

[April 14, 1934]

**THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.**  
By Congressman Everett M. Dirksen  
16th District.

**PUBLIC LANDS.** Uncle Sam owns 173 million acres of unappropriated land in 11 different western states. Much of it is grazing land which has been used by range cattle. In other years, as many as 26 000 grazing permits have been issued by the U.S. Forestry Service for the grazing of 8 million cattle on these public lands. Soil erosion, unrestricted grazing, and lack of a program of restoration have resulted in a reduction of the grass and forage on these lands by one half or more and in time, they would be completely denuded of all vegetation suitable for forage. Under a bill passed in the House, the Interior Department is given jurisdiction over these lands, with the further right to create grazing districts therein, charging each cattle owner a reasonable fee for such permission. Fifty per cent of such fees shall be returned to the counties in which such grazing districts are situated and 25% shall be expended for maintenance and improvement of such range lands. This bill seeks to establish supervision over Uncle Sam's public domain and save it's vegetation for future generations.

**SUBSISTENCE HOMESTEADS.** Properly speaking, these mean homes where the owners can subsist or produce a livelihood for themselves and families. One such will be established at West Frankfort, Illinois and 550 thousand dollars has been allotted for that purpose. Under the supervision of the government, it means the taking over by a locally organized Homestead or Subsistence Corporation, a tract of land, sub-dividing it into parcels ranging from one-half to ten acres in size, building homes thereon and the sale of such homesteads to miners of Franklin County on a moderate payment basis. Homesteaders will be encouraged and aided in earning a comfortable livelihood by part time work in the mines, supplemented by the garden produce which they can raise together with fruits and vegetables. Cost per home will be about \$2000, payable in 20 years. Franklin County was selected for this project because the supply of good coal is still abundant and gives promise of continued employment even tho it be irregular or part time. The project calls for 275 homes.

**ILLINOIS RIVER.** The Rivers and Harbors Committee has reported favorably upon the new proposed dams in the Illinois River to cost approximately 15½ million dollars. The one, now building at Alton will raise the water about 13 feet at the dam site and create a pool of greater depth than now exists for a distance of 80 miles; the second will be near Versailles from which the pool will extend about 78 miles; the third will be built between Pekin and Peoria, the pool of which will extend to Lockport. Water levels will be raised several feet at the extreme end of each such pool. Plans call for completion by Dec. 31, 1938, the day that the Supreme Court of the U.S. decreed, the water diversion from Lake Michigan by the Sanitary District must be reduced to 1500 cubic feet per second.

**UNCLE SAM'S BOOKKEEPING.** Uncle Sam knows at the end of every day, just where his business stands. Bookkeeping is done by the Treasury Department and every morning, a statement of the condition of the public business is placed on the desk of every Cabinet Member, Department Head, Senator, and Congressman. This statement shows Assets and Liabilities for Gold and Silver, the assets and liabilities of the General Fund, the Receipts and Expenditures for the previous day, a comparative analysis of receipts and expenditures for the current month as compared with the same month in the preceding year, an analysis of receipts and expenditures in the public debt, the amount of Federal Reserve Notes, Federal Reserve Bank Notes and National Bank Notes outstanding, and transactions affecting the circulation of money. In view of the agitation for purchase and coinage of silver as a recovery measure, it might be of interest to note that there is now outstanding about 500 million dollars in silver certificates for which a reserve of silver dollars and bullion of equal amount is in the Treasury.

**BRAIN TRUSTERS.** Millions of words have been written about the Brain Trust. Who are They? What are they? Where did they come from? What do they seek to do? I have always sought to refrain from editorializing or indulging in captious comment or criticism in this column, nor shall I do so now, but since some scientists contend that heredity and environment make the man, perhaps the simple unvarnished biography of some of those who are alleged to be brain-trusters might be informative. One will appear each week. Let's start with the Secretary of Agriculture. Henry Aagaard Wallace, born in Iowa, 1888. Forty-six years of age. Grandson of Henry Wallace, who served as member of Theodore Roosevelt's County Life Commission. Graduated from Iowa State College 1910. Married Ilo Browne of Iowa in 1914. Three children - two boys and a girl. Edited and supervised two rural magazines - Wallace's farmer and the Iowa Homestead from 1910-1933; owns and supervises a farm in Polk County, Iowa. Devised the first hog-corn Market Chart in

1915; published a treatise on Agricultural Prices in 1920; developed a system for estimating corn yields on basis of rainfall and temperature records. Published treatise called Correlation and Machine Calculation in 1924. Chairman of the Agricultural Round Table Conference in 1927. Delegate to International Conference of Agricultural Economists in 1929. Carried on continuous experiments with high yield strains of corn, pure strain chickens and hogs from 1910 to 1933. Published a treatise on Corn and Corn Growing in 1923. Has developed strains of hybrid corn that are extensively used in Iowa. Appointed Secretary of Agriculture on March 4, 1933. Quotations from his most recent publication "America Must Choose" are of interest. From page 1. "Much as we all dislike them, the new types of social control that we now have in operation are here to stay and to grow on a world or national scale." Page 1. "We cannot take the path of internationalism unless we stand ready to import nearly a billion dollars more goods than we did in 1929." Page 2. "My own bias is international. It is an inborn attitude with me." Page 4. "We are out to subdue competitive over production." Page 6. "The present administration is conducting an orderly retreat from surplus acreage." Page 6. "Of the present Congress, we shall probably ask amendments permitting an even wider and far more selective retirement of acreage on a more PERMANENT basis." Page 7. "What we have done has been frankly experimental and emergency in nature but we are working on something that is going to be PERMANENT." Page 7. "We are sparring with the situation until the American people are ready to face the facts." Page 18. "If we are going to lower tariffs radically, there may have to be some definite planning whereby certain industries or businesses will have to be retired." (Next week - Dr. Mordecai Ezekiel.)

THERE SHOULD BE A LAW and there usually is. It is a common formula when we are discussing social, economic or political ills. How often you have observed folks discussing some current event and suddenly say "There should be a law against that sort of thing." Lawmakers experience much of the same urge and as a result, from 16,000 to 20,000 assorted bills are dumped into the legislative hopper in every Congress. First there are revenue bills, necessary to carry on the government. Then there are appropriation bills which assign this revenue to various departments. Then there are bills relating to postal matters, veterans, money, rivers and harbors, labor, education, agriculture, immigration, insular possessions, banking, commerce, army and navy and a host of other subjects. Then there are bills of limited public character. I cite some examples. 1. Limiting the privileges of the Government Free Bath House at Hot Springs National Park to people without means. 2. A bill to authorize sending a poultry exhibit to the Fifth World's Poultry Congress at Rome. 3. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Navy to furnish a firing squad to fire the customary salute for a deceased veteran. 4. A bill to commemorate the battle of Arkansas Post by authorizing a marker. 5. A bill to authorize printing 2000 copies of a soil survey report for certain counties in South Carolina. 6. A bill to issue special postage stamps in honor of Brigadier General Thaddeus Kosciusko. 7. Bills to commemorate the battle of Dull Knife Wyoming. 8. A bill to prohibit the sending of unsolicited merchandise through the mails. There is hope however against this deluge for only 2% ever find their way into law. The long distance champion bill introducer was Congressman Joe Crail of California who introduced 600 private bills in the 72nd Congress.

BRIEF BIT. The official flag which flies over the Soviet Embassy is a red banner with a hammer and sickle in one corner.