

## THE NEBRASKA SCENE

(By The Lowell Service)

Lincoln—It has been a week of swift events—with promises of definite results in Nebraska irrigation and reclamation circles. Publication of the circumstances and atmosphere connected with the delivery of the speech of J. M. Carmody, national WPA administrator, at the session of the Nebraska State Water Conservation congress led to swift rebuke for the official and criticism of all who attended the secret dinner at the Clarke hotel in Hastings.

Senator Burke challenged the accuracy of Mr. Carmody's statements and asserted that money was available for Republican river improvements. Mr. Burke probed printed statements of the activities of the state planning board and found the assertions correct. It is estimated that, with cooperation between the state and federal agencies about 18 million dollars might be available for irrigation developments. The Mirage project has secured money, and other projects are preparing applications for funds, he said.

Senator Norris hurried to Kansas City for consultation with Army engineers concerning the recently completed survey of the Republican valley. Later he went to Lincoln, evidently to check up on the attitude of Governor Cochran and his assistants. His schedule included McCook, Platte River points, and the inspection of contemplated projects. Two years ago Senator Norris secured an appropriation for a flood-control survey of the Republican Valley. This work has just been completed by the army engineers.

J. M. Sorensen of the Lower Platte Valley Irrigation project has arranged for filing applications for funds for his development. Final data has been placed before Engineer Tilley in the application of the Ak-Sar-Ben Public Power and Irrigation District at South Bend. This district has been seeking a permit since April 24, 1938. In 1931 army engineers made a complete survey of the proposed development. The opposition of the Burlington railway is reported to be a factor in the delay. Construction of the Sorensen project and the Ak-Sar-Ben undertaking would insure water conservation on the Lower Platte.

During the uproar caused by the Carmody incident it was learned that Senator Burke had been refused permission to speak at the Hastings meeting. Secretary Moritz Aabel wrote Secretary Homer Gruenther that Burke would not be permitted to speak. The senator, according to Gruenther wanted to pledge cooperation and support to the program and wanted to confer with Carmody over recent legislation. Senator Burke later asserted that funds were available for immediate use in the Republican valley.

The educational studies of the state planning board has delayed any worth-while tabulation of Nebraska's water resources. The Ak-Sar-Ben district and the Shell Creek-Fremont undertaking secured valuable data from Dr. George E. Condra of the state university. George McVicker, engineer and farmer of North Bend, has made an enviable presentation of conditions north of the Platte river. Senator Van Diest and a number of residents of the drouth areas have done a large amount of work at their own expense.

Nebraska irrigation boosters are keeping in touch with National Power Policy Defense committee under the leadership of Secretary Ickes. This committee is considering a national grid for the distribution of power.

Public power districts are being formed in both Omaha and Lincoln.

Hugh Butler, candidate for republican nomination for United States senate, attended the Hastings meeting. His brother, Attorney B. F. Butler of Cambridge, acted as a member of the resolutions committee of the Hastings meeting. The Butlers have worked for years for Republican river development. Hugh Butler was a heavy loser in the 1935 flood.

T. S. Allen of Lincoln is regarded as the probable chairman of the state delegation to the democratic national convention. National Committeeman Jim Quigley is a candidate for reelection as is Mrs. Evelyn Ryan, committeewoman. R. W. Reynolds of Fremont has announced that he will contest with Quigley; Mrs. Howard Saxton of Omaha may be filed against Mrs. Ryan.

In the republican ranks, Glen

Carpenter of Omaha will oppose Lysle Jackson of Neligh for national committeeman. In the First District, Kenneth Wherry of Pawnee City and Mayor Copeland of Lincoln are mentioned for delegates to the Republican national convention with John B. Quinn of Lincoln and Bob Armstrong of Auburn as alternates.

Sub-surface excitement was provided in democratic circles by gossip that pressure from Omaha might force Governor Cochran from the senatorial race and that he would file either as a candidate for governor or try to be congressman from the First district. Mr. Cochran maintained silence.

Tax spenders predominated at the annual convention of the Nebraska Federation of County Tax-Payers Leagues, held at the Lincoln hotel last week. It was a saturnalia of office-seekers. Mingling with the candidates, actual and prospective, were lobbyists for the utilities and representatives of the business interests of Omaha.

From literature of the association, it was shown that the leagues seek entry into other states. Expensive circulars of county audits were distributed. Attorney Edwin Myers of Broken Bow and others connected with the league were asked for a financial statement showing the amounts and sources of contributions. The information was not given.

State Senator Emil Von Seggern opposed the plan for limited tax levy. J. R. McCarl, former budget comptroller denounced heavy expenditures for national defense. Senator Burke urged curtailment of federal spending and the Governor defended it. Frank Arnold of Fullerton was reelected president. The subject of inflated expenditures at the state house was avoided.

Governor Cochran, as this paragraph was written, seemed inclined to favor calling a special session of the legislature to increase the appropriations for old age assistance.

The wavering of the executive may be caused by apprehension that the solons might pass resolutions on several subjects not included in the call. The latest utterance from the governor was as follows: "I am in favor of a special session provided we obtain reasonable assurance from members of the legislature that if called there would be a sufficient number in agreement on the appropriation of any revenue collected for state assistance in excess of the appropriation (\$8,400,000 from state funds) already made."

Attorney General Walter Johnson last week dashed the hopes of the discoverers of oil near Falls City for immediate payment of the \$15,000 state bonus offered for the discovery of gas or oil in Nebraska. He stated that the appropriation of \$25,000 made in 1903 has lapsed, and it will be necessary for the next legislature to make a new appropriation to pay the bonus.

Total receipts of the state racing commission amounted to \$33,655 for the year preceding November 30, 1939, according to the report of State Auditor Ray Johnson, who pronounced the books of the commission to be in "excellent order." Of this amount, \$28,823 was allocated to counties for 4-H work, making each county receive \$311. Expenses of the commission amounted to \$4,732.

The recent duck season was the poorest in years, according to Frank B. O'Connell, secretary of the state game commission, who blamed the warm weather. Federal authorities, he said, denied the request of the commission and Governor Cochran for an extension of the 45-day season.

A request that the Nebraska Supreme court outlaw the sale of insurance thrift contracts by insurance companies within the state has been presented by John S. Logan, counsel for the state insurance department, in connection with re-arguments in the appeal of Herman F. Gartner of Lincoln. Reinstatement of a delinquent thrift contract issued by the defunct Cosmopolitan Old Line Life Insurance company is being sought by Gartner.

"The Sunday ban on liquor sales will be in full force on Sunday, December 31," declared W. W. Carmichael, chairman of the state liquor commission, last week. "The law's the law, and there's nothing we can do to abrogate it or mitigate it, even if we wanted to." Hence, a comparatively quiet New

Year's eve may be in store for Nebraska.

More than 20 leases on state school lands have been voided by the opinion recently stated by Attorney General Johnson that leases are void unless obtained by the highest bidder at public auction. The opinion was expressed in connection with the leasing of school land for oil development. In 1918, a constitutional amendment reserved mineral rights for the state. A study is being made in the office of the attorney general to see whether the state can obtain royalties from oil found on school land sold before that date.

It seems that Edwin D. Crites, Chadron attorney and member of the state normal board "has something there" in his attack on the state gasoline law and his defense of the Chadron State Normal school in its refusal to pay the \$27.50 tax on 550 gallons of gasoline used by the school during 1937 and 1938. Crites claims that it is clearly unconstitutional for the state to tax itself. He points out that the state teachers' colleges are owned and operated by the state; that the gasoline in question was bought by the state for use by the state, and was used exclusively for educational purposes; and that the property of the state and its governmental subdivisions is made by the constitution "expressly exempt from taxation." The next legislature may have to do some revision of the gasoline tax law.

Has a school board the power to discharge its employees for a cause? The Supreme court will have to decide this question. The district court of Hitchcock county decided that a school board had such power, but Ralph E. Arehart, former superintendent at Stratton appealed the case to the Supreme Court, asking that the school board at Stratton be directed to pay his salary of \$1,800 for the school year beginning in September, 1937. The school board cancelled Arehart's contract and asked E. C. Pancoast, a high school teacher, to resign, because the two had engaged in a fist fight, March 15, 1937.

Another outbreak has been staged by the so-called liberals of the state university. At a recent campus meeting, Otto Woerner, arts and science junior, denounced the political set-up which he alleged existed at the university. He declared the system was "despicable."

"Students who vote as they are told," he shouted, "are a set of low down heels." Prolonged and vociferous argument followed and the meeting adjourned with red hot oratory in progress.

The unemployment situation, especially among the young people of the state, may be a factor in the coming political campaign. Applications for census jobs are pouring into Francis V. Robinson at the Omaha office in large numbers. These demands for places come from young democrats who cannot get jobs. In the republican organizations the unrest is far worse. Crop failures are blamed for the crisis in the Middle West.

## Dwight Griswold Files Again for Republican Nomination for Governor

Dwight Griswold of Gordon filed on Tuesday as a Republican candidate for Governor. He was the party nominee for that office in 1932, 1934 and 1936, losing out by narrow margins in the face of Democratic landslides.

Griswold is 46 years of age and is editor of the Gordon Journal and a former President of the Nebraska State Press Association. He is also a former State Commander of the American Legion and served three terms in the State Senate from 1925 to 1929. He was born and raised in western Nebraska and is a university graduate. Present indications are that he will be the youngest of the Republican candidates for Governor.



Mr. Griswold, in a statement issued at the time of his filing, said:

"There are many who have urged me to file for Governor, saying that I deserve the nomination in 1940 when a Republican victory is quite probable because I carried the banner through hard fought battles when there was no chance to win. Others say that I have run too often."

"Neither of these statements is entirely true" continued Mr. Griswold. "The duty of Republican voters in next April's primary is to choose that candidate who is best able to make the necessary campaign fight and properly fill the office after he is elected. Public offices should not be passed out as rewards to deserving party workers—honesty and ability should be the basis of the voter's decision."

"I do feel, however," said Mr. Griswold "that my previous campaigns have been the finest possible training to prepare me to serve the people of Nebraska. I have campaigned in 92 of the 93 counties of the state and have met personally about 100,000 of her citizens. There is no better way to learn of the needs and wants of the various sections."

"As a result of these visits and personal contacts, I appreciate the need of certain sections for a development of irrigation, and I understand also the demand for highway improvement and a proper administration of the various state institutions."

Mr. Griswold stated that he expects to make an active, aggressive campaign, and in his previous election fights, he gained the reputation of being the hardest worker ever to stump the state. During one six day period in 1934 he spoke

with a public address system in 74 different towns. He always ran ahead of his ticket, and all three times received a larger vote than any other candidate for Governor ever received without being elected.

"It appears" he continued, "that there will be several other able men who will file for the Republican nomination for Governor. If the voters decide that some other is better qualified than I am, the winner will surely have my support in the fall campaign. There is no reason for hard feelings as the campaign should be kept clean."

Mr. Griswold stated that he would have something to say about campaign issues. In a recent editorial in his newspaper, he spoke against the adoption of a sales tax and other new forms of taxation.

## NEBRASKA BANKS MAKE 225,000 NEW LOANS

That banks in Nebraska are actively serving the credit needs of their communities is indicated by figures announced by the American Bankers Association showing that the commercial banks of the state made more than 225,000 new loans totaling \$88,000,000 to business firms and individuals during the first six months of 1939 and renewed 240,000 outstanding loans totaling \$102,000,000 during the same period.

These figures are based on reports received from 144, of 33 per cent of the 436 commercial banks of the state, and make allowance for the concentration of lending activity in the metropolitan area of Omaha.

The 144 banks reported they made 84,543 new loans totaling \$49,627,956 between January 1 and June 30, 1939, and renewed 60,820 outstanding loans totaling \$54,125,459. In addition, they reported 433 new mortgage loans to home owners and other real estate owners totaling \$1,592,911.

The average number of new loans per bank was 587, and the average loan was for \$587.

The average number of renewals per bank was 422, and the average renewal was for \$890.

The average number of new mortgages reported per bank was 3, and the average mortgage was for \$3,679.

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