

McNary-Haugen Bill Will Cause Big House Fight

Opponents of Farm Relief Measure Argue Source Is From Western Bankers.

By MARK SULLIVAN.
Washington, April 18.—There has rarely been a bill the outcome of which is more difficult to foresee than the McNary-Haugen bill for aiding the farmer by selling wheat in the domestic market at an artificially raised price through the mechanism of a government-owned corporation. The bill has already been reported out of the senate committee and is expected to be reported out of the house committee before the end of the month. Some claim debate on it will be the most strongly contested in the present congress. The reason for the uncertainty about how the vote will go, is that many men in congress, being deeply impressed by the need of the farmer, will vote for measures for relief which fundamentally they do not believe. For example, Senator Fess of Ohio, in speaking and voting on a previous and different measure for farm relief, the Norbeck-Burtness bill, said: "As a rule I do not believe in this sort of legislation. I am of the opinion that it is justified only on the basis of emergency. But I am going to do what I do not very often do: vote for a measure that cannot receive my full adherence on economic grounds." Senator Fess is a republican. Another senator, a democrat, Ralston of Indiana, voting on the same measure, took the same position as Fess, saying he opposed it on constitutional grounds but would vote for it out of considerations of humanity. While this bill is different from the McNary-Haugen bill the same consideration is influencing the attitude of many congressmen who regard the

McNary-Haugen bill as a dangerous step in inflation. That the farming situation in some parts of the northwest is serious admits of no question. Whatever the doubt about how the situation will express itself, politically, next fall, there can be no doubt that the bad economic condition is there. One reason the real has been slow in realizing it was stated in a letter from a Nebraska banker, who said: "I know that meetings were held in the west, and a campaign of propaganda started in contrast to the facts that were getting out with reference to the condition of the farmer because it was hurting the western municipal and farm mortgage market." Another story is about a western politician, who is also the owner of a western farm paper, to the effect that when he began to make political speeches about distress among the farmers, he was rebuked by his advertising manager, who said it was making it difficult to get advertising. The opponents of the McNary-Haugen bill are going to say that the inspiration of the McNary-Haugen bill, and much of the actual authorship of the idea, did not come from the farmers but from business men, who sell things to the farmers, especially the makers of farm implements. Then they are going to say that the real cause of the farmer's distress is less the farmer himself than the local bankers who over-persuaded the farmer to accept too much credit in order to enable him to buy more land and therefore bring about a land boom. The opponents of the bill say the bankers and business men ought to be the last to propose inflation. There is an energetic row on between business who are back of the McNary-Haugen bill, and those who regard the bill as a dangerous economic crime. When the president of the United States Chamber of Commerce came out in opposition to the McNary-Haugen bill, those business interests within the chamber who favor the bill undertook to start a movement to unseat him. Considering this strong business controversy as well as the strong political controversy centering about the bill, it is certain to be to the front when it gets on the floor in the near future.



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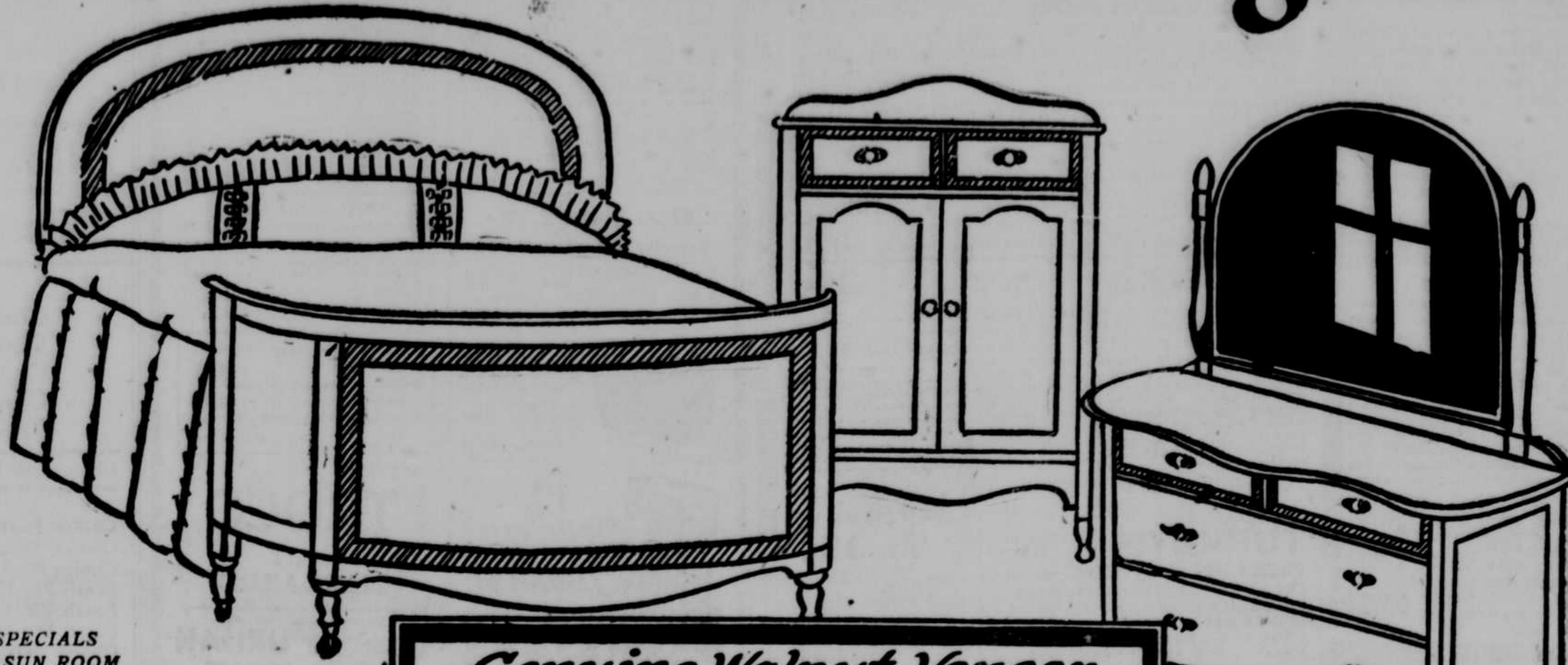
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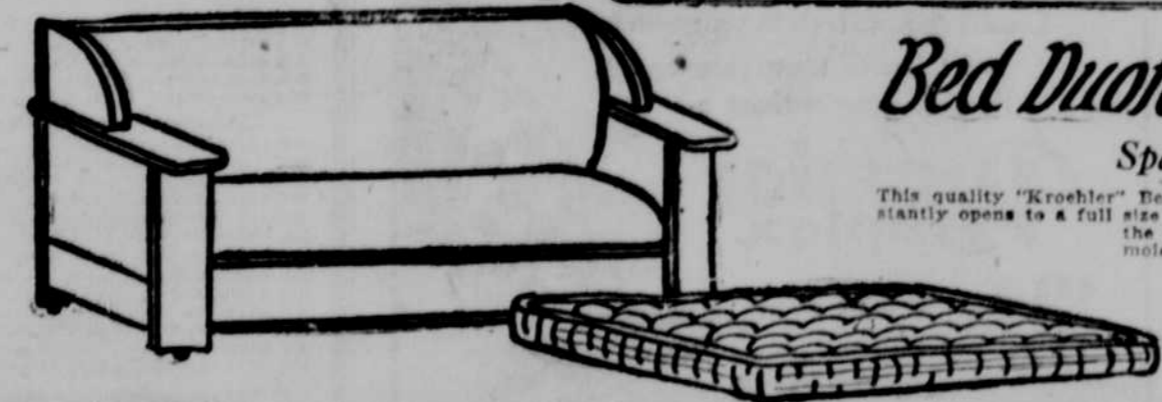
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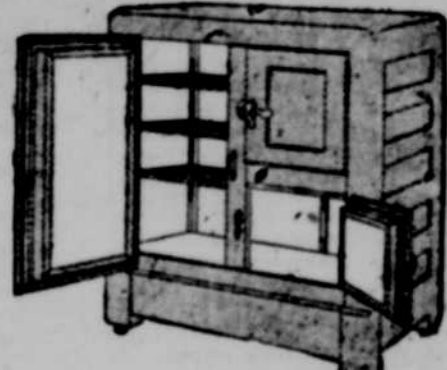
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