

THE FRONTIER

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CONGRESS

AN ORN BY KARL STEFAN

Strikes Costly to Uncle Sam

The Harlan County, Kentucky coal strike has broken out again. Already it has cost lives and much loss in miner's wages. The Department of Justice has already spent \$150,000 of taxpayers' money in prosecutions there. An army of Federal men have been on the ground and new strikes mean more taxpayers' money for prosecutions. Labor leaders, like John L. Lewis, are powerful individuals.

Must Get Money to Work

Nebraska bankers who were here attending bankers' conventions, had many interviews with House and Senate members. Bankers tell members of the House Banking Committee that Congress should do something to help business. Members tell the banker to let loose of some of the huge deposits in banks. Bankers say they have no control over individual deposits and that depositors can still do what they please with their money. The bankers feel that the Federal government and the owners of idle money should get together very soon.

Session May Last Into August

Congress may get a new tax bill. With heavy expenditures, something must be done about raising some money with which to pay. Hints are being made in both houses that some kind of a tax bill is on the program before congress can go home. The tax bill and war talk may hold the session far into July or even August. Notwithstanding that, leaders are asking committees to hurry through the preliminary consideration of bills so that they may be brought to the floor.

Lawyers Get Together

Lawyers from all parts of the country were here during the week attending the meetings of the American Bar Association and the American Law Institute. Tom Lanigan, who is an attorney in the Department of Justice, gave a luncheon in honor of his brother, Jim Lanigan, of Greeley. At that luncheon, were Judge Woodbrough, formerly of Omaha, Judge Bayard Payne, of Lincoln; Chief Justice Robert Simmons, Harry Fleharty, of Omaha, James Hanley, who practices here, James Quigley, of Valentine and Judge Louis Lightner, of Columbus.

Political Jockeying With Beef

Argentine beef is basis for real oratory these days. Most of the speeches come from members of the majority party who lives in farm districts. Many of the Minority, who have opposed importation of foreign products are refraining from speeches but are telling Majority members "We told you so." Every farm district member is hot under the collar on account of the Chief Executive's instructions to the Navy to buy Argentine beef. While some farm members say the amount of beef to be bought from the Argentines for the Navy will not be large, they resent statements that Argentine beef is better than American beef. That statement, they say, means that the Triple A program may be hit hard. The real objective of the American beef propaganda plan is the plan to kill our quarantine legislation against foreign meats.

Build Goodwill at Farmers' Expense

The Navy Department is without a rudder. The Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Swanson, has been sick a long time. He hasn't been active and his job has been done by admirals and officers who carry out orders from the President. The State Department's fight to maintain the "good neighbor" policy in Latin-America is reflected in the decision now to buy Latin-America farm products. The coming of Canadian and Argentine beef into the United States in competition with the products of the American farm, may deal another blow to

those who have been fighting to preserve the American market for the American farmer. It is going to cost the American farming industry a lot of money to win the friendship of the politically minded Latin-American governments whose representatives are here in large numbers, waiting at the door of Uncle Sam's treasury.

FSA Short of Money

The Farm Security Administration is running short of money. Cal Ward, the Regional Director in the Nebraska area has been in town and has visited at the Third District office where he was told of anxiety on the part of many farmers regarding future loans from the FSA. Farm members are in close touch with the situation and are making every effort to bring assistance wherever it is possible.

U. S. Aid to Brazilian Farmers

Senator Aranha, Brazil's Foreign Minister, must feel exultant over the agreement he has arranged with our State Department. Under this agreement we lend Brazil 50 million dollars in gold, extend an additional credit of 120 million dollars and provide Brazil with experts and technical aides, to help Brazilian farmers improve their agricultural methods. Brazil is a larger country and has a greater diversity of climate than we have. She has become our chief cotton competitor in the world market. Why should we show her how to produce better and cheaper farm products? Where are our farmers in this picture? This is the Good Neighbor policy with a vengeance. Brazil has put it over on our farmers, through our State Department. Harmonizing the budget of the unicameral legislature with the new federal Public Works Agency act has not been given much consideration by the legislature. The senators were forced into line with the Social Security Amendments of 1939. However, the setup of the federal agency to relieve unemployment is another matter.

Under the present arrangement, all the buck is passed to WPA. The local government units are expected to contribute a certain definite per cent. In practice this requirement has not been maintained. Such cities as Omaha get off with minor contributions. The national average is said to be 17 per cent contributed by governmental units and the rest a Christmas gift from Uncle Sam. The permanent unemployment relief bill requires that one third of the cost of the project be financed locally or there is no playing the game. Certain observers predict a loud clamor for a sales tax from metropolitan centers before the summer is over.

THE NEBRASKA SCENE

Lincoln — One of the unsung and thoroughly abused heroes of the depression is Dwight F. Felton, state administrator of the WPA.

This relief agency is lampooned by columnists and ridiculed by the public generally. In Nebraska, the WPA has turned out to be the last resort of desperate, starving, discouraged men and women. Sooner or later, all relief roads lead to the WPA. Delegations from the counties roll in. Tales of woe pour into the ears of Administrator Felton. County boards contact him when all other relief avenues are closed. Mr. Felton is always running above his quota with all the funds in use. During the last week, Mr. Felton's burden was cruelly increased by efforts to relieve the wants of needy unemployed in the districts of Congressman Heinke and Curtis — two of the sternest critics of relief. County boards from the First and Fourth are frequent visitors.

Critics in Omaha and Lincoln have almost no conception of conditions out in the state. Daily newspapers, seeking advertising appropriations from the east, paint a roseate picture of the rural life. This makes the going tough when there is real distress.

Q. F. Lambert of Fullerton recently wrote the following to A. E. Anderson, state crop statistician: "I want to explain a condition to you and ask you to use your offices to have this territory put in the drought area. Have lived in this particular territory since February, 1881. This is the driest condition I have ever viewed. All spring one plowing can actually plough up dry dirt, not a sign of moisture in it. They claim that about 17 of the WPA men were transferred to the shelterbelt, and that work has been finished. They are afraid they will not be put back on WPA. Also the report is that 17 more men will be laid off WPA this month. Demand for farm labor very limited. My opinion is that if a report of conditions were laid before the proper ones, that the WPA men

would not be laid off in this particular territory until crop conditions have improved."

Mr. Anderson replied: "Your local condition is not unlike the greater part of Nebraska. With the exception of Southeastern Nebraska and the Panhandle counties and some areas in extreme northeastern Nebraska, there have been few rains since September. * * * I am making copies of your letter and sending same to W. F. Gallander, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, and to D. F. Felton, WPA administrator, Lincoln."

Without the knowledge of any of the parties concerned, the writer "followed through" on this letter. Mr. Felton put in a request for more funds. He was turned down. Next he conferred with authorities in Platte and Nance counties and put the needy men to work. He issued an order that cut down administrative expenses and issued an overtime work order on the clerical force.

Next, he took the matter up with Senator Norris at Washington. So Mr. Lambert's suggestion was carried out: "a report of condition was laid before the proper ones"—the overworked Administrator in Lincoln and the silver haired senator in Washington. No chance for headlines; no theme for a funny cartoon or a snappy joke. Just a drab incident in one of the most tragic periods in the history of civilization.

It is simple justice to state that Mr. Felton has been roundly abused by the leaders of both parties. The democrats say the republicans have all the best places; the republicans declare that none but democrats can get jobs. However, necessity dictated most of the appointments, according to Mr. Felton.

Joe Smith, assistant administrator, is a republican and had the endorsement of the late Charley McCloud, indomitable opponent of Senator Norris. Strangely enough, Mr. Smith had a glowing tribute from Senator Norris.

The aristocrats of the relief service are the agricultural agencies. Cal Ward, a republican from Kansas, draws \$7,100 a year. Other officers in these setups draw whacking salaries. This condition has now been remedied by the reorganization order of President Roosevelt, sent to Congress May 9. Mr. Felton gets little more than \$5,000. He drew almost as much when secretary of agriculture.

L. F. Armbrust and W. A. Holderman, Sarpy county farmers, last week entered a vigorous protest against the action of the railway commission in failing to grant a permit to Eastern Nebraska Public Power district to build transmission lines in Sarpy county. The farmers maintained that an off-peak rate of 1 1/4 cents would soon be quoted by the hydros for energy delivered to farms through the rural power districts. The railway commission granted a number of permits to Nebraska Power company to build lines in Sarpy county. When Commissioner Good moved that the Eastern Nebraska Public Power district be granted a permit, Commissioners Maupin and Swanson voted in the negative.

More than 200 farmers visited Lincoln at various times to boost the cause of public power. So far, the Eastern Nebraska is the only district that has failed to get a permit to build lines. Attorneys for the Eastern Nebraska have lost every legal contest with Nebr. Power company to date. All the other districts have won out.

Miles Maryott, aging artist and nature lover, who began serving a life sentence in the state penitentiary June 1, 1927, for the alleged shooting of his friend, George Albee, night marshal at Oshkosh, was paroled to St. Elizabeth hospital in Lincoln last week for hospitalization. Physicians think he cannot live more than a few months. He expressed much pleasure at the action of the board of pardons, and though he was so weak that he could with difficulty sign parole papers, absolutely refused to ride to the hospital in an ambulance. He insisted on being carried down the stairs and being placed in a sitting position in a car and he seemed to enjoy the ride away from the prison. His life sentence was reduced to 25 years in 1937.

Dr. Ernest F. Witte, who has been director of the graduate school of social work of the University of Nebraska since it was founded two years ago, has resigned his position and has accepted the offer of a similar post at Seattle, in the University of Washington. Dr. Witte, who is a well-known member of the American Association of Social Workers, and of the National Conference of Social Work, is said to have done excellent work in getting

the new department at Nebraska under way.

A new national park will be located in Nebraska, if the national park service will accept it, according to a recent announcement by A. B. Wood of Gering, former president of the Nebraska State Historical society. He explained that Robert F. and Mary Durnal, pioneers of western Nebraska, have decided to deed to the society a tract of 79.91 acres of land along the old Oregon trail. This tract includes Chimney Rock and the Gift of God pagoda grounds.

The state cannot be sued by its employees under the workmen's compensation laws, because that would require a special law giving the permission of the state, and no such law has ever been passed, according to a brief recently filed in the Supreme Court by Assistant Attorney General Rush C. Clarke. The question arose in a protest made against a compensation award made in the case of Walter R. Callen, an employe of the state highway department who died, it is alleged, as the result of a disease caused by an accident during his employment.

A. E. Anderson, state and federal crop statistician, figured that Nebraska abandonment of winter wheat will be 17 per cent or more than a million acres less than in 1938. Except in the southwestern and extreme western sections of the state, abandonment has been extremely heavy, due to lack of moisture since September.

On motion of Senator Von Seggern, the legislature on Wednesday killed the bill which would have made the state superintendent of public instruction the fifth member of the board of educational lands and funds. As the bill was originally framed, the lieutenant governor would have been made the fifth member. The board is now composed of four members, and votes often result in a tie.

By a bare constitutional majority of 22, with 15 votes opposing, the much discussed barbers' bill passed the legislature May 17th. It provides that 75 per cent of barber shop owners and managers in any city or village may set minimum prices for barber work under approval of the state barber board; also that an annual shop license fee of \$3 be placed on each barber shop in the state. Power is given to the barber board to make rules and regulations and to refuse licenses to those who violate the price agreements. Advocates of the bill claim that this is a public health measure, since barbers must have minimum prices for their work if they are to maintain sanitary standards needed for public health; also that the state police has regulatory power over public health measures.

Reducing to total amount of the budget to \$50,301,637, the appropriations committee of the legislature reduced the figures almost five millions from the record breaking high of two years ago. The amount then was \$55,180,120. The total amount to be raised



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from property taxes was fixed by the committee at \$10,753,682. The total in 1937 was \$12,758,965. The figures of the committee lowered tax levy funds to the level of 1918. The recommended slash in the highway funds totaled almost 5 million dollars. An additional half cent was taken from the department to be used in state assistance. This approximated \$2,200,000 which under dollar matching with the federal government, meant \$4,400,000. The next heaviest cut was made in education. The state university, normal schools and the country schools were sharply reduced. Chairman Brady did not make a re-survey of the state bureaus and commissions nor was there much of a study of the expenses of two-light zone government.

(Continued from page 1.)

NATIONAL DEBT WEEK

factual data regarding the national debt.

In order further to concentrate attention on the dangerous national debt, Governors in various states have issued proclamations or statements calling on their people to give serious and sober consideration to what has been happening in Washington. Meetings with the same object in view will be held in many places.

Preliminary to "National Debt Week," the Mutual Broadcasting System has scheduled a discussion of Government Spending and the National Debt," during its American Forum of the Air program, from 7 to 8 p.m. (EST), Sunday, May 21. Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Republican of Michigan, will deliver one of the principal addresses and will be supported in a panel discussion to follow by Senator Stiles Bridges, Republican of New Hampshire, and Representative Daniel A. Reed, of New York, Chairman of the Special Republican Committee on National Debt Policy.

Senator Robert A. Taft, Republican of Ohio, will continue the discussion of the national debt on Monday evening, from 7:15 to 7:30 p.m. (EST) over the Blue Network of the National Broadcasting Company. Representative Bruce Barton, Republican of New York, will discuss the effect of the national debt and taxes on jobs in industry over the Columbia Broadcasting System from 5:45 to 6 p.m. (EST) Tuesday evening.

Representative J. William Ditter, Republican of Pennsylvania, and a member of the House Appropriations Committee, will discuss the spending and debt questions over the Columbia Broadcasting System from 9:45 to 10 p.m. (EST) Saturday evening, May 27.

There will be further announcements of features for the observance of National Debt Week.

Veterans Auxiliary to Vend Poppies Poppy Day

Poppy Day will be observed throughout the United States on Saturday, May 27th, with the wearing of memorial poppies in honor of the World War dead, Edith J. Davidson, president of the Holt County Auxiliary to Post No. 926 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, has announced. In observance of this day the Auxiliary women will distribute poppies on the street during the day.

These flowers, replicas of the poppies which grew on the World War battlefields and among which the dead and wounded fell, are recognized throughout the English speaking world as the memorial flower for those who fell in defense of democracy.

Workers from the local Auxiliary will offer poppies on the streets all day Saturday and will receive contributions for welfare work among disabled veterans and their families.

Ex-Senator Granddaughter Marries Verdigre Boy

Miss Gayle Phillips, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Phillips, of Walnut, was united in marriage to

Leonard Franek, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Franek, of Verdigre, at the home of the bride's parents on Wednesday, May 24. Rev. Walter of the Walnut Lutheran church officiated at the ceremony.

The bride was attired in a sky blue chiffon dress, and was attended by Miss Frances Vecera, who wore a baby blue taffeta dress. The bridegroom and his best man, Thomas Kucera, both wore the conventional blue. The bride carried a bouquet of double white carnations, while her bridesmaid wore a corsage of white roses and sweet peas.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Franek are graduates of the Verdigre high school and will make their home near that city.

Following the ceremony a buffet luncheon was served at the home of the bride's parents and a seven o'clock dinner at the home of the bridegroom's parents.

LUTHERAN CHURCH NOTES

Rev. R. W. Fricke, Pastor

Regular worship service at the Episcopal church Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

One of the most hopeful and optimistic outlooks is that picture of a 93-year old man with head buried in a seed catalogue.

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