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## New Mexico in the Great War, II: The War Executive

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cooperative agricultural work and made possible the employment of an agricultural agent in every county.

A fourth bill passed accepted the provisions of the Smith-Hughes act for vocational education and appropriated \$15,000 annually for two years to meet a like appropriation from the federal government.

One other important measure was enacted which empowered the governor, for the purpose of giving aid to the national government or providing for public health, welfare, and safety in the state, to organize and employ all the resources of the state, whether of men, property, or instrumentalities.

Thus unreservedly, promptly, and wholeheartedly did the people of New Mexico, through their chosen representatives, throw themselves and all their resources into the Great War. The Sunshine State fears no storm.

Lansing B. Bloom.

## II The War Executive

In every state the "War Governor" is of special interest -- his administration is more generally studied than those of other men of equal ability and success. There is no question but that the War Governor of New Mexico will be of special interest to the future historian. His ability and his fidelity to the interests of the State and Nation will rank him among the outstanding governors.

Every biography is of interest to two classes -- the young and the experienced. Childhood and youth and their formative influences appeal to the young, while opinions and acts hold the attention of the mature.

The youth of Lincoln or of Garfield contained no more interesting elements of privation and no more evidence of surmounting difficulty than can be found in the life of Washington Ellsworth Lindsey, who was born December 20, 1862, in Belmont County, Ohio, on Capitana Creek, of a sturdy Scotch parentage.

Robert Lindsey, the founder of the family in America, was a horseshoer in Washington's Army, having enlisted from Maryland. His son Robert L. Lindsey emigrated from Virginia to Ohio, crossing the Alleghany Mountains in a wagon with a water tight bed which was used as a boat when the Ohio River was crossed. He settled on a branch of the Capitana Creek where he established a settlement that soon grew to a village. He was the owner of the saw mill, the flour mill, the blacksmith and the carpenter shops, and a general store. His son, Robert Washington Lindsey (father of the subject of this sketch) after he reached his maturity enlisted for the Mexican War, but peace was declared before he was ready for service. In the Civil War he was a recruiting officer. Throughout its entire history the family has been noted for its loyalty and its sturdy pioneer qualities.

Washington E. Lindsey was never away from the home community until twelve years of age, when he went to a nearby railway station to meet his father who had been at the county seat serving on the jury. He and the horses had never seen a train. The wagon road crossed a railroad a short distance from a tunnel. As the boy and horses approached the crossing a locomotive in all its grandeur and awe inspiring power emerged from the tunnel both boy and horses ran away. This was the beginning of his education in outside experiences.

He began his school career when seven years old in an eight cornered brick building. There were sixty pupils and the future governor was permitted to recite once a week. He attended this school for three or four months every year until he was seventeen when he entered Scio College, where the "One Study System" as in vogue. The student devoted himself exclusively to the study of mathematics until he had complete the required amount, then he took up the study of grammar and so on, until the course was finished. Professor Smith, by his close personal friendship, inspired the young country boy to continue his education until he was

graduated by the University of Michigan in the class of 1891 with the degree LL. B. He did post-graduate work under Henry Coates Adams in history and government. He was a student under John Dewey and a classmate of James R. Angell, now of Chicago University.

Upon graduation he opened a law office in Chicago, where he continued the practice of law until he came to New Mexico in 1900. After a brief stay in Roswell he settled in Portales June 20, 1900.

His first endeavor for community building was in writing a bill to create Roosevelt County and securing its passage through the territorial legislature. He was aided by Albert Bacon Fall, then a member of the council. The bill was introduced, passed through both houses of the legislature and signed by the governor in a single legislative day. He was appointed probate clerk of the new county by Governor Otero and from that time on, he has been a prominent factor in local and state interests. Although a republican, he was elected a member of the constitutional convention of 1910 by a constituency that was overwhelmingly democratic. He served as a member and as president of the board of education of Portales from 1913 to 1917.

Mr. Lindsey offered his services to his country during the Spanish-American War and was commissioned captain of Company L of a provisional division in Illinois, but the armistice was signed before his regiment was inducted into service.

At the republican convention of 1916 Mr. Lindsey was nominated as candidate for the office of lieutenant governor and at the November election he received a majority of the votes. He was sworn into office January 1, 1917, and presided over the senate from January 9th to February 19th, on which day he took the oath of office as governor to succeed E. C. de Baca who died in office.

Shortly after the adjournment of the regular session of the legislature came the declaration of war, and Governor

Lindsey called a special session of the members of the third legislature to meet on May 1, 1917. He read his message to both houses, in which he asked for wider powers and for the appointment of a war committee to aid in the recruiting of soldiers and in the production of additional food stuffs. He closed his message with the following words: "Let me therefore, in conclusion, urge that in this great crisis, in this even tragic time, we shall all, forgetting self and political bias, labor earnestly to serve most efficiently our state and our nation. This it seems to me, is our supreme privilege, as, no less, it is our supreme duty."

Governor Lindsey is justly proud of the services that he has rendered the state. His acts as "War Governor", his friendship to the movements in education, and his connection with state-wide Prohibition are his claims to a place in the history of the state. He issued various addresses and proclamations to the citizens of the state, among which "A First Lesson on the War", "Why the United States Entered the War", "An Educational Proclamation" (under date of Sixteenth Day of August), "Our Flag", "The Pinto Bean", are outstanding in patriotism and wisdom. "Our Flag" is the best product of his pen, having attracted wide attention, and it is worthy of a permanent place in this book.

### Our Flag

"Tis the star spangled banner, oh, long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

A flag may be described as a strip of cloth of a light fabric, varying in form and color, frequently bearing some emblematic design, and ordinarily displayed, affixed by one end to a staff, pole or rope. The most common use of flags is as emblems of nations.

The use of flags is of great antiquity. In the book, NUMBERS, of the Bible, we read, "Every man of the Children of Isreal shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their fathers' house."