

## NEWS FROM OUR NATIONAL CAPITAL

### Congress Takes Steps to Repeal Panama Canal Toll Exemptions.

Washington.—Initial steps to repeal the toll exemption clause of the Panama canal act as requested by President Wilson were taken in congress when the house committee on interstate commerce reported favorably a bill to strike out the provision.

In the senate the committee on interoceanic canals decided to meet this week to consider the appeal of the president for a reversal of policy in the controversy which involves the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, and in the opinion of the president the general foreign relations policy of the administration.

It is the house in debating the issue. The senate committee will consider whether to recommend a bill to repeal the bill or to urge the compromise bill offered by Senator Chamberlain of West Virginia, a member of the committee, which would authorize the president to repeal toll and other charges at his discretion wherever exemption is provided in the canal act.

Developments of American policy as an influence in Mexican complications and the cause of universal peace are of vital concern to the Washington administration in its efforts to have repealed the toll exemption clause in the Panama canal act.

**Inquiry in Suspense.**  
Technically the commission which was charged to investigate the killing of Benton continues in existence and Secretary Bryan said that its functions had simply been suspended. There is now, however, little idea that the commissioners would proceed to Chihuahua in the expectation of uncovering any evidence of value though it probably would be required to carry out its original instructions merely for the purpose of establishing the principle of the right of the United States government to act in this matter.

**Intervention Plea Heard in Senate.**  
The Mexican lid was lifted in the senate of the United States by Senator Fall, republican of New Mexico, who urged armed intervention for the protection of Americans and other foreigners in the stricken republic.

Senator Shively, replying as acting chairman of the foreign relations committee, asserted that Senator Fall's policy would mean actual armed intervention and that intervention meant war. He deplored that the situation had thus been discussed, saying it would have a harmful influence upon the attitude and temper of the people of Mexico.

**Indirect Taxes Growing.**  
While customs receipts have fallen off under the new tariff, the internal revenue bureau is coming to the rescue with increased collections from indirect taxes. The total collected by the bureau from July 1, 1913, to January 31, 1914, was \$191,792,279, an increase of \$2,636,329 over the corresponding period of the previous year. The tax on tobacco brought \$47,680,435, an increase of \$2,371,258, and fermented liquors \$40,276,380, an increase of \$1,412,306. Distilled spirits, including whiskey, however, brought in only \$98,940,304.

**National Capital Brevities.**  
The income tax law bids fair to live up to the expectations of the administration by producing about \$50,000,000 annually in revenue paid by close to 425,000 individuals.

Senator Ashurst has been notified by Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont that woman suffragists will declare war on him if he forces the vote on the constitutional amendment at this time.

Colonel Goethals, builder of the Panama canal, declares that it is impractical to use the heavy machinery employed in the canal in building railroads in Alaska or in flood prevention work in the Mississippi valley.

Twelve railroads of the east control 606 other roads, as to their financial management, either through operation, rates or other means, according to testimony at the interstate commerce commission. The New York Central is said to dominate 204 lines.

Senator Reed, of Missouri, introduced a bill which would authorize the creation of a commission to acquire for the government by purchase or condemnation the home of Thomas Jefferson at Monticello, Va.

Far-reaching inquiry into practically all phases of the industrial situation in this country with a view to making recommendations to congress will be undertaken by the federal industrial relations commission.

The final chapter in the iron workers' campaign to destroy "open shops" with dynamite and nitroglycerin was written by the supreme court in refusing to review the penitentiary sentences imposed upon Frank M. Ryan, president of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Ironworkers, and 23 of the association's members.

## "ALFALFA WEEK" DECLARED IN WHOLE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

### WASHINGTON, OREGON AND IDAHO SCHOOLS JOIN TO OBSERVE MOVEMENT.

Second Week in March Marks Inauguration of Follow-Up Campaign Undertaken by the People of the Three States in Co-operation With the Holden Improvement Committee—Five Days to Be Given Over to the Study of Alfalfa in the Public Schools.

Most Comprehensive Movement in History of Northwest Pointing to the Improvement of Agriculture—Selected and Tested Seed Corn Will Be Distributed to the Farmers—Chairman R. R. Rogers of Spokane Working With Secretary Farr of the International Harvester Company of New Jersey—A Combined Effort on the Part of Most Prominent Interests in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho—State Educational Departments Behind Plan.

The Holden Improvement Committee was organized by the people of the Inland Empire to put into practice the recommendations made to them during the farming campaign conducted in the fall of 1913.

#### PURPOSE OF THE INITIAL CAMPAIGN.

The purpose of the initial campaign was to stimulate in all sections of the Inland Empire a deeper interest in a larger production of alfalfa, corn, and live stock. Professor Holden, director of the agricultural extension work of the International Harvester company of New Jersey, with a staff of 15 lecturers, emphasized at that time the following things:

- 1st. The abandonment of the ruinous one-crop system.
- 2nd. Adoption of a diversified system of farming.
- 3rd. Increased production of alfalfa and corn.
- 4th. More cattle, hogs, and dairy stock.
- 5th. A silo for every barn.
- 6th. The breaking up of the over-large wheat farms.
- 7th. Proper rotation of crops as a means of conserving soil fertility.
- 8th. The growing, wherever possible, of silage crops.
- 9th. The growing of sweet clover under the following conditions: On alkali soil or soil too dry for alfalfa. Upon stony land. Upon low, wet land upon worn-out uplands. Upon land unfit for other crops.

Following this great Alfalfa Campaign, there comes now even a greater movement since it is one step in advance of the preliminary campaign and will put in actual practice, as far as possible, the things advocated by Professor Holden in his advice to the farmers of the northwest.

#### HOW THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT.

- 1st. "Alfalfa Week"—March 9th to 13th, 1914, to be observed in all of the schools in Washington, Idaho and Oregon. This week will be given over to the study of alfalfa—its history, culture and agricultural value.
- 2nd. March 13th, "Alfalfa Evening" to be observed by all of the granges when they will meet and discuss alfalfa.
- 3rd. "Alfalfa Editions" of newspapers devoted to the printing and publishing of matters relative to the history, culture, uses and value of alfalfa in the northwest.
- 4th. The distribution of the best seed corn obtainable adapted to the different localities. This corn carefully selected, hand picked, and tested. Two pound packages will be sent out at cost of shipment.
- 5th. The distribution of carefully prepared literature pertinent to the agricultural conditions of the northwest.
- 6th. Personal assistance in field demonstration work wherever possible.

#### ADVANCE STEP IN AGRICULTURE.

The foundation upon which rests this advance step in the agriculture of the northwest is an organization backed by both brains and money. The Improvement Committee has undertaken the follow-up work in a most comprehensive way. The plan of action has been thoroughly considered and a strong organization indorsed by Washington, Idaho, and Oregon is rapidly bringing the work to a focus.

The executive committee is composed of: R. R. Rogers, chairman, business man, Spokane; Charles W. Farr, agricultural extension department International Harvester company, N. J.; L. C. Crow, president Farmers' union, Pullman, Wash.; A. C. Dallach, business man, Wenatchee; E. E. Faville, editor Western Farmer, Spokane; E. D. Gilson, business man, Ritzville; C. B. Kegley, master Washington State grange; O. M. Plummer, Portland Union Stock Yards company, Portland, Ore.; F. N. Shepherd, banker, Lewiston, Idaho.

This committee has the co-operation of the governors of Washington and Idaho, the state educational departments of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho; the federated commercial clubs of the Inland Empire, the railroads, the granges and farmers' unions, and the city and county superintendents of schools of the entire Pacific northwest. In fact, the organization includes the most prominent educational and business interests of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Hundreds of people are actively engaged in working out the follow-up plans with the committee.

#### SEED CORN FOR OREGON, WASHINGTON, AND IDAHO.

The committee, with the assistance and co-operation of the business interests, and the farmers all working harmoniously together, will be able to accomplish a great deal in the way of practical results. Never has so much interest been shown in any movement undertaken by the people of the northwest. The plans and the work of the committee are creating widespread interest because they are fundamentally right. They deal directly with the people.

Many bushels of seed corn have been purchased and will be distributed to the farmers. The best home grown types have been selected. This corn is all hand picked and tested for germination strength. Samples of two pounds each will be sent out to the farmers of Idaho, Washington and Oregon. A charge of 25 cents will be made for each two-pound sample of corn. The committee asks the farmers to send in requests as soon as possible and the demand will be supplied according to date of order.

These samples of corn will be sent to those only who are willing to keep a record of the results obtained and report to the committee this fall after harvesting. Report blanks will be furnished for this purpose.

It is the object of the committee to follow up this plan from year to year, collecting each year the most improved types with a view to establishing the best varieties for each locality.

#### "ALFALFA WEEK"—A BIG FEATURE.

The schools of Washington, Idaho, and Oregon will observe "Alfalfa Week," which is set for March 9th to 13th, 1914. The written and oral language work of the schools will be based on the history, culture, and value of alfalfa. Alfalfa essays will be written by the children and read during the week.

The committee feels confident that all of this will create general interest pointing toward the agricultural improvement of the whole northwest.

Better methods of farming mean better land, better land more abundant crops, all of which lead directly to better homes, moral improvement, and a more efficient people. Watch for other articles concerning new phases of the work which the committee is planning to do.

#### LECTURE CHARTS AND LANTERN SLIDES


Extension Department of Harvester Company of N. J. Soon to Distribute Educational Material on Agricultural Subjects for Use of Lecturers—Nominal Charge to Cover Cost of Shipment Will Be Made.

The agricultural extension department of the International Harvester company of New Jersey is now preparing, to be ready for distribution in 90 days, several thousand sets of charts and lantern slides to be loaned for lecture purposes to county and city superintendents of schools, county agricultural agents, farmers' unions, Granges and farmers' institutes, state educational departments, chautauques, etc. These charts and slides will deal with the more important agricultural subjects, and will be made up in sets treating in a concise yet compre-

hensive manner, corn, oats, alfalfa, dairying, feeds and feeding, soils and crop rotation, poultry, weeds and insects, home economics, etc.

#### Instruction Books Furnished.

For the information and direction of lecturers, a book will accompany each set of charts and lantern slides. This book will outline in brief form the story of each chart. Much time and thought have been devoted to the preparation of this material. The charts and slides are the results of thousands of experiments conducted at the experiment stations under many conditions with soils, farm crops, dairying, stock feeding, poultry, weeds and insects. This new work undertaken by the extension department is distinctly educational, there being no advertising feature connected with it in any way. The charts will be free, except for a small charge to cover cost of shipment or possible damage caused by breakage. Address Extension Dept., Harvester Bldg., Chicago.



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