

THE FRONTIER

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ton exports, which are smaller this year than at any time during the past 50 years. Since 1933, American cotton has been rapidly losing ground abroad. The curtailment of our export trade in cotton is evidently due to this price-control policy. We cannot expand our foreign trade by Reciprocal Trade Agreements and at the same time pursue price-raising policies that actually destroy the demand for our exports. The Reciprocal Trade policy and the Price Fixing policy do not jibe; they clash head-on.

Many Imports From Argentine

Letters from home ask if we are really buying a lot of farm produce from the Argentine. The answer to that is that the imports from that country are increasing. The controversy over buying 48,000 pounds of Argentine canned beef for our navy is not so serious as the import figures for last year. Here is a brief list of some of those imports: Linseed, \$16,558,992; wool, \$6,969,350; hides and skins, \$5,666,699; canned meat, \$3,997,261; quebracho, \$2,334,825; wild animal skins, \$1,731,365; animal by-products, \$1,678,146; metals and minerals, \$1,277,016; preserved meats, \$724,560; fruits, \$515,160; seeds (excluding linseed), \$278,194; dairy products, \$216,144 and miscellaneous, \$717,129.

Farm Loans Being Paid

Thus far, the Farm Security Administration has been the most successful government loaning agency. In four years it has loaned to farmers who had no other means of credit \$236,000,000 or about the cost of a couple of battleships. The farmers have already paid back \$72,000,000 and the 650,000 borrowers have been kept off relief. Had they all gone to town and obtained WPA jobs the cost would have been six or seven times the amount of their loans.

Alcohol Gasoline Seen as Farm Help

Recently a group of chemists representing the Chemical Foundation and economic research organizations appeared before a senate subcommittee and urged that the one-cent federal gasoline tax be lifted on motor fuel containing a ten percent or more ethyl alcohol blend. The group testified that a ten percent alcohol blend in gasoline would consume the products of 30 million acres, increase the gross farm income by 600 million dollars yearly in additional factory pay rolls and increase the nation's income by 4 billion 200 million dollars. The introduction of the automobile and truck has destroyed the market for about 30 million acres of grain and hay. Therefore, the blend of gasoline with alcohol would make unnecessary all crop control and government subsidies. Best of all, it would restore the farmer's buying power, and that would solve the unemployment problem. As a matter of fact, we cannot fully estimate the benefits that would accrue from it. Eventually, why not now?

Do Campaign Donations Stop Farm Legislation?

For many years the matter of the importation of foreign fats and oils in competition with our own vegetable and annual oil production has been before congress. Odd as may be, it is a question over which the various agricultural sections are in agreement. Still, attempts at legislation continue to fail because of the weighty influence of industrialists thriving upon such importations. Over a 20 year period, it has been noted and commented upon that from proprietors of some of the larger of such industries come liberal campaign contributions to the rival parties. Whether or not such contributions are a factor, the

THE NEBRASKA SCENE

By the Lowell Service

Lincoln—Skillful wirepulling is going on behind the scenes in the republican organization. This became apparent when republican editors met chieftains in a pow-wow in this city last week.

The occasion for the meeting was the visit of Franklyn Waltman, national publicity worker and organizer. About sixty editors attended the meeting. The day was Tuesday and sizzling hot. Yet the editorial wheelhorses were on hand.

It became apparent that National Committeeman Hugh Butler, now a candidate for United States Senator, was not going to resign, but might actually hold the reins of power until the state convention in the fall of 1940. The primaries will be held in April. Lysle Jackson, present state chairman, will be a candidate for national committeeman, it is expected. Opposing him there may be Robert Van Pelt of Lincoln, Kenneth Wherry of Pawnee City, and Ira D. Beynon of Lincoln. Robert Smith will not be a candidate for national committee, but may run for delegate-at-large to the national convention.

John Riddell and several others are listed for state chairman. The latter office is selected by the state committee.

In connection with the choice of Chairman Jackson at the Fremont convention last September, a veteran republican tells an interesting story:

"The candidates were gathered in a huddle on the stage," he said. "They expected to be consulted about the choice of a state chairman. The state committee members met in a room near by.

"It was current gossip that few if any—of the candidates wanted Mr. Jackson. In the meeting Clint Brome of Omaha and Fred Berry of Wayne took an aggressive lead for the reelection of Mr. Jackson. Thinking that the two men spoke for candidates, the suggestion was not opposed, and the chairman was reelected.

"After the meeting adjourned, the members of the state committee evidently perceived that they had forgotten some little amenities. No opportunity had been given for the candidates to appear before the committee. The members scurried away, leaving the candidates in a huddle on the stage.

"There was barely money enough to keep the state headquarters open. Chairman Jackson has explained that he wanted an opportunity to score in a winning state campaign. Now he is content to relinquish the office, but feels that he deserves further reward."

Dwight Griswold, Charley Warner and several other prospective candidates for office attended the meeting of republican editors. Hugh Butler, national committeeman, conferred with the editors and candidates. "Bob" Smith, veteran GOP adviser, was on hand.

Apparently there was an effort to prevent a free-for-all in the race for the governorship. Charley Warner is standing pat with Dr. A. L. Miller of Kimball an announced candidate. Dave Meeker, former tax commissioner under the McMullin regime, has stated that he will be a candidate. Dwight Griswold has made a tour of the state; Hugh Brown of Kearney is a possibility.

Another report had a disquieting effect on the party leaders. Max Towle, county attorney of Lancaster county, is supposed to be toying with the idea of seeking the

only advance made was in levying the excise tax on coconut oil, principally from the Philippines. That tax amounts to about \$14,000,000 a year, but through the generosity of the same congress which levied the tax, the receipts are paid to the Philippine government, so our Treasury has not benefitted.

Recently an attempt was made in the Senate to impose a higher excise tax, but it failed, the State Department insisting that the additional levy would interfere with certain reciprocal trade agreements now in effect. Cotton growers, dairymen and stock-raisers are well united in opposition to the use of billions of pounds of imported oils annually, but as Mark Twain said about the weather, "Everybody talks about it, but nobody does anything about it." It is estimated that sixteen million acres would be required to produce the amount of oil now imported, but, of course, production here would cost more than in the tropical countries where labor is cheap.

nomination for governor. Towle has a considerable following among the young republicans.

A. C. Tilley, state engineer, has announced August 3 as the date on which bids will be received for the biggest highway letting of the year. Work estimated at \$1,695,000 will be let, including some 33 projects, among which are 28 bridges. State construction funds will furnish \$857,000 of the total; federal aid funds, \$772,000; state maintenance funds, \$9,000; federal aid secondary highway funds, \$53,000; and federal aid grade crossing funds, \$4,000.

Gossip among contractors indicates that the proposal to construct an express highway across the nation is still receiving consideration. Those who have seen the blue prints say that an eight lane thoroughfare is proposed. The cost is to be paid out of tolls. One route, it is reported, follows a line from Murray through Seward and thence west to the mountains. A survey has been made in Northern Kansas north of Highway 36.

The balance in the state treasury has declined \$578,000 during the month of June, according to the monthly report of State Treasurer T. W. Bass. The cash balance July 1 was \$5,781,235 as compared with \$6,359,679 June 1. Receipts of the general fund were \$481,567, as compared with disbursements of \$417,453.

Legislative expenses have decreased with each session of the unicameral, according to the report recently filed by Legislative Clerk Hugo Srb. The 1939 session, the longest, was the cheapest, costing but \$100,678. The expenses of the 1937 session amounted to \$101,445, while the 1935 bicameral legislature cost the taxpayers \$202,593.

A slight saving was made on the items of salaries and expenses of members, despite the length of the session. Salaries of officers and employes were \$3,500 more than the 1937 session. Postage, telephone, incidentals, and supplies amounted to much more than two years ago. The big savings were in the printing account and the abandonment of the junketing trips of members.

Proponents of the unicameral claim that several features of the true one-house legislature will be urged during the 1940 campaign. The idea will be stressed that legislation is not the main objective of the legislature. Repeal of existing laws, checking the budget and passing on the business needs of the state institutions will be advanced as the real objectives of the legislators. Curative bills should be suggested by the departments of state government. All bills proposing radical changes should be made issues in the campaign.

The practice of killing all bills at the end of a session of the legislature is to be assailed. Many of these slain measures have been reprinted session after session. All bills reported from committees, under the new arrangement, are to be kept on the clerk's standing file and be re-referred to the proper

committees at the next session, if their sponsors so move. Such a policy would make another drastic cut in the printing bill.

The final and most sweeping suggestion is that the legislature hold frequent and short sessions and function like the board of directors of a great corporation.

Murray J. Roper, who, though he has been in New York City for ten years, is a graduate of the David City high school and a former student of the University of Nebraska, of which both his parents were graduates, has been chosen by a federal government commission to design and execute a bas-relief for the interior of the Harrison, N. J., postoffice. The bas-relief, which is to be 4½ feet high by 3½ feet wide, will be entitled "Industry and the Family," and will be placed above the door of the postmaster. Young Roper received honorable mention in the national competition for sculpture for the Evanston, Ill., postoffice recently.

A majority of all votes in an election is necessary to order county financial support of a program of county farm bureau work, according to a decision of the Nebraska Supreme court rendered last week. In an appeal of the Thurston County Farm bureau, the high court upheld the ruling of the district court, holding that no county appropriation for the bureau should be authorized because voters favoring support of the agricultural extension work did not constitute a majority of all those who voted in the county in the election of 1938.

State Engineer A. C. Tilley, director of motor vehicles, has announced the promotion of Captain R. F. Weller, who has been chief of the state safety patrol since its beginning, to be assistant director of motor vehicles. Lieutenant R. T. Schrein, it was announced by State Sheriff William Flake, will succeed Weller as chief of the patrol. Tilley explained that the new motor vehicle title law, which will go into effect in September, will make more work for the motor vehicle division and that help will be required. Leo Chandler, who has been an auditor for the agriculture department, will be added to the motor vehicle staff, to be in charge of handling of the mechanics of the new law, which provides that motor vehicle registration, beginning in September, must carry an abstract of title for the vehicle, showing indebtedness or transfer. Phil Kohl of Wayne, former deputy state auditor will replace Chandler as field auditor for the gasoline tax division of the bureau of motor fuels.

Miss Sarah T. Muir, head of the department of English in the Lincoln high school, was elected one of the vice presidents of the National Educational association, at its recent convention—the 77th—in San Francisco. Some 15,000 teachers were in attendance.

Grain stored in warehouses will be taxable in the county in which the owner resides, according to a ruling of the state board of equalization at its meeting last week.

Several disputes in regard to taxation had arisen, since much grain is stored as security for federal loans in warehouses in other counties than those in which the crops were raised. The members of the board at the last meeting were Gov. R. L. Cochran, Secretary of State Harry R. Swanson, Auditor Rey C. Johnson, Treasurer T. W. Bass, and State Tax Commissioner W. H. Smith.

BRIEFLY STATED

Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Cronin left Friday morning, taking Sister Calixta, who has been here visiting for the past week, back to Jackson and then drove on to Sioux City, where they spent the day visiting relatives and friends.

The office of the County Treasurer has started issuing distress warrants for personal taxes, and those who have not yet paid their taxes, can save themselves some money by paying before they have the warrant issued.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Schroder and daughter, Jean, of Omaha, arrived here Saturday for a few days visit with relatives, before leaving for Denver and Yellowstone Park. They left Tuesday morning accompanied by C.J. Gatz and Mrs. Jack Vincent.

Charles Yarnall drove to North Platte on Tuesday taking his son, Charles, Jr., there where he met Warren Thompson. They will go on to Salt Lake City, where they plan on finding employment. Charles Yarnall, Sr. returned home Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Todson, son, Blaine, and daughter, Jennelle, drove to Grand Island on Sunday, where they visited relatives and where Blaine took the train for Ogden, Utah, where he will visit his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Blaine.

Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Bentz and two daughters, and son-in-law, of Oregon City, Oregon, visited here Wednesday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Bergstrom on their way home after visiting relatives in Norfolk and Fremont. Mrs. Bentz is a cousin of Mrs. Bergstrom.

Mrs. Teresa Connelly, daughters, Grace and Teresa, and son,

Francis, and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Connelly, of Casper, Wyo., drove to Omaha on Wednesday where they spent the day visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Turner and son.
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