

SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

By Carter Field

Washington.—Democrats are not boasting about one of their really important accomplishments — repeal of prohibition.

Republicans are not attacking the administration for perhaps its most stupid and — proportionately—most expensive flop—the silver buying policy which was to correct so many things, including the power of China to buy more American exports.

These are two of the phases of this presidential campaign which must be very amusing to any foreigner.

Prohibition is almost self-explanatory. One angle, however, which neither the wets — surprised because there was no boasting about the keeping of this platform pledge — nor the dries — indignant that it was kept — have appreciated is purely financial. It affects another issue in the campaign, and one which the Democrats do not wish to discuss. For repeal of prohibition has resulted in pouring half a billion—five hundred million dollars — a year more into the federal treasury as tax revenue.

New Dealers do not want to talk about this, for it naturally raises the point that would the deficit be, and how much would the increase in our national debt be, if there had been no repeal?

That, however, is a very minor point in comparison with the real reason that not one of the hundred odd speeches at Philadelphia mentioned the carrying out of this particular campaign pledge. The real reason is that the dries are militantly angry, and to boast about the accomplishment would irritate them further. Evidences of this have been growing for some time. Strictly speaking, it is not a proper issue in this campaign. The truth is that the Republicans at their convention in Chicago four years ago were just as eager to go all the way wet as were the Democrats. It took all the pressure of Hoover through his patronage - controlled delegates to prevent it. The high spot in the humor of that situation was the Maryland "free state" delegation, and the supposedly duplicitous for the merely moist as against the wet plank.

They Don't Boast

But there have been indications for some time that the dries, who have recovered from the almost hypnotic state into which they lapsed after the wet snowball began to roll in 1930, have centered their bitterness on the Democrats for forcing repeal, and that some of them may vote Republican this fall for no other reason than to punish Roosevelt and Farley for their drive to obtain ratification of the repeal amendment.

This is the real reason the Democrats are not boasting much about the amazing achievement of forcing repeal three short years after the dry-controlled—at the time—senate lobby committee took such glee in demonstrating to its own satisfaction that every time the wets made a fight they lost more ground.

Republican speakers are just as afraid of the silver issue as the Democrats are of repeal. Without exception the Republican leaders think the whole silver buying policy was weird. In fact many Democratic leaders agree with them. But to make a political issue of it might excite two groups. First, the enthusiastic silver men, and, second, the inflationists who, while caring nothing about silver per se, looked on the silver policy as a move in their direction.

All of this is highly important in several small, but important states, which just might become vital if the election is close.

Causes Surprise

Critics of the Passamaquoddy tidal project were surprised at the recent declaration of President Roosevelt to citizens of Eastport, Maine, that Quoddy "will be completed." The surprise is occasioned because President Roosevelt has admitted several times in the last few months that he cannot allot money to the project until congress has authorized it.

The point is that no one familiar with the situation on Capitol Hill believes that the President, even if he should be re-elected by an overwhelming majority, will be able to obtain a favorable appropriation for Quoddy. Or for the Florida ship canal.

It is as near a certainty as anything can be in politics that the Democratic majority in the next house will be sharply whittled down, even if there should be something approaching the landslide for Roosevelt which James A. Farley predicts, though which no one else expects.

Confidential figures of some very shrewd experts among the Democrats in the house are that the New Deal lead in the next house will not exceed fifty, as against the present two hundred. Republicans naturally put this figure even lower, though the fact is few of them

think the G. O. P. will carry the house unless Governor Alf M. Landon is elected. In which case they think he would pull through a favorable house majority.

A conservative, non-partisan guess is that the next house will not have a Democratic majority of more than twenty-five. Which, in view of the fact that the present house, with a Democratic majority in excess of 200, stubbornly refused to make any appropriation for carrying on Quoddy or the Florida ship canal, and later on failed even to approve a new study of the two projects, is causing wonder here as to how Mr. Roosevelt expects to carry out the promise he made to the folks in Maine.

Something Else

But, as though this were not enough difficulty in the path of the project, there is another. It is almost certain that the congress which will convene in January will be nothing like so tractable as either the present or the last congress. From a political standpoint the answer to this is simple — and inevitable. Presumably, of course, if Mr. Roosevelt is re-elected he will never again be a candidate. So there will never be another election in which senators and members of the house will hope to ride through to victory on Roosevelt's coat tails.

They will not have the same keen interest, for the sake of party loyalty and selfish interest, to give him unquestioning support on anything he may ask. Many of them may even get the idea that the nominee for the Presidency by the Democratic party in 1940 will hold very different views on a great many questions. A glance back over Democratic nominees—Cleveland, Bryan, Parker, Wilson, Cox, Davis, and Smith — would indicate at least the possibility.

Then, too, the patronage has been pretty largely distributed. White House pressure with this steam behind it will be much weaker than during the last four years. Against all of which there is not one single element of greater persuasive power to contribute to Roosevelt's control of the next congress.

Hits Wholesalers

Wholesalers, who, fighting competition of the chains and mail order houses, helped push through the Robinson - Patman anti-price discrimination bill, find they may be wiped out by its operations. Little book stores, never interested much except against cut price sales by department stores, face loss of many customers who bought more than one copy, intending the books for presents.

All sales for future delivery seem to be up in the air, with the prospect of plenty of trouble for any manufacturer attempting to carry on normal sales at the same time.

These are a few highlights of trouble involved in the new measure, jammed through in the last few days of congress, without most of the people who would be affected having more than a remote idea of what it would do to them.

Wholesalers will be hit two ways. The law is very specific that the same discount must be given different buyers who obtain the same quantity. It is also drastic in forbidding too heavy discounts — discounts larger than the actual saving to the manufacturer resulting from the size and handling of the order.

Emphasis during debate on the bill was put on this last phase. But it is the first phase which now rises to plague the wholesaler.

For instance, a chain grocery system can buy in quantities greater than any wholesaler. Before this law it was argued that the chain forced the manufacturer to sell to it at a greater discount than the volume justified. But — the chain will surely get under the present law as much discount as the big wholesaler — and perhaps more.

So that the chain still has a big advantage over the little independent, who, must, of course, pay the wholesaler a profit and the extra cost for handling.

Plan Co-operatives

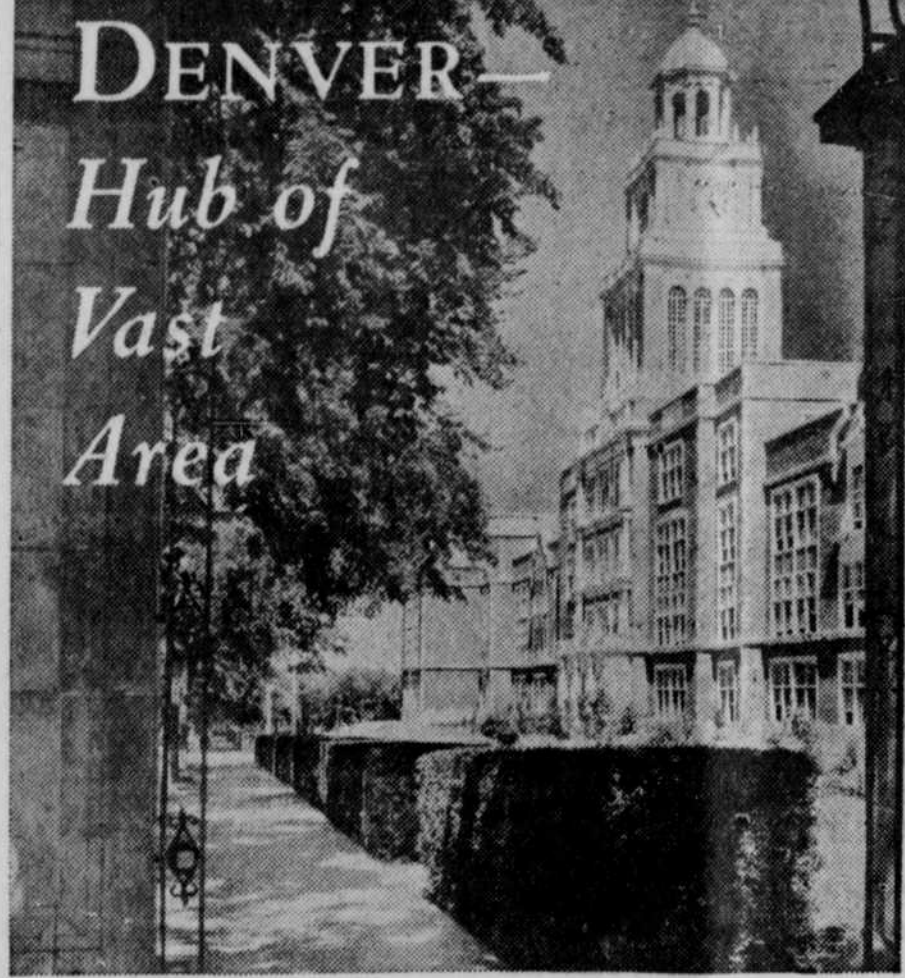
Whereupon movements are on all over the country now on the part of the independents to form co-operatives, do their buying through them, thus obtaining the same discount as the wholesaler is able to get, eliminating his profit, and — here is the trouble — eliminating the wholesaler!

Thus the class which had more to do with forcing the legislation than anybody seems slated to get it in the neck.

The little book store is one of the queerest victims, though most of their owners do not know it yet. A customer who buys ten or fifteen copies of a novel he likes, to give away as Christmas presents, for instance, can force any publisher to give him the same discount as he gives any bookstore for that number of copies! Whereas the little bookstore often sends in a repeat order for just one copy, and has been getting full discount on it. Which makes the cut price sales of some department stores look like this practice, if it grows, will strip the little dealers of the cream of their business—the big purchasers during the holiday trade.

And, of course, this is not only Christmas sale stuff. It would apply any time in the year, and thus would affect purchasers who have a lot of friends sailing for Europe, for example.

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Eastern High, an Example of Denver's Fine School Buildings.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

WHEN you enter Denver, Colorado, you come to the urban hub of nearly one-fifth of the United States.

A state capital, a great western city, a gateway to the mountains—all these Denver is and more. Spokes of influence extend from it into the entire Rocky Mountain area, and into large regions of the adjoining plains — as well, making it the financial, commercial, and industrial center of a vast area. No other city in the United States with a quarter-million population is so far removed—500 miles or more—from all other big cities.

Naturally, the people of this great region turn to Denver, whether they are out for business or pleasure, for a commercial fight or a recreational frolic. It's a habit of long standing. The miners started it when they came every so often to the rough little town that was Denver in the sixties to spend some of their gold for supplies and the rest in more or less riotous living.

Later, when great riches were made in gold and silver and cattle, the fortunate ones moved to Denver and built the mansions and hotels and business blocks that started the solid structure of the city. Globe-trotters, adventurers, and capitalists flocked to Denver in the seventies and eighties. Many "younger sons" of the British nobility and several Britons with well-known titles made the city their headquarters for extensive cattle operations, and gave glittering parties at the old Windsor hotel and the American house that have not faded from Denver's memory.

Before its irrigation empire was even dreamed of and while its mineral kingdom was still undeveloped, Denver's location was of little value; but young Denver, despite surveys, clung stubbornly to the belief that in some way the transcontinental railway, when it came, could be pushed through the mountains west of the city. When, instead, the lines of steel were extended through Cheyenne, a hundred miles to the north, Denverites put aside their disappointment and quickly raised the capital to build a connecting line to the new highway.

With this rail contact with the eastern settlements established and with the steady growth of mining in the mountains, Denver drew to herself in a few years direct lines of railroad from the east. Now these highways of steel radiate north and south and east from Denver like the ribs of a fan.

A result of this railway convergence of Denver has been to make the city one of the country's leading livestock markets.

Never Lost Dream

While the transcontinental railways went their busy way north and south of Denver, the city never lost its dream of a line straight west through the mountains.

Greatest and most tireless of the dreamers was David H. Moffat, who visioned a six-mile tunnel through the Continental Divide under James Peak. He not only dreamed, but worked, and spent his fortune on the project. He did not live to see his plan realized, but on July 7, 1927, the Moffat tunnel was holed through. Now a standard-gauge railway operates double tracks through it into Middle Park, opening up a new mountain realm to Denver.

You sense Denver's most astonishing physical achievement only when you let your imagination wander back seventy years. It is hard to believe that barely three-score and ten years ago this great city, with its hundreds of miles of streets, lined now with fine, towering shade trees, was raw prairie. Not a tree was in sight; only a level plain covered with sparse grass, dry and brown through most of the year.

As the outlander drives about Denver he is struck by the beautiful lawns. There are no exceptions. Whether he views the grass plot of a humble cottage or the park of a near-palace, the lawns are perfect.

The price of the beautiful lawns is much moisture. At certain

hours each day in the summer a virtual barrage of water is laid down over the 1,600 acres of lawns in the city's parks. So frequent are these drenchings that in summer the watering hose is not removed night or day from the hydrants. Driving through the parks in late afternoon, you see orderly piles of hose, as regularly spaced as the trees of an orchard, each like a coiled serpent on sentry duty, guarding its allotted plot. The public hose is of a distinctive color combination that prevents its being stolen.

Use Water Lavishly

Knowing that this is a dry country and that water is precious, you ask one of the officials of the water board about the heavy use of water in the city and run into a surprising paradox.

"It is very important that we use water lavishly today," he tells you, "in order that our grandchildren shall have enough for their vital needs. Visiting water-works experts think we are crazy when we make that statement, but it is literally true."

"This is an irrigation country. Municipalities, as well as individuals, must follow the laws worked out under irrigation conditions in getting their water supplies. Once you get hold of a flow of water, if you don't use it you forfeit it to some one who will. We are looking forward to a city of half a million or more by 1950. That's why we want to keep every drop of Denver's annual water supply busy and to increase the supply in all possible ways."

One way in which Denver plans to increase its water supply constitutes and engineering romance. When the Moffat tunnel was dug, an eight-foot-square pilot tunnel was carried through the Continental Divide beside the large railway bore. Denver leased this small tunnel, and plans to bring through the towering mountain range hundreds of millions of gallons of water that now flow into the Pacific ocean.

In education Denver's fame is great. Educators from the two hemispheres have beaten a path to this far-away city at the base of the Rockies to study its scheme of teachers' salaries, its indefatigable efforts to keep the subject-matter which it teaches abreast of all worthwhile developments, and even its school architecture.

The "Denver Plan" for teachers' salaries has been adopted by many municipalities.

A Practical School

Another famous part of the Denver educational system that draws educators from afar is its Opportunity school. From 8:30 o'clock in the morning until 10 at night this practical school is open alike to young people and old. In it elderly men and women, denied the education they wished in youth, receive high school instruction; men displaced in one occupation may learn another; and young men and women may be trained in practical arts, from barbering to bricklaying, and from cooking to etching.

Most of Colorado's institutions of higher education are naturally concentrated in and near Denver. In the city is the University of Denver, founded, when the community was little more than a village, by Colorado's territorial governor, John Evans, the same John Evans who previously had founded Northwestern university, Illinois.

Thirty miles to the northwest, at Boulder, is the University of Colorado. So attractive are the mountains that cast their shadows on the campus and beckon for weekend rambles that the University of Colorado is as busy in summer as in winter.

Fifteen miles west of Denver, at Golden, is the Colorado school of mines. Growing up in the edge of an important mining region, the institution is one of the outstanding mining schools of the country. In it in 1926 was established the first course in geophysics in American colleges. Graduates of this latest course in mining lore fare forth with dynamite and radio sets, electro-magnets, torsion balances, and other devices of modern magic to map rock strata lying hundreds and thousands of feet beneath the surface of the ground.

Roses Live in Bedspread



Pattern 1214

With roses as its motif this newly embroidered bedspread's sure of admirers! So is its embroidered bolster, or a matching scarf adorned this speedy way. Flowers are easy to do in single, outline and lazy-daisy stitch—their effect truly lovely!

Pattern 1214 contains a transfer pattern of a motif 16 1/2 by 19 1/4 inches and two and two reverse motifs 4 1/4 by 5 1/2 inches. Color schemes; illustrations of all stitches needed; material requirements.

Greetings!

Not all peoples greet each other with our familiar handshake. For example, the hug and squeeze, cheek to cheek, is used in France. Among the New Zealanders, the Malays, Burmese, Indo-Chinese, the Mongolians and even the Eskimos and Laplanders the "hongi" is the thing. This consists in touching noses lightly. The word itself means to "smell." When a Chinese is introduced he shakes hands with himself.

The Italians and Germans have revived the ancient Roman greeting as a military salute. Reports from Ethiopia, or Italian East Africa, as it is now called, indicate that the Italians are teaching their new subjects to greet each other in the old Roman way by extending the arm upward with the palm to the front.

Each form of greeting has a meaning all its own. The handshake and the Roman salute, for example, began as a gesture showing that the hand was free of weapons.—Washington Post.

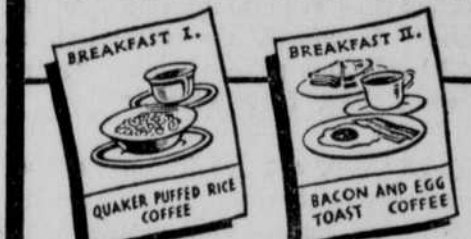
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