

THE FRONTIER

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Economic Highlights

Europe continues to hold tenaciously to the news spotlight. A few weeks ago the German executions constituted the greatest headline feature of recent months. The assassination of Chancellor Dollfuss followed, and all eyes were focused on Vienna. Now the death of President Hindenburg has again centered the world's interest on Berlin, and has further complicated the already chaotic Central European situation.

It is a known fact that von Hindenburg was simply a figurehead in Germany for the past year or two. Grown old and tired, it is reported he could be easily handled by his advisors—it is said that in recent months he would sign anything put before him without reading it. As long as he lived, however, the world knew that the German government was officially headed by a man of proven ability and strength. Von Hindenburg was literally the rock of Gibraltar of Central Europe; some believed that he was all that stood between Germany and economic and political insanity.

Chancellor Hitler moved fast when the President died. He at once seized the office of the old Field Marshal had held and thus became both President and Chancellor. His power over Germany is absolute in theory as well as in fact; there is no check whatsoever on him. He is more powerful than was the Kaiser in the palmiest days of the Hohenzollerns.

A number of qualified observers are now forecasting that Hitler is planning to restore the monarchy—but Wilhelm II will not sit again on the throne he left in 1918. Hitler's hope, if reports are correct, is to make himself King Adolph I. If he succeeds, his rise will have but one historical counterpart—that of Napoleon, who rose from a poor Corsican army lieutenant to become emperor of all France.

These events in Germany have had an unhappy effect on the Austrian problem. The nazi putsch which resulted in the assassination of Dollfuss failed, and its leaders have faced firing squads, but the rebels have not admitted defeat. Preparations for overthrowing the present anti-nazi Austrian government are again underway, and the revolutionaries have money, leaders and men. It will be a fight to a finish with no quarter given. Today the Austrian government is treating nazis and their families very much as the German government treats anti-nazis. It is confiscating their property and sending dissenters to concentration camps for long terms. Hatred is the great emotion of the hour and it is feared much more blood will flow in the streets of Vienna before the issue is settled.

The Central European powder keg is still open; the fuse is still laid. Behind the scenes diplomats work furiously, seeking secret ententes and agreements in case of war.

Up in North Dakota the governor was recently convicted of a felony, and sentenced to Leavenworth. The voters of North Dakota then renominated him for his office by a tremendous majority.

Behind that fact is a situation which is causing much worry in Washington. North Dakota farmers are mad—and if one state gets mad, the rest of the agricultural states will get mad too sooner or later. Agriculture is still largely in the dumps. Many farmers have little use for law and order; they dislike and distrust courts. Thousands have lost their homes and their crops; those who still own their own farms are liable to find that cost of operation, plus taxes and mortgage payments, exceed revenue. The result is that they are in a harsh frame of mind, and their renomination of the convicted governor was a direct slap at the federal power which sentenced him to prison.

The national government can do nothing as yet. But high officials are keeping a watch on Bismarck and wondering if similar situation will occur in other state capitals.

The railroads entered depression long before industry as a whole, large-

ly due to the increase in waterway, truck and bus competition. Result of bad times among the railroads was much unemployment, a tremendous drop in purchasing power, heavy decreases in the value of railroad securities. The federal government regards the railroads as one of the main industries which must be rehabilitated before normal times can start to return.

Now the railroads propose revision of the national freight rate schedule. A new schedule will be presented to the Interstate Commerce Commission for approval. Maximum increases, with few exceptions, are about ten per cent; many classes of rates are upped less than that. It is forecast that the schedule would net the roads about \$180,000,000 a year additional. This is but 50 per cent of the increased expenses the railroads must pay, due to higher cost of supplies, higher pay rolls, etc.

The Interstate Commerce Commission will probably permit the rate increase; under the law its duty is to allow the carriers a fair annual return of about 5 per cent. The lines have not earned as much as that in the last 15 years.

Nebraska's Political Sower

By James R. Lowell, Lincoln, Nebr.

With the need for water being impressed upon Nebraskans this summer more forcibly than ever before in the state's history, both local and federal authorities are bending their efforts toward water conservation and drouth prevention on a scale hitherto undreamed of in the Cornhusker state.

It is a matter of record that in the North Platte valley alone enough water to cover 2 million acres a foot deep is lost to the valley farmers each year. About a million and a half acre feet of water gets away from the farmers of the Loup river valleys during the flood season, not to mention the Frenchman and Arickeree valleys.

Irrigation projects proposed or now under way will come near to doubling the number of acres under irrigation in the state (three-quarters of a million acres at the present time) within the next 10 years. The Sutherland project in particular is an important landmark in Nebraska's water conservation development.

The water engineering section of the emergency relief administration is making surveys of the drouth area to determine the most feasible means of developing long-range drouth prevention means, and S. P. Lyle, one of the engineers, is now making such a survey in this state. He is studying all suggested power and irrigation projects as well as the possibility of digging wells and constructing reservoirs and will make his report to Relief Administrator Hopkins at Washington in the near future.

Diverting Colorado river waters across the continental divide into the Platte is one of the recommendations that has already been made. The water would be impounded in numerous reservoirs in the Platte valley. Diversion of Missouri river waters is also being considered.

"To prevent a repetition of the tragic experience of this summer," President Roosevelt has been appealed to by Dan Stephens and J. E. Lawrence of Nebraska's PWA advisory board who urge prompt development of all water conservation projects in the state. This appeal was made on the belief that the president will make special funds available to combat the drouth recurrence.

Stephens estimates that it will take \$60,000,000 to complete proposed projects and set up a bulwark to effectively combat drouth. The program would include the Tri-county, North and Middle Loup projects, Benkleman-Haigler-Arickeree, Frenchman and Blue Creek irrigation developments.

Word has been sent to Congressman Ed. Burke, of Omaha, to the effect that the public works power board of review, at Washington, has recommended a modification of the proposed Middle Loup project to provide power only for pumping water for irrigation purposes. Burke says there is a likelihood that this project may be speeded up so that water will be provided to irrigate next year's crops. The project originally called for \$2,278,700 for power and irrigation development, but federal authorities say that the Sutherland project will provide power for the Loup territory and that there is not enough water available to provide energy for power plants at both places.

J. R. Carnahan, state work director for the FERA, has completed a program of water conservation which includes wells and water supply, garden and farm ponds, improvement of irrigation works, public lakes and reservoirs, soil erosion, and municipal water supplies. Work on this program is to be financed with FERA funds as an employment relief project, and is to begin at once. The program is to be completed by March 1, 1935.

The tax levy of 1934 to be paid by counties under the 2.1 mill assessment is \$4,325,326 as compared with \$4,955,-

147 a year ago. Taxable cash shows an increase this year as do cattle and horses.

While all intangibles show a sharp reduction from the 1932 assessment, there is a slight increase over 1933 on assessment rolls of money. The value of securities and accounts shows a great reduction, however, and there is a small reduction in bank stock values.

As the new intangible tax law passed by the last legislature has been declared void, intangibles are taxed under the old law. Money is taxed at 2 1/2 mills on the dollar, and securities and bank shares at 8 mills. Money and its equivalent show a total valuation of \$45,680,195, while class B intangibles which consist of stock and bonds, notes, annuities, royalties, book accounts and judgments, total \$35,905,801 this year compared with \$52,399,921 in 1933. Taxable money last year totaled \$43,014,122.

Bank stock was valued at \$26,251,102 in 1932, \$24,290,101 in 1933 and \$21,494,007 this year.

The assessment shows 3,029,467 head of cattle this year (before the drouth emergency sale of cattle started) compared with 2,776,843 last year and 2,572,905 in 1932. The value for 1934 is \$55,726,457; last year, \$48,147,064, and \$50,576,854 in 1932. The average appraised value was \$18.39 compared with \$17.34 last year. As usual, Cherry county had the most cattle, 219,061 head, valued at \$3,805,835. Custer county was second.

The total assessed value of horses in Nebraska this year is \$21,386,817, or nearly four and a half million dollars above 1933. There were 601,581 horses listed, or about 6,000 more than were listed on the assessment rolls for April 1, 1933. The average value was \$35.55 as against \$28.42 a year ago.

Drouth relief for farmers and their cattle continues to hold first place in affairs of state. Rowland Haynes, federal relief administrator for Nebraska, last week made a tour of the state which convinced him that the relief load will be twice as great as last winter's record breaker, while there will not be half enough feed to care for the livestock now in the state.

A more liberal policy in dealing with drouth-stricken farmers in regard to carrying over notes, the appraisal and classification of paper carried and extension of time and valuation of livestock is to be adopted by Nebraska state banks upon recommendation and under the supervision of the state banking department.

Superintendent Luikart of the department announced that "banks are now in good shape and they can well withstand a more liberal policy. Just how to handle paper under present drouth conditions will be decided in the near future."

Under a plan worked out by Prof. H. J. Gramlich, state director of federal cattle buying, purebred stock is to be kept within the state by "farming out" the purebred herds to Nebraska farmers who have feed and roughages to spare. It is doubtful,

however, whether all the purebred stock can be handled in the state over the winter, so the schedule of prices for such animals is to be raised under Gramlich's plan.

Arrangements are now being made with local elevators and similar agencies to serve as distributing points in counties short of feed for livestock, to handle feed purchased by the government and distribute it to farmers working under the government program in the drouth areas. Such commissaries are to be established in at least 30 counties, according to L. A. White, rural rehabilitation director for Nebraska.

Up to this week only 12 counties in the state had not been designated as emergency drouth counties. These 12 are in the secondary drouth area, however. They include Cuming, Dakota, Burt, Thurston, Dodge, Colfax, Pierce, Garden, Cheyenne, Kimball and Scottsbluff. None of the 12 had asked for the emergency classification.

State officials have received word from the office of Secretary of Agriculture Wallace that federal authorities have given no consideration to the plea made by the state railway commission that a 25 cent increase be made in the corn loan value. The extension of the maturity date on corn loans to Sept. 1 was announced recently, however and the government informed the railway commission that it is making plans to handle corn on which loans are not redeemed by September 1.

The extension of the maturity date on corn loans was made to allow borrowers plenty of time to determine their own feeding needs, according to the government communication.

GIST OF THE STATE HOUSE NEWS: The capitol will not be dedicated until sometime in October. The date had been set for September 3, but the state fair board protested on the grounds that holding the dedication labor day would detract from the Labor day crowd at the fair.

State revenue from beer for the first year will fall considerably under the half million mark predicted by "beer boosters" during the last legislative session, but will be considerably above the \$200,000 mark. July collections will be the biggest of the year, being certain to top the previous high figure of \$31,116 set in June. During the 10 months and 20 days up to July during which beer has been legal in Nebraska, 6,301,048, or nearly three gallons per capita has been consumed.

Figures released by the state auditor's office show that the registration of new public bond issues in the state took a jump in July, totaling \$730,200. The South Omaha bridge across the Missouri river accounted for \$550,000, however, governmental subdivisions paid off \$877,775 of old bonds in July.

The biennial report on Nebraska's public school endowment submitted by the state land commissioner showed collections for the first half of this

year amounting to \$144,055, with \$172,180 and \$218,041 being collected in the preceding half year periods. Interest collections on sale contracts amounted to \$32,938, and \$25,394 and \$48,216 respectively for the preceding half year periods. Taken as a whole, the income from state lands has shown an increase under State Land Commissioner Conklin as compared with his predecessor.

The board of control which has charge of state institutions has reduced salaries of its 1,000 employees \$37,000, or 5 per cent. Nine employees of the state hospital at Lincoln went on strike as a protest and were immediately replaced. The new reduction makes a total of 15 per cent since the beginning of the biennium.

The cut does not affect members of the board of control or officers of the 17 state institutions. The reason for this, according to Mrs. Nellie Benson, chairman, is because only one state is now paying less than Nebraska.

Mrs. Benson says the further reduction of wages of employees is necessary to make up for crop failure at the state institutions and higher prices for supplies. The last legislature appropriated \$3,360,000 for maintenance of institutions for the biennium, of which \$1,774,973 remains. Salaries are paid from maintenance.

The number of inmates in the 17 institutions last month was 7,558 compared with 7,634 a year ago. Employees including officers number 1,144 compared with 1,147 in July, 1933.

The shortage in the state permanent school funds which was revealed by the auditor's office nearly a year ago has developed into a political squabble, with State Treasurer Hall criticizing Governor Bryan, State Auditor Price and Attorney General Good for failure to press an investigation of the former administration's handling of the funds.

Hall asserts that "pressure has been brought to bear to halt the inquiry," and that hundreds of thousands of dollars are involved in the affair which is "the worst thing that has happened to Nebraska since Joseph S. Bartley, ex-state treasurer was convicted of embezzling funds before the turn of the century." A \$56,000 civil suit

Excavation Shows Holt County Was Once The Home of Many Indians

By J. B. O'Sullivan

(Continued from last week.)

Often, when the given number of fish were eaten by the medicine men, they were opened only by some glittering and precious long knife perhaps of quartz, agate, obsidian, chalcidony, petrified wood or jasper, or semi-precious material. The owner of that knife had the keys of the town, so to speak, he was as good as king without the risk of having his carcass found with so many holes in it that one could not distinguish it from a sieve.

It should be mentioned here, as it might come in handy some time, that the fish traps were constructed of a size which permitted entry of the fish but they could not turn around and seldom backed out. It often happened that the squaws of this or that, or all of the tribes decided the time best to prepare fish for use in the winter was during the operation of the dam and traps at the big conclave.

The women smoked the fish after they had been dried in the sun and were as hard as so many ears of corn. White persons claim they ate fish, so prepared in winter time, and found the fish fine food. Ceremonies and contests of all kinds occupied the time of those present and there was something doing every daylight hour. At night notes were compared, the weather, game movements, news, rumors and death and disasters discussed around council fires that flickered and faded away forever.

During these conclaves matters of great importance were discussed and settled, usually in a peaceful manner.

(Continued on page 4, column 4.)

AT EASE---

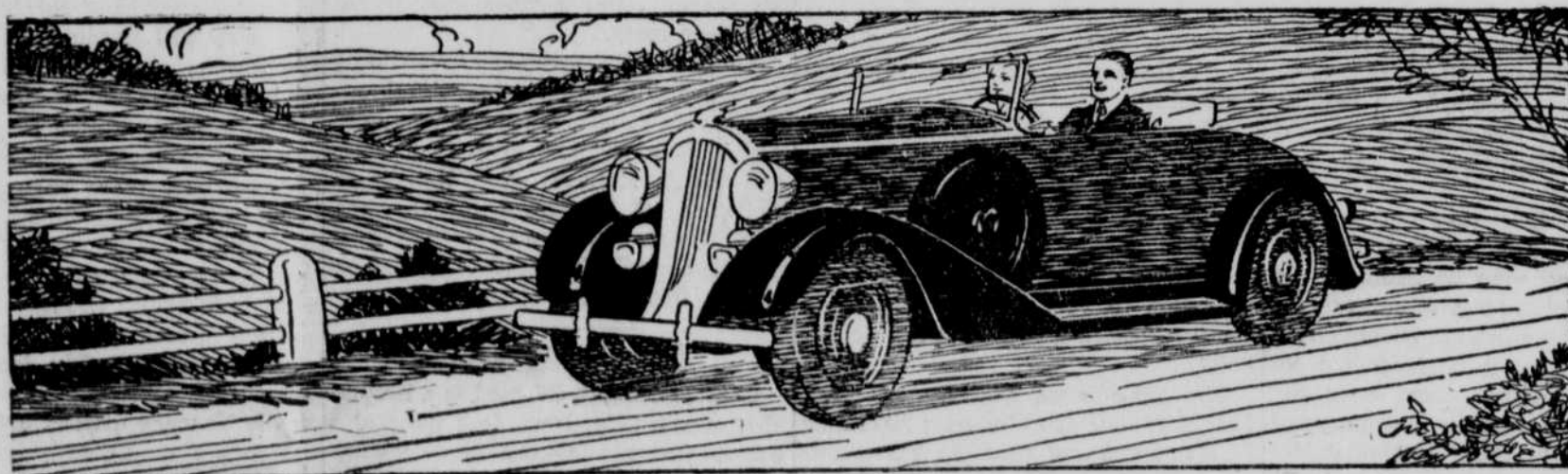
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