

THE FRONTIER

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 Entered at the Postoffice at O'Neill, Nebraska, as Second Class Matter.
 One Year, in Nebraska \$2.00
 One Year, outside Nebraska 2.25
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The gossip in the Senate and House lobbies is that Harry Hopkins, who now heads the Department of Commerce, will play with business in order to help bring factions together and to actually bring about better business conditions in 1940.

Hopkins, Perkins, Wallace and perhaps even Secretary Hull may do some clashing on the new administration program to play with industry. Members are discussing the slight rift between the President and Wallace over processing taxes. The President is against them and Wallace has been for them. The guess is that there will be no processing taxes.

The Administration will not go along with the Cost of Production plan and there is not much hope at the present writing that many changes will come in the farm bill. Some helpful amendments are already in the hopper. Many new farm bills have also been introduced. That the farm problem is not yet solved is shown by news coming out of the agriculture department that Wallace plans to call on various organizations and business groups to assist him in "solving the farm problem." Prairie states congressmen have attended meetings during the past three weeks—at all of which there occurred discussion of the farm situation. In all of these meetings it was agreed that when the farm problem is solved, the principal problems of unemployment and depression will be solved. It was also agreed that the economic problems of the United States will not be solved until the farmer acquires purchasing power equivalent to industry.

The Cost of Production block is meeting each week. They have asked critics of their plan for constructive criticism in order that they may add their strength to other blocs who have the interests of the farmer at heart. The Cost of Production advocates argue that manufacturers get cost of production; Labor has laws to help get living wages; railroads have laws to protect rates figured at cost of service. The rates of telegraph and telephone companies reflect cost of service. They feel that the farmer will never have adequate purchasing power unless and until he has some assurance of at least the cost of production in return for what he has to sell.

The Townsend people are here in large numbers. They want a hearing on their bill. The majority leaders say the minority members who requested such a hearing ought to be "put on the spot" but they fear that perhaps some leading majority members would also be placed there. So they are working up strategy as to what ought to do about this bill.

Some railroad men are starting to send petitions to members asking for government ownership of railroads. There is a bloc in the inner administration circle which will try to do something constructive for the railroads. That something should be done is pretty much agreed, but just what this is going to be is still a guess.

Bob Doughton, head of the Ways and Means Committee is working overtime on taxes. Everybody here knows that with new spending there is only one place from which to get the money—that's from the taxpayers. So a new tax bill is in the making.

The Appropriations Committee of twenty-five democrats and fifteen republicans has now divided itself into eleven sub-committees and these are working day and night on appropriations for about everything that makes the government tick. Each sub-committee is headed by a democratic chairman who finds new faces on the minority

side of his group. Each sub-committee is assigned primary responsibility for one of the regular supply bills. Extensive hearings in executive sessions are now going on Deficiencies, Interior, Agriculture, Independent offices, Treasury and Postoffice, State Justice and Commerce, War, Navy, Legislative, District of Columbia and Labor-Social Security, are the committee subdivisions. The Labor-Social Security sub-committee is newly formed this year. Formerly, appropriations for the Labor Department were made in the Stats - Justice - Commerce - Labor Bill and for the Social Security Board in the Independent Offices bill.

Any decrease in relief funds will be more than counter-balanced by appropriations for other purposes. Members are now studying the new budget which is so voluminous that it requires many hours of reading. The President wants to revive the Passamaquoddy project where already almost seven millions have been spent. That the project's objective is to harness the tides of the ocean for hydro electric power. The site in its present state of improvement is utilized by the National Youth Administration. He also wants to revive the Florida ship canal. If revived, these two projects will call for at least 400 million dollars. The Secretary of War wants 200 million dollars for the Panama Canal for improvements and protection in case of war. The War Department also discovers that the Army has no real good maps of this country and wants 50 million dollars for that purpose. These items, plus 533 million dollars for national defense and more millions in prospective demand for the same purpose, added to the billions heretofore authorized for war preparations, makes members of the Appropriations Committee really wonder if any step toward economy was taken when the House reduced the supplemental relief appropriation below executive recommendation.

The Morton tree on the capitol grounds is growing in fine shape. The original Morton tree planted years ago in front of the Department of Agriculture building has long since disappeared. The Nebraska American Legion is to be asked to replace it. The Secretary of Agriculture is willing for that to be done. J. Sterling Morton was once Secretary of Agriculture.

At a recent farm meeting, one speaker noted: "Agriculture's chief economic problems are that farmers have to sell in an unprotected market, and buy in a protected market." This statement, often made, fails to take into account that the three principal items of farm sales in the United States, dairy products, meat products, and fats and oils, are all made in a very satisfactorily protected home market. Other farmers sell wool, tobacco, fruits, vegetables, nuts, flaxseed, soybeans, common beans, sugar beets, sugar cane, etc., in a protected market. Cotton, the starches, and egg products, only of important farm products are not protected. Fats and oils, taken together and excluding butter, rank about third in total farm products and are protected by the three cent excise and import tax enacted by Congress in the past three years. These items of protection are strongly recognized as good public policy.

The largest single deficiency crop of the United States agricultural industry is fats and oils. American manufacturers, food and industrial, require three thousand tons a day of foreign coconut, palm, palm kernel, whale and other oils to supply domestic needs. In case of war most of this could be cut off by cutting off sea trade with the Philippines, and the Pacific islands. Nebraska farmers are highly intelligent in supporting reasonable efforts to increase production of soybeans, a leading source of vegetable oil.

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THE NEBRASKA SCENE

By the Lowell Service

Lincoln, Nebraska—From the inner circles of the Omaha political machine comes the announcement, evidently authoritative, that the ambitions of Governor Cochran have been reshaped and reformed by the supporters of Senator Burke and the mandates of the World-Herald. Cochran, it is stated, must defer senatorial ambitions until 1942.

Senator Sam Klaver, republican and editor of the Omaha Public Ledger, is the spokesman. "It has been common knowledge," writes Klaver, "that the governor would like to be United States Senator, but he is expected to defer his campaign until 1942 and come out for Senator Norris' seat. One of the compelling reasons is that the World-Herald will actively support Senator Burke for reelection in 1940. Without the support, or, possibly with the opposition of this newspaper, friends of Governor Cochran fear that he will not be able to make the grade."

Cochran is expected to angle for the support of the Nebraska state delegation in 1940, with the expectation of seeking the nomination for the vice-presidency. In order to be in the running the democratic presidential nominee would have to be chosen from the East or South.

"No matter what may happen," concludes Senator Klaver, "the governor will have to shelve his senatorial ambitions until 1942."

The appointment of William A. Bruce, of Verdigris, as a member of the board of control has aroused republican outcry in Omaha against the governor. Such republicans as William McHugh, Chris Tracy, Herbert White, and others expected the appointment. The fight got so hot that the governor had to name an out-state man.

Bruce will succeed Henry Behrens, of Beemer, July 1st. According to law, the governor had to select a republican. All the republican factions of Omaha are angry. "Cochran was elected by the voting strength of Omaha alone," declared County Chairman Baldrige, of the Douglas county republican committee. "His action is distinctly a double-cross on his friends."

Cochran named Carl Horn, of Hay Springs, for member of the state game commission to succeed W. J. Tiley, of North Platte. He also selected Harry Bane, Omaha, as director of the state employment service at \$3,000 a year; Neil C. Vandemoer, Scottsbluff, director of assistance at \$3,300; and Robert T. Malone, Lincoln, director of unemployment compensation at \$3,600. Herbert McCulla, Lincoln, and Joe Boehler, Orleans, were named to the state planning board, McCulla replaces S. R. McKelvie who recently resigned. Boehler fills the vacancy caused by the death of J. L. Cleary, of Grand Island.

Anti-Cochran forces are expected to stage a drive next week to upset the patronage program of the executive. One of the chief points of attack will be the state highway system. An effort will be made, according to a group of senators, to place highway construction under a bi-partisan state commission with the unemployed in the various counties sharing in the labor under supervision of the county commissioners.

Opposition is expected to develop

against the governor's plan to combine the state normal board with the board of regents of the university. Another point of attack will be the insurance department. An investigation is proposed with the idea of entirely reorganizing the agency under the state auditor.

F. A. Scherzinger, editor of the Nelson Gazette, and sponsor of the plan to erect a statue on the capitol grounds in honor of General John J. Pershing, was made chairman of a board of commissioners to supervise the erection of such a statue last week by appointment by Lieutenant Governor William E. Johnson. Other members appointed were as follows: Frank C. Zehring, of Lincoln, First district; Henry M. Eaton, of Omaha, Second district; Gene Huse, of Norfolk, Third; Charles H. Sloan, of Geneva, Fourth; Keith Neville, of North Platte, Fifth; and ex-officio members, Governor R. L. Cochran; Robert B. Waring, Geneva, state commander of the American Legion; and A. E. Sheldon, superintendent of the State Historical Society.

Exclusive of costs of administration, the total amount of all public aid in Nebraska in 1938, was \$30,568,030, according to a recent report of the state assistance division. More was expended during March than in any other month of the year, and December came next.

Lack of crops and change of marketing, with farmers taking their grain longer distances by use of trucks were the causes recently suggested by Horace M. Davis, fire marshal, for a reduction of 188 in the number of grain elevators in Nebraska since 1923, which is disclosed by a survey recently made by Marshall Davis. In spite of the marked decline in elevators, grain shipping stations have been reduced only 39 during the same period.

"There are 293 state banks operating now, and all are in good running order," declared Ben Saunders, state banking superintendent, in a hearing before the legislative appropriations committee last week. "Although the continued drought has had some effect, Nebraska banks are now, on the whole, in better shape than in 1935. I believe that the banking department can operate during the coming biennium on the appropriations recommended by Governor Cochran—\$43,185 from tax funds and \$75,200 from cash receipts. Even further economies may be effected."

The legislature has a bill before it which would place the state athletic office under the state auditor. This move was recommended by State Auditor R. C. Johnson when questioned by the legislative appropriations committee in regard to the audit of the office of Athletic Director L. B. Hokuf which showed that during the last biennium collections exceeded disbursements by only \$147.91. Johnson said that the office would not be self-supporting under the present rate of expenditures, which he considered excessive. A decided reduction in the gate receipts from boxing and wrestling, from which the state gets 5 per cent is given as the reason for the reduction in collections.

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Of the 17,410 industrial accidents which occurred in Nebraska during 1938 the greatest number, 2,847, were caused by the contact of workmen with sharp or rough objects. Automobiles, tractors, and trucks caused 1,136 injuries; 2,426 were caused by stepping on objects; 1,947 injuries from falls; 1,532 from flying particles; and 447 from burns, according to the records of the state workmen's compensation court. Medical and compensation expense amounted to \$597,170.

A bill to change entirely the organization of the state board of agriculture was among the many bills introduced in the legislature on the last day that bills could be offered. Its introducer was Emil Von Seggern, of West Point, but he said that he wished to make it clear that he was not sponsoring the bill and that he had merely consented to introduce it. The bill would provide a new method of election by Congressional districts for members of the board; would limit membership to two consecutive terms; and employ a secretary manager at a salary not to exceed \$6,000.

C. W. Eubank of the state board of control appeared last week before the legislative committee on appropriations in an effort to obtain legislative approval of suggested means by which funds could be made available for the construction of a \$320,000 ward building at the Lincoln state hospital for the insane, similar to the one at the Hastings institution. He asked that the \$82,497 unexpended fund in several board accounts be re-allocated at once to the building fund of the state board of control, so that it can be matched immediately with federal funds, making a total of \$149,994. He also asked that \$25,000 be transferred from the Beatrice feeble-minded institute to the boards building account; also \$50,000 from the general revolving fund of the board. In reply, Chairman Frank Brady, of Atkinson stated that the committee would like to have a formal request from Governor Cochran for the re-allocation of the desired funds. It was explained that state-federal funds amounting to \$130,000 is already available for the hospital at Lincoln.

The question as to whether the Regional Agricultural Credit corporation can be sued was argued last week before the United States Supreme Court by Judge E. B. Perry, of Lincoln, who maintained that since Congress has not withheld the right to sue the credit corporation, the right to sue it exists. Attorneys for the corporation argued that since the corporation is owned and operated by the government, it is immune from suit. The case was brought by Keifer and

Keifer, cattlemen of Nuckolls county, who sued for damages, alleging that the corporation had failed to care for cattle as promised. The Omaha Federal court, sustaining a demurrer of the corporation, dismissed the suit, and that decision was upheld by the Court of Appeals of the Eighth circuit. The plaintiffs appealed to the highest court of the land, and the hearing was granted on a writ of certiorari.

"So long as roads can be built with unseem and painless taxes, and so long as license monies which belong to the schools can be used for other purposes, there are those who will be content with no change. But it becomes increasingly evident that the cause of education is doomed if the property tax is to continue to be its sole support." So declared H. L. Cushing, president of Kearney State Teacher's College last week in an appeal to the legislature to "save the schools." "The only hope which remains for us rests with the legislature," stated Cushing. "If it be the desire of the people of the state that these colleges be reduced to institutions of lower rank, certainly the people of the state through their chosen representatives are vested with the power."

More than 500 antelope are now running wild in Garden, Kimball and Cheyenne counties, according to Sec. O'Connell of the state game, forestation and parks commission. About 1,000 of the big game animals of the state are at large, and the commission estimates white tail deer at about 465 and mule deer at 360.

Dr. Fred J. Kelly of the federal bureau of education at Washington has been "loaned" to Nebraska for

a few months, and he will be largely in charge of the survey of educational conditions in the state which has been ordered by the state planning board. The work must be finished by May 1, according to James Motherhead, of Scottsbluff, chairman of the sub-committee of the planning board which has the educational matters in charge, and not more than from \$6,000 to \$7,000 is to be spent for making the survey. A group of Nebraska educators under the direction of Dr. Kelly will make the survey. Some of the studies to be made are as follows: As to whether there is unnecessary and costly overlapping or duplication of functions of courses in the various state-supported educational institutions; as to how Nebraska compares with neighboring states in the amount appropriated for higher education per unit of population and per student enrolled; an employment census taken by volunteer high school students and students of the seventh and eighth grades in each of the school districts of the state; a study to determine the vacancies that could reasonably be expected to occur as a result of mortality and retirement in each of the major occupational groups; and a study to

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