

THE FRONTIER

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CONGRESS—AS SEEN BY A NEBRASKAN

Hearings have been started on the bills to take the postoffice out of politics and put the entire system under civil service. The Norris bill was being heard by a senate committee and the companion bill is to be heard by the committee on the house side in the near future.

Mrs. Bald, of Platte Center, Nebr., is one of the prominent Nebraska women attending the D. A. R. convention. The delegates are going to visit Mt. Vernon and Arlington Cemetery tomorrow, and they are going to close their meeting with a big banquet on Saturday night.

The old age pension and employers insurance bill will go thru the house as ordered. The Townsend plan, the Lundeen plan, the Greenway plan and others were cut down like so much chaff, and the report comes from the majority that it will be passed early today. There is a reason. When the president came back from his fishing trip he told Joe Byrnes and Bob Doughton, the latter chairman of the committee and author of the security bill that he wanted the bill to be put thru and in quick time.

A lot of congressmen who wanted a real old age pension bill say they are afraid the present one will do no good for states that can't raise the money to match government funds. They say its not an old age pension bill at all for those states. Some of the republicans who tried to get the provision for old age raised from \$30 to \$40 a month got real party support but the machine agreement on the bill stood solid and the plan to increase the amount was killed.

Mr. and Mrs. George Pinion were here from Winside visiting with their nephew, Dwight Pinion, who is employed with the War Veterans' Bureau. Mr. and Mrs. Pinion have been down in Virginia visiting Grayson county. Many people around Madison county have come from Grayson county. Mr. Pinion says he has been farming around Winside for 24 years, and has given it up. He doesn't know if he is going to settle in Virginia or go back to Nebraska.

The Harrison bonus compromise is a thing which is being discussed with unusual interest by Congressmen. Wright Patman, of Texas, and author of the Patman Bonus Bill, made a statement last night to a group of congressmen that he is very much pleased with the Harrison compromise, although he may not be for it. He believes it is a great concession and feels that it may mean that the so-called bonus will be paid to the war veterans.

Letters have been coming in asking about the government sending families to Alaska, and these writers inquire as to whether or not the Government will send any families to that country from Nebraska. Our investigation shows that a number of families are to be sent to the Mantanuska Valley in Alaska as a part of the land and agriculture rehabilitation program. Only a limited number of families from one or two of the northern states will be selected for this project, perhaps not to exceed 300 families will be transported this spring. We are definitely told that no Nebraska families will be eligible.

A letter comes in stating that "Sam, WJAG's hog man" has decided not to write to his Congressman until hogs reach an average of 10c a pound. \$1.00 corn should bring 10c hogs. Congressmen are discussing what will happen to hog prices in the future, but none of them know. Much has been said about the strike of housewives in

the east against the high price of meats, and looking at the window of a meat market this morning, we find the following bargain prices: "stewing chickens, 27c a pound; slices of ham, 39c a lb.; pork ribs ends, 23c a lb.; chuck roast beef, 25c a lb.; shoulders of lamb, 19c a lb.; leg of lamb, 25c a lb.; Swift's Premium whole hams, 27c a lb." This was a special bargain price for that day only.

The Nebraska farmers write in to say that processing taxes on hogs are too high, and that they should be cut down or at least cut in half, and if processing taxes are going to be continued, they should also be placed on other products. Some of these hog farmers feel that the hog man has been carrying the biggest burden so far as processing taxes are concerned.

Easter has come and gone to Washington. Rain spoiled the outdoor exercises but thousands went to Arlington cemetery to pray. Other thousands went to crowded churches wearing beautiful clothes and to look at other people to see what they were wearing. Never has there been so much Easter business in Washington according to the store keepers. Night before Easter clerks said they were more tired than the night before Christmas.

Talking about gasoline tax, in Washington the gas tax is only one cent. Automobile license is only a dollar a year. The people who live in Washington pay less taxes than people in other cities, yet they want much of the money raised by taxes from other people. They have beautiful parks, wonderful bands. Paid for by the government.

There is much sadness in one of the important departments of the justice organization in Washington. Edward Backus, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Backus of Columbus, died following a surgical operation. He was 25 years old and was loved by everybody in the department. He was considered one of the outstanding young men in the justice department.

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Economic Highlights

Many industrial writers are saying that the most significant business development of the early months of 1935 has been the great increase in corporation financing thru new bond issues. This trend, seems to be steadily gaining in importance—new bond issues are rumored which would far exceed in value those of March, which was in itself an exceptional month. It is true there have been few bond issues which represent "wholly new" money—most of them have simply represented refinancing operations, with the object of retiring old issues and replacing them with new ones commanding lower interest rates. However, the present outlook justifies the forecast that a number of major corporations will shortly offer the public securities for "wholly new" projects.

It is natural to suppose that, if business is once more coming out of its shell and attempting financing, industry at large is experiencing better times. The volume of industrial production, according to the Cleveland Trust company's Business Bulletin, has been running about nine per cent higher during the first quarter of this year than in the same period of 1934. Other well-known indices, such as that of Business Week, agree.

Main reason for the improvement is the same as it was last year: Motors. This industry, which led the country out of the relatively minor depression of 1921, is apparently going to lead the country out of the major depression of the present. Demand for cars and trucks has held to a very high level—those who forecast that the demand would shortly be forfeited were mistaken. The American people, whatever else they are buying, are going in heavily for new transportation.

By way of contrast, retail trade, which held up well during the bad months of last year, is no longer in the spotlight as an example of better times. Pre-Easter trade was disappointing, and stores sold much less than they anticipated. During the same period industry improved, though most commentators had forecast that it would decline. Depression has taught one thing at least—the standards on which forecasts were based in

the past are no longer sure-fire. Trends that, in 1928, could have been analyzed with safety as to future developments, are now showing a habit of turning upon themselves and establishing new and unlooked-for precedents.

As for other industries, the picture is mixed. A few lines of production—textiles, food products, tobacco and anthracite coal, showed declines of late. Iron and steel have changed but little. Cement and bituminous coal made small advances. Factory payrolls and employment have increased.

The textile situation threatens to become explosive. At the present time, the government assesses all textile manufacturers in order to obtain the money it is paying farmers for non-production of cotton. Manufacturers are irate, say that this tax makes it impossible to operate at a profit. They now suggest that the tax be dropped, that the farmers be paid from the public works fund. President Roosevelt has looked coldly on that idea, has said that the textile people exaggerate. Secretary Wallace, as might be expected, agrees with the President. Some textile spokesmen have made the dire forecast that if the present plan is continued not a loom will be turning in six months.

One industry at least is literally booming—silver. The Treasury is forcing the price up, holders of the metal are not selling because they believe still higher prices are in the offing. Thus, demand far outruns supply. The silver producers believe they are entering a period of real prosperity.

As this column has said, forecasts are dangerous. But a digest of all the forecasts would indicate that business will continue to get better during the rest of this year, may actually approach normal by 1936.

A few Sundays ago Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau explained, via radio, the financial status of the nation. Two of the facts brot out in his speech are of exceptional interest.

First, when the present Administration came to office the gross public debt was a trifle under \$21,000,000,000. On March 31, it was \$28,000,000,000.

Second, it would naturally be supposed that the interest cost of the debt would be at a record high, inasmuch as the debt itself is. But the annual interest cost—now amounting to \$800,000,000—is less than it was in 1925, when the debt was \$8,000,000,000 less.

The reason is that government bonds now pay less interest than at any time in history. The average on the bonds outstanding is but 2.86 per cent, and the Treasury is gradually calling in old, high-interest bond issues, and issuing low-interest ones in their place.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

By Frank P. Litschert

During the past few weeks the newspapers have been full of the disagreements of Senator Long and the national administration. We have been regaled with extracts of speeches of the stalwart members of the administration like Mr. Ickes, who have taken Mr. Long to task. We have absorbed the details of the disagreement as to the control of the expenditure of relief money in Louisiana together with speculation as to whether or not Senator Long intends to oppose the administration seriously in the next campaign.

No matter how much we may agree or disagree with Senator Long and his theories there seems to be little doubt as to his ability to gain the attention of the public thru the newspaper and the radio. This has tended to under-emphasize the fact that there has been serious disagreement with the course of the administration from other statesmen of the same political faith, statesmen whose record for conservatism and political "dignity" is much greater than that of the colorful senator from Louisiana.

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For example: here are three Southern senators of Democratic tradition who have been battling against measures sponsored by the administration—Senators Glass and Byrd of Virginia, and Bailey of North Carolina. Governor Talmadge of the staunch Jeffersonian state of Georgia has been in serious argument with Washington and Governor Curley, of Massachusetts, one of the President's closest political friends, has gone so far as to suggest publicly that the best thing Secretary Wallace could do for the public would be to resign and go back to Iowa. The usually accurate Oliver McKee, Jr., writing in the Boston Transcript says: "Among the 435 members of the House of Representatives it would be hard to find a group more silently wrathful than the seven Democrats from Massachusetts." And so on. No doubt there would be a great deal more wrath which was not so silent were it not for the patronage power of the administration and the tremendous prestige it built up in the elections of 1932 and 1934.

House Figuring On A Unicameral Body of 50

It now appears certain that the unicameral legislature will be composed of fifty members. A bill providing for that number has been advanced to third reading in the house with such a majority that there is no question but what it will pass the house on third reading.

The senate passed a bill providing for a membership of forty-eight, but they will probably accept the bill passed by the house. Following is the district alignment of the next legislature:

- 1. Pawnee, Richardson, population 29,249.
2. Johnson, Nemaha, 21,693.
3. Otoe, 19,901.
4. Sarpy, Cass, 27,286.
5. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Douglas county.
13. Washington, Burt, 25,649.
14. Thurston, Dixon, Dakota, 31,553.
15. Cedar, Wayne, 26,933.
16. Stanton, Cuming, Colfax, 33,570.
17. Dodge, 25,273.
18. Saunders, 20,167.
19, 20, 21, 22. Lancaster county.
23. Gage, 30,242.
24. Thayer, Jefferson, 30,093.
25. Fillmore, Saline, 29,327.
26. Seward, York, 33,177.
27. Butler, Polk, 24,502.
28. Nance, Platte, 29,899.
29. Madison, 26,037.
30. Pierce, Knox, 30,190.
31. Antelope, Boone, 29,944.
32. Hamilton, Clay, 25,730.
33. Nuckolls, Webster, Franklin, 31,933.
34. Adams, 26,275.
35. Hall, 27,117.
36. Howard, Sherman, Merrick, 29,767.
37. Valley, Wheeler, Garfield, Loup, Greeley, 25,335.
38. Holt, Boyd, Keya Paha, Rock, 30,247.
39. Custer, 26,189.
40. Buffalo, 24,338.
41. Dawson, Frontier, 25,989.
42. Gosper, Phelps, Kearney, Harlan, 30,599.

From this it must not be taken, however, that Mr. Roosevelt is now in critical danger of losing the election in 1936. The Republicans are split, too, perhaps as badly split as the Democrats, and Mr. Roosevelt has all the power and prestige which goes along with the man that is "in." Besides there is that appropriation of \$4,800,000,000 which administration Democrats are counting on to continue relief measures and stimulate business temporarily at least; yet it must be admitted that Mr. Roosevelt's political honeymoon is over.

Supervisors' Proceedings

(Continued from last week)
RESOLUTION
WHEREAS, Edward A. Keeler of Ewing, Holt county, Nebraska, is a poor person who is unable to earn a livelihood, in consequence of bodily infirmity, and
WHEREAS, Harry A. Keeler,

- 43. Red Willow, Furnas, 25,999.
44. Hitchcock, Dundy, Hayes, Chase, Perkins, 27,800.
45. Lincoln, 25,627.
46. Keith, Deuel, Garden, Arthur, McPherson, Logan, Blaine, Thomas, Hooker, Grant, 26,229.
47. Cherry, Sheridan, Brown, 27,463.
48. Sioux, Dawes, Box Butte, 28,021.
49. Scottsbluff, 28,644.
50. Banner, Morrill, Kimball, Cheyenne, 26,488.

An exchange wants to know why women and money are alike and then answers by saying that you have to keep them busy or they lose interest. Yes, and if you let them venture too far you lose both principal and interest

Supervisors' Proceedings

(Continued from last week)
RESOLUTION
WHEREAS, Edward A. Keeler of Ewing, Holt county, Nebraska, is a poor person who is unable to earn a livelihood, in consequence of bodily infirmity, and
WHEREAS, Harry A. Keeler,

Jess E. Keeler, Ora A. Keeler, Arthur Keeler, Clarence Keeler, Ernest Keeler, Clyde Keeler, Margery Keeler, Ruby Russell, Ross Keeler, Bess Nikolite and Clara Keeler are all children of the said Edward A. Keeler and are possessed of sufficient means and ability to support and care for said Edward A. Keeler, and
WHEREAS, the said Edward A. Keeler is now being partially cared for, supported and maintained by the County of Holt
NOW THEREFORE, I move you that that the said Harry A. Keeler, Jess E. Keeler, Ora Keeler, Arthur Keeler, Roy Keeler, Clarence Keeler, and
(Continued on page 8, column 2.)

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