

THE FRONTIER

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POLITICAL NEWS OF NEBRASKA

By James R. Lowell

The answer is yes and no to the moot question of whether Nebraska is in a better economic and social condition this fall than last. While statistics show the farm income of the state is greater than for several years, due to higher produce prices, farm loans and AAA benefit payments, the fact remains that this income is by no means evenly distributed and the number of people in the state who must have assistance this winter will reach an all-time high, due largely to the drought.

The number of persons receiving aid thru federal and county funds this month is approximately 150,000, or one out of every nine inhabitants of the state. Social workers who are in close touch with the situation say that in the neighborhood of one out of every six persons will require relief before the winter is over.

Drouth relief is requiring nearly half the funds allotted to this state by the FERA. The federal allotment to the State Emergency Relief Administration for September totals \$1,987,070, and approximately \$500,000 of this will be spent for livestock feed for winter distribution to farmers who without such assistance would have to go on relief. Previous to this month, the Rural Rehabilitation Division of the SERA had spent \$700,000 to pile up a reserve supply of fodder.

The question of financing relief is one of the really serious problems now facing Nebraska. The FERA has been furnishing far more than its share, and is pretty certain to drastically curtail its necessary program in the state unless the state legislature provides an equitable amount of relief money. Nebraska is one of five states that have failed so far to provide relief funds. The counties which have been helping the FERA to provide relief cannot be expected to dig down too far beneath the skin while the state does nothing.

The majority of the counties are honestly attempting to do their share in helping the FERA to provide relief, according to State Tax Commissioner Smith, who also is chairman of the State Relief Committee. Out of thirty counties reporting to the tax commissioner up to this week, 20 have increased their levies, four retain the same levies as last year and six have reduced. Even where reductions are shown, however, the poor relief levies have been increased and the reductions are due to cutting down on other items.

On the brighter side of the Nebraska scene, statistics show that the average price of seven basic farm commodities plus the benefit payments derived from processing taxes has reached 95 per cent of pre-war parity. The total farm income for this year, also including benefit payments, is forecast at about 19 per cent increase over that of last year which in turn was a substantial increase over that of 1932. Before the end of the year, approximately \$40,000,000 will have been disbursed by the federal government to Nebraska farmers. The greater part of this is their share of the processing taxes earned by contracting with the government to co-operate in production control programs. A smaller part comes from the special fund allotted to the purchase of drouth emaciated cattle.

In the more favored sections of the country where crops came thru in a nearly normal fashion, the farmers will have more money than they have had for a long time. Nebraska is among the least favored sections, but it still is receiving a sizeable income thanks to the government program.

Despite the increased relief burden that Nebraska must carry this winter, the situation may be re-

garded as hopeful. The SERA has girded itself for the task of taking the "dole" out of relief by providing employment for all needy persons who are able to work. The relief program is looking ahead to the rehabilitation and future independence of its clients, and out of this program may be expected to materialize a more intelligent, humane, efficient and economical social welfare program than the state has known in the past.

A crop of petition candidates, gathered for the most part from the ranks of candidates defeated in the primary election, is making its appearance as the general election looms closer ahead. Incidentally, a question is involved as to the legal right of these defeated candidates to run.

In addition to candidates who have actually announced their intentions of running for various offices as petition "dark horses," there are numerous rumors in the political wind as to who else may get in. Eugene O'Sullivan, Omaha, who ran third against R. L. Cochran in the democratic gubernatorial primary contest, admits he is considering filing as an independent candidate to oppose Congressman E. R. Burke, also of Omaha, for United States Senator.

O'Sullivan was the leader of a small group of democrats who passed up the recent democratic state convention at Omaha to visit Governor Bryan, defeated by Burke in the primary, at the capitol and convey their high esteem of and to the state's chief executive. Petitions nominating O'Sullivan are being circulated and he says he will run if he sees a possibility of winning.

The governor last week stated "that there really was no democratic convention held in Omaha," and that "the democratic state convention should be reassembled to permit the delegates to have a voice and a vote in deciding the policies of the party and in helping our great president with his recovery program." The governor, O'Sullivan, William Ritchie and several others, charge that there was too much "planned economy" in the democratic convention and that only the chosen few were allowed a say-so.

The only "specific and positive plan" suggested at the Omaha convention, according to Bryan, was "repeal of the state prohibition laws so as to make it easier for everyone to secure a drink." Thus does the famous Bryan-Mullen feud roll merrily along, and the republicans aren't shedding a tear.

Another rumor which was subsequently spiked was that Henry C. Luckey, Lincoln, democratic nominee for congress in the First district, would withdraw and turn his place over to the governor. The rumor had no sooner appeared, however, than Luckey filed an acceptance of his nomination with the secretary of state.

Wilbur E. Sanford, Lincoln, who was a republican candidate for railway commissioner four years ago in the primary, has filed his nomination as petition candidate for congress in the First district, to oppose Luckey and Marcus Poteet, duly nominated candidates. The law requires 200 names for a nomination of this kind in a district and 1,000 names for a candidate for state office.

Petitions are being circulated to place the names of Gernie Thomas, defeated candidate for land commissioner in the primary, and Chas. H. Driscoll, defeated for secretary of state, on the general election ballot. The former now would run for railway commissioner, the latter for state auditor.

A petition has been filed naming Herold B. Applegate, Ogallala, as a candidate for congress in the Fifth district. An acceptance had not been filed early this week.

To cap the climax a whole petition party may file for the November election. The Workers and Farmers United Front, an organization headed by Charles Taylor, former senator from Montana, and now Nebraska manager for the group, is said to have ambitions towards being a third party in the coming election. Harry Lux, who has been a left-wing leader in the farm strike movement, and was jailed at Wilber some time ago for attempting to halt a farm mortgage foreclosure sale, is one of the head men of the organization.

The question is in doubt whether a candidate defeated in the primary can run again in the general election as a petition candidate. There are two sections of the statute, one forbidding a defeated primary candidate to run by petition for the same office in the general election, and another forbidding such a candidate from running for any office at the general election. Attorney General Paul Good says it is a

serious question and might be decided either way.

GIST OF THE CAPITOL NEWS

A petition is said to have been prepared requesting the original jurisdiction in a suit to test the validity of the repeal of the party circle on the general election ballot, to be taken by the supreme court. It had not been filed early this week. The petition was circulated by a republican, it is claimed, and he questions the legality of making the secretary of state the respondent in such a suit. One of the county clerks should be the respondent, he thinks.

The republican central committee has picked as its main speakers this fall in the "most active and aggressive campaign Nebraska has ever seen," the following: Robert Simmons, nominee for United States senator; Dwight Griswold, nominee for governor; J. H. Kemp, nominee for the senatorial short term; and R. O. Johnson, nominee for attorney general.

Bids on eight additional highway projects, to cost about \$250,000 have been called for September 27, bringing the total of offers asked on that date to more than a million dollars.

The state is conducting experiments in highway surfacing with asphaltic materials on a mile and a quarter stretch north of Lincoln on highway No. 77. The penetration method, wherein the old gravel base is first swept clean, then a "tack coat" of asphalt is put to soak into the road bed, after which alternate coats of old gravel and asphalt follow, is being used on part of the experimental stretch. The surface will not stand hard use, but it costs half as much as bituminous mat.

Another section of the road will be surfaced according to regular specifications for bituminous mat, but without a base other than the old roadway after the gravel is removed. Still another stretch will have a tack-coat emulsion base with a bituminous mat composition above, while the last section will combine the asphalt penetration base with a standard surface. Other experimental surface was done on No. 77 in the same vicinity last fall, and the results are expected to be of considerable benefit in future road work all over the state.

Over 17,250 mortgage loans for more than \$62,069,000 were made in Nebraska under the farm debt refinancing program of the farm credit administration from June 1, 1933, to July 31, 1934, it was recently disclosed at the state house.

The value of Nebraska's wheat crop this year, including the carry-over, is placed at \$22,000,000, compared with \$18,739,000 last year, \$7,157,000 in 1932, and \$23,559,000 in 1931.

The value of Nebraska corn sealed in farm warehouses was boosted \$3,500,000 by recent government action wherein new and refunding loans of the Commodity Credit Corporation raise the value from 45 to 55 cents a bushel for loaning purposes. Under this action, persons holding the present loans must either repay them or obtain new loans within a reasonable length of time. It is estimated that there are 35,000,000 bushels of corn under seal in this state at the present time.

BRIEFLY STATED

Judge Dickson and Reporter McElhaney went up to Springview last Monday morning, where they are holding the regular term of the Keya Paha county district court. It was thought that the term would last a week or more, several criminal cases being on the docket for trial.

Bernard Walsh returned last Sunday from a two weeks vacation spent with the home folks at West Union, Iowa. He also visited relatives in Minneapolis while away. His sister, Miss Leonore Walsh, returned with him and will visit here for a couple of weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hough and family and Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Ward and family, of Odebolt, Iowa, brother and cousin of Scott and William Hough, of this city, arrived here Monday for a short visit with their many relatives and friends in this city and vicinity.

Bruce Vail, one of the capable and efficient employees of the Gamble store, left on his vacation the latter part of last week. A



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Do Not Miss the Opening Chapters of This Thrilling Story on page 3, this issue

young lady informed us that when Bruce returns he will have a charming life partner with him, as he is away on a wedding trip, instead of a vacation.

Miss Marie Biglin, who has been visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Biglin, and with other relatives here for the past two weeks, left Sunday for her home at Salt Lake City, Utah. Her sister, Miss Helen and William Wehl drove her down to Grand Island where she took the train.

Word was received here the first of the week that Dan P. McGinty, who formerly traveled in this territory and was well known in this city, died in New Mexico last week. Mr. McGinty made this territory for several years and married an O'Neill girl, Dorothy Frost, daughter of Dr. Margaret Frost, who later divorced him.

A large number from this city attended the fair at Chambers last Thursday and Friday. On Friday the Center Union base ball team crossed bats with the Ballagh team at the fair and emerged victorious with a score of 2 to 0. John Dick was in the box for Center Union and held the Ballagh sluggers to two scratch hits and was master of the contest all the way through.

A good-sized delegation went down to Chambers last Monday evening, headed by the band, boosting for the Free Day Celebration. The delegation report that they received a very nice reception from the Chambers people and that the people of that section were very much interested in the celebration. They proved it by sending large numbers of their citizens here on Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Loran Simonson expect to leave this evening for Chicago, where they will take in the Exposition and will then visit relatives at Kenosha and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and will also visit at their old home in Dane county, Wis. Loran says he has not been back to the old home since 1894, although Mrs. Simonson has made several trips back there. Both Mr. and Mrs. Simonson have many relatives and friends in their old home county and they look forward to having an enjoyable visit. They expect to be gone about a month.

While the business men of this city claim that business was not as good last Tuesday as it was on Free Day of 1932 they are all well satisfied with the amount of business they received. The celebration was not put on for the purpose of getting a lot of business on that particular day, but for the purpose of giving the people of our trade territory an opportunity to come to this city and enjoy the various amusements provided for their ben-

efit by the business men of the city, without any cost to our guests. And the vast crowd that thronged our city on that day were well convinced that O'Neill had again made good.

MONEY AVAILABLE FOR BUYING CATTLE

Farmers who desire to purchase cattle for feeding, and who have plenty of surplus feed, can be financed through the Production Credit associations, E. R. Heaton, president of the Production Credit Corporation today advised James W. Rooney, secretary-treasurer of the O'Neill Production Credit Association.

"We have already made many such loans," Mr. Heaton asserted, "and the production credit associations will pursue a liberal policy in the handling of it."

Under this program, farmers will obtain the full value from their surplus feed stuffs. James W. Rooney, secretary-treasurer of the O'Neill Production Credit Association will put farmers in this territory in touch with producers of cattle and sheep who have them for sale.

A FINANCIAL WIZARD.

Chicago Tribune: There can no longer be any doubt about it. Mr. Morgenthau is, unquestionably, the greatest Secretary of the Treasury since Mr. Woodin.

Under Mr. Morgenthau's guidance this country is engaged in importing silver and paying for it by exporting gold. We are buying the silver for more than it is worth. Every time a ship heads east with a load of gold aboard we take a loss and every time a ship heads west with a load of silver we take another one. The eminent Mr. Montagu Norman of the Bank of England is lost in admiration of our cunning.

Mr. Morgenthau is lost also, but it is just plain lost. The other day he explained that the profit from the gold devaluation constitutes a treasury asset which some day will be used to decrease the national debt. * * *

What Mr. Morgenthau with truly statesmanlike reticence did not say, though it is true, is that the application of the profits of devaluation to the reduction of the national debt constitutes a capital levy. The national debt is to be reduced not by a taxation which might take some account of ability to pay but by reducing the real value of all savings. The little man who has a few hundred dollars in the bank, a bond or two, and an insurance policy for the protection of his wife and children will pay off the national debt under Mr. Morgenthau's elegantly simple plan. The beneficiary will be the shoestrapping operator who borrowed the little fellow's money and now gets a larger share of the equity than he has any right to.

In the light of Mr. Morgenthau's recent acts and pronouncements it is not difficult to see why the house of Morgenthau has been able to spare him from active participation in the management of its financial affairs.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS

Job-master, General Farley, like President Roosevelt, is doing his best to submerge the democratic party. As head of the democratic

national committee, a present political misnomer, Farley dispenses words of cheer and encouragement to successful primary candidates. But he never mentions the word democrat. It is all New Deal. Support is enlisted solely for New Deal policies and measures and congratulations are extended only for "loyalty to the New Deal."

For many people the threat of the most burdensome taxes in history seems to arouse little disturbance. Many have not paid income taxes in recent years. Others are not property owners. But they make a tremendous mistake when they think for a single moment that they will not do their share in footing the bill for the new deal experiments. The most important items of daily use for every man and woman in the country are eating into the individual's pocket-book. Living costs are mounting sky high. That's another form of taxation. No one escapes. No one will escape.

There is a lot of whispering around Washington that the New Deal in its grasp for still more power, intends, after election, to take over the railroads.

At the time of his death, Speaker Rainey was the only democrat from north of the Ohio river holding a post of great influence in the house of representatives. The south is in the saddle.

Donald Richberg informs us that the total farm income this year is 19 per cent over last year's receipts. He fails to admit that a considerable part of the aggregate income represents federal benefit payments not properly classified as "farm income." Where would be the true

farm income if the subsidies were withdrawn?

Prof. Rex Tugwell, who has never plowed a furrow nor met a payroll, is assisting in directing the agricultural dictatorship by Dr. Jerome Frank, a corporation lawyer who never ran a business or a farm. Fortunately, the task of harnessing agriculture is not entirely in their hands. They have as a helper, Dr. Frederic Howe, a former lecturer and dilettante of political philosophy who resigned under fire as Commissioner of Immigration after he was charged by a democratic senator with blocking the deportation of undesirable aliens and Communists.

Federal relief agencies have given employment to 60,000 women in federal-operated mattress factories. How will this affect the employees of the 2,500 established factories which are being driven out of business by government competition?

Donald Richberg boasts that farm prices are now only 5 per cent under those of 1914. He omits to mention that corn and wheat are now being imported from Argentine and elsewhere to meet the market shortage.

If printing press money is sound money, why are we \$27,000,000,000 in debt? There's no limit to the possibilities of a printing press.

Now that the campaign is under way and election day approaching, AAA has begun widespread distribution of corn-hog checks. Pretty clever, considering AAA is reputedly a non-political organization. A check received in the fall has more political effect than one delivered in July.

THE entry in a bank book is often the epitome of a life embraced in a line.

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