

# THE FRONTIER

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## ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Ever since March 4, things have been humming at Washington, and of late there has been a noticeable acceleration. President Roosevelt described one of his late weeks as being the most exhaustive since he took office. The strain, of course, is mental as well as physical—he has an army of advisors but he must make the last decision in every case and will get the blame if it is wrong. A recent week went something like this: Dispatched warships to Cuba and withdrew them when need had passed. Speeded recovery program and approved steel, oil and lumber industries' codes. Approved a number of farm relief plans and worked on details of paying benefits to farmers reducing cotton crops. Got public works program moving more smoothly and rapidly. Decided to abandon several army posts in interest of economy. Made important diplomatic appointments. Held conferences on possibilities for inflation, and studied economic trends. Made plans for extending Civilian Conservation Corps through winter. Arranged for opening negotiations with Latin American countries on reciprocal tariff agreements. In addition the President must make innumerable less important decisions, meet many callers, go through a stiff and unavoidable routine that is part of the chief executive's job.

Most encouraging recent governmental achievement is completion of the steel and oil codes. Both have had thorny going; many steel and oil men have been recalcitrant, glum, non-cooperative. General Johnson has become puffy-eyed and weary from struggling with them. Finally he got steel leaders into a room, kept them there for 12 hours with hardly an intermission; almost literally tore an agreement out of them. Their demand for an open shop was defeated. Main provisions are a 40-hour week, which may be extended to 48 hours at seasonal peaks; a minimum 40-cents-an-hour wage; an eight-hour day after November 1 if the industry is operating at 60 or more per cent of capacity. The code represents a middle ground; the government wanted more than it got, and the industry wanted to give less than it finally did.

Chief oil code difficulty was over price-fixing. One group wanted it all the way from the well to the gasoline tank; another opposed complete price-fixing, and simply wanted a stipulation to prevent selling at below cost. No amount of argument could bring agreement. General Johnson finally handed them a code by Secretary Ickes and James Moffett, ex-vice-president of the Standard Oil of New Jersey. There will be a 40-hour week at 40 cents per hour. The President has the power to fix for 90 days a minimum gasoline price. He is likewise to appoint a committee of 15 to consider the price question, and to make recommendations to the states concerning oil regulation.

Principal code problems left are soft coal and automobiles. Groups within each industry have been as far apart as the poles.

The resignation of Chief Braintrust-er Raymond Moley must be classified as one of the most dramatic of recent Washington events, but there's no particular surprise element in it. Friction between Mr. Moley and his chief, Secretary Hull, had grown to great size. Breaking point was the World Economic Conference, where Mr. Moley seized the spotlight, made statements which were entirely at odds with the viewpoint of Mr. Hull. Political commentators began forecasting the eventual resignation of one or the other then; a good many thought that Mr. Hull would be the one to use the exit. He probably would have, had not Mr. Moley sent in his resignation. Mr. Moley's next job will be to edit a new weekly magazine which will be principally dedicated to analyzing, explaining and furthering Roosevelt policies.

During recent weeks there has been observable a slight let-down in general business. It's nothing to get excited about, however, and is much less intense than the customary seasonal drop. Best late progress has

been made in promoting employment, due both to increased industrial activity and the N. R. A. drive. Secretary of Labor Perkins announced that 1,100,000 industrial workers obtained jobs between March 4 and the middle of August. Four-hundred thousand new factory jobs appeared in July. During May and June the number of families receiving public charity dropped from 4,222,000 to 3,745,000. Employment is about 21 per cent greater now than last year at this time. Only major industrial group to show decrease is tobacco manufacturers.

The last survey of current business issued by the Department of Commerce, which details conditions into the first three weeks of July, is very encouraging. Prices have continued to move upward. Foreign trade showed a substantial increase. Freight car loadings, on the whole, expanded steadily. Automobile production continued its contraseasonal rise. Stimulation was felt in the chemical group.

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

By Frank P. Litschert

No matter how great or how small is the final success of the government's drive for national recovery as exemplified by the N. R. A., it must be admitted that the people of the country, in general have entered into the plan with a whole-heartedness that is reminiscent of the days of the World War when we were asked to grow more wheat, eat less wheat, and buy more Liberty Bonds. The government enjoys a unanimity of support which has seldom been seen in the United States in time of peace. Newspapers and leaders of both political parties have supported the President and his administration, and have refrained from open criticism, preferring to give the plan a chance to work itself out in the hope that prosperity, or at least something approaching it, might be returned to the nation.

We in the United States have looked upon it as a drive to end the depression, and we have entered into agreements which we hope and believe are in the most part temporary, as sacrifices made in time of war, to be used solely for defeating the enemy, which is in this case the depression. We have not felt that we have undergone any fundamental change in our form of government and we are hopeful that the "good old days" of individual initiative will return again when the cloud of depression has passed away.

What outspoken criticism there has been of the relief scheme has come principally from Europe where, strange enough, Uncle Sam having once been regarded as the mainstay of individualism and capitalism, is now believed to be embarking on a course which may lead him directly into socialism. The criticism, of course, comes principally from the conservative press. For example, one right wing French paper, of international reputation, Les Debats, declares that "the astounding Rooseveltian adventure reveals that the entire country is launched upon the most feverish socialism without anyone in the United States wishing to admit that that is what it is." This statement will serve to explain the somewhat feverish interest with which European politicians are watching our experiment. For if it should turn out that they were right in their assumptions, then indeed one of the last bulwarks of individualism would be swept away, and the very one on which the individualists have always depended to stem the socialist-communist tide in the final hour of peril.

While the majority of Americans will not agree with the statement of the French newspaper quoted above, yet it is well at times to pause for a moment and read what our neighbors think of us. In the meantime it is well worth repeating that no President, in times of peace, has ever had so nearly unanimous support in working out administrative plans. Mr. Roosevelt could hardly ask for more along this line. The situation is a very pleasant and striking one when we compare it with the support or lack of support accorded the preceding administration. Then, it will be set down in history, criticism and sniping commenced almost with the day the administration went into power. The present administration must be greatly gratified that it has been accorded, since its inauguration, the almost complete bipartisan support that was denied its predecessor.

A great many newspapers, which are generally to be found advocating lower tariffs for the United States, are showing some more or less concealed satisfaction over the return of Prof. Raymond Moley from the President's official family to private life. Most of them, of course, say they are sorry to see the Professor leave Washington but they are at the same time finding easy consolation in the belief that the tariff policy of the United States, in the future, will be more nearly in the hands of Secretary of State Cordell Hull. They intimate that this will be much more satisfactory in that Mr. Hull will pay more attention to tariff agreements for the promotion of what

they call the very important matter of foreign trade.

Of course everybody hopes that the United States will increase its foreign trade, but not at the expense of American industry and American labor. The international free traders are living in the past and have been unable to grasp the full significance of economic developments which have come to the world since the close of the World War. The day of a great world revival of international trade along old fashioned lines with each nation buying where it can buy cheapest is gone, and will not dawn again. The modern nation is seeking to become as self-sufficient as possible. It wants to produce as much for its own people as it can and buy from outside its borders only what is necessary. It learned a lesson in the World War and in the days following it, and the coming of the great depression which was as inevitable as the closing of war itself, has only accelerated this tendency. This does not mean that the days of foreign trade are over. We will always have foreign trade and plenty of it, perhaps more in the days to come than ever before. But in the future the enlightened nations will only buy from abroad what they cannot produce at home. And as each nation raises the living standard of its people this demand for foreign goods, whether it be in the shape of raw materials or finished products, will increase, because as people become more prosperous they find more wants to fill, more luxuries and semi-luxuries which they think they need.

The experience of the United States is a case in point. Under the tariff theory which we have had in practice during the past half century we have sought to buy only what we could not produce at home. We have thus built up the greatest home market the world has ever seen. In days of prosperity this has increased rather than decreased our foreign trade because our people with steady jobs have used more of the raw materials we have to import, and more of the finished goods which we do not produce at home. Other nations are beginning to follow suit. This is not, as free traders would have us believe, to "punish" the United States. It is a matter of self preservation and in adopting our system they are paying us a compliment. If we stand by our guns the ultimate effect will be beneficial to other nations as well as the United States and we will be in a new era, and not an era in which often the scramble over foreign trade leads to war as it has many times in the past.

## STAY ON THE FARM

W. P. McGuire, editor of the South-side Virginia News, Petersburg, Virginia, has a proposal that deserves wide attention. It is simple and it is important. And the crux of it is: Why not keep farm boys on farms? In pursuing his proposal, he asks 27 pregnant questions concerning the trend of young men away from the farm and possible ways of reversing its direction. It is certainly obvious that boys who have been reared on farms and have been intimately associated with the craft of agriculture since infancy, are best equipped to make the farmers of tomorrow. And it is equally true that these boys have been marching to the cities in armies, for a great many years, impelled by the hope of making their fortune in a life of which they know little or nothing.

In the years following the war, this away-from-the-farm drift added hundreds of thousands of boys to the urban population. And when the depression came, it was an important factor in causing the worst unemployment situation in our history. Most of the boys had never learned any trade especially well—they took any old job they could find, and it was usually of a sort requiring little skill and no training or aptitude. They were the first to be let out when production slowed. They are likely to be the last taken back.

We have appropriated millions for agricultural relief and created great federal organizations to administer it. Certainly it would be worthwhile, as Editor McGuire says, to go to the root of the farm problem and give part of the money and effort to evolving a plan to enable young men to stay on the farm and become self-supporting citizens. Doing this would prevent overpopulation of urban centers, tend to mitigate employment problems and, as Mr. McGuire says, fits in perfectly with the Administration's aim to provide a solid economic foundation for our country.

## NEWS OF THE STATE

According to grape-vine political rumors the Arthur Mullen faction of the democratic party will support Congressman Burke of Omaha for the office of United States Senator at the next election. If Governor Bryan continues to improve in health there seems to be no question but what he will be a candidate for the office and the two factions would have a real old-time fracas, with the chances favoring the nomination of Bryan.

# In The WEEK'S NEWS



**COLLEGE CAREERS ASSURED**—Scholarships worth \$5,000 each were awarded these four boys when their model coaches won annual Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild competition. Photo shows, left to right, Jack Wicks, St. Paul; Charles Gadd, Spokane; Myron Webb, Arkansas City, and E. Stanley Knochel, Baltimore, with prize winning coaches. Seated are W. A. Fisher, President of Fisher Body Corporation and H. J. C. Henderson, Secretary of the Guild.



**NONCHALANT**. Almost waist deep in water in front of their home near Philadelphia, Pa., this family waits for the arrival of a boat to take them to safety, following the recent overflow of the Schuylkill River.



**MUCH ADO ABOUT CROWN**—International controversy results from Miss Helen Jacobs' victory by default over Mrs. Helen Willis Moody, who was unable to continue in third set after losing three straight games.



**PROFESSOR RAYMOND MOLEY**, chief member of the President's "Brain Trust," who resigned as Assistant Secretary of State, will become Editor of a National Weekly to be founded by Vincent Astor.



**HONORED AS WAS THE PRESIDENT**—The Improved Order of Redmen confer life honorary membership on the "Voice of Experience," noted sociologist (seated). He was presented with duplicate of bonnet given President Roosevelt when similarly honored.



**NEW TITLE HOLDER**. Robert Mankowski of Beverly Hills, Calif., fishing at Catalina Island brought to gaff a 348-pound Marlin Swordfish, and thereby captured the world's light tackle record, defeating Jimmy Jump, holder of the championship since 1927.

Joseph Worley, 48, of Longview, Wash., shot and killed his wife, Mabel, 46, in a park at Norfolk last week, and then fatally wounded himself. The couple came to Norfolk about three months ago to visit relatives. They had three children.

Miss Elizabeth Foster, 55, Fremont, died at Ord last Sunday as the result of an automobile accident near that city last Saturday. Her mother, Mrs. Emma Foster, 83, was also seriously injured.

one to believe that they want to sing the Blue Eagle Blues. We wish we had an income that was as steady as the losing streak of the Cincinnati Reds. Beer drinking will never be what it used to, until men grow long handle bar moustaches to sweep up the foam.

Last week the city of Omaha paid \$150,000 in claims by using the idle money in the special improvement fund, thereby saving the taxpayers a good deal in the way of interest. The claims paid were drawing six and seven per cent, while the idle money was drawing only four and one-half per cent.

According to the daily press it is the intention of the administration to have all lines of businesses under the different codes by November 1st. There are 2,000,000 separate business enterprises in this country and to get them all under the codes will be some undertaking, but the officers of the NRA are positive that it can be completed within the sixty day period. It is estimated that it will take 300 different codes to take care of the different lines of business in the U. S. Up to August 31 eighteen codes had been put into effect since the national recovery act was signed on June 16. Hearings have been held on some thirty others. Thirty-one more have been set for hearing and about 500 more are being studied in preparation for hearings.

Hitler is going to abolish machines and make Germans go back to hand labor. Wonder if this includes machine guns. Floyd Wolfe, for many years one of the prominent farmers and stockmen of Steel Creek precinct but who now lives at Lynch, was an O'Neill visitor last Saturday greeting his many old friends in this city.

Last week Nebraska was allotted \$8,000 federal money for the improvement of roads and trails in the forests of the state. For other forest improvement the state received \$45,000.

Five more Nebraska counties made application for federal emergency relief last week, bringing the total to fifty-six. The counties that filed application last week were: Webster, Pawnee, Fillmore, Cherry and Dawes.

Professor Moley is the first of the brain trust to resign. He is going to start a magazine but it is a good bet that the lead article will not be "The Story of Professor Moley and Cordell Hull."

Members of the W. C. T. U. and the Ministerial Association of Fairbury are opposed to participating in the special election on the licensing of the sale of beer in that city, which is set for September 12. They claim that the special election is a waste of the taxpayers' money. It has been announced that the two groups will initiate an ordinance to be voted upon at the next regular election prohibiting traffic in any beverage containing more than one-half of one per cent of alcohol. The two organizations originally petitioned the city council to forbid the sale of 3.2 beer until a vote on the issue next spring.

Governor Bryan visited his offices in the state capitol last Thursday for the first time since his re-election to the office on November 8. Since election night he has been confined to his home on account of illness. The Governor has rapidly improved during the past two months and his friends are now confident that he will shortly be his old time self.

Young John Jacob Astor, the third, arriving at the age of twenty-one, has inherited an estate of many million dollars. Let us hope that one sound interpretation of the N. R. A. is "No Reds Allowed."

Fifty thousand people attended the Nebraska State Fair at Lincoln last Monday.

Two Omaha aviators met death during the past week. One of them was killed during a test flight at the exposition at Chicago. The other was killed while stunt flying at Glenwood, Iowa.

Pathfinder: Patient—But, doctor, suppose this operation is not successful. Doctor (trying to be cheerful)—Oh, don't let that worry you. If it isn't a success you won't know it—and what you don't know won't hurt you.

Most of the bids submitted for Nebraska road work at the August 31st letting were rejected, on the ground that the bids were too high. If the government appropriation for road work, to help unemployment, is to be of any benefit before cold weather, contracts will have to be let soon.

The way some of these big industries are shying at the N. R. A. would lead

to believe that they want to sing the Blue Eagle Blues.

**COME TO THE**

## **SOUTH FORK HOLT COUNTY FAIR**

at Chambers, Nebraska

### **September 12-13-14-15, 1933**

A full program will be given Thurs. & Fri. the 14th & 15th

**Admission 35c**

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Big Show in Evening of Both Days—Admission 25c & 15c

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## **DANCE**

**Friday Is Children's Day**