

## The Year's Legislative Record

A summary issued by the Associated Press from New York, under date of June 25, says:

The state legislative year of 1915-16 in the United States, ending with the adjournment soon of the Louisiana legislature, has been remarkable for its comparatively negligible amount of progress, according to an annual canvass which has been made of legislative activity in the various states.

As compared with last year, when forty-one of the forty-eight states held legislative sessions and a great many progressive measures were adopted, the past twelve months have constituted an off-year, the law-makers of only fourteen states having held any sessions. All of these, with the exception of Oklahoma and Louisiana, are states east of the Mississippi river, and, in addition to the two named, they are Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Georgia, Maryland, Virginia, Illinois, Kentucky, South Carolina, Florida and Mississippi. In other states the legislatures meet biennially.

One is that a new phase of legislation has arisen during the year; namely, the question of state military preparation, as part of the general movement for preparedness. New York state, however, which has been the first to take legislative action in the matter, by strengthening her national

guard and providing for military training in public schools, appears to have been the only state that has actually enacted any new preparedness measures the past year.

New Jersey created a commission to investigate the subject of military training in high schools and to report to the 1917 legislature, but in the reports at hand of the sessions in the other twelve states, where the legislatures met this year, there appears no mention of action along these lines.

### New York Passes Defense Law

The New York legislators pledged to the President and congress the state's unqualified support in action necessary to maintain the honor of the nation in any crisis. The legislators appropriated \$500,000 to provide for the first mobilization of the entire national guard of the state in exercise camps this summer, and making that sum available for immediate use should other crises develop.

It provided for military, disciplinary and physical training of all public school pupils, the physical and disciplinary to all more than eight years of age, and the military to apply to all male youths, whether students or not, between the ages of sixteen and nineteen, the only exemption being in cases where the young men are employed continuously as a means of livelihood.

It also authorized the governor to prepare a reserve militia list to be



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—Tutuill, in St. Louis Star.

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composed of all males between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, from which may be drafted at any time sufficient numbers to fill up the complement of the militia or any of its detachments.

### Woman Suffrage Setbacks

Woman's suffrage, which, during the year of 1914-15 was referred by the legislatures of several states to the vote of the people, and which received a set-back at the elections in four Atlantic states—New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts—received comparatively little favorable action during the past legislative season. The New York law-makers, however, took the first step toward the resubmission of the referendum on the matter in 1917, but in order for the referendum to be held the resolution in favor of it must be adopted again next year.

In Kentucky, after a series of defeats in previous legislatures, a measure in favor of a referendum on woman's suffrage was passed by the senate, but failed in the house. In Louisiana, Virginia, Florida and Mississippi woman's suffrage measures were defeated, and in Rhode Island the suffrage bill remained in the files of the committee on special legislation. There were no other states which appear to have considered the subject.

In Rhode Island an act was passed to prohibit night work for women and children; in South Carolina the child labor law was amended to make the limit 14 years instead of 12 for children in mines and factories, while Maryland passed a mother's pension law providing state aid to needy widowed mothers who have dependent children under 14 years old.

There are already thirty states in which workmen's compensation laws are in effect, and one state, Virginia, indicates a possibility of falling in line, having passed a joint resolution for a commission to report on a workmen's compensation bill at the session of 1918. In Massachusetts the labor leaders succeeded in hav-

ing passed an amendment to the workmen's compensation act, reducing from fourteen to ten days the waiting period when injured employes shall receive compensation, and a resolution was passed for an investigation of the advisability of establishing a new rate for compensation insurance. New York state extended to additional classes the benefits of the workmen's compensation law of 1914. Illinois provided an additional appropriation for its civil service commission and for employment offices, while New Jersey reorganized its department of labor and created a workmen's compensation aid bureau.

### Many Liquor Restrictions Passed

The further restriction of liquor traffic is provided by new laws in Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, Mississippi, and, in some particulars, in a few other states. Georgia, at an extra session last fall, enacted three liquor laws, one to prohibit the sale of any beverage containing more than one half of 1 per cent of alcohol, another to prevent the shipment of more than two quarts of liquor or forty-eight pints of beer or one gallon of wine to any individual in the state within any thirty-day period, and a third law to prohibit liquor advertising, all of which took effect in May, this year.

Florida passed a package law which resulted in the ordinary saloons being closed, as it prohibits the sale of liquor except in unbroken packages containing not less than half a pint and the drinking of liquor on premises where sold. South Carolina, which had abolished its dispensary, passed a bill making it unlawful to ship more than two quarts of liquor or sixty pints of beer to any individual within any calendar month. The governor would not sign this bill, but did put his signature to the one providing prison sentences for selling liquor.

The Mississippi legislature also passed bills to limit liquor shipments, setting the limit at one quart of liquor or twenty-four pints of beer