

THE FRONTIER

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Frank P. Litschert

The resignation of Prof. O. M. W. Sprague from the Treasury department at Washington recently, with the warning issued by him that the nation is in danger of drifting into "unrestrained inflation" and a "complete breakdown of the credit of the government" if the present monetary policy is persisted in, may be taken as an indication that the battle between the inflationists and the anti-inflationists is now on in dead earnest. It may be finished in the coming session of Congress which promises to be one of the most interesting which the country has had in a generation. The resignation of Professor Sprague comes as no surprise, as it had been generally known in Washington for some time that he was out of sympathy with the administration's so-called gold policy. The most significant feature of the resignation was that it proves the determination of the anti-inflationists to wage a battle to win public support, and to do it in no uncertain terms.

Professor Sprague is an economist of world wide reputation. He was formerly an advisor to the Bank of England, and resigned that post to come back to America to assist in the formulation of President Roosevelt's financial policy. When he found himself in disagreement with that policy there was nothing left for him to do but to resign. The resignation brings into the limelight the division which, according to rumor, has been present in the Treasury for some time, a division which led some time ago to the resignation of Dean Acheson as Undersecretary of the Treasury, and to place in that position Henry Morgenthau, who is virtually Secretary of the Treasury during the enforced absence of Secretary Woodin due to illness.

One of the most surprising parts of Professor Sprague's statement is the one to effect that since his return to London following the world economic conference there, he has had no opportunities to discuss policies with the President. This is especially surprising in view of the fact that Professor Sprague was supposedly brought into the picture to be one of the advisers of the President. This leads to the belief that perhaps all of the story has not yet "come out." It will be remembered that during the London conference Professor Sprague was one of the American experts who stood staunchly for some sort of international stabilization. The stabilization plan was vetoed by President Roosevelt who did not believe that it was at that time a good thing for American recovery, as the recovery program had been mapped out by the administration. It is barely possible that a rift developed at that time between Professor Sprague and the other advisers of the President with the result that the former was from that time on, more or less out of the picture.

The statement of Professor Sprague to the effect that the country is confronted with uncontrollable inflation and all its evils unless the monetary policy of the administration is changed, sounds the battle cry for the anti-inflationists and we will doubtless hear more from them in the future. Many of the economists supporting the administration plan have come forth with a denial of Professor Sprague's charges, and say that the plan being followed by the President is the only one which can prevent the very uncontrolled inflation which Professor Sprague fears, and they infer that unless the present plan works, Congress will force drastic inflation on the country. Just what the outcome of the controversy will be remains for the future to tell.

Mr. Morgenthau, in commenting on Professor Sprague's resignation, stated: "I think the sun will rise tomorrow and the birds will sing," thus intimating that the Professor's resignation would not be fatal to the country. It would seem to one on the outside that this is beside the point. What the public wants to be assured is where we are going, and just how much sound logic there is in Professor Sprague's statement. That is what matters. It will be remembered that

the sun rose every morning over Berlin and the birds sang in the Black Forest regularly, when Germany was being ruined by a tidal wave of inflation which taught the people of the Reich one thing—that they would go thru any other suffering rather than try it again.

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

A not wholly unjustified tradition has grown up both here and abroad, that European diplomats are pretty smooth stuff, and that American public men are so many babes in the woods when it comes to dealing with them. It's possible that that thought was in the mind of Russia's shrewd, experienced Litvinoff when he climbed the steps of the White House to confer with President Roosevelt over American-Russian recognition.

If so, Mr. Litvinoff soon became sadder and wiser. He found himself confronted by an excellent horse-trader—a suave, polite horse-trader with a Harvard accent to be sure, but a horse-trader nevertheless. Where Mr. Litvinoff had announced that so far as he was concerned, the negotiations could be concluded in half an hour, he found them extending on thru the days.

Upshot was that the 16-year breach between two of the major powers was ended, with the United States on the long end of the deal so far as most of its demands were concerned. Points of the treaty include: Waiver by the Soviet of all claims growing out of the famous Siberian expedition of 1918; a guarantee against official Soviet propaganda in this country; another guarantee against the formation of any group designed to change the government of the United States; fair and prompt trials for Americans erring against Soviet law; guarantee of the free exercise of religious beliefs of American residents in Russia. Little mention is made of trade relations and details concerning them remain to be worked out.

First American Ambassador to present himself to steel-jawed, steel-eyed, steel-mannered Number 1 dictator of the world, Stalin, whose adopted name means Steel, will be William C. Bullitt, wealthy young Socialite, who has written a sophisticated novel satirizing Park Avenueites, a popular song or two, and has been the State Department's Russian expert. One of Mr. Roosevelt's bright young men, he was instrumental in bringing about recognition and is considered an excellent choice.

Colorful, dramatic, important, bizarre—all these adjectives fit the November municipal elections. They demonstrate that the American people are still in a belligerent mood—as they demanded, and received, a change in National Administration a year ago, they demanded and received many changes in municipal administration. Main counts on which old machines were thrown out, were inefficiency, high taxes and graft.

Most important was the election in New York where fire-eater LaGuardia, who has earned a reputation as an erratic political genius, decisively defeated Tammany's O'Brien and the Recovery ticket's McKee. For the first time in 20 years the Philadelphia Republican machine was overthrown. Republicans won in Cleveland and Pittsburgh. Nowhere did partisan spirit seem strong; the demand was for a new municipal deal, and the cards were shuffled tirelessly.

Also important were proposals for communities to go into the power business. Public ownership advocates believed that government power development at Muscle Shoals would assure them sweeping victories. But when the votes were counted, results were mixed, and the expected landslide did not materialize—apparently the tax burdens involved caused the voters to turn away from increased municipal debts. Camden, New Jersey, which is already \$30,000,000 in debt, gave the city government permission to spend \$10,000,000 for a new power plant, but this election was fought principally on the theme of unemployment relief, rather than government ownership. In a number of smaller towns public ownership mayors were elected, and city light plants authorized.

On the other hand, Salt Lake City voted 2 to 1 against a light plant. San Francisco followed suit, as did Burlington, New Jersey, Cincinnati and Youngstown, Ohio, and various smaller towns.

When it comes to selling most commodities, woman is the deciding factor. She manages the best of all markets, the American home. The Administration, in its drive for higher prices, is faced with definite housewife protest against advancing costs.

The housewife speaks thru the figures. Department store sales, based on dollar value and not volume, have fallen steadily. Mrs. American had become accustomed to bargains; when they disappeared she stopped buying. To offset this, the government is intensifying its campaign to get more money into the hands of the public.

As for business in general, the picture is so mixed as to be impos-

sible to depict accurately. Some businesses are up, some are down, and some are pursuing a sedate middle course. On the whole, industry is substantially better off than it was when the year opened, and heartening gains have been made in employment, wages, working hours, and in profits of many large corporations. The dark spot in the picture still is the farm situation.

OVER THE STATE

Hotel owners in the lower part of the city of Omaha, now rent rooms for 49 cents per night. This is done in order to escape provisions of the hotel men's NRA code which does not affect hotels charging less than 50 cents for rooms.

The Nebraska football team rose to new heights of glory last Saturday when they performed the unexpected and defeated Iowa, one of the big ten conference, with a score of 7 to 6. Nebraska outplayed the boys from Iowa thru most of the game and were on Iowa's seven yard line and threatening another score when the final whistle blew. The attendance at the game was 37,000, the largest crowd that had witnessed a football game in Lincoln since 1925, when Nebraska played Notre Dame.

The State committee approved public works projects in two Nebraska counties last Friday involving expenditures of \$19,320. They were: Madison county, eight municipal projects in Meadow Grove, Tilden and Battle Creek, \$6,000; two county roads, \$12,420. In Otoe county, two village grading projects in Dunbar, \$900.

The supreme court last week sustained the order of the district court of Morrill county in denying the county a new trial in its suit against C. G. Bliss and other members of the old guarantee fund commission. The suit was to recover \$50,000 the county had on deposit in the Bridgeport bank when it failed, and for which it sued the commission members on the theory that they had mishandled funds of the bank. It has been pending before the supreme court in various forms for some time.

According to Burlington railroad officials, Kansas has ambitious thieves. They report that some one stole their railway tracks on the White Cloud Kansas section of the Rulo-Atchison line. The branch line was recently discontinued but the trackage was being kept intact. The theft was discovered by a track inspector.

According to state chairman Smith, and Engineer Cochran, 11,927 men have been provided with work on municipal and county work projects, and on state highway and park development. The municipal, county and state projects approved for development will involve total costs in excess of \$1,000,000 it was stated. Of the total number of jobs provided, 6,231 are on municipal works projects and 5,100 on highway projects.

Nebraska congressional leaders will battle for a part in the construction of the Fort Peck dam and reservoir in Montana for Nebraska workers, according to an announcement of Congressman Burke, of Omaha. Burke has taken the matter up with State Employment Director Hodge, Senators Norris and Thompson, and other leaders. He charged that it was planned to use only Montana labor on the project, which will employ about 4,000 men. He believes the work to be a part of the entire Missouri river development and that the work should be pro-rated among the unemployed in all the affected states.

Theodore Mueller, appointed acting postmaster at Norfolk last Friday has declined the appointment. Mueller is a republican and has been in the postal service for 23 years, and has been assistant postmaster since 1925. He had made no application for the post of acting postmaster, although nine other residents of the city were applicants for the position.

Charges of impersonating a federal officer were filed in Omaha Monday by the U. S. Attorney against Lyman Louis Lee, who was in jail at Tekamah. According to the complaint Lee had created a new job, without waiting for an act of congress, styling himself "U. S. homestead locator." He had obtained a total of \$197 together with a quantity of gasoline from Fred A. Crom and Robert Crom, living near Tekamah, on the pretense of locating a homestead for them.

Every Christmas season the Omaha postoffice employs about 400 additional men during the holiday rush. This year there are 1,100 applications for the 400 positions.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schriener and Mrs. Victor Brozey all of Battle Creek, were severely injured when the car in which they were driving to Burr, Neb., to attend a funeral, left the grade a few miles south of David City and went into the ditch, turning over

several times and landing in a corn field.

Dr. V. H. Hass of the public health service at Washington, D. C., arrived in Omaha the first of the week to investigate several cases of recent sleeping sickness. He may make blood tests of those who have been afflicted with the disease, according to the Omaha health officers.

Forty grandmothers were recently entertained by the women's club at Dodge, Neb., with a tea. Grandma Rucizka, 83, was the eldest grandmother present, while Mrs. Louis Landenklos was the youngest.

According to the Omaha papers, the county board of Douglas county are selling county warrants so that the employees of the county can get their salaries on December 1st. Douglas county, like about every other county in the state, is hard up for cash to keep the "home fires burning."

Mrs. Aloda Walker of Osmond, is in a Norfolk hospital suffering from serious injuries, including a fracture of both legs and a fractured vertebra, received last Sunday when her car skidded on the highway west of Osmond and overturned in a ditch.

Last Monday the discovery of three serious cases of dysentery in Omaha, caused the health department of that city to issue a warning letter to all hotels and restaurants cautioning them against employing dysentery carriers in the preparation, handling, cooking or serving food. The three cases discovered are prominent Omahans. The public health department stated that they were taking the precautions to prevent an epidemic of dysentery in Omaha similar to that which has disturbed the residents of Chicago. One of the Omaha victims is supposed to have been infected while on a visit to Chicago recently.

J. C. Van Winkle, of Schuyler, was seriously burned last Monday at the Schuyler municipal light plant when he accidentally touched some live wires while repairing a dead cable. He was burned on the arms and shoulder, but is expected to recover.

Three Johnson county men were recently sentenced in the district court of that county, to three years in the state penitentiary for stealing a \$15 calf from a pasture in that county.

Eight of the nine towns in Platte county applied for federal aid to assist them in completing city or village projects and they have all been approved by the state committee. The only town in the county in which a project has not been approved is

Tarnov. They did not have their application ready for filing at the time the others were filed. Since then they have filed application for the approval of a project calling for the filling in and widening of a street a distance of two blocks. The total amount of the fourteen projects approved is \$12,225.

A BIT OF CALIFORNIA NEWS

Yes, California is all very beautiful. One could not ask for anything more beautiful. Not only beautiful, but its climate is very beneficial. At the present time, with the arrival of the winter rains, California is lovely. Flowers everywhere. Its lawns beginning to look like great green velvet rugs.

Yes, California is a land of beauty, but it too is, at times, a land of tragedy. As I visited some of the territory affected by the March earthquake and saw its ruins, I thought of all the heartache, panic, sorrow, death and empty homes caused by just a few moments upheaval of this old earth.

We drove thru the streets of Long Beach, the city which, with Compton, was really the center of the quake. Large brick buildings were lying flat, bricks being piled up in front of them with signs up, "bricks for sale." Still others which were ruined were being rebuilt. I wondered how they had the courage to rebuild, with the same kind of material and in the same place with no assurance but that with in five minutes it might again be ruined.

Porches were torn from houses, cement steps and side walks broken and spread inches apart. Still others were literally shaken to pieces, the doors and windows boarded up and the homes deserted.

The school buildings in this city were and are beautiful. I say "were" and "are," because all the school buildings in the city were ruined, except one or two which were built quake-proof. Buildings which were standing side by side were, one wrecked, and the other untouched. What a sensation it gives one to view these terrible sights.

One could relate many such instances, but space will not permit. The earth at Long Beach is constantly shaking, settling back into place. They say it will be a year before it is again normal. This proved true with the great San Francisco earthquake. It required one year for it to settle down to normal. But one almost forgets these things when they view the beauties of the ocean and mountains.

I brought a little pet with me. Of course I had to bring him dead. He is gray and has ten legs. His body is about the size of a half dollar. When alive, he had the power of life and death, unless his victim was taken care of immediately, and even then was sometimes fatal. When he walks,

he's so clumsy, you would never guess that on a second's notice, he can spring and inject the deadly poison that kills his victim. He looks tame enough now, but is still a deadly tarantula. That tells the story. Warm weather brings them, as well as rattlesnakes, out, so that to walk in the hills is exceedingly dangerous.

Now a little about the ocean. At first glance I just stood and gazed. Beautiful, clear and blue. A few rods from shore it was apparently smooth. Ships riding upon it far out at sea, and seagulls soaring overhead. But as though human, large ridges of water rise and rush to shore as though they were grasping for something to take back with them. There is a saying that every seventh wave is a breaker. That is, that every seventh rush, several feet high, goes higher upon the shore than any of the other waves.

It's beautiful. The thing which impressed me most was that there was something that had not been changed by man. There gazing upon God's handiwork, I felt a nearness to God that was wonderfully sweet. Yes, the ocean is beautiful, but holding the power of life and death within it.

It recalls to me an incident in which three girls, light hearted and happy, never dreaming of the danger they were entering, seeing the surface of the water so apparently safe, went in. But beneath was a rip tide, which takes with it everything within reach. Instantly those three girls were taken out to sea. All were drowned. It was four days before one girl's body came back to shore.

They could see no danger. How like our lives. There is sometimes danger in apparently safe things, we do, or places we go. There stands a question. Were those girls ready to die? Would we be ready?

Merle Ohmart.

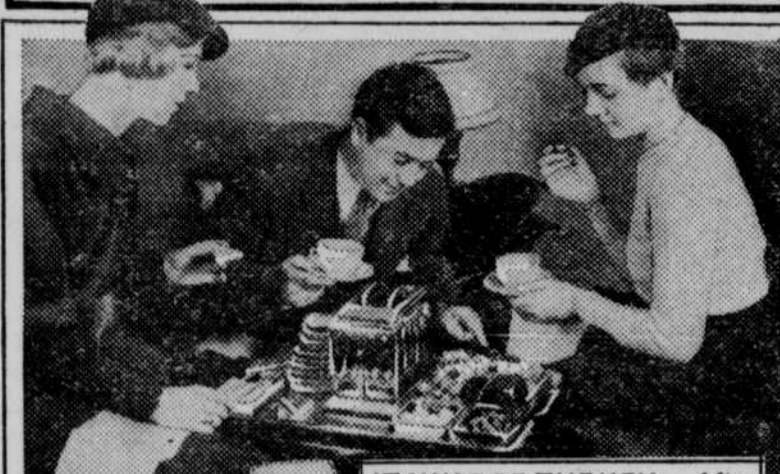
McKIM COMPLETES JOB

Valentine Republican: Mr. and Mrs. V. L. McKim and little daughters, Priscilla and Marilyn, left last week for O'Neill, and after visiting Mr. McKim's father, L. C. McKim of Holt county, they returned to their home at Lincoln. Mr. McKim has completed the field work on his project, a complete geographical survey of a number of townships in Dawes county, which he will submit as a thesis for his master's degree. Mrs. McKim's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Bradshaw of this city, have become so used to having their grandchildren with them, that the house seems strangely quiet since their departure.

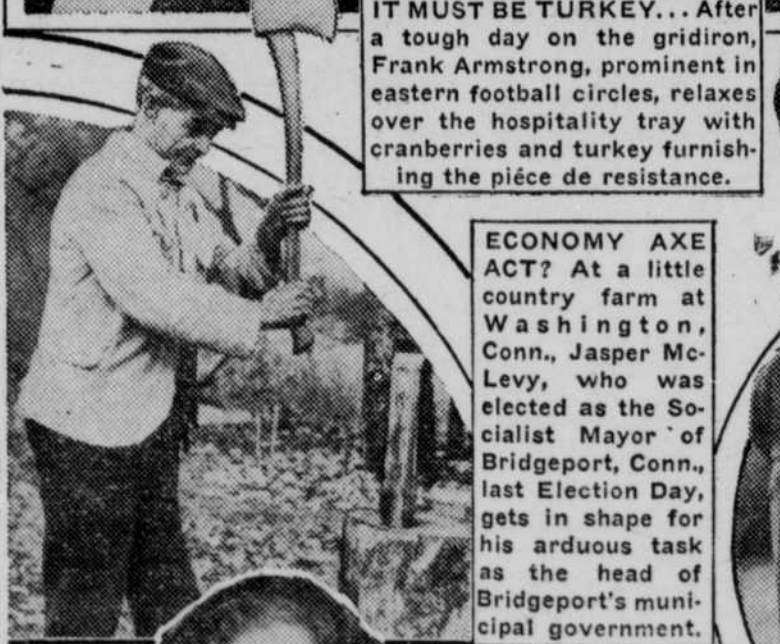
Goofus: How did Crimmonbeak enjoy his trip to Bermuda?

Rufus: He wasn't able to say. He was drunk the whole time.—Pathfinder.

In The WEEK'S NEWS



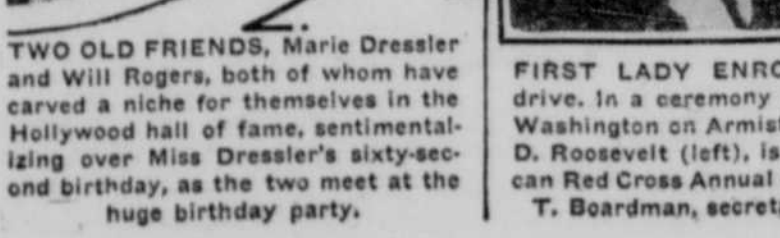
IT MUST BE TURKEY... After a tough day on the gridiron, Frank Armstrong, prominent in eastern football circles, relaxes over the hospitality tray with cranberries and turkey furnishing the pièce de resistance.



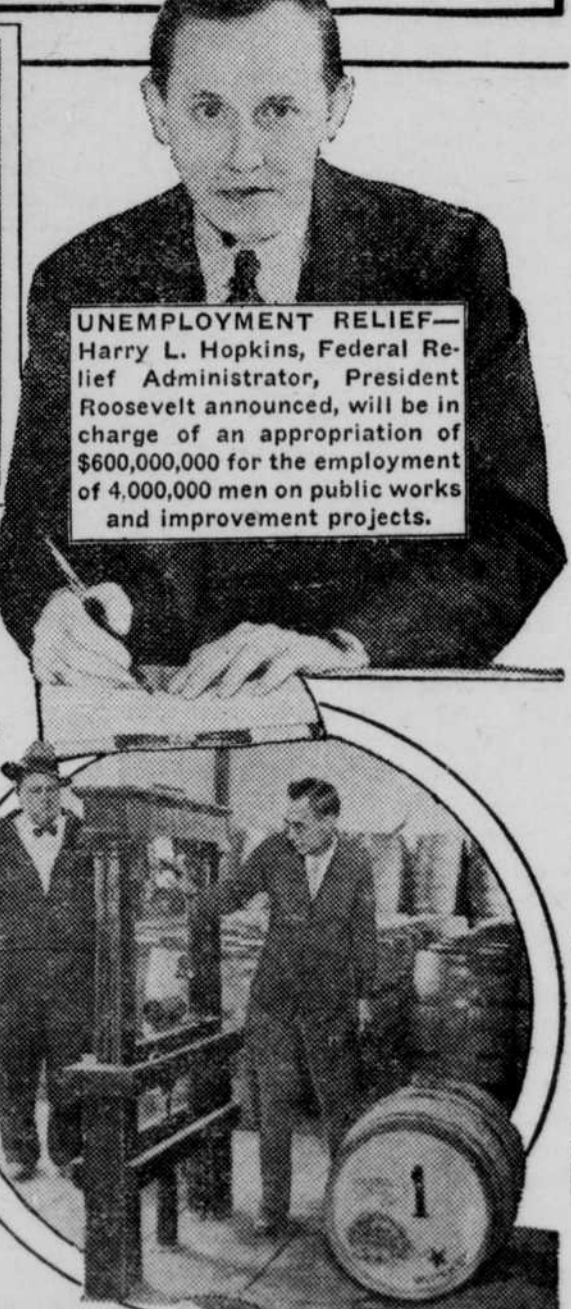
UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF—Harry L. Hopkins, Federal Relief Administrator, President Roosevelt announced, will be in charge of an appropriation of \$600,000,000 for the employment of 4,000,000 men on public works and improvement projects.



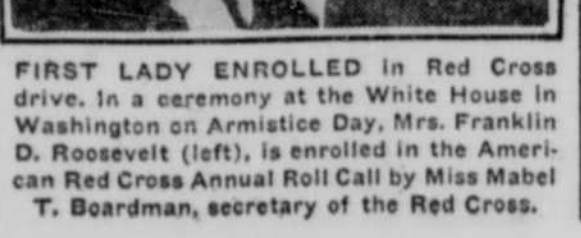
ECONOMY AXE ACT? At a little country farm at Washington, Conn., Jasper McLevy, who was elected as the Socialist Mayor of Bridgeport, Conn., last Election Day, gets in shape for his arduous task as the head of Bridgeport's municipal government.



TWO OLD FRIENDS, Marie Dressler and Will Rogers, both of whom have carved a niche for themselves in the Hollywood hall of fame, sentimentalizing over Miss Dressler's sixty-second birthday, as the two meet at the huge birthday party.



LEGAL WHISKEY—James J. Dunn (left), superintendent of the Large Distillery at Large, Pa., and S. M. Speers, government inspector, weighing first barrel of legal whiskey to be distilled in Allegheny County since 1921 as the distillery begins operation in anticipation of repeal. The Large Distillery is owned by the National Distillers Products Corporation.



FIRST LADY ENROLLED in Red Cross drive, in a ceremony at the White House in Washington on Armistice Day, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt (left), is enrolled in the American Red Cross Annual Roll Call by Miss Mabel T. Boardman, secretary of the Red Cross.