

6/3/23

OBSERVATIONS and personalities. The ceiling over the House chamber consists of glass panels which are inlaid with the official shields of the 48 states done in colored glass. They are things of delicate and rare beauty. There are five women in Congress - Mrs. Kahn from California who succeeded her husband, Mrs. Norton of New Jersey, Mrs. Rogers of Massachusetts, Mrs. O'Loughlin of Kansas, whose husband was a state senator and is now his wife's secretary, and Mrs. Jenckes of Indiana. Congressman Beck, from Pennsylvania, authority on constitutional law invariably interlard his speeches with classical allusions. Congressmen have their moments and one of them will happen on June 10th when the Republican and Democratic members clash in a baseball classic. The author is expected to do some heavy stick work for the G. O. P. (fancy that). Congressman Guyer, age 64, outfielder on the Republican team is an old pal of "Pop" Anson, father of baseball. John Cassidy of Peoria is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court this week. Contrary to the belief that this ceremony requires frock coats and like sartorial trimmings, John received it in a business suit and his sponsor J. Earl Major of the Springfield district was attired in blue tunic (toney word for coat) white flannel trousers and no waistcoat. (Perhaps I shouldn't tell this.) Congressman Steagall, chairman of the House Banking & Currency Committee, despite the fact that he is from a small town, is an authority on banking and has volumes of facts and figures on the end of his tongue. Latest indoor sport - Slim Jones, a local character has been buried alive in a 7 by 3 coffin for seventeen days out in the village of Bladensburg. He is fed by means of a tube about 6 inches in cross section running from his vault to the surface. Another tube at the foot of the casket permits circulation of air. He has a telephone and friends call him at all hours. He vows to remain underground for a month. Half the proceeds of the stunt go to the Fire Department. It costs ten cents to peek thru the tube and ask Slim how he feels. Considering that George Washington's schooner ran aground at a point near where Slim now lies interred, I wonder what the Father of our country would say, of this performance if he could come back for a moment.

LO! THE POOR SENATORS. 83 Senators voted for the notorious Economy Bill. 13 voted against it. They were satisfied with their work. Then followed notice by the Veterans Bureau to all veterans dropping many from the rolls and re-rating others. Came the deluge of letters from distressed and deserving veterans. The Senators looked into the matter. They found that these were no "chisellers" and "Treasury raiders" as some of the Economy League propaganda had styled them. The Senators became aware of grave injustices and for the last three days have been apologizing and explaining that they had no idea that the Economy Bill was so drastic and sweeping in its provisions, and are now anxious to undo their mistake. To all this Huey Long, (Kingfish) one of these who voted against the Economy Bill in replying to Senator Ashurst from Arizona today said, "Now that the Senator from Arizona has confessed, why not have the whole gang put themselves on record and clear their consciences. (Laughter) (Cong. Record, page 4689). President Roosevelt dislikes to admit that he made a mistake in this bill but he is compelled to back up. He is already in process of doing so.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION. This is the new title of the agency that will handle all matters pertaining to farm credits. It displaces the Farm Board, Farm Loan Bureau, Farm Loan Division of the R.F.C., Crop Production and Seed Loan offices. This new administration will handle (1) refinancing of farm mortgages, (2) crop loans (3) seed loans (4) direct loans to farmers (5) loans under the original Farm Loan Act (6) and refinancing and financing of the production loans of the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporations.

OFF THE GOLD STANDARD. Do you own a Liberty Bond. Look at it. There is a recital that it is payable in gold. Other bonds and contracts which you hold may contain (often do) the same recital. That will not be the case if and when the Steagall bill, which officially takes us off the gold standard passes. (It has already passed the House.) It is designed to make all of our money, equal in value, gold, silver and currency. In other words, so far as obligations are concerned, you can pay off obligations which recite that the holder is entitled to receive payment in gold, with currency, and it is by this bill, made legal tender.

HO HUM. Barnum & Bailey circus arrived today and I note that Washington young folks are no different from those in Peoria, Wenona, Toulon, Spring Valley or Tremont. All want to carry water to the elephants. President Roosevelt is using his swimming pool for the first time this week. It was constructed at a cost of \$16,000, the money having been donated by folks from New York and elsewhere, most of them school children. The Morgan Quizz proceeds full speed ahead. A second preferred list, was bared today showing how 7 million in profits was given away to 300 favorites. Senator McAdoo and Secretary Woodin were also on this list. Huey Long's favorite expression, "You don't have to eat a whole beef to tell if it's tainted."

MISCELLANEOUS. Other bills passed this week include the Wagner-Peyser Bill establishing Federal Employment Bureaus, designed to so coordinate the work of finding employment and of directing the unemployed to available work (when there is work) so as to eliminate duplication of effort and lost motion. The new Farm Credit Bill, setting up the new consolidated agencies for handling all phases of farm credit, including loans, refinancing of farm mortgages, seed and crop loans, etc. The Railroad Bill, providing for coordination of railroad groups, repeal of the recapture clause, a new base for rate making and protection of existing jobs, began its course thru the House today.