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GOVERNOR BOOSTS STATE AT MEETING

TELLS EXECUTIVES OF OTHER COMMONWEALTHS OF LOUISIANA'S POSSIBILITIES.

GIVES FACTS AND FIGURES

Paints Word Picture of What is to Be Done in Future—Only Speaker in Touch With New Land Scheme.

Speaking on "Louisiana's Agricultural Capabilities and Policies" before the convention of the House of Governors at Annapolis, Md., Governor Pleasant told of the wonderful strides in development work in his State and painted a word picture of what is to be done in future. He was the only speaker to touch on the subject of lands for returning soldiers and sailors, and said his State could furnish the finest lands in the world in bodies of 1,000 to 8,000 acres or more.

"Thirteen million of Louisiana's acres," the governor said, "are covered with the finest alluvial deposits in the world. The rest of the State, principally Northern and Western Louisiana, is upland, and most of it is equal to the very best lands of that character to be found anywhere in the United States.

"The alluvial portion of Louisiana is the wonder of all men who have seen it and studied it. The best experts declare that there is no piece of territory of similar or larger size anywhere on earth that can equal it. An Eastern chemist, after analyzing this alluvial soil, said it would be worth \$5 a ton as fertilizer on the hills of New England.

"We are trying to get large colonies to move into the State, and have each colony settle on a large tract of 50,000 or 100,000 or more acres of land and develop it as one gigantic enterprise. I mean that each settler should own his individual farm, but that the whole area should be drained, roads built and school buildings erected in accordance with a comprehensive agreed on plan. Communities like this would be ideal; and vigorous effort would make the residents independent in a short while.

"If we could wave a magic wand and transfer the farmers of Iowa, Indiana and Illinois into Louisiana at once, the agricultural interests of our State would be far richer in a few years' time than are the combined agricultural values of all of the States to which I have referred.

"I do not mean by this to make the impression that our own farmers are wide awake and progressive. Thousands of them are at the very top of the industry, and thousands more are struggling heroically and intelligently to come into the light of scientific agriculture.

State High School Inspector Trudeau is making a tour of inspection of the high schools of Rapides. Superintendent Henson says that Trudeau has found the attendance in the rural schools abnormally low, which is attributed to the fear of influenza.

Completion of five miles of the old Spanish trail between Mermentau and Jennings is being urged. It is well nigh impassable most of the time, and a number of automobiles have been wrecked trying to negotiate it. Funds are said to be available for the work.

Falling into a vat of scalding water at the works of the Hammond Box and Veneer Company, Melvin Johnson received severe scalds from his hips down. While saving himself from going head first into the vat, the unfortunate youth dislocated his shoulder.

A conference of business men of the city has been called for January 22 and 23 at Washington by Senator Ransdell to formulate a program to restore the United States to the place in world commerce that it held eighty years ago.

The secretary of war has promised Governor Pleasant that the Thirty-fourth Division would be disembarked on its return to the United States at New Orleans, if he can establish that it will be at all practicable.

The duties of the parish demonstration agent having increased beyond the capacity of one man, the government has decided to appoint an assistant to H. F. Cassell, the present parish agent of Tangipahoa.

Twenty thousand doses of influenza vaccine are to be distributed immediately by the State Board of Health to all physicians applying while the serum lasts, said Dr. Oscar Dowling.

The influenza situation at Welsh is very much improved with only a few scattered cases in the rural districts.

Monroe Masons formally opened their temple with a dance and reception which was largely attended.

Louisiana at the beginning of the new year put in force an entirely new system of assessment and taxation as a result of the ratification of amendments to the State Constitution by the people at the November election. The keystone of the new fiscal system is the requirement that all assessments must be based on a cash valuation of 100 per cent with a state tax rate of not exceeding three mills.

Unless there is earnest and effective co-operation of state and community organizations with federal authorities, there is grave danger of there being a large idle population after the first of the year. This is due to evident decreases in demand for labor and corresponding increases weekly in the labor supply.

An illustration of the abundant sweet potato crop this season is given by the shipment by Dr. J. G. Pritchard during the past two weeks of thirteen carloads from the northern end of Tangipahoa parish. The potatoes at prevailing prices are worth about \$500 per car.

Duncan Buie, head of the State Highway Department, who has returned from Washington, announced he had obtained \$270,000 from the government to aid in the construction of several important Louisiana highways that have been declared post roads.

L. L. Bankston, parish treasurer, of Washington, exhibited the largest sweet potato ever shown in this section. The potato was grown on Mr. Bankston's farm three miles from here, is of the Porto Rico variety and weighs thirteen pounds.

The annual automobile shows held at Shreveport up to four years ago will be resumed with the opening of the 1919 show during the first month of 1919, according to an announcement by the Shreveport Automobile Dealers' Association.

Political visitors to New Orleans brought with them a gubernatorial boom for Thomas H. Harris, state superintendent of education. Whether or not the Harris boosters are working with his knowledge or consent is not known.

At a special session of the grand jury of Allen parish held at Oberlin, true bills were returned against Edward Johnson and Ray Young, charging them with the robbery of the Oakdale Bank of a large sum January 28 of this year.

The eradication of the cattle tick in Tangipahoa parish has given an impetus to the dairy business and farmers are adding materially to their herds with better grades of cattle since the danger of tick infection has passed.

"The enforcement of the maximum margins of profit rule is about all that is left of food control," said J. M. Wilzin, assistant food administrator, who returned to New Orleans from a trip to Washington.

Cane farmers have practically finished cutting and hauling cane near Abbeville. Much has been put up for seed and the acreage planted to cane next year will be larger than usual. To aid the cattle industry in North Louisiana and to encourage the raising of better dairy cattle in this section, a Monroe bank has bought here a special film of fine Jersey cattle.

Complaints are pouring in on the Railroad Commission from different sections of the state about the poor service that is being furnished by some of the railroads.

The Pointe-a-la-Hache exemption board reports nineteen registrants who failed to return their questionnaires, and will be classed as deserters. The records are being prepared for shipment to Washington.

Up to December 11 of this year Tangipahoa parish ginned 4,272 bales of cotton, which is a considerable increase on the amount ginned last year up to the same date.

The will of the late Mrs. Mary Goss, which has just been probated at Monroe, leaves more than \$35,000 to charity and fixes the price of her own coffin at \$30.

The project to construct a Y. M. C. A. building at Shreveport is heartily sanctioned by the Lions' Club. The support of the body is promised the proposition.

New Orleans will entertain the first international cotton convention in history, if plans being worked out by the Association of Commerce are successful.

The Council of National Defense calls upon every man and woman in the state to promote all possible forms of wholesome amusement for the "many hundreds of thousands" of men who will be released from the various camps in America on pass or furlough.

More than 400 guests attended the first annual Christmas party of the Chamber of Commerce at Shreveport tendered members' friends.

SOLDIERS GETTING TO HOMES FASTER

ARMY OFFICERS RUSHING DEMOBILIZATION, AND MEN TO GET WORK.

HAVE DISCHARGED MANY

Overseas Units Have Been Assigned for Convoy Home—Battleships and Cruisers Will Aid in Transport Service.

Washington.—A steady stream of troops from overseas and army camps is moving homeward.

With more than 1,000,000 men designated for demobilization since the signing of the armistice, all efforts, General March, chief of staff, said, are being directed toward getting them out of service and back to the work in which they formerly were engaged.

General March gave figures as 937,000 men home units to be discharged and 168,000 men and 6,800 officers assigned by General Pershing for early convoy home from France.

This includes men already discharged and those who have landed from France. To date, official returns show 533,844 men and 35,400 officers actually discharged. Complete reports for the week just ended are expected to raise the total at least 100,000.

Meanwhile, additional units have been assigned for early convoy home, and to expedite the movement 14 battleships and 10 cruisers have been added to the fleet of transports which will bring back that part of the expeditionary forces not needed for duty with the army of occupation. Reports from France showed that three more transports, with upward of 5,000 men, had sailed, and others will depart for home ports as rapidly as possible.

General March said the work of discharging men from camps is proceeding at the rate of about 100,000 a week.

Many Soldiers Have Returned.

Washington.—Sixty-eight thousand American soldiers had been returned from overseas December 21, and slightly more than 500,000 in this country had been mustered out of service members of the House Military Committee were told at their weekly conference at the War Department.

Big Robbery of Postoffice.

Denver, Colo.—Postoffice inspectors have completed their check of the loss of War Savings stamps stolen from the Greeley postoffice and estimate the robbers obtained approximately \$60,000, a portion of which was in cash. No clue has been obtained. Inspectors say this is the third largest postoffice robbery ever committed in the United States.

Thornburgh Heads Blind School.

Little Rock.—George Thornburgh, widely known throughout Arkansas, was elected superintendent of the Arkansas School for the Blind by the Board of Control to succeed John H. Himeon, who resigned to accept the superintendency of the North Little Rock public schools. Mr. Thornburgh was not an applicant for the position.

Say Czar is Alive.

Warsaw.—"There is no doubt that the czar and his entire family are alive. I am positive of this," was the declaration made to the correspondent by Michael de Teliha-choff, a nephew of General Skoropadski, and who has just escaped from the Ukraine.

U. D. C. Furnish Ward.

Charleston, S. C.—The United Daughters of the Confederacy have completed the endowment of their seventh ward of 10 beds at the American military hospital at Neully, France, according to Miss Mary B. Poppenheim of this city, president general.

Royalty Seeks Refuge.

Vienna.—Most of the members of the former Austrian royal house, who have remained in Austria, are reported to have sought safety in neutral legations in Vienna because of fear of rough treatment at the hands of the populace.

Three Killed in Explosion.

Watertown, N. Y.—At least three persons are dead and 50 wounded, many seriously, as the result of an explosion which destroyed the shell-loading building at the plant of the J. B. Wise munitions plant here.

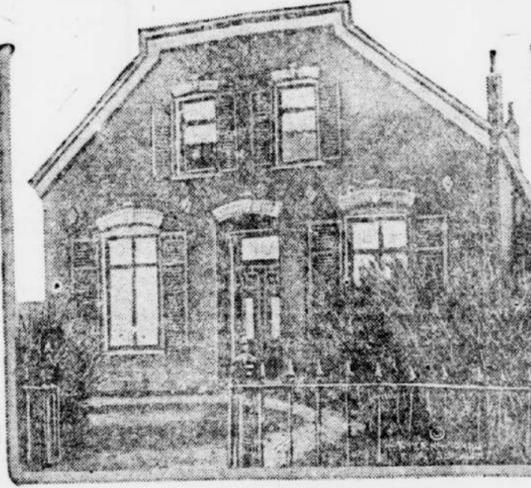
Many French Prisoners Return.

Paris.—Two hundred and seventy thousand French prisoners have returned from Germany. There still remain in Germany 200,000 Frenchmen, a large number of whom are already homeward bound.

Belgians Enter Germany.

The first cavalry brigade of troops have entered Germany, reached Dalsdorf. This unit is made by the Belgian army.

HOME OF EX-CROWN PRINCE IN HOLLAND



This is the unattractive house on a little island in Holland where the former crown prince of Germany now is residing.

NATIONAL GUARD UNDER DISCUSSION

STATE ORGANIZATION MAY HAVE TO BE REBUILT FROM NEW BEGINNING.

Washington.—If Congress determines to continue the national guard as the army reserve of the nation, Secretary Baker said, the guard service will have to be reconstituted from the ground up. Federalization of the guard for war service, the War Department has held, on the opinion of Brig. Gen. Samuel T. Ansell, acting judge advocate general, will wipe out of existence the federalized regiments. When the men are discharged they will return to civilian life without any obligation either to the federal or state governments to continue in national guard service.

Mr. Baker expressed a belief that the problem of the national guard is bound up closely with the question of what Congress may do later in framing legislation to establish a permanent military policy. Existing law provides for the regulars and the national guard. Should some system of universal military training be worked out, however, some officers said, it is possible that the national guard would cease to exist.

Peace Conference to Open Soon.

Paris.—More than three weeks probably will elapse before the general peace conference assembles. It is unlikely that any official statement will be issued in the meantime concerning the number of governments to be represented or the tests to be applied to determine the right of applicants to participate.

Red Cross Campaign Extended.

St. Louis, Mo.—The Red Cross membership campaign, which was scheduled to end December 23, has been continued until December 31, it was announced, due to the fact that only about 2,000,000 members have been enrolled in the Southwestern Division, which includes Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Texas.

National Banks Set Record.

Washington.—Resources of the national banks of the country on November 1, the date of the last call, aggregated \$19,821,404,000, Comptroller of the Currency Williams announced. This not only was new high record, but was an increase of \$1,777,799,000 over the total shown by the call last August 31.

Two French Missions Arrive.

New York.—Two delegations of Frenchmen arrived here aboard the transport France from Paris. One, consisting of 14 members and headed by Commandant Latour de Jean, was bound to Washington. The other consists of 13 members, headed by Georges Deraches, and is enroute to Siberia.

Will Try to Fly Across Atlantic.

Kankakee, Ill.—Lieut. Patrick O'Brien, American aviator in British service, whose escape from German captors formed a romantic chapter of the war, announced that he will attempt to be the first to make a trans-Atlantic flight in an airplane.

Wilson Opposes Sinking Ships.

Washington.—It may be stated authoritatively that President Wilson will oppose in the most direct fashion proposals from any source to sink warships surrendered by Germany under the terms of the armistice.

Released Prisoners Cause Trouble.

Warsaw.—The flocks of released Russian prisoners making their way homeward through Poland, all appear to be tainted with Bolshevism and are recognized as a danger in this respect by the Polish authorities. Already they are causing trouble by their lawlessness in their search for food.

German Returning Loot.

Paris.—The Germans have returned stocks taken from the banks in Northern France, amounting, approximately, to 6,000,000 francs.

PRESIDENT SPENDS DAY WITH TROOPS

CHAUMONT, GRAND HEADQUARTERS AMERICAN ARMY, IS THE SCENE OF RECEPTION.

Chaumont.—President Wilson received a most cordial welcome from the people of Chaumont, a town which has been closely associated with the history of the American expeditionary forces in France and is now the headquarters of the commander in chief. It is the town from which America's part in finishing the war was directed.

Immediately after the reception at the Hotel de Ville President Wilson, with General Pershing and party, motored to Humes, where the President reviewed a detachment of the First Army of the American Expeditionary forces. Addressing the troops, General Pershing said:

"Mr. President and Fellow Soldiers, We are gathered here today to do honor to the commander of our armies and navies. For the first time an American president will review an American army on foreign soil—the soil of a sister republic, beside whose gallant troops we have fought to restore peace to the world.

"Speaking for you and your comrades, I am proud to declare to the president that no army has ever more loyally or more effectively served its country, and none has ever fought in a nobler cause.

"You, Mr. President, by your confidence and by your support, have made the success of our army, and to you, as our commander in chief, may I now present the nation's victorious army."

After his address to the troops and reviewing them at Montigny-le-Roi, where he and Mrs. Wilson took their Christmas dinner.

In the afternoon the president visited the troops in their billets. He returned to Chaumont in time to leave at 6 o'clock for London.

Americans Patrolling Rhine.

With the American Army of Occupation—American patrol boats, each armed with a machine gun used by the marines at Soissons or in other drives, are plying the Rhine. The Rhine American fleet consists of 12 boats, 10 patrol craft, one supply boat, and the "Prussian," which is being used by General Dickman.

American Graves Decorated.

Paris.—More than 3,000 graves of American soldiers were decorated on Christmas day by the American Committee for Devastated France. In the region between Laon and Chateau Thierry, where the graves were decorated, the committee also provided a Christmas festival for 6,000 children.

Says Troops All Home Soon.

Washington.—It is expected that all soldiers now in camps in this country will be freed from military service and be back home by February 1. The War Department has no intention of retaining any troops indefinitely and is demobilizing them as quickly as the demobilization machinery will permit.

Little Illness in Army.

Coblentz.—The percentage of sickness among the occupation American troops is unusually low, according to the estimates of the Third army medical officers. The number of cases in the eight evacuation hospitals within the occupied area is about 4,000, most of them being influenza.

Airplanes to Survey Pole.

New York.—An expedition to be led by Capt. Robert A. Bartlett, noted explorer, will be sent to the Polar regions next June to survey the North pole by airplane, according to announcement here by the American.

Cargo Ships Soon Afloat.

Washington.—Cargo ships and goods in this country are being sent to South America to be supplied in the near future.

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