

Farm Income to Show Increase Over Last Year

Jump of Two Billion Dollars Expected in Sales of Products

If Secretary of Agriculture Wallace has read the "signs of the times" correctly, California agriculture, during 1934, will enjoy an increase in income of approximately \$1000 per farm.

The estimate is based on the prediction of Secretary Wallace that farm income, in the nation at large, will jump two billion dollars over last year, with 20,000,000 farmers sharing in the increase.

Pointing to the come-back, California's income from field, orchard and truck crops for 1933 jumped \$41,000,000, from \$218,847,000 in 1932 to \$259,395,000 for last year—the best record since 1929. Earnings of the livestock, dairying and poultry industries, not yet computed for all areas, will probably approximate \$135,000,000 additional.

FAMOUS NAMES ON POLICE BLOTTER

STOCKTON. (U.P.)—The police blotter looked like a section of "Who's Who" the other day, when the names of Will Rogers and Huey Long appeared on the "register." Will Rogers proved to be a local Negro bootblack, and Huey Long, a Chinese.

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Notes From Washington

By Charles J. Colden
Congressman, 17th District

Some one said recently, "Congress is the playground of politics." This is one of the catch phrases of the critics of Congress. It contains a grain of truth but not the whole truth. It has been a happy surprise to me as a new member to note that at the supreme moments, politics or rather partisanship is frequently submerged by a wave of real patriotism. Then again I have had a shock of disappointment at the rude injection of cheap partisanship at a moment when every member should be committed to solemn duty. I am happy that this occurs but occasionally

and is not an established habit. In a country where two great parties prevail there necessarily occurs a conflict of opinion on some measure where party policies are of more moment than the measure itself. It is also the credit of a majority of the members that they take but a mild part in partisan scurrilities. But there are a few members on both the Democratic and Republican sides that have strong partisan feelings and are prone to start a fracas whenever the opportunity offers. These snipers and sharpshooters get caustic with one another and the battle sometimes gets so hot that the leadership on either side is drawn into the fray. Occasionally, the business of the greatest parliament of the world is suspended while the partisan combatants have it out with each other.

All the air mail discussions have been deeply colored with partisanship. This has developed because Ex-postmaster General Brown, a Republican leader, has been involved on the Republican side and General Farley, postmaster-general, on the Democratic side. The Republican scoundrels take a whack at Farley and the Democrats proceed to make the Brown far fly. The Republicans charge Farley with disrupting the air-mail service and the Democrats charge Brown with using the air-mail service to fatten the wolves of Wall Street. Those of us who would prefer to proceed to solve the sorry mess are obliged to sit and listen to heated speeches and partisan charges until the hot-heads let off their pent-up steam and cool off, so that the House can proceed in an orderly manner.

This past week has witnessed several outbreaks of a partisan character which were so notably absent during the extra session held immediately following the inauguration of President Roosevelt. One of the explanations given by a veteran of Congress is that partisanship always appears more frequently in the session preceding an election. It is the result of preparation for the coming campaign. The Democrats as a matter of course, are defending their program that has been offered for the relief and recovery of the country. On the other hand, the Republicans are inspecting the Democratic record with a political microscope in order to prove that their party is more competent to conduct the affairs of the country. So, on goes the merry-go-round of politics, the Democrats pointing with pride and the Republicans viewing with alarm. And that is what gives you the impression sometimes that

like to amend or strike out. But in a body of 435 members, if every one could carry out his individual wishes, there would be no end of amendments and debate and the original bill would finish like a crazy quilt. But the great quilt has an advantage because it is usually designed by one who can carry out her fancies un-molested.

Strange as it may seem, no member of Congress is physically able to sift everything that comes before him. The hours and the days, the months and the years, are far too brief. Every bill that comes before the House is discussed pro and con. Most of the time is parceled out to members of the committee that have had charge of the bill on the theory that they have a greater opportunity to study the proposal. The two outstanding committees are the ways and means and the appropriations committees. Usually, there is a division in the committee for and against the bill. To the credit of the House, it may be said that both sides are given an opportunity to be heard. There may be limitations on the debate but measures are not rammed through without a discussion from various viewpoints.

So the majority of members usually sit like jurors as the members of a committee defend or attack the measure which they have reported. In addition, other members who just must have their say, they may repeat arguments already stated and waste valuable time but such are the penalties of free speech. I am often reminded in Congress of the debates I have heard back home in the various clubs and improvement associations. Human nature is very much the same in Washington as it is in all corners of the nation.

The most powerful committees are controlled by the members who have served in Congress for many years. Texas controls more of the Union at this time. This is a result of long service. When you are appointed to a committee, you are placed at the foot of the class and you move up when a vacancy occurs by death, defeat or resignation above you. The younger members may make the most noise but it is the old-timers who do the business and control the destinies of legislation. The old members see to it that those they deem most trustworthy receive appointments of trust and responsibility. It is a slow process but it weeds out the eccentric, the rash and the unreliable. The leaders on both sides and the influential members of the committees are the seasoned veterans of seniority of many years of legislation. This system of seniority is somewhat distasteful to new members with an urge to crash the gate and has some objectionable points but there are many solid arguments in its favor based upon the history and traditions of 150 years of its use. To change it would shake the very foundation of legislative procedure.

The members of the House appear to have a deep suspicion of all private bills. Each side of the House appoints an investigator to check and watch these bills on the floor to prevent a questionable bill from passage. Recently, the Republican leader, Mr. Snell of New York, had a private bill on the calendar and a Democrat watch-dog objected. Mr. Snell was exasperated at the opposition and then proceeded to object to all bills that were called regardless of merit. Seeing that good bills as well as others were being objected to arbitrarily, Joe Byrne, the Democratic leader, moved to adjourn and the members went back to their offices like a bunch of bad boys that sometimes muss up a vacant lot ball game. So, you see that even Congressmen have their peevish moments. But it has happened but once since I have been in Washington.

I'm beginning to despair that there ever will be a perfect bill passed by Congress. Most any member has a profound conviction that he could improve on any bill that is under consideration. I'm not an exception. There is always some part of a bill that one would

DeFriest Named Vice President In Charge of Sales



A. H. DEFRIEST

General Petroleum Corporation of California has announced the election of A. H. DeFriest as vice president in charge of sales, and as a director of the company. In these offices he succeeds R. S. King, whose resignation was tendered at the close of 1933 to take effect upon the selection of a successor.

Mr. DeFriest comes to the petroleum marketing activities of the Pacific coast, bringing a long record of domestic and foreign service with Standard Oil Company of New York, Standard Vacuum and Socony Vacuum, the last of which General Petroleum represents as an affiliate in the West Coast markets.

A native of New York state, after his graduation from Colgate, DeFriest entered the army for the duration of the World War. Shortly after his return to civil life he became affiliated with the Standard Oil Company of New York, and thereafter went into the foreign service of that organization. His activities in executive positions have covered a wide field in both the foreign and domestic branches of the Socony-Vacuum group.

Gang Nemesis



Col. Robert Isham Randolph, who as chairman of Chicago's famed "secret six" was nemesis of many gangsters, is shown above on the Santa Lucia at Los Angeles when he paid the Pacific coast a visit recently.

Testimony Wins



Testimony that her husband nagged her because he did not approve of her acting brought Helen Vinson, above, a divorce decree in a Los Angeles court the other day.

Resignation of C.S. Commission Asked By League

System Going From "Bad to Worse" Is Charge in Letter to Supervisors

A request that the board of supervisors call for the resignation of all members of the county civil service commission was made by the Municipal League of Los Angeles this week in continuing its campaign for civil service reform.

The Municipal League, in a letter to the supervisors, charged that the civil service system of

the county has been going from "bad to worse" and that the recent proposal of a citizens' advisory committee in the charities department was another "passing of the buck."

"Those who have been maintaining the system have apparently expected that public indifference would succeed public disgust, so that they would be able to get across whatever raw deal they desired with impunity," read the letter which was signed by the secretary of the league, Anthony Pratt. It continued:

"However, in the last examination calling for assistant superintendents and welfare workers in the county charities department, the spokesmen have so far overreached themselves in their haste to build up political power, that a wave of indignation has been aroused that is not likely soon to

subside, at least until after the next supervisory election."

The league charged that welfare workers have been chosen "whose qualifications consist primarily in varying degrees of family relationships with higher-ups or who have been active in promoting the political fortunes of such higher-ups."

In conclusion, after asking for the resignation of the commission the letter stated, "We will be glad to confer with you and work out with you some plan of selection of men to take their places that gives promise of restoring the confidence of the public in the merit system. What is needed on the civil service commission and needed badly, is the presence of men whom the public know to be inflexible in their allegiance to the merit principles of appointment to the positions in the civil service."

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