval Policy—A Starvation Blockade

Washington, Feb. 3.—Germany has declared an unrestricted submarine warfare. A starvation blockade of England, the kind of which the world never has seen, was announced in a message delivered to American Ambassadors here in Berlin and to the State Department here today and hereafter.

This begins the fiercest campaign of ruthlessness ever known in the history of the world since the days of the Crusades.

Again the United States faces severe crisis of diplomatic relations with Germany with all its eventual possibilities. President Wilson's repeated warnings of a world-wide and Secretary Lansing's "force of war" statements are being recalled in the capital with feelings of apprehension and misgivings.

Germany's action is the super-crisis of all those that have stirred the American Government in two and a half years of world war.

Talk of peace in Europe and means of preserving the peace of the world have gone glimmering.

President Wilson, incredulous at first when the unofficial text of Germany's warning was brought to him, at once called for the official document which had just been presented to Secretary Lansing by the German Ambassador, Mr. Lansing absolutely refused to make a comment. President Wilson began at once a careful study of the document.

What Will President Do?

President Wilson has the task of deciding what shall be the course of the United States. Three immediate steps appear among the possibilities. The United States might solemnly warn Germany against a violation of her pledges; it might be decided that the German warning is sufficient notice of an intention to disregard those pledges and a sufficient warrant for breaking off diplomatic relations; it might be decided to await the results of the blockade and determine the course of the United States as the actual operations to develop.

On almost every side Germany's drastic action is interpreted as an open confession of the effectiveness of the British food blockade. It is regarded as a determination to strike back in kind. German officials in the United States estimate the food supply on the British Isles will last a month. Admittedly the plan is to carry starvation to the doors of England with swift, staggering strokes, as a fulfillment of Germany's announced determination to use every weapon and agency at her command to end the war quickly. She counts on the operation of an unheard-of number of submarines to deliver blows to bring England to her knees within 60 days. One German official here predicted the war would be over in a month.

Conveyed to the world as the answer to the refusal of the Entente Allies to talk peace, Germany's latest warning says:

"From February 1, 1917, within barred zones around Great Britain, France, Italy and in the eastern Mediterranean—all sea traffic forthwith will be opposed."

ENTENTE ALLIES READY TO MEET GERMAN MOVE

To Meet Such a Situation, Great Britain Has Been Assembling Fleet of "Sub. Chasers."

New York. Great Britain and her Allies are prepared to meet Germany's moves in her submarine campaign, it was authoritatively asserted in shipping circles here.

The ports of Liverpool and Bordeaux will be kept open at all hazards. British steamship representatives asserted, even if it becomes necessary to convey every merchantman which crosses the Atlantic. The first step to be taken by the British Admiralty, which virtually controls the merchant fleets of the Allies, will be to arm every ship with guns fore and aft for defensive purposes, it was predicted.

To meet the emergency, the British Government has been assembling for months, it was said, a large fleet of small, fast cruisers to be used as "submarine chasers."

FORMAL RELATIONS

ARE TO BE RESUMED

FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TO BE REESTABLISHED WITH MEXICO

HOPE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS

Administration Will Make Effort to Solve Questions With Carranza and Also Aid Him in Establishing Constitutional Government

Washington, Feb. 3.—The administration will make an effort to solve questions with Carranza and also aid him in establishing a constitutional government.

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Although no official notification of the intention of General Carranza has been received, it is taken for granted that he will at once send to Washington an accredited Ambassador. Eliseo Arrardondo now in Mexico on leave of absence has been here as Ambassador designate for more than a year.

It was indicated that the sending of Ambassador Fletcher would be followed by an order for the return of many consuls to their posts. Consular representatives at all interior posts were withdrawn last summer.

BELGIANS ARE STILL BEING FORCED TO ENTER GERMANY.

Report From the Hague Says Deportation Continues at Lighter Rate.

The Hague.—The deportation of Belgian workmen continues, but at a lighter rate than previously, according to information from an unquestionable source. It is said that the deportations from Brussels now are being made at the rate of about 250 men daily. Many of these men, it is alleged, are not idlers, but skilled workmen who have been engaged for at least a part of their time in their trade.

In some provinces the Belgians, it is said, are adopting methods of passive resistance in efforts to escape deportation. This resistance takes the form of failing to appear at the appointed place for examination. Out of 1,700 men called in five communes near Malines, not more than one-half presented themselves. Thereupon the German military authorities arrested three prominent men in each commune, holding them as hostages until the appearance of the absentees who in the meantime were hunted by squads of soldiers. In Brussels many of the summoned men who failed to appear now are in hiding.

About one thousand Belgians called with the work of the American Relief Commission members of provincial and communal committees of helpers and storehouses, mills or soup kitchens—have been deported to Germany over the strong protest of the commission.

ADMINISTRATION LEADERS HALT DEBATE ON PEACE

Washington.—Debate on President Wilson's world peace address ended the Senate for several hours before it was halted by concerted action of administration leaders. Then Senator Cummins' motion to take up his resolution to set aside time for a general discussion of the subject was tabled by a vote of 38 to 30. Senator Martineau, of New Jersey, was the only Democrat to vote with the Republicans against the motion to table.

ADMINISTRATION

BILLS TAKE SHAPE

DEFENSE BUDGET TOTALING \$84,000,000 IS NOW GETTING ATTENTION

BIG FORTIFICATION BUDGET

Naval Bill's Ready With a Total of \$35,000,000 Army Bill Will Be Reported Next Week—Third Element of Program

Washington, Feb. 3.—Administration's \$84,000,000 defense budget began its long journey to Congress when the House passed the authorization bill with a total of more than \$10,000,000 for the navy and the House Naval Appropriation bill with a total of more than \$25,000,000.

The Army appropriation bill, the third element of the program still in the House Military Committee, which is expected to complete it next week. Estimates for the Army reach a total of more than \$50,000,000, exclusive of numerous deficiency measures resulting from the border mobilization and the rising cost of war materials.

The only other military legislation pending is the universal military training bill before a Senate subcommittee which will conclude its hearing this week, when Major Generals Scott and Wood are to be recalled for cross-examination.

The navy bill carries a total of \$35,432,245 as against \$313,000,000 last year. It provides for the construction of three 42,000-ton battleships at a total cost of \$28,178,592 each; one battle-cruiser at a cost of \$26,694,496; three scout cruisers at \$6,746,145 each; 15 destroyers at \$1,748,612 each; one destroyer tender at \$2,808,000; one submarine tender at \$2,199,400 and eighteen 500-ton type submarines at \$1,434,093 each. The program is that recommended by the Department and represents one-half of the remaining portion of the three-year program approved last year.

PRESIDENT WILSON VEToes THE IMMIGRATION BILL.

Literacy Test Provision is Reason Assigned.

Washington.—President Wilson vetoed the immigration bill passed recently by Congress, because of its literacy test provision.

It was the second time that President Wilson had vetoed an immigration bill because of the literacy test and for the same reason similar measures were given vetoes by Presidents Taft and Cleveland.

The President's veto message to the House, in which the bill originated, follows:

"I very much regret to return this bill without my signature. "In most of the provisions of the bill I should be very glad to concur, but I cannot rid myself of the conviction that the literacy test constitutes a radical change in the policy of the Nation which is not justified in principle. It is not a test of character, of quality, or of personal fitness, but would operate in most cases merely as a penalty for lack of opportunity in the country from which aliens seeking admission came. The opportunities sought by the immigrant in coming to the United States and our experiences in the past has not been that the illiterate immigrant is as such an undesirable immigrant. Tests of quality and of purpose cannot be objected to on principle but tests of opportunity surely may be."

BIG FIRE AT BOSTON WITH \$350,000 LOSS.

Boston.—Engines from residential districts were called in to assist the downtown firemen in their hardest fight in many months, the fire destroying a five story brick building at Chaucey street and Exeter Place. The loss was estimated at \$350,000, of which about two-thirds fell on the occupants, Thomas Kelley & Co., blanket manufacturers.

REPORT CONFIRMED THAT VILLA OCCUPIES EL VALLE.

Juarez, Mexico.—Confirmation of the occupation of El Valle by Villa forces was received here from Casas Grandes. It was said the Villa troops moved up from Namiquipa, where they had been awaiting the departure of the American punitive expedition before occupying the town. Villa followers also were reported to have been seen in the vicinity of Santa Sofia, on the Mexico Northwestern Railroad.