

HODGES FAVORS THE PLAN

Governor for Commission Form
State Government.

His Message to the Legislature
Today.

DEFECTS OF PRESENT SYSTEM

Not Time Enough to Do Work
Well.

Proposes Legislative Assembly
Two for Each District.

CONVENE OFTEN NECESSARY

And Properly Consider and
Draw Up Laws.

Wants Members to Go Home
and Talk It Over With People.

Governor Hodges today sent his first message to the legislature since the day that body convened. The governor favors state government by commission rather than by two branches of the legislature. He proposes one assembly of two members from each of the eight congressional districts to replace present two bodies of 165 legislators. He urges this for consideration in the future and wants these members to talk it over with the folks at home. The governor says:

To the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

As the legislative duties of the legislature of 1913 draw to a close, I desire to congratulate the members of both branches on the magnificent work which they have accomplished. I am sure that I am justified in saying that you have worked harder and accomplished more than any legislature in recent years. About every pledge you made to the people last year has been fulfilled.

But I am convinced that this magnificent record is due rather to the efficient membership this legislature, than to the system. In common with a large and growing number of thoughtful people, I am persuaded that the instrumentalities for legislation provided for in our state constitution, have become antiquated and inefficient. Our system is fashioned after the English parliament, with its two houses based upon the distinction between the nobility and the common people, each house representative of the diverse interests of these classes. No such reason exists in this state for a dual legislative system and even in England at the present time the dual system has been practically abandoned and the upper house shorn of its importance, and I believe that we should now concern ourselves in devising a system for legislating, that will give us more efficiency and quicker response to the demands of our economic and social conditions and to the will of the people.

I have been led to this conclusion by an experience of eight years as a member of the senate of this state and my convictions on this subject are by no means of recent date. As far back as March 12, 1911, I introduced an initiative printed in one of the great dailies. I advocated that our present legislative system be abandoned and that a legislative assembly be created, consisting of thirty legislative districts, under the check of the recall, be provided for in its place. The suggestion made at that time met with much favorable comment, and I firmly believe that there is a growing public opinion in its favor.

Not Time for Good Work.

You senators and representatives cannot but have observed the defects of our present system. In a short session of fifty days, you are required to study and pass upon hundreds of measures and the hurry with which this must be done, must of necessity result in a number of more or less crude and ill-digested laws, which often puzzle learned jurists to interpret with anything like satisfaction to themselves or to the public. Hundreds of measures also embodying important legislation, die on the calendar every two years. After a brief session, the legislature adjourns and the business of one co-ordinate branch of the state government is absolutely abandoned for a whole biennium, unless the legislature is convoked in an expensive extraordinary session by the governor. It is as if the head of an important department of some other "big business" should give only fifty days every two years to its management.

Veneration for Ancient Custom.

I am aware of the veneration with which ancient institutions are regarded in some quarters, but I see no reason why we should cling to these institutions in carrying on the business of the state, when in almost every other activity of life we are discarding old traditions and antiquated methods for newer and progressive ideas and more efficient and economic methods. This legislature has itself discarded the antiquated and inefficient methods of managing the business of our big institutions and have concentrated the responsibility in the hands of a few, instead of many boards—in a word has applied to them the principle of government by commission. We have recognized in this state also that the old methods of city government are expensive, inefficient and unsatisfactory and everywhere the commission plan of city government is being adopted and in almost every case is yielding high class results.

Favors Government by Commission.

For myself, I can see no good reason why this new idea of government by commission should not be adopted for the transaction of the business of the state. Two years ago I suggested a single legislative assembly of thirty members from thirty legislative districts. I am now inclined to believe that this number is too large and that a legislative assembly of one, or at

most two, from each congressional district would be amply large. My judgment is that the governor should be ex officio a member and presiding officer of this assembly, and that it should be permitted to meet in such frequent and regular or adjourned sessions as the exigencies of the public business may demand; that their terms of office be for four or six years, and that they be paid salaries sufficient to justify them in devoting their entire time to the public business. Such a legislative assembly would not, I believe, be more expensive than our present system. It would centralize responsibility and accountability, and under the check of the recall, would be quickly responsive to the wishes of the people.

Advantages of New Plan. A legislative assembly, as I have suggested could give ample time to the consideration of every measure, not only in relation to its subject matter, but to the drafting of it in plain, concise, easily understood and unambiguous language. It would be ready at any time to deal with new conditions, and to provide relief in emergency cases, and, with time to inform itself about con-

(Continued on Page Two.)

FOR HIGHER WAGE

Inevitable That Any Increase
Must Be Paid by Public.

Interesting Data Given at Vice
and Wage Probe.

Chicago, March 10.—James Simpson, vice president of Metropolitan Field and company, was recalled to the witness chair before the state vice commission today. The room was again filled, a large number of the spectators being women.

Simpson was asked again as to the profits of his firm, and again asked to be excused from answering. He assured the commission that Marshall Field and company could well subscribe to any minimum wage scale law for women which might be adopted.

"It is inevitable," he said, "that any increase would be paid by the public. Senator Tossy asked if Marshall Field and company could raise the minimum wage of women to \$2 a day without raising prices of goods to consumer. "I could," he said, "without materially affecting the profits of the firm."

George Lytton, vice president of The Hub, next faced the commission with his own firm's profits. He was asked to be excused from answering a question, asking what percentage of the gifts formed. The house employs 150 women, none of whom receive less than \$5.50 a week.

"Do you have to charge more for clothing than others because of higher wages?" asked Chairman O'Hara.

"Oh, no."

"Do you believe it is good policy to pay good wages?"

Lytton declined to state the profits of his firm.

There are 104 women at The Hub receiving \$5.50.

"They live at home and it comes from the parents."

"Then you take all of a girl's time and skill and expect her parents to pay for her wages?" pursued Juul.

"I will say that we have been considering raising the minimum wage to \$8."

Witness said he had devoted much time to the wage question as it affects women, and that a woman can live on \$8 a week. He promised to give the commission a schedule of the expenses of a working girl.

"What we want," said Senator Juul, "is what she must spend with which to purchase the necessities of life."

"I suppose when we make a law we'll have to add a dollar or two for recreation and the like."

(Continued on Page Two.)

OPENED BY KING

Third Session of Present Parliament
Convenes.

Precautions Taken Against
Attacks by Suffragists.

London, March 10.—King George today opened the third session of the present parliament, after an elapse of only two days, the briefest recess on record. The king and queen took their places on the throne in the presence of a great gathering. The opening was preceded by the usual procession from Buckingham palace to Westminster hall, the center of the brilliant pageantry being the great gilded glass coach drawn by the famous Hanoverian cream-colored horses. A drizzling rain fell throughout the day, but this had no effect on the tens of thousands of sightseers.

The king's speech from the throne chiefly was devoted to the Balkan war, expressing the earnest desire of the European powers to hasten the conclusion of peace.

His majesty opened with a reference to the jubilee of the marriage of his parents, King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. He expressed gratitude for the action shown by the nation to the widowed queen mother, Alexandra.

Referring to the Balkan war, the king said:

MAKES NEW RULE

President Wilson Regulates
Time to Receive Callers.

Must Not Be Disturbed From
9 to 11 A. M.

HIS CABINET NOT INCLUDED

Large List of Appointments for
Today.

Executive Will Take Hand in
Affairs of Congress.

Washington, March 10.—Nominations sent to the senate today by President Wilson included:

First assistant postmaster general—Daniel C. Roper, of South Carolina. Third assistant postmaster general—Alexander M. Dockery, of Missouri. Fourth assistant postmaster general—James I. Blakeslee, of Pennsylvania. United States judge district of Porto Rico—Peter J. Hamilton, of Alabama. Commissioner of labor statistics—Charles P. Neill, of the District of Columbia.

Washington, March 10.—After four strenuous days, in which his conferences with Democratic leaders frequently were interrupted by handshakes, President Wilson today decided that hereafter he will make appointments only after 11 o'clock in the morning or for the East room in the afternoon. He plans to come to the executive office about 9 a. m., and first devote two full mornings to important business each day. Members of his cabinet and persons for whom he sends word will be subject to the new rule, but all others will. On cabinet days the president will see his visitors before 11 o'clock, the hour of meeting. The president's list today was long enough to keep him busy.

Postmaster General Burleson opened the executive offices today just a few minutes after the president walked over from the White House. Several Democratic national committee-men from the west had engagements today. Senator Stone, Speaker Clark and Representative Alexander of Missouri, who were next on the list, came to discuss Missouri claims to several important positions.

Late today in the East room, the men of the diplomatic corps were to be presented formally to the president and on Wednesday the diplomats and their wives will be received. Tonight at 9 o'clock the president will press a button in the White House which will open a stockbreeders' convention at Fort Worth, Tex.

Does Not Include Congressmen. Secretary Garrison, after a talk early with the president, declared Mr. Wilson agreed with him that the personnel of the department ought not to be discussed for several weeks at least. President Wilson's rule about discussing patronage with his visitors does not apply to members of congress.

It was pointed out at the White House today that the president intends to announce that officeholders should address themselves to heads of departments should not be interpreted as including senators and representatives to whom the president hopes to be accessible at all times and on all subjects.

Mr. Wilson intends to consult with members about the recommendation of the members of congress and vice versa. The whole purpose is to divert the stream of applicants and their friends from the White House to the government departments so that the field of choice may be gradually re-

duced before he takes up the question of appointments. When the president was governor of New Jersey he always gave precedence to members of the legislature and when that body was in session he would always keep his door open to the legislators to come and go unannounced. Mr. Wilson hoped thus to encourage frequent consultations about legislative matters. It is probably when congress is in session he will pursue the same course, and it has even been suggested that when critical moments arrive, in dealing with legislation, Mr. Wilson may go to the president's room at the capitol to be in close proximity with members of both houses.

Work Over Tariff. President Wilson will take a hand himself in framing legislation with congress. With the co-operation of party leaders in the house and senate, he proposes to work over tariff, currency and other important measures even before they are introduced and to lend the weight of the administration to the support of the bills.

(Continued on Page Two.)

MURDERS FARMER

Charles Thompson Shoots J.
G. Riggle in Back.

Tragedy Occurred on Farm
Near Peabody, Kan.

Peabody, Kan., March 10.—J. G. Riggle, farmer, and the Baslin farmer near Peabody, today shot and killed Sunday by Charles Thompson. No trouble existed between the men, points out only after 11 o'clock in the morning or for the East room in the afternoon. He plans to come to the executive office about 9 a. m., and first devote two full mornings to important business each day. Members of his cabinet and persons for whom he sends word will be subject to the new rule, but all others will. On cabinet days the president will see his visitors before 11 o'clock, the hour of meeting. The president's list today was long enough to keep him busy.

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(Continued on Page Two.)

REBELS WIN FIGHT

Huerta Troops Are Reported to
Be in Retreat.

State Soldiers Are Occupying
Town of Nacozari.

RESULT OF LENGTHY BATTLE

Movement of Strong Rebel
Forces Is Reported.

Garrisons Defended by Small
Bands of Federals.

Douglas, Ariz., March 10.—After a battle lasting from Saturday morning until yesterday afternoon, 800 state troops today hold Nacozari and 250 Huerta soldiers defending the town are retreating to Agua Prieta. This news was received here today when communication was restored between this point.

The capture of Nacozari opens the road, it is believed, to Agua Prieta, and if the latter town is taken, the insurgent state troops can march eastward along the border, encountering only small garrisons at Nogales, Naco and other little towns.

At none of the ports on the Sonora-Arizona border are there more than 300 federal troops. All the Huerta soldiers in northern Sonora did not exceed 1,000 men, it was said today on sound authority, while the state government in its revolt against the provisional president within a few days has raised an army of nearly 10,000 men, according to the reports of the various state troop leaders.

At Nacozari are the hundred men under Prefect Bracamonte of Montezuma.

There were only 250 federal troops defending Nacozari when the attack was made Saturday.

Similarly small garrisons defend Agua Prieta, Nogales and Naco, while another strong rebel group from Magdalena below Nogales, is reported as moving to the border to assist in attacking the ports of entry. Communications remain cut with Hermosillo, the state capital held by the insurgents, and even with American mining settlements near the border. There is much anxiety felt for the American mining men at Nacozari and at Cananea, on a part of the Southern Pacific of Mexico, which also has been cut by state troops.

Added proof of the capture of Nacozari, the first victory for the insurgent state troops in Sonora, came today with the arrival at Agua Prieta of a special train bearing 175 defeated federal soldiers, Lieutenant Colonel Lopez, the federal commander, a passenger on the train, had been shot through the neck and was in a critical condition. Twenty soldiers were wounded and are being cared for at Agua Prieta. No Americans were hurt in the attack except J. S. Williams, Jr., a mining man, who was shot through the leg. The federal admitted Nacozari is in complete control of the constitutionalists.

General Ojeda declared today that he will not evacuate Agua Prieta unless he receives such orders from Mexico City.

Small Town Attacked.

Mexico City, March 10.—Zapatistas attacked Toluca-Capam, a small town in the state of Guerrero. They killed several officials, sacked public buildings and shops and carried away ten girls, members of prominent families. Efforts to excite trouble at Vera Cruz by calling a general strike of the hotel, railroad and shipping employees were being made.

Here's Your Chance.

The Chicago & Western R. R. will make very low fares to the North and West this spring. Write H. B. Bryning, district passenger agent, C. & W. R. R., 809 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo., for particulars.—Adv.

PLAYING BIG BROTHER



Secretary of State Bryan Suggests That the United States Play the Part of Big Brother to the Republics of Central and South America.

NOT TILL FRIDAY

Legislature May Put Off Ad-
journment to Then.

A Postponement From Tues-
day Agreed To.

SO SENATE CAN FINISH

Working Without Pay for Near-
ly a Week.

House Work Is Done and
Ready to Go Home.

The Kansas legislature may not stop the consideration of bills before Friday night. That this additional time will be granted for the completion of the work and consideration of bills now on the calendar, was virtually agreed to at a conference Sunday afternoon of members of the two houses.

An extension of time for consideration of bills on the calendar will come as a direct concession on the part of the house members. They are in a position to adjourn Tuesday noon—the hour set by the provisions of a joint resolution—but the senate will in that brief time be unable to consider the house bills which are pending in the upper house. So in order to dispose of the house bills in the senate, the house members are confronted with the proposition that they must either consent to an extension of time or lose some of their favorite legislation by adjournment Tuesday noon.

Working Without Pay. Members of both branches of the legislature have been working without pay since last Tuesday night, when they received their final pay check. To continue the consideration of bills until Friday night, means a 63 day session. It means the adjournment sine die cannot be taken until Tuesday of next week, March 18, as three days must be allowed after consideration of bills stops in order to enable the governor to make the necessary laws and to send them back to the legislature. Of course practically all of the members could go home Friday night or Saturday, but they would have to wait for the time for final adjournment is extended. But at the best, it probably means that the members must spend ten days in Topeka, which time the state pays them not one penny and in addition to donating their services, the members must pay their own board bills.

Among house members there was a strong opposition to the plan to advance the date for adjournment. Yet there seems to be nothing else to do. The delay means that the state will not receive the first two months of the present year from those of January and February, 1912, were the date of the argument of Attorney J. W. Dana, of the company at the reopening of the gas hearing before the public utilities commission this morning.

Dana declared that the contracts obligated the Kansas City Pipe Line company and its successors to furnish gas only so long as there was gas to be furnished, and that those contracts did not contemplate a guarantee of unlimited gas for an indefinite period of time. He urged that his own company should not be held as obligated to furnish gas only so long as it could make money by selling it.

He read excerpts from the contract with the Kansas City Pipe Line company of 1906, providing that the contract was binding only while there was a supply of gas to be furnished, and barring accidents to the pipe lines, etc.

"The pipe line companies did not attempt to undertake the impossible," he declared. "The Wyandotte County Gas company has lost 40 per cent of its business on account of the shortage in gas, and our books show a loss in gross receipts of over \$100,000 in January and February of this year from the receipts of the same two months a year ago."

Mr. Dana wants to know, he said, if his company is warranted in continuing to contemplate a guarantee of unlimited gas under such circumstances.

Mr. Dana was arguing when the hearing adjourned over two weeks ago. He will be given a chance to continue his argument after which representatives of other distributing companies and the cities will be given a hearing. The end of the hearing is not in sight, and nobody will hazard a guess as to when it will be.

TYPICAL MARCH DAY.

Blustery Today, But Fair Weather
Ahead.

Typical March weather is the order of things in Topeka today. The temperatures are normal. A breeze from the northwest blowing at a 20 mile pace is of a damp variety that is penetrating.

There is fair weather ahead according to both the weekly forecast, and the forecast for the next 24 hours. It will probably be slightly colder to night.

The weekly forecast reads: "Spring-time weather with fair skies and normal temperatures is promised for the coming week to all sections of the country by the weather bureau."

"The distribution of pressure over the northern hemisphere," says the bureau's weekly bulletin, "is such as to indicate that the temperature during the current week will average the normal over practically all parts of the country. Precipitation during the week will be generally light and local. It is not probable that any general storm will cross the country during the week."

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No Supreme Court Decisions Today.

Washington, March 10.—The supreme court met today but announced no decisions in the important rate cases or the newspapers publicity law.

Weather Forecast for Kansas.

Fair tonight and Tuesday, slightly cooler tonight.

Washington, March 10.—The senate has not completed its roll of diplomats but announcements are expected within a few days.

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