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FRIDAY, JANUARY, 27, 1939.

ROADS COMMISSION HAS OVER TWO MILLION CASH

Gevernor O'Conor, at a recent conference with State Roads Commission officials, was told that the commission has approvimately $2,700,000 cash on hand.

The chief executive, who ordered the roads board to suspend its fiscal operations pending a checkup of its financial affairs, also was assured that the commission is absolutely solvent.

According to reports, the Governor was told that no large contracts were now waiting payments and that none is anticipated before June.

Governor O'Conor said he intends to review the commission setup with the Board of Public Works. It was pointed out if the Governor or the board decides to halt the awarding of contracts, such action might jeopardize about $2,000,000 in Federal funds, the remainder of a sum allotted the commission fo rthe fiscal years 1937-38.

The funds, allocated for maintenance and construction of roads and for elimination of grade-crossings, must be used on work starting no later than May, or the money will revert to the Federal Government, it was said.

BILL TO INCREASE SPEED LIMIT

If Maryland's governors and other politicians can drive 55 miles an hour on Maryland's highways, State Senator Louis N. Phipps (Dem., Anne Arundel) wants the same privilege extended to average motorists.

Senator Phipps, in conjunction with State Senator J. Wilmer Cronin (Dem., Harford), introduced a bill in the Senate providing for an increase of 10 miles per hour in Maryland's 45-mile-an-hour speed limit.

The Senator said he personally would have liked to set the limit at 60, but that he had bowed to the wishes of Senator Cronin in lowering it five miles.

"I've driven behind governors, in their official parties and at other times, for many years," asserted Mr. Phipps, who formerly was mayor of Annapolis, "and they never go under 55 miles an hour. I haven't driven behind our present governor, but I'll bet this car goes about as fast."

HEAVY PENALTIES FOR GUN TOTERS PROPOSED

Criminals carrying guns in the commission of any crime of violence would face additional years in jail under a law introduced in the House of Delegates by Delegate William Heinekamp (Dem., Fifth Balto.).

Five years' imprisonment, in addition to the penalty for the first offense; commission of a second crime of violence with a gun would result in an additional ten years, and fourth offenders would be liable to thirty years' additional additional imprisonment.

The deterrent to gun-toting by criminals is but one of the provisions of the Heinekamp measure, which is sponsored by the Gavel Club of Baltimore, and has the backing of Maj.-Gen. Milton A. Reckord, state adjutant general, police officials, and sportsmen's organizations.

WHEAT INSURANCE POPULAR

Wheat growers east of the Mississippi river are heavy participators in Federal crop insurance this year. This is somewhat of a surprise, says Leroy K. Smith, manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. In the original thinking on crop insurance it was believed the plan would be confined principally to the Great plains States.

Another unexpected development has been the fact that while the principle of calculating premiums in terms of wheat has been readily accepted by growers, most of them have preferred to make their payments in cash, rather than in wheat. This, says Mr. Smith, has been a pleasant surprise because it simplifies administration of the program. The cash payments are readily turned into stored wheat as an insurance reserve.

Disorder in a political meeting seldom begins until after it is called to order.

Bad people do things that you wouldn't do, but neither would they if they were situated as you are.

UNDER THE DOME IN WASHINGTON

J. E. Jones

Washington, D. C., January, 23—Old Man Congress is having many headaches these days. Congress will be 150 years old on March 4.

That man Hitler cost us billions of dollars for preparedness. We share the apprehensions of war dangers that are felt in all the democratic countries of the World. Right now, Washington, is rath r jittery on the subject.

The American Federation of Labor charges mal-administration of the National Labor Relations Act and demands nine amendments. It opposes continuing Donald Wakefield Smith as a member of the Board. After reappointing Smith the President failed to send his name to the Senate for confirmation at the opening of the session.

The tide seems to favor A. F. of L. which suffered a good deal when John L. Lewis and his C.I.O. were stealing the show with sit-down strikes, and enjoying their boom days. The President's pause in pushing Smith, and the evidence of lower blood-pressure in Miss Perkins' Department of Labor all furnish indications that the Congress will find timely opportunties to give thorough consideration to the amendments suggested by the A. F. of L.—and those that come from other sources. It is believed that C. I. O. has suffered enough loss of prestige to curb its stubborness.

The appointments of Harry Hopkins and Governor Murphy to Cabnet positions are unpopular with the Senate, but after making a lot of faces, and aggressive gestures, the Old Solon organization will likely confirm both men, after a couple of verbal fights. The appointment of Felix Frankfurter is praised in Washington.

The real opposition in Congress to the White House is about taxation. There are hard battles ahead and most of them will be fought along general lines of disagreeing with the sums recommended for public purposes by the President, who has the reputation among his friends and foes on Capital Hill of wanting too much money for everything in which he is interested.

There is rather general agreement on the six-year old charge that the President's liberality, as applied to spending, would be improved by gestures towards economy—and it is most probable that Mr. Roosevelt's appeal for $875,000,000 for relief will be put under the cheese knife—since the President's friends are in silent agreement with their political opponents that there is plenty of room to cut out many millions of waste and still do an effective job. It looks, now, as though the Government would continue to spend the money, itself, instead of turning very much administrative authority back to the States and local communities.

* * *

FAITH RETURNS TO LINDBERGH

When the German government pinned a Jonah-decoration on Colonal Lindbergh the American hero worshippers wept. When Henry Ford was similarly decorated the American reaction was that an advantage had been taken of a soft old man. There is no evidence that Colonel Lindbergh has ever wavered from his correct position as an adviser to the United States Government. The fair-haired hero of the air seems likely to recover a good deal of the adulation that seemed to have been swept away in the tears of many who felt so bad because Lindbergh went over to the Germans—but he didn't.

* * *

WHO SAYS SO?

The American people have got a rather rude shock in the last few weeks. They have discovered, through sheer accident, that they have been talked to, and "inspired," and made ballot-box "wise," all in the name of simon-pure legislation for their own moral and physical and economical improvement.

Only to find out the whole hullabaloo was bought and paid for.

Bought by special interests looking for profit from this legislation but paid for by the people, the consumer, with a proved price rise of 33 to 67 per cent.

Yet, even this economic result is not the crux of the matter. The real issue is whether elected representatives, paid out of the taxpayer's sweat—members of Congress, Senators, State Legislators, State University and College Officials and Professors, all who draw their sustenance from taxes—have right to appear as public servants, advocating leislation as of the public good, and take money behind their backs from special interests.

Recent exposures of "honorariums" and "travel expense" accounts may explain the artificial antagonism toward various forms and methods of business in this country. Who goes around telling you, for example, that house-to-house selling should be prohibited? That prohibition if honestly enforced, bars your neighbor farmer, your insurance solicitor, your refrigerator salesman, your newspaper carrier, from asking you whether you want this commodity or need this service.

Watch out for any proposed law that would hamper, limit or abolish any decent form of selling. It is intended to compel buying in certain places only and at fixed prices. It is afraid to "let the consumer decide."

Well, it looks as if the Honorable Cockaloo Cockalorum, next time he appears in the town hall series to evangelize in favor of higher prices, fewer stores, few sales people, may be asked to turn his pockets inside out and let's see what Santa Claus gave him. A lot of newspapers think he ought to be lifted out of his seat and chucked.

BOOTLEGGING CONTINUES FIVE YEARS AFTER REPEAL

Five years after repeal, despite the predictions of the wets, there is still bootlegging. And lots of it, says the Christian Science Monitor. You can still leave a quarter and a house number at the corner store and have a pint of something bonded in the bathtub delivered to your door. Or wander down by the old swamp stream watch white lightning drip from a coil into a jug—and all you can drink on the spot is free!

In the last fiscal year revenue agents discovered and took over 11,400 stills, confiscated 7,500,000 gallons of alcohol mash and arrested 26,000 persons.

In New York State a recent bootlegging syndicate with outlets in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware was uncovered. In size and efficiency it was the equal of anything that might have been offered five years ago. The roundup of operators disclosed thirty-one defendants, including two former Treasury agents and two Dutchess county deputy sheriffs.

The syndicate kept twelve stills going full blast, which were said to have produced a minimum of 320,000 gals. of 190-proof illcit alcohol. If Federal and State taxes had been collected on this liquor the amount would have been approximately $2,500,000.

In certain parts of Tennessee and Kentucky apparently as much illegal booze is being made now as at any time previously. It is preverbial that revenue men still go into these mountain retreats with their lives in their hands.

In the Georgia swamplands, Government men were stymied as in Tennessee until they discovered that the semi-wild hogs which infest the swamps are very fond of the fermenting mash always fond around a still. They knew that these hogs have a keen sense of smell, so by following the hogs they have managed to uncover booze-making outfits they would never have been able to find otherwise.

But not all the stills are located in the woods. Alsmost on the day that marked the fifth anniversary of repeal a still valued at $10,000 was seized in a macaroni factory in Brooklyn—directly behind a police station.

Bootlegging is not the social menace it became during the speakeasy era, but it is still too profitable. And the profit in it, say the legitimate dealers, is what keeps it with us. Federal, State and local governments take about sixty per cent. of the legitimate liquor industry's sales income. Of $1.50 paid for a quart of legal liquor, almost $1 goes for taxes.

The Federal tax on a gallon of 190-proof alcohol is about $4. The bootlegger can make a gallon of such alcohol for a dollar. He has no tax to pay. So he can peddle that gallon for $4 or $5, making a profit big enough to tempt him to remain in a risky business and still undersell his legitimate and tax-paying competitor.

The Government is now offering to pay informers to help catch large-scale liquor law violators, since the Supreme Court has ruled that evidence obtained by illegal wiretapping may not be introduced, but the distillers and licensed distributors say a surer way to stamp out bootlegging would be to lower the taxes and hence the high prices of legally distributed liquor.

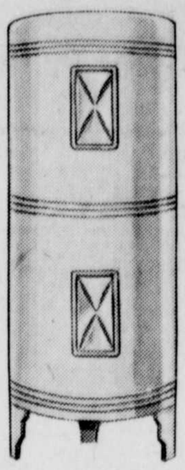
VALENTINE DAY FEBRUARY 1

If you are planning a party for St. Valentine's Day be sure to look for the Housewife's Food Almanack featured in February 5th issue of The American Weekly, distributed with the Baltimore Sunday American. On sale at all newsstands.

To the wise an ounce of hint is better than a pound of subsequent advice.

Presenting!

New '39 ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS



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NEW RECIPES DEMONSTRATED

At World's Poultry Congress

Demonstrations and lectures on how to best use poultry products successfully in the diet will be stressed at The World's Poultry Congress, Cleveland, July 28 to August 7, 1939. Although it may be news to some people, the egg is almost a perfect food. How to use it best will be carefully brought out. The proper preparation and serving of poultry meats of all kinds will be another feature of the Congress program. Everyone who attends will have the opportunity to secure new recipes and will see these recipes demonstrated. There will be something for everyone at the Congress including the housewife.

ALMANAC

"A man who will not flee will make his foes flee."

JANUARY

29—Wm. McKinley, president of the United States, born, 1843.

30—The German steamer, "Elba," sunk, 1895.

31—Second Pan-American Conference ended, 1902.

FEBRUARY

1—The battle of Bachelor's Creek was fought, 1864.

2—Serious earthquake rocks Japan, 1703.

3—Woodrow Wilson, wartime President of U. S. died, 1924.

4—First American street car line began, 1832.

A bargain is a bargain—even if the other woman gets it.

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