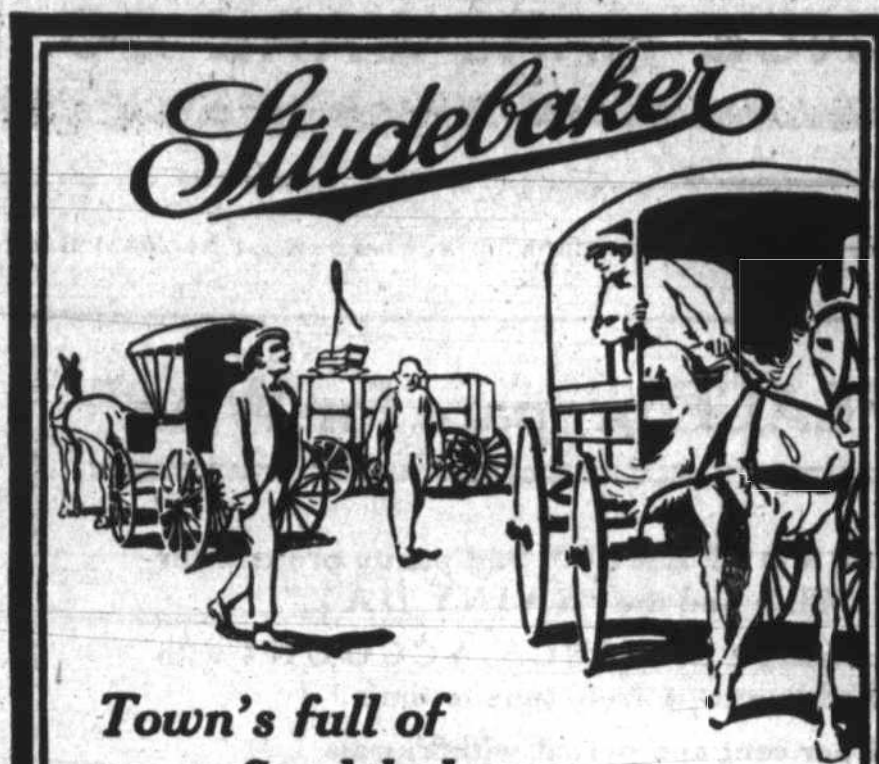




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NEWS FROM OUR NATIONAL CAPITAL

Special Session Is Called for April 7

Washington.—The extra session of congress called by President Wilson to assemble April 7, will begin with nothing but the tariff revision bills before it. This fact was made clear in a statement by Representative Underwood, chairman of the house committee on ways and means. Until the legislation is well under way in the house, no general committees will be made and no other legislative subjects will be taken up.

The president specified no subject for the extra session in his proclamation, but it is fully understood that his message to congress at its opening will dwell upon the need of tariff revision.

If the currency, Philippine independence, Alaskan affairs, woman suffrage or other pressing questions finally are forced upon the attention of congress, it will be only after the democratic leaders of the two houses and the president are convinced that the success of tariff revision is assured.

Tillman Loses His Hard Fight. Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, lost his long, hard fight for the chairmanship of the powerful senate committee on appropriations. The Democratic committee lists accords the appropriations chairmanship to Senator Martin, of Virginia.

Radical changes in the method of controlling senate legislation and committees were approved by the Democratic managers and will be offered for adoption by the caucus. These recommendations are:

All committee chairmen shall be elected by the Democratic members of the committee. The practice has been for the steering committee to appoint all chairmen; a majority of the Democratic members of any committee may call a meeting of that committee at any time.

Members of "conference committees" shall be selected by the Democratic majority of the committee having charge of the legislation in question.

Few Big Positions Filled Before April. There will not be many appointments before April 1, it is now believed here. The president and his cabinet find it is safer to run along for a time with the old hands on deck than to change them all for men quite new to their duties.

Then there is a great deal of embarrassment over making selections from among the vast number of applicants. Almost any state in the union could furnish a full quota of officials to run the government with ease and then have enough good men and true to keep things from going to smash at home. Indeed, many of the states are offering to do just about that.

LaFollette Makes White House Call. Senator La Follette made his first call at the White House in more than three years. He was an invited guest and spent almost an hour with the president. He would make no statement as to the purpose of his visit, but it has been an open secret for days that he was invited to discuss legislative questions with the president.

The conference was merely preliminary to others to be held later. Other progressive senators will be asked to the white house from time to time, and the president hopes that many of them will find it consistent to line up with the Democrats in passing legislation.

Appropriations Exceed One Billion. Appropriations of the last session of congress, including the sundry civil and the Indian appropriation bill, which are to be put through at the coming extra session, aggregated \$1,098,647,960.

The annual statements given out by Chairman Fitzgerald, of the appropriations committee, and by former Speaker Cannon, for the Republicans, agree on that total. Cannon adds, however, that in addition to that amount, contracts authorized for public works involve further expenditures of \$76,966,714.

National Capital Brevities.

President Wilson appointed Governor Burke of North Dakota, treasurer of the United States.

Richard Olney, of Boston, to whom President Wilson offered the post of Ambassador to Great Britain, has declined.

Office seekers have pressed Attorney General McReynolds to the point where he has been obliged to order the department of justice closed to all visitors at 4:30 p. m., senators and representatives included.

Secretary Bryan and Ambassador Jusserand exchanged ratifications of the convention approved by the senate a month ago extending for a term of five years the Franco-American special arbitration treaty of 1908.

Competitive examinations have been announced by the navy department for July 14, 1913, for the purpose of filling 14 vacancies in the grade of second lieutenant. Examinations will be held in the following western cities: Denver, San Francisco, Salt Lake, Seattle.

BRIEF NEWS OF OREGON

For the third time in one year Klamath Falls has adopted a charter. Paving of Condon's main street will be started within the next month, according to the decision of the city council.

Citizens of Roseburg at a mass meeting decided to hold the next annual strawberry and rose festival on May 20 to 24, inclusive.

Molalla has begun a movement to incorporate that town, which is growing rapidly, so that the people feel the need of local control in matters of home interest.

After being out about four hours, the Astoria circuit court jury in the case against Jackson F. Adams returned a verdict finding the defendant guilty of murder in the first degree.

In reply to queries from Walter B. Jones, secretary of the district fair association at Eugene, the attorney general rendered an opinion to the effect that only county fairs could hereafter draw support from the state.

The \$200,000 bond issue voted by the people of Grants Pass for the purpose of building a municipally owned railroad from Grants Pass to the Illinois valley, was sold at par plus accrued interest. The entire issue goes to one firm.

Miss Ann Whitaker, who has been importuned to allow her name to be used at the April election as candidate for member of the Eugene council positively declined to run, giving as her principal excuse unsanitary conditions of the council chamber.

Branded logs, escaped from the owner's boom and floating down the river, do not become abandoned property and are not subject to be salvaged by outside parties. This is the decision gained by the Log Salvage association in the courts at St. Helens.

That no member of the legislature may accept a position as county attorney under the bill passed by the last legislature, even though they should resign as members of the legislature, was the gist of an opinion furnished by the attorney-general at the request of Governor West.

For the first time in its history the town of Hubbard was dry for four days. There was a spirited struggle there for months between the "wets" and the "drys" over the question of abolishing the town's three saloons. The matter finally resulted in the licensing of one saloon.

Indian war veterans who are entitled to the benefits conferred by the act of February 19, 1913—the Richardson bill granting an increase to \$20 per month—will not be required to make application in order to receive the increase, according to the commissioner of pensions.

With the arrival of an immense dredger from San Francisco work is being rushed on the Lake Labish drainage project, whereby 1800 acres of marsh will be reclaimed and converted into garden and berry land. It is being sold in small tracts and there is now quite a colony on the ground in tents, awaiting the erection of their homes.

Approximately 8,500,000 salmon fry and 3,000,000 steelhead and rainbow trout fry will be produced at the Elk creek hatchery and liberated this spring and summer in the Rogue river and its tributaries. All of the fish are being held until they reach the fingerling stage. The steelhead taken this year are the largest on record, averaging over 12 pounds each.

Portland is to be analyzed. All the city's methods of municipal administration are to be brought to the light. Comparisons in efficiency with other cities and other methods will be made. The city's ills will be diagnosed and remedies prescribed, in accordance with an arrangement between a committee of Portland citizens and William H. Allen, municipal efficiency expert of New York.

Details of the important modification of the time for payment on lands in the Umatilla project have been announced by the secretary of the interior. From settlers on the third unit of this project an initial payment of \$18 for building charge is required at the time of filing water right application and for lands subject to the reclamation act. In the fourth unit the initial payment is \$12 per acre of irrigable land.

Several of the little villages of Klamath county are planning to incorporate. The new law prohibiting the sale of liquor outside of incorporated towns and cities hit a number of places in this county, and those interested in keeping the places supplied with wet goods have held meetings and taken preliminary steps to incorporate Fort Klamath, Bly and Malin. All of these places now have one or more saloons.

Declaration of intention upon the part of a husband to become a citizen does not confer citizenship upon the wife, according to an opinion rendered by Attorney General Crawford. He holds that the husband must be a citizen in order to confer citizenship upon her. He suggests that she can remedy the difficulty by taking out citizenship papers herself, and in that manner render herself competent to vote at elections.

FORGED SIGNATURES.

Ingenious Methods of Detection Employed by the Experts.

Most ingenious means are nowadays employed in the detection of forgery. It is a very clever forger indeed who can deceive the up to date expert in chirography.

As has been pointed out by Sandberg, the expert may put a juror to the proof that out of a dozen signatures of his own name no two will be alike in general form. Then the expert may turn to the authentic and forged signatures in almost any case and show to the layman that the first question of forgery arose from the fact that these two signatures are at first glance identically alike almost to the minutest detail. The forger has been too skillful. He has held to the old principle of copying the authentic signature that he has at hand, and the consequence is that the more nearly he can reproduce the signature in every proportion the more readily can the forgery be proved.

A most significant fact upon which the expert may base his investigations of possible forgery is that every one has his "pen scope." This technical term describes the average stretch of paper that one may cover without lifting the pen from the paper and shifting the hand to continue the line.

In the case of signature it should be one of the easiest and least studied group of words that the writer should be called upon to put upon paper. In writing a letter, for instance, the pen scope throughout may exhibit an average stretch of one inch for the text of the letter, while in the signature the whole length of the name, twice as long, may be covered. But if the writer covers the full stretch of his name in this way the expert may prove by the shorter pen scope of the copyist that the studied copy is a forgery on its face, for, however free of stroke the forger may naturally be, his effort to produce a facsimile of another's signature will render his scope shorter than that of the original signer.

A common means of reproducing a signature is to place the original signature on a piece of glass, lay another piece of glass on top of it and fasten the paper that is to receive the forgery on top of that. Then by holding the glass strips to a bright light the original signature casts a shadow through, and this may be traced in pencil. From this the ink forgery is made. When, however, a forgery accomplished by this means is placed under a strong magnifying glass it will not pass muster. If the original has a strong down stroke on the capital letters the movement will be free and will leave the pen lines with smooth edges. The individual who is tracing such letters cannot trust himself to the same free movement of the pen, and the result shows under the glass hesitancy and uncertainty. —Harper's Weekly.

Pot Luck.

In a certain corner of Limoges, France, that quaint city of jostling roofs, there is still segregated, much as if in a ghetto, a Saracen population, probably a remnant of the wave of Saracens that swept over Europe hundreds of years ago. Here they live in their crooked, narrow streets, following old customs handed down from generation to generation. There are many butcher shops in the quarter and outside of each steams a great pot of soup over a glowing brazier. In each pot stands a ladle as ancient as the pot. When a customer comes with a penny in goes the ladle and comes up full of savory broth and chunks of meat, odds and ends that the butcher has had left over. And what comes up the customer has to take.

Heine's Sense of Humor.

Heine's sense of humor did not leave him until the last. A few days before his death Hector Berlioz called on him just as a tiresome German professor was leaving after worrying him with his uninteresting conversation. "I am afraid you will find me very stupid, my dear fellow," he said. "The fact is I have just been exchanging thoughts with Dr. —"

Once, when the doctor was examining his chest, he asked him, "Can you whistle?" He replied, "Alas, no; not even the pieces of M. Scribe."

Fluency of Speech.

The common fluency of speech in many men and most women is owing to a scarcity of matter and a scarcity of words, for whoever is a master of language and hath a mind full of ideas will be apt in speaking to hesitate upon the choice of both, whereas common speakers have only one set of ideas and one set of words to clothe them in, and these are always ready at the mouth, so people come faster out of church when it is almost empty than when a crowd is at the door. —Dean Swift.

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