

THE FRONTIER

D. H. Cronin, Editor and Proprietor Entered at the Postoffice at O'Neill, Nebraska as Second Class Matter.

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CONGRESS As Seen by a Nebraskan

Free Vacations—The House passed an act to authorize participation by the United States in the interparliamentary union, and calling for an annual appropriation of \$20,000. When this bill came up, new congressmen had their first taste of a filibuster, and the House remained in session until nearly eight o'clock. The fight against the bill was on the grounds that it was just a junketing proposition to give a few congressmen a free trip to Europe at the expense of the taxpayers, and those of the minority who are trying to save the taxpayers some money feel that these congressmen who make these free trips at the expense of the taxpayers do nothing but talk European politics when they are away attending these interparliamentary union meetings. Those trying to save this money for the taxpayers were beaten by a fairly close vote, but they made it pretty plain that they are opposed to junketing trips by congressmen during vacation time in order to be able to spend taxpayers money just to have a free vacation and a good time.

Visitors from Home—About 4,000 boosters for the continuation of the triple A program arrived in town a couple of days ago and attended meetings in Constitution Hall which were addressed by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, and Chester Davis, Agricultural Adjustment Administrator, and in the afternoon they listened to President Roosevelt's talk to them from the south portico of the White House. Carl Stelling, of Orchard, Nebr., and several of the other farmers from the Third District were with us, and they got quite a thrill when Buzzie and Sistine Dall waved back to them from the roof of the White House. Among the sixty-two Nebraska farmers who came with the AAA boosters to Washington were twelve farmers from the Third District: C. G. Baker, Tilden; Harry G. Johnson, Oakland; George M. Andrew, Randolph; C. B. Holmes, Loretto; D. F. Scott, Atkinson; A. A. Baker, Winnebago; Alex Rabe-ler, Leigh; Emmett J. Lee, Spalding; L. A. Hill, Monroe; R. A. McWorter, North Bend; Carl Stelling, Orchard.

AAA Amendments—The fourth draft of the new amendments to the agricultural adjustment act has been completed and now the bill is H. R. 8052. About the only real controversial matter in this bill is the section giving the secretary of agriculture power to license processors of food commodities. On this there will be much debating. The Nebraska congressmen have been asked how they would vote on this bill. In fact they were asked that question before the bill was printed. So some of them are telling the administration agents who ask this question that they must study the bill and report first before saying how they will vote. Those who are anxious to spread the processing tax so as to relieve the hog farmer are asked not to offer any amendments to this effect because the cattle and sheep men are opposed to a processing tax. They are also told that there is no intention at this particular time to reduce the processing tax of \$2.25 per 100 pounds of hogs. They are told the secretary has all of the power to do this and that eventually he may do so.

Senator Cutting—The late senator Cutting deserted the republican national ticket in 1932 and worked hard for Franklin Roosevelt. When Cutting came up for election in 1934, democrats fought him against the wishes of the president, and tried to beat him in a contest with a man named Chavez.

Then Cutting was killed in an accident. The governor of New Mexico named Chavez to fill the vacancy. When Chavez was being sworn in the progressive republicans in the senate got up and walked into the cloak rooms. They did that to show their feelings about the ingratitude on the part of the democrats. These progressives loved Cutting. It was the privilege of a Wakefield, Nebr., man to witness this unprecedented sight from the gallery of the senate. While he watched from above another Nebraskan watched it from the floor of the senate.

Nebraska—Secretary of War Dern is a Nebraska man. He worked in the county court house at Fremont and still is interested in three farms in Dodge county, and goes back home about two times a year. He likes to talk about Nebraska and was very much pleased to hear about the good rains which have been falling in his home state. His attention was also called to the ravages of the Missouri river against the valuable land around Niobrara, and he is very much interested in helping Nebraska representatives bring some relief to that portion of the river, because some day the river will be made navigable north of Sioux City to connect up with Ft. Peck, where millions of dollars are being spent by the government.

Impressive Service—Mother's Day was observed with some of the most impressive services ever known at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the amphitheater at Arlington by the American War Mothers. It was their eleventh annual ceremony, and many people went there to give fitting honor to Mother's Day and at the same time lay flowers and wreaths on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The United States Navy Band, members of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a detail of troops from the 16th Brigade, U. S. Army, and various officials helped to make the ceremony impressive.

Mrs. O. J. Irwin, of Genoa, Nebraska, arrived in Washington the other day. She drove from Genoa and it took her five days to make the trip, bringing the children of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Holmes to Washington. She expects to stay here for several days.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles O. Pond, and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Pond, of Plainview, Nebraska, were here yesterday sightseeing. They were impressed with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Mr. Pond retired recently as mail carrier, and he is going back for the first time to the scenes of his childhood in the Catskill Mountains.

KARL STEFAN.

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I drove my old car 25,000 miles on my second set of tires and got a good trade in deal because they said my tires were so good—And those were Pharis Tires from Gamble Stores. Now, I can buy new ones at 40% From Standard A List.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

By Frank P. Litschert

Some of the staunch defenders of the AAA processing taxes are seeking to excuse them on the theory that they are like the protective tariff. The fact that most of these theorists are against the tariff and denounce it as something unholy would seem somewhat inconsistent, under the circumstances, but still it is being done. They declare that, like the processing tax, the protective tariff curtails the supply and at the same time raises the cost to the consumer.

Anyone who will take the trouble to study the comparison himself for a moment will not have much trouble in seeing the unsoundness of it. The protective tariff is not designed to curtail the supply of a product, but only to cut down that part of the supply which comes to us from foreign lands where it has been paid for by poorly paid workers, and to protect American jobs and the American standard of living for our own people by increasing the American supply. The protective tariff encourages home industry. When foreign matches for example, are kept out of the country, the tendency is not to curtail American production or the match supply as is the case of the AAA with farm products, but to make more matches at home, and at the same time more jobs for American workmen. The same is true of every other industry which is created in America by barring out a flood of cheaply made foreign goods. On the other hand the processing tax is raised directly to cut down American production. And its effect on foreign produc-

tion is exactly the opposite of that of the protective tariff. By reducing crops at home it encourages production in foreign countries. In fact many foreign agriculturists have received so much encouragement that they are planning to raise enough to displace us in the foreign markets and send us supplies over our tariff wall, if the processing tax and other brakes on American production make it as possible as seems likely.

Nobody will doubt that the processing tax is a tax on the consumer. And he who has bought supplies at retail which are subject to the processing tax knows that so well it is not necessary to prove it to them. But there is and always has been a great deal of doubt as to how much if any the American protective tariff costs the American consumer thru taxation if it is continued over a period of years. True, the tariff lessens the strain of foreign competition, but at the same time it encourages competition at home and the more competition there is among American industries the cheaper products will be to our American buyers. The only thing which can defeat that is a setting aside of our anti-trust laws thru some new fangled federal regulation which will permit the setting up of combinations to control prices and stifle competition.

The fact is that the elimination of tariff protection might cost the American consumer more, in many instances, in the long run. There are some American industries which would be entirely eliminated by foreign competition if there were no protective tariff. Once foreign producers had the field to themselves what would prevent their combining into cartels to gouge the American consumer. Gouging America is their favorite indoor and outdoor financial sport. We have no tariff on coffee yet we are at the mercy of foreign coffee growers. Lack of tariff doesn't cheapen the price of coffee to the American consumer. He pays just what the Brazilian government wants him to pay. Tariff plays no part in it. What has been done in the instance of coffee could be done with many commodities were it not for American competition made possible by the tariff.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

During the five years ending with 1933 over \$4,500,000,000 was paid as fire insurance premiums in the United States.

Taxes paid in the United States now amount to more than \$9,500,000,000 or one-fifth of the national income annually.

Still more than 94 per cent of the persons of working age in this country in the year 1933 did not pay any income tax to the federal government.

Figuring on the basis of the 1930 census there are now approximately 47,000,000 people in the United States 18 years old or over who are able to work.

Nearly six million hunters in this country paid close to nine million dollars for state licenses in 1933 the last year for which records are now available.

The first Methodist church in the United States was established near Westminster, Md.

Collection of state gasoline taxes

costs the petroleum industry something like \$22,500,000 annually.

The average American uses his weight in paper each year, while the average Russian uses less than 10 pounds.

More than one-third of the population of Hawaii is Japanese.—Pathfinder.

Economic Highlights

Every Supreme Court makes history. The existing Court has a chance offered to few of its predecessors to add important pages to that unwritten, unfinished volume which might be entitled "The United States Government." Most dramatic recent Court decision was that of the gold cases, in which the Administration's unprecedented action of seizing all the country's gold was held to be compatible with the basic law of the land—the much talked about, little understood Constitution. A few weeks ago the Court passed on another case which received fewer headlines, was less dramatic, but which may prove to be of even greater importance than the gold imbroglio—the Railroad Pension Act.

This Act was passed by the last session of Congress. Under it, by governmental fiat, the railroads of the country were forced to make provision for pensioning their old employees, whether they wanted to or not, and whether or not they had the money. The bill provided that the railroads' payments be pooled, so that the stronger lines would help to provide for the employees of lines which were financially weak.

The decision is immensely important in that it establishes a precedent which, in the opinion of most commentators learned in the intricacies of Constitution law, makes it almost inevitable that the Court will likewise throw out any social security legislation that Congress may pass.

In the words of "Business Week" the majority of the Court "flatly denied that Congress can use its constitutional authority over interstate commerce for merely social and humanitarian ends, as contrasted with the protection of legal rights." That is a blow to the whole underlying philosophy of the New Deal.

Directly following the decision, New Dealers said that they would redraw the act, and base it, not on Congress' interstate commerce power, but on its power to tax. Here again the Court seems to stand in the way. It has insisted that a taxing act must be a genu-

ine attempt to raise federal revenue—that it cannot be camouflaged so as to use it to promote a purely social end.

Even so, New Dealers and others who favor social legislation, have one chance to emerge victorious. That chance lies in the fact that the decision—like so many major Supreme Court decisions—was 5 to 4. A number of the Justices are past the usual retirement age, and what Justice Hughes called "the attribution of year" may force one or more of them to step down before long. In that case, the President could place a new Justice on the bench, whose viewpoint toward the Constitution is liberal—and the balance of power would swing back to the Hughes-Brandeis-Stone-Cardozo side. The line is very clearly drawn on the Court now, with those four justices supporting the broad view of the Constitution, and with Justices McReynolds, Vanderventer, Sutherland and Butler clinging to the belief that the document should not be "stretched" in any particular. The unknown quantity is Justice Roberts, who

votes with one group one time, another the next.

It is also interesting that there appears to be more dissension within the Court than in the past, more bitterness in the decisions. Justice Hughes' minority decision in the pension case, in which he held that the commerce clause gave Congress the necessary power to pass the Act, amounted almost to a denunciation of the majority.

There the issue stands. If, when the social security laws and similar legislation come to the Court, its personnel is the same as at present, the chances are they will be thrown out. If the President has the opportunity to appoint a Justice to supplant one of the conservatives, the chances are they will be upheld. That is the trouble with a 5 to 4 split—it inevitably breeds uncertainty, in that it can be changed overnight.

How good is business? Outside of those industries which are again facing the threat or the existence of strikes, it is doing well and, seasonal changes taken into ac-

count, is improving in various basic lines.

Steel production stood at 45 per cent of capacity, an encouraging level for this time of year. March sales of passenger cars were 98 per cent ahead of last year—show no sign of diminishing. Chrysler's sales for the first quarter were the highest in its history. Machine tool makers had the best April business in five years, and electrical goods manufacturers are reporting increased orders. Residential construction is exceptionally good, will probably improve with summer.

District Court Filings

Gustav Obermire has filed suit against Jesse L. Linderman, et al., to quiet title to real estate located in Cleveland precinct.

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