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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1914.

WILSON'S MISTAKES POINTED OUT

Governor Colquitt of Texas declares the Wilson administration is the most unwise for the United States. Governor Colquitt says the government's Mexican policy has failed in every particular and has succeeded only in arousing in Mexico a bitter hatred for the United States.

The Texas executive says the Wilson administration blundered lamentably in handling the cotton crisis in the south. He says it permitted the English buyers to purchase all the cotton they desired at war figures, following which the British government decided to class cotton as not contraband.

THE STATE'S SCHOOLS

Citizens of New Mexico will be pleased with the report of H. W. Focht of the United States department of education, who recently visited this state for the purpose of investigating conditions in the city and country schools. Mr. Focht, in letters to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Alvan N. White and Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts, president of the New Mexico Normal University, states that he found the schools in the cities and larger towns and villages to be on a par with those in communities of like size in other states.

Mr. Focht says the rural schools of the state present a real problem. The bilingual situation and the isolation of many of the rural school districts are responsible, according to Mr. Focht, for an unsatisfactory condition which he found in the country schools. Educators of the state are not discouraged. They have realized conditions in the rural schools were badly in need of improvement and have been working steadily for a number of years to improve them.

urged repeatedly to increase their output of graduates who are capable of speaking both the English and Spanish languages. They have gone about the work with enthusiasm, and the result has been that there are more competent teachers employed in rural districts now than at any time in the history of the state educational system.

Better school buildings and better equipment are being supplied as rapidly as possible, and the educators, in their annual meetings, are discussing and aiding in the solution of the problem of the betterment of the rural schools. School men realize the needs of the state and are endeavoring to supply them, and they are sure to be successful to such an extent that should Mr. Focht return a few years hence, he would notice remarkable improvement.

Las Vegasans will appreciate the words of approval spoken by Mr. Focht concerning the Normal University. He says the institution is deserving of more room in which to grow and carry on its growing work. It should be the duty of every alumnus of the school and of every citizen of Las Vegas to aid the school in securing the badly-needed new building. If the matter is brought properly before the legislature there is little doubt that the required appropriation will be forthcoming.

"WE WANT ALSACE" IS FRENCH TROOPS' CRY

GENERAL JOFFRE HAS A HARD TIME HOLDING SOLDIERS IN LEASH

Geneva, Dec. 30.—"We want Alsace" is the war cry of the French troops along the right of the long battle line. They are eager to advance and during the last few days between Verdun and Belfort there have been serious encounters.

Sometimes the battles are fought in snow storms. At Seppois in Alsace the soldiers simply fired in the direction of the noise, not being able to see a hundred yards on account of the storm.

The regiments on both sides which have been supplied with skis for the winter, are making good use of them. The French Chasseurs Alpins use them with great facility, having climbed in peace times, the Swiss and French Alps, mounting several times to the summit of Mount Blanc in whole and in part.

The French have been bombarding Seppois, Bressel and Laysen (in Alsace) for the last two days with their famous 75 guns. A large number of German landwehr soldiers and civilians are at work at Waldhogen constructing the double railway line from Leopoldshöhe and St. Louis. The French artillery with its base at Belfort has now moved up to within five miles of Altkirch. French infantry and artillery now command the heights above Guebwiller which will soon become untenable by the German garrison.

The Swiss paper Journal Du Jura reports from Belfort that a "large number" of heavy creuset guns have recently arrived from Verdun making the fortress more secure from attacks. The French army descending from the Schlucht on Stossweyer and Munster captured Gebweheln near Gernay, where 8,000 Germans are holding the place. This manoeuvre and success open a direct communication with Belfort instead passing by the Balcon d'Alsace. In these engagements several thousand soldiers on both sides have been killed and wounded. The fighting, though on a small scale, has been terrible. All these troops are being held in leash from Verdun to Belfort, awaiting orders from General Joffre.

MAY REMOVE THE MAYOR OF TOLEDO

KARL KELLER IS REPORTED TO HAVE ALLOWED GAMBLING TO FLOURISH

Columbus, O., Dec. 30.—Removal of Karl Keller as mayor of Toledo was asked today by Solicitor Thurston George Kapp of Toledo, who filed charges today with Governor Cox up on which the request for the mayor's removal is based. That the mayor has permitted gambling to flourish was one of the charges made. Governor Cox took the matter under advisement.

WANTED—Clean cotton rags at Optic office.

FIREMEN SECURE BEAUTIFUL PRIZES FOR NEW YEAR'S MASQUERADE BALL

MERCHANTS "COME ACROSS" LIBERALLY WHEN INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESS OF VOLUNTEERS' BIG HOLIDAY BAILE—LARGE CROWD OF PERSONS IN COSTUME EXPECTED—DUNCAN OPERA HOUSE WILL BE FILLED TO THE ROOF WITH SPECTATORS.

The East Las Vegas Fire department has secured an excellent list of prizes to be given the masquers at the New Year's Eve dance who win the approval of the judges. Doubtless there will be a large number of masquers on the floor, as there will be considerable rivalry among those who wish to win the awards.

The list of prizes is as follows:

King

One hundred calling cards by The Optic Publishing company.

Queen

Bouquet by Perry Onion, the florist.

Most Handsome Costume

First prize for ladies, manure set, Peter J. Emsmaker; second, electric toaster, Las Vegas Light and Power company.

First prize for gentlemen, handsome silk umbrella, Robert J. Taupert; second, pair of kid gloves, Palace Clothing company.

Most Appropriate Costume

First prize for ladies, hand painted chocolate pot, Rosenthal Furniture company; second, five-pound box of candy, Potter Candy company.

First prize for gentlemen, electric lamp, Charles O'Malley, the electrician; second, pair of dress shoes, Hedgecock's Shoe store.

Most Original Costume

First prize for ladies, Navajo rug, Will G. Doll, the curio man; second, jewel box, Bacharach Brothers.

First prize for gentlemen, box of cigars, Charles Greenclay; second, box of neckties, Joseph Hillbrand, the tailor.

Best Acted Character

First prize for ladies, silver mesh bag, E. G. Murphy; second, rug, J. C. Johnson and Son.

First prize for gentlemen, briar pipe, Clement Curio store; second, box of cigars, D. G. Tucker of the Antlers.

Most Ludicrous Costume

First prize for ladies, picture, Center Block Drug company; second, satin finished umbrella stand, Page Furniture and Undertaking company.

First prize for gentlemen, ham, Las Vegas Mercantile company; second, box of cigars by Laubach and Benjamin of the Lobby.

Best Juvenile Costume

First prize for ladies, plume, Mrs. Frank Straas; second, one pound box of candy, O. L. Gregory.

First prize for gentlemen, one dozen cabinet photographs, John L. Tooker; second, one dozen tickets to Photoplay theater, Rosenwald and Brown.

Best Waltzer

First prize for ladies, hat, Mrs. Annie Standish; second, lady picture, Bally's Curio store.

First prize for gentlemen, umbrella, M. Greenberger; second, gentleman's handkerchief set, Cellers Dry Goods company.

Cake Walk

First prize, cake, Graaf and Hayward bakery department; second, dress shirt, Talchert, the haberdasher.

Best Tango Dancer

First prize, six full lessons in Castle's latest dances, Mrs. Ed O'Brien; second, shaving set, Bacharach Brothers.

WHITE THINKS WE HAVE CAUSE TO BE GLAD

HE SAYS THE RESULT OF FOGHT'S VISIT

Santa Fe, Dec. 30.—"I think our high schools and other city schools in New Mexico compare favorably with those of other cities of the southwest and in fact of the entire country," said Alvan N. White, state superintendent of public instruction, in discussing today a letter he received from Dr. H. W. Focht, specialist in rural school practices, United States bureau of education. Dr. Focht recently visited the schools, both city and rural, of this state, and says that he was very well impressed with the city schools although he admits there is room for improvement in the rural districts.

Dr. Focht will make his report in the form of a bulletin and he will especially discuss certain peculiar conditions, such as the bilingual problem and the vast distances to be found in New Mexico. It is said Dr. Focht is in thorough accord with the state department of public instruction in the idea of teaching two languages to the pupils of New Mexico throughout the grades, allowing the children of Spanish parents to learn their Spanish tongue and the English language from the first grade up.

Dr. Focht has just written Mr. White from Kirksville, Mo., stating he has received a copy of Mr. White's annual report submitted to the governor and says:

"I wish to thank you for your letter of December 23, together with the very interesting copy of the report to the governor. I have glanced through it, by headings, reading a portion here and there and find it very valuable for my purposes in making out my final report. There are many things in it that I should like to make use of in working up the matter of the bulletin."

CHIEF JUSTICE RETIRES

Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 30.—Chief Justice Henry Lamm of the Missouri supreme court will retire from the bench tomorrow, after a long and useful service to the state. Judge Lamm recently celebrated his 65th birthday. His humor, his familiarity with literature, his keen sense of justice, as manifested in his decisions, have won for him a high place in judicial circles of America. His decisions have attracted the attention of bench and bar all over the country and are extensively quoted in law schools.

NEW MEXICO IS INCLUDED IN LIST

PROHIBITION CAMPAIGN IN THE SOUTHWEST

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 30.—National prohibition will be the big political issue in the 1916 campaign. That was the prophecy made yesterday afternoon at a conference of the national leaders of the prohibition party at the Y. M. C. A. They said that now nearly 100 organizations having nationwide influence were together in a movement to enroll five million voters for the dry cause before the next campaign.

"Fourteen states now are under prohibition," Virgil G. Hinshaw, Chicago, national chairman of the party, said. "Twelve others have adopted woman's suffrage. Those two big reforms go hand in hand and today, if a national vote could be taken, the sentiment of the entire country would be found largely to favor both of these."

Mr. Hinshaw said that not less than two weeks ago Secretary Bryan told a caller at his office in Washington that if prohibition was made the issue in 1916 it would sweep the country. According to Mr. Hinshaw, Mr. Bryan would be, with Roosevelt and other leaders, a supporter of such a plank.

The prohibitionists are in Kansas City organizing a district for campaign work that will include the states of Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and New Mexico. Headquarters already have been opened in the Kansas City Life building, and it is their purpose to go through these states with speakers preparing the way for the 1916 campaign. They expect to obtain several hundred college men this summer who will carry the enrollment cards of the party to the voters.

"We expect to have enrolled five million voters throughout this country pledged to support a national prohibition movement, before the next campaign," Eugene V. Cniffin, twice candidate for the presidency on the party ticket, explained. "Many of them will be gained from this district."

A team composed of Charles J. Hall, national party organizer; former Governor John P. St. John of Kansas, Mr. Chaffin and Miss Cecil Pearl Buckingham, prohibition singer, will work from here. They plan to make a "rapid fire" swing through the larger cities of the five states within the next three months, pledging voters to the national wide dry cause. The remainder of the country also is being divided into districts comprising a few states and smaller teams will work

in them. In this way it is hoped to build up an effective organization for the coming fight.

Yesterday's meeting was attended by about 15 persons who are closely identified with the prohibition party in this state and Kansas. Short speeches were made by Mr. Chaffin, Mr. Hall and W. G. Calderwood, the prohibition leader in Minnesota.

NEBRASKA PLANS FAR AHEAD

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 30.—With the opening of the new year, the University of Nebraska gains a big boom through the appropriation by the state of \$150,000 for new buildings. It was announced today that plans for building covering a period of 100 years in the future have been prepared by architects, and building after building will rise according to these plans. Seldom has an American institution figured on its future growth in so thorough a manner as the Nebraska state university. With the increasing prosperity and population of the state, the demands have been carefully figured out in advance. Nebraska is proud of her university, which does not lean on millionaires or wire pulling to sustain its life and fill its mission.

ILLINOIS TEACHERS MEET

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 30.—The three-day convention of the Illinois State Teachers' association, which opened yesterday, has brought together some of the foremost educators of the state, and many able speakers from other states are addressing a big gathering of teachers. Francis G. Blair, state superintendent of instruction was in the chair this morning when the county superintendents held their conference. The college section, which opens its meetings this afternoon, is presided over by Gustav A. Andreen of Augustana College, Rock Island. One of the principal speakers in the primary school section this afternoon is Professor E. J. Swift of Washington University, St. Louis.

ADMIRING THE JASON

London, Dec. 30.—The recent visit to Devonport of the United States collier Jason, which came as a naval Santa Claus, has led to an unexpected result. According to one writer the visit may have other effects than the cementing of friendship. This writer says:

"The Devonport dockyards people have taken stock of the Jason with frank admiration. She is so superior to anything that has yet been evolved for maintaining the coal supply of our warships at sea that the United States navy is being urged to find her visit reciprocated by the sincerest form of flattery."

DECREASE OF CRIME

London, Dec. 30.—Early closing of the saloons has closed an enormous decrease in crimes of violence and disorder, according to Judge Robert Wallace, chairman of the London sessions courts.

"Figures I have obtained," he said in addressing the December grand jury, "are so remarkable that they ought to be known. For instance, the September grand jury had before it 17 cases of aggravated assault and battery. The 11 o'clock closing order was introduced, with the result that in October the number fell to five. Then the closing hour was altered to 10 o'clock and in November the cases fell to two, while today, for the first time in the history of the country, we have not a single case of this character to deal with."

RUBBERS LOOT TRAIN ON TEXAS RAILROAD

SUNSET EXPRESS VISITED EARLY THIS MORNING BY TWO DARING THUGS

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 30.—Two masked men boarded the westbound Sunset express on the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio railway near Cline, Texas, early today, robbed the drowsy passengers in the two rear sleeping cars at the point of revolvers, signalled the train to stop, dropped off and escaped. The precise amount of loot the robbers got is not known, but it is expected to be considerable, as several passengers carried large amounts of money and valuable jewelry.

The robbers climbed on the train as it was leaving Cline. The porter was made to go ahead and awaken the passengers. As the train neared Spofford, Texas, one of the robbers pulled the bell cord and the train stopped. Both men jumped off and disappeared before the astounded porter could warn others of the train crew.

Officers quickly organized a posse and started in pursuit. The country through which the robbers fled is rough, and because of the difficulties in the way of their flight, it was believed they soon would be captured.

A Parker Lucky Curve Fountain PEN Guaranteed By TAUPERT'S

Wealthy Mexican Robbed A drawing room in one of the sleeping cars robbed was occupied by a wealthy Mexican who is said to have carried \$10,000 in jewelry and money. It is not known if he was despoiled.

The bandits did not have time to rob the occupants of the other three sleeping cars. They entered only the San Antonio sleeper and the one known as the New Orleans-San Francisco car. There were 19 passengers on the San Antonio car, the first entered. Among them were R. C. Watkinson, superintendent of this division of the G. H. and S. A., and F. H. Bednarch, chief dispatcher of the division.

TODAY IN CONGRESS

Washington, Dec. 31.—Senate: Met at 11 a. m. Debate was resumed on immigration bill. The commerce committee continued work on steam and harbor bill. Senator Shafroth assailed the water power site leasing bill before the lands committee. House: Met at noon.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

New York, Dec. 30.—After a day of extreme apathy, stocks recovered from their early declines, mainly on short coverings. The closing sales were at the following figures: Amalgamated Copper 61 American Sugar Refining 103 Atchafalaya 92 Chino Copper 33% Northern Pacific 100 Reading 142% Southern Pacific 81% United Pacific 115% United States Steel 48 United States Steel, pfd. 104% KANSAS CITY LIVE STOCK Kansas City, Dec. 30.—Hogs, receipts 8,000. Market lower. Bulk \$6.95@7.15; heavy \$7.10@7.20; pigs \$6@6.60. Cattle, receipts 8,000. Market steady. Prime fed steers \$9@10; western steers \$7@9; calves \$6@10. Sheep, receipts 7,000. Market steady. Lambs \$8@8.75; yearlings \$7.75@7.85.

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