Mr. THOMPSON. On good-roads legislation and the action of the Senate in regard thereto, I only ask to have printed in the Record the telegram from the governor of the State, transmitting the action of the legislature and requesting Federal legislation.

Of the State of Arizona. To the telegram transmitting the action of the legislature, I raise no objection, but to the printing of the other telegrams I object.

Mr. THOMPSON. I should like to have them noted. I do not wish to have them printed in the Record.

Mr. SMITH of Arizona. They can be noted by a presentation for reference.

Mr. THOMPSON. That is all I have asked.

Mr. SMITH of Arizona. All right.

Mr. THOMPSON. I ask that the telegram from the governor of Kansas be printed in the Record and, with the other two telegrams, referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. There being no objection, the telegrams were referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, and the one from the governor ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

[Telegram.]

TOPEKA, KANS., January 29, 1898.

Hon. WILLIAM H. THOMPSON,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.:
Kansas legislature to-day adopted resolution requesting Congress to pass bill granting additional Federal aid for construction of highways. This is vital to the plans for immediate employment of returning soldiers.

HENRY J. ALLEN, Governor.

Mr. LODGE presented a resolution adopted by the Chamber of Labor of Lynn, Mass., and a resolution adopted by the Council of Peabody, Mass., favoring the granting of six months’ pay to honorably discharged soldiers and sailors, which were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. TOWNSEND presented a petition of the Federation of Labor of Lynn, Mass., praying for the accomplishment of the resolution adopted by the City Council of Lynn, Mass., in favor of the granting of six months’ pay to honorably discharged soldiers and sailors.

He also presented a petition of sundry citizens of St. Clair County, Mich., praying for the proposed extension of Federal control of railroads, which was referred to the Committee on Interstate Commerce.

Mr. HALE presented a petition of the Maine State Poultry Association, praying for an appropriation to carry out the present poultry extension work by the Bureau of Animal Industry, which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

Mr. WARREN presented a resolution adopted by Local Union No. 550, Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America, of Cheyenne, Wyo., favoring Government ownership of railroads and other public utilities, which was referred to the Committee on Interstate Commerce.

Mr. BATES and CHIPPEWA INDIANS.

Mr. LA FOLLETTE, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, to which was referred the bill (S. 4690) for the relief of the St. Croix and Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, reported it with an amendment and submitted a report (No. 672) thereon.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Bills were introduced, read the first time and, by unanimous consent, the second time, and referred as follows:

By Mr. SMOOT:
A bill (S. 5480) to increase the cost of the public building at Park City, Utah; to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds.

A bill (S. 5481) granting a pension to William E. Hughes (with accompanying papers); to the Committee on Pensions.

By Mr. POMEROY:
A bill (S. 5482) providing for the refund of taxes collected for stamp tax on certain policies under the emergency-tax act of October 22, 1914, under the proviso to which such policies were exempt; to the Committee on Claims.

A bill (S. 5483) granting an increase of pension to James Benison, to the Committee on Pensions.

By Mr. REED:
A bill (S. 5484) to authorize the commissioning of Maj. Robert W. Barr (with accompanying papers); to the Committee on Military Affairs.

AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATION BILLS.

Mr. JONES of Washington submitted an amendment authorizing the Indian tribes and individual Indians residing in the State of Washington and west of the summit of the Cascade Mountains, out of treaties and otherwise, intended to be proposed by him to the Indian appropriation bill, which was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PENROSE submitted an amendment proposing that the officers and members of the chief department of the District of Columbia be divided into two bodies or platoons by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, which shall be designated as a day force and a night force, etc., intended to be proposed by him to the District of Columbia appropriation bill, which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

HOUSE BILL REFERRED.

H. R. 15140. An act making appropriations to supply deficiencies in appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1919, and prior fiscal years, and for other purposes, was read twice by its title and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

VALIDATION OF WAR CONTRACTS.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. Mr. President, I must say that hereafter I shall request that the Senate proceed with the regular order.

The Senate, as in Committee of the Whole, resumed the consideration of the bill (H. R. 13574) to provide relief where formal contracts have not been made in the manner required by law.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The question is on the amendment of Mr. KIRBY from Nebraska [Mr. HITCHCOCK].

Mr. KIRBY. The Committee on Military Affairs had this bill under consideration for some time. It had the views of the War Department about it; it had the views of the different chambers of commerce and boards of trade of the great cities of the country; it had the views of their legal departments about the effect and scope of the bill.

The subcommittee reported the bill as assented to by the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HITCHCOCK], and so far as I know that bill was considered and reported by the full committee without taking into consideration the views of either the Committee on Military Affairs or this Committee.

Mr. LODGE. The subcommittee reported the bill as assented to by the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HITCHCOCK], and so far as I know that bill was considered and reported by the full committee without taking into consideration the views of either the Committee on Military Affairs or this Committee.

Mr. KIRBY. The statement of their views was not referred to the entire committee with the bill, so far as I know, and that is the reason I made the statement.

But coming down to the main proposition, and we had just as well face this matter and get through with it, I wish to say just a few words. These informal and defective contracts have not and ought to be validated. These men who had valid contracts and did the work and expended money in compliance with them are not at fault and ought to be compensated. They are, however, asking for an additional and a better remedy than is vouchsafed under existing law to men who had valid contracts and whose contracts were canceled because the Government could not use the munitions and supplies that had been purchased and contracted for after the contracts had been canceled, and the men who had valid contracts and whose contracts have been canceled because of the armistice having been signed must resort to the regional boards which have already been constituted. The claim comes through the regional board to a central board that has been established in the War Department here, then through the hands of the Secretary of War and then to the Court of Claims if the parties are not satisfied with the award made. These men came and said, "We want a remedy here for the validation of our contracts; we must be provided a remedy, we have none whatever; our contracts are invalid or informal or have not been completed, and we are entitled to compensation." The bill as reported by the subcommittee, inserted upon the Senate from Nebraska [Mr. HITCHCOCK] and the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. McKELLAR], provides, as the other bill proposed by the committee does, that only when he regards that the public interest requires it the Secretary of War shall validate the contract.

The bill as introduced did not provide that on a quantum meruit a man might recover who had no contract at all, who had been ordered to produce certain stuff, and had, in fact, expended money in producing it.

The bill as proposed here provides that both the men whose contracts were valid and have been canceled and those whose claim rights under informal contracts may have the benefit of the hearing and determination. I think that this comes down to the heart of the case and that the case of these men is intertwined with the case of those men who have valid contracts and whose contracts have been canceled because of the armistice having been signed. The claim of the men who have valid contracts and whose contracts have been canceled because of the armistice having been signed must resort to the regional boards which have already been constituted. The claim comes through the regional board to a central board that has been established in the War Department here, then through the hands of the Secretary of War and then to the Court of Claims if the parties are not satisfied with the award made. These men came and said, "We want a remedy here for the validation of our contracts; we must be provided a remedy, we have none whatever; our contracts are invalid or informal or have not been completed, and we are entitled to compensation." The bill as reported by the subcommittee, inserted upon the Senate from Nebraska [Mr. HITCHCOCK] and the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. McKELLAR], provides, as the other bill proposed by the committee does, that only when he regards that the public interest requires it the Secretary of War shall validate the contract.
ness men; it goes through the central board already created in the operation of the War Department; and it goes to the Secretary of War for a final determination. That certain provision is made, and a new board is proposed to be created in the Chamberlain bill, and from there, if the parties are not satisfied, it can be taken to the Court of Claims. That certainly is providing enough machinery and a sufficient remedy for any man who has no valid contract to start with. That has been done in order that the matter may be handled expeditiously.

It is objected that the War Department ought not to be permitted to settle these matters, because it was through its fault that the contracts were not legally made in the first instance. That certainly is not made out by any intentional mistake of the War Department, nor were they invalid on that account. It may be that there was not time enough to prepare and properly execute the contracts; and certainly the orders have not been regarded as executed contracts and could not be, the parties not having had time to reduce the terms of the contracts to proper form. There was no delivery of the things that were necessary being insisted upon.

The War Department, under the law as it is, settles for the Government all the claims that are based upon the instruction, and claims which are canceled valid contracts until there is some additional legislation provided. Why should not the War Department have also been permitted to settle with the contractors who have nothing to fear from improper claims, as it is allowed to settle all of the claims under canceled valid contracts. The War Department is familiar with the whole transaction from its beginning to its completion, and through the supervisory arm of the central board, the settlement of the claims; but it is contended that in the settlement of claims arising out of these informal illegal contracts the War Department might be overthrown or that some man in the War Department might be in collusion with the contractors and claimants. Certainly the very same objection would apply to settlement of claims under other contracts.

But that is an objection which is to be considered. We have had to trust the War Department for the making of previous contracts; we have trusted the War Department for the cancellation of valid contracts; and, under the same law, we trust the War Department for the settlement of claims for damages under valid contracts, subject only to appeal to the Court of Claims.

Now, the contractors who have these invalid contracts want an additional remedy over the remedy which was provided even for the settlement of valid contracts or claims thereunder. They say, "We distrust the War Department; we do not believe that they will do justice." But they do not distrust the War Department for the same reason which the Senator from Nebraska did; they say, "We distrust the War Department for the same reason which the Senator from Nebraska did; we are ready to allow settlement of the claims in the Court of Claims," and that is the condition of the people who have made contracts with the Government, they have not been fairly treated; that they have been paid too little for what they have absolutely a fair deal, and they cannot complain that they have not been fairly treated.

We say: "All right, I will not take the lumber, but I am going to send to the War Department here to the War Department, and you come to me next week and say, "I do not want that lumber."" We say: "A billion and a half of dollars are tied up in this kind of contracts in this kind of claims. It is provided that the contractor and the Government shall, under the present law, have the machinery arranged for the settlement of such claims. They have the machinery in the United States today—it takes 10 or 11 months to pass on and decide 625 cases and to write the opinion therein. There are 6,000 cases here, and it will take the proposed commission—if they do not distrust the War Department, why not let them settle it? If you and I have a contract in the first instance, and every officer is presumed to do his duty; then, why not let the War Department settle a claim where it has made the contract? Why not? They were authorized to make the contract in the first instance, and every officer is presumed to do his duty; then, why not let them settle it? If you and I have a contract in that case, or in any other case, and I say: "Yes; but you agreed to take it; here is your contract," and you say: "All right, I will not take the lumber, but I am going to pay you that." Then the two contracting parties get together and see if they can agree on the amount of damages. That has always been the practice: that is right, and it ought to be so; but every man must minimize his damages as much as he possibly can. That is the condition of the people who have made contracts with the Government. They, the War Department, say, "We are ready to negotiate with you about a settlement; we understand the whole thing." Then, under these circumstances, the bill provides to present a new commission that can hear these cases at some time in the near future and hope to conclude the consideration of them all without unreasonable delay.

It is provided that the commission proposed by the Hitchcock substitute shall enter upon the hearing of these claims, and
say it will take from six to seven years to finish them up if the commission learns enough about each claim to pass intelligent judgment upon it.

In States like New York, there is no difference to me whether one or the other measure is passed, except from the standpoint of promoting the public interest and of dealing fairly and justly with the contractors. The Taft bill expended money and delivered material for the Government's benefit in a time of emergency. I believe they ought to be reimbursed, but I do not believe that under the Hitchcock bill it can be done in anything like time enough to save the contractors and promote the interests of the country.

**LEAGUE OF NATIONS.**

**Mr. POLLOCK.** Mr. President, it is extremely unfortunate that the Congress of the United States should be called upon to consider legislation, such as that which is before the Senate, involving the payment of perhaps more than $2,000,000,000 on so-called illegal or irregular contracts. That situation could not have arisen under normal conditions, and we would not to-day be called upon to consider a bill such as that which is now before the Senate had it been possible for the United States to have remained out of the great war which has shaken the whole world. Therefore, it may not be inappropriate at this time to submit some remarks on the general situation which confronts the whole world at this time, a political question, and the one in regard to the danger that is being made by peoples all over the world to try to work out some plan whereby war may be made a thing of the past.

Mr. President, it is not as a former Secretary of State who has guided our Nation in its international relations, nor as a distinguished member of the Foreign Relations Committee who has displayed great learning and ability in the consideration of the important policies that confront our Nation, nor as the orator of long service and recognized ability the world over in this body, that I would address you to-day, but merely as an ordinary man and as a humble Member of the United States Senate, unknown largely beyond the limits of my own State, fresh from contact with the plain people of America, that I would try to-day to voice the sentiments and express the hopes of the great mass of the population of America and the world on the question of a permanent peace of the world, as near as that may be at this time. I should be recreant to my duty and shirking a responsibility which must come as a result of the great world war just ended. We have been associated, in regard to the great settlements that have arisen under normal conditions, and we would not to-day be called upon to consider legislation, such as that which is before the Senate, except from the standpoint of promoting the public interest and of dealing fairly and justly with the contractors. The Taft bill expended money and delivered material for the Government's benefit in a time of emergency. I believe they ought to be reimbursed, but I do not believe that under the Hitchcock bill it can be done in anything like time enough to save the contractors and promote the interests of the country.

I feel some delicacy, sir, in imposing upon the time of the Senate, but each of us in this body, composed of 96 out of a population of more than 100,000,000 of free American people, has the voice and the vote of more than 100,000,000 citizens of this great Republic, and I feel, sir, that this momentous question of all the ages is hanging in the balance that it must be my duty to say duly the work of the world, and I do not raise my voice in protest at much which has been said in this Chamber and elsewhere in regard to this supreme question, which is in the mind of thinking people everywhere.

I feel a sense of responsibility; I feel that the criticisms of the President of the United States induced in by some Senators on account of his visit abroad to confer with the other great nations, who criticize the works of great American men that we have been associated, in regard to the great settlements that must come as a result of the great war world just ended. I have noted with pity the action of certain Senators in having inserted in the House newspaper clippings and other articles tending or attempting to bring the President out of the United States into disfavor and contempt and ridicule of the world. I have pitted these men because they are injuring not the President in his great undertakings, but they are making ourselves small indeed in the estimation of the American people.

The question of establishing a league of nations to maintain the peace among the great powers is not a political or partisan question; it is earnestly chumplined and advocated by the only two living Presidents of the United States—the one a Democrat, the other a Republican; but both, sir, of the very kind of patriotic Americans—the one with power to act for America while he speaks, the other with power only to help create the proper sentiment in the country and to counsel and advise with the President. I believe that the attempt to develop the world's desire for peace and world peace, from the President's Press, and that he is the man that has been put forward to fill the post of honor with his strength and his skill; fighting for you and fighting for me, fighting for loved ones, fighting for honor, fighting for country, and fighting for humanity; read what these men say, learn what they have seen, and get what they have seen, get what they have been associated, in regard to the great settlements that must come as a result of the great war world just ended. I have noted with pity the action of certain Senators in having inserted in the House newspaper clippings and other articles tending or attempting to bring the President out of the United States into disfavor and contempt and ridicule of the world. I have pitted these men because they are injuring not the President in his great undertakings, but they are making themselves small indeed in the estimation of the American people.

The question of establishing a league of nations to maintain the peace among the great powers is not a political or partisan question; it is earnestly chumplined and advocated by the only two living Presidents of the United States—the one a Democrat, the other a Republican; but both, sir, of the very kind of patriotic Americans—the one with power to act for America while he speaks, the other with power only to help create the proper sentiment in the country and to counsel and advise with the President. I believe that the attempt to develop the world's desire for peace and world peace, from the President's Press, and that he is the man that has been put forward to fill the post of honor with his strength and his skill; fighting for you and fighting for me, fighting for loved ones, fighting for honor, fighting for country, and fighting for humanity; read what these men say, learn what they have seen, and get what they have seen, get what they have been associated, in regard to the great settlements that must come as a result of the great war world just ended. I have noted with pity the action of certain Senators in having inserted in the House newspaper clippings and other articles tending or attempting to bring the President out of the United States into disfavor and contempt and ridicule of the world. I have pitted these men because they are injuring not the President in his great undertakings, but they are making themselves small indeed in the estimation of the American people.

And he who sneers at peace is not much, if any, worse than the man who finds fault with every effort, every idea that will the better effectuate the purposes of the world, and the greatest purpose of the world to-day is the peace of the world. Therefore, it may not be inappropriate at this time to witness the death of comrades all around them, who have been filled with the horrors of war; they have endured its agonies; they have witnessed its sufferings; they know the uselessness, the folly, the criminality of war except as it is fought in defense of home and country and civilization. They realize the crime of making unnecessary war, and he who to-day sneers at peace and every honest effort that can be made to effectuate the peace of the world as 'a sort of international mutual admiration so-called the Apostolic Creed for a guide,' will find that it can be done only out of harmony with the spirit of the great American people, and especially that gallant army of 2,000,000 heroes who crossed the Atlantic Ocean to stop the mad dog of Europe in his wild orgy of destruction and murder.

Let such a one read the letters from the men who have been over there, who have endured hardships beyond expression, who have laid out in mud-filled, water-soaked trenches for weeks at a time without changing clothes, who have gone out finally over No Man's Land and have witnessed the death of comrades all around them, who have suffered and endured. Let such a one read the letters from the men who have been over there, who have endured hardships beyond expression, who have laid out in mud-filled, water-soaked trenches for weeks at a time without changing clothes, who have gone out finally over No Man's Land and have witnessed the death of comrades all around them, who have suffered and endured. Let such a one read the letters from the men who have been over there, who have endured hardships beyond expression, who have laid out in mud-filled, water-soaked trenches for weeks at a time without changing clothes, who have gone out finally over No Man's Land and have witnessed the death of comrades all around them, who have suffered and endured. Let such a one read the letters from the men who have been over there, who have endured hardships beyond expression, who have laid out in mud-filled, water-soaked trenches for weeks at a time without changing clothes, who have gone out finally over No Man's Land and have witnessed the death of comrades all around them, who have suffered and endured. Let such a one read the letters from the men who have been over there, who have endured hardships beyond expression, who have laid out in mud-filled, water-soaked trenches for weeks at a time without changing clothes, who have gone out finally over No Man's Land and have witnessed the death of comrades all around them, who have suffered and endured.

Therefore, it may not be inappropriate at this time to witness the death of comrades all around them, who have been filled with the horrors of war; they have endured its agonies; they have witnessed its sufferings; they know the uselessness, the folly, the criminality of war except as it is fought in defense of home and country and civilization. They realize the crime of making unnecessary war, and he who to-day sneers at peace and every honest effort that can be made to effectuate the peace of the world as 'a sort of international mutual admiration score, so-called the Apostolic Creed for a guide,' will find that it can be done only out of harmony with the spirit of the great American people, and especially that gallant army of 2,000,000 heroes who crossed the Atlantic Ocean to stop the mad dog of Europe in his wild orgy of destruction and murder.

Let such a one read the letters from the men who have been over there, who have endured hardships beyond expression, who have laid out in mud-filled, water-soaked trenches for weeks at a time without changing clothes, who have gone out finally over No Man's Land and have witnessed the death of comrades all around them, who have suffered and endured.