MAN-OF-THE-WEEK.

Thomas R. Amlie, former Congressman from Wisconsin, who was nominated by the President as a Commissioner on the Interstate Commerce Commission is the Man-of-the-Week since the nomination catapulted him from comparative obscurity to the front pages of the press. Little has been said about the man himself and so it might not be amiss to relate that he is a lawyer, age 42, married, an ex-service man, past commander of Beloit post of the American Legion, and past President of the Walworth County Bar Association. He attended the University of North Dakota, University of Minnesota and graduated from the law school of Wisconsin University. He served in Congress from 1931 to 1939. What brought him into the public eye and raised such a tempest is his political philosophy. In a speech on the floor of Congress in 1935 in which he assailed the Social Security Act, Crop Control, the Federal Housing Act, the NRA, Economic Planning, he referred to the Civilian Conservation Corps as a "disguised form of poor relief . . . bearing a striking resemblance to Hitler's work battalions."

WOMAN-OF-THE-WEEK.

Madame Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor is the second Cabinet officer to be impeached in the history of the United States and the first woman to be impeached. Only other Cabinet officer ever to be impeached on the floor of Congress was William W. Belknap, Secretary of War during the first and a part of the second administrations of President Grant. His trial before the U. S. Senate, sitting as a court of impeachment began on March 3, 1876 and continued until August 1st, when he was acquitted.

MECHANICAL SILKWORM.

Pending before a committee of Congress is a proposal to increase the defensive forces of this country. Prominent in the discussion at this time is the proposal to fortify the island of Guam which is the westernmost of U. S. Possessions and virtually lies in Japan's backyard. Much is being said about our present and future relations with Japan but little has been said about the fact that in a year or two, a mechanical silkworm may break the Japanese silk monopoly and reshape economic forces. Mulberry trees, silkworms, and low paid labor really account for the Japanese silk monopoly. For years, our chemists have been experimenting with the idea of silk, both real and artificial, but the closest approach thus far has been the development of rayon. After long, patient, plodding research, our chemists have issued forth from the musty depths of the laboratory to announce that such a thing as the right chemical and mechanical treatment of coal, air, and water has produced a product known as Nylon or artificial silk fibre which is tougher and more flexible than silk and which can be produced with varying degrees of sheen and lustre. In a year or so, the DuPont Company expects to have it on the market in commercial quantities. Thus does the silkworm make his mechanical match and thereby bring new economic problems to the world.

POSTALIZING RAIL RATES.

Mail a letter from Chicago to one of its suburbs and Uncle Sam charges you 3¢ to carry that letter to the person whose name appears on the envelope. Mail a letter from Chicago to San Francisco or New York or Washington and it can also be sent for 3¢ although the distance may be 300 or 500 times as great. From this fact comes the term "postalizing" railroad fares because it embodies a plan whereby you pay the same
amount of fare for a shorter distance as for a longer distance. Travel would be broken into zones so that you might travel 50 miles for $3.00 or you might travel 200 miles for $3. Such a plan of "postalizing" railroad fares is now under consideration by the Congress as one of the remedies for a very troublesome transportation problem.

IS IT MUCH ADO ABOUT LITTLE.

Shortly after the Civil War, Congress enacted an income tax law in order to liquidate the war debt and under the act, the collector of Internal Revenue undertook to collect income tax on the salary of a state judge in Mass. The Judge contended that since he was a state judge, he was therefore a state officer and as such, the Federal Government could collect no income tax on his salary. The theory was that if Uncle Sam could tax the salaries of state officials or state functions, he could use the taxing power to tax the states out of existence. This case went to the Supreme Court and is officially known in the law reports as Collector vs. Day. The Supreme Court decided in favor of the Judge. From then on until the present time, efforts to impose income taxes on state salaries has been more or less dormant. In May of 1938, the Supreme Court decided that the salary of a state employee who was working for a non-essential state agency in New York, was subject to the Federal income tax laws and so the matter is before the country again with redoubled interest. Of even greater interest is the opinion of the Treasury Department that it could and will collect taxes on certain state salaries for several years back. On the basis of that opinion, the President requested immediate action by the Congress to prevent the injustice of retroactive taxation. The Ways and Means Committee of the House is therefore considering three proposals with respect to taxation of state salaries, namely, preventing the taxation of back salaries of state employees, the taxation of state salaries from here on, the taxation of Federal salaries by states. How much will Federal taxation of state and local salaries produce? There are about 2,600,000 state and local employees (including policemen, firemen, teachers, etc.) and according to Treasury figures, a tax on their salaries would yield about $16,000,000 per year. That amount would run Uncle Sam's business for about three hours and twelve minutes. So what?