

## COUNTY AUDITORS MEET TO DISCUSS TAXING QUESTIONS

All But Few Counties in State Were Represented at Meeting Yesterday.

**COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO FACILITATE WORK**  
New State Tax Schedule Prepared by Auditor Jorgenson Is Talked Over.

A meeting of the county auditors of the state, the state board of equalization and the tax commission was held in the office of Acting Governor Fraine yesterday, for the purpose of settling a number of questions relative to the manner in which property in the state shall be assessed.

Practically every county in the state was represented, either by the county auditor or by one of the county commissioners.

The object of the meeting was to get the ideas of the county officers on the new tax schedule as prepared by State Auditor Carl O. Jorgenson. The schedule is patterned after the Minnesota schedule, but has only 48 property classifications, where the Minnesota schedule has 61. The number of valuation columns, however, have been increased from 28 on last year's schedule to 95 on the present schedule. The schedule was highly commended by Prof. Boyle of the state university, an expert on taxation and assessment.

**Arriving at Values.**  
The question of arriving at a percentage of valuation, for assessing property, is also one which will be taken up at the meeting, but was not touched on yesterday. A list of instructions for assessors will also be prepared.

Yesterday's session was featured with a general discussion by those present on taxing matters in general. J. H. Riley, county commissioner of Burleigh county, amused those present, when he explained how the farmers in his township tried to dodge taxation. A number of them had pigs which were born after April 1. Mr. Riley insisted on assessing the pigs. Former Auditor Addison Leech of Cass county took issue on the question with Mr. Riley and informed him that under the law he had absolutely no right to assess stock born after April 1. Mr. Riley's general lack of knowledge on all matters pertaining to the work of an assessor was the source of much amusement to those in attendance at the meeting yesterday.

**Appointment Committee.**  
The entire afternoon was taken up with a general discussion and little of importance was accomplished, owing to the numerous views on the various subjects.

A committee was then appointed, consisting of Tax Commissioners Steele, Wallace and Packard, one (Continued on Page Two)

## AMERICAN COWBOYS REPORTED KILLED BY MEXICANS

El Paso, Texas, Jan. 26.—Confirmation was lacking tonight of a report from Western Chihuahua that the bodies of Benjamin Snell and Frank Woods, American cowboys, had been found west of Cusuhuirachio.

The cowboys were last heard of a week ago, when they were reported as traveling toward Guerrero to rescue Dr. David Kramer, who had hid in the mountains after being wounded by bandits. With the cowboys at the time were Roy and John Kramer, sons of Dr. Kramer.

**MOTHER AND DAUGHTER ARE MURDERED.**  
New York, Jan. 26.—Mrs. Rebecca Pullman, 59 years old, said to be the wife of a Chicago business man, and her daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Bell, 25 years old, were found dead in a furnished room here tonight. After an investigation, Coroner Healy said their skulls had been fractured. A blood-stained ax such as is used by lathers was found beneath a bed in the room.

Two hours after the bodies were found the police sent out a general alarm for the arrest of Nathan Pullman, husband of the older woman, on a charge of homicide.

**MUST ATTEND CHURCH AS SENTENCE**  
New Madrid, Mo., Jan. 26.—Thirteen night riders of southeast Missouri must attend Sunday school or church services every week and have their good behavior vouched for to the court by responsible persons, according to the conditions of parole imposed by Judge Sterling McCarty here today, in ordering their release from custody, after they had pleaded guilty to charges of assault with intent to kill. Thus ends the trials of 67 defendants.

## Shoots Her Neighbor as a Burglar

Woman Waits in Darkened Room and Kills Female Intruder.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 26.—With the house darkened and pistol in hand, Mrs. Jennie O. Thornburge tonight awaited the return of a burglar who she believed had made frequent visits to her home.

At 8 o'clock, as the alleged burglar pried open a bedroom window and jumped into the room, Mrs. Thornburge fired and the intruder fell, shot dead. Then Mrs. Thornburge turned on the lights and recognized the body of her next door neighbor, Mrs. J. F. McWilliams.

Police say that in the dead woman's hand was found a flat file about a foot long, a pocket of Mrs. McWilliams apron was filled with matches, and in other pockets were several unpaired coal bills.

Mrs. Thornburge is being held pending action of a coroner's jury.

## MRS. MOHR DENIES THE MURDER PLOT

Declares Her Husband Threatened to Kill Her Several Times.

Providence, R. I., Jan. 26.—Mrs. Elizabeth F. Mohr, on trial with two negroes on the charge of murdering her husband, Dr. C. Franklin Mohr, asserted on the witness stand today that she loved her husband and was also desirous of effecting a reconciliation with him. She denied unequivocally that she ever plotted to have him killed.

The accused widow told her story in a very low voice, and appeared to be cool and collected. Once or twice while telling of some particular incident in her domestic troubles, she seemed on the verge of breaking down, but each time she regained control of herself.

In answer to the question put to her by her counsel, the witness said that her husband had been cruel and abusive, but that she loved him notwithstanding his treatment. She identified a letter she said she had received from him while at the Newport home in the fall of 1913, in which the doctor said:

"I don't want anything around that reminds me of you, and if you ever put your foot in Providence again, I will about kill you."

Mrs. Mohr made the assertion that Dr. Mohr wanted her to "get out and shift for herself," and that he urged her to go west and get a divorce, but that she refused. Dr. Mohr threatened to kill her because she wouldn't give him her jewelry, according to her testimony.

Continuing, Mrs. Mohr said she received many beatings from her husband, because of her attempt to keep Miss Emily Burger away from him. She asserted that Dr. Mohr was addicted to the use of liquor and drugs, and while under their influence was dangerous. She did not deny writing letters to Healy, Dr. Mohr's negro chauffeur, while she was visiting the doctor's relatives in McEwensville, Pa., explaining that she wanted to know what the doctor was doing—that he was her husband and she was interested in what he did. She asserted that her correspondence with Healy was not carried on in pursuance of an intended plot to kill the doctor.

## SENATE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS NATIONAL PROHIBITION LAW

Washington, Jan. 26.—The first step in the progress of the national prohibition movement in this congress was taken today, when the senate judiciary sub-committee decided to recommend to the full committee Senator Sheppard's proposed federal constitutional amendment. It would submit to the states for approval an amendment prohibiting the sale, manufacture, transportation, importation, and exportation of all intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes.

**SIX LOST IN FIRE.**  
Seattle, Wash., Jan. 26.—Six persons lost their lives here today in a fire which destroyed the interior of the five-story Talbot-Walker building at Jackson street and First avenue south.

A large quantity of hemp salvaged from an incendiary fire last fall on a steamship pier, stacked with war munition, was being dried in the building. Officials said there was no trace of incendiary, and that the building was considered a heavy risk because of hemp drying.

Three of the six dead lost their lives leaping from fourth-story windows. Three others were suffocated. All were men.

## TENTATIVE PLAN SUGGESTED FOR PREPAREDNESS

General Crozier Declares Munitions Manufacturers Shouldn't Be Federal Monopoly.

**PROVIDES FOR CONTINENTAL ARMY**  
Ammunition Plants Should Be Located in Inland Points.

Washington, Jan. 26.—Estimates were given the senate military committee today by Brigadier General Crozier, chief of ordnance, showing that a plant costing \$400,000,000, operated by a force of 750,000 workmen, would be required to manufacture ammunition and war materials necessary to keep an army of a million men in the field and equip an additional million recruits.

**Against Government Monopoly.**  
General Crozier strongly disapproved any proposal for government monopoly of the manufacture of war supplies, insisting that best results could be accomplished by relying upon private establishments to supplement the output of government plants in time of war.

**Tentative Measure.**  
The committee received today from Secretary Garrison a draft of a tentative measure, suggested by Chairman Chamberlain, which would provide for the authorization of the proposed continental army in general terms only, leaving the details of the proposed system to be worked out by war department regulations.

The original draft of a bill submitted by the war department contained an outline of the entire system.

**Inland Plants.**  
Senator Chamberlain has prepared a tentative bill dealing only with increases in the regular army and it is assumed the plan submitted today by the secretary is intended to be inserted into the Chamberlain bill. It provides that men of the continental army shall receive not more than three months' training in any year while serving with the colors, or more than six months' training in all during their three years of active duty.

Pointing out that virtually all the public and large private munition plants of the United States are located close to the Atlantic seaport and within striking distance by an enemy in case of invasion, the general urged that some provision be made by congress to foster development of private plants in the interior.

**TO MAKE DASH FOR NORTH POLE**  
Quebec, Jan. 26.—Joseph Bernier, the Canadian Arctic explorer, announced today that he will start next July on another two years' exploration trip in the frozen region. He has made more than one attempt to reach the North Pole, on one occasion reaching 48 degrees north.

## MONTENEGRINS AGREE TO LAY DOWN ARMS

Government Delegates Sign Articles Providing for Disarming Army.

**GERMAN AIR RAID CAUSES GREAT DAMAGE**  
Organized Labor in England Turns on Socialist Members at Big Meeting.

Berlin, Jan. 26.—The delegates to the Montenegro government at 6 o'clock last night signed articles providing for the laying down of the arms of the Montenegro forces, according to an announcement made today by Austro-Hungarian headquarters. The communication says "the disarming is going on without difficulty and has extended to the districts of Kolasin and Andrijevica."

Austro-Hungarian troops, the statement adds, occupy portions near Olasava and took prisoners 1,197 soldiers, including 45 officers.

**Air Raid Damaging.**  
The Hamburger Fremdenblatt reports that one of the bombs dropped by the German aero squadron when it raided Dover on Monday, fell on a deposit of mines, which exploded and caused enormous devastation in the neighborhood. Thirty-nine persons, including one officer and 24 soldiers, it says, were killed.

According to the newspaper, the explosion did not take place until 15 minutes after the bomb had landed, so that the soldiers at first believed the missile was harmless.

Railroad cars filled with provisions and several cottages are reported to have been destroyed.

One consort anchored in the harbor was damaged by the explosion and sank immediately.

Twenty severely wounded persons were transported to London hospital. The British aeroplanes, the newspaper said, were not ready for defense in time.

**German Aviator Killed.**  
The Overseas News agency says "The German aviation corps mentions the loss of Lieutenant Boehme, who fell to the ground at Exmissheim, in Alsace, and was instantly killed."

Lieutenant Boehme was a member (Continued on Page Two)

## Wilson Off To Defend His Policies

Speaks in New York This Evening on Preparedness.

Washington, Jan. 26.—President Wilson left tonight for New York, where tomorrow night he will deliver the first of his addresses laying before the country his issue of preparedness for national defense. Before starting he held final conferences with administration leaders in congress and cabinet members regarding speeding up the legislative program at the capital.

The president will arrive in New York at 6 o'clock tomorrow morning. Mrs. Wilson, Secretary Tumulty and Dr. Grayson will accompany him.

## JAPAN RENEWS FORMER DEMANDS

Insists That China Settle Differences at Once; Means Japanese Dominance.

Washington, Jan. 26.—Awaiting confirmation from official sources as a necessary preliminary to any action by the United States, state department officials were deeply interested in the report today from London that the Japanese government has revived all of the demands upon China, included in the famous "Group 5" of the list of proposals submitted to the Peking government more than a year ago for a permanent settlement of outstanding issues between Japan and China.

There is a conviction in official circles here that any action at this time likely to have results toward warding off the new Japanese demands must be taken by the United States practically alone. With every evidence of sympathetic interest by the European entente allies in the attitude of opposition, assumed when the proposals on the "Group 5" originally were submitted, it is believed that none of these powers will be inclined to take issue with Japan, at a moment when they are leaning heavily upon their Oriental ally, not only for munitions of war, but for military and naval protection in the Orient.

The very close study that has been made in Washington of the proposals embodied in "Group 5" has only confirmed officials in their original belief that if accepted in full by China without protest from other nations, they would lead not only to material and industrial but even political domination of China by Japan.

While not prepared to make an issue on that point, however, the state department is convinced that the other provisions of "Group 5" finally would close to American commerce and enterprise the open door in China.

**THE WEATHER.**  
For North Dakota: General fair and continued cold Thursday and Friday.

## WILSON TELLS KITCHIN WHY HIS VIEWS CHANGED ON TARIFF COMMISSION

Believed Early Passage of Such a Measure Is a Possibility.

**SHIP PURCHASE BILL URGED BY ADMINISTRATION**  
PRES. WILSON URGES IMMEDIATE ACTION

Confers With Congressmen Relative to Dispatch of Public Business.

Washington, Jan. 26.—Prospects for the passage of a government ship purchase bill are believed to be bright by administration leaders. They saw in conferences President Wilson had today with Democrats who opposed such a measure last year indications that united support for the revised proposal eventually would be won.

The president continued today to urge leading members of congress to hasten action on important legislation. The president made it clear that matters he hoped to see pushed ahead of anything else were the following:

**Measures on Program.**  
National defense measures, including army reorganization and increased naval construction.

Construction of a merchant marine designed to serve as a naval auxiliary in time of war.

Revenue legislation, including revision of the impact law and the creation of a non-partisan tariff board.

The Philippine government bill, which includes a provision granting independence in two or four years, provided satisfactory steps are taken in the meantime to establish a stable independent government.

Conservation bills for development of water power and mineral bearing lands.

## AUSTRIA PROTESTS AGAINST CLEARANCE OF ARMED BOATS

Washington, Jan. 26.—Arrival at New York today of the Italian steamer America, armed like the liner Verona, already at the same port, with two guns mounted aft, may hasten the decision of the United States government on the question of whether there shall be a change in policy regarding the clearance from American ports of merchant vessels armed for defensive purpose.

Before news of the America's appearance reached here in press dispatches, the Austrian charge had called at the state department to ask what the United States intended to do in the case of the Verona. A similar inquiry was made by the charge recently before the Italian steamship Gulespe Verdi sailed from New York carrying guns mounted.

The Verdi was cleared after the Italian government had given assurances that her arms would be used for defense only.

There have been intimation that Austria is preparing to inform the United States that enemy merchantmen mounting guns for any purpose would be considered armed and would be subject to an attack without warning.

**FARMERS ARE TO MAKE A TOUR**  
Grand Forks, N. D., Jan. 26.—J. D. Bacon, proprietor of the famous Li-lac Hedge farm, Grand Forks, is a member of the party of North Dakota farmers making a trip this week on a Great Northern special through southern Minnesota and Wisconsin to study farming conditions in those states.

The Great Northern special will take a large number of farmers from Benson county on the trip, which will start on Thursday. The tour will probably last a week. F. R. Grant, agricultural extension agent of the Great Northern, is in charge of the expedition.

Some of the leading stock farms of Wisconsin and Minnesota will be visited and the North Dakotans expect to gain valuable ideas by "seeing how the other men do it."

## DECLARES HE IS NOT CONVERT TO HIGH PROTECTION

Conditions Have Altered Circumstances Owing to World War He Writes.

**ADVOCATES WHOLLY NON-PARTISAN BOARD**  
New Body Would Not Be Concerned With Theories He Declares.

Washington, Jan. 26.—President Wilson today sent a letter to Chairman Kitchin of the house ways and means committee, explaining why he had withdrawn his opposition to the tariff commission and was now urging creation of such a body. He wrote frankly that he had changed his mind because "all the circumstances of the world had changed."

Declaring that he had "no thought whatever of a change in attitude toward the so-called protection question," the president said the proposed commission would have nothing to do with the theories of policy, but would be charged only with the duty of seeking facts to guide congress in legislation.

**Non-Partisan Body.**  
In another letter to Mr. Kitchin Monday, he had set forth fully his ideas of what a tariff commission should be, and urged that the ways and means committee consider the matter immediately. He favored a wholly non-partisan expert organization.

"I have changed my mind," said today's letter, "because all the circumstances of the world have changed and it seems to me, in view of the extraordinary and far-reaching changes which the European war has brought about, it is absolutely necessary that we should have a competent instrument of inquiry along the whole line of the many questions which affect our foreign commerce."

**Why He Changed.**  
"I have had in this change of mind no thought whatever of a change of attitude toward the so-called protection question. A commission, such as I have suggested, would have nothing to do with theories or policy. They would deal only with facts and the facts which they would seek ought to be the actual facts of industry and of conditions of economic exchange prevailing in the world, so that legislation of every kind that touched these matters might be guided by the circumstances disclosed in its inquiries."

## 30 Injured When Power Car Explodes

Bluefield, W. Va., Jan. 26.—More than 30 persons were injured, five seriously, here tonight, when a car loaded with black powder blew up in the local yard of the Norfolk & Western railroad. Fire followed and before the flames could be controlled several cars had been destroyed.

Three cars containing dynamite were on a nearby siding at the time, but firemen succeeded in removing them to a place of safety. The cause of the explosion has not been determined.

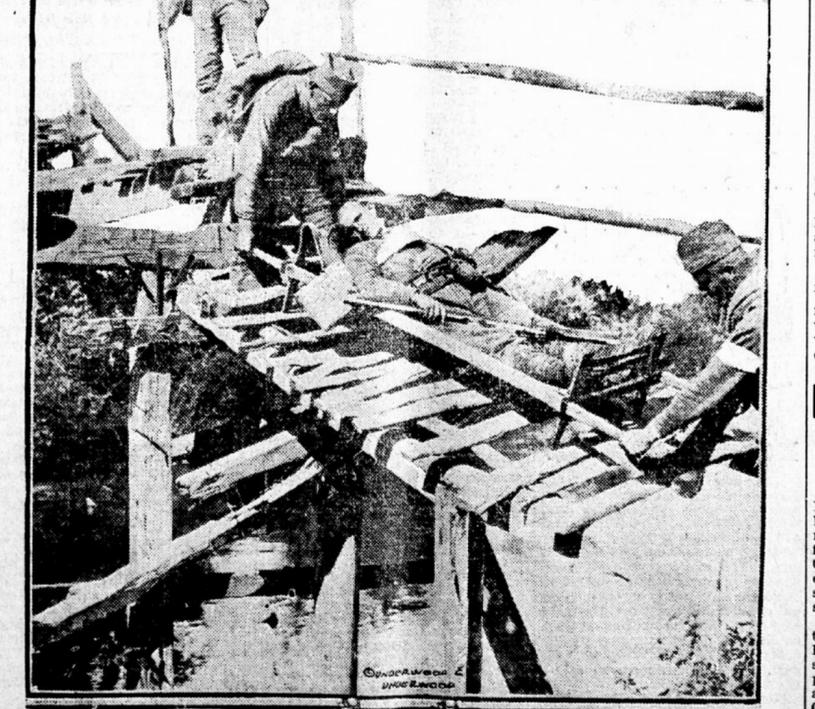
## FLOODS RAGING IN OKLAHOMA

McAlester, Okla., Jan. 26.—This city was in darkness tonight and scores of residences and business houses flooded by torrential rain late today; and in the confusion of removing more than 100 families from their water-besieged homes, it was feared at least three persons had been drowned.

Flood conditions were general throughout eastern Oklahoma, according to reports.

**INDIANS COVET CITIZENSHIP.**  
Standing Rock, S. Dak., Jan. 26.—A genuine powwow will be held here on the evening of May 5. Superintendent C. C. Covey has just received orders which will give all Indians of the Standing Rock reservation an opportunity to try to qualify for full citizenship on that date. Practically every Indian on the reservation will apply for papers.

## WOUNDED, HUNGRY, HOPELESS SERBS FLEE IN TERROR BEFORE FOE



Retreating Serbs crossing temporary bridge carrying wounded. This picture is typical of the sights that were common in Serbia during the German, Austrian and Bulgarian occupation of that unhappy country. With many of their number wounded and all hungry and homeless, outnumbered three or four times by the invaders, there was nothing to do but flee to the mountains, where cold and starvation waited.