

THE FRONTIER

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

One Year, in Nebraska \$2.00
One Year, outside Nebraska 2.25

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A conference with Harry Hopkins, WPA administrator, indicates that notwithstanding the WPA quota for Nebraska has been increased recently, he realizes the pressing need of farmers and people in a district where a crop was not raised. He now knows the actual conditions in the third district in Nebraska and although much of his time has been directed toward the situation in the Ohio and Mississippi valley flood areas, he has shown considerable sympathy toward the appeals from Nebraska.

The fact of the matter is, however, the administration has determined to start tapering off relief and as a result it has become the duty of Nebraska members to appeal for leniency for the drouth stricken districts, where relief is needed as much now as it was in the midst of the depression. While much of the country has recovered from the depression, the administration knows where a crop failure has been experienced, recovery is much slower.

This town was all excited over the president's ball, receipts from which go to aid helpless cripples. About 25,000 visitors were here—most of them attracted to dances and entertainments arranged in most of the big hotels. A ticket costing \$2.50 permitted one to visit any hotel in town where such a party was going on. The crowds were attracted also by the arrival of leading movie stars and great crowds waited at the depot and in hotel lobbies to get a glimpse of movie celebrities and distinguished visitors. Platinum blond Jean Harlow drew a bigger crowd at the depot than any of the other actresses and actors. Her "arrangement manager" helped by local movie managers had the stage well set for her. This included a police escort as big as the one which usually accompanies the president.

President and Mrs. Roosevelt entertained the members of the Senate and House at a reception. About 1,800 invitations were sent out and nearly everyone receiving an invitation was present. There were the usual beautiful gowns and lavish refreshments and dancing. The crowd waited for a long time to shake hands with the President and the First Lady, and found them looking exceptionally well. Such receptions are usually a trial to the President whose condition makes it such an ordeal, and considerable admiration for the President was shown as he shook hands with the thousand people. Colonel Starling, Chief of the Secret Service, appeared in white tie and tails, and was ever on the alert for the President's welfare and comfort.

The vote on the Civil Service bill indicates that much over-advertised "bloes" on the majority side are very weak and that the President still controls with a firm hand the great democratic majority and that practically all the legislation he has suggested will go thru the House as he directs. Some of the bloes on the majority side, some on the minority and progressive sides, will be found fighting for amendments to various legislation so far suggested. The next fight will come up when the Independent Offices Bill appropriation comes up for action; then, the fight on neutrality, and the fight on the huge appropriations being demanded by the Army and Navy.

Apparently there will be some change in farm legislation this year. The statement made by the Secretary of Agriculture recently indicated that he may favor all the crops the land can produce this year, is being discussed with unusual interest by member on both sides of the capitol. Most members believe that a program of "less reduction" can be expected.

M. B. Jenkins, Nebraska Director

of Forest Survey and Research, was in Washington interesting members of the House in the bill which was passed last year authorizing a tree experimental station somewhere in the middle west for the purpose of learning which trees grow best in various soils.

Assurances are made that if an appropriation is made for this experimental station it will be located somewhere in Nebraska. The bill authorizing this station calls for an initial appropriation of \$100,000.00, but the estimate was not approved by the Bureau of Budget, and for that reason members are being asked to contact members of the Appropriation committee to have this \$100,000 item put in the bill in the House. Arguments for such an experimental station are backed by photographs of a Nebraska farm. Many of these are taken on the Lydick farm near Craig, Nebr., where seeds were planted years ago and the trees still growing. This farm is not a nursery. The trees include the blue spruce, bull pine, etc. Many of these trees were dug up and now grace the capitol in Lincoln. How Mr. Lydick was able to grow fine corn this year, as well as potatoes yielding 40 bushels to the acre, and other crops, because the plowed ground was protected by these beautiful trees is shown in the photographs, and members of Congress are looking over these pictures with great interest.

Billie Haley of Norfolk, who has lived in Washington several years has been promoted to a real position on the staff of the Marjorie Webster school here. She directs all of the art and dramatic work along with teaching English and other subjects. Although busy with this work this Nebraska girl finds

time to attend another college where she is completing her doctor's degree.

THE NEBRASKA SCENE

Party candidates for 1938 are now being discussed. Strange as it may seem, there is a general feeling that the democratic party in the state will split; that Governor Cochran will lead one faction and the friends of Senator Norris will head the other group. As for the republican party many of the younger group fear annihilation before 1940 arrives.

The fateful first of March is approaching. On this date in 1935 republicans inaugurated Founders' Day. This is an institution created by Kansas republicans as a partisan ballyhoo stunt. On Feb. 29, 1936, Governor Landon came to Lincoln; made a speech which was in reality his first public bid for the Presidential nomination. His following—the organizers of the Founders' Day movement—are regarded as extreme republican conservatives.

A few weeks after the Waterloo of Nov. 3, National Committeeman Hugh Butler, who has been classed as a republican liberal, was importuned to make drastic changes

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in the party organization. He was urged to renovate the Founders' Day setup. Nothing has been done.

Within a short time the Old Guard in control of Founders' Day will bestir themselves, declare the Young Turks of the Republican party. They will secure reactionary speakers and stage a standpat program. This, assert the younger

element, will send the few remaining progressives to the Norris wing of the Democratic party while the moderate conservatives will desert by thousands and join the standard of Governor Cochran and Charley Barth.

Possible candidates are now receiving attention. In the democratic party Governor Cochran,

who is regarded as yearning for Senator Burke's job in 1940, is no longer considered a political possibility. The name of John N. Norton, veteran unicameral exponent, is considered as a brilliant possibility for governor. Editor James E. Lawrence, now regarded as one of the outstanding editors of the nation and one of the few men who

dared espouse the New Deal, is the center of a crystallization of political thought that may sweep him into the gubernatorial chair or perhaps the United States Senate. It is an open secret in Washington that Art Mullen dangled the governorship nomination before Lawrence in 1934, but the Lincoln edition (Continued on page 8, column 2.)

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