

LEGISLATURES WILL TACKLE MANY PROBLEMS

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—Legislatures of 45 states and territories, most of which open their sessions today or later this month, have before them formidable programs of tax reform, dry law enforcement, election redistricting in accordance with the 1920 census, soldier bonuses, public improvements, revision of Constitutions, laws for husband-and-wife, industrial and suffrage legislation, state aid for farmers, boxing commissions, new financing, retrenchment by consolidation or abolition of state departments, anti-radicalism, automobile regulation, reorganization of state militias, relief for public utilities, amendment or repeal of primary laws, commission or "manager" plans for cities and counties and pro and anti-blue law enactments.

California, with its ambitious \$750,000,000 state-wide irrigation project, leads the states in the matter of proposed public improvements and will ask the legislators to authorize a survey of the contemplated enterprise. Colorado also has a big mountain tunnel in contemplation. West Virginia solons will be required to pass laws at the session opening January 15 providing for the expenditure of \$50,000,000 for building good roads, for which the people voted a bond issue at the recent election. Missouri also must provide \$60,000,000 road building legislation.

Establishment of a state constabulary, urged largely by farmers, and enactment of a bill legalizing boxing, in addition to a proposal to repeal her state primary law, held unconstitutional by the state supreme court, will be taken up by the legislature of Illinois sometime after that body meets for its opening session next Wednesday. Fights against primary laws are to be made also in Indiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, New Mexico, North Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont and Wyoming.

Vermont "liberal" plan an attack on the blue laws of the state insofar as they relate to observance of the Sabbath. An effort will be made, it is said, to modify the present statutes so as to permit amateur sports, particularly baseball on Sunday, where the sport is not commercialized. Local option such as exists in Massachusetts, enabling individual cities and towns to determine their own practice in the matter of Sunday games, will be sought. New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota are also expected to discuss anti-blue laws. California, meanwhile, will argue the merits or demerits of a Sunday closing bill.

Reorganization of the state judiciary system and a constitutional amendment proposing that none but

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HENLINE'S STUDIO

"American citizens, native or fully naturalized, be allowed the right of suffrage in Texas" will be before the law-making body of Austin, Tex., beginning January 11. Another Texas bill would exclude Orientals from acquiring land within the state. Kansas representatives will have bills before them providing state aid for highway construction and financial assistance to farmers in purchasing homes.

Capital punishment, as a result of legal discussion over the Cole-Grammer murder case, will confront the Nebraska legislature and West Virginia will act on proposals to abolish private detective agencies. The last named state also will consider amendments to laws relating to marriage in order to make non-support an extraditable offense. California legislators once again will be called upon to consider the Act of 1919, which was designed to place a wife on an equality with her husband, and which was defeated last fall.

Many states will be confronted with the problem of raising funds to pay soldiers' bonuses voted at the last election. South Dakota is pledged to obtain \$6,000,000; Montana legislators will vote on the question of a bonus for 40,000 ex-service men; Delaware lawmakers will take a similar vote; Connecticut must raise \$2,500,000 for soldier relief; New Hampshire, in addition to a bonus, may exempt veterans property from taxation up to \$500 value; Iowa solons at the legislative session beginning January 10, also will consider a soldiers' bonus bill.

Other public questions, as given below, will be considered by the legislatures of the following states:

ARKANSAS—Abolition of several state commissions, proposed by Governor-elect McRae, is expected to precipitate a bitter fight. State board of health will ask a one mill tax to maintain trained personnel in every county. Educational program, including farm extension, will be advocated.

CALIFORNIA—Drastic prohibition enforcement act, passed in 1919 and defeated by referendum at last election, will be reintroduced. A bill to prohibit use of injunctions in strikes has the support of labor. School laws affecting Japanese may be revised.

CONNECTICUT—Future of the electric car lines of state owned by the Connecticut company, now in hands of federal trustees, is most pressing problem. Company owes millions in taxes and asks state aid to operate. Forestry, motor regulation and excise measures next in importance.

COLORADO—"Blue sky" mining and oil stock legislation and improved marketing facilities for farmers are measures recommended for action by Governor Shoup. State constitution, adopted 46 years ago, may be revised. Movement to vest state government in hands of "directors" headed by governor.

DELAWARE—State school laws up for amendment and revision. Various boards and commissions, aggregating 131, may be consolidated and coordinated. Commission form of government urged for Wilmington. Child labor and minimum wage laws in prospect.

INDIANA—Budget system and tax legislation are important topics. Lawmakers will consider providing free textbooks for public schools and authorizing cities to establish "commission" or "city manager" plan of government.

IOWA—How to increase the state's revenue will be an important problem. Joint legislative code revision and industrial court legislation will also receive attention at the session which opens on January 10.

KANSAS—Two constitutional amendments approved at polls last November—providing state aid for county roads and for farmers—will be taken up at the session opening January 11. Governor Allen, in message, recommended economy and abolition of needless bureaus.

MASSACHUSETTS—Increased teachers' salaries is important issue. Plan to advance motor vehicle license fees will be bitterly fought. Many towns may have to change their systems of government or borrow to enlarge town halls, due to suffrage poll tax for women possible.

MAINE—Water power resources and transportation problems, as well as revision of automobile and road laws, lead in importance. State subsidy suggested for trolley lines to help them pay expenses. Decreased taxes for steam and electric lines advocated.

MICHIGAN—Republican legislature, the first in years in which no democrat is seated, will open next Wednesday to consider, among other things, reorganization of state departments and budgets of state institutions.

MONTANA—Farmer bills already prepared for consideration provide a Warehouse Receipts Act, under which banks would be authorized to make loans on crops in storage.

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Sportsmen are backing a bill to prevent the killing of gophers with poison on the ground that game is being sacrificed.

MISSOURI—Amendment or repeal of state income tax law and state corporation franchise tax law are important subjects that will engage the attention of the legislature.

PENNSYLVANIA—State constitution, in force nearly 50 years, may be amended or revised. Commission to report on it. Bills to raise standard of public schools and to "liberalize" Sunday laws will come before the legislators.

SOUTH DAKOTA—Improvement of the state capitol, soldier bonuses and state university and other institutional needs require \$15,697,882 appropriation the raising of which is biggest problem. Legislature also must determine where proposed hydro-electric plant is to be located, at Mulehead, Mobridge or some other site.

TEXAS—Road building, reorganization of state departments, schools, health, sanitation and conservation of natural resources are legislative subjects which, in addition to taxation reform, will be discussed at the session opening on January 11.

TENNESSEE—Extension of the Dortsch election law to the entire state, "a sane Sabbath" observance law and the application of a poll tax to women will be considered. The state police law, by which the governor can call out the militia without red tape procedure and which was an issue in the recent campaign, is expected to remain.

WEST VIRGINIA—Biennial session which convenes January 15 will pass laws to make use of \$50,000,000 road building bond issue voted at last election. Largely increased appropriations for public schools as well as the establishment of vocational schools for boys and girls and a system of mothers' pensions are other important topics.

NORTH CAROLINA—Expansion of present state highway commission to supervise construction of hard-surfaced highways 5,500 miles in length will be important topic. Methodists campaign for "blue laws" include stoppage of Sunday trains and Sunday newspapers.

OKLAHOMA—Fight by new members of legislature on the \$20,000,000 appropriations estimated for state needs for the next two years will be the dominant issue before the house and senate in the session which opens tomorrow. Motor car thieves will be object of repressive measures.

OREGON—Harbor improvements, a \$10,000,000 road building bond issue, establishment of a boy's school farm and a proposal to amend the teacher's Tenure law abolishing the trial of teachers by school boards before dismissal, are to be discussed by the legislature which convenes on January 10.

Would Restrict Sale of Firearms

Assemblyman Charles W. Cleary has announced that he will introduce into the California legislature, which opened here today, the bill intended to restrict the sale of revolvers and pistols that was defeated after a sharp tilt last session.

"The purpose of the measure," Cleary said recently, "is to reduce the promiscuous sale of weapons capable of being concealed upon the person. It would make it necessary for purchasers to obtain permits from county boards of parole."

The author of the bill attributed its defeat in 1919 to the "persistent opposition and effective lobby of the small arms dealers and the retail hardware dealers' association of the state."

FORMER MEXICAN CAPTAIN ENLISTS AS PRIVATE

SPOKANE, Wash., Jan. 3.—Rudolph Braba, a Mexican, who served as a captain in the army of Porfirio Diaz when he was leader of the southern republic, joined the United States army here recently as a buck private. With him his brother, Antonio, also was enlisted. Both were sent to Camp Grant, Ill., to attend school.

WOULD RESTORE POLL TAX IN CALIFORNIA

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Jan. 3.—Assemblyman Cleary is planning to present to the legislature a constitutional amendment that would impose a poll tax not exceeding \$4.00 on all male citizens between the ages of 21 and 60. The revenue derived from the tax would be used for educational purposes.

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