

# THE FRONTIER

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Now that it seems likely that we will permit Europe to pay a part of its war obligations in the white metal, wouldn't it be appropriate for the audience to arise and sing, "Silver Threads Among the Gold?"

## MORE SAFETY AND MORE JOBS

Among the many creditable ways states and communities are finding to relieve unemployment and provide jobs, are motor vehicle inspection campaigns. Designed chiefly to remove mechanical hazards from cars on the highway, in the interest of safety, these campaigns stimulate business in repairs, replacements and new auto sales.

Some states have made them mandatory, and last year more than 4,500,000 motor vehicles were inspected. In Pennsylvania over 3,000,000 cars were examined; in Massachusetts, 800,000; in New Hampshire, 102,000; in Maryland, 324,000; and in Virginia, 330,000. Every industry identified with the automobile reported increased business.

The campaigns are usually conducted under the supervision of the State Motor Vehicle Department and there is no cost to the individual automobile owner or driver unless it develops that his automobile is defective or dangerously in need of repairs.

Inspection stations are conveniently located throughout the state. In some cases, garages, filling stations and repair shops are utilized as focal points. Brakes, head and rear lights, windshield wipers, rear vision mirrors, tires and steering mechanisms are the chief parts inspected.

John J. Hall, Director of Street and Highway Safety Division of the National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters, who has introduced inspection campaigns in more than 20 states, recently said: "Mechanical failure was given as the chief cause for mishaps to more than 10 per cent of 1,006,530 motor vehicles involved in accidents last year. This is an increase over 1931. Economic conditions apparently are making drivers penny wise and dollar foolish, and this is extremely dangerous. Cars should not be driven unless they are in good condition, not only for the motorist's own sake but for the sake of others as well."

## A PROPHET ARISES

Chicago Tribune: It appears that the country is about to get better acquainted with Mordecai Ezekiel who, with Messrs. (and professors) Moley and Tugwell, is of the economic triumvirate proposing and disposing in Washington. Mr. Ezekiel is a modest man and has given Who's Who the go-by, but then so also was Col. House. He had many of the reticences if not all of the solemnities of a Japanese elder statesman and liked to wrap his works in a cover of mystery. He went about on gum shoes and sometimes was thought to use the drain in making his entrances and exits. Col. House never seemed to dislike the suggestion that silence was strength and that he was the big shot in the shadows in spite of the fact that Mr. Wilson seldom brooked any imperiousness except his own.

Mr. Ezekiel, Mordecai Ezekiel, comes rightly by the intimations of a major prophet who can look sternly upon the errors of a generation and prescribe bitter medicine as the cure. He may go among the unrepentant with a flail and ox goad. He may believe that the people must feed on thistles and tares before they will deserve good crops with the benediction of their own consciences. We should know more about Mordecai Ezekiel. He is one of the portentous signs of the times.

## EMBARGO PLAN UNWISE

Washington, D. C., Herald: Doubtless there will be—certainly there ought to be—a fight to the finish against the adoption by the Senate of any such arms embargo resolution as that which has just been jammed through the House.

It is proposed by this resolution to authorize the President to enter into arrangements with foreign governments to prevent the shipment of arms whenever and wherever he thinks best.

No resolution dealing with such an intricate foreign problem has any place on the legislative program of this extraordinary session of Congress which

was called to relieve the emergency here at home.

Adoption of this resolution will not relieve the domestic emergency but may aggravate it by new threats of war.

But the resolution is as unwise as it is untimely because as Representative Beck of Pennsylvania pointed out:

"It seeks to vest in the President of the United States, to a large extent, the supreme issue of war and peace, for with this power his ability to implicate us in any part of the world seems reasonably clear."

As this student of the Constitution rightly contended, this resolution would empower the President in case of war or in case of its threat "not merely to form an alliance with other powers to boycott one or both of the nations involved in the conflict," but also to select "which of the two warring nations he regards as the aggressor and which this nation will favor by allowing munitions of war to be sent by our citizens, and which it will discriminate against."

By the federal Constitution, the power to declare war is placed with the Congress. There it should remain. And the way to keep the power to make war where the Constitution put it is to reject outright the arms embargo resolution which the House has approved and sent to the Senate.

The American people look to their senators in Congress, Democrats and Republicans alike, to hold this unwise and untimely proposal in the Committee on Foreign Relations until the Congress meets in regular session next January.

Then there will be ample time to subject this un-American provocative and dangerous proposal to that careful study and ample debate which will expose the reckless folly of this latest attempt to lure the United States into a war-breeding alliance with foreign powers.

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Developments in the financial policy of the United States are coming so rapidly these days as to leave the average reader of the newspapers a trifle dizzy. The first rocket to flash across the dull financial skies was the announcement that Uncle Sam is off the gold standard and that a new embargo had been declared on gold exports. All sorts of guesses were made as to the reasons for this action. One was to the effect that the action was a prelude to an experiment in controlled inflation. Another ventured the opinion that the action was taken to put the United States in a better position to "talk turkey" in the conferences with McDonald of England and Herriot of France. This latter guess had the greatest number of supporters at the time.

That the gold embargo and the decision not to support the American dollar in foreign markets changes the international conference picture is an undisputed fact. Uncle Sam was maintaining his dollar at 100 cents in the world financial markets. Great Britain and many other exporting countries, including Japan, were off the gold standard. This gave John Bull and the wily Jap tremendous advantages in the world markets and even enabled them in some cases to surmount our tariff walls and undersell American producers in the American market. Uncle Sam was naturally interested in getting Great Britain back on a stable money basis, as other nations would follow suit and the stability of world currency be reassured, with the result that we would be no longer handicapped in the world markets.

There was good reason for believing that Mr. McDonald was coming to America with the expectation that gold standard Uncle Sam would beg the British statesman to put John Bull back on the old basis. The Britishers were then intending to promise to consider the idea providing Uncle Sam would do something about reducing or cancelling the war debts and lowering the American tariff so that our market could be flooded again with British made goods.

But about the time Mr. McDonald got to the middle of the Atlantic, conditions changed. Uncle Sam went off the gold standard himself, and British calculations were completely upset. When Mr. MacDonald now asks President Roosevelt "how much will you give us to go back on a stable money basis?" the President, if he so desires, can reply: "How much will you give US to go back on a stable money basis?" It may not be as simple as that, but any rate this illustrates the diplomatic poker playing possibilities, and how Uncle Sam has dealt himself a couple of aces during the past week.

While the embargo on gold met with pretty general approval, the bill introduced into Congress giving the President power to inflate the currency has not met with such widespread acclamation. While the bill gives the President discretionary powers in the matter of inaugurating inflation, many financial students point out that generally when it is applied, currency inflation eventually gets be-

yond control, with the result that the wage earners, holders of savings accounts and life insurance policies suffer first. While credit expansion or reflation is desirable, the confidence of a great many people in the administration program was not enhanced to any great degree by the comparison made in official circles, of the present financial situation and a football game in which it was stated that just as in a football game a new play is not developed until the effects of the preceding play are ascertained, so it is impossible now to map out a financial campaign in advance, that procedure must be on the play by play theory. A great many cautious people would still like to know where they are going when they set out on the seas of financial experimentation. Lawrence Sullivan, writing in the Washington Post comments on this phase of the situation in the following paragraph:

"President Roosevelt, himself, has likened the move to a crucial maneuver on the football field, and yesterday a celebrated member of the Republican insurgent group in the Senate likened the new venture to a youngster's experiment with a cannon cracker: 'We are sneaking up in the dark to light the fuse. We will then stand back to see what happens before deciding upon the next step.'"

The administration's friends, however, say that it knows exactly what it is doing and that its program is sound and complete. All good Americans, regardless of policy, will hope that they are not mistaken.

## ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

With unexpected and dramatic suddenness—so far as the general public is concerned—came President Roosevelt's request to the Congress for the granting of powers which would give the President an economic dictatorship to an extent that is unprecedented in this country. His proposal has a number of phases, but its principal feature hinges on currency inflation. The President would decrease the gold reserve behind each unit of money and permit the issuance of \$3,000,000,000 of new currency in an attempt to revive prices. which Mr. Roosevelt believes to be the major need of the moment. The Federal Reserve System would buy up to \$3,000,000,000 of government bonds at the same time, as a means of expanding credit.

If the plan is authorized, it will naturally work drastic changes in the economic set-up of the country. Coming at the time it does, it is especially striking in its application to the economic conferences between Mr. Roosevelt and the representatives of foreign governments, and in the influence it will have on his hitherto uncontested control of the Congress. The issuance of his statement marked the mobilization of the first organized and directed opposition to his emergency legislation. The following day four of the principal Congressional Republicans—Senators Reed and Walcott, and Representative Snell and Luce—came out with a biting denunciation of the main aspects of the bill, holding that "it violates the most elementary principles" of economics. A few of the leading Congressional Democrats, including Senator Glass, Secretary of the Treasury under Wilson—are reported as being in the opposition. Democratic leaders, however, believe they have sufficient support to pass the measure.

Opinion on the measure, aside from that of a political character, is mixed. The press generally has been cautious in its comment, neither supporting nor opposing the proposal. Influence on security prices was marked, with stocks and bonds, in addition to various basic commodities, making substantial price gains.

The Boston News Bureau reports that statements of industrial executives at annual corporation meetings have uniformly been of a more confident tone than for some time past. Justification for this attitude is appearing in the business statistics. Raw materials, principally wheat and sugar, are showing price strength. The rise in commodity prices is gradual and is being well maintained. Electric power consumption figures for a number of consecutive weeks showed marked betterment over last year. This is likewise true of carloadings.

Rapid trade expansion is not looked for until further adjustment in the credit structure has taken place, and this, in turn, waits upon additional thawing out of the banking situation. But opinion is practically unanimous that the worst has passed, and the work of recovery actually begun.

Conditions in various industries are: **Steel**—The middle of April found steel activities at a new high for 1933.

**Retail Trade**—Most encouraging in several years in a number of large centers.

**Construction**—Industry said to be thoroughly deflated. Increase in building activities anticipated.

**Life Insurance**—New business appreciably under 1932 levels.

**Lumber**—Generally speaking, orders are running well ahead of output. Most regions are showing increase

in orders as compared with corresponding period last year.

**Motors**—Automobile sales maintaining upward trend.

**Cotton**—Consumption increasing.

**Rails**—Outlook continues to be more encouraging, but profits are still at the vanishing point.

Two of the principal topics which the Administration wishes to settle by international action are silver prices and control of wheat surpluses. Effort will be made to improve and stabilize price of silver as an impetus to world trade. Present low silver prices have deprived half the world's population of much of its buying power.

The Interstate Commerce Commission will probably be thoroughly reorganized. It is reported that the fourteen bureaus within the Commission will be reduced to seven. Six bureaus will be transferred to the projected land transportation section of the Commerce Department's transportation division. One bureau—valuation—will probably be completely abolished, or at least much reduced in size.

## LITTERED STREETS

Nebraska City News Press: Tired of littered streets and impressed by complaints from automobile owners Fall's City's council has barred the distribution of printed matter on business streets. A view of almost any street on a Sunday morning, with a breeze blowing, indicates that for the sake of a tidy city, such an ordinance in Nebraska City wouldn't be out of the way

## NOTHING LEFT BUT DIGGING

Journal Stockman: And that's another point on which all the various and sundry bureaus in Washington have fallen down. None of them tell us how to get the dandelions out of the lawn and there seems to be nothing left but to grasp a table knife firmly and dig them up.

## DEEP SEATED LURE

Kearney Hub: The back-to-the-land movement is credited with boosting the American farm population more than one million during the past year, and as a result the agricultural population of the country today is the greatest in history. There is no lure like the prospect of three square meals every day.

## COUNTY EMPLOYE TROUBLES

Beatrice Sun: Court house employees who are not in position to wait for their wages until the county treasury is replenished by tax payments, have been wondering why their approved claims are not better collateral for a bank loan than they appear to be. Some of the banks do not care to handle such loans because the employees claim is subject to be held up if the employe has not paid his taxes.

Some of the employes have discounted their claims rather heavily, while others have been able to negotiate loans on a reasonable basis.

## POSSIBILITIES

Beatrice Sun: Legislation pending before congress would make unlawful the selling in interstate trade of commodities produced by labor working longer than six hours a day and more than five days a week. When this passes the farmers won't have to get out of bed before seven o'clock in the morning and can knock off after doing the chores at four o'clock in the afternoon. Every pound of butter shipped out of the state will have to bear a label showing that the cow which produced the milk wasn't milked or fed by a man who worked more than six hours a day.

## GREAT MISTAKE.

Nebraska City News-Press: When the Warrior Barge Line was established on the Mississippi river by the boosters in all port towns worthy of a chamber of commerce set about building wharfs, docks, harbor master's houses, and what not. Among them was Rock Island-Davenport-

Moline. A bond issue of \$380,000 was voted. The Warrior Line promised to pay wharfage at so-much-per-ton, and everything was lovely. Last year interest and amortization on the municipality's bond issue amounted to about \$30,000; receipts from wharfage were \$1,200. The whole story of the "success" of the Warrior Barge Line is to be found in the American Mercury. It is a thrilling tale of the woeful waste of public funds on an enterprise that, up to this moment, has helped nobody except those sly bureaucratic chaps who saddled the great mistake on the American public.

Philadelphia Star: Mother—Did I see you kissing that young Allen last night?

Beryl—The poor boy said he had just lost an uncle and I felt so sorry for him.

Mother—Huh! If I know anything about that young man he won't have a relative left in a week's time.

FOR SALE—Compo boards; 2x4's; weather slats; 1 door; 2 windows. See McPharlin's Barber Shop. 50-1

The person who cannot afford to save is spending for things he cannot afford to have.

# THE O'NEILL NATIONAL BANK

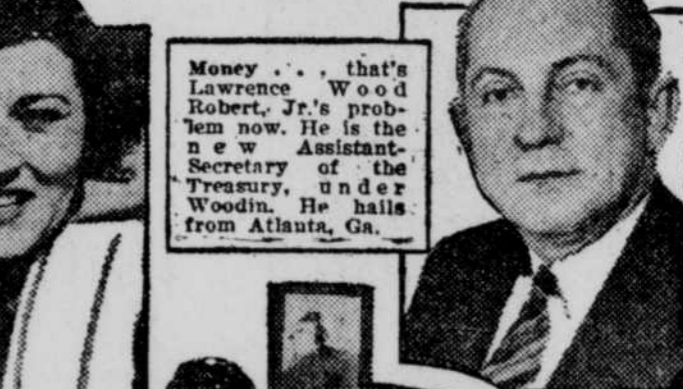
Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits, \$125,000.00

This bank carries no indebtedness of officers or stockholders.

## THIS WEEK'S NEWS VIEWS



Work... that's what these young men were looking for... and found... when they appeared at one of Uncle Sam's enlistment stations for President Roosevelt's reforestation army. ... They were soon off for Camp Knox, Kentucky.



"Whacha mean, growing old?"... piped Babe Ruth and Jack Dempsey as they miffed each other for this photo. "We're still in the money, ain't we?" ... Also, it might be added, in high public favor, as the two sever fail to hold the public's interest wherever they appear.

Now that recent nutritional research has shown that canned pineapple contains more known dietetic values than any other fruit, San Francisco artists' models have taken to the daily eating of the fruit. The Moratorium Tea Room was organized by San Francisco's art colony.