

## THE FRONTIER

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Entered at the Postoffice at O'Neill, Nebraska as Second Class Matter.

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### Economic Highlights

Opposition to the Administration, which has been scattered, weak and ineffective during the past two years, is gaining both in volume and in strength. Organizations, carrying prominent names on their letterheads, are springing up with the purpose of combatting alleged growth of bureaucracy.

Newest and most important of these organizations is the American Liberty League. It has two announced purposes: To disseminate information that will teach the necessity of respect for the rights of persons and property as a fundamental principle of constitutional government; and to teach the duty of government to encourage and protect individual and group initiative and enterprise. Anyone who can read between the lines will realize that it is the opinion of the League's backers that present government activities are inimical to these principles.

What makes the League more than ordinarily important is the fact that its principal sponsors are both ex-democratic presidential nominees—Alfred E. Smith and John W. Davis. President of the League is Jouett Shouse, a super-organizer and publicist, and a man who knows every in and out of politics. Mr. Davis is one of the nation's most distinguished conservatives, a man of the highest ability and integrity.

According to Mr. Shouse, membership applications are flowing into the League offices, and there will be no lack of funds with which to work. President Roosevelt, asked about it by reporters, gave an opinion on the League in which he said that he approved of its two purposes, but that he believed government has other responsibilities as well.

The League, and other organizations with similar plans, won't get into motion to any major extent until the November elections are over as strategists think it would be waste effort to start aggressive action until next year. But when the battle begins, there will be no quarter given on either side. Every major governmental principle is at issue, and it's going to be a great fight.

Reports from the business front of late have not been exciting, inasmuch as industry at large has neither risen nor fallen, but has held languidly to the same level for many weeks. However, the outlook for fall and winter is, according to some experts, improving. Hope of a seasonal upturn after Labor Day has offered some encouragement to the stock market, in spite of the fact that no evidence pointing to a major expansion in industrial operations has been forthcoming.

Inside Administration circles, great faith is felt in the new federal housing administration as a business reviver. The law authorizing this body was passed by the last Congress, at the request of the President, and a short time ago the machinery for putting its provisions into action was completed. It works this way: Banks and savings and loan associations apply to the Housing Administration for a contract which insures their building loans up to 20 per cent. Then the bank can lend from \$100 to \$2,000 to local property owners, without collateral. Amount of the loan is limited to one-fifth of the borrower's income, and the money can be repayed on a three-year installment basis. Maximum interest rate is 5 per cent. If the borrower defaults, the government will repay the bank 20 cents on each dollar lost.

Early reports indicate that applications for loans are flowing into banks all over the country at an amazing rate—some banks have been forced to establish separate departments for handling them. It is forecast that \$1,000,000,000 may be released for property modernization under this scheme—that much money, going into supplies and materials and employment, would give a powerful upward impetus to every industry.

The drought wiped out the crops of some of our richest farming states—

but the national farm income this year will total up considerably more than last. Reason for that is the sharp rise in the value of what crops remain. Corn will bring double last year's prices—livestock, poultry, and dairy products, which constitute the bulk of the farm income, will bring in \$700,000,000 more than they did in 1933.

Dun and Bradstreet forecasts that the increase in total farm income will be from 20 to 25 per cent—about \$1,500,000,000. Standard Statistics believes the rise will amount to \$2,000,000,000. Government experts unofficially say that the increase will be around \$1,000,000,000. Thus, there is considerable difference of opinion as to how much more the farmer will have to spend when 1934 closes—but every agency is certain his pockets will be better lined than before—and principal credit for this improvement in the financial condition of the great majority of farmers goes to old Mother Nature's system of adjusting supply and demand.

### Nebraska's Political Sower

By James R. Lowell

Whether or not to retain state constitutional prohibition is one of the really perplexing questions which Nebraskans face in the approaching election, and in order to keep its readers informed as to the trend of public sentiment along with the arguments being presented by exponents on both sides of the question, this newspaper will publish the results of a survey to be made by the Lowell Newspaper Service of Lincoln.

A Scottsbluff editor says "the vote here will be emphatically in favor of repeal of prohibition. Due to the nearness of Colorado and Wyoming, the latter state being but a half hour drive by car, people here can get all the wet goods they want. They feel that Nebraska might just as well get the tax, instead of Wyoming, on the liquor consumed by this section."

B. F. Robinson, editor of the Lodgepole Express, thinks the people of his vicinity will vote "dry" despite their nearness to Colorado. An eastern Nebraska editor says he wouldn't be surprised to see the state retain its dry status, but he adds that "we're darn fools if we do." A northern Nebraska editor says we're going "wet," and a south-central editor says we'll stay "dry."

On the "dry" side of the fence, the Nebraska Anti-Saloon league has appointed as its field secretary J. I. Carter, who helped organize the dries in North Dakota to win a recent referendum on prohibition.

Supt. R. P. Hutton of the league remarks that "William Jennings Bryan was the Moses who led the prohibition exodus. Nebraska cast the 36th and the deciding vote which wrote prohibition into the fundamental law of the land. Nebraska must be the state to turn the tide, and an overwhelming majority against repeal this fall will do that job."

One of the founders of the Anti-Saloon league, speaking last month in Ohio, predicted that Nebraska and Kansas in November "will hold the line firmly in the second dry war."

Rev. Iva M. Innis, of the Nebraska W. C. T. U., declares that accidents have increased in this state since the repeal of the 18th amendment. If the people of Nebraska want repeal and want to experiment on some method of control, she suggests keeping the Nebraska law for two more years to study the 23 different methods of control used by the various wet states.

Brewers and users of beer will vote to keep constitutional prohibition in Nebraska, in the opinion of the Nebraska United Temperance Campaign committee, of which H. F. Martin is chairman. This committee expects beer fans and brewers to vote dry and that their vote, plus the dry vote, "will bury repeal in Nebraska, Nov. 6, as it did in North Dakota, June 27."

"Nebraska, like North Dakota, legalized beer," the committee continues, "and has been a brewing state from the first. It prohibits whiskey and never was a distilling state. Repeal will send Nebraska money to distilling state, like Pennsylvania, and make jobs there, but it will take money from Nebraska brewers and take jobs from Nebraska brewery workers; and if repeal carries, the dries are certain to initiate prohibition of all liquor, including beer, and bring it to a vote in 1936."

On the "wet" side there is opposition to the contention of the temperance committee that beer drinkers and brewers will vote dry. Mrs. D. O. Verity, of Omaha, secretary of the Nebraska Women's Repeal league, says "the hope of the dry committee for support from the brewers is visionary and without foundation in fact. We confidently expect the support of every brewery worker not only because he has a job as a result of national repeal, but also he realizes more than others, perhaps, that prohibition is a failure."

Mrs. Verity continues: "It is also an erroneous conclusion that repeal will send any money out of the state in addition to what is already being

sent out. Most of the consumers of hard liquor are now drinking liquor distilled out of the state and bootlegged to them with practically no interference by the present dry administration of this state."

A vigorous campaign to prevent Nebraska from going into the dry column has been launched by the Nebraska Beverage Dispensers' association. Fred Parker, secretary-treasurer, says it is common knowledge that, should Nebraska "go dry," the dries would try to eliminate 3.2 beer on the grounds that it is intoxicating and therefore illegal.

Omaha law enforcement and judicial officials cannot see anything good in prohibition as it now exists in Omaha. The chief of police recently called upon citizens interested in repeal to demand regulation of beer taverns in order to ward off the alleged attempt of dries to defeat liquor regulation in the hope that repeal will be beaten by making a "horrible example" of licensed 3.2 beer.

The chief anticipates a dire enforcement situation if repeal is defeated. Liquor will come in floods from other states, he says, and it will be almost impossible to enforce prohibition. Municipal Judge Neble, of South Omaha, recently dismissed a man charged with unlawful possession of liquor, and offered to take the arresting officer to "500 places where liquor is sold openly."

Prohibition leaders ridicule the charge of Omaha officials that there is a concerted move of dry forces to make conditions under the present beer law so unbearable that voters will defeat the repeal issue.

Elmer E. Thomas, president of the Keep Nebraska Dry league, fails to see how these officials could conceive of prohibitionists encouraging patronage at beer taverns.

Fear is expressed by State Senator Paul Halpine, of Omaha, who was one of the leaders in support of the beer bill, that the state beer law will be voided unless repeal is voted. He says that "the constitution provides that all 'malt, spirituous, vinous, etc., liquors shall be forever prohibited from the state of Nebraska.' It is impossible to make beer without malt, therefore there is only one thing for the supreme court to do, and that is hold the beer bill unconstitutional."

Halpine declares that the reason the dry organizations haven't tested the present beer bill is because of the fear the reaction would assure repeal.

Four of the six states bordering on Nebraska now have hard liquor. Kansas and South Dakota have yet to vote on the question. If the dry amendment is voided in Nebraska this fall, the legislature meeting early in 1935 will have the task of providing for this state's resumption of liquor traffic.

Nebraska is extremely interested in the Iowa experiment (control thru state liquor stores) and many would-be state legislators now are studying the operation of the Iowa law as a possible guide to Nebraska's procedure in case this state goes wet in November.

**GIST OF THE CAPITOL NEWS:** Nebraska's two largest penal institutions, the state penitentiary and the men's reformatory at Lincoln, have experienced a sizeable reduction in their populations in recent months. There are 900 in the penitentiary compared with 943 a few months ago, while the reformatory has 320, or 102 less than the peak reached two years ago. Prison officials give much of the

credit to CCC camps and the federal transient bureaus.

The state normal board will ask the next legislature for \$1,487,560 of tax funds for maintenance of the four state normal schools. The total including cash funds from the four institutions would be \$1,736,048. In 1933 the legislature cut the board's request by 20 per cent, making a total of \$1,211,036 of tax funds for the biennium.

The Nebraska FERA has been allotted \$1,987,070 to carry on the drought relief, work relief, social service and various other activities for the month of September. Nebraska physicians and surgeons have been made a proposition by the FERA whereby they may be designated as FERA physicians and receive half pay for medical services given to persons on federal relief rolls. This is one of the methods the government is using in making its relief dollars stretch farther.

The state tax commissioner's office reports that assessed valuation of telephone companies in the state totals \$17,215,012 as compared with \$17,421,318 last year and \$18,349,744 in 1932. Telegraph companies were valued at \$1,339,532 as against \$1,314,973 last year. Foreign insurance companies were valued at \$11,206,741 compared with \$17,205,763 a year ago. Pipe lines are assessed at \$6,000,509 compared with \$6,320,041 last year. All personal property is assessed at \$471,691,274 compared with \$475,039,381 last year and \$555,295,533 in 1932.

Word comes from Washington that Nebraska CCC workers in the year ending March 31, improved more than 16,000 acres of Nebraska lands thru their soil erosion control work, built 660 erosion control dams, reduced fire hazards over 2,000 acres of timbered land, improved 3,300 acres of forest land, and did considerable flood control work.

Scottsbluff county has now been designated in the emergency drought area. That leaves only four counties in the northeastern part of the state that are not in the emergency classification.

A study of the results of the primary election in Nebraska reveals an unusually large percentage of the nominees for major state offices who are less than 45 years old. One of the most interesting races between "youths" will be run for attorney general.

R. O. "Dick" Johnson, republican candidate for attorney general and well-known Lincoln lawyer, carries an age seniority of nearly 10 years over his democratic opponent, William Wright, of Scottsbluff, and yet Johnson is just going on 41.

These two candidates have had entirely dissimilar careers, Johnson being of a family unknown politically while Wright's family has figured in the political news of Nebraska for many years. His father for example once held the political plum of U. S. district judge. Johnson's father is a mechanic in the Burlington shops.

Johnson worked five years as a machinist's apprentice in the railroad shops and lost part of one hand in an accident. Then he got a clerical job and obtained most of his high school

credits thru night classes. He worked his way thru university, entering at the age of 23 and graduating from law college at 28. After that he had to build up a law practice on his "own hook." He became interested in politics and was twice elected to the state legislature. During two campaigns he was chosen by the republican state committee as a speaker for gubernatorial candidates, first for McMullen and next for Weaver.

A few years after he finished university, Wright was appointed assistant attorney general, a position he now holds.

Anthrax infection has taken a toll of 220 head of Nebraska cattle already this summer as compared with 125 head for the same period a year ago, according to the state bureau of animal industry. Cases reported have fallen off sharply in recent weeks however, and now there are only 29 quarantines in force in the state compared with 36 a year ago.

Tuberculosis testing in cattle got underway early this month in Nuckolls county, as provided for by funds from the Jones-Connelly bill passed by the last national legislature. Similar work will be carried on soon in additional counties that have so requested.

At present feed prices, based on rations suggested by the college of

agriculture, it will cost \$50 to winter a dairy cow producing 20 pound of fat per day; but a cow on a mere maintenance ration will require \$30 worth of feed for the winter, at present prices, according to M. L. Flack, extension dairyman at the agricultural college.

### Excavation Shows Holt County Was Once The Home of Many Indians

By J. B. O'Sullivan

(Continued from last week.)

In the year 1876 whites found there was gold in the Black Hills and strings of covered wagons passed the Ponca camp. The people heard the Sioux and whites were fighting skirmishes over the hill country. Now they might get an honest night's sleep. But no, there came an order straight from headquarters to remove the Ponca, "With their consent," to some Indian territory down in what is the state of Oklahoma. This was in the middle of a hard and heartless winter, but there was no choice.

Several Ponca chiefs, among them old Standing Bear, went to Oklahoma and looked the proposed new homeland over and came back and shook their heads. There was nothing there attractive to them. They reported the water there was not fit for hogs and that no one should or could live there. (Continued on page 4, column 5.)

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