THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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16th District

ILLINOIS BREAKS INTO FRONT RANKS OF PETROLEUM

Go anywhere in the United States and mention Illinois and people will think of our great state in terms of corn, hogs, manufactured products, soybeans and coal. Few people think of us as an oil state. For that matter, many Illinoians are not fully aware of our oil progress. Today, Illinois stands fifth on the list of oil producing states and is exceeded only by Texas, California, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. In the last few years, Illinois has nosed out New Mexico, Wyoming, Arkansas, Michigan and other states for production. Our first oil development came nearly 60 years ago. By 1906, Illinois produced about 15% of the nation’s entire oil supply. From then until 1936, production diminished and very little was done about it. In 1936, a fresh start was made. In that year, 92 wells were drilled. In 1937, 447 more wells were added, more than half of which were producers. In 1938, 2,541 wells were drilled, 2011 of which were producers. In January 1939, the oil fever was still unabated because 225 wells were drilled in that one month. On the basis of figures made available by the Bureau of Mines for April 1939, Illinois will produce nearly 65,000,000 barrels of oil in 1939. Four years before that, total production was about 4,500,000 barrels. Oil legislation in Congress is therefore a matter of importance to our state. More than that, heavy imports of oil from South America which aggregate 54,000,000 barrels per year take on new importance because these imports are not only in direct competition with Illinois oil but with Illinois coal as well. Some of this imported oil pays no duty whatsoever. Some of it pays only 1/2¢ per gallon. Since overproduction of petroleum is one of our national problems, we might well impose a protective duty on oil imports. Thus far, Congress has not seen fit to do so.

ONE CENT

One cent is the smallest fractional coin in our monetary system. Believe it or not but it is our most important financial yardstick. To the child, one cent means a lollypop or a toy balloon. Later it may mean a convenient stick of gum or a pencil. At a drug sale, it means two tubes of toothpaste or shaving cream instead of one. In a department store, it represents that elusive psychology which makes $2.99 seem much less than $3.00. To the housewife it means the ubiquitous sales tax. To the smoker, it means a box of matches. To a milk man, that one cent per quart spells the difference between profit and loss. To a newsboy, it is the kind of exchange by which he does business. To makers of coin vending machines, the very existence of the cent piece is responsible for thousands of jobs. In every type of business, at every age, and in every walk of life, one cent is of vast importance but to no person is it quite so important as to James A. Farley, the Postmaster General. On June 30, 1939, the 3¢ postage rate on on-local mail would expire unless continued by Congress in the tax revision bill. Mr. Farley sent a letter to Congress asking continuance of the 3¢ rate for another two year period, for to him, and his department that one cent means $95,700,000.
THE GENERALS GO A-VISITING

Brazil is the largest and most powerful nation in South America. She is also our best commercial customer in Latin America. On occasion, she has not felt too kindly toward the U. S. Someone in the State Department thereupon suggested that General George Marshall, the next Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army pay a formal visit to Brazil. He was acclaimed in Brazil although there was little publicity about his visit in our newspapers. This week General Marshall brought with him, General Pedro Aurelio Goes Monteiro, the Chief of Staff of the Brazilian Army and known as the "General Grant of South America." A great military display was accorded General Monteiro and now he will spend three weeks inspecting our Army posts and points of interest. It is hinted that he will also go to Germany where Hitler will accord the General a demonstration to out-demonstrate all other demonstrations. Is this the beginning of a series of visits by Generals in which one nation will seek to out-vie and out-do other nations in impressing the Army leaders of foreign lands.

DIGEST OF THE WORK RELIEF BILL AS PASSED BY HOUSE

1. Makes $1,477,000,000 available for WPA.
2. Makes $125,000,000 available for PWA.
3. Apportions the funds among the states on a basis of population and number of unemployed in each state.
4. Limits amount to be expended for materials to $6 per man per month.
5. Establishes a three-man Board to administer WPA.
6. Provides $100,000,000 for National Youth Administration.
7. Provides $125,000,000 for the Farm Security Administration.
8. Requires that the amount appropriated shall cover a full year.
9. Allocates $50,000,000 to other Federal agencies for expenditure.
10. Limits the amount that may be used for building construction to $50,000 in the case of Federal buildings and $40,000 of Federal funds in the case of a non-Federal building.
11. Provides for 130 hours per month per worker except in certain cases.
12. Provides for preference in giving jobs on the basis of relative needs.
13. Provides that any person on WPA continuously for 18 months or more must be removed from rolls and re-certified. Cannot be re-certified until 60 days have elapsed.
14. Requires that a person assigned to a job must have the capacity to perform such work.
15. Requires that all workers be certified as in need.
16. Provides that aliens shall not be given employment or continued in employment.
17. Provides that any person on relief work who refuses to accept a bona fide offer of employment at the prevailing rate of wages under reasonable conditions shall be taken from the rolls so long as such private employment is available.
18. Requires that those in administrative or supervisory jobs take an oath to support and defend the Constitution.
20. Provides that after August 31, 1939, writers projects and similar projects must have a local sponsor.
21. Makes it a felony punishable by a fine and imprisonment to divert any relief funds through fraud, intimidation, coercion, threat, force, or discrimination.
22. Makes it a felony to solicit or collect campaign contributions from anyone on WPA.
23. Makes it a felony to promise a job or any other benefit on WPA or on any project authorized under any Act of Congress.
24. PROVIDES THAT WPA SHALL NOT ACCEPT ANY RECOMMENDATION FOR A JOB WHICH IS MADE BY A SENATOR OR CONGRESSMAN EXCEPT AS TO THE CHARACTER OR RESIDENCE OF THE APPLICANT.
25. Makes it unlawful for any administrative or supervisory official on WPA to attempt to influence an election.
26. Prohibits the use of any relief funds to build, buy, establish, or expand any mill, factory or plant whose products would be in competition with those of existing private industries.
27. Prohibits the use of relief funds in buying or building war vessels, munitions, armament or implements of war.
28. Prohibits use of funds in constructing or repairing any prison buildings where products are manufactured which would promote competition of convict-made goods with products of free labor.