

# HEADS ARE SELECTED

CHOOSE SUPERINTENDENTS FOR FAIR DEPARTMENT

## MANY FIRES PREVENTABLE

Items of General Interest Gathered from Reliable Sources Around the State House

Western Newspaper Union News Service.  
W. R. Mellor of Loup City, Neb., who has been secretary of the Nebraska board of agriculture for the last thirteen years and who was unexpectedly defeated for reelection in January, will remain in close touch with the state fair which he is credited with putting on its feet.  
He is to be superintendent of automobile hall during the fair, according to a list of new superintendents for the 1917 fair just made public by Secretary E. R. Danielson of the board. The majority of the superintendents have been reappointed. They are:  
Amphitheatre—Joseph Roberts, Fremont.  
Auditorium—L. W. Leonard, Pawnee City.  
Automobile parking—V. Arnold, Verdon.  
Bands—W. E. Banning, Union.  
Boys' encampment—Chas. Strader, Lincoln.  
Camping ground—John Haak, Abie.  
Coliseum—J. H. Harms, Upland.  
Concessions—H. Myers, Lincoln.  
Fish exhibit—W. J. O'Brien, Gretna.  
Gates—T. H. Wake, Seward.  
General—Wm. Foster, Lincoln.  
Guards—Adj. Gen. P. L. Hall, Jr., Lincoln.  
Sanitation—J. H. Taylor, Colon.  
Tickets—Wm. James, Dorchester.  
Transportation—W. B. Shermanhorn, Lincoln.  
Class "A" Horses—Z. T. Letwisch, St. Paul.  
Class "B" cattle—G. E. Hall, Waterloo.  
Class "C" swine—O. Smith, Kearney.  
Class "D" sheep—W. W. Cole, Neligh.  
Class "E" poultry—C. G. Cottle, Edgar.  
Class "F" agricultural products—T. H. Keefe, Minden, assistant, James E. Ryan, Indianola.  
Class "G" dairy—W. C. Andrea, Beatrice.  
Class "H" domestic products—Mrs. E. E. Brown, Central City.  
Class "I" textiles—Mrs. J. P. Masterman, Lincoln.  
Class "K" fine arts—Mrs. R. D. Sutherland, Nelson.  
Class "L" educational—Miss Alice Florer, Lincoln.  
Class "M" machinery grounds—C. G. Crews, Culbertson.  
Class "N" automobile hall—W. R. Mellor, Lincoln.  
Class "O" better babies—Mrs. C. L. LeMar, Osceola.  
Class "P" feed and forage—C. S. Hawk, Chadron.  
Class "Q" speed—J. W. Lamb, Nelson.  
Clerk speed—C. W. Wentz, Aurora.

**Many Fires Preventable.**  
That 16.6 per cent of fire losses in Nebraska are strictly preventable and that 57.1 per cent are partly preventable is the assertion made in a bulletin just issued by Fire Commissioner Ridgell, based on percentages compiled by Miss Mamie Muldoon, secretary of the fire commission.

The 16.6 per cent entailed a loss of \$289,078, and the 57.1 per cent, \$991,676. Fires from unknown causes, probably largely preventable, destroyed \$456,850 worth of property. The percentage of party preventable fires in Nebraska, 57.1 per cent, compared with 37.9 per cent in Kansas and 54.4 per cent in South Dakota.

The figures are compiled from a total of 1,325 fires.

**Signs Car Distribution Bill**  
Whenever car shortage in Nebraska is reported to the Nebraska railway commission hereafter, that body may enforce distribution by the railroads on the basis of relative volume of business. Governor Neville has signed H. R. 40, the Liggett-Henry car distribution bill, with an emergency clause to make it become effective immediately.

Under its provisions, all freight cars in Nebraska are first distributed among divisions of the roads on the volume of shipment basis, then among stations on the same basis, and finally on that basis among shippers at each station.

**Governor Asks for Appropriation.**  
Governor Neville sent a message to the house Monday afternoon calling the attention of the legislature to the necessity for immediate military preparation on the part of the state and asking for the appropriation of \$100,000 to pay the expenses of mobilization and to meet any other demands for military preparation and maintenance during the next two years.

**Distribution of School Land Rental**  
The Bates bill, H. R. 297, distributing 10 per cent of \$415,000, rental on state school lands, among the western Nebraska counties in proportion to the amount of unsold school land in those counties, was amended by the school lands committee of the senate to make the percentage on a like basis of distribution to the entire temporary school fund, amount of \$1,900,000 annually. It was so reported out by the committee with Senator Bushee's name added to the bill.

**Frowns on Subscription Contests**  
Following the disposal of the main question the house put thru Ainlay's bill to prohibit newspaper subscription contests, Ainlay aimed merely to restrict these contests, his bill providing that they should be held under the direction of a commission of three—one member to be named by the promoter, one by the county judge and one by the patrons. All kinds of contests were thus restricted, including those in which the prizes were based on "popularity, esteem, beauty or excellence in any other capacity."

## MAY BE DEFEATED

**"Bone Dry" Bill Roughly Handled in the Senate.**  
Lincoln, Neb.—The Robertson amendments to the prohibitory enforcement bill were taken up Tuesday. Senators Beal, McMillen, Sandall, McAllister and Chappell spoke at length in favor of the house bill as it was received by the senate. Senator Albert of Platte offered an explanation of the important amendments offered in the Robertson motion. The discussion extended beyond the noon hour, when adjournment was taken. Upon reassembling, five of the principal amendments offered by Robertson of Holt.

## Legislative League Makes Merry.

Nearly 500 old and present members of the Nebraska Legislative League banqueted here Tuesday night in a glorious, patriotic rally.  
It was the largest gathering of its kind the league has yet held and more things were done than at any previous affair, thanks to "Bill" Dech and Henry Richmond, the presiding genious.  
Nothing was omitted, not even Marsh Elder, who was really here this time, after being advertised without results several other years.  
At the business gathering "Bill" Dech was chosen president, A. M. Walling of David City vice president, and Henry C. Richmond of Omaha secretary.

## Will Prosecute Game Law Infractions.

United States Attorney T. S. Allen is preparing to prosecute all violators of the federal game law. In a statement issued recently there seems to be an impression abroad that there is an order of the secretary of agriculture allowing spring shooting of ducks and geese. There is no such regulation and the law prohibiting such shooting of ducks in the spring is in force. Such law will be strictly enforced unless the supreme court of the United States, where a test case is now pending, holds the act unconstitutional. If the law is upheld prosecutions will follow and a large corps of game wardens has been collecting and gathering data which is now in the hands of the United States attorney.  
Mr. Allen said that he has a large number of names of those who have been violating the law and that if the law be held constitutional, all such cases will be presented to the grand jury.

## Senate Kills Suffrage Bill.

An effort to lift the limited suffrage bill from the upper house sifters has proved unavailing. The trial came between the forenoon and afternoon discussions of the prohibition bill. Senator Sandall of York, author of the bill, led the effort, and in the affair had the active aid of Judge Albert of Platte, floor leader of the faction of the senate which is amending the dry bill as it came from the house.  
The vote followed a so-called arbitrary ruling by Lieutenant Governor Howard that the bill be put out forth with by the committee without further action.  
An appeal was taken from this order of the chair and the chair was overturned by a vote of 21 to 12.

## Test Federal Game Law

The McLane federal bill which does away with the spring shooting all over the country and leaves only from September 15 to December 30 for hunting game of this kind overrides all state and local laws and is enforced by the United States itself. Just now the law is being tested in the United States supreme courts and according to good authority many people have taken it for granted that violations of the law would not be punished until the decision is handed down. There is little doubt in the minds of those who have followed the bill closely but that the supreme court will find the bill constitutional and that it will be enforced to the letter.

## Wolf Bounty Again.

Six or eight years ago, the state of Nebraska got tired of paying out \$50,000 to \$100,000 a year for bounties on wolves, and the law on that subject was repealed. Now the present legislature shows some signs of renegeing that law and making the bounty higher than it was before on one class of animals. The house advanced to third reading a bill providing that \$2 a head shall be paid for coyotes and \$5 for gray wolves, after defeating an amendment to reduce the coyote subsidy to \$1.

## Reducing Force of Employees.

On account of the relaxing of work in the bill room, it is announced by the committee on employes that ten of the employes of that department of the Nebraska senate have been let off. During the rush of the first half of the session there were seventeen employes in that department. The number is now reduced to seven, and there is a disposition on the part of the committee to still further reduce the list.

# 40 U. S. MEN HELD

PRISONERS CAPTURED BY RAID—ER MOEWE CONFINED IN GERMAN PRISON.

## ALL TAKEN FROM TRANSPORT

New German Raider Sighted in the Atlantic by American Freight Steamer Which Arrives at Port in the United States.

Copenhagen, April 2.—More than forty Americans were among the prisoners taken to Germany by the German commerce raider Moeve, according to "Jack" Benson, an American seaman, who has arrived here. The Americans, he says, now are held as prisoners of war in Germany.

Benson, who for a time was a fellow prisoner of the men now held in Germany, says that nearly all of the forty men were horsemen aboard the transport Esmeraldas, which was sunk by the Moeve.

(Censored), April 2.—An armed vessel, believed to be the converted German raider St. Theodore, was sighted in midocean three days ago by the American freight steamer Mongols, which arrived at an American port.

Rio Janeiro, April 2.—The French bark Cambonne has arrived here with 200 men of the crews of various steamers and sailing ships sunk by a German raider off the island of Trinidad. They reported that many sailors from the sunken vessels were drowned. The rescued sailors, who are French, English and Italian, report that the raider is an armed sailing ship with a gasoline motor.

## U. S. TROOPS MAY AID FRANCE

Secretary Lansing Favors Sending Force Abroad and Approves Bond Issue.

Washington, March 28.—Representatives Flood, Harrison and Ragsdale, members of the house foreign affairs committee, discussed the international situation on Monday with Secretary Lansing. Espionage and censorship measures were among the legislation for the new congress that were considered.

During the conference Secretary Lansing indicated that one plan to aid the allies is to help France finance the war and that another under consideration involves the sending of a military force to the French front.  
The president's conclusions were not made known definitely, and it was said he had not determined finally what to recommend in his message to congress.  
Secretary Lansing made it very clear that the plan which probably will be urged most will be authorization by congress of a large bond issue, the proceeds of which would be devoted to purchase of French bonds.

## DIVERS SUNK 781,500 TONS

Secretary Capelle Gives February Report of U-Boat War to the Reichstag.

Berlin, April 2.—German submarines in February sank 781,500 tons of shipping. Secretary of the Navy Eduard Capelle in a confidential report told the main committee of the reichstag.

He said new submarines sent to the barred zones far exceed the number lost. He summarized the effect of unrestricted submarine warfare by saying:

"Great successes and very small losses."  
The German navy, from the commander in chief to the last stoker, is thoroughly convinced the U-boat war will win the war, the marine minister asserted.

Referring to neutrals, he said:  
"It is painful for our sea forces to sink neutral ships. It is hard, but an absolute necessity."

## "NATION FIRST"—MARSHALL

Vice President Tells Democratic Leaders of Indiana to Desist From Politics.

Indianapolis, March 30.—"The first duty of every American citizen is to his country instead of to his political party," Vice President Marshall declared at a meeting of the Democratic state committee and other Democratic leaders here on Wednesday.  
"His first care," continued the vice president, who came here for a rest before the special session of congress, "should be to uphold the honor and the glory and the dignity of the American republic regardless of what his own politics may be."  
The hundred or more Democrats present applauded loudly. The vice president also declared that the time was not propitious for discussing party politics.

## 100 Diver Nets Ordered.

Washington, April 2.—Orders were placed by the navy department with the American Steel and Wire company of Philadelphia for the immediate construction of 100 steel rope submarine nets. The nets will cost \$1,881 each.

## Argentina Explains Embargo.

Washington, April 2.—The export embargo recently placed upon wheat by Argentina was said in dispatches received here to have been made necessary by poor crops and the destruction of grain by locusts.

## HAVE YOU NAILED YOURS?



ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC.

## BRAND WHITLOCK HELD PEACE OFFER MADE?

U. S. MINISTER TO BELGIUM IN "NEWS QUARANTINE." BERLIN REPORTED TO HAVE SENT OVERTURES TO RUSSIA.

Germans Say Action is Necessary to Prevent Information Reaching the Enemy.

Amsterdam, March 30.—The German government will ask American officials and relief workers of the American commission for relief in Belgium to submit to a period of "news quarantine," the time not to exceed four weeks, to prevent military information being given out, says a dispatch received here.  
The time would count from the day the men lay down their present charges and notify the authorities in Brussels of their readiness to depart.  
They will be asked to assemble at some center, like Liege, or preferably a German city, such as Cologne, Karlsruhe or Munich, which they would not be allowed to leave for the period mentioned.

The "news quarantine" would apply equally to Brand Whitlock, the American minister to Belgium, and his staff, whom the German government, since the break in diplomatic relations, regards on the same footing as relief workers, although personally in the case of Mr. Whitlock the period of detention, as a matter of courtesy, might be shortened.  
After the "quarantine" has ended it is stated that no obstacles will be placed in the way of the departure of the officials and relief workers by any route they may choose.

## UPHOLDS THE MEXICO PLOT

German Foreign Secretary Declares Appeal to Neutrals Bars Right to Protest.

London, April 2.—Dr. Alfred Zimmermann, German foreign secretary, speaking in the reichstag on the American situation, said that "the United States cannot deny our right to seek allies when it, already before war has been declared, set the entire world against us."  
He added that the United States "has itself practically declared war on us."

Doctor Zimmermann, justifying the procedure of seeking to make Mexico and Japan her allies, according to Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent, contended that Mexico obviously was an ally and that the antagonism between America and Japan was stronger than between Germany and Japan, despite the fact that a state of war existed between them.

## NEW U. S. NOTE TO CARRANZA

Rumors Received at Washington Concerning Massing of Teutons at Torreon and Elsewhere.

Washington, March 30.—That the United States has made informal inquiry of General Carranza concerning German activities in Mexico was indicated by state department officials. It was admitted that the department had heard rumors concerning massing of Germans at Torreon and elsewhere.

## To Build Seven Ships.

Toledo, O., April 2.—The construction of seven ships of a total gross tonnage of 19,000 tons has been contracted for here, it was announced on Friday by the Toledo Shipbuilding company.

## Telephone Embargo Likely.

New York, March 31.—Temporary embargo on telephone service extension throughout the country in order to hold in reserve facilities that may be needed by the government may become necessary, it was announced here.

# PUTS BLAME ON U.S.

VON BETHMANN-HOLLWEG SAYS KAISER NEVER PLANNED TO ATTACK AMERICA.

## WILL FIGHT IF FORCED TO

German Chancellor Tells the Reichstag That the U-Boat Campaign is Necessary for Defense—Wants No Quarrel With America.

Berlin, March 31.—"Germany never had the slightest intention of attacking the United States of America, and does not have such intention now. It never desired war against the United States of America, and does not desire it today," was the declaration made by the German imperial chancellor, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, in a speech in the reichstag.

The chancellor made important declarations concerning Germany's policy toward the United States and Russia. "How did these things develop?" asked the chancellor in speaking of the relations with the United States. He then proceeded to answer the question by reviewing the cause which led up to the German use of submarines in unrestricted warfare.

Declaring that Germany had undertaken unrestricted submarine warfare for its defense, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg said:  
"If the American nation considers this a cause for which to declare war against the German nation, with which it has lived in peace for more than one hundred years; if this action warrants an increase of bloodshed, we shall not have to bear the burden of responsibility for it."

Dealing with Russia, the imperial chancellor said that the Russian emperor had not listened to the German emperor's advice no longer to oppose the justified wishes of his nation for reforms.

Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg emphatically denied that the German emperor or Germany was desirous of restoring "czardom."

Dr. Peter Spahn, leader of the Catholic center party, denied that the reichstag, as charged by the Prussian herrenhaus, had meddled with things reserved for the emperor and the bundesrath. He said:

"If America comes to war with Germany we have confidence in the ability of the leaders in the army and navy to settle with her."

## ASK FARMERS TO RUSH CROPS

Secretary Houston at Washington Makes Plea on Economic and Patriotic Basis.

Washington, March 29.—Secretary Houston issued a statement calling on the farmers of the United States to strive this year for the "highest standard of efficiency in producing and conservation of food."

He urged the securing of maximum returns from seed, the prevention of waste and the taking of measures against potato disease.

## WANTS YANKEES SENT HOME

Request From Washington Said to Have Been Forwarded to Berlin Government.

Rome, March 30.—Germany has been asked to send Americans home, according to a report here. It was reported Ambassador Page had been instructed from Washington to request transmission of this message to Berlin through the Spanish ambassador here.

## EX-JUDGE DIES IN U. S. PRISON

Ell H. Redman, Convicted of Indiana Vote Frauds, Expires at Leavenworth.

Leavenworth, Kan., April 2.—Ell H. Redman, one of the men convicted in connection with the alleged election conspiracy at Terre Haute, Ind., died here in the federal penitentiary, where he was serving a five-year sentence. He formerly was circuit judge.

## BATTLE IS LOST BY VILLA

Bandit at Head of 3,500 Cavalry Defeated in Attempt to Capture Chihuahua City.

Chihuahua City, April 2.—Francisco Villa, at the head of a cavalry force of 3,500 men, made a determined attempt on Friday to capture Chihuahua City, but was driven back with a loss of 500 prisoners and 350 in killed and wounded.

## Money for Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Washington, March 30.—Arrangements have been completed for the expenditure of \$3,000,000 to place Brooklyn navy yard on a war footing. It was officially announced here.

## Raise Chicago Wheat Rates.

Washington, April 2.—An increase of about 12 per cent in freight rates on wheat for export from Chicago to Norfolk and Newport News, suspended since October 16 last, was approved by the interstate commerce commission.

## New Mexican Ambassador.

Laredo, Tex., April 2.—Ignacio Bonillas, new Mexican ambassador to Washington, was welcomed to the United States by United States consular and army officials upon his arrival here.