

**THE FRONTIER**

D. H. Cronin, Editor and Proprietor

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**Along the Side**

**Omaha, Nebr.**  
Local leaders of the Hitchcock-Mullen faction of the democratic party are alarmed and disgruntled at an Associated Press interview given by former Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock, publisher of the World-Herald, at Washington, December 5, and carried on the front page of his newspaper. They fear it is an indication that he has succumbed to the demands of the United States Chamber of Commerce and the National Economy League, which control national advertising and favor the gold dollar and the old system. Also that it may be followed by an editorial switch of policy stating that Roosevelt is O. K. but is being misled by a bum lot of advisors. The interview quoted the former senator as considering inflation a dangerous experiment for which the demand was abating considerably in the middle west, and also was lukewarm in reference to the NRA. Such a course, they fear, may check the flow of gravy in public funds and patronage that has been coming this way, and get the boys in bad at the White House.

The Bryan leaders are elated at the switch as they believe it now makes Governor Bryan and Senator Billy Thompson the No. 1 men with the administration with all that means in next year's campaign, as Bryan never has openly opposed the president and has only been a bit more radical in his ideas of federal relief than have the Washington group. L. C. P.

**Economic Highlights**

What might be termed the "battle of the bottles" got into full swing at Washington during the week before prohibition repeal became an actuality. The fight is between the Federal government and the liquor manufacturers. The distillers came forward with a code of their own making, saw it at once discarded. It was replaced with a code drawn up at the President's suggestion, which gave a very different slant to the picture than the manufacturers had hoped. Under it a government corporation would be formed to handle the entire wholesale liquor business. Provisions include:

A Federal Alcohol Control Administration, with czar-like power over the industry, which would rule without liquor representation; complete control over production and distribution thru a quota system; authority to fix and regulate prices; no additions to existing distilling capacity could be built without a certificate of necessity from the Administration; an agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture to pay "parity" prices, fixed by him, for raw materials used in distilling.

The liquor industry had anticipated some sort of federal control, but they had not thought it would be so relentless as this. Particularly distasteful to them was the provision concerning plant additions—practically every major distiller is in the midst of expansion. Plants are partly finished, which may have to be scrapped if the code goes into effect. Their protests found small sympathy at Washington; it was intimated in some quarters that if they didn't like it they were liable to be met with a plan for a gigantic Federal sales system.

In the meantime, the states have been rushing plans to control sales within their borders. Influence of the Rockefeller report is seen in many bills; there is strong sentiment in

favor of eliminating private profit so far as the sales end is concerned. Bulk of states which have definitely passed laws allow sales of beer and wine in restaurants and hotel dining rooms; about half allow all drinks to be sold in this manner. Minors and known drunkards are forbidden to buy or to be sold to. Drug, grocery stores and hotels and restaurants will be allowed to sell in bulk for the most part. Montana will operate its own liquor stores and Oregon probably will do likewise. Nevada will permit local control; Reno will have the old-time saloon without closing hours. Most of the states have yet to make definite regulations, but this indicates the trend of thought on the matter.

Cost of liquor is a burning subject. The hope is expressed that it will be possible to sell legal whiskey and gin, of fair quality, for \$1.50 or \$2.00 a quart within a short time. If prices are much higher than this, it is believed that the boot-legger and the speakeasy will have little trouble in keeping their trade.

Director of the Budget, Lewis Douglas, doesn't often appear in the headlines. But no man knows so much about government income and outgo; none is so well qualified to speak on the financial state of the nation.

The other day he did speak, and it wasn't very cherry. In the fiscal year 1934, he forecast, the national debt will be substantially increased, because of the Public Works bill, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and similar new bodies. He didn't say how much the deficit would be, observed that he couldn't until certain governmental policies had become better defined.

The brighter side of taxation came out when he talked about 1935. He said that if industry is ten per cent recovered by then, 1935 income would be close to a billion in excess of expenses, barring additional extraordinary expenditures. General Johnson recently said that business was 25 per cent improved.

Mr. Douglas wound up by saying that if additional obligations are contracted, additional taxes must be imposed; he addressed himself to the great American middle class which bears such burdens principally.

The business indicators, which have been showing a gradual let-down from the summer peak, are looking somewhat better. More recent reports show: Coal production up. Heavy construction contracts more than doubled in recent week. Lumber orders for a recent week were the heaviest since May, 1930. Steel production, after a long period of downward tendencies, showed an up flare, but is well below summer average. Commodity prices continuing their steady advance. Business failures at a low point.

The wave of commodity buying, which followed the first flush of excitement over the NRA, has weakened, and retail outlets find business slower, with strong consumer opposition to higher prices. The volume of Christmas buying, on which reports will be available after the first of the year, will be an excellent indication of just how far recovery has advanced so far as the average citizen is concerned.

**BRIEFLY STATED**

Stores here have been jammed with customers the past week and the only complaint heard is that there are not enough clerks to immediately serve buyers. Customers have been waited

on, it seems, by merchants ready to jump at the chance of a sale and the change to conditions a little more like normal causes a little slower service.

Mrs. R. M. Sauer's went to Omaha Monday and returned home Tuesday night. She visited briefly at the home of Mr. Sauer's father at Hooper.

Sanders, Pilger and Medlin, veteran athletes, have gone back to the basket game, much to the delight of raw recruits and several hundred fans.

One of the largest crowds to attend a basket ball game here in a long time passed through the gate to the O'Neill-Inman game Wednesday evening.

Tuesday evening most of the Public school basket ball squad attended a party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Gunn in the eastern part of the city.

Mrs. C. E. Stout, Mrs. Ed Campbell and Mrs. W. J. Froelich drove down to Omaha last Sunday morning for a few days visit with friends in the metropolis.

Miss Helen Murphy, sister of Mrs. Gerald Miles and a daughter of Mr. Dennis Murphy, living north of this city, is here for a visit from her home in Omaha.

Fred Roberts and Miss Mariann Nilson, both of Atkinson, were united in marriage by County Judge Malone at the county court room last Saturday afternoon.

We understand that work on highway No. 281, near the James McDermott farm, one mile south of town, has been suspended on account of frozen ground.

Mr. and Mrs. Arloo Hiatt are the parents of a baby daughter, born at the Stuart hospital last Friday. Mr. Hiatt is the driver of the Farmer's Union Oil truck here.

Officials and workers of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company and representatives of nearby towns held a banquet party at the Idle Hour last Tuesday evening. Sixteen persons attended.

W. J. Hammond, P. C. Donohoe and J. D. Cronin drove up to Ainsworth last Monday to visit G. R. Slocumby, who was seriously injured in an automobile accident west of Ainsworth last Sunday.

Mrs. Mary Brant, of Hopper, Nebr., died Tuesday morning according to a message received here by her brother, George Mitchell, Burlington engineer. Her funeral was scheduled for Thursday, today.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Enright came up from Omaha the latter part of last week to attend the funeral of Mr. Enright's grandmother, Mrs. Fallon. They returned home the latter part of the week.

Bennett Sanders went down and inspected the Elkhorn river ice Thursday. Bennett says the ice is swell, but denied reports that he inspected the ice by smacking it with the seat of his trousers.

Wednesday evening the Inman basket ball teams took both public school teams here into camp on the Irish reservation. The first teams score

was 4 to 5 and the second was 5 to 8. Good games, both of them.

Hugh, 12, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. McKenna, while delivering newspapers on his route Tuesday had an encounter with Jack Frost. Jack took a couple of nips out of Hugh's toes before he gave Jack the air.

Wednesday, while scuffling with other boys, Arthus, 16, son of William Dailey, Emmet banker, suffered a broken left arm on St. Mary's Academy campus. The broken bone was looked after by Dr. J. P. Brown.

Thursday evening about 6 o'clock a truck side-swiped a Nebraska licensed, having 44 county number, Chevrolet sedan, three-fourths of a mile north of Page, breaking the unknown drivers hand and two wheels off the car.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gunn had their garden in southeast O'Neill plowed and fertilized with refuse from a poultry factory. The winter treated garden is expected to come across with extra dividends next summer.

Mrs. C. Fiske, mother-in-law of Ray Calvert, is here for the winter from her home at Canby, Oregon. She has lived at Long Pine and Magnet, Nebr. She is 83 years of age and is a member of a five generation group of relatives, living.

At the weekly bridge tournament at the Golden Hotel last Friday evening Mrs. C. E. Stout and Mrs. W. J. Froelich won the honors for the north and south side and Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Hammond the honors for the east and west side.

Mrs. W. B. Graves was operated upon for a sudden attack of appendicitis at the Stuart hospital the latter part of last week. Her many friends in O'Neill will be glad to learn that she is getting along nicely and will be home in a short time.

Farmers say that prairie chickens have increased this year. It is believed by some that if this bird became as numerous as they once were there would be no native grasshopper outbreaks. A large part of their diet is grasshoppers.

Wednesday, instead of Dr. H. L. Bennett going out, Guy Cole, of Emmet, trucked eight head of hogs here for the Doctor to vaccinate against cholera. The work was done in front of the Doctor's office, adjoining the telephone office building.

Chimney sparks is believed the cause of a fire at Ewing which destroyed the roof of the U. P. parson-

age. The wife of the minister, J. B. Story, an invalid, was carried from the parsonage by neighbors to the home of Bert Lawrence.

Miss Helen B. Stolte, normal training teacher here at the public school, slipped at the school Tuesday evening, seriously injuring the muscles and ligaments of the lower part of one leg. She continued with her duties, however, in spite of severe pain.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. O'Donnell went to Omaha Monday. At the Fontenelle hotel they attended a banquet for federal land bank officials. It has been planned to merge all federal land finance organizations there, Hugh O'Donnell stated. They are expected home today.

Mrs. L. C. Chapman left last night for Omaha, where she will spend a couple of days visiting at the home of her son, Lawrence. She will then go on to California where she will spend a couple of months visiting at the home of her daughter, Mrs. B. C. Ulrich, at Hollywood, California.

William Riess, of Lincoln, is visiting his youngest daughter, Mrs. Anton Spodish, six miles north of Chambers. He is to visit another daughter at Monowi, Boyd county, then he plans to visit his mother at Lincoln. She is the oldest person in the capitol city, 96.

Thursday C. F. Barthley, of Kansas City, Mo., installed a curved needle Landis shoe sole sewing machine at the O'Neill Leather House. Tim Harvingto invites you to come in and see the machine. The new addition makes this shop one of the best equipped in north Nebraska.

Members of the local bar attended a meeting at the Butte Hotel, Butte, Nebr., of members of the Fifteenth Judicial Bar Association Thursday night. J. D. Cronin led a round table discussion of the proposed one house legislature for Nebraska. Cronin was followed by Ely of Ainsworth.

A radio station at noon Thursday gave the information that William Barrett garageman at Neligh burned

to death near Neligh Thursday, when his automobile turned over. It is presumed here that the victim is a son of Arthur Barrett, now of Sioux City, for many years a farmer northeast of O'Neill.

The O'Neill Gun Club is sponsoring a public goose, duck and turkey shoot at its grounds east of town Christmas afternoon. The Club is very much interested in another shoot, to be held New Years day to determine which of two crackshots, Ray Calvert or Bert Gunn, is to become permanent possessor of a cup each has held two years in succession.

Ernest Davis, who resides at Spaulding, was in O'Neill Thursday between buses while on his way to Bartlett to visit relatives. Ernest has been picking corn along the Burlington at three cents a bushel and said he made more money than in former falls, before. (Continued on page 5, column 5.)

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