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[Dec. 4, 1937]

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.  
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16th District.

FARM BILL AS FIRST WRITTEN. As reported by the House Committee on Agriculture, here is about how the new Farm Bill would operate as respects corn. It takes 2,380,000,000 bushels of corn as our domestic and export requirement of corn and adds 7% to carry-over making a total of 2,546,000,000 bushels as a normal requirement for all purposes including carry-over. If the production of corn should be 15% higher than this amount the Secretary of Agriculture shall determine that fact and 20 days thereafter conduct a referendum of all corn farmers in the commercial corn growing areas. If two thirds of the farmers approve of a marketing penalty, then a penalty of 15¢ per bushel shall be imposed on all corn marketed by a farmer in excess of his quota. This means that the total corn supply would have to be about 2,927,000,000 bushels before such a referendum could be held and a penalty imposed. Not once since 1919 have we ever produced that amount of corn. Largest harvested crop came in 1920 with a total of 2,695,000,000 bushels. Assuming a normal carry over of 160,000,000 bushels, the total would be 2,855,000,000 bushels which is still short of the figure set before marketing quota penalties can be put into effect. It's like making a promise to a person to do something when that person reaches age 150, knowing full well that he will never reach that age.

THE LICKS IN ELIXIR. For three years or more, a Pure Food & Drug Bill has been bouncing thro Congressional corridors without being enacted into law. It was passed by the Senate and is now languishing in a House Committee. Proponents and opponents could not agree on it's terms. A kind of apathy developed and the crusaders for the bill began to lose hope. Then a tragic little thing happened which may send it on it's way to the law books. Down in Bristol, Tennessee, the S. E. Massengill Company, made up 240 gallons of medicine, put it in bottles, labelled it Elixir Sulfanilamide, shipped it out for sale. In September a number of deaths were reported from the use of the Elixir. In October more deaths were reported. In fact 93 people died in 15 states and while it has not been conclusively established that the Elixir was exclusively responsible, yet it figured strongly in all of them. The Government got busy. The Elixir was rounded up. An investigation was authorized. It now appears that nobody can be prosecuted because of defective laws. Thus the Elixir may contain the needed licks to recast the pure food and drug laws.

SEWARDS FOLLY. In 1857, Secretary of State Seward negotiated for the U. S. the purchase of Alaska from Russia. We paid \$7,200,000 for this vast land containing an assortment of snow covered mountains and frozen rivers and it was referred to as Seward's Folly. Very recently, John W. Troy, the Governor of Alaska made his report marking the 80th anniversary of the purchase of Alaska. In that time, we have taken 722 million in minerals out of Alaskan soil. Imports and exports between Alaska and the U. S. During the last fiscal year grossed \$114,000,000. Not a bad investment!

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING HITS CONGRESS. The Wagner Labor Relations Act guaranteed to Labor the right of collective bargaining. Now Congress goes in for bargaining. Despite the fact that a cotton man from Texas is chairman of the House Agricultural Committee which reported the new farm bill, southern members don't like it. They want bigger subsidies, larger benefits for cotton. On Monday morning, November 29th, about 80 of these cotton members held a caucus and decided to help send the Farm Bill back to committee, unless it was changed. Things looked pretty shaky for passage of the bill. Meanwhile city members from areas where there is strong pressure for the Wage Hour Bill saw an opportunity. Why not bargain with the sponsors of the Farm Bill to get them to sign the petition to bring out the wage-hour bill in return for support for the Farm Bill. It sounded good and this week, southerners and others to whom the wage-hour bill would ordinarily be like worm wood and gall have signed the petition in return for assurances of city votes for the Farm Bill. The old fashioned term for this is "log-rolling." You help me roll my log and I'll help you toll yours.

HEY WAITER! "Bring me an order of ham and a couple of vacuum-carbon dioxide-oiled eggs and make it snappy." Sound silly. It's not so silly. A new process has been discovered for preserving eggs by oiling them with vacuum-carbon dioxide oil whereby they keep so much better than by the dip methods now used. First commercial tests on a carload of eggs in New York were announced as highly successful by Dr. Knight of the Bureau of Chemistry in the Dept. of Agriculture. If you take a trip to New York, get set for a toothsome breakfast of oiled eggs.