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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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WHAT? MORE TROUBLE AHEAD? A dozen years ago, two young men in Texas, tired of the back breaking work of picking cotton decided to invent a mechanical cotton picker. Despite the fact that millions of dollars had been expended in experiment along this line by large implement factories, they continued at their job, year in and year out and the result is the Rust Brothers Mechanical Cotton Picker which in test trials has picked 8000 pounds of cotton in 7½ hours. This is as much as an agile person could pick in 10 weeks. The principle of the machine is a series of moving spindles, constantly moistened which enter the cotton boll loosen the cotton and have it pulled in by a suction fan, which deposits it in a hopper thru an overhead pipe. If widely adopted, think of the cotton picking hands it will displace and then will begin the greatest labor problems ever experienced below the Mason-Dixon line in its history.

PROBLEMS ARE NEVER SOLVED. For 35 years, an obscure mining engineer toiled at an inexpensive and speedy process for reclaiming the gold left in the slag piles near gold mines. Up to this time it was expensive and took weeks to reclaim the gold in such mine "tailings." Now comes a process, actually being used, called the aerated Mercury Cyanide Direct Decantation Process which can profitably work "tailings" yielding \$5 worth of gold per ton and can do it in seven hours. These slag piles have been growing larger every day since Sutter first discovered gold in a California Valley in 1849 and millions of dollars worth of gold are available. If this reclamation venture meets the expectations of it's backers, economists will begin to knit their brows as to how it affect the monetary stability of this country, particularly with the price of gold so high and the nation off the gold standard.

VETOES. By a vote of 322 to 98, the House overrode the Presidential veto of the Bonus Bill which recalls that in 146 years, only 49 vetoes out of a total of 674 veto messages were overridden, 15 of which happened under the administration of President Andrew Johnson. Pres. Cleveland vetoed 350 measures and was overridden but twice. Hoover sent 35 vetoes to Congress and lost 3; Coolidge vetoed 20 measures and lost 4; Harding vetoed only 5 and lost none; Wilson lost 6 out of 33 vetoes and President Roosevelt has vetoed 26 measures and lost only one.

LOST BILL. When the House passes a measure, it goes to the Senate. If they pass it and then agree on any amendments that might be attached, it is enrolled and goes to the White House. The President then sends it by special messenger to the proper Cabinet Officer whose department is thereby affected and gets his opinion, after which it goes back to the White House for the opinion, study and approval or disapproval of the President. Recently Congress enacted a measure to authorize the issuance of bonds by the city of Ketchikan, Alaska. From the White House it went by special messenger to Mr. Iokes, the Secretary of Interior. Then, for some reason or other, the enrolled bill was lost. Nothing to do then save for Mr. Iokes to report the fact to the President and have the Chief Executive send an official message to Congress requesting that a duplicate bill be engrossed and sent to the White House. In view of the fact that this is the second time in the history of the nation that an enrolled bill was lost before being signed by the President, it was a matter of deep chagrin to the Department of Interior.

SILVER PURCHASE. In 1934, Congress passed the so-called Silver Purchase Act, directed the Secretary of the Treasury to buy enough silver so that the ratio of silver to gold in our money system would be in the proportion of 25 to 75. It was the purpose of this act to raise the price of silver, thereby increasing the purchasing power of countries like India, China and Mexico so that they would buy larger quantities of our goods and thus aid recovery. The Treasury, pursuant to this act, began to buy silver. Gradually the price went up. Silver enthusiasts were frantic with joy. Their fondest hopes seemed justified. Then, behold, the speculators in India, China, Mexico and elsewhere began to smuggle silver out of their respective countries and sell it to us. The monetary systems of these countries became unstable. They placed embargoes on the exportation of silver to other countries. They filed protests with the State Department and contended that our silver policy, instead of creating purchasing power was in reality, creating unemployment and greater depression. Last week, the Treasury, squarely up against a distressing situation, issued a regulation prohibiting the importation of silver coins and other forms of silver used as money, from foreign countries. Such is the delicate balance of international exchange.

MATANUSKA VALLEY. As a part of the Federal Government program to transfer farm families from arid, barren, submarginal land to a place which holds forth some prospects of gaining a livelihood from the soil, 200 families have been transported to the Matanuska Valley in Alaska from the northwestern states, with Federal aid and the experiment is being watched with interest. It is a fertile valley but the growing season extends only from May to September. From April 15 to September 15, this valley enjoys 15 hours of daylight daily. Insect pests are bad but despite all this, it is a farming paradise where they grow cabbages 12" in diameter, potatoes one of which makes a family meal, and strawberries as large as plums. However, tomatoes must be raised under glass and corn is not produced at all.

SOME RELIEF FIGURES. To properly appreciate the application of the rate of pay announced by the administration on the new work relief projects, some figures showing the distribution of need and the classification of those on relief might be helpful. Of the 21,000,000 people on relief, 60% are located in cities. The five states of N. Y., Pa., Ohio, Ill., and Michigan contain 40% of the whole number on relief. 75% of those on relief are white and 25% are colored. Classified according to skill, 37% are unskilled, 29% are semi-skilled, 18% are skilled, 11% are listed in the so-called "white-collar" group and only 5% are in the technical or professional class. The total of unskilled and semi-skilled is therefore about 63% of the total number of employable persons on relief. The pay for unskilled relief labor ranges from \$19 per month or 63¢ per day in the southern states to \$55 per month in the industrial states like Illinois. For semi-skilled, the pay will range from \$27 in the south to \$65 in the industrial states. Obviously 63% of all employables now receiving relief who are available for work under the new program will fall in the wage class ranging from \$19 to \$65 per month. Since the regulation provides that but one member of a family may be employed on relief work and since deductions from pay are permissible for failure to come to work, illness, etc., a distressed and needy person may be on a relief job and still be unable to keep the wolf from the door. There will be a lively controversy before this matter of pay is settled.

TAPIOCA. The Ways & Means Committee of the House will hold hearings on a short bill providing for a duty of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per pound on imports of tapioca. Whether this measure receives a favorable report or not is problematical but it should be of interest to Illinois farmers. Current price of tapioca flour which comes from Java and the West Indies is \$2.2- per hundred pounds. Current price for corn starch is \$3.47¢. The difference of \$1.27 per hundred is so substantial that manufacturers of cloth, textiles, paper, paper boxes, etc., who convert corn starch or tapioca starch into a species of glue which they use in sizing these commodities, can well afford and really do purchase the imported tapioca starch at the expense of corn farmers. Whether they do purchase the imported product is shown by Department of Commerce Reports to the effect that importations of tapioca starch for the first three months of 1935 reached 53,000,000 pounds which is at the rate of more than 200,000,000 pounds per year. It is estimated that corn farmers last year lost nearly 5 million dollars, starch workers lost 10% of their income and miners lost an outlet for 150,000 tons of coal because of these importations of tapioca. It comes in free of duty and this is an effort to impose a duty to equalize the difference in price resulting from the fact that in the production of tapioca starch in the West Indies, there is no NRA, no AAA, labor receives from 23¢ to 35¢ per day, land is cheap, and child labor is employed without restriction.

SOME REFLECTIONS. Professor Beard, noted historian who has produced some splendid works on the economic interpretation of our Constitution and our history points out that our development is really one of conflict between the agricultural west and the industrial east. An analysis of the roll calls on many important measures since March 1933 will establish that this conflict still continues. The vote to override the President's veto in the House was 322 to 98. Of the 98 votes to sustain the veto, 62 of them came from the 12 states of New York, Mass., Conn., N. J., Ohio, Virginia, Maine, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Vermont. 58 of the 98 were concentrated in 8 eastern states and the remaining 40 were scattered thro the other 40 states. It is not a conclusive analysis, but read in the light of other roll calls, it indicates that our development still proceeds on sectional lines.

THE CALENDAR. Bills raising revenue, general appropriation bills and bills of a public character which directly or indirectly appropriate money or property are placed on what is known as the Union Calendar. That Calendar now contains 337 bills which have been favorably reported by standing committees but on which the House has as yet taken no action. Bills of a public character which do not raise revenue or appropriate money or property are placed on a House Calendar. It now contains 24 bills on which the House has not yet acted. The Private Calendar contains all bills of a private nature such as individual claims against the Federal Government and now contains about 290 bills on which no action has been taken. In addition to these are the important bills which make up the administration program which are considered under a special rule by the Rules Committee. As the Congress approaches a tentative adjournment day, there will be a mad scramble by the fond authors of many of these measures to get them thro House and Senate and when the final gavel falls, great will be the despair and chagrin.