

LEAGUE TO HAVE FOUR MONTHS TO INSTAL PROGRAM

Referendum Cannot Prevent Issuance of Bonds and Establishment of Plants
STATE WILL BE COMMITTED
Amendment Gives Administration Privilege of Putting Dakota in Hole

In spite of anything or everything that may be done by opponents, North Dakota is committed to a four-month try-out of the league's economic program.

Every bill designed to place in operation league theories of state socialism carries an emergency clause. If passed with such emergency clause, which requires a two-thirds vote, each of these measures becomes effective the moment it has received the governor's signature.

The filing of referendum petitions against an emergency measure does not under the initiative and referendum amendment to the constitution approved at the last general election suspend the operations of such measure. The law to be referred remains on the job until a referendum election has been held. Then, if a majority of all the votes cast are registered against the measure, the law is repealed.

The signatures of 30,000 voters are required to refer an emergency measure. These 30,000 signatures must have been procured not later than 90 days following the adjournment of the session. Then, the secretary of state has 20 days in which to allow for correction or amendment of the petitions, should they be found insufficient. If such petitions are sufficient, the governor shall call a special election not less than 100 days nor more than 120 days following the adjournment of the session.

It is not probable that should any measures be referred the required 30,000 signatures could be obtained in less than 90 days. With all of the ramifying machinery at its disposal the league has consumed more than 90 days in procuring the required signatures to its initiative petitions last summer. No organization opposing the league has machinery at all approaching such perfection or thoroughness as that of the Nonpartisans. It is not likely that the referendum petitions could be filed with the secretary of state much short of the 90 days. Then if amendment or correction were necessary, the time would be extended 20 days more, which would make it impossible for the governor to call an election short of 120 days following adjournment. Even then such a call would have to be called in ten days notice.

More than 30,000 votes were positively registered against all of the league amendments under which the Nonpartisans are instituting their program of state socialism. Coupled with the passive or silent vote, which was registered positively neither for nor against the amendments, the number of votes not cast for the proposals ran in various instances all the way from 40,000 to 50,000. And there were probably 20,000 electors who did not vote at all in the recent general election. It is therefore probable every one of the 53 counties immediately after the closing of the session, it could within 90 days time obtain the required 30,000 signatures, but it would be no easy task.

In any event, the several acts would take effect immediately following the governor's approval, and each of these bills would be in force the day the state industrial commission shall set the wheels revolving within 20 days following such approval.

In four months the league could bind the state's credit to the extent of \$7,000,000 through the issuance and sale of \$2,000,000 worth of state bonds for the Bank of North Dakota and \$5,000,000 worth of bonds for the state mill and elevator association. In addition there would be immediately appropriated for the expenses of the levy of new boards and commissions created by league legislation a further sum of more than \$2,000,000.

The state industrial commission could place the Bank of North Dakota in immediate operation, transferring to this institution all the public funds of the state and its minor divisions which, including the permanent school fund moneys, would aggregate from \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000. It could, (Continued on Page Four.)

SARGENT COUNTY OBJECTS TO HIGH HANDED ACTIONS

The voters of Sargent county, Nonpartisans as well as independents, says Rep. Nily, Peterson of Gwinner, back from a brief visit home, are incensed over the treatment accorded John Weber, elected representative from Sargent county by a substantial majority, and deprived of his seat by the league house majority, after a farcical hearing before the election committee in the senate, proceeding filed by Frank Ribba, an ultra radical leader. Weber's sin was that the election board in Forman precinct, acting under instructions from the local board of health, which it could not ignore under penalty of imprisonment, excluded the mob while it counted the votes in election night. The mob was then raging; people were lying right and left, the board of health acted for the protection of the public, and the election board obeyed its orders. The league discovered that by throwing out the vote in Forman precinct it could seat Ribba and gain one more vote in the house, and it did so. This action is decidedly distasteful to members of both factions in Sargent county.

CONFISCATION BY STATE FOR UNPAID TAXES

Necessary Companion Legislation of Single Tax Measure Introduced
ADD FARMS TO N. D. LANDS
Property May be Seized, Added to Public Possessions and Disposed of

Confiscation by the state of real estate upon which taxes have not been paid for three years is provided for in Senate Bill 94, introduced Thursday by Hunt of Golden Valley. The bill prescribes that no real property shall hereafter be sold for taxes, but that when taxes shall have been delinquent for a period of three years, the state, after having given notice to the county auditor at the expiration of two years, shall take over such property. Not less than three years after the taxes on any real property shall have become delinquent, and not less than one year after notice has been served by the county auditor, said county auditor shall deliver to the state's attorney in the county in which the property is situate a certificate containing a list of all the property upon which taxes have been delinquent for three years, with affidavits and proof of service which shall be filed with the clerk of the district court. The action shall then be placed on the court calendar for hearing not less than forty days from the date of filing.

Then if, after allowing any real party in interest who questions the sufficiency of the proceedings, thus far taken to be heard in open court, the court finds that the provisions of this chapter have been complied with, said court shall enter a judgment decreeing the fee simple in the property described to be in the state of North Dakota. Or if any real party in interest appear and pays the delinquent tax, penalty, interest and cost of publication and service of notice on any tract or tracts of property prior to the entry of judgment, the proceedings shall be dismissed. All property decreed to the state under the provisions of this act shall be in the custody and control of the department of state having the control and disposal of other unsold state lands, to be disposed of in the manner provided by law, and the proceeds from such sale are to be paid into the general fund of the state to be used in defraying the expenses of the state government.

S. B. 95, McCarter, provides for the registering of the titles of all land within a county.

S. E. 96, Hunt, authorizes the industrial commission to make special investigations of lignite deposits.

S. B. 97, King, provides for the taxing and licensing of motor vehicles.

S. B. 98, by Stenmo, appropriates \$100,000 to be apportioned among the various counties by the state superintendent of instruction to aid consolidated school districts in paying for the transportation of pupils.

S. B. 99, Carey—Relating to the duties of state examiner; to examine once a year the books and accounts of city auditors and treasurers, in addition to all state and county officers; fixing fee of \$10 per diem for such services.

S. B. 100, Committee on Appropriations—Appropriating \$34,000 to pay deficit in appropriation for bounty on wolves and coyotes killed prior to July 1, 1917.

S. B. 101, Committee on Appropriations—Appropriating \$190,850 for the salary of the secretary and members of the state highway commission, clerk hire, etc.

S. B. 102, Committee on Appropriations—Appropriating \$30,000 to indemnify owners of animals destroyed because infected with bovine tuberculosis.

S. B. 103, Committee on Appropriations—Appropriating \$7,000 for the maintenance of evening school under provision of Chapt. 209 of session laws of 1917.

S. B. 104, Committee on Appropriations—Appropriating \$6,548 for state game and fish board.

S. B. 105, Committee on Appropriations—Appropriating \$30,000 to indemnify owners of animals afflicted with glanders and dourine and for that reason destroyed.

S. B. 106, Committee on Appropriations—Appropriating \$299,415 for state hospital for the insane at Jamestown.

S. B. 107, Same—Appropriating \$10,000 to be paid at the rate of \$18 per month or major fraction thereof (Continued on Page Six.)

GEORGE PLAZA SMITH, LONG UNIQUE FIGURE IN STATE POLITICS, IS DEAD



A dispatch received here today told of the death of George L. Smith of Plaza. The deceased and his entire family had been suffering for several days from Spanish influenza, which in the case of Mr. Smith developed into pneumonia, from which death resulted early this morning. The Plaza family had been suffering for several days from Spanish influenza, which in the case of Mr. Smith developed into pneumonia, from which death resulted early this morning. The Plaza family had been suffering for several days from Spanish influenza, which in the case of Mr. Smith developed into pneumonia, from which death resulted early this morning.

George "Plaza" Smith was for many years one of the best known men in the public life of North Dakota. He was an ardent Equity worker in the early days of that movement and one of the prominent supporters of George Loftus in this state. He espoused LaFollette's cause in the old progressive days and helped carry North Dakota for the Wisconsin man in 1912. He built up a system of country weeklies under the name of the Northwestern Press association, and he did much to promote the progress of the former Berthold reservation county from Max to Sanish, through the medium of his newspapers.

He was an enthusiast in everything he undertook, a good writer and an eloquent talker. In the primaries of 1916 he was one of the contestants in the three-cornered race for the governorship which resulted in the nomination of Lynn J. Frazier. Col. John H. Fraire running second and Smith third. At that time he owned

MAY CONVERT LIFE POLICIES IN FIVE YEARS

To Contain Provision for Monthly Payments to the Disabled
POSTOFFICES WILL ASSIST

Washington, Jan. 31.—Conditions under which soldiers or sailors now holding government life insurance may convert these policies inside of five years into other forms which the soldiers can carry during their lifetime with the government was reported today by Col. Lindsay of the war risk insurance bureau. There will be six different kinds of insurance, ordinary life, 20-payment life, 30-payment life, 20-year endowment, and 30-year endowment. All policies will contain clauses providing for monthly payments to insured in case of total permanent disability. This amounts practically to old age pensions and disability insurance and insures that no man who has served in the army or navy need ever be destitute if he carries the government insurance. Collections will be made through the postoffice. Col. Lindsay says that the rates will be so low that officials of private companies who assisted in drawing the rate schedules admitted they could not compete with them.

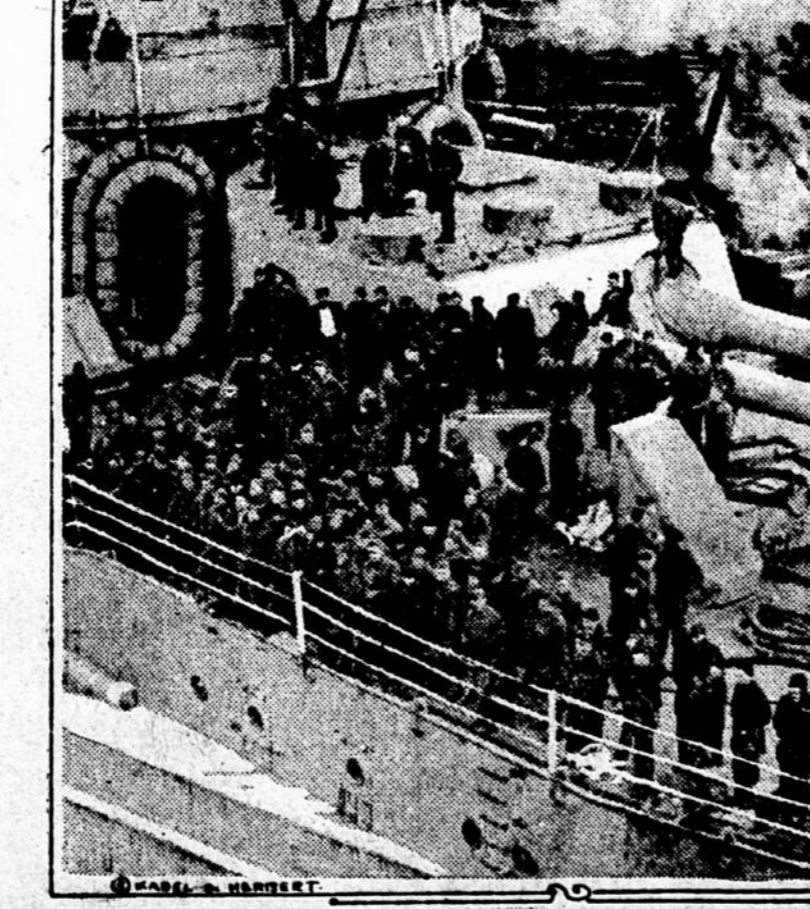
TEN PER CENT DISCOUNT FOR THE ENLISTED MEN

New York, Jan. 31.—The shopping bureau of the women's wear service has arranged with shops here to allow all former enlisted men a ten per cent discount.

ROTHSCHILD DEAD

Paris, Jan. 31.—Baron Lambert Rothschild, a Brussels banker, died in Paris today.

HOME, SWEET HOME, FROM WARSHIP'S DECK



The battleship Louisiana is here shown bringing to America members of the 59th coast artillery who fought at St. Mihiel and in the Argonne. They were met down the bay by a steamer bearing relatives of the men and their reception in New York was a big one.

CRISIS OVER COLONIES HAS PASSED

In American Quarters Hoped Compromise Can Be Reached
WILSON ENTERS PROTEST
Opposed to Parceling Out German Possessions Among the Victors

Paris, Jan. 31.—The crisis in the peace conference over the disposition to be made of the German colonies seems to have passed, at least, in American quarters there is a hope that a compromise will be worked out. When the supreme council of the peace conference meets today it will have before it the plain statements of President Wilson on Wednesday.

In phrases stripped of diplomatic niceties it is understood Mr. Wilson told the supreme council he would not be a party to a division of Germany's colonial possessions among the powers which now hold them and then become a party to the league of nations.

The agreement reached by the allied council on the colonial question, says a Havas agency today, provides that territories which are sufficiently civilized to give an expression of their form of government will be given an opportunity to participate in the league of nations. Arabia and Mesopotamia are considered examples of this class.

In the case of peoples of sufficient developed self-governing powers, the league shall choose the manner of government.

As regards Asiatic Turkey, the statement adds, the four great powers are to undertake its administration at once.

Whatever forces may be sent to Turkey for garrisoning purposes there will be no Americans there. It was pointed out that their presence would be out of place as the United States has never been at war with Turkey.

THREE MISSING, 20 INJURED IN BIG EXPLOSION

Nyack, N. Y., Jan. 31.—Three persons are reported missing and 20 others had been removed to a hospital in a short time after explosions wrecked the plant of the Aniline Products corporation here today.

GRAND FORKS WINS OUT IN 'PHONE CASE'

Twin Exchanges Must Be Joined and Only One Rate Charged

Under the terms of a ruling handed down Thursday by the state railroad commission, the Northwestern Telephone Co. and the Tri-State Telephone Co. of Grand Forks must immediately cease charging patrons for two 'phones, and not later than June 1 there must be established between the two exchanges the physical connection prayed for by Grand Forks citizens.

The rail board held a hearing on this petition several weeks ago. At that time it was established that the Northwestern had last August absorbed the Tri-State. It was shown, however, that the Northwestern had continued to operate the Tri-State exchange as distinct from its own. It had been necessary for telephone users desiring full service to patronize both exchanges, doubling the cost of service. The Northwestern had refused to make the two exchanges one system by establishing a physical connection.

The rail board supports the contention of the petitioners in every particular. Its order gives Grand Forks the benefit of a consolidated service at the price of one service.

TRADE BOARD TO GIVE NAMES OF WITNESSES

Washington, Jan. 31.—Names of witnesses whose testimony charges of collusion among five leading packers were based will be submitted voluntarily by the commission to the house interstate commerce committee, together with all other information gathered in the investigation.

William B. Clover, chairman of the trade commission, so informed the committee today in response to the demands of the committee of yesterday.

HANGARS DESTROYED

New York, Jan. 31.—Two hangars each containing six airplanes were destroyed in a fire which was sweeping the aviation station at Rockaway Point, today.

NAT GOODWIN DIES FOLLOWING A BRIEF ILLNESS

New York, Nat C. Goodwin, the actor, died in a hotel here today after a brief illness. Death was due to a general breakdown in health, following an operation for the removal of his right eye several weeks ago. Born in Boston in 1857, Goodwin was a familiar figure on the American stage for many years. He made his first stage appearance in New York in 1874.

REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT TO HIGHWAY BOARD

Important Amendments Made in Automobile Licensing Laws of State
First Cost of Car to be Taken as Fee-Fixing Standard—Other Changes

Within an hour after the highway bill providing for a new method of registering motor vehicles was read in the senate yesterday, the joint highway committee of the house and senate had agreed to two important amendments.

The first of these amendments will change the basis of registration from a combination of first cost, weight and horsepower, much too complicated, it was felt, to promote accuracy, to a strict first cost basis principle. Under this plan new cars will be assessed an annual registration fee of one per cent on the list price, this fee to be reduced ten per cent for each year after the first which the car remains in service until the fourth year, after which the fee shall remain stationary. It is provided that the fee shall never be less than \$5 per annum. The average first year registration fee under this law will be in the neighborhood of \$7.50, and it will range all the way from \$5.65 on a Humble Henry to \$20 on a princely Packard.

The second amendment will provide that the current year the registration of motor vehicles shall be handled by the state highway commission, but that after this year the clerk of district court in each county shall handle the registration business for his county. These county registrars will be required to remit to the state treasury all fees collected. A duplicate report will be filed at the same time with the state highway commission. The state treasurer on order from the state highway commission will return to the counties their share of the fees and transfer to the county highway commission the balance. Other provisions of the new bill probably will stand, although the highway committee of the two houses still have under joint consideration this measure, which will have a very important bearing on the state's future road-building policy.

The motor vehicle registration department is transferred from the office of the secretary of state to that of the highway commission, and the basis of fixing the licensing fee is changed from a horsepower rating to a first-cost and horse-power basis in Senate bill 97, introduced Thursday by Senator King.

The fee to be paid on all motor vehicles except motor-cycles and those used for commercial purposes, for registration, re-registration and operation shall be based on the factory selling price in force January 1 each year to which the registration applies, the net weight and horsepower, which horsepower shall be obtained by multiplication. (Continued on Page Six.)

FIFTEEN DISTRICT JUDGES PROVIDED IN NEW MEASURE

A bill said to have the approval of the Nonpartisan league was introduced in the House today creates six judicial districts with fifteen instead of twelve judges. Judge A. G. Burr is placed in the Fourth district in which Burleigh is included. This judge, Nussle and Judge Burr and the counties composing the district are: Bottineau, McHenry, Sheridan, Kidder, McLean, Burleigh, Emmons and Logan.

The district west of the river is divided into one big district to which two judges are assigned. The Grand Forks and Pembina sections of the state are redivided giving them three judges.

A bill also provides a state cooperative creamery. A Liberty Building commemorating the war to cost \$200,000 is introduced. This building is to be the home of the state historical society, the supreme court and other state offices. There are now two bills covering a new home for the state historical society. In the new bill \$20,000 is provided for furnishings.

Another league bill creates a commissioner of immigration with a salary of \$5,000 and gives him \$100,000 a year to spend.

POLICE PATROL FOR 'LID TIPPERS'

Lansing, Mich., Jan. 31.—An armorer will hereafter patrol the Michigan-Ohio line as a result of several pistol fights between whiskey runners and state constabulary charged with enforcing the Michigan prohibition law.

SEVERAL KILLED

Lima, Jan. 31.—Several persons have been killed in a battle at a strike.

BOLSHEVIKI MASS TROOPS FOR OFFENSIVE

Aim of the Maneuver is to Surround Entente Column
MOVE TOWARD PRUSSIA
Various Factions in Russia Unable to Get Together at Peace Board

Archangel (Thursday) Jan. 30.—The Bolsheviki are concentrating troops between the Volozda railway and the Vega river, apparently with the object of either surrounding the allied column in this sector or by cutting through to isolate the column eastward on the Dvina.

An enemy force of approximately 1,000 men began an attack yesterday on the British and Russian positions west of Tarvosof. The defense was obliged to evacuate the village of Alexiefska. One of the allied planes flew over Shenkhurst yesterday. It stated the town had not been burned as refugees had stated. The village of Shargovsk, on the Vega, which was evacuated several days ago, has been occupied by enemy infantry and cavalry, with five guns.

On the Dvina the allied artillery yesterday dispersed an enemy patrol. In the Omega sector the allied troops yesterday raised the village of Devrekema, killing nine of the enemy and captured nine without loss to the allies.

LIKE GERMAN SITUATION

London, Jan. 31.—Officials from Belfast depict a situation there which seems akin to that which recently obtained in German cities under revolutionary rule.

"There is no outstanding personality," says a dispatch, "but there is a capable committee of trade union leaders most of whom are moderate and restrained. Nobody can do anything unless he comes cap in hand to this committee. Even the police are useless. When strikers go to a hotel to cut off electric current, police accompany them.

The committee has prescribed a limited amount of work in certain industries, particularly those of feeding the people.

TROOPS DISPATCHED

Berlin, (Thursday) Jan. 30.—Advices from the west Prussian border where German troops have been dispatched against the Poles reports that the German forces assigned to protect Kummlez, a railway station between Thorn and Graudenz, was forced to take the place by storm of Polish irregulars who refused to negotiate. The Germans tried to induce the Poles to surrender the town and the latter refused and the city was bombarded by artillery and storm. The Poles are considered to have lost heavily in killed.

SITUATION SERIOUS

Berlin, Jan. 31.—The General Anzeiger's Berlin correspondent says the situation in east Prussia is serious. Several Bolshevik divisions are facing the eighth army and several thousand are facing the tenth army.

FRENCH ITCH IRRITATES DIPLOMATS

Paris, Jan. 31.—Another irritating circumstance has occurred to halt the peace negotiations by the appearance of what the French call "gale" or known otherwise as the "French itch." It is rampant in Paris and was brought there by the soldiers from the front. If any of the American delegates have contracted it, diplomacy has kept them silent.

The pest exceeds influenza in the suddenness of its appearance. Those attacked can recall Mark Twain's account of the one armed painter with the hives. It is exceedingly intense and resembles somewhat the seven year's itch.

It lends itself easily to treatment. The pest is rampant at the headquarters of the delegates to the peace conference and is said to exceed in discomfort a hair shirt.

OWNERS STATE RAIL PLANS

Washington, Jan. 27.—S. Davies Warfield, president of the National Association of Owners of Railroad Securities, gave the senate commerce committee today the view of the securities owners.

Mr. Warfield proposed a comprehensive plan for administering railroads under government supervision. He opposed the plan for creating a department of railroads with a cabinet officer at its head.

VOTED DOWN

Washington, Jan. 31.—Unanimous approval of the administration's new three year program with a reduction of capital ships from sixteen to ten was voted down today by the house naval committee.