KID MCCARL VS HANK WALLACE. There have been battles of the century and battles of the century but all would pale into drab insignificance if and when the battle between Comptroller General McCarl and Secretary Wallace begins in earnest. Mr. McCarl, former secretary to Senator Norris is the Comptroller General who determines whether a governmental expenditure, no matter how large or small and no matter what for, is legal. He holds office for 15 years, cannot be removed and will remain in his position until 1936. When Brain-Truster Tugwell flew to Miami recently to address a meeting and then turned in an expense account for air passage, McCarl disapproved it on the ground that the law provided only for passage at railway rates. And now for the battle, about which you've heard very little. Back in 1933, when Congress enacted the Agricultural Adjustment Act, it was implied that cash bounties were to be paid to farmers in return for acreage reduction. Since then, Mother Nature has been on a rampage with drought and dust storms and the Secretary of Agriculture announced complete removal of restrictions on the production of spring wheat, with the added announcement that cash bounties would be paid just the same. Gently but firmly, McCarl indicated that if there were no acreage reduction there would be no cash benefits and that if acreage was partly reduced, cash benefits would have to be reduced proportionately. It is therefore apparent that hundreds of millions of dollars in benefits and the very heart of the AAA program hinges on the ultimate decision. Who will deny that that will constitute the battle of the century. Quietly, a search is on for some law or precedent or some authority to circumvent the Comptroller or to remove him. Ain't Government grand?

BACK TO THE LAND. There are 3071 counties in the U.S. Recent reports from the Farm Census concluded in 1633 of these counties show 3,309,561 farms or an increase of 307,794 over 1930. Remember the old dashing ditty, "How're Gonna Keep Them Down On The Farm, After They've Seen Paree." Apparently the depression has taught that all that glitters in the city is not gold and that the farm is not such a bad place after all.

DEATH OF LINCOLN. Every school child knows that February 12th is the anniversary of Lincoln's birth. Few remember that April 15th is the anniversary of his death. About ten blocks from the Capitol on 10th Street is a dull red three-story brick house with basement which stands right up to the sidewalk line. Standing among candy stores, beauty parlors, clothing stores within a few doors of the hotel where the American League baseball teams lodge when the play in Washington, a sign announces with a kind of apologetic modesty that in this house, Lincoln died on the morning of April 15, 1865. Seventy years ago! Seems incredible that the Great Emancipator has been gone so long. Across the street is the old Ford Theatre where John Wilkes Booth shot Lincoln while the President was witnessing a performance of the play "Our American Cousin."

HOPS. In the days when home-brewing was a fine art, hops took on a new dignity and a new importance. Until the home brew era most folks thought that hops was the plural for hop and nothing more. Then they learned that hops are a flower which is cultivated, harvested, dried, packed, sold and used in beer to impart tang, zest, taste, odor to make that beverage a kind of eau de vivre. Now, hops becomes important enough for legislative controversy and action. Principal source of hops is Ore. Wash. and Cal. About 35,000 acres are planted annually to produce a 1000 pounds or more per acre. When repeal restored beer, brewers began to contract for hops and prices soared. They ranged from 30¢ to $1.10 per pound. Huge quantities were imported. Production was expanded. Then the market dropped and hops went to 10 and 12¢ a pound. The Federal Intermediate Credit Banks loaned money to hop growers on their stocks so they might hold them for better prices. Prices did not improve and as a result, the Senate considered the McNary Bill making hops a basic agricultural commodity so that a processing tax can be imposed in the hope of ringing the price to 29 or 30¢ a pound. There is a chance now for egg plant, rutabagas, mint leaves, swiss chard, and black eyed peas of becoming basic commodities.

NEW BONUS BILL. The new bonus bill, introduced by Senator Harrison and said to have the unexpressed sanction of the White House begins as follows. "Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the U. S. of America in Congress assembled, That in view of the generous benefits accorded by the Government to veterans of the World War ...... it is hereby expressly declared to be the policy of Congress that there should not be any general pension laws enacted for veterans of the World War or their dependents..." Then follows the provisions of the bill for dating the Adjusted Service Certificates back to 1918 with interest compounded at 6%. By the terms of this bill, the really needy veteran who converted his bonus into bonds and then into cash, would sacrifice $235 of a $1000 bonus. The veteran who did not need it could convert into bonds which on
was done in Committee of the Whole House and no record or roll call vote can
be therefore prepared a regulation bill which was introduced in the Senate by
329,000,000 passengers in 1933. To permit them to operate across state lines with-
travellers carried by railroads, Then came the auto, the truck, the bus, the in-
Therein lay the strategy. The rule was open enough BUT all voting on amendments
were offered. Not a single one carried. V_hen the bill was finally reported back
were fooled by this action. When the time came to read and amend the bill, the
regulation seemed unfair and prejudicial to railroads, to railroad employees
bule, the Committee became extremely liberal and extended it to 23 hours. This
rule was haled as a sudden burst of liberalism on the part of the leaders and an
answer to those who were charging that the House was being gagged. Even old timers
in progress on the bill. Senator Glass, author of the Federal Reserve System is
the original exponent of a unified banking system and will fight to the bitter end
to bring all banks into his system.
SILVER. Silver legislation furnishes an excellent example of unexpected results.
By the terms of the Silver Purchase Act of 1934, Congress declared as a policy
that the Treasury purchase silver until the ratio of silver to gold in our monetary
system reached 1 to 3. To effectuate this policy required the purchase of hundreds
of millions of ounces of silver. The theory was that as a demand arose for silver, the
price would go up, which in turn would increase the purchasing power of such
countries as China and India and thereby expand our foreign trade. Further, the
recent proclamation whereby 71.11\% was to be offered per ounce for newly mined
silver has raised the world price to 70c per ounce. As a result of our silver
policy, Chinese have been exporting silver to garner a profit. Heavy exports of
silver from China have unsettled Chinese exchange and made restrictions on export
necessary. Instead of increasing Chinese purchasing power, the actual result has
been an increase of unemployment and a decrease in purchasing power. However, you
can't convince silver advocates that such is the case.
OPEN RULE. Administration measures are invariably considered under a special rule
or resolution which provides how and when such a measure shall be taken up in Con-
gress. In the case of the Townsend Bill, emphasis was put on age pensions, age
rule provided for 20 hours of general debate after which the bill should be read
for amendment under the general rules of the house. During the course of the de-
bate, the Committee became extremely liberal and extended it to 23 hours. This
rule was hailed as a sudden burst of liberalism on the part of the leaders and an
answer to those who were charging that the House was being gagged. Even old timers
were fooled by this action. When the time came to read and amend the bill, the
majority Whip of the House got busy and had the majority party members on the floor
or around the House chamber to vote down all amendments. Perhaps a 100 amendments
were offered. Not a single one carried. When the bill was finally reported back
to the House for passage, only one motion to send the bill back to Committee was
permitted under the rule and so the membership was denied the right to secure a
roll call vote on such amendments as the Townsend Bill and the Lundeen Bill.
Therein lay the strategy. The rule was open enough BUT all voting on amendments
was done in Committee of the Whole House and no record or roll call vote can be
secured when the House is acting as a Committee to consider a bill.
BUS & TRUCK REGULATION. Once upon a time, all freight was moved by railroads, all
travellers carried by railroads. Then came the auto, the truck, the bus, the in-
land waterway system. Railroad freight rates and fares were closely regulated.
Buses, trucks and vessels were not. They could make lower rates, cheaper fares
and get the business. The Federal Coordinator of Transportation after exhaustive
study estimated that in 1932, truck traffic was 44% of rail traffic in point of
tonage and 19% in mileage. As for busses, they carried 329,000,000 passengers in 1933. To
permit them to operate across state lines without regulation seemed unfair and prejudicial to railroads, to railroad employees
of which there are 1\frac{1}{2} million, to investors in railroad securities. The Coordinator
therefore prepared a regulation bill which was introduced in the Senate by
Senator Wheeler and in the House by Rep. Huddleston. The Senate passed this
regulation bill on April 16th. It now comes before the House.